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.

Facebook link
http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383

Twitter link
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub

Agenda — Dec. 19, 2009

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

In Context  by Clay Ramsey, President .........................2
Literary Competition ..................................................3
Bios ...........................................................................4
November Speaker Summary by Shyla Nambiar ..........5
Photos From Last Meeting .............................................5
Looking Ahead ............................................................6
Two Fundraising Seminars ............................................7
Meji Book Party ..........................................................8
Quarterly Writing Contest ..........................................8
Share Your Atlanta Story on the Radio .......................9
December Speaker Profiles by G. Weinstein ..............10
Making the Words Count by Lynda Fitzgerald ..........11
Atlanta Writers Conference Prep Workshop .............12
Membership Information ...........................................15
Officers & Board + Quarterly Schedule ..................16
Critique Groups .......................................................17
Membership Form .....................................................19
In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

I suspect that most authors would confess that it started innocently enough, this itch to write. It usually begins with a loving parent who reads to you when you are too young to read for yourself. With time, the magic of words enchants us as we grow and experience more books. School provides the direction and skills to channel this love of learning. Library cards are issued. Reading becomes a joy, as worlds of possibility are opened with every book devoured. Classes are passed and degrees are conferred and mountains of books are consumed. And then, somewhere along the way, somewhere between the pages of a book, a still, small whisper is heard: “You can do this.” And so the transition, sometimes precipitous, sometimes taking years, is made between being a reader and being a writer. The first tentative steps are made between loving books and wanting to write them. Some start writing stories when they are old enough to hold a pencil. Others discover their passion for story-telling later on. Either way, it is a sacred pilgrimage, this journey to become a writer, in wanting to contribute to the age-old collection of world literature.

Once that decision is made to become a writer, the goals are small and usually modest. You want to share your writing with interested and supportive friends and family. Then you want to see your name in print. You want a capable agent, then a reputable publisher. In the back of your mind is the niggling thought that “This Could Be It”; that if you just write the book that has been circulating in your thoughts for years, that you could really make it big, that you could be a Celebrated Author.

Every honest writer wishes to be celebrated to some degree, to be known for their writing. Most of us would admit that it would be fantastic to have a New York Times bestseller, to be invited to participate in conferences and author panels, to sell millions of books around the globe in dozens of languages, to have our work adapted as movies, to have our name on the lips of booklovers everywhere, to achieve literary immortality. It is a common yearning among writers, whether or not it is admitted in polite company. The temptation is that this wish to be celebrated can soon drive every project and eclipse every other concern.

Instead, in this month in which a baby in Bethlehem, and the miraculous light in the Temple, and an African heritage are causes for rejoicing, I want to encourage you to redirect your focus from a scramble to be celebrated to a desire to celebrate.

As you buy gifts, join with family and acknowledge your religious and cultural roots, take time to celebrate who you are as a writer. Celebrate your victories and accomplishments of the past year, however glorious - a finished novel, a stunning poem, an acceptance by a publisher – or humble – a first chapter completed, an outline after months of struggle, a line of verse that shines. Celebrate the joy that compelled you to write in the first place. Remember the love of language that was stirred years ago by a teacher or a certain book, and honor that memory. Try to write something different, experiment, revel in the unrestrained joy of putting words together, of telling stories. In this month of festivities, delight in your life as a writer and in your passion to share your words with the world. It is indeed cause for celebration.
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.

Bios

**David Challenge:** Stand-up comedian, writer, and inner city teacher, available for writing original jokes and roasts, performing at your next party, or explaining the Periodic Table of Elements.

I have been writing for over 20 years, and have learned much from writing comedy bits and routines and then testing them on stage. You can see a recent college performance by searching YouTube for "David Challenge," which is my stage name and pen name.

I just completed a 440 page manuscript of warm-hearted, folksy short stories. I’ve had a few newspaper articles published and some comedy published too.

