



e Quill

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.

Agenda — Oct, 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 Nashville singer-songwriter **Tralena Walker** and country lyricist Tom Webster on the secrets of songwriting that can improve any writer's work.

Inside This Edition

In Context by Clay Ramsey, President	2
Literary Competition	3
September speaker Summary by Clay Ramsey	5
Photos from last Meeting	5
Two fundraising Seminars.....	6
Bios.....	7
Share your Atlanta story on the Radio	10
New "Fiction Shop"	10
AWC fall writing Contest	10
October speaker Profiles by G. Weinstein.....	14
From the tip of my Pen by Fran Stewart.....	14
Atlanta writers conference prep Workshop	15
Membership Information.....	18
Officers & Board + Quarterly Schedule	19
Critique Groups	20
Membership Form	22



The Quill

In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President



Anthony Trollope was a busy man. While maintaining a full-time job with the General Postal Service in England (and inventing the red pillar postal boxes still seen around the country), he found the time to write 47 novels, dozens of short stories, and several travel books. He rose every morning at 5:30 a.m. and filled every free moment with his writing. He worked out a system to produce 250 words every 15 minutes, about 40 pages every week. Week after week. While there are men like the Brazilian novelist Ryoki Inoue who have since been more prolific - writing 1,075 novels and currently holding the Guinness Record for most books published - Trollope still stands as a model of authorial discipline, even 127 years after his death.

Trollope's secret? What he called "cobbler's wax." Simple as that. A handful of sticky, translucent, sappy substance was his secret. And what is this key to literary output? Well, while I do enjoy a summer peach cobbler when I can, I took its secondary, more antiquarian meaning: a cobbler repairs shoes. I spoke to several shoe repair men, and none of them seemed to know what I was talking about, no doubt wondering if I had sniffed too much "cobbler's wax" on the way to their shop. After some investigation, though, I eventually discovered that it was a resin used to wax thread once used to stitch leather shoes. Mystery solved. And what did Trollope do with it? In his own words, he admits: "I was once told that the surest aid to the writing of a book was a piece of cobbler's wax on my chair. I certainly believe in the cobbler's wax much more than the inspiration." (*An Autobiography*, p.121).

So what did he mean? Quite simply, as you have probably deduced, he meant that he sat down on his chair and wrote. He was being playful with the metaphor – he obviously didn't slather wax on his pants to keep him in his chair and writing – but he was serious with the message, and his record confirms it. That's it. He just sat and he wrote. Nothing more mystical or profound than that. He just did it.

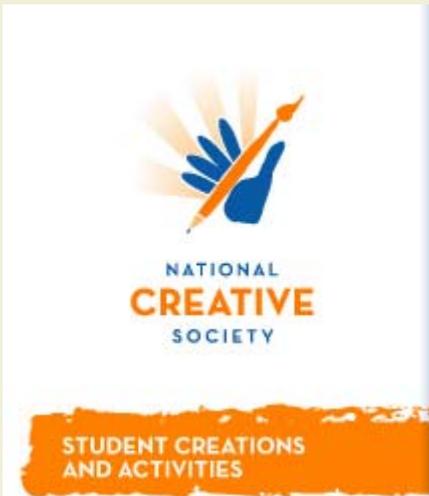
I know that there are a host of obstacles, and that writing is not always as simple as that. What about all the worthy competitors for our attention: family, job, bills, exercise, trips, and hobbies? What about writer's block? What about all the ancillary activities, like reading books about writing, talking to other writers about writing, going to writing conferences and workshops, keeping up with current books that others are writing, and maintaining a blog about your writing? All good things. All things you should probably do. But these activities must serve the writing, not replace it, because really, when it comes down to it, it's about the writing. You can't revise, sell, publish, promote, market, or improve a book that doesn't exist because you didn't write it.

I'm not trying to heap on the guilt. Believe me, I feel as humbled by Trollope's example as you probably do (much less how I feel when I compare my output to Inoue's). But I would like to plant this image in your mind: a little bit of wax. When you're tempted to do anything other than write, just remember the cobbler's wax, and stick to it.



