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In a couple of weeks the world will enjoy the 106th anniversary of Bloomsday. For the uninitiated, Bloomsday is the celebration of June 16, the single day in 1904 when Leopold Bloom, the protagonist in James Joyce’s monumental novel *Ulysses*, wanders through the pubs, stores, corners and lanes of Dublin. In his gargantuan masterpiece Joyce chose to immortalize the day of his first date with his future wife, Nora Barnacle, when they walked to the village of Ringsend, and he skilfully poured all of the passion and thrill and playfulness of youthful infatuation into his steam-of-consciousness narrative. His experimental prose is a carnival of puzzles, parodies, puns and arcane references. Homer’s classic *Odyssey* provides the historic touchstone of myth for Joyce’s modernist adaptation, but it is Joyce’s lively brilliance that animates his story. It is not easy reading, by any means, and handy access to any of a number of technical guides written to offer assistance is often advisable. However, the reader who immerses himself in the world of Bloom cannot help but marvel at the dazzling displays of language and sheer spectacle of words that Joyce manages to pull off with apparently effortless finesse. He draws from a reservoir of an estimated 30,030 different words, and paints a radiant canvas with this palette of words with the artistry of a master craftsman. Judging by the final form of the story, Joyce must have had fun writing it. He tries new expressions. He pulls phrases from forgotten sources. He traverses the entire history of English literature to find models that he can stretch and twist and squeeze into a new way of telling his tale. He experiments. With his original efforts and verbal gamesmanship, he produced a tour de force of 20th century literature.

Beginning in 1954, Bloomsday has grown over the past half-century to embody the peripatetic, joyful, experimental core of Joyce’s novel. Celebrated in over sixty countries, the festivities of Bloomsday include everything from marathon readings of the book, to costumed reenactments of scenes, to pilgrimages along the path followed by Bloom and Stephen Dedalus on that one day, to magnificent panoplies of Irish food and music and drink. Spokane, Washington, even has a road-race that rivals the Peachtree Road Race in size. In short, the day has inspired a big party celebrating all things Joyce and literary and cultural and Irish – everything that this unique novel arouses in its readers. It is meant to be fun, a wild festival, a Joycean fete.

Anticipation of Bloomsday has led me to wonder anew about why we read and why we write. I recognize that those are ponderous questions and elicit numerous and intensely personal responses. We read for new information, for entertainment, for mental stimulation, for novelty, for inspiration, for cultural formation, for guidance, for diversion, for connection, for wisdom. And we write for healing, for personal legacy, for intellectual challenge, for escape, for grounding, for art, for fame, for money, for proof that we existed, for social change, for creating worlds, for satisfying the mind and heart and soul.

The purposes of literature can be serious and weighty, and our own contribution to the collection of words is often somber, driven by the demands of scrambling for new ideas, making a living and meeting deadlines. Much is made of the creative pain that the writer experiences, the struggle and anguish of generating fresh expressions to sell more books, but in this month of Bloomsday, I want to remind you of something that you once knew. In those days of bedtime stories, when pop-up monsters inhabited faraway places and colorful pirates went on swashbuckling adventures, when inquisitive monkeys and kindly elephants and polite fauns and astronauts and cowboys and race car drivers and African explorers led us into worlds we could scarcely imagine but never wanted to leave, in those days, reading was fun and writing was fun. Remember those days before deadlines, word counts, copy edits, best-seller rankings, rejection letters, writer’s block, and marketing plans? Remember when it was fun?

There is still joy in writing. There is still play and fun in putting words together to create something uniquely yours. Norman Holland wrote a little piece called “Literature and Happiness” (*PsyArt*, 2007) in which he explores the neurophysiology involved in reading, and concludes that the experience of literature reinforces pathways in our brains that make us happy. In other words, reading is fun on a neurochemical level. But you probably already suspected that.

In this month of the celebration of Bloomsday, relish the fun of reading and writing again. Remember the days before it became serious. Hoist a pint of Guinness, put on a funny costume, go to a reading, do whatever you will, but however you celebrate Bloomsday, celebrate a renewed delight in the joys of reading and writing. Step out of the routine of adulthood and join the party again.
AWC Annual Picnic  
Saturday, June 19, 2010  
1:00 to 3:00 pm  
Hammond Park, Sandy Springs

It’s time to mark your calendar for the AWC annual picnic!

