August 21
1:45-2:30 Lisa Earle McLeod, self-help author and columnist, speaks about freelance and nonfiction writing
3:00-3:45 Thomas Mullen, novelist, discusses lessons learned in the trenches

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In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

Writers can be solitary souls. We must be reflective, regularly choosing to turn inward to explore the landscape of the mind. We have to tune out the cacophony of the world to hear the small voice of inspiration, the authentic whisper of our creative selves. This is done alone, and an investment of solitude is necessary to improve the writer’s art. We have to be absolutely devoted to facing the screen or the page every day, fighting back the distractions, keeping other concerns at a distance long enough to work on craft before life intrudes. That is how great writers are made. That is how masterpieces are written.

I understand this. I have an introspective personality and often feel much more comfortable reading a book in a quiet place than I do in a crowd. Many writers I know feel the same. Given this natural tendency of writers, I want to ask you to do something that is largely unnatural to those who have chosen to spend their lives writing, wrestling with language to express the contents of their minds. However unnatural it may be, it is nevertheless supremely important if the community of writers known as the AWC is to survive. It is easy to write a check and make a financial donation, and believe me, we would appreciate that gift. However the more costly contribution is your offer of time, talent and energy.

The AWC has a Board of Directors, composed of ten volunteers who freely, enthusiastically, and without financial compensation labor to make this organization a world-class literary association. The By-laws require term limits for each of these offices and periodically we have to cycle very talented members off the Board or into different positions. This means that we are constantly looking for members who would be willing to serve.

I have found that the privilege of service has allowed me to enjoy experiences and meet people that I would not have otherwise. It has been a tremendous experience for me, one that has enriched my life, improved my writing, stretched my abilities and opened opportunities beyond what I could have imagined. And this chance to serve, to give back to the AWC in gratitude for what you have received, to make a lasting contribution to a worthwhile cause, is waiting for you, too.

The following positions will be vacant in the near future. Take some time to think about serving. If your interests and experience draw you to consider applying for one of the following roles, then email me when you’ve thought about the requirements and your suitability for the job.

VP of Marketing/Public Relations and Publicity – Responsible for making information available to the public, other organizations and potential members about the programs, membership benefits and mission of the AWC.

+ Maintain contact with media outlets, issue press releases
+ Develop innovative fundraising
+ Seek potential grants and gifts for enhancing programs
+ Contribute to AWC image, through logo, printed material, signage, merchandise, booth appearance at trade shows
+ Mediate members’ suggestions and input to Board

VP of Contests/Awards/Scholarships – Responsible for managing two Club-wide contests per year, as well as any other awards that may be presented in the future
+ Write and submit contest rules for distribution
+ Establish process for receiving and archiving entries
+ Identify, solicit and confirm contest judges
+ Work closely with other Board members to create and implement scholarship and award programs to benefit the community

**VP of Operations** – Responsible for overseeing volunteer pool, event logistics, and media recordings

+ Recruit, train and manage a viable volunteer pool
+ Prepare event spaces by monitoring setup and breakdown
+ Coordinate details of projects
+ Assume responsibility for media recordings of monthly meetings
+ Serve as liaison between Board and volunteers

**VP of Community Outreach** - Responsible for serving as bridge between AWC and the wider community by supporting and promoting literacy and educational programs

+ Set up Speakers Bureau of AWC members who would be able to represent the Club to school and community groups
+ Establish and oversee reading programs, mentorships, essay contests, book drives, book donations, and other outreach programs for the community

If you are not interested in serving as a Board member, but would still like to make a contribution as a volunteer, there are plenty of options for you. We plan to form committees associated with several of our Board positions, such as Membership, Operations, and Community Outreach. If you want to greet people at monthly meetings, or help with the new outreach programs we are considering, or work at the AWC booth for the Decatur Book Festival or other literary festivals throughout the year, there’s a place for you. If you want to apprentice with a Board member to see if you might like to serve in the future, that is also a possibility.

To be honest, there is no excuse for not serving on some level in the AWC. Gandhi once wrote, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” If you’ve ever thought about what you could do to get more involved with the AWC, then now is the time to consider serving as a volunteer, either on the Board or not. Think about it, then send me an email. I’d be glad to answer your questions, or receive your application. You won’t earn a dime, but I can assure you that the rewards are spectacular.
Speaker Profiles for
August 21, 2010 Meeting
by George Weinstein, VP
and Program Chair

Decatur Book Festival director Tom Bell will make his annual pilgrimage to the AWC at 1:30 to discuss highlights of this year’s festival (September 3-5) and the club’s ever-growing influence in the success of what has become one of the most-respected literary events nationwide.