Literary Competition Announced

The National Creative Society is pleased to announce the 2009 National Creative Society Literary Competition and Awards. This competition will provide unique opportunities for Middle School and High School students to compete for cash prizes to be used towards higher education opportunities and career development. These awards will be in addition to the several thousand dollars' worth of scholarships that the NCS awards each year to deserving students in creative endeavors.



Entry in the competition must be with parental permission and approval. Entry forms may be obtained at the National Creative Society information booth on Saturday, October 17, 2009, or may be downloaded from the National Creative Society website after that date. Students do not have to be attending schools that sponsor NCS chapters to be able to participate.

The NCS booth will be located at the Sara Hightower Regional Library as part of the Georgia Literary Festival celebration, and will be staffed by volunteers from 9:00 am until 5:30 pm on that day. The entry period will be from October 17, 2009 until December 31, 2009. Entries postmarked after December 31, 2009 will not be considered. Prizes will be awarded in April or May of 2010 as part of the annual National Creative Society Art Showcase, which is held each spring.

The competition will be divided into two divisions: Middle School and High School. The Middle School category will be for students in grades seven and eight, and the High School category will be for students in grades nine through twelve. The competition is open to all students in the grade levels mentioned, including students who are in the home school setting.

In each category, students will submit literary work in one of the following areas:

- Essay. An acceptable submission will be a three to five page essay on any subject.
- Poetry. An acceptable submission will be a selection of three to five poems.
- Fiction. An acceptable submission will be a three to five page short story or an excerpt of a longer work.

The submissions will be judged by a panel of educators, writers, and parents. Successful entries will demonstrate a combination of literary merit and grammatical execution that sets them apart from other entries. The decisions of the judges will be final. Entries will not be returned, so entrants should be sure to keep a copy of their work. Full details and complete rules for this competition will be on the application.



The prizes for the High School Division will be as follows:

- First Place. \$1000.00
- Second Place. 250.00
- Third Place. \$150.00

The prizes for the Middle School Division will be as follows:

- First Place. \$300.00
- Second Place. \$200.00
- Third Place. \$100.00

The National Creative Society is sponsoring this literary competition as a part of their mission to encourage creativity within the next generation.

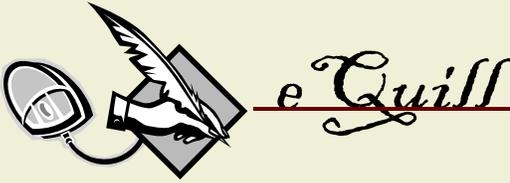
Quarterly Writing Contest

(Not an AWC managed event)

- **Scratch**, the quarterly writing contest itching to discover new talent.
- This contest seeks new short fiction and offers rotating guest judges who are authors, agents, editors and publishers.
- Help them discover new writing talent. Let them help you build publication credits.
- Small fee to enter, cash prizes and publication every month, plus annual anthology.

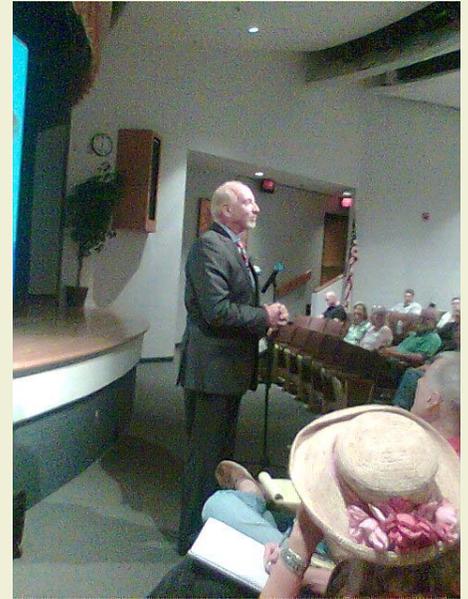
For more information and links to ENTER this month, go to