**Dawn Pile:** I have loved writing for many years and have finally made a commitment to make it a serious endeavor. I enjoy writing that relates to my professional field of education (a professional goal is to publish this year) and personal essays that grow out of daily observations of life around me. There is a children's book brewing in my imagination and it is my intent to make the main character come to life...or, as I understood from writers at the Decatur Book Festival...that the character will write itself if I listen closely.
November Speaker Summaries,  
by Shyla Nambiar  

At 1:45, Danny Schnitzlein, children’s book writer and author of *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*, *The Monster Who Did My Math*, and *Trick or Treat on Monster Street*, began his presentation by reciting a rhymed poem, an example of the writing style he employs in his books. He used a humorous audiovisual display to discuss his background and career in writing children’s picture books in verse. Transitioning from the field of television, Mr. Schnitzlein began his first book, which was accepted by Peachtree Publishers. He spoke of his collaboration with his illustrator, since illustrations in children’s books are as important as the text. He revealed that part of being a children’s writer involved visiting schools, which accounted for 50% of his book sales. Besides explaining the genesis of his books, Mr. Schnitzlein offered numerous tips for aspiring children’s book writers. He commented not only on the importance of not writing down to children but having an awareness of adults when writing, because adults purchase the books. While stressing that a children’s book writer should have an engaging story to tell, he felt that it was also necessary to include a moral premise in the story. In his presentation, Mr. Schnitzlein provided a clear example of the skill and imagination it takes to be a successful children’s book writer.

At 3:00, three writers, Anna DeStefano, Jennifer St. Giles, and Tracy Howard, assembled on stage to present a romance writers’ roundtable and discuss one of the most lucrative areas of commercial fiction. Each writer spent 10 minutes introducing her own background in the specific subgenre of romance in which she specializes. Ms. DeStefano, a self-described science and math geek who writes for Harlequin and Silhouette Publishers, emphasized that relationships were the key component in her novels. She delved into the publishing side of the business and the reality of the market. Ms. St. Giles, an award-winning writer of historical and contemporary novels, gave her take on the craft aspect of writing mass-marketed books. She believes that the stronger the conflict between hero and heroine, the stronger the story. Her advice was to never give up on the dream and focus on honing your craft. She also spoke of the future of publishing, which includes e-books and publishing on demand. Ms. Howard, who never planned to be a writer, talked of what drew her into writing her first novel and the inspiration she found in her personal experiences. For her, passion is a driving force behind storytelling. She and the other two writers presented varied and unique viewpoints on the craft and business of romance writing.
February 20, 2010
1:45-2:30 Amanda Gable, author of The Confederate General Rides North, on the craft of fiction
3:00-3:45 Dr. John Evans teaches writing as a healing modality

March 20, 2010
1:45-2:30 Wendy Wax, author of The Accidental Bestseller, speaks about The Realities of a Writing Career
3:00-3:45 Jack McDevitt, science fiction author, on How to Ensure Your Work Gets Rejected: how new writers go wrong.

April 17, 2010
1:45-2:30 Shannon Clute on the basics of podcasting: why to do it and how to do it.
3:00-3:45 Richard Krevolin, screenwriter, playwright and author, on the power of story.

May 15, 2010
Atlanta Writers Conference at Westin Atlanta Airport (no regular meeting this month)

June 19, 2010
Annual club picnic at Hammond Park in Sandy Springs (no regular meeting this month.)
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 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.
Meji Book Party for Author Milton Davis

Oct. 24, 2009 – Scott Seydel, CEO of The Seydel Companies, held a book party in celebration of Milton Davis’s second novel, Meji Book Two. The party was attended by family, friends and well wishers. Milton shared a few words about himself, his novels and future projects. The attendees were treated to a reading of Meji and a discussion of Meji Book Two with members of Just Us Girls (J.U.G.S.) book club and Sisters Sippin’ Tea book club. The evening ended with a book signing by Milton with books provided by the host.

