We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

1:45-2:30 **Mark Victor Hansen**, creator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, on two new series he’s launching for those wishing to get published.

3:00-3:45 **Kathryn Stockett**, author of The Help, on getting your foot in the door.
In Context September, by Clay Ramsey, President

There is something appealing, romantic even, about the image of the isolated writer, toiling anonymously in an attic study, surrounded by dusty books and piles of paper, joined only by his Muse as he crafts his masterpiece. There is no doubt that writing demands an enormous amount of time alone. You can’t improve as a writer unless you write, and you can’t write unless it is just you and your laptop or pad, focusing your thoughts, searching for a phrase, doing the research, alone in your work. It takes effort and it takes solitude, sometimes long stretches of time by yourself.

But a successful writer does not succeed alone. He is in conversation with the authors of the ages as he writes, responding to questions that have been asked for millennia, adapting models of composition that have been used and reused for centuries. But beyond the influence of the past, the twenty-first century author also writes in a living network of other writers, joined by blogs and Twitter and Facebook and Internet resources that span time and space, connecting us to minds and information in a way that was inconceivable in the not too distant past.

Your involvement with the Atlanta Writers Club is evidence that you think a community of writers is important. I certainly do. It’s good to push away from your desk every once in a while and spend time with other human beings, especially with those who share your interests and goals. It’s good to step back from that nettlesome plot problem and troubling dialogue issue, and laugh and chat and socialize and learn and network; it’s good for your mental and emotional health, and I think it makes a difference in your writing, too. It’s encouraging to be reminded that you are not alone, that you have friends who support and understand you. Recognizing your place in a wider enterprise and your connection to other writers, living and dead, is an energizing experience.

That is why I am so excited about the upcoming Decatur Book Festival on September 4-6. I must confess that it is my favorite event of the year. Tens of thousands of people who love writing and books, hundreds of authors, funnel cakes and corndogs, rare books on display, readings and lectures and panels. I was introduced to the AWC during the first Festival - accosted, actually, by two enthusiastic members - and joined soon after the encounter. I have loved the Festival and my friends in the AWC ever since.

If you’re volunteering at one of the AWC venues – our booth on the Square, the Emerging Writers Pavilion, or the Local Prose Stage at Twain’s – then thank you in advance for your contribution. If not, then I hope you will be able to attend and enjoy the Festival. Celebrate this community of writers and readers. It really is a lot of fun.

All the best,
Clay
Jedwin Smith Writing Workshop for Nonfiction and Fiction:

Join critically acclaimed author Jedwin Smith for an 8-week fiction/nonfiction writer’s workshop, hosted by Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur. The workshop is limited to 12 aspiring authors, and will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30, beginning September 10 and concluding October 29.

Jedwin, recipient of 59 major writing awards, including two Pulitzer Prize nominations, will use his vast newspaper experience — 29 years as a sports writer, columnist, feature writer, and war correspondent — plus the knowledge he’s gained on the literary front with two well-reviewed books, to help lead aspiring authors through the book publishing minefield.

The workshop will be filled on a first-come basis; the dates of future workshops will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

The cost of the workshop is $250, payment due by the first session. Atlanta Writer’s Club members will receive a $20 discount. To register, contact Jedwin Smith directly at jedwin46@bellsouth.net

David Fulmer will also be starting a new Fiction Shop on August 24th. Now in it's third year, classes meet Monday nights from 6:15-8:15 at Eagle Eye. The cost for the eight-week course is $195. Information is here: www.davidfulmer.com/ShopPage.html

At 1:45 p.m., Marc Fitten, editor of The Chattahoochee Review and author of the first-time novel Valeria’s Last Stand, spoke to the club on blogging. He journeyed to 100 independent booksellers in the country and created a blog based on his experiences. He explained how blogging had bought his own book attention and answered questions on the state of the literary journal, softselling his novel, and his book.