<http://www.scratchcontest.net/>

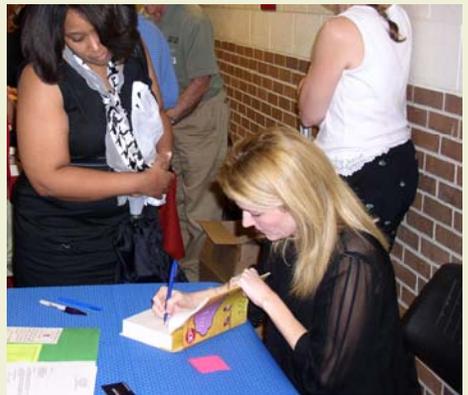


September Speaker Summary By Clay Ramsey

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Mark Victor Hansen**, the originator of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, started the September meeting with a high energy, interactive, two-hour seminar about opportunities that exist for writers now. At times a motivational rally, at times a marketing class, Hansen's presentation started with an appraisal of how a culture of innovation and great ideas, advanced by writers, pulled this country out of the Great Depression and has the potential to have the same effect during the current economic downturn. His enthusiasm was delivered in little packets - Go after untouched markets - Maximize your potential - Be original - Change the world one story at a time - all designed to move the audience closer to accepting his program. He discussed the new technologies of youpublish.com and mini-books, and by the end of the presentation, even the most skeptical had to admit that there is a world of emerging possibilities available to the writer who is creative and hard-working enough to pursue them.



3:00 – 3:45 p.m. **Kathryn Stockett**, the charming, soft-spoken author of the breakout novel *The Help*, spoke about the personal journey she took in publishing her debut story of three women in 1963 Mississippi. A native of Jackson, MS, she was uniquely qualified to write such a deeply moving Southern story. She spoke of both the process of writing, and the process of publishing her book. She brought a file folder filled with the 47 rejections she received before selling the manuscript as a tangible way to boost the spirits of discouraged writers. She related her experiences of finding a writing coach ("harder than finding my husband"), finishing the draft two hours before delivering her baby, dealing with foreign language translations of Southern dialects, and coping with the challenges of success with a sense of humor and honesty that made her story accessible and encouraging.





The Quill

The Atlanta Writers Club
Presents
Two Fundraising Seminars

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody

Cost: \$20 to Atlanta Writers Club members



Marc Fitten, author of *Valeria's Last Stand* and editor of *The Chattahoochee Review* literary magazine, will present a three-hour seminar on agent and publishing topics requested by our members:

- Things a writer needs to know about the current market and publishing biz.
- What keeps a query letter from being among the 99% that go in the garbage daily?

What are the deadly mistakes that kill a manuscript in the 1st 5 lines/1st paragraph/1st page?

Marc spent nearly a decade living and traveling in Europe, gathering stories and research that helped him to create his novel *Valeria's Last Stand*. Prior to Bloomsbury publishing his novel, Marc was published in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Louisville Review* and *Esquire.com*. For more about Marc, please visit www.marcfitten.com.

To register for Marc's seminar, e-mail AWC VP George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com.

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody

Cost: \$20 to Atlanta Writers Club members



Award-winning author of *When the Finch Rises* and *The Fireman's Wife*, Jack Riggs will address a craft-of-writing topic suggested by several members in a seminar he's calling "Oh Give Me a Home, Where My Characters Roam: The Importance of Character and a Sense of Place in Fiction." Here's the write-up he provided:

We all come from somewhere, and we are all on a journey to someplace else. During that time, the geography that surrounds us matters. It plays on our minds, affects our moods, thoughts, and actions. When a writer is creating story, she or he must be concerned with a sense of place and how it might affect the character. Historical place and present geography must be considered. In this workshop on Character and Sense of Place, we will discuss ideas on how best to set character in a geography that not only feels right, but is authentic to the story and true in the reader's mind.

To register for Jack's seminar, e-mail AWC VP George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com.

The Atlanta Writers Club will use the funds raised by these seminars to support the 2010 Townsend Award, given to the best work of fiction during the preceding two years by an author living in Georgia. This is an opportunity for the club to increase its standing in the local literary community by working alongside the Georgia Center for the Book, Margaret Mitchell House and *Atlanta Magazine*, together with the Townsend Award sponsor and provider of our meeting spaces, Georgia Perimeter College.