Every year the AWC sets aside one meeting to relax, linger over good food, and take pleasure in the fellowship of Atlanta’s writers, just one of the many benefits of being a member. The picnic is on Saturday, June 19th, at the Hammond Park picnic pavilion in Sandy Springs (see link below), the same location as last year’s picnic. There will be no regular meeting on this day.

This year the event will be potluck. Consider this your opportunity to wow the crowd with a faithful old recipe, or use the occasion to test some new Paula Dean cuisine. Most importantly, show up hungry and ready to relax.

To facilitate the meal, we need everyone who plans on attending to RSVP with the food or supplies they intend to provide (see list below) by sending an e-mail to Cindy at awc2010picnic@aol.com. Please keep in mind that several items on the list (*) need to be delivered by 12:30 p.m., and food items should be on the tables and ready to eat no later than 1:10 p.m.

Date:  
Saturday, June 19, 2010  
Time:  
1:00 to 3:00 pm  
Location:  
Hammond Park Picnic Pavilion  
705 Hammond Drive at Glenridge  
404-252-6310 (office)  
For a map and driving directions:


Dessert or fruit to feed 10-15
24 cans of soft drinks
3 gallons tea (sweet or unsweet)
24 bottles of water
6 bags of ice in a large cooler *
12 rolls paper towels*
100 plastic knifes, spoons, and forks*
2 large ketchup, 1 mustard, 1 relish*
Heavy duty aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and a bag of charcoal*
50 balloons filled with water

Appetizer or snack to feed 15
Salad to feed 15
Side dish to feed 15
Main meat dish to feed 10-15
Hot dogs and buns to match
Sausage and buns to match
Pasta
Casserole
Vegetarian main dish to feed 10-15

In addition, volunteers are needed to attend the pre- and post-picnic festivities (set up before and clean up after the picnic). To be included in these festivities, please contact Neda at awc2010picnic@aol.com.
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.


Come and have fun. Reservations necessary due to space limitations. $5.00 cover (cash only) includes 2 glasses of wine. Free sodas, coffee, and yummy dog treats to munch.

Live music by Larry Joe Hall http://www.myspace.com/larryjoehall


Time: 7PM until 10PM. Silent auction closes at 9:30PM. Winners to be announced then.

Dress: Casual summer attire

For reservations e-mail Barbara at bb-bid@comcast.net

The Unfaithful Widow, copyright 2010, available at Amazon, Kindle and Barnes & Noble.
Brian’s Back!

Many of those who were members in 2008 have asked for author, educator, and dynamic performer Brian Jay Corrigan to return and give an updated version of his Fiction Master Class. That’s exactly what will happen in July!

On Saturday, July 17, instead of having our regular meeting at Georgia Perimeter College, we’ll gather around the corner at the Dunwoody Library for an afternoon-long Master Class taught by the award-winning author of *The Poet of Loch Ness*, actor, and professor Brian Jay Corrigan, J.D., Ph.D.

For a mere $20, AWC members will get 4 hours of precise, insightful, and entertaining instruction from a master storyteller and performer, and you also will receive his 100+ page workbook written especially for this class.

Check-in time is noon on July 17. We’ll start promptly at 12:30 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

During the 4-hour session, Brian Jay Corrigan will explain the following with in-depth discussions and extensive examples:

- Narrative (first-person, third-, starting with characters vs. story)
- Character development and dialogue
- Setting and blending action with description
- Plot and creating conflict
- Editing vs. rewriting
- Pace and rhythm
- Developing your voice and showing vs. telling
- The business of selling your fiction

LOCATION:
Georgia Perimeter College is closed on weekends in July, so we’ll hold this workshop at:

Dunwoody Library
5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338-4148
http://www.dekalblibrary.org/branches/dunwoody.html
(770) 512-4640

INSTRUCTOR BIO:
Brian Jay Corrigan (www.brianjaycorrigan.com) won such prestigious honors as the Bancroft Prize in literature, The Florida First Coast Writing Award, and Georgia Author of the Year for his first novel, *The Poet of Loch Ness*. He acted on stage with Katharine Hepburn and read twice for the part of Luke Skywalker. Today, Brian is professor of Renaissance literature in the University system of Georgia. He is also a world-known expert in Shakespeare and has delivered lectures at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-upon-Avon.

COST:
4 hours of lecture from Brian Jay Corrigan and a terrific writing workbook for only $20. If you’re not a member of the Atlanta Writers Club but would like to participate, the cost is $40, which includes membership in the club through the end of 2010.

