AGENDA — No regular meeting

May 15-no regular meeting. Instead-
Atlanta Writers Conference at
Westin Atlanta Airport
See p.4 for details.

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

Twitter link
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
In Context, by
Clay Ramsey,
President

This month marks the one-year anniversary of my tenure as president of the Atlanta Writers Club, and in traditional presidential fashion I’d like to present a “State of the AWC” column to give you an overview of what has happened in the Club during the past twelve months.

The mathematician and children’s author Lewis Carroll once wrote, “If you want to inspire confidence, give plenty of statistics.” Well, my intention is to inspire your confidence, but not by dazzling and distracting you with a lot of numbers. Even so, the data is compelling and the story the numbers represent should encourage you. I’ll start with the simple count of members. Marty Aftewicz, our VP of Membership, is the keeper of these records and informs me that last May we had 479 members in the Atlanta Writers Club. This May the count has jumped to 534 members, an increase of 11%. Our email list of those who receive the eQuill newsletter and announcements of literary events has increased from 1,710 last May to 2,422 today. Although this includes many non-members, a 42% increase in circulation is remarkable. It would seem to suggest that there is a growing number of people who are interested in the programs and opportunities we have to offer. Maybe they are potential members. Maybe they are writers and agents and publishers who want to keep an eye on the talent in the Club. Maybe they are patrons of the arts who are looking for a way to support the cause of literature in the area. They could be anyone, but they are interested enough in us and what we do to take the time to subscribe to our email service. Some members move, or choose not to renew, or join for a single event, or resign for personal reasons, so there is some measure of turnover, but based on these numbers, the conclusion is apparent; we continue to experience a net increase in both membership and email subscribers, suggesting our expanding growth into the literary community of the city and region.

The other batch of numbers generally used as a benchmark of organizational health and growth is based on financial records. For the purpose of this annual overview John Sheffield, the AWC Treasurer, has offered the following summary of the accounts of the Club, divided into four categories:

Membership Dues: $16,000 - $20,000 per year (based on 450 – 500 members). These dues cover competitions, speakers, free workshops, picnic, office expenses, the Web site, E-Quill and, where needed, awards and scholarships.

ILE (Individual Learning Expenses) Receipts: about $25,000 per year. These funds cover the AWC’s costs—workshops, critiques, meeting agents.

Funds on Deposit: $2,500.

Donations (includes prior year funds): $5,600. These funds are used to cover, as far as possible, scholarships and awards. Current commitments are the bi-annual Townsend Award ($5,000), and a writing scholarship at the Georgia Perimeter College of $5,000 per year for 2010 through 2013.

No Board member or volunteer receives a dime in remuneration, and as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit public charity we are definitely not a moneymaking enterprise. Through limited income streams from members and benefactors, we work to fulfill our mission of educating our members about the craft and business of writing. We are also committed to exploring possibilities in the coming year of applying for funding from foundations and grant sources to support our expanding vision for teaching, encouraging, and inspiring writers.

The majority of what money we do receive as dues, participation fees, or gifts is invested back into the programs of the AWC. George Weinstein, VP of Programming, has done a phenomenal job recruiting and scheduling stellar speakers, workshop leaders, and conference participants. He offers this statement about the programs of the past year:

“During 2009 and 2010, we continue to feature two or more speakers at each of our meetings, striving to provide a variety of presentations on the craft and business of writing across many genres of fiction and nonfiction. While we average 100 or more attendees at our meetings—including at least a dozen new guests each time who often become members—we have hosted 130-150 attendees at our events with top regional authors such as George Singleton, Kathryn Stockett, and Steve Berry. We will continue this trend when we bring Rick Bragg and Sonny Brewer to town for a workshop in the fall.

