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

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.

In Context by Clay Ramsey, President
February Speaker Summary by Shyla Nambiar
Spring Writing Contest
Northeast GA Writer’s Conference
Georgia Romance Writers Workshop
Northwest GA Valley Writers Conference
Spring Book Show Workshop
Bios
Georgia Library Assoc. Annual Conference
Julius Thompson Classes at Emory
Looking Ahead
Call for Poetry Submission
March Speaker Profiles by G. Weinstein
Tip of My Pen by Fran Stewart
Writing Past Grief: a workshop
Critique Groups
Officers & Board + Quart
NE GA Writers Conference
Membership Information
Membership Form

ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB
—founded in 1914

Meeting location for March at NC1100 Auditorium of GPC Dunwoody.
In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

In one of the most famous warnings in literature, a soothsayer in a street crowd celebrating a religious holiday shouts to Julius Caesar, “Beware the Ides of March!” As we know, he ignored this message, along with the omen of a lightning storm and the disturbing dreams of his wife, choosing to disregard these portents that predicted disaster. On his way to the Senate on March 15 – the Ides – in 44 B.C. he was pulled into the Theatre of Pompey by a group of senators and stabbed to death, thus fulfilling the prophecy and initiating a civil war that essentially ended the Roman Republic.

The Ides of March was certainly an inauspicious day for Caesar and significant in the history of Western civilization, but you might argue that it is otherwise just another date, the answer to a trivia question, a dusty fact to clutter your memory. What possible significance could it have for a twenty-first century writer? Unless you write historical fiction or are an historian of the ancient world, you might not consider it at all relevant. Should a poet care about the Ides of March? Or a contemporary novelist? Or a screenwriter?

Whereas the date might be of limited value to someone who writes twenty one centuries after Caesar’s death, I wish to propose that what the day represented and the literary form in which the story has been preserved for us are indeed reasons for the writer to reconsider its importance. In short, I want to focus on risk: the risk of the conspirators and the risk of the most familiar teller of the tale.

While the motives of the conspirators were complex, and beyond the scope of this short essay to explore, the common fear that bound the murderous senators was the fear that through Caesar’s struggle for ultimate power he would turn their Republic into a monarchy, with himself installed as king. They risked exile, execution, social unrest, and military intervention to kill Caesar, but they committed the act for the preservation of the Senate and People of Rome. Although I would certainly not advocate political assassination as a way to register dissent, I want to emphasize that they risked a great deal and they acted.

As for the chronicle of this bloody act, the story of Caesar had been recorded by Plutarch, Suetonius and Sallust, among others, but most English readers have first encountered the man through the tragic play of William Shakespeare. In this play, in addition to the soothsayer’s warning, Shakespeare gave us “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears,” and “Cowards die many times before their deaths,” and of course the poignant “Et tu, Brute?” But Shakespeare took a risk to write Julius Caesar. He wrote and performed it in 1599, when Queen Elizabeth I was older and had chosen no successor to the throne. It was a time of economic and political uncertainty, and hence risky to remind an audience of the assassination of a ruler and a violent transfer of power. Shakespeare risked fomenting a popular revolt. He risked aligning himself with certain political interests that opposed the Queen. He risked destabilizing an increasingly tenuous social arrangement. But he wrote, and he gave us this timeless classic.

There is risk involved in writing. Every time we sit at our desks to write, we are confronted with the pain of laying bare our soul on the page. There is the threat of rejection, of misunderstanding, of unforeseen consequences. There is the anguish of artistic creation. There is uncertainty and insecurity and fear. It would be easier to read a book, or walk the dog, or do just about anything else that you might find to do.

But we are writers and we must dare to write and we must dare to act. Start that tricky chapter you have put off. Write a synopsis of a finished novel so you can get the manuscript in the mail. Send out a project that has been languishing in a drawer for years. Send a query to a long shot. Plunge in headfirst to a new poem or screenplay or short story or novel. Take a bold step forward. Push past the procrastination. Take a risk, and let the Ides of March be a reminder to us, not so much of tragedy, but of how much can happen when we do.
February Speaker Summaries, by Shyla Nambiar