Check Out the AWC Lending Library

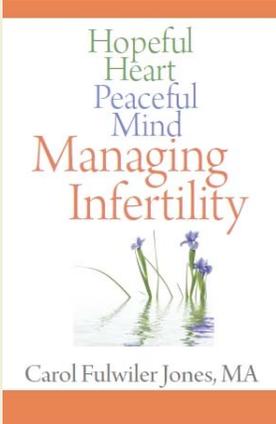
The AWC has a large membership with many published authors. Through those authors' generosity, we are establishing the new AWC Lending Library. AWC members will now be able to read donated works free of charge. Before each AWC meeting, a volunteer member will staff a table on which will be displayed 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.

Bios

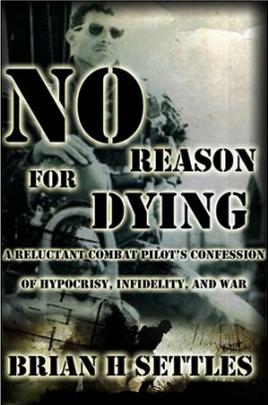


Carol Fulwiler Jones hopes to meet others who share a passion for writing. Her book, *Hopeful Heart, Peaceful Mind: Managing Infertility*, was published in September 2009. The book is a comprehensive guide to managing the many challenges that arise during infertility treatment. It includes practical advice, personal stories from Carol's clients, techniques to promote overall health and inner peace, resources, and more. Carol is an experienced psychotherapist and educator. She graduated from the University of Georgia and earned her Masters degree from George Washington University. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a licensed Professional Counselor. Carol has worked in private practice in Atlanta since 1981, and infertility counseling is her special focus. She has studied and taught yoga in the holistic tradition of Sri T Krishnamacharya since 1983. She has two sons and loves to garden and travel. Visit Carol's website: www.TheInfertilityCounselor.com.

Brian H. Settles is an adjunct professor and adjunct coordinator at Mercer University Henry County Regional Academic Center near Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to teaching classes, Brian writes articles, poetry, and has authored a book *No Reason for Dying: A*



eQuill



Reluctant Combat Pilot's Confession of Hypocrisy, Infidelity and War.

Brian is a retired airline captain with more than 20,000 multi-engine jet flight hours accumulated over a 35 year career as a military and commercial airline pilot. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Ball State University and later completed his Master of Arts degree in International Relations at University of Southern California.

He joined the Atlanta Writers' Club to network and garner attention for his major writing achievement, *No Reason For Dying*, his guts and glory true fighter pilot story in which Settles discloses the awful truth of his guilt laden mania for booze, broads and battle, sharing with readers the intense, unshakeable emotional cost that lives in the isolation and deprivation that is war. Website: www.NoReasonForDying.com E-mail BeWriteBooks@yahoo.com



Hello all! My name is **Emily Rivet**, I recently graduated from Berry College with a bachelor's degree in journalism and I'm now living back at home with my parents in Marietta. I've been writing since I could grasp a pen (sometimes to the detriment of the couch cushions when I was little, as I often wrote on whatever I could find), and now I'm working on a few children's books. In school and through an internship at Peachtree Publishers I've had press releases and news articles published, but I'm only just starting to share my creative writing with whoever will read it. Right now I'm looking to learn anything and everything I can about writing and publishing, to challenge myself to become a better writer and to find a job!



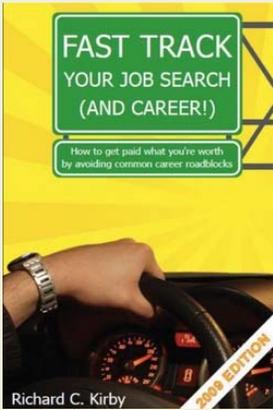
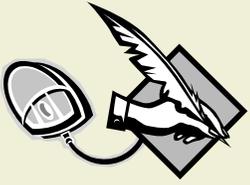
Kerry Denney With joy, determination, and a touch of madness (okay, malicious glee), I write "reality-bending" thrillers. They always have a surreal, bizarre, supernatural or paranormal (in the true sense of the words) element that is primary to the story's focus and plot. My novels are all character-driven; my protagonists are my children, and I love them as dearly as I despise my antagonists.

