We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

Facebook link
http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/10000367043383

Twitter link
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub

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

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In Context, by
Clay Ramsey, President

One of my favorite authors is the Italian academic and novelist, Umberto Eco. Influenced by the tradition of Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges, he crafts brilliant novels that merge exceptional writing with genuine erudition. He wrote of secret societies, arcane knowledge, complex mysteries, esoteric rites, and unknown histories decades before Dan Brown even thought of writing his bestseller. Ever since I discovered Eco’s medieval mystery *The Name of the Rose* in high school, I have enjoyed reading whatever I could find with his name on it. I have yet to be disappointed.

Eco’s last novel, *The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana*, is about Yambo, a sixty-something-year-old rare book dealer in Milan, who loses his memory from a stroke. In an effort to regain his sense of personal history, and thereby reclaim his life, he returns to his family home to recuperate. While there, he rummages through boxes of newspaper clippings, adolescent diaries, comics, phonograph albums, photos, books, and scattered papers – the cultural and personal artifacts that had shaped the development of his personality, essentially the script of his life. While it is not my favorite of his novels, I found it to be a clever exploration of the nature of identity and the role of memory in the construction of the self. Plus, it was just plain fun to get a glimpse of what it must have been like to grow up in Italy – the songs, comics, books, advertisements, newspaper articles, photographs and accumulated stuff that defined his life. For Yambo, his memory was his life; before he could move forward with a healthy sense of who he was, he had to explore his memory, his history, his past.

The ancient Greeks personified Memory in the figure of Mnemosyne. But she was not simply another deity in their pantheon. She was a Titaness, a daughter of Gaea and Uranus, and with Zeus’s paternity, she was also the mother of the nine Muses. What’s intriguing about this mythological genealogy is that she is not only a powerful goddess, the progeny of ancient, principal forces, the Greeks also conceived of her as the one responsible for the nine creative spirits that inspire the human arts, from history to astronomy, epic poetry to lyric poetry to choral poetry, dance to music, comedy to tragedy. All of the literature and drama and creative expressions of humanity, according to the Greeks, are possible because of the Muses, and the Muses exist because of the prior existence of Memory. Every time a poet pens a verse, every time a dramatist enacts a scene, every musical note that is played, every book that is written, every chronicle that is rehearsed is possible because of Memory. The Greeks were characteristically perceptive about the creative process and its reliance on the thoughts and influences and echoes of the past. That mélange of memory, bits and pieces of recollection, provide more than just the construction materials of our work as writers; it defines us.

As Eco explores in his novel, it is precisely the erasure of this archive of memory that can be such an unsettling experience. To Yambo it was disorienting, but simply a matter of time before he regained a sense of himself by going through boxes systematically. On the other hand, George Orwell’s dystopian *1984* offers a more chilling modern example of the terrifying void of state-sanctioned collective amnesia. Clerks in the Ministry of Truth drop documents that do not conform to the engineered narrative of Big Brother and the Party down

(Continued on page 3)
the “memory hole,” never to be mentioned again, with no trace in the doctored historical record. To Orwell, the purpose of the engine of state is maintenance of power: controlling the past in order to control the future and controlling the present to control the past (p. 248). Dissidence is not tolerated and “thoughtcrime” is punished with erasure. The “vaporization of unpersons” – “he did not exist, he had never existed” (p. 46) – is the final pronouncement before oblivion. The Romans did it with damnatio memoriae – the “damnation of memory” of traitors to the Empire whose every trace of existence was wiped out after their deaths: names, documents, statues, every personal reference obliterated. The Egyptians did it. Hitler and Stalin and Pol Pot did it. And the practice continues to be attempted at the hands of modern tyrants. This is the ongoing threat – the destruction and reworking of the past - and this is part of our sacred obligation: to write, to inscribe, to memorialize, to remember. It is not always so sinister, of course. Sometimes our personal, cultural and intellectual heritage just slips away, our footprints covered by the sands of time because we do not write. Either way, experience, history, knowledge is lost because it is not remembered.

The upcoming holidays provide a perfect opportunity to remember what has transpired in days past; in fact it is inescapable. Proust had his madeleine to prompt the extended memory of his life in Remembrance of Things Past. You probably also have triggers - smells, or places, or sounds - that transport you to times long ago. The olfactory cues are usually the most potent and effective for accessing memory. For some, the smell of paste and crayons can erase the years, and in an instant they are once again five years old in kindergarten. The smell of chlorine can remind you of summer vacations at the neighborhood pool. The sharp scent of pine and the taste of s’mores might take you back to childhood camping trips.

For most of us, the holidays are a collective memory trigger. The smell of roasting turkey, the taste of dressing, the texture of cranberry sauce, the chortle of Uncle Bob whom you only see at family reunions – all of these sensory experiences prompt our brains to remember many of the memories associated with the holidays. They are the key that unlocks the chambers of your past.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, I hope you use all your senses and enjoy these days. As a writer, use these holiday triggers to explore your memories. Like Yambo, cull through the storehouse of your memory. With a sense of gratitude for the past and delight in the present, write it all down, the good and the not so good. These are the stories of your life. Whether stories of a family or stories of a civilization, as writers we are bound in solemn trust to keep them alive. Relish them, inscribe them, cherish them, remember them, and be thankful for them. As a writer and as a person, you are your stories. And for that we can all be grateful.
1) Eldridge Plays (http://www.histage.com/) issued two volumes of my storytelling scripts (each with various adapted folk and fairy tales, as well as several original stories).

2) Next Stage Press (http://www.shop.nextstagepress.net/product.sc?productId=72&categoryId=4) has published my adult play Some Unfinished Chaos, about the relationship between a young woman writer and the older writer whom she wants to be her mentor.