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/

There is a large group book signing scheduled for December 12 at Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur. Any author wanting to participate in the signing should contact AWC member Jonathan Maxwell (Vldmax@aol.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.

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.
Speaker Profiles for November 21 Meeting by George Weinstein, VP and Program Chair

In the C-1100 auditorium at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody, AWC President Clay Ramsey will discuss club business at 1:30 before we welcome a panel of self-published writers who will discuss their best practice recommendations and share the decisions they made during the self-publishing process and the marketing of their work, as well as how they’ve parlayed their success into speaking engagements, book tours, and—in some cases— contracts with traditional publishers.

Their profiles are as follows:

**Abigail Arrington** has handled landmark legal cases for Fortune 500 companies and entertainment personalities; this experience and her advocacy for victims’ rights create the background for her novel, *Precession, the first in* a series of legal thrillers involving strong Southern women. *Precession* has been ranked in the Top 5 of Barnes & Noble.com’s Best Seller List for Legal Thrillers, after reaching #1 on this list on the weekend of October 3-4, 2009.

[www.abigailarrington.com](http://www.abigailarrington.com)

**Ronald Gauthier** was a lifelong resident of New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina forced him to evacuate. Gauthier’s novels, *Prey for Me: A New Orleans Mystery* and *Hard Time on the Bayou*, are shaped by more than two decades of public service and love for his home city. His experience as an educator in Louisiana’s prisons brings a realism to his storytelling. Gauthier is completing his next work based on events surrounding Hurricane Katrina and a sequel to *Prey for Me*. [aalbc.com/authors/ronald_gauthier.htm](http://aalbc.com/authors/ronald_gauthier.htm)

**Wright Gres** grew up boating in Tampa, Florida. He’s sailed one-designs from Windmills to Hobie Cats, and raced cruising class boats and Windsurfers in that sport’s early days. An adventurous voyage on a stays’l schooner, including a transatlantic and six months cruising the Mediterranean, became the basis for his novel *Macedonia Passage*. Wright also spent several years delivering yachts along the east coast and the Caribbean. He was Marine Coordinator on the Robert Altman film, “The Gingerbread Man.” [www.wrightgres.com](http://www.wrightgres.com)

**Judith Kohlberg** is an authority on organization/disorganization. Her groundbreaking books include *Good Riddance: Going Green and Getting Rid of Anything You Don’t Want* (due for publication 2010), *Conquering Chronic Disorganization; ADD-Friendly Ways to Organize Your Life; What Every Professional Needs to Know About Hoarding; and Organize for Disaster: Prepare Your Family and Your Home for Any Natural or Unnatural Disaster*. [www.fileheads.net](http://www.fileheads.net)

**Jana Oliver**’s quest for new stories frequently strays off the beaten path. The fruit of that labor is her multi-award winning Time Rovers® Series. Set in 1888 London, the books deftly blend time travel, shape-shifters and Jack the Ripper. The series (Sojourn, Virtual Evil and Madman’s Dance) has received twelve awards, including the Prism Award for Time Travel, the ForeWord Magazine Editor’s Choice Award, and the Daphne du Maurier Award for Excellence in Mystery and Suspense. [www.janaoliver.com](http://www.janaoliver.com)
Making the Words Count, by Lynda Fitzgerald

Fellow Writers,

We’re artists. Our medium is words. That’s all we have. We’d better make them count.

Despite having written for thirty years, I didn’t think much about that concept until, at the Dahlonega Literary Festival, I served on a panel of authors discussing “Making the Words Count.” As the other panelists and I tossed around ideas, I was struck by a thought:

**Our job as authors is to make the words invisible.**

When readers pick up a book, they want to be pulled directly into the story and stay there. They want to lose themselves in the flavor and action, to hear the characters voices in their heads, not look at a bunch of words, however long and/or impressive, on a sheet of paper.