1:45-2:30 p.m.

Self-help writer, nationally syndicated newspaper columnist, and business consultant Lisa Earle McLeod is the author of three nonfiction books. In addition, her work has been featured in The New York Times, O: The Oprah Magazine, Beliefnet.com, The Huffington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. She is a repeat guest on Good Morning America and appears regularly on a number of TV and radio shows.

Her first book, Forget Perfect, is its 4th printing from Penguin Putnam and focuses on “finding joy, meaning, and satisfaction in the life you’ve already got and the YOU you already are.” Finding Grace When You Can’t Even Find Clean Underwear followed up her successful debut with a series of essays reminiscent of Erma Bombeck. Her latest, The Triangle of Truth, returns to self-help territory with a conflict resolution model equally applicable for CEOs and seething couples.

At 1:45 Lisa will share the secrets of creating commercial success without compromising your creative spirit. You’ll learn how Lisa turned two funny Christmas letters into a career, and why making money and making a difference don’t have to be in conflict.

Read more about Lisa and her work at www.lisaearlemcleod.com.

3:00-3:45 p.m.

Thomas Mullen is the author of The Last Town on Earth, which was named Best Debut Novel of 2006 by USA Today, was a Chicago Tribune Best Book of the Year, and was awarded the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for excellence in historical fiction. Set in 1918, The Last Town on Earth brings to life the anxiety and dread of small-town America as the Spanish flu epidemic scythes across the heartland. Citizens vote to quarantine themselves, but they’re faced with a moral dilemma when a war hero—starving, cold and seemingly ill—comes begging for sanctuary.

Tom’ second novel, The Many Deaths of the Firefly Brothers, was published in early 2010 by Random House. Now taking on the 1930s, he depicts the era when a desperate public rooted for underdog bank robbers taking on a corrupt and broken system. Complete with kidnappings and gangsters, heiresses and speakeasies, The Many Deaths of the Firefly Brothers is an imaginative and spirited saga about what happens when you are hopelessly outgunned—and a masterly tale of hardship, redemption, and love that transcends death. Discover more about his work at www.thomasmullen.net.

At 3:00, Tom will discuss “lessons learned in the trenches.” Absorb, consider and discuss lessons learned from a successful nonfiction author and a novelist—this is why you joined AWC in the first place and the reason you must attend on August 21!
Be a part of the excitement!

The Atlanta Writers Club will have a booth on Saturday and Sunday (September 4th and 5th) to tell fair goers about the Club.

We are looking for Club members who can share their passion for writing and the reasons why they joined the Atlanta Writers Club. For the AWC booth we have 2 hour shifts from 10A-6P on Saturday and 11A-5P on Sunday.

The AWC will also be supporting the Local Prose Stage at Twain's. This was a wonderful success last year. Local authors will be reading from their books and of course signing and selling, too.

Our job is to assist in monitoring the time for the readers and help with the book sales. I will provide details and more information. For the Local Prose Stage we have 2 hour shifts from 12Noon -6P on Saturday and 12Noon -5P on Sunday.

A volunteer from last year signed up again and shared her reason (Thank you Barbara C!):

“We always have a vibrant location that catches all visitors coming and going, plenty of membership aps and other supplies, water, and usually--when we're lucky--Clay's wife's delicious homemade cookies. It is the best place nearest to home for networking. You never know who you might meet, including authors who stop by after their gigs...”

The schedule for the featured lectures and signings from 300 national and local authors is posted at http://www.decaturbookfestival.com. I would greatly appreciate your help! Thank you for being a member and supporting the Atlanta Writers Club.

Neda Gayle

AWC VP of Operations
Screenplay Critique Opportunity for AWC Members

Want valuable comments on the structure, dialogue and plot line of your screenplay? The team of Tin Roof Films is giving a $.50/page discount to members of AWC. The usual price is $2.95/page, but our membership will pay only $2.45. You will receive notes, comments and suggestions on how to move your screenplay to the next level. Everything from title to final page is scrutinized.