At 3:00 p.m., Don O’Briant, author of A Newcomer’s Guide to Georgia and a former book editor at The Atlanta Journal Constitution, discussed writing and publishing from the perspective of a writer and editor. He related his own background, how he got started writing, and some of his experiences during his career. His advice was to read everything in your own genre, and “word-of-mouth is one of the best marketing tools you can have.”
Take One
A Fundamental Look at Screenwriting
with
TERRY KAY

Workshop Details

Date
September 26 & 27, 2009

Time
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:30-4:30 PM
Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM

Fee
$140 OCAF Members
$150 Non-Members

Location
Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation
34 School Street
 Watkinsville, GA

Registration
Advance registration is recommended as space is limited.

To register contact the OCAF office at (706) 769-4565 or email info@ocaf.com

This course is designed as an introduction to screenwriting for those who have limited experience in the medium, and as a refresher for those who have more advanced experience. The workshop will be taught by writer Terry Kay, who is a regional Emmy winner for his teleplay, Run Down the Rabbit, and whose background includes eight years as a film reviewer/essayist with The Atlanta Journal. In addition, Kay has written for the television series, In the Heat of the Night, and has worked on screenplays with such directors as Taylor Hackford (Officer and a Gentleman). He has had three of his novels translated into Hallmark Hall of Fame movies – To Dance with the White Dog, The Runaway, and The Valley of Light.

The primary reference for the course will be from writer-teacher Syd Field, who is considered the guru of screenwriting technique. In addition, resource material will be taken from Paul Argentini’s Elements of Style for Screenwriters. Sessions will cover such topics as: Definition of Acts; plot points; character; treatment; use of dialogue; understanding cubism in screenwriting, and staying-on-point.

To visit Terry Kay’s website go to: www.terrykay.com
Aug. 15th images

Tom Bell of the Decatur Book Festival

Don O’Briant

Marc Fitten

Neda Gayle and DBF volunteers
Check Out the AWC Lending Library

The AWC has a large membership with many published authors. Through those authors’ generosity, we are establishing the new AWC Lending Library. AWC members will now be able to read donated works free of charge. Before each AWC meeting, a volunteer member will staff a table on which will be displayed the novels available to our "readers". These books can be checked out for a period of one month—from one meeting to the next.

It’s easy to see what’s in it for the member: an opportunity to read this diverse body of work without spending a dime. What’s in it for the contributing author? A chance to connect with a broader readership from among our members. So if you’re a published author, please consider donating one copy of each of your published works to our new lending library. If you’re a member, please feel free to stop by and check out the books available. And if you like what you read, spread the word. There’s no better publicity than word of mouth.

To donate a book to the AWC lending library, please contact Lisa Heidle at Lheidle@yahoo.com. Of course, since this is a new concept for the club, we need books. Please contribute.

Note: Lynda Fitzgerald founded this idea for the club, but is currently on a leave of absence. We thank her for this idea and implementing the concept, and appreciate Lisa Heidle temporarily assisting us with this administration.
Accolade

AWC member Frank Cox’s book, *Lullabies For Lieutenants: Memoir of a Marine Forward Observer, 1965-'66*, has been published by McFarland & Co, and is getting great reviews. One of the chapters is a feature article in the current issue of *Vietnam* magazine. Another chapter captured the recent First Place Prize in the 2009 AWC article contest.

Bios

Janet Morgan

I am a retired New York social studies high school-middle school teacher. In mid or late September, my book “At the End of the Bus Ride: A Teacher’s Tale” will be published. My book is a memoir about black students and educators and how we fared in desegregated school systems in New York. At the Decatur Book Festival, I will speak briefly about the book and read a couple of land pages.

Sandra Armistead Havriluk

is a native Georgian who came of age as Atlanta did during the 1960s. She graduated from Lakeside High School and the University of Georgia (AB, English). Her first job was in the Hurt Building for Southern Bell, followed by a career in teaching. Her current job is Adjunct English Instructor at Gwinnett Technical College. Sandra will graduate November 2009 from the MFA in Creative Writing-brief residency program at Spalding University. She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the Society of Children’s Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Sandra is excited about joining the Atlanta’s Writers’ Club so that she may network locally with other writers, participate in a writing critique group, and hone her craft through the lectures and events sponsored by the Club.
The 2009 Atlanta Writers Club Youth Creative Writing Camp was a huge success. Over seventy attendees, ranging in age from 9 to 17, learned about character, plot, setting, editing and much more during the two-day camp held on August 3 and 4. The presenters were Marc Fitten, Lynda Fitzgerald, Hollis Gillespie, Annika Nielsen, Jack Riggs and Dr. Neil Shulman.