At 1:45, Amanda Gable, a local short-story writer and author of a first novel, *The Confederate General Rides North*, spoke to AWC on voice, point of view, and history in fiction. Ms. Gable, who has published short fiction in literary reviews and has been nominated twice for the Pushcart Prize, explained the genesis of her novel from a series of short stories to a full-length novel on the coming of age of a young Georgia girl obsessed with the Civil War. Her development of the novel entailed stints at artists’ residencies, including three weeks at the famed Yaddo artists’ colony in Saratoga Springs, New York, and historical research conducted at battlefields her protagonist visits. In discussing the concept of voice in fiction, Ms. Gable divided it into two classes: voice as the “essence of a piece, its distinction,” the quality that gives a work of fiction its own resonance, and voice as the specific expression of a particular character. She believes that using first-person point of view can contribute to a character’s unique voice but also suggested trying the third-person point of view linked to one character. She read excerpts from her book and delved into the Civil War research she did to lend authenticity to it. Ms. Gable, currently enrolled in a MFA program at Georgia State University, is working on her second book. Her recounting of her own journey to publication serves as an inspiration to Atlanta writers seeking to deliver their opus to the world.

At 3:00, Dr. John Evans, writer, former English professor, and speaker, enlightened the audience on the use of writing as a therapeutic tool for psychological healing. A cancer survivor, Dr. Evans found relief in his own dark periods through writing and now espouses it as a valuable aid in creating wellness. His philosophy is that “writing is good for you but can also be dangerous.” To give the audience a sample of this healing modality, he led everyone through a three-step writing exercise that included compiling a list of names, selecting a traumatic incident as a topic, and freewriting on it for a specified amount of time. In this type of writing, importance is placed on the emotions surrounding a stressful experience. This exercise is based on research into the value of confession. According to follow-up studies on subjects who participated in the writing exercises, subjects who underwent the experiment reported greater benefits to their health. For those who take the traditional view of writing as a craft and an art form, Dr. Evans pointed out that a writer’s literary imagination can be fed by therapeutic writing. His advice paralleled generally accepted advice on creative writing: keep the pen moving and don’t censor your words during the writing process. Dr. Evans fielded many questions from the audience and cited books on writing for wellness for anyone interested in tapping into their emotional states as a productive way to heal or to derive subject matter for their creative work.
ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC Fall Writing Contest is open to: All current, paid club members. (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Marty Aftewicz.) Submissions must be original, unpublished, and un-awarded work.

DEADLINE:

April 17, 2010. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:

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

- FIRST PLACE $50 CASH PRIZE
- SECOND PLACE $30 CASH PRIZE
- THIRD PLACE $20 CASH PRIZE

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual/Religious/Inspirational</td>
<td>2,000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>1,000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>2,000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Poetry</td>
<td>32 lines</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)
Spring 2010 Writing Contest continued

> 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

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 5 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 web site.

Northeast Georgia Writers Conference

April 7, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Julie Garmon
“Writing Real”
Fear Unmasked (Non-fiction)

August 4, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Amy Wallace
“Fiction Writing”
Amy Wallace has written a trilogy published by
Multnomah Books: www.amywallace.com

October 6, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Sandra Brim, Ph.D.
“Structuring and Writing Poetry”
Sandra Brim is a professor at Brenau University,
Gainesville,
of Creative Writing and Poetry:
www.brenau.edu
Members: Free
Non-Members: $25 Pre-Registration is required
(No registration at the door) Details:
www.negawriters.org
Contact Elouise Whitten, 770-297-0680 or
Space is limited and deadline is fast approaching! There will be no onsite registration so sign-up before March 20!

http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/programs/2010-programs/one-day-writers-workshop/

April 17 Building a Story That Sells Featuring: Dianna Love and Mary Buckham
An all-day event: Saturday, April 17, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m, Holiday Inn and Conference Center—Decatur, GA
$101 (includes breakfast, lunch, and snack break) Invite your friends!

This intensive workshop will use techniques from their innovative Break Into Fiction® Character Driven Plotting Program Dianna Love and Mary Buckham created.

New York Times best seller Dianna Love's first book sold & won a prestigious RITA® Award (as Dianna Love Snell). She now co-writes the BAD (Bureau of American Defense) Agency romantic-thriller series with #1 NYT best seller Sherrilyn Kenyon. Dianna speaks at national and international events throughout the year about the innovative Break Into Fiction® Character Driven Plotting Program she and Mary Buckham created.