Director Jason Winn and screenwriter Mike Buchanan held a successful workshop on filmmaking and screenwriting last fall for the club. Their latest movie, The Fat Boy Chronicles, has already played to sold-out screenings in Charlotte and Atlanta with more events planned throughout the nation as well as being featured in many film festivals. The film will be officially released this fall. Winn has directed national commercials along with the award-winning short film Last Bullet.

Buchanan and his co-author Diane Lang have written the scripts The Fat Boy Chronicles, Last Bullet, Treasure of the Four Lions, Ryan’s Heart, and Bait and Tackle. The writing team’s latest novel, The Fat Boy Chronicles, was published by Sleeping Bear Press in 2010. Their previous published works include Micah’s Child and short story Medea.

For more information and to take advantage of this offer, send an e-mail to writing@tinrooffilms.com.

Constance Barkley-Lewis grew up in New Orleans in a family of storytellers. She is the author of Fairy Garden: Fairies of the Four Seasons, a book about fairies in verse; the one-act play Easy Come, Easy Go, winner of a playwriting competition at Playmakers Theater, UNC Chapel Hill; and two children's musicals for which she wrote the book, music and lyrics. For three years she was an editor and columnist for Motto, a national magazine focused on promoting finding rewarding work/life balance. She is a songwriter with songs posted at www.constanceandchange.com. All profits from her song Iraq My Brain support the efforts of the Red Cross to help soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
Pulitzer Prize-winning non-fiction author Rick Bragg--one of best storytellers the South ever produced--and author/editor Sonny Brewer are teaming up and blowing in from 'Bama on Saturday, September 25. They'll grab hold of your attention all day with discussions about every kind of writing; the good, the bad, and the stupid worlds of publishing; and perils, adventures, and rewards of the writing life.

THE WORKSHOP:

These guys know STORY: what to put in, what to leave out, and how to write it with flair, or, as Rick puts it, "Writing with color." Whether you're working on memoirs, novels, poetry, essays, short stories, or articles--or just trying to make your blog, Facebook posts, and Tweets soar above the noise--Rick and Sonny will show you how.

Their skill with language and their unique perspectives gained from decades spent making a living with the written word will give you the insights you can't get from lesser writers or less-accomplished storytellers. They'll captivate you, guaranteed.

Rather than discussing the tools of writing, they plan to talk about why good writing works all of the time no matter the subject matter and why bad writing about even the most interesting topic falls flat. They'll also tell you the lessons they've learned from the writing life, the nightmares they've lived through with agents and publishers big and small, and the grace they've experienced from editors and readers alike. If you like your war stories served salty, Rick and Sonny will provide plenty of spice.

They will leave lots of time, though, to answer all your questions about every facet of the writing game. How many chances do you get to quiz a best-selling Pulitzer Prize winner and the editor/novelist who single-handedly turned Fairhope, Alabama into a literary hotspot?

THE SCHEDULE
Saturday, September 25, 2010:
- 9:30 a.m.: Arrival and check in at AWC registration desk
- 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Bragg and Brewer Workshop: Writing with Color
- 12 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.: Pizza and salad lunch and booksigning with the authors
- 12:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Workshop continues, concluding with final Q&A
THE OPPORTUNITY:

Eagle Eye Book Shop will be on hand with Rick Bragg and Sonny Brewer's top titles for sale, from classics like All Over but the Shoutin' and The Poet of Tolstoy Park to their respective latest works, The Most They Ever Had and The Widow and the Tree. Bragg and Brewer will personalize their inscriptions, of course--perfect for those adding to their autographed collections or starting to check off their holiday gift lists!

THE PRESENTERS:

Rick Bragg is the author of seven critically acclaimed non-fiction books, including the best-selling All Over but the Shoutin', Ava's Man, and The Prince of Frogtown. He won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing as a national correspondent for the New York Times and collected more than 50 other writing awards in two decades, including a pair of American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Awards.

Rick now works as a writing professor at the University of Alabama's journalism program in its College of Communications and Information Sciences. The Alabama Scholastic Press Association, sponsored by The University of Alabama, has named a journalism prize in his honor: the Rick Bragg Award for Feature Writing.

In Rick's own words: "My Grandfather on my daddy's side and my grandma on my momma's side used to try and cuss their miseries away. They could out-cuss any damn body I have ever seen. I am only an amateur cuser at best, but I inherited other things from these people who grew up on the ridges and deep in the hollows of northeastern Alabama, the foothills of the Appalachians. They taught me, on a thousand front porch nights, as a million jugs passed from hand to hand, how to tell a story."