Even when I occasionally must kill them.

I'm currently shopping for an agent for my fourth novel, *Dreamweavers*, and am 42,000 words into my current novel *Soulsnatcher*.

Also a consummate performing musician, songwriter, and producer of three independently released CDs, my friends say that if I were rich, I'd be eccentric, but since I'm not rich, I'm just freakin' crazy. Sometimes I cackle.





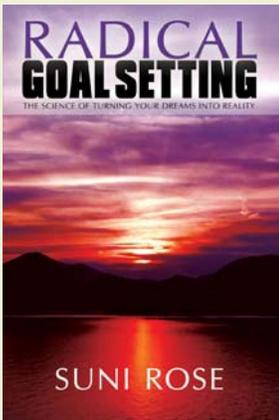
Richard Kirby grew up in Louisiana and has lived in the Atlanta area for 23 years. He is an executive career coach and his wife is a psychologist. Their children are a software developer, visual artist, and classical musician. Richard's main interests are music, golf, and fitness. He recently self-published his first book, *Fast Track Your Job Search (and Career!)*, a "how-to" career guide for professionals and executives. He coaches executives confidentially and is seeking avenues for getting his book to the mass market. Richard is an avid business networker and would be happy to hear from you at 678-547-0072!

Author of Fast Track Your Job Search (and Career!)

SEE ARTICLE AT: <http://www.thecrier.net/articles/2009/08/05/news/fasttrack.txt>

CAREER SERVICES: www.executive-impact.com

PROFILE: www.linkedin.com/in/careeraccelerationist



Suni Rose I'm a holistic healer, spiritual counselor, nutritional counselor and life coach, holding a Ph.D. degree in metaphysical science. In 1999 I co-founded Universal Temple of Healing, Inc; a healing center headquartered in Marietta. We offer many services on our web site, as also energy healing courses.

My first published book is a nonfiction how-to manual entitled: *Radical Goal Setting—The Science of Turning Your Dreams into Reality*. The book went live in Feb, 2009. I've just completed another nonfiction dealing with a health issue and seeking a publisher for this. I also have a novel which is undergoing rewrite, and several picture book stories.

I'm currently a member of the Marietta critique group coordinated by the Atlanta Writers Club. I reside in Marietta.

Suni Rose, Ph.D.

www.temple-of-healing.org

www.radicalgoalsetting.com



Share your Atlanta Story on the Radio

Dana Goldman of WABE 90.1 FM has extended an invitation to the members of the Atlanta Writers Club to apply to participate in a new series called 'The Radio Story.' In her words, "Radio Stories are sincere, stirring, and surprising true-life tales of encounters with Atlanta. If your story is selected, we'll match you with a WABE staff person to edit, record, and produce your piece for use on the air. We are looking for stories that express an original idea or portray a unique moment with clear, creative writing. Different from a political or finger-pointing commentary, our hope is that the series will uncover great true-life moments that show the unique texture of the city. For example:

- + Can you share a unique moment you experienced in a neighborhood?
- + Can you talk about a random act of kindness that you witnessed or experienced?
- + Does your 'field of expertise' allow you to see Atlanta in a unique way?
- + Were you witness to a moment of Atlanta history?

You can learn more about the Guidelines for Submission (and hear a few of the pilot stories) at:

<http://www.pba.org/programming/programs/citycafe/radiostory/>

This is a wonderful opportunity for AWC members to explore a new media outlet and expand their platform and publication resume. If you are interested in applying to share your Atlanta story on the air, send your story to citycafe@wabe.org.

New "Fiction Shop"

2009 Shamus Award nominee David Fulmer will begin a new Fiction Shop on October 19th at Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur.

The popular eight-week course, now in its third year, will meet in the Reading Room on Monday nights from 6:15-8:15 pm with the last class on December 7th. The cost of the course is \$225. Registration and other information on his classes and workshops are available at www.davidfulmer.com/ShopPage.