We have featured a variety of other activities in the past year, from a query letter workshop with Joshilyn Jackson and Karen Abbott and George Singleton’s master class on short story writing to lunches and dinners with top visiting authors and Phil Nutman’s two screenwriting seminars. The club has raised its profile in
the local community by providing the reception cost for a poetry event at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), offering a scholarship for a GPC English major, and cosponsoring the Townsend Prize for Fiction, awarded bi-annually by the GPC Writers Institute.

We have expanded our May Atlanta Writers Conference from five featured agents/editors to six in 2010, providing opportunities for 22 more participants to garner the attention of a top literary agent. To assist attendees with their preparations, we offered two workshops where three top authors provided valuable feedback to get members' work and verbal deliveries ready for the May conference.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2010, we will provide another high quality, low cost workshop in July, bring new speakers to the club meetings in the late summer and fall, welcome Rick Bragg and Sonny Brewer for a special event, and have an all-poetry day during our December meeting.

As an additional opportunity for members, the AWC offers two writing contests per year, capably directed by the talented Tara Coyt, the VP of Contests. The AWC Constitution specifies that the fall contest categories are Flash Fiction, Light Poetry, Memoir and YA Fiction. The spring categories vary and this year they are Article, Serious Poetry, Short Story and Spiritual/Religious/Inspirational. In the spring of 2009 there were 32 entries over three categories (up from 28 entries in 2008) and in the fall of 2009 there were 38 entries in four categories (down from 49 entries in 2008). Tara has gathered an impressive pool of judges for the contests, a list that includes award-winning authors and journalists, Pulitzer nominees and educators, such as Darnelle Arnoul, Rebecca Burns, David Fulmer, Charles McNair, and Jedwin Smith, among others. The number of entries and the identity of the judges for the Spring 2010 contest remain confidential until the announcement of the winners.

As a volunteer organization, we by definition rely on the efforts of volunteers. Neda Gayle, as VP of Operations, coordinates the recruitment, training, and supervision of our volunteer teams, organized for events that require personnel, ranging from six timekeepers for the 2009 May Atlanta Writers Conference to over fifty able bodies for the 2009 Decatur Book Festival. Between the two was the November Dahlonega Festival, requiring twenty people. Additionally she will recruit volunteers for the annual June picnic and the first annual international conference co-sponsored by the AWC, the Write In Atlanta event, also in June.

But all of these programs and events would not attract the attention that they do in the wider world if it weren’t for Patricia Patterson, the VP of Publicity. She has offered these words about what she does and why she does it: “As VP of Publicity for the Atlanta Writers Club, I have maintained personal contact with newspapers, businesses, libraries for the past two terms. I have enlarged our submission base and kept up with the changes in names of contacts. I send out each notification in a separate email. Why? To personalize the email and thank the recipient for their publication and sharing our news. This has been a fun and rewarding area to help support AWC and I thank you.”

Terre Spencer, VP of Marketing, is a geyser of fantastic ideas. In addition to generating marketing proposals, she volunteers her talent in graphic design to produce everything from logos to printed media. She leads a non-fiction critique group and is currently working on a Club-wide survey of interests and expectations. Oh, and she’d love to sell you an AWC t-shirt. She does a little bit of everything and does it well.

Bill Black is the faithful Secretary, meticulously inscribing notes of Board meetings and official conferences, and keeping the records safe somewhere. Gene Bowen does a masterful job whipping our scattered submissions into a publishable eQuill newsletter every month, serving as both Publisher and Copy Editor for the online periodical. And lest I forget, Misty McCrary is the new Treasurer, preparing to take over from John on June 1, and Cindy Wiedenbeck is the new Social Director, ready to officially begin her duties with the picnic at Hammond Park in June.

That’s it for the Board, but doesn’t even come close to acknowledging all of the volunteers. Jennie Helderman oversees 18 local critique groups and 3 online critique groups. She also takes pictures for the eQuill, website and archives. Alicia Frey keeps our new presence on Facebook and Twitter alive, and Alicia Plant keeps the mic open for Open Mic sessions at monthly meetings. The gracious gentleman Adrian Drost is our link to the past century of AWC inheritance, serving as official Historian and keeper of the By-Laws.