The camp ended with an open microphone where the writers shared their work with their peers, and an awards ceremony. Beautiful certificates, designed by the talented Emily Lupita Plum, gifts certificates donated by Eagle Eye Bookshop, and Ms. Fitzgerald’s novel, Of Words and Music, were awarded for Best Story, Best Poem, Character Development as well as many other categories.

My sincerest thank you goes out to all of the presenters. As writers, sharing our experiences and our knowledge allows us to stay connected and create a larger writing community. I would also like to thank The Atlanta Writers Club and Georgia Perimeter College—without them, the Youth Creative Writing Camp would not have been a possibility. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who came both days and assisted in making the two-day camp a fun and secure environment for all of the attendees.

I knew when I was quite young that I wanted to be a writer, but not knowing any writers who could instruct me on craft as well as the world of publication, I spent a lot of time searching for a community that could help make the dream a reality. Writing camps that bring professional creative writers and new writers together offers an unparalleled opportunity for young people who may want to explore a writing path.

The feedback from Diane Lefebvre sums it up. “I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you and the rest of the volunteers at the AWC Youth Creative Writing Camp for another incredible camp this year! All 4 girls, Julia, Tess, Kellie and Rachel came back from camp excited and enthusiastic about creative writing. I wanted you to know that the girls unanimously voted this as their favorite camp of the summer, and they’ve all attended some great ones. Their only complaint was that it was too short! I know that this camp is obviously a labor of love for you and the other volunteers, and it shows. We look forward to renewing our AWC membership and joining these other girls at some of the upcoming meetings. Thanks again so much for the wonderful experience you have provided to our young writers!”

I look forward to seeing everyone next year!
thors, books and characters steal the spotlight during this fun event.

The excitement starts Saturday morning, at the Theatre on the Square, with the Agent’s Panel, co-sponsored by the Atlanta Writer’s Club. This is an opportunity for aspiring authors to hear a literary agent and two noted local authors discuss the role of the agent, how to query an agent, and the author/agent working relationship. One lucky person will win a critique of the first 10,000 words of her/his manuscript by Sterling Lord agent Robert Guinsler. To register, complete the form on the next page and send it with your payment. Atlanta Writers Club members pay only $10 for this event, a 50% discount!

PANEL MEMBERS
Robert Guinsler - Agent
Robert has been with Sterling Lord Literistic since 2000. His primary interests include literary and commercial fiction, journalism, narrative nonfiction with an emphasis on pop culture, science and current events, memoirs and biographies. Robert's clients are journalists, including a number of Pulitzer Prize winners, novelists and academics. Authors he represents include Barnes and Noble Discover pick Doug Crandell, author of

Doug Crandell - Author
Georgia author and Douglasville resident Doug Crandell has published several books including The Flawless Skin of Ugly People, The All-American Industrial Motel and Hairdos of the Mildly Depressed. With four books on the shelf and a new novel in the pipeline due out later this year, Doug has successfully navigated the publishing waters by maintaining what he refers to, as the literary lifestyle. That means building a network of fellow writers who help one another along the road to publication.

Rebecca Burns – Author/Editor
Rebecca Burns has been the editor in chief of Atlanta magazine since September 2002. Under her direction, the magazine has received dozens of local, regional, and national awards for its journalism and design excellence. In 2006, Rebecca Burns published Rage in the Gate City: The Story of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot (Emmis Books). That non-fiction historical narrative was described in Booklist as “a detailed and riveting account” of a little known but horrific slice of Atlanta’s history.