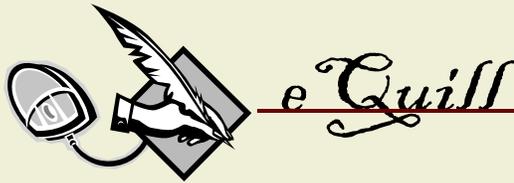


In addition to nomination for the 2009 Shamus Award for Best Novel for "The Blue Door,"

Fulmer has been nominated for a LA Times Book Prize, a Barry Award, and a Falcon Award, has won a Shamus Award, a Benjamin Franklin Award, and AudioFile Golden Earphones Award, and has been nominated to numerous

"Best of" lists, including Borders Books "Best of 2003," Atlanta Magazine's "2008 Best of the Shelf" and New York Magazine's "Best Novels You've Never Read."

Eagle Eye Book Shop is located at 2076 N. Decatur Road, at the corner of Clairmont Road in Decatur. www.eagleeyebooks.com.



FALL 2009 WRITING CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC Fall Writing Contest is open to: **All current, paid club members.** (To join AWC, please go to <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html>.)
2. Submissions must be *original, unpublished, and un-awarded work.*

DEADLINE:

November 21, 2009. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:

Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at January, 2010 meeting.)

<u>FIRST PLACE</u>	\$50 CASH PRIZE
<u>SECOND PLACE</u>	\$30 CASH PRIZE
<u>THIRD PLACE</u>	\$20 CASH PRIZE

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Specifications</u>
Flash fiction	1000 words	Any subject
Memoir	2000 words	Any subject
Young Adult Fiction	2000 words	Any subject
Light poetry	20 lines	Rhymes, metered, limerick etc.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Manuscript Format. Failure to adhere to the following format will result in disqualification.)

- DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
- Only Word files (.doc) will be accepted. (Files with .docx may not be viewable by judges, therefore we recommend saving and sending the file as a .doc)
- Font: 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman
- Margins: 1 inch
- Line spacing: double – yes, even for poetry.
- White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images)
- Page size & layout: 8-1/2 x 11; Portrait
- First page: Title and Category should appear in the upper left corner
- Subsequent pages: Title - upper left corner; Page number - upper right corner



AWC Fall Contest Rules

2

SUBMISSION RULES

Failure to adhere to any of the guidelines will lead to disqualification.

Send **ONE ENTRY** and the corresponding **Standard Submission Form (SSF)** to **Contact@TaraCoyt.com**.

The entry and SSF must be sent as attached Word documents (.doc).

IMPORTANT: Name the documents by title, i.e. Title.doc and SSF-Title.doc

Example: if the title is Moon Fire, the document should be named Moon Fire.doc and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.doc.

Standard Submission Form (SSF):

Prepare and submit an SSF for each entry that includes the following information:

- Author's Name
- Contest Category
- Title of Entry
- Word Count (Line Count for poetry)
- Named the document: SSF-Title.doc

You may enter all 4 categories, by sending separate email entries.

PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

When sending the attached Word documents, your **EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:**

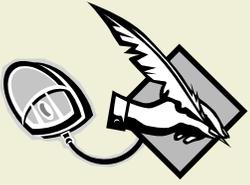
Subject Line: AWC Fall Contest

Your name, phone number, category, title

Example:

Dear Tara,
 I have attached [Title] for the [Category] and the corresponding SSF.
 Thank you,
 [Your name]
 [Your phone number]

Winning entries may be posted on the AWC website.



Speaker Profiles for October 17 Meeting

by George Weinstein,
VP and Program Chair

Back to our usual start time in the C-1100 auditorium at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody, AWC President Clay Ramsey will discuss club business at 1:30 before we begin an afternoon of talks focused on writing craft from some unusual perspectives:

1:45-2:30



By the time she was nine, Jessica Handler had begun to think of herself as the “well sibling.” She lost both of her sisters due to hereditary illnesses, and vowed to write a book to honor her family. Moreover, she wanted to understand the girl she was—her questions, fears, and triumphs—so she wrote *Invisible Sisters* to remember her family entirely, both the bad times and the good.