Mary Buckham is an award-winning romantic-suspense author who, before becoming published in book-length mass-market fiction was a Magazine Editor, Contributing Editor and a freelance article writer, selling hundreds of articles to local, regional, and national publications. She is also the co-author of the BREAK INTO FICTION®:11 Steps to Building a Story that Sells, which was released in June 2009. For more visit www.AuthorDiannaLove.com, www.MaryBuckham.com, or www.BreakIntoFiction.com for tips on how to get published.

Registration is now open and space is limited. Sign up today!
http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/programs/2010-programs/one-day-writers-workshop
Northwest Georgia Valley Writers Conference 2010
Featuring Rosemary Daniell and Terry Kay

In cooperation with the
HARRIS ARTS CENTER
Saturday March 20
8:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.

at the Harris Arts Center • 212 South Wall Street • Calhoun, Georgia 30701

8:00 – 8:45 AM
Registration/Check-in

Authors’ Meet ‘n’ Greet & Book Signing
Includes today’s presenters and additional authors:
- Jimmy Blackmon, Southern Roots
- Susan Kinkaid, Higher Honor
- Tony Burton, The Writer’s Journey Journal and other fictional works
- Lizz Bowles, Manna and the Luck Woman
- Donny Segraves, Gone From These Woods
- Sam Isaac Edwards, From Outhouse, to Whitehouse, to Treehouse, and more authors TBA

9:00 – 10:30 AM
Workshop with Terry Kay, The DNA of Writing: Reducing the Must-Know Requirements to 2 Issues

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
Workshop with Rosemary Daniell, What Geniuses Know

12:15 – 1:15
Lunch
Lunch is not included in the conference, but JD’s Café next door is offering 10% off for conference attendees

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Panel Discussion
Moderated by Wayne Minshew
On panel: Terry Kay, Tony Burton, Fran Stewart, Anne Webster, Geri Teran

2:45 PM – 3:30
Workshops
Anne Webster, Pepping Up Your Poems or Geri Teran, Everyone Has A Story: Writing for Gold

3:45 – 4:30
Workshops
Bobbie Christmas, "The Book Doctor: Write It, Style It and You Write to Sell or Scream: Writers Block, Is It a Myth?"

4:45 – 5:45 PM
Panel Discussion
Living the Writer’s Life
Moderated by Tony Burton
With Rosemary Daniell, Fran Stewart, Geri Teran, Donny Segraves, Jimmy Blackmon

5:45 – 6:45 PM
Authors’ Meet ‘n’ Greet & Book Signings
Includes today’s presenters except for Terry Kay and additional authors, Jimmy Blackmon, Southern Roots, Susan Kinkaid, Higher Honor, Terry Burton, The Writer’s Journey Journal and other fictional works, Lizz Bowles, Manna and the Luck Woman, Donny Segraves, Gone From These Woods, Sam Isaac Edwards, From Outhouse, to Whitehouse, to Treehouse, and more authors TBA

Writers Conference $30 for the full day of workshops, panel discussions, and Author Meet ‘n’ Greet & Book Signings

Readers Choice $5 for the final panel discussion 4:45 – 5:45 and admission to the Author Meet ‘n’ Greet & Book Signings

Book Fair Only, there is no admission charge to attend the Author Meet ‘n’ Greet & Book Signing

Writers are encouraged to pre-register. Pick up a form at the Harris Arts Center, download at www.harrisartscenter.com, or phone 706-629-2599

Sponsored by:

Bridges Discount HomeStore
434 South Wall Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
www.bridgesdiscounthomestore.com

Bill & Debbie Richeson Memorial Fund

Dana and Guy Blythe
www.wolftonebooks.com

Small Press With Integrity
Wolfmont Press
www.wolfmont.com

Shaw
Where Great Floors Begin

Honey Locust Press
www.honeylocustpress.com

706-307-0068

220 South Wall Street
Suite 100A
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-624-4532
Right next door to the Harris Arts Center
10% Off to Workshop Attendees

200 S. Main Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-628-8318
www.wolftonebooks.com
The Spring Book Show Workshop
March 26&27

Authorship 101, “How To Become a Successful Author – The Basics,” is scheduled for Friday, March 26. Featured presenters include:

**Peter Bowerman**, author of several books on making a living as an author and publisher, speaking on “The Well-Fed Self-Publisher: How to Turn One Book into a Full-Time Living.”