And those are just the volunteers with titles. There is a cadre of unnamed volunteers who labor not for credit or recognition, but for the sake of the cause. And beyond them, I’d like to think that there is an entire Club of potential volunteers, each adding something
and contributing to the growing, changing, vibrant community of writers in the AWC.

As you see, this picture of the Atlanta Writers Club over the last year that I have tried to compose has turned into a collection of portraits of her volunteers, the men and women who write and publish and struggle and cherish books and love the scribbling, anguish and joy of the writing life. What has happened cannot be separated from those who made it happen. Their efforts, their time and their energy have created this community.

It has been a true privilege for me to serve as President, but I confess something that you have by now deduced – this has been a group effort. We rely on you as much as you rely on us for quality programs and worthwhile opportunities. This is a great time to be a part of the AWC. Be encouraged, but be challenged too. Let’s see what we can accomplish together in the coming year, and when we look back next May, may we truly be astounded by the miracles that have occurred to this committed, engaged, motivated company of artists called the Atlanta Writers Club.

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**Atlanta Writers Conference**

- May 14-15

**Location:** Westin Atlanta Airport, 4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337, 404-762-7676

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

Even if you missed the chance to sign up for a critique or a pitch with an agent at the May 15 Atlanta Writers Conference (these are sold out), you still have some opportunities to participate.

A free shuttle runs between the airport and the hotel every 20 minutes, so you can take MARTA to the airport and hop the free shuttle to the hotel, which saves you money and the hassle of driving, and provides an environmentally friendly option. If you do choose to drive, plenty of parking exists in the hotel lot. Note: the hotel charges a $9 parking fee.

**Events:**

On Friday May 14, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., the AWC is hosting a social event in the Westin lounge area, for club members and the six agents we’ve lined up for the conference. Even if you are not participating in the Atlanta Writers Conference on May 15, we invite you to join us on the evening of the 14th for casual chats about books and the people who write them, sell them, publish them, and buy them. No RSVP necessary!

On Saturday, May 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., join us for a panel discussion with all six agents. This will be a candid, freewheeling, hour-long Q&A about the state of the publishing industry, what’s hot, what’s not, what trends they foresee, and their predictions about the future of books. Also get your questions answered about everything from queries and contracts to publicity and marketing. 20 seats are available for this activity. The cost is $20. You must be a 2010 member of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate (to join or renew your membership, use the form on the last page of the eQuill or join online at [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html)).

By participating in the panel discussion, you also will be able to stay all day for a bonus: David Fulmer will present four of his most popular hour-and-a-quarter lectures to educate and entertain you. Here are the topics he’s selected: perfecting queries and synopses; developing characters; creating setting; and writing scenes of sex and violence without sounding like a virgin pacifist.

To register for a seat at the agent panel discussion, please e-mail AWC VP & Program Director George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com. He will reply with payment instructions.
NEWS RELEASE
Patricia Patterson
pepatterson@bellsouth.net

Single Mother/Honor Student Becomes 1st Scholarship Recipient
Atlanta Writers Club & Georgia Perimeter College Writers Institute
Present Award During Prestigious Townsend Prize Event

April 16, 2010 - Atlanta, GA. The first recipient of the Georgia Perimeter College Writers Institute/Atlanta Writers Club Scholarship will be presented to a single mother of two, and the first in her family to graduate from high school. Lydia Kamau will receive a scholarship check and certificate on Thursday, April 22, 2010 during the prestigious Townsend Prize event from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Margaret Mitchell House.

A $20,000 endowment, established by the Atlanta Writers Club in 2010, funds an annual $1,000 scholarship that covers tuition, fees, books and expenses for Georgia Perimeter College English majors. “I am thrilled that our funds are being used in this way to recognize writers on both ends of the career spectrum - students just starting to write and accomplished authors at the height of their career,” said AWC President, Clayton Ramsey.