Based on Jessica’s Pushcart Prize–nominated essay, *Invisible Sisters* is a “clear-eyed, candid work [that] portrays the immense emotional toll that two daughters’ illnesses take on a family living in Atlanta,” according to *Publisher’s Weekly*. Jessica wants to speak to you to discuss the use of journals, family documents, and public records to craft your own memoirs. Even if you don’t plan to write your autobiography or memoir, you will learn tools and tips for research, something every writer needs to know.

Photo of Jessica
by Beth Lilly

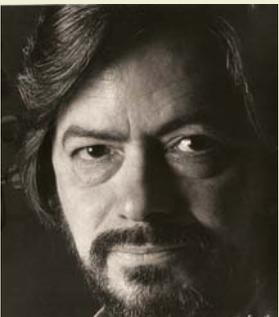
3:00-3:45



Nashville singer-songwriter **Tralena Walker** and Richmond-based country lyricist **Tom Webster** have collaborated on scores of songs, and both find the writing of a song—the act of telling a story in very few words—to be the most compelling, difficult and, ultimately, rewarding part of the process.

Tralena Walker began performing professionally at 16 years of age. She made her first television appearance in 1986 on the Nashville Network and has gone on to sing the National Anthem for 200,000 people at major NASCAR events across the Southeast. Tralena has performed her songs on ABC, NBC, and TBS. She has two songs that are co-written with Tom Webster on the CD *Thunder Road*. She is the publisher of Tralyrics Music and owner of the We Do Too publishing company.

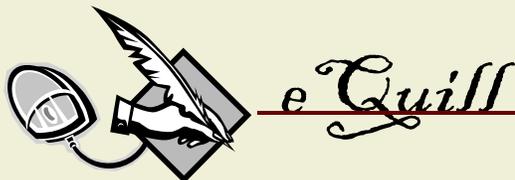
Tralena



Tom Webster started writing poetry and songs at the age of twelve and confesses that, decades later, he still has no interest in anything else. He is best known for his “ability to tell you something you already know and then make you wonder if you really understood that subject as well as you thought.” Tom has written over two thousand songs and has had over one hundred of them recorded by performers on various independent labels, including his own label, Nomad Records.

Together, Tralena and Tom will share the secrets of songwriting that can improve any writer’s work. You won’t get mere talk this time: they will demonstrate their lessons with recordings and live performances!

Tom



From the Tip of My Pen



Fran Stewart

Author, Editor, & Speaker

Author, Editor,

Talk Show Host:

Mystery Matters - where murder is an open book a weekly internet radio show featuring your favorite mystery writers

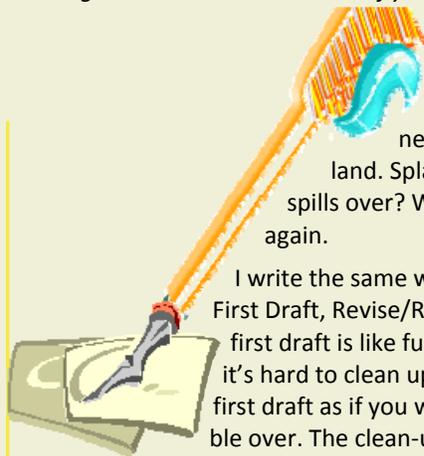
[Click here](#) for the radio show -

FranStewart.com

"Healing the World through Teaching the Power of Gratitude"

Confessions of a Time-Saver – the toothbrush writing model

Warning: read this between meals if you're squeamish.



Okay. I have a confession to make. I find that I can save a lot of time if I brush my teeth in the shower. Think about it. There need be absolutely no concern over where the spit is going to land. Splashing is allowed – even encouraged. So what if I gargle and it spills over? When the shower is complete, I dry off and become respectable again.

I write the same way, and I certainly hope you'll try it out. The process is called First Draft, Revise/Rewrite, Final Draft, Final Revision. Whew! Worrying about your first draft is like fussing if the toothpaste drops off the brush into the sink. Sure it's hard to clean up, especially if it dries before you notice it. Big deal. Write your first draft as if you were standing in the shower and let the splashing, the fun, bubble over. The clean-up will be a breeze, I promise you.