For more information about the Book Fair on the Square, click: http://www.bookfaironthesquare.com/
**Agent's Panel Registration**

This is an opportunity for aspiring authors to hear an agent with information such as the role of the agent, how to query an agent, and the author/agent working relationship. One lucky person will have up to 10,000 words of their manuscript read. A question and answer session will follow. The Agent's Panel is co-sponsored by the Center for Community Based Partnerships, Inc. and the Atlanta Writers Club.

**When:** Saturday, October 3, 2009. 9-11 a.m.
**Where:** Theatre in the Square – 11 Whitlock Ave - Marietta, GA
**Registration due:** September 15, 2009.

Checks made payable to:
Center for Community Based Partnerships, Inc.
3830 South Cobb Drive, Suite 300
Smyrna, GA 30080

---

**Name:**

**Address:**

---

**Email Address:**

**Telephone #:**

**Method of Payment:** □ Check □ Visa □ MasterCard (We do not accept American Express)

**16-digit Credit Card Number:**

**3-digit Security code:**

**Expiration Date:**

**Cardholder’s Name:**

**Cardholders Billing Address:**

---

**Type of Registration:** Please check one; □ $10.00 – Member of AWC □ $20.00 – Non-Member
To become a member of the Atlanta Writers Club, please go to [www.atlantawritersclub.org](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org) and click the Membership link.

**Credit Card Holder’s Signature**

---

Questions – call 770-429-5039 by email dfields@cobbclub.com or gweinstein@yahoo.com
Speaker Profiles for September 19 Meeting
by George Weinstein, VP and Program Chair

Note the early start time! In the C-1100 auditorium at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody, AWC President Clay Ramsey will discuss club business at 12:15 before we launch a whole afternoon of great talks on writing, publishing, and marketing.

12:30-2:30

Mark Victor Hansen, our first speaker, requested a solid two hours to speak with you. The co-creator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series will provide a free 120-minute workshop about building your brand and ways to create ongoing streams of books. He also will offer advice about getting published in two new anthologies he is launching.

Mark is a sought-after keynote speaker, best-selling author and marketing maven who is flying into Atlanta primarily to address our club. He has written and co-written dozens of books and demonstrated his marketing flair with audio programs, video programs and articles on entrepreneurship. His success and his influential style have landed him on Oprah, CNN and The Today Show as well as in TIME, US News & World Report, USA Today, The New York Times and many other publications.

Fair warning and full disclosure: At http://www.markvictorhansen.com you will see among his many programs an entire page of marketing products directed at “authors, publishers, and speakers.” Mark isn’t coming to the AWC out of the goodness of his heart. He’s coming to sell you his programs. That’s what he does, and you’ll have the privilege of experiencing the power of his pitch firsthand. This will be a rare opportunity to study the speaking and sales techniques of someone who makes his living selling ideas and emotion and stories. And if you distill any book, that’s what you get: ideas and emotion and stories. By all means, purchase his Mega Book Marketing University and other programs, but also study how he delivers his talk. You will learn a lot about selling from Mark Victor Hansen, and, specifically, you will learn about how to sell books.

3:00-3:45

Kathryn Stockett is the breakout author of one of the top sellers of 2009 thus far, The Help. Set in 1962 Mississippi, The Help tells the story of three women, a young white woman just returned home from her college graduation, a black maid who has lost her son due to her employer’s negligence, and a black cook who starts to work for a newcomer to town, someone with secrets. From Kathryn’s website (http://www.kathrynstockett.com): “Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.” The Help has garnered critical praise across the media spectrum and sold millions of copies since its debut this spring. Kathryn will tell you what lines she minded and which ones she crossed to produce this breakout first novel. You will have the rare opportunity to hear from someone who is only a few steps ahead of you—yet has achieved so much—as she discusses the craft and business of writing from a newcomer’s perspective.
From the Tip of My Pen

Author, Editor, Talk Show Host:
Mystery Matters - where murder is an open book a weekly internet radio show featuring your favorite mystery writers Click here for the radio show -
FranStewart.com
"Healing the World through Teaching the Power of Gratitude"

Fran Stewart
Author, Editor, & Speaker

Visions of War

I think it was in 1992 that a friend gave me a copy of a book of poetry written by women who had served in the Vietnam War. Visions of War; Dreams of Peace was the memorable title. I inhaled that book. A few of the poems were obviously amateur, but all of them were moving. Some of the poems tore at my heartstrings; some of them tore at my gut. The book had been the brainchild of Lynda Van Devanter and Joan A. Furey, both of them accomplished poets in their own right.