A committee of GPC and AWC representatives unanimously selected Kamau, a student in the Honors Program at GPC. She is a member of the academic honor society on campus and plans to become a professor of English. Kamau is a single mother of two and the first of her family to graduate from high school, and to attend college.

The scholarship will be presented during the Townsend Prize event, which is sponsored by the Writers Institute of Georgia Perimeter College, and co-sponsored by Atlanta Writers Club, Georgia Center for the Book, and Margaret Mitchell House. The Townsend Prize is Georgia’s oldest and most prestigious literary award and honors the legacy of Jim Townsend, founder of Atlanta magazine. It is presented to the Georgia writer judged to have published the best book of fiction in the previous two years.

The Atlanta Writers Club is Metro Atlanta’s oldest and largest writers group and has over 500 members. Established in 1914, the nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization cultivates and educates published and non-published writers with workshops and monthly meetings. Past speakers have included internationally known authors like Terry Kay, Natasha Trethewey, Steve Berry, Kathryn Stockett, David Fulmer, and Tina Ansa. AWC’s signature event is an annual writers conference, which features literary agents and publishers from New York to California. The club has also partnered with local entities including the Margaret Mitchell House, the Decatur Book Festival and the Dahlonega Book Festival.

For more information about the Atlanta Writers Club please visit www.AtlantaWritersClub.org or send an email to AWC President, Clayton Ramsey: Clay@AtlantaWritersClub.org. See next page for more info & pix.

Lynda Fitzgerald's third book, LIVE Ringer (the first in a mystery series), was released April 1, 2010. Allie Grainer inherits her aunt's Florida beach house, and embarks on an exciting new life filled with old friends, new friends, and a killer at large who has targeted Allie as his next victim. Add to the mix the ghost of Allie's aunt who whispers bits of wisdom and the occasional warning in Allie's ear, and you have an edge-of-your-seat read in store.

Published by Crystal Dreams, the fiction arm of Multi-Media Publications, the book is available on Amazon and other on-line bookstores. Please see Lynda's website for more details (http://www.fitzgeraldwrites.com), including pre-reviews of LIVE Ringer.
Named for Jim Townsend, the founding editor of Atlanta magazine, associate editor of Atlanta Weekly Magazine, and mentor to such renowned Georgia writers as Pat Conroy, Anne Rivers Siddons and Terry Kay, the Townsend Award for Fiction is the oldest, most prestigious and most coveted literary award in the state. It is presented biennially to the Georgia writer who has produced the most remarkable novel or collection of short stories in the preceding two years.

This year, the Atlanta Writers Club joined Georgia Perimeter College, the Georgia Center for the Book, and The Chattahoochee Review in their sponsorship of the award. On Thursday, April 22, the Margaret Mitchell House served as host for the award ceremony. The balmy spring evening began with hors d’oeuvres and drinks on the lawn while a jazz band played, and was followed by a formal ceremony in which the Townsend Award was presented to Kathryn Stockett, author of the phenomenally successful novel The Help. Ms. Stockett’s mother accepted the award of a $2000 check and commemorative silver tray for her daughter in absentia. Author and former poet laureate of North Carolina Fred Chappell was the keynote speaker.

In addition to the Townsend Award, the first annual Writers Institute/Atlanta Writers Club Scholarship was presented to Lydia Kamau, a GPC English major. She is an outstanding young woman. One of eight children, she is the first in her family to finish high school, much less attend college, an honor student at GPC, extensively involved in her community and church, and hopes to become an English professor. She will receive a $1000 scholarship from the AWC this year and will be involved with several of our events as part of her education.