Your dentist may have told you to start with the right upper molars and work your way methodically around the upper teeth, then repeat the process with your lower teeth. Baloney-feathers. Start wherever you want. Sometimes the first chapter I write is one that I know will come toward the end of the book. If you're a methodical writer—chapter two is written *after* chapter one—okay. But splashing around a bit might free up your manuscript. It's worth a try.

Revision is like rinsing out your mouth. Now is the time to wash away the leftover toothpaste. It should be pretty obvious what is extraneous, particularly if you've been reading this column for any length of time. Look for excessive adverbs, boring descriptions, lengthy back-story. Clear them out, the way you would those leftover bubbles on your chin. Is your timeline concise? Is the setting clear enough? Is each character fully dimensional? Did you buy old-fashioned toothpowder when you really wanted mint gel? Put the changes on your shopping list.

Now where does the flossing come in? Well, yes, I do that in the shower also. It saves me from the icky feeling of all that saliva dribbling down my arm, and I never have to clean speckles off the mirror. Stephen King said that you need to get to the point (I'm paraphrasing obviously) where you're deleting perfectly good passages, since you (hopefully) eliminated all the bad ones in previous revisions. The goal is to take teeth that look perfectly clean by now and clean them up even more. Get into those hollows and fissures. Look at every scene, every set of dialogue, every aspect of each character. Are they true? Are they clean? Is there any lurking discrepancy that you can root out, like a popcorn hull that somehow cemented itself to the back of your first molar?

The final rewrite is like gargling. Inject some of those missing elements the book needs to bring it alive, to freshen up the story-line. It can be sweet-tasting or astringent, with essence of lemon or cinnamon. Decide what's right for your mouth – and your book.

Brush, floss, gargle, and send it into the world—clean, well-dressed and ready to thrive. Don't forget to smile.

Fran's been doing this column for almost six years. In a few months the second volume of her collected Tips will be available for purchase. We'll let you know when it's ready.



**ANNOUNCING
THE 2009-2010
ATLANTA
WRITERS
CONFERENCE
PREP
WORKSHOPS**

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 non-fiction 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,

(Continued on page 17)



(Continued from page 16)

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

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Critique Groups: Jennie Helderman

Lending Library: Lisa Heidle

Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

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 Nashville singer-songwriter Tralena Walker and country lyricist Tom Webster on the secrets of song-writing that can improve any writer's work.

November 21, 2009

1:45-2:30 Danny Schnitzlein, picture-book author, discusses the do's and don'ts of writing for children.

3:00-3:45 Romance Writers Roundtable.

December 19, 2009

1:45-2:30 Self-publishing panel of speakers.

January 16, 2010

1:45-2:30 Susan Rebecca White and Alan Deutschman, spouses who work in very different genres, talk about the two-writer household and learning from other writers who are completely different from oneself.

3:00-3:45 Thriller superstar Steve Berry returns with Q&A on the craft and business of writing



Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Jennie Helderma serves as Critique Group Coordinator and is the focal point for maintaining an up to date and accurate listing of critique groups. She also keeps a list of individuals who 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 jmhelderma@comcast.net.

Club-sponsored Critique Groups Throughout Atlanta!

BUCKHEAD/MIDTOWN

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 Patricia Patterson at pepatter-son@bellsouth.net to be put on a wait list.

A **nonfiction group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday nights from 7 to 9 at Caribou Coffee, 4500 Roswell Road. Contact Terre Spencer at terrespencer@me.com or Richard Kirby at executiveimpact@gmail.com.

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

A **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 Chocolate 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 **nonfiction** group meets Thursdays from 6:30 to



The Quill

8:30 at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Email Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net to get on her distribution list.

DOUGLASVILLE

Anyone interested in a critique group in the Douglasville area, please contact Yvonne C. Biffle at 404-581-8438 or yvonnebiffle@JonesDay.com.

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 Gelia 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 hrgresh@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

An **all-genre** group meets on alternate Thursdays from 7 to 9 at the Main Library on Roswell Street.

Contact Tom Roberts at tom-roberts129@hotmail.com for more information.

MIDTOWN

An **all-genre** group meets on alternate 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 at 6:45 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 lewesch@me.com 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 Phone _____

Work/Cell 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.