**Ahmad Meradji**, president, Apex Book Manufacturing, covering "How To Get Your Self-Published Book Manufactured."

**David Fulmer**, author of several mysteries published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and a Shamus award winner, now creating a new publishing house in Atlanta, speaking on "New Games in Town - The Shift in the Publishing Paradigm," and

**Angela K. Durden**, author of children’s books, editor of a new anthology of business essays, publisher, businesswoman, covering “Problems of self-editing, level of quality to seek, benefits of hiring an editor, different types of editing.”

Details on program and registration are at [http://anvilpub.net/Authorship_101.htm](http://anvilpub.net/Authorship_101.htm)

Authorship 201, How To Become a Successful Author - Getting Down to Business," is scheduled for Saturday, March 27. Featured presenters include:

**Chris Roerden**, author of several books on editing and how to get published, including *Don’t Murder Your Mystery* and *Don’t Sabotage Your Submission*. Topics: "Secrets of Surviving the Manuscript Submission Process," "How to Make a Good Living as a Ghost-writer," and "Become the Master of Dialogue, Description, and Show v. Tell."

**Tony Burton**, publisher and author who resides in Ranger, Ga. Topic: "Conflict as the Foundation," about using conflict as the driving force to build a good story and keep readers interested, and

**Dr. David Ryback**, author of five books on various aspects of psychology, sixth due out shortly. Topic: “The Six Important Steps to Getting Published Despite All Obstacles: Conceptualizing, Scheduling, Writing, Titling, Agenting and Re-writing.”

Details on program and registration are at [http://anvilpub.net/authorship_201.htm](http://anvilpub.net/authorship_201.htm)
### Bios

**James Floyd Kelly**
I am a technology writer in Smyrna, GA. My background includes degrees in both Industrial Engineering and English, with a focus on technical writing. I have written (or co-authored) 10 books since 2006 for both Apress and No Starch Press. I wish to expand my writing to possibly include some fiction, specifically for kids ages 8 to 14. My wife, Ashley, and I have a 3 year old son and a baby boy due in June 2010. I am editor-in-chief of the largest LEGO Robotics blog (over 60,000 monthly readers) – www.thenxtstep.com.

**Bethany Clark**
Though I've consistently written for 14 years, I'm just now interested in sharing and publishing some of the work I create. I joined this group because I personally learned that doing your craft in the company/support of others makes you do it more frequently, do it better, and grow. For instance, I've known how to crochet (it's similar to knitting) for a decade, but only when I joined a crochet group last fall did I begin making hats, baby blankets, shawls, cowls, scarves, and pouches for myself and my loved ones. This is definitely an evolution I'd like to recreate in my writing life. Looking forward to meeting you all.

**Rob Gilliam**
My writing interest is fantasy and science fiction. I am currently unpublished, but recently finished the first draft of a military science fiction novel titled *Legacy Soldier*. I hope to share critiques to help with my re-write and to provide useful feedback to others. I would love to publish some day, but started writing as a creative diversion. I work as an accountant/public health analyst for the Federal Government/Health and Human Services. I am married with a five-year old son. I am a Tae Kwon Do black belt and spent a couple of years in the Army.

### Spring Book Show

**When?** March 26th - 28th  
**Where?** Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta GA.  
**Show Hours Friday, March 26** 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m  
**Saturday, March 27** 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 28** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  

For your convenience SBS has reserved a block of rooms at The Renaissance Waverly Hotel for $139.00 per night. Call 1-770-953-4500 or 1-888-391-8724. Ask for the Spring Book Show Room Block.  
**Register to attend 2010 show !**  

See workshop details on p.9
The Annual Conference of the Public Library Division of the Georgia Library Association will be held in Athens, GA, in October 2010, and is sponsored by associations for Public Librarians, School Media Specialists, and Academic Librarians. During the Conference, there will be an Authors’ Reception in which authors are invited to sell their books, promote their books, or just talk to more than 200 librarians from throughout Georgia. If the authors do not want to bring their own supply of books, Barnes and Noble will be on site with books from the authors attending. A table will be provided for each author, however there is no reimbursement for any expenses or honorariums. Last year the conference was in Columbus, Georgia, and 29 authors attended the reception. They’ve had as many as 60 authors for one conference.