I’ve returned to that book over the years, particularly each time this country was led into yet another heartbreaking military conflict. As the authors say in their preface, “We believe the poems and thoughts in this book have great value beyond their literary quality. They help people to understand the reality of war from a perspective rarely seen or acknowledged.”

Keep that in mind.

Yesterday I received an email from Sharon Wildwind, a woman I’d never heard of, praising my internet radio show Mystery Matters. I emailed back saying that I had checked out her website and noticed that she had served in Vietnam. “Have you by any chance,” I wrote, “ever read Visions of War; Dreams of Peace? It’s a collection of poems written by women who served there. I came across it years ago and was so incredibly moved.”

Not only had she heard of it, some of her poems, written under an earlier name, were in it. So I asked if she’d like me to send her my margin notes on her poems. We ended up having quite an email discussion.

My point? It’s now seventeen years since I first read that book. Because the perspective showed “a reality of war . . . rarely seen or acknowledged,” it stayed with me and sparked a vital connection almost two decades later.

Do we take our written words for granted or do we ever wonder if people will dwell on them and make margin notes? Will they read our books, poems, stories years from now? Please understand that I am not suggesting that we attempt to write dreadfully meaningful works for the illumination of either present or future audiences. Such efforts on our part tend to result in boring, preachy tomes. Still, as we rewrite and revise, let’s keep in mind that—if our works do happily last—we’ll want to be proud of them even if/when we grow beyond them.

Why do you write? What’s in it for you? If you could do anything you wanted to (and you can!), would writing be high on the list or at the bottom of the barrel? If it’s at the bottom, I suggest that you become a dedicated reader. If it’s up there at the top, go for it!

Oh dear. I’ve just broken my rule of only one exclamation point allowed.

Fran lives simply and happily in a small house beside a small creek northeast of Atlanta. Her internet radio show airs live weekly on Fridays at 10 a.m. eastern. She cherishes comments from listeners and readers. mysterymatters@earthlink.net
In 2008-2009, we presented two preparatory workshops with well-published authors to help AWC members get their manuscripts and pitches ready for the Atlanta Writers Conference with literary agents in May 2009. All of the agents remarked on the polished work they reviewed and the smooth pitches delivered, so it’s evident these workshops helped. Therefore, we’re pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Atlanta Writers Conference Prep Workshops, the opportunity to submit your work and give your pitches to fiction and nonfiction authors who have succeeded in this difficult business. Their mission is to help you make your manuscript sample and/or your verbal presentation as solid and professional as possible, so you can succeed when you query on your own, attend literary events, and participate in the Atlanta Writers Club conference with the agents in May 2010.

OVERVIEW:
The preparatory workshops are structured the same way the agent conference is set up: you can submit the first 20 pages of your manuscript for critique in advance, and, on the day of the prep workshop, the author you chose will give you 15 minutes of verbal feedback about your work. We’ll break for lunch and then you can practice explaining (“pitching”) your project to the same author or a different one and you will receive advice about better structuring your pitch for use in query letters and face-to-face encounters with agents and publishers, a process lasting for 10 minutes.

To check on your progress implementing the author’s suggestions, you can receive another critique and/or pitch session with the author of your choice in early 2010 so you and the author can evaluate your progress and continue to smooth the rough edges. If you’re not ready for the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, you can meet with the author of your choice for the first time in early 2010.