REGISTRATION:
To register, RSVP to John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com and John will provide payment instructions.
Give Your Story the Star Treatment

Moonlight & Magnolias One-Day Workshop
October 2, 2010 in Atlanta

Georgia Romance Writers is bringing star power to Atlanta! A full-day workshop by Hollywood script and story consultant and best-selling author...

Michael Hauge on
“Story Mastery”

You don’t have to go to Hollywood to take advantage of high-powered help for your story or script. Georgia Romance Writers is bringing the star power to Atlanta, in an all-day Story Mastery workshop featuring Hollywood heavy-hitter Michael Hauge, best-selling author, story and script consultant, who has coached writers, producers, stars and directors on their screenplays, novels, movie and television projects. He will help you sharpen your story. For more about Michael Hauge, go to http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/special-guest-speakers/


*****************************************************************************

Or, you can attend the full 2010 Moonlight & Magnolias Conference
October 1-3, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the one-day Michael Hauge workshop you can:

* Meet with these Top Industry Editors and Agents to Pitch Your Story:
  
  Amy Ferris (Grand Central)
  Peter Senfelgen (Kensington)
  Kathryn Lye (Harlequin—Baze)
  Lucienne Diver (Knight Agency)
  Kevan Lyon (Marshall Lyon Agency)
  Jenny Bent (The Bent Agency)

* Participate in a Pitch Workshop: Meet in small groups with published authors to perfect your pitch.
* Keynote Speaker: NY Times and USA Today bestseller Allison Brennan
* Psychologist and Author Kelly L. Stone on “The Secret to Freeing Your Creative Mind.”
* Celebrate Writing Excellence at the Maggie Award Ceremony, Dinner/Dance
* Book Fair (Free, Open to the Public, Saturday, October 2, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Holiday Inn Decatur Conference Plaza)

Conference Fees:

*General Registration for Full Conference $159 A GREAT VALUE

Hotel

Special hotel rate $69 per night. See link on website to reserve your room at the Holiday Inn Decatur Conference Plaza in Historic Downtown Decatur.

Register online today at www.georgiaromancewriters.org
Registration ends midnight Sept. 1, 2010. Late Registration Price, September 2-15: $219
Conference Information: Anna Steffi, at MMChair@georgiaromancewriters.org
JABS PUBLICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Courier: CC Fann, jabspub@yahoo.com, 404-895-7909
Nigel Roberts, Nigel@RobertsPubAgency.com, 718-473-5205

Middle Georgia book fair expands into two-day event

(Macon, Ga., May 14, 2010) Following a successful third annual Dublin book fair in April, CC Fann is now organizing an expanded two-day event. New York Times best-selling authors Laurrette Hannon and Mary “HoneyB” Morrison will headline the CC Fann Book Affair on August 20 and 21 at the Dublin and Macon Mall.

“As always, the mission of my book fairs is to give emerging and self-published authors an opportunity to sell books and to get much needed exposure to the book-buying public,” said Fann, owner of JABS Publications. “I invite published authors from the Middle Georgia region to contact us if they would like to participate. We also welcome participation from authors outside of the Middle Georgia area.”

The Dublin Mall will host the first day of the event on August 20. On the next day, the book fair moves to the Macon Mall. Both events will feature writers from the full range of fiction and nonfiction genres, including children’s books, religion, poetry, cookbooks, as well as mysteries. Children’s authors could also participate in a special children story portion.

Georgia Center for Books recently named Hannon’s The Cracker Queen one of the top 25 “must read” books for Georgians, and she has been featured on NPR and in several major publications. Morrison began her writing career as a self-published author. Her debut novel became an instant bestseller, which earned her a major multi-book deal with her publisher. The widely popular romance/relationship author now has 14 novels to her credit.

Both authors will conduct book signings and speak about how they overcame the many obstacles to become best-selling authors. New and aspiring authors will benefit from two workshops at the book fair: one is a writing workshop and the other explores the ins and outs of self-publishing. The workshops cost $15 to attend and include a free book.

Authors interested in participating should e-mail media kits to jabspub@yahoo.com or mail them to CC Fann, P.O. Box 81, Wrightsville, GA, 31096.