Sonny Brewer is the author of four novels: The Poet of Tolstoy Park, A Sound Like Thunder, Cormac--The Tale of a Dog Gone Missing, and The Widow and the Tree. He also edited the anthology series Stories from the Blue Moon Cafe as well as wrote and self-published three other books. Sonny founded Over the Transom Bookstore in Fairhope, AL and its annual literary conference, Southern Writers Reading. He also is founder of the non-profit Fairhope Center for Writing Arts.
From Sonny's website (www.overthetransom.com): "Sonny’s training as a writer began with his first real job at 15, where he flipped burgers as a short-order cook at Woody’s Drive-In in Millport, Alabama. His story-telling education continued as service station attendant, pants folder, folk singer, used car salesman, sailor and electronics technician in the U.S. Navy, tugboat deckhand, traveling used tire salesman, carpenter, building contractor, real estate salesman, purveyor of collectible automobiles, magazine editor, newspaper columnist, teacher, lecturer, coffeehouse manager, bookseller, publisher, and, lately, novelist."

THE LOCATION:
Georgia Perimeter College - Dunwoody campus
2101 Womack Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Building NC, Room 1100 Auditorium

THE COST AND REGISTRATION:

The cost for the full-day workshop and lunch with these two brilliant writers and spellbinding storytellers is only $60 and is open to all 2010 members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you are not a member but would like to attend this workshop, the cost is $100, which also includes membership in the club for the rest of 2010 and all of 2011.

To register, send an e-mail to John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com. John will reply with payment instructions.

Jenna Barresi
New Member Biography

Originally from New Hampshire, I moved to Atlanta six years ago from Manhattan upon graduating from law school. After an initial adjustment period (don’t they make cars with blinkers down here?), I have settled in and am proud to call Atlanta home. I have been writing since I was a child, though my focus seems to have shifted from winning local writing contests to winning summary judgment. (I’m pretty sure this happened right around the same time that it became clear there was no money tree in my parents’ backyard and I was, in fact, born without a trust fund). I have joined the AWC to refocus on writing something that is not fit for submission to a court of law.
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/


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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 Firnpoet (Grand Central)
  Peter Senfflieben (Kensington)
  Kathryn Lye (Harlequin—Bazin)
  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: NYT 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
Contact: 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 Lauretta 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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We received this note from our first Writers Institute/AWC GPC scholarship winner, Lydia Kamau:

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“To: The Supporters of the Writers Institute/Atlanta Writers Club Scholarship

Thank you so much for your generous contribution towards my educational finances. Your generosity will never be forgotten. The scholarship was a gift from God given to me so that I can become everything that he has called me to be.

Thank you,
Lydia Kamau”
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Lydia is a remarkable young woman and we are proud that our financial support can allow students like her to pursue an education that might otherwise be unavailable. A tax-deductible contribution to the Atlanta Writers Club goes directly to worthy causes like this. The AWC is committed to encouraging both emerging and established writers, and your donations make this possible.

David McCoy’s humor column – Pecan Pie for the Mind – won 1st place in the 2010 Georgia Press Association’s “Better Newspaper” contest. The statewide “humorous column” award is called a Joe Parham Trophy and was announced at the annual conference at Jekyll Island. Newspapers tier the competition according to circulation, so there are peer winners in different tiers: a small family of 1st place humorists. Here’s a link to the online version of what he puts out in print each week

Lilly Hawkins is having one of those days . . .
The last thing she needs is a murder to solve.

Nothing seems to be going Lilly’s way. A TV news photographer at her hometown television station, she’s one of the hardest working “shooters” there, but her pit-bull personality and a series of unlucky blunders have put her job in jeopardy.

So when an urgent story breaks in the middle of the night, Lilly is determined to turn her bad luck around and get the respect she deserves. But the pressure is on—either she delivers amazing video—or she’s fired. After busting her butt and dodging the cops, Lilly has what could be the biggest scoop of her career—exclusive video of a murder scene. Or does she have it? Lilly is stunned when the tape played in front of the entire newsroom is nothing but dead air.

Soon she’s on the run from criminals and police, both of whom claim Lilly’s video is the key to solving the murder and think she pocketed the real tape. Can she escape her pursuers long enough to catch the killer, or will she end the day as the next victim? Lilly’s bad day just keeps getting worse, but the one thing she knows for sure is that she’d like to live to see more of them . . .