Through your generosity and involvement in fundraisers like the Marc Fitten and Jack Riggs workshops, the Atlanta Writers Club is able to contribute to worthy causes like the Townsend Award and GPC Scholarship. With your ongoing support we will continue to contribute to the literary community of the city and region, recognizing and encouraging both new and established talent.
April Speaker Summaries, by Shyla Nambiar

At 1:45, Shannon Clute, who produces two podcasting programs and works for Turner Broadcasting Station, gave a multimedia presentation on the benefits of podcasting for writers. Describing it as “a simple method for producing spoken word or video content,” Mr. Clute explained how he, along with a partner, originally chose podcasting as a method for academic publication but eventually ended up producing a series on film noir and an interview show for mystery writers, as well as a series of audio essays on the founders and guests at the famed artists’ colony, Yaddo. Mr. Clute’s presentation focused on audio podcasting, and he recommended using iTunes to host a podcast. He gave instructions on how to create a podcast using some simple equipment and a few tips to give a program a professional flair (“don’t let introductions run too long”). For writers looking to further their career, Mr. Clute endorsed podcasting as a means by which a writer can generate an audience and link to a community of writers. Citing the example of author Seth Harwood, he demonstrated how a first-time writer used it to build an audience for his novel and caught the attention of the publishing industry. He advocated writers finding themselves a niche so as to establish a loyal following to promote their works. In his talk, Mr. Clute convincingly illustrated the advantages of using this digital platform as yet another tool for writers to exploit in publicizing their writing.

At 3:00, Professor Richard Krevolin, playwright, screenplay writer, and author of a screenwriting manual, spoke to the club on the power and impact of storytelling. Defining humans as story creatures, he believes that the brain has an innate, narrative-making ability, and storytelling is the mind’s way of creating order out of chaos. It can also stimulate physiological responses within the brain. For Professor Krevolin, audience is the focus, and story is the way to emotionally engage that audience. Crucial to hooking audience interest is a compelling character. An engaging character actively overcomes tremendous obstacles to achieve a desirable goal and, as a result, the character must change and change for the better. All stories have themes, and Professor Krevolin listed the three top themes of literature: connection, transformation, and journey, as popularized by Joseph Campbell in his many books. More motivational than craft-oriented, Professor Krevolin’s talk centered on the story’s ability to create memorable messages that change people’s behavior. He included anecdotes from his experiences writing screenplays and teaching screenwriting. His passion for his subject was evident, and he propounded the idea of writing as an act of self-discovery as much as a means of entertaining and informing the audience. Professor Krevolin can be reached at RKrevolin@yahoo.com.
First Annual Write the World in Atlanta

Where International Writers, Publishing e³ Film Pros Come Together

June 11-13, 2010

Write the World in Atlanta was created to provide writers the tools for success in the U.S. and globally.

This is your opportunity for 1-3 days of learning how to write and sell fiction and nonfiction, of networking with industry professionals and promoting your book or manuscript!

For pricing, special offers for Students and Seniors and for details on the seminars listed below please visit our website:

www.Write-the-World.com

Promote Yourself at the Premiere of Write the World in the USA!

Day One — Events are conveniently located at Atlanta City Hall, including reception and networking

- Marketing Yourself in the USA and Internationally
- How to Adapt Folk Tales from Around the World for Picture Books
- The Power of Story Telling for All Genres
- Scene Structure (3 sessions: English, Portuguese and Spanish)
- Q & A Panel on How to Increase Your Chances of Getting Published in the U.S. and Abroad

Day Two — Hotel Indigo (Midtown: 683 Peachtree Street)

- Writing Popular Fiction Successfully for the U.S. and Global Markets
- How to Pitch to the Pros workshop followed by Pitches to Pros Sessions
- Adapting Anything Into a Screenplay
- How to Write Your Book to be a Film

Day Three — Hotel Indigo

- The day focuses on the multi-million dollar explosion of Self-Help Development, How-To Books with Author talks, Also Self-Publishing, Lucrative Commercial Writing, Collaboration.