This is a great opportunity for librarians to find interesting books from Georgia authors for their library collections, and a great chance for authors to network and promote their works.

If you need any information about this please contact:

Diana J. Very, Director of LSTA, Statistics and Research, Georgia Public Library Service, 1800 Century Place, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
dvery@georgialibraries.org
404-235-7156
www.georgialibraries.org

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/
AWC member Julius Thompson will be teaching several classes this semester at Evening at Emory.

"The Creative Writing Certificate Workshop is an evolutionary development of the six-year creative writing classes I taught for Evening at Emory. The distinction between the two curriculums is in approach. The creative writing workshop presents the students with more hands on activities, in-class writing exercises and an innovative online chat format between instructor and students to follow up on the in-class activities. The student comes with more expertise and the criticism will be more in depth. It’s a workshop not a lecture-based class."

The classes begin on March 8, 9 & 10, and April 19, according to the following schedule:

Creative Writing Workshop I  
Tuesday: March 9-April 6  7:00-9:00 p.m.  $400

Creative Writing Workshop II  
Monday: March 8-April 5  7:00-9:00 p.m.  $400

Creative Writing Workshop III  
Monday: April 19-May 17  7:00-9:00 p.m.  $400

Publishing Workshop  
Wednesday: March 10-April 7  7:00-8:30 p.m.  $210

Please click on the following link for details and registration information:
http://cll.emory.edu/instructor.cfm?ins=2044590950

Looking Ahead

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.)
Visual Voices

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, APRIL: FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBIT

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE, DUNWOODY CAMPUS

WHO: Current or past members of The Writers’ Circle and The Writers’ Forum; GPC faculty, staff, and students; Atlanta Writers Club; and Georgia Writers Association.

WHAT: OPEN THEME. One original poem with artwork, framed and wired-to-hang. Maximum size: 11” X 17” Attach your name, address, phone, email and brief (25-word) bio..

WHEN: Deadline for bio and contact info: March 5, 2010.

WHERE: The GPC Dunwoody Campus LTC Writing Center, NLRC 3200, third floor, Library. Deliver your wired-to-hang work to Nancy McDaniel, Writing Center Supervisor, to be exhibited in the gallery area outside the labs throughout April.

HOW: Be creative and visual! Submit your work in person (preferred).

IMPORTANT NOTE: WORKS MUST BE READY FOR HANGING WITH WIRE IN PLACE. NO SAW-TOOTH HANGERS ACCEPTED. Poets will need to retrieve their works at the end of the exhibit. All participants will be invited to read their poems at an on-campus reception/reading in early April.

For further information, contact:

Nancy McDaniel (770) 274-5243 nmcdanie@gpc.edu
Gelia Dolcimascolo (770) 274-5246 gdolcima@gpc.edu

Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Road, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
1:45-2:30 p.m.

Author Wendy Wax has migrated from writing “beach reads” such as Leave It to Cleavage and Hostile Makeover to the more complex, multi-layered novels The Accidental Bestseller and her latest, Magnolia Wednesdays. As her plots have become more intricate and her characters more nuanced, her readership and sales continue to grow, but her writing career holds even more challenges than before.

The Accidental Bestseller is the story of four writers--critique partners for a decade--who discover just how far they'll go to help each other survive the dog-eat-dog New York publishing world. Although Wendy jokes that “the names have been changed to protect the innocent,” The Accidental Bestseller draws heavily on her own and other writers’ turbulent adventures in publishing. If you thought making that first sale was the “end” of the journey, you won't want to miss Wendy's unvarnished look at the truth about publishing when she speaks to the club on the topic of “The Realities of a Writing Career.” Read more about Wendy and her work at www.authorwendywax.com.

3:00-3:45 p.m.

Jack McDevitt is a veteran science fiction writer, the author of sixteen novels including his newest book Time Travelers Never Die. His work has been on the final Nebula Award ballot twelve of the last thirteen years, and he has won a number of prizes for his work. This is a harsh genre, having few publishers and agents and notoriously demanding readers, and Jack has promised to talk about what it takes to succeed as a science fiction writer. However, he plans to spend most of his time at the club talking about failure.