Have you ever been deeply involved in a story and had a word stop you in mid-read? There you sit, torn between trying to decipher the meaning from context and pulling out the trusty, well-thumbed Webster. In either case, you’re out of the story and you may or may not choose to return.

I was recently reading a mystery novel. I was moving fluidly through the book when the author stopped me cold with the word—uh— I can’t remember the word. That’s how impressive it was. That author’s love of words, and possibly his ego, got in the way of the story. I was a lot less enthusiastic (and trusting) when I returned to the book. And no, I didn’t finish it.

When you’re typing your dissertation, it’s okay to sprinkle technical terms and vocabulary around like so much confetti. When you’re writing for the average reader—well, don’t.

Someone recently told me that publishers want novels written at the fifth grade level. I found that slightly insulting, and yet, it makes a certain twisted kind of sense. Our goal is to get published; the publisher’s goal is to sell the greatest number of books to the largest audience possible, which means selling to people at all levels of intellect. So it follows that publishers will buy what will appeal to the greatest number of readers. You (and I) might want to remember that fact when we’re polishing our next manuscript for submission.

Does that mean we should “talk down” to our readers? Of course not. But we’d better keep our writing geared to a broad general audience if we want to sell to someone other than our families and loyal friends.

A few more thoughts on words:

Paint a picture with your words. Close your eyes and see the scene before you. Feel the breeze and smell the tang of pine or the sweet fragrance of freshly cut grass; see the dew frosting a manicured lawn—or whatever. Then put that on paper.

Use all the senses. Smell the smells, feel the textures, hear the birds off in the distance, see the fog hovering ghost-like above the river, taste the brine from the sea. Well, you get the idea.

Those words are our paints, our clay. They’re all we have. We have to make each one count.
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 from page 13)

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](http://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](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: open
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

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
AWC critique groups cover the Atlanta metro area like the dew. Check the list below to find a group that fits your needs. If you don’t find one and would like to start a new group, contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net. The AWC may soon offer additional and alternative opportunities for feedback and sharing of information among club members, such as online groups or genre groups such as historical fiction or mystery writing.

**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 on a wait list or to form a new group.

A **nonfiction group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 at Caribou Coffee, 4500 Roswell Road. Contact Terre Spencer at terrespen- cer@me.com or Richard Kirby at executiveim-pact@gmail.com.

**Conyers**

The group serving Conyers, Covington, Madison and surrounding communities is full. Contact Zoe Courtman-Smith at zoe.courtman@gmail.com or 770-826-9425 to be put on a wait list.

**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 ricky-jacobs@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 rickyjacob@gmail.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 ricky- jacobs@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 rickyjacs@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 Sally Parrott Ashbrook at sally.parrott@gmail.com to get on her distribution list.

**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.

Anyone interested in a **group focused solely on business writing**, please contact Walter Lawrence at 404-374-9269. Initial meeting will be at 1776 Old Spring House Lane, Suite 100, Dunwoody 30338 at the office of Richard Kirby whose book, *FAST TRACK Your Job Search (And Career)*, was profiled in the October 2009 *eQuill*. Walter Lawrence, CPA and freelance writer, teaches his own accounting courses in ten states. His class materials have been developed into how-to workbooks for participants. Date of meeting TBA.

**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 Con- nor at 678-226-1483 or imayaya@charter.net to be put on a wait list; or contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelder@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 kschrman@ yahoo.com for location and to get on his distribution list.

**Marietta**

An all genre group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Main Library on Roswell St. Contact Tom Roberts at tom- roberts129@hotmail.com.

**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 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. at the Atlanta Bread Company near the corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. Contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gjweinstein@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.

**Woodstock**

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

2010 Membership Dues, Donations and Contact Information

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

2010 Membership Dues (covers remainder of 2009 and all of 2010):
- $40 - Membership is valid through 12/31/2010
  $__________
- 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

- 2010 Membership Year runs from payment date through 12/31/2010
- 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 ___________________________
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.

Retain lower portion for donation receipt.