Questions, Inquiries please contact:

Mardeene B. Mitchell
678-596-5413
U.S.A. Atlanta metro area (Eastern time)
**New Members Bios**

**Allyson Arena:** I have two self-published books. They were written strictly for the real estate company I was affiliated with for the purpose of training. I have now completed *Sacred Swan*, and am seeking a literary agent. My goal is to involve myself in the writing community and help other young writers as I’m being assisted, also. I have just started my next novel, *The Witches of Cabin 14* – a comedy about suburban housewives.

I am married with a daughter and stepdaughter (and a black lab that is more demanding than the kids ever hope to be.) When I’m not writing, you can find me on the tennis court.

**Bill York:** 84 year old navy veteran of WW II. Retired Buckhead furrier.

Author of 6 novels with emphasis on Native Americans. Freelance writer for AJC plus sport and military magazines. Active in Senior Olympics sports, golf, archery, table tennis and tennis. Hosted wilderness canoeing documentaries for GPTV. Has lived on Indian reservations in Canada, Pacific Northwest and the Dakotas. Conducts educational seminars on Indians, military and Senior Citizen scams.

**Yong Takahashi:** I like to write fiction and may someday write a memoir as well. I joined AWC to meet other writers and to attend writing seminars.

I have a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a paralegal certificate. I am taking my third class in the writing certificate program at Kennesaw State University.

My goal was to be published before I turned 40 years old, which I achieved through a writing contest about bad employers. I want to get a short story published this year and a novel by next year.

I teach English as a second language once a week. I hope to teach a GED class after I return from my trip to Hawaii later this year.

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**Looking Ahead**

**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.)
Looking for a new venue for publication?

Tired of form letter rejections and need some helpful feedback on your submissions?

Want to contribute to the local literary community and support a new arts venture?

Then consider sending your best poems, short stories and visual art to Loose Change Magazine, a new literary magazine being launched in partnership with WonderRoot, a non-profit arts organization in Atlanta (www.wonderroot.org).

Loose Change Magazine will publish quarterly online, with one print issue per year, and will feature diverse, compelling and innovative works of poetry, prose and visual art (in any medium that can be photographed for print publication) from contributors of all ages and perspectives. Loose Change focuses on representing artists within our local Atlanta/Georgia community, but they will also accept out-of-state submissions at this time. They are currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis for their first issue, slated to publish online in June of this year. They encourage any who are interested in contributing to a dialogue of community voices in art to submit their best work for consideration and possible publication. Unique to Loose Change, they also offer submitters the opportunity to receive feedback on their work from their section editors - thus providing a safe space in which artists can share and grow within their respective mediums.

Check their website at loosechangemagazine.org, for updates and detailed submission information. For now, interested parties may contact the following editors to submit artistic works for their premier issue:

Poetry - Molly Dickinson, editor, at molly@loosechangemagazine.org
Prose - Cristina Martin, editor in chief, at cristina@loosechangemagazine.org
Visual Art - Helen Hale or Ingrid Sibley, Editors, at helen@loosechangemagazine.org or ingrid@loosechangemagazine.org.
Writers' Workshop in Italy

A unique travel opportunity to focus on your writing...

JULY 18 - JULY 25, 2010
Vietri sul Mare, Italy
One of Italy's most spectacular coastlines

Providing a full-immersion writing experience in a close-knit arts community as you explore this magnificent area of the Mediterranean, renowned for its cultural landmarks and breathtaking landscapes.

Robert Bausch - Creative Writing Workshop
An opportunity to work intensively toward the completion of a novel or short story focusing on individual problems and concerns, while benefiting from constructive feedback from the instructor and other writers.

Jane Shore - Writing Poetry
An intensive roundtable critique of work submitted by class members, supplemented by reading, writing exercises and inducements to revise.

Joyce Maynard - Telling Your Story: A Workshop in Memoir & Personal Narrative
A workshop for students interested in pursuing either the longer, book-length form of memoir or the short personal essay.