Specifically, in a discussion he’s titled “How to Ensure Your Work Gets Rejected,” he will hold forth on how writers go wrong. Sometimes we learn best from negative examples. Jack plans to trot out at least a dozen of them, from obsessively trying to perfect the early chapters instead of finishing the entire first draft to making the reader work too hard with “info dumps” and clunky pacing. By learning what not to do, you’ll discover how bad stories go wrong and why good stories work so well. Join us for a tour of Jack's universe on March 20 and read more about him at http://jackmcdevitt.com.
From the Tip of My Pen

Fran Stewart
Author, Editor, & Speaker

The Widest Walls We Can Find

Recently I walked into a new office space to meet a friend of mine. I paused and studied the painting on the wall across the room. It wasn’t a pleasant experience. I didn’t look for the title or the artist’s name. I’d already decided it must be called Nightmare or Despair or something else equally negative.

Still, as repulsed as I was by the subject matter, I wondered why an obviously accomplished artist would choose to wallow in such gory details and, for that matter, why the woman I was waiting for would have chosen monsters for her waiting room.

“What do you think of it?”

I’d been so engrossed in thought I hadn’t heard her come in—not did I know quite why I’d walked up so close to the painting. “It’s . . .” I was stumped.

“Compelling?” she offered.

“Disturbing,” I said. “What’s it called?”

She gave me a level look. “Hope Number One.” I raised a derisive eyebrow. “Yes,” she hurried on, “really. Look at it a few more minutes.”

Blue-gray creatures writhed across the canvas from left to right dragging what might have been victims of a sacrificial ritual. The victims, though, looked like they were still alive. The forest path they travelled was lined with magnificent trees, the only good thing I could see about the whole painting. Where could Hope possibly come into such a grotesque image?

“Now,” she said, “turn around.”

On the opposite wall, beside the door I’d entered through, was a clearing in that same forest. Those same twisted blue-gray monstrosities laid their victims—or rather, what I had thought of as their victims—gently, with obvious care, on mossy beds at the feet of enormous oaks, where they were ministered to by . . . by what? Were those creatures of light physicians or angels?

“Hope Number Two,” my friend said. Yes, indeed. My post 9/11 mind had ferreted out the worst possible explanation for number one. Maybe that’s why I was so drawn to the seeming horror of that first image, looking for a way to reconcile the world as it sometimes appears to be with what I wanted it to be. Maybe that’s why I sometimes—not often—am compelled to read thrillers or books about tragedies. Still, somewhere in those books I do expect to find Hope Number Two, the satisfying resolution, the story of people fighting against the odds not merely to survive, but to thrive.

When I looked closer, I could see that the tree half-visible on the right-hand edge of Number One was completed on the left-hand edge of Number Two. “They’re meant to be placed side-by-side, aren’t they?” I asked.

“Yes, but my wall wasn’t wide enough.”

From here on out, let’s write our books—and write our lives—with wide enough walls so that Hope never gives way to Despair.
Writing Past Grief Workshop

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 spoke to the club in October 2009 and now will present a 2.5-hour workshop on confronting the hardships in your life so you can produce your most powerful work ever.

**Date and Time:** April 24, 2010, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
**Location:** GPC-Dunwoody, NC-1100 auditorium
**Cost:** $20. Open to all 2010 members of the Atlanta Writers Club

**Workshop Description**

Robert Frost said, “no tears for the writer, no tears for the reader,” but how does a writer work effectively with emotionally difficult material, moving through his or her own trauma to create powerful and effective writing that serves the larger narrative?

In this seminar, the author will draw from the work of leading nonfiction authors to examine the rewards for the writer – and the reader – in confronting tears, finding joy, and meeting on the page the little known continuation of Frost’s quote: “No surprise for the writer, no surprise for the reader.”

Participants will create new work or expand existing work through a variety of in-workshop writing exercises. This workshop is open to fiction and nonfiction writers at all levels.

**Outline of Workshop**

Introduction, discuss universality of grief in NF. Examples from leading nonfiction writers incl. Joan Didion, Abigail Thomas, James Baldwin, & others.

All compelling writing is based on the writer’s obsession. Introduction to freewrite concept. In class free-write “what obsesses me?”