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On May 14, more than 60 club members turned out at the Westin Atlanta Airport for the mixer with the six agents participating in the conference. On May 15, 112 members participated in the conference activities—the agent panel, critiques discussions and pitch sessions—with Jacques de Spoelberch, Sorche Fairbank, Sheree Bykofsky, Eddie Schneider, Matthew Elblonk, and Robert Guinsler. Jacques de Spoelberch said, "The May Atlanta Writers Conference is one of the very best I have ever attended, beautifully organized, and with a surprising number of participants who can actually write, and write well." Sheree Bykofsky added, “I was amazed at the universally high caliber of writing I saw at the conference. The people were so wonderful to spend time with, and the conference ran like the finest watch. I hope they invite me back.”
First Annual Write the World in Atlanta
Where International Writers, Publishing & 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:
Mardeen B. Mitchell
678-596-5413
U.S.A. Atlanta metro area (Eastern time)
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:


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**June 19**

Annual club picnic at Hammond Park in Sandy Springs (no regular meeting this month.

**July 17**

Brian Corrigan workshop at Dunwoody Library, 12:30 - 4:30
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.

May 9, 2010 – Barefoot in the Park (Duluth, GA) – speaker - www.barefootinthepark.org

August 28-29, 2010 – Suwanee Festival of Books (Suwanee, GA) – speaker - www.suwaneefestivalofbooks.com

November 6, 2010 – Georgia Writers Association – Red Clay Writing Conference (Kennesaw State University) – panel discussion about the best techniques for getting publicity for your book with Raymond Atkins & Danny Kofke

http://georgiawriters.org/Red-Clay-Writers-Conference.html
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: 301-587-6189

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 ceramics 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

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/](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.
I’m Gonna Hafta Censor Myself

Last night I graduated, along with fourteen other people, from the Gwinnett Citizens Police Academy. It was a very big deal, with a color guard, speeches by the Police Chief and an Assistant Chief, a certificate ceremony, and—here’s where the problem comes in—a speech from a “class representative.” Guess who’d been elected to do that role?

Halfway through the nine-week course (two nights a week from 6:00 to 9:00), we were told that we’d need to choose someone to speak for the group. I got roped into it. They figured I was a writer, so I could write a speech. And I agreed. Me and my big mouth.

Each of the seventeen classes featured a particular aspect of police work. Terrorism, Vehicle Pullovers, DUI, Crash Investigation, Homicide, K9, Explosives, SWAT, Crime Scene, and so on. One evening, as we waited to get into the 911 Communications Center for a tour, we decided that the speech ought to roast each and every one of our instructors, and we started throwing out one-liners about funny things that happened in each class. I took notes, took it all home, and started inventing a framework for the speech.

The Public Information Officer who taught our third session had told us that he constantly had to vigilant to be sure that what he said or wrote couldn’t be twisted by the people he communicated with. I should have listened harder to his advice.

I gleeefully pulled together a funny speech about why there were only fifteen surviving members of the class, when we had started out with forty-seven people. Then I proceeded to regale the crowd with tales of blackmailing the officer who did our background checks, making bombs during the explosives class, running down various class members as we practiced vehicle pullovers. One by one, as I mentioned each class, I told how we lost one member this Tuesday, five members that Thursday, three the next week. In the class on Crime Prevention, for instance, the instructor truly did tell us that if everyone would trim their tree branches up to seven feet and their shrubbery down to three feet, it would make it much harder for a burglar to hide. So I wrote in my speech that the officer had handed out chain saws so we could practice this new skill, but it was too much for one woman, and she never returned to class. We did understand, however, that the hospital had managed to sew her arm back on without too much trouble. When it came to describing the Firearms Class, I said that because of budget restrictions, there weren’t any paper targets, so they lined us all up instead. Luckily the corporal couldn’t hit the broad side of a barn, so we were all safe, but five members took off running and haven’t been heard from since. The only reason I felt I could say such drivel was that the corporal who demonstrated the firearms training was an expert marksman, a fact well-known by everyone attending the graduation.

You’d think that with such whacky examples, the reporter who covered the event would have disbelieved every statement I made. But no, he wrote—I read it in the newspaper as I ate breakfast this morning—that the newly graduated class had started with 47 members, but only 15 graduated, clearly implying that it was a difficult course indeed. “It’s not for the faint of heart,” he said.
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.

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 ejbplaywright@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 pepat-terson@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 Dolci-mascolo 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 kschmanski@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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<th>Role</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Clay Ramsey</td>
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<td>First VP</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
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<td>Membership VP</td>
<td>Marty Aftewicz</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bill Black</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Publicity VP</td>
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<td>Operations VP</td>
<td>Neda Gayle</td>
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<td>Historian/By-Laws</td>
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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 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 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.)
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.