These two sessions should give you the recommendations you need to make your work shine when it’s time to register for the agent conference in 2010. Be sure to register ASAP—spots for both workshops will fill up quickly. Here are the details:

PARTICIPATING FICTION AUTHORS:

David Fulmer—Author of seven historical mysteries, including the critically acclaimed The Blue Door, his popular New Orleans mysteries with Valentin St. Cyr, and his newest, an e-book titled The Last Time. His works have won the Shamus Award for mysteries and the Benjamin Franklin Award for audiobooks, and he was an LA Times Book Prize nominee. He also regularly teaches the craft and business of writing in classes held at Eagle Eye Bookshop. David will critique mainstream fiction, mysteries, thrillers, and suspense.

Joshilyn Jackson—Author of three mainstream novels, including the New York Times bestseller The Girl Who Stopped Swimming. Her first two works, gods in Alabama and Between, Georgia were #1 BookSense Picks, making her the first author ever to receive that honor in back-to-back years. The editor of BookPage remarked in a review of her work, “Every now and then...a remarkable writer comes along to reenergize American Fiction. So it is with Joshilyn Jackson.” Joshilyn will critique all fiction genres, from mainstream to sci-fi/fantasy.
PARTICIPATING NONFICTION AUTHOR:

Jedwin Smith—Author of the award-winning nonfiction books Fatal Treasure and Our Brother's Keeper, which Publishers Weekly called a "muscularly written, starkly honest memoir." Jedwin started critiquing work at our 2008 prep workshop and enjoyed it so much--and proved so adept at it--that he began teaching writing at Eagle Eye Bookshop as well as providing one-on-one coaching for writers. Jedwin will critique any nonfiction works (memoir, history, military, self-help, etc.) and even fiction works.

If demand dictates, we will try to add other authors to these workshops.

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR FALL 2009 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.

- For the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique is due by October 31.

- The Fall 2009 Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody (or the GPC campus in Clarkston if a scheduling conflict arises).

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR WINTER 2010 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.

- For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique (either reworked using the author’s Fall Workshop feedback or a new piece if you didn’t attend the Fall Workshop) is due by January 2.

- The Winter 2010 Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody (or the GPC campus in Clarkston if a scheduling conflict arises).

COST:

You must be a member of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate in these workshops. If you are not, add $40 to the costs below to cover your membership for the remainder of 2009 and all of 2010.

For the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, the cost is $100 for a critique and $30 for a pitch. If you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add $10 to the total.

For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, if you signed up for the Fall Workshop too, the cost for reevaluation of your work is $75 for a critique and $25 for a pitch. If you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add $10 to the total.
If you didn’t sign up for the Fall Workshop but want to participate in the Winter Workshop, or you participated in the Fall Workshop but want a different work evaluated this time, or want a different author to critique it, the cost is $100 for a critique and $30 for a pitch. Again, if you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add $10 to the total.

**TO REGISTER:**
RSVP to Atlanta Writers Club VP George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com to tell him:
1. Which author you want as your first choice and second choice
2. Which workshop you want: Fall or Winter or both
3. Which session you want: critique or pitch or both
4. Whether you want lunch with the authors at the Fall and/or Winter workshop

You will receive George’s reply about whether a seat still is available with an author for the sessions you desire. If a seat is not available, you’ll be placed on standby for your first or second choice (whoever has the shortest standby line).

In addition, you will receive payment instructions and the deadline for payments. Once he receives your payment, he will provide a reminder about the due date for your 20-page manuscript and submission instructions if you chose that option, and/or he will recommend some books to help you work on your pitch.

If you RSVP but do not submit payment by the deadline, you will be dropped from the roster and the next available person on standby will take your place.

**REFUND POLICY:**
For the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the December 5 event, you will receive a refund if you have not submitted your work and you notify George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than October 31. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the December 5 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than November 21.

For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the February 6 event, you will receive a refund if you have not submitted your work and you notify George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than January 2. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the February 6 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than January 23.