- Discussion of outcomes (reading of exercise not expected) re: what showed up in obsession, what can we use to build scenes?
- Discussion of scenic development techniques, dialogue recreation, sensory development.
- In-class writing exercise: scene development
- The emotional value to the writer – and the reader! – of the finding the ‘red hot center’ in your work. In-class writing exercise.

Question & Answer with participant-led discussion.

To register, e-mail AWC VP George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org to receive payment instructions.
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.

Critique groups have popped up all over the Atlanta metro area and now have gone online as AWC members seek valuable feedback from their fellow writers.

The groups are listed below by neighborhood or with online contact information. If you are interested, find the one which best suits your needs and contact its leader. The online groups have just begun and may shift as needs arise.

Thanks for your suggestions and patience.

**Online Groups:**

**AWC-NF-Critique@yahoogroups.com** is a nonfiction group led by Terre Spencer at terrespencer@me.com.

**Fiction Critique Group 1** is led by Derek Koehl at Derek@nonhappyendings.com.

**Fiction Critique Group 2**

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AWC_Fiction_Critique_Group2/ has ten members and is open to ten more. Rules are posted at website. Please read carefully before applying. Writing samples are not required now but will be after the number reaches twenty. Critiques are private, not shared with group at present time. Facilitator is Evan Guilford-Blake at ejbplaywright@yahoo.com.

**Poetry group.** The Buckhead/Midtown poetry group meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Group is nearing capacity. To be included on the distribution list for meeting details, please email Karen Holmes at feb2479@gmail.com and give a brief description of your writing experience.

**The Buckhead Novel/Fiction Critique Group** meets every other Tuesday evening at 7PM at the Starbucks in Lindbergh Plaza. We have an opening for one more writer of book-length fiction. Contact Patricia @ pepatterson@bellsouth.net.

The Roswell nonfiction group that met at Caribou Coffee has discontinued.

**Conyers**

The group serving Conyers, Covington, Madison and surrounding communities meets at the Whistle Post Tavern in Conyers twice a month on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Serious, committed members only. Attendance expected at every meeting. Two openings. 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

**Gatherings:**

**Austell**

An all-genre group meets in the café area of Borders in Austell on the first and third Sundays at 6 p.m. People not on the email distribution list should call Marjorie Gore to confirm the time. Marjorie Gore at 770-317-4061.

**Buckhead/Midtown**
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 Bombay Coffee Shop, 1645 McLendon Ave. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list.

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

A **nonfiction** group meets Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Contact Jane Howe at janeonline@bellsouth.net or 404-299-5193.

A nonfiction group meets Thursdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Email Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net.

**Dunwoody**

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

**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. The group is **full** and closed. Contact Ruth Gresh at thrgresh@bellsouth.net to be added to a waiting list.

**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 jmhelder-man@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 the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Main Library on Roswell St. Contact Linda Sullivan at LindaSullivan3@gmail.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.

3 of 4 2/23/2010 5:39 PM

**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 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

Northeast Georgia Writers Conference
1:00–3:00 p.m. February 3, 2010
Peach State Bank, 3rd floor, 325 Washington St. Gainesville, GA 30501
Cecil Murphey
“Dancing With Dialogue”
“Dialogue isn’t real,” says Cecil Murphey, “but it must sound real.” To make your prose dance, he teaches the secrets of writing conversation that enlivens your writing and makes you a better writer. Murphey is the author of over 100 books, fiction and non-fiction: www.themanbehindthewords.com
Members: Free
Non-Members: $25 Pre-Registration is required
(No registration at the door) Details: www.negawriters.org
Contact Elouise Whitten, 770-297-0680 or HolmesLynda@bellsouth.net

Additional Northeast Georgia Writers Conferences

April 7, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Julie Garmon
“Writing Real”
Fear Unmasked (Non-fiction)
Julie Garmon is a prolific writer of Guideposts stories: www.juliegarmon.com

August 4, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Amy Wallace
“Fiction Writing”
Amy Wallace has written a trilogy published by Multnomah Books: www.amywallace.com

October 6, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Sandra Brim, Ph.D.
“Structuring and Writing Poetry”
Sandra Brim is a professor at Brenau University, Gainesville,
of Creative Writing and Poetry: www.brenau.edu
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 next page. 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

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.