Each student will receive personal workshop attention for his or her manuscript in ways that will be instructive for every writer attending.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.amalfi-festival.org (Guest Program Page)
music@amalfi-festival.org
Telephone Inquiries: 301-507-6189

Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival

Your stay includes:
• Week-long intensive workshop of your choice with accomplished writers and teachers.
• Opportunity to share your work and hear others at evening readings.
• Accommodations in a gracious 4-star hotel on the water with stunning views on all sides, a short walk from the charming town of Vietri sul Mare, one of Italy's historic ceramic centers.
• Optional Meal Plan - join artists & performers for a sumptuous classic Italian Dinner - on-site or in local trattorias. Breakfast Buffet included.
• Daily concerts in a variety of venues (transportation included).
• Open attendance at festival lectures, music master classes, and art exhibits.
• Optional Excursions with professional guides to the area's outstanding tourist sites: Pompeii, Capri, Amalfi, Ravello, Positano, and more.
• Opportunities to sign-up for cooking lessons, art & ceramics workshops, Italian language classes.
• Bi-lingual "on-site" staff available at all times.
Guest Program for family members and friends. Shorter or longer stays may be arranged for guests.
See details at www.amalfi-festival.org
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

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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/
Mike Buchanan, and his co-author Diane Lang, had their YA novel *The Fat Boy Chronicles* picked up by Sleeping Bear Press. The book will be one of the publisher’s featured books at BEA this May and the book will launch nationally on July 1 this summer. Schools around the nation will be utilizing the book in the upcoming school year. All 11,000 8th graders in Charlotte/Mecklenburg schools will read the book this spring. Also, the pair’s screenplay of the movie was filmed in 2009 and will be released this fall. The first Atlanta screening of the movie is on June 30 at the Plaza Theatres on Ponce de Leon and will be followed by a party at Club Vinyl featuring bands with songs in the movie. The movie will have it’s world premiere in Charlotte June 2.

Check out the trailer for the movie at [www.thefatboychronicles.com](http://www.thefatboychronicles.com)

Michael Buchanan~creative development~ Tin Roof Films


Contact Sleeping Bear Press at 1.800.487.2323, ext. 8767 for more information.

Lang Buchanan (Diane Lang and Michael Buchanan) began writing together during the University of Iowa’s Writer Workshops in the summer of 2000. Their first novel, Micah’s Child, published in 2006, became a featured Romance novel in Barnes and Noble while receiving a nomination as Georgia Novel of the Year. Their unique voice and lyrical writing attracted the readership, and appearance requests, of many book clubs around the South and Midwest. The partnership has been published in anthologies and a collection of limericks. Before moving to Richmond, Virginia, where she was a columnist for 50Plus magazine, Diane wrote food critic columns for the Cincinnati Enquirer. Michael has been published in several national magazines that focus on history.
Join critically-acclaimed author Jedwin Smith for an 8-week fiction/nonfiction writer’s workshop, hosted by Eagle Eye Book Shop. The workshop is limited to 12 aspiring authors, and will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8:30, beginning May 6 and concluding June 24.

Jedwin, recipient of 59 major writing awards, including two Pulitzer Prize nominations, will use his vast newspaper experience — 29 years as a sports writer, columnist, feature writer, and war correspondent — plus the knowledge he’s gained on the literary front — three highly successful biographies, one of which is presently being made into a movie — to help lead aspiring authors through the book publishing minefield.

The cost of the workshop is $250 ($230 for Atlanta Writer’s Club members) and will be filled on a first-come basis. Some of the issues Jedwin will cover at length include:

- Topic — Do you have the “write” stuff?
- Topic — Finding and protecting your voice
- Topic — Structuring your book from start to finish
- Topic — The secrets of story pacing
- Topic — Every book needs a rough outline
- Topic — The end game: knowing when enough is enough
- Topic — Handling criticism & who to listen to
- Topic — You’re never done making mistakes

To secure a workshop slot, contact Jedwin at: jedwin46@bellsouth.net

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Frank Cox’s book **Lullabies for Lieutenants: Memoir of a Marine Forward Observer in Vietnam, 1965-1966** is now available and orders are being filled! You may go straight to the publisher, McFarland & Co., or order from Amazon. Links to them are below:

Edgar and His Alter Ego

Since I don’t have a television set, I had no idea that David Wroblewski was something of a phenomenon on Oprah a while back. And since I don’t keep up with the bestseller lists, I also had no idea his book had sold millions of copies. None of that matters to me. What does matter is that this book, like Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris and the Inheritance trilogy by Christopher Paolini, is going on my list of all-time favorites.