***

We hope you take advantage of the Fall 2009 and Winter 2010 Prep Workshops. They should help you present your best work whenever your query or speak with an agent/publisher, and especially at the Atlanta Writers Conference in May 2010. Conference information and the opening date for Conference registrations will be announced in February 2010. If you have any questions, please direct them to George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Membership dues are $40 per year. Also, we now have our family memberships, where each additional family member can join for $20 and earn full membership benefits. We will gladly accept your cash or checks at any AWC event, or you can mail your payment to the address on the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. You may also renew via PayPal at www.atlantawritersclub.org.

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Here are a just a few membership benefits:

- Monthly meetings. On the third Saturday of each month, approximately 100 of our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers from varied areas of the literary world. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.
- Workshops. Your membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops, and some are free with membership. Watch for announcements for upcoming workshops.
- Critique Groups. We now have approximately twenty (20) different critique groups available to members. Scattered about the Atlanta metro area, these critique groups meet regularly to work with each other to read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.
- Dinner with Authors. I routinely attend many author book signings so I wondered how I could spend just a few minutes with some of these authors to ask them an impromptu question, or just learn more of their successful habits. In the past several months, our members have had that experience, with authors Nathan McCall, Jedwin Smith, Carol O’Dell, James O. Born and others. We are currently working to schedule others, and there is no admission fee to these special dinners. Members are only required to pay for their own consumption at the restaurant. The Atlanta Writers Club pays for the author and their guests.

I could continue with additional benefits, but alas, this is only a newsletter. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings. Or pay on line at our website, using PayPal at http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Clay Ramsey at clay@atlantawritersclub.org.
The Atlanta Writers Club Board

President: Clay Ramsey
First VP: George Weinstein
Membership VP: Marty Aftewicz
Secretary: Bill Black
Treasurer: John Sheffield
Publicity VP: Patricia Patterson
Operations VP: Neda Gayle
Contests VP: Tara Coyt
Marketing VP: Terre Spencer
Social Director: Janean Brown
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Other Volunteers:
Historian/By-Laws: Adrian Drost
Photographer: Jennie Helderman
eQuill Copy Editor: Gene Bowen
Emcee of open Mic: Alicia Plant
T-Shirt Sales: Terre Spencer
Critique Groups: Jennie Helderman
Lending Library: Lisa Heidle

Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

September 19, 2009
1:45-2:30 Mark Victor Hansen, creator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, on two new series he’s launching for those wishing to get published.
3:00-3:45 Kathryn Stockett, author of The Help, on getting your foot in the door.

October 17, 2009
1:45-2:30 Jessica Handler, essayist and author of the memoir Invisible Sisters, will discuss the use of journals, family documents, and public records in crafting memoir.
3:00-3:45 Tralena Walker and Tom Webster, country songwriting duo, on the art of songwriting.
We are pleased to announce that Jennie Helderman has accepted the position of Critique Group Coordinator. She will become the focal point for maintaining an up to date and accurate listing of critique groups. She will also keep a list of individuals that are interested in a group in a particular geographical area. More news will come from her regarding critique groups.

So, if you are interested in joining a critique group that is yet to exist, or if wish to become a critique group leader, please e-mail Jennie at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Buckhead/Midtown

New NONFICTION group forming: Anyone interested in a nonfiction group to serve Midtown, Buckhead, Sandy Springs, Roswell and points west and north, please meet Monday evening, August 31 at 7 p.m. at the corner of Peachtree and Vermont Road a half mile north of Phipps Plaza. Contact Jennie Helderman for directions at jmhelderman@comcast.net. The group will determine when and where it will meet after this first meeting.

Poetry group. Contact Karen Holmes at karen.holmes@comcast.net to be put on the distribution list and notified of future meeting dates.

An all-genre group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7 at Starbucks at Lindburgh. Group is closed. Contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net to be on a wait list or to form a new group.

Conyers

A new group is forming to serve Conyers, Covington, Madison and surrounding communities. Contact Zoe Courtman-Smith at zoe.courtman@gmail.com or 770-826-9425.