AWC member Nora McFarland has worked for CNN and is a former community relations manager for Barnes & Noble. She has an MFA from USC’s School of Cinematic Arts. Nora lives in Macon, Georgia. You can find her on the web at www.noramcfarland.com.
All of the following events will take place at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody in the C-1100 auditorium:

**August 21, 2010**
1:45-2:30 Lisa Earle McLeod, self-help author and columnist, speaks about freelance and nonfiction writing
3:00-3:45 Thomas Mullen, novelist, discusses lessons learned in the trenches

**September 18, 2010**
1:45-2:30 Lynn Cullen, formerly a children’s and YA author and now a historical novelist, on reinventing yourself as a writer
3:00-3:45 TBD

**September 25, 2010**
Rick Bragg and Sonny Brewer all-day workshop with lunch (details forthcoming)

**October 16, 2010**
1:45-2:30 Phillip DePoy, author, playwright, and director, on integrating the events of your life into the plot of your book
3:00-3:45 Phil Nutman, author and screenwriter, on writing horror and supernatural fiction

**November 20, 2010**
1:45-2:30 Intellectual property attorney Neil Goldstein answers your questions about copyright protection, contracts, and the business side of publishing.
3:00-3:45 Literary agent and novelist Zoe Fishman with a Q&A on getting an agent in an uncertain publishing environment

**December 18, 2010**
Poetry Day event emceed by award-winning poet and AWC member Jill Jennings
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.

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

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
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 honoraria. 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/
A Bower of Roses and a Padded Suit

My fourteen-year-old cat, Miss Polly, likes to eat rose petals. I’ve been known to raid centerpiece for a blossom or two and trim branches of blooms from arbors. I always ask first, and only if the owner of the centerpiece or the arbor is a dear friend who understands my cat. I’d rather eat *Hemerocallis* petals myself. But since I grow these daylilies in my own front yard, I never have to ask permission from anyone except the plants themselves. Weird? Not really. I’m a writer after all. I was curious, after I made sure that daylilies are not poisonous, to see whether the yellow ones tasted different from the orange ones and whether the triple blooms were tastier than the single flowers. Yes, they all taste different. The reddish-brown ones are quite peppery, and the yellows are fairly mild.

It’s amazing, I’ve found, what people will excuse when the perpetrator is a writer. When I took the Gwinnett County Citizens Police Academy recently, I volunteered for everything, explaining that I was researching a book. By the end of the nine-week course, my classmates were actively looking for things they could put me through. I roll-played a vehicle pull-over (drove the police car and turned on the flashing blue lights! Okay, so I drove it only about fifty feet, and those lights were blinding.) I dressed up in a Michelin Man suit and got attacked by one of the K-9 patrol dogs. Not only did I have a lot of fun through all these adventures, I also managed to get some fodder for my fiction.

I can ask people the most impertinent questions, simply by telling them about my newest manuscript and asking for their help in “getting it right.” The reason, I think, is that people enjoy talking about the things that are close to their hearts, the projects they are passionate about, and the hobbies they relish. The value in asking is that what may start as sheer nosiness on my part often turns into a genuine germ of an idea that I can use in a book.

So, your assignment this month is to interview someone you wouldn’t ordinarily talk to. Ask about what they do and why they do it. How they juggle their time. Why they keep on in spite of difficulties. What has been the most important lesson they’ve learned.

The best news is that you won’t have to dress up in a padded suit to do the asking.

*Fran just returned from a ten-day meditation retreat. Ten days of absolutely silence. No writing, no reading, no electronic gadgets. She’ll probably tell us about it in next month’s column.*
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 7 p.m. at the Starbucks in Lindbergh Plaza. The group is closed. Contact Patricia at pepaterson@bellsouth.net to be placed on a wait list.

Conyers

The group serving Conyers and surrounding communities meets at the Whistle Post Tavern in Conyers every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact Nancy Fletcher ncfletcher50@gmail.com for further information.

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 gweinstein@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 magistra_jennings@yahoo.com for more information.
## The Atlanta Writers Club Board

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>Patricia Patterson</td>
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<td>Operations VP</td>
<td>Neda Gayle</td>
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<td>Contests VP</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
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<td>eQuill Publisher</td>
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<td>Other Volunteers:</td>
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<td>Historian/By-Laws</td>
<td>Adrian Drost</td>
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<td>Photographer</td>
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<td>Jennie Helderman</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.