I had an email conversation with a writer colleague of mine who said she thought Edgar Sawtelle was about 200 pages too long, and that the ending was way too dark. On the other hand, my friend Millie, who gifted me with the book more than a year ago, told me it was absolutely wonderful. She also said it was about dogs.

Now, as you probably know, I’m not particularly a dog person. Maybe that’s why it took me a year to get around to reading The Story of Edgar Sawtelle. I was halfway through the book before it hit me that this book, touted by reviewers as a “quintessentially American novel,” is a deliciously clever retelling of Hamlet. Shakespeare’s story (which he stole from a much older source) has lived for four hundred years because it has all the elements of great literature—sweeping language, depth of character, a gripping story line, a truly despicable bad guy, as well as tragic love and sacrificial actions.

Now, does that make a good yarn? Yep.

If I didn’t already own a copy of The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, I’d run right out and buy one.

I debated whether or not to mention the Hamlet angle in this article since, of all the people I’ve talked to about this book, I’m the only one who seems to have seen the connection. But how could anybody miss it? Hamlet’s mother is Gertrude. Edgar’s is Trudy. Hamlet’s bad guy is Claudius. Edgar’s bad guy is Claude. This is not a coincidence. I could go on and on—yes, I’ve made lists of all the corresponding characters in both stories.

So, even though I’ve given away the story within a story, I still think you’ll enjoy reading about Edgar and his dogs. I do have to admit, though, that when I called my sister this morning to tell her of my big discovery, she said that a blurb on the cover of her copy called it an audacious retelling of Hamlet. Oh well. I had the fun of discovering it for myself—glad I had a copy from the first printing so I didn’t see that spoil-sport blurb.

And here I go being a spoil-sport myself.

Pssst! Hamlet’s Ophelia is Edgar’s Almondine. Now, I’m not going to say another word.

Fran reads and writes and sings and laughs beside a stream on the back side of Hog Mountain GA. Her newest book, FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN: A WORKBOOK FOR WRITERS, is now available through her website www.franstewart.com.
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 Helderma 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.

Club-sponsored Critique Groups
Face-to-Face and Cyberspace
Every AWC member now has access to a club-sponsored critique group. In-person groups dot the Atlanta metro map and online groups connect members through the internet.

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 has sixteen members and is open to a few 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 ejbplay-wright@yahoo.com.

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

Buckhead/Midtown
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 karen.holmes@comcast.net 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. The group in closed. Contact Patricia at pepaterson@bellsouth.net to be placed on a wait list.

Conyers
The group serving Conyers, Covington, Madison and surrounding communities meets at the Whistle Post Tavern in Conyers twice a month on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Serious, committed members only. Attendance expected at every meeting. Group is closed. Contact Nancy Fletcher ncfletcher50@gmail.com to be added to 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 rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

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

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

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

A nonfiction group meets Tuesdays 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 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.

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 hrgresh@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.

Lawrenceville/Snellville
An all genre group meets on the first Saturday of every month 9:30 a.m. to noon at a member’s home. Contact Ken Schmanski at 770-377-1771 or kschnanski@aol.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.

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

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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.
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 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 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 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 – The Atlanta Writers Club
5579-B Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd., Unit #139, Dunwoody, GA 30338
(Please note – this is a new address as of March, 2010)

- 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.)

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Today’s Date: _______/_____/___________

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