Decatur

An all-genre fiction group meets Saturday mornings 9:30-12 at the Indie Book Store on Ponce de Leon near the post office. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

An adult/YA fiction group meets every other Sunday, 3 p.m.-5:45 at the Indie Book Shop on Ponce de Leon near the post office. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

A children’s and YA fiction group meets every other Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12:15 at the Java Monkey on Church Street almost opposite the Decatur Marta Station. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

An adult and YA fiction group meets on Thursdays 7-9 p.m. at the Dr. Bombay Coffee Shop, 1645 McLendon Ave. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list.

An adult/YA fiction group meets Thursdays 7 p.m.-9 at the Chocolatte Café on Clairmont and Church Streets. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

A nonfiction group meets Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Email Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net to get on her distribution list.
A new nonfiction group will begin Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Rebecca Ewing will meet with the group until it gets underway. Contact Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net.

**Dunwoody**

Georgia Perimeter College's Learning and Tutoring Center sponsors Writers' Circle, an ongoing group of students and community members who enjoy the writing process and seek the support and insight of other writers. Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays, 1-3 p.m. in LTC Dunwoody campus, LRC (Library Building), Rm 3100. During school breaks, the group meets at Borders Bookstore. Contact Ge- lia Dolcimascolo at 770-274-5246 for further information.

**Emory**

A fiction group meets every other Wednesday at 6:30 at Panera’s in the shopping area on North Decatur Road opposite the main entrance to the Emory campus. E-mail Ruth Gresh at hrghesh@bellsouth.net for date of the next meeting.

**Lawrenceville**

The novel/short story group which meets every other Thursday 10 a.m. to noon is full. Contact Barbara Connor at 678-226-1483 or imayaya@charter.net to be put on a wait list; or contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

**Lawrence/Snellville**

An all genre group meets on the first Saturday of every month 10 a.m. to noon at a member’s home. Contact Ken Schmanski at 770-377-1771 or kschmanski@yahoo.com for location and to get on his distribution list.

**Marietta**

Anyone interested in an all-genre critique group serving the Marietta area, please come to an organizational meeting Thursday, August 27 at 7 p.m. at the main Cobb County Library at 266 Roswell St. Contact person is Tom Roberts at tomroberts129@hotmail. Midtown

An all-genre group meets on alternating Wednesdays at Borders at 1745 Peachtree St. Contact Hollis Wright at 404-964-3702 for time and dates.

**Roswell**

An all genre group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. at the Atlanta Bread Company near the corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. Contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or giweinstein@yahoo.com to get on his distribution list.

**Sandy Springs**

An all genre group meets twice monthly on Mondays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Roswell Library. Contact Lynn Wesch at lew-esch@bellsouth.net to get on her distribution list.

**Smyrna**

All all-genre group meets at Borders on the east-west connector on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 3-5 p.m. Contact Jenean Brown at jenean2brown@gmail.com for additional information.

**Woodstock**

Anyone interested in a critique group in Woodstock please contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

A poetry group meets but with no set time. Contact Jill Jennings at 770-516-2482 or magistra_jennings@yahoo.com for more information.
THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

Membership Dues, Donations and Contact Information

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:  [ ] NEW  [ ] RENEWAL

2009 Membership Dues (covers remainder of 2009):
- $30 - Membership is valid through 12/31/2009 $___________
- Add any family member for $20 each $___________
  (Please supply their contact information using the form below or a separate form)
- Students, ages 25 and under, pay only $30 year-round $___________

Tax Deductible Donation in the amount of $___________

Total $___________

Please mail with checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club to Marty Aftewicz, 115 Ashford Circle, Dunwoody, GA 30338

- 2009 Membership Year runs from payment date through 12/31/09
- If you are renewing, please indicate only your name below unless other contact info has changed

Member Information:  (Please complete this section in full to update our files.)

Name _____________________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________ Zip __________________________

Home ___________________________ Work/Cell Phone ___________________________

Phone ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

E-mail address _________________________________________________________________

Today’s Date: ________/______/___________

_____________________________ has donated $_____________________ to The Atlanta Writers Club.
This amount is not associated with any services provided in exchange for, or related to, this contribution.