3) My play Noir(ish), a spoof of and homage to the genre of film noir, has won the Arts Club of Washington 2010 full-length play competition.

Congratulations, Evan!

Andy is the Founder of HealingVeterans.org, a Non-Profit organization dedicated to “Helping America’s Veterans on a spiritual journey to healing”. He is at work on his first book, Our Finest Young Men, A Spiritual Journey from the Trauma of War to Inner-Peace.

Andy has lived in Atlanta since 1971, and has worked in Magazine Publishing, Sales Consulting and the Technology industry, where he held titles from sales rep. to VP of Sales. A native of St. Louis he attended Southern Illinois University where he received a BA in Journalism.

Andy is married to Sandi Sims Farris; they have two children – Drew a junior at Georgia Southern University, and Laurel a sophomore at Ole Miss.

His interest in serving veterans has grown out of his own service in the U.S. Army, and through his public service, notably with the Georgia Veterans Leadership Program. Andy developed a small Business Development Program for veterans, which was presented at Georgia State University (1983 – 1992). The program helped veterans secure $60 million in new business financings, received awards from the U.S. Small Business Administration and letters of commendation from Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.
We’ll start at 1:00 p.m. on November 20, giving you three diverse speakers and three very different topics:

1:00-1:30 p.m.

Neil Goldstein, J.D., an Atlanta attorney who specializes in intellectual property law, will answer your questions about copyright protection, contracts, and the business side of publishing.

1:45-2:30 p.m.

Science writer, memoirist, and children’s author Vanessa Woods is the author of the much ballyhooed international bestseller Bonobo Handshake: A Memoir of Love and Adventure in the Congo, which tells her story of accepting a marriage proposal from a man she barely knew and following him on a research trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ensconced at a bonobo sanctuary in Kinshasa, Vanessa and her fiancé fall in love with each other and with the rare apes with whom humanity shares 98.7% of our DNA. Vanessa tells of her self-discovery and growth while exploring the peaceful society of bonobos, where the females are in charge, war is nonexistent, and sex is as common and friendly as a handshake.

Vanessa is the main Australian/New Zealand feature writer for the Discovery Channel and currently works as a research scientist at Duke University where, when she’s not writing, she spends her time waving red porcupines at baby bonobos and trying to outsmart chimpanzees. She’s also written It’s every monkey for themselves, a true story about what life is really like in the jungle, three children’s books about science and history, and a slew of science articles. She has made documentaries in Africa, Central and South America, and Antarctica.

At 1:45 on November 20, Vanessa will discuss the art of the memoir: what to put in, what to leave out, how to start, and how to know when it’s done. She’ll also be pleased to discuss writing for scientists, laypeople, and children. Read more about Vanessa and the bonobos at www.vanessawoods.net.

3:00-3:45 p.m.

Literary agent Zoe Fishman is the Foreign Rights Director and an agent for The Nancy Yost Literary Agency in New York. In 2010, Harper Collins published her first novel, titled Balancing Acts, which tells the story of four women, a decade out of college, who are trying to balance the dreams and plans shared together back then with the realities and crises of their present lives.

The Atlanta Writers Club sponsored a dinner with Zoe earlier in the year, and she’ll return at 3:00 p.m. on November 20 to repay the compliment. She has promised a 45-minute talk and Q&A about the how and the why of getting an agent in this uncertain publishing environment. Discover Zoe and her novel at www.zoefishman.net.
Karen Paul Holmes will teach a writing class at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. This camp for adults features fun classes in the fine arts as well as crafts, cooking, blacksmithing, writing, folk dancing, nature studies, and more. Stay on campus for the full experience. Tuition $546

Come get inspired. Through music and other arts, we'll stir the creative juices. We might listen to Beethoven or Elvis, look at paintings by Monet or Finster, read literary masters or contemporary writers -- all to generate ideas for our poems, fiction, or essays. You'll receive editing tips and one-on-one critiques to make your work stronger and more readable. Open to anyone who needs inspiration and help perfecting the art of writing.

About the instructor: Karen Paul Holmes, an award-winning writer, has work published in business magazines, literary journals, and anthologies. Her enthusiasm for teaching has given her top ratings for her writing workshops at international conferences. She also taught poetry to students through the Georgia Poetry Society's "Poets in the Schools" program. Karen is a writing coach, poet, freelance writer, and the editor of the North Carolina Writers' Network Netwest News.

For more information, see www.folkschool.org

AWC friend and workshop leader Dr. Brian Jay Corrigan will be leading a seminar entitled "The Shape of Words" at the Dahlonega Literary Festival on Saturday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is $55 ($45 for students) and will be held at the Library Technology Center on the NGCSU campus in Dahlonega. Go to www.literaryfestival.org for more information and registration form.

Fran Stewart has been appointed Publications Chair on the Executive Board of the National League of American Pen Women. Congratulations, Fran!
Scribblers’ Retreat
Writers’ Conference

Diana Gabaldon
# 1 New York Times Best Selling Author
Priceless advice from a spell binding storyteller

Adam Davies
Major Motion Picture Writer, Editor and Author
“Publishing Inside-Out: A View of the Industry as a Writer and Editor”

Karen White
New York Times Best Selling Author
“Using Emotion to Create Characters That Stick With Your Readers”

Ciji Ware
Emmy award-winning television producer, author, journalist
“Writing in the Digital Age”

Dominique Raccah
SOURCEBOOKS Publisher
“New Media Publishing Paradigm: Publishing Books in the Digital Age”

10 speaker sessions, Evening with the Author & more...

November 11-13, 2010

Register Now at 1-800-996-2904

Literacy is our purpose. Fulfilling dreams is our goal.

Scribblers’ Retreat Writers’ Conference
@ The King and Prince, St. Simons Island, Georgia

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

DEADLINE:
November 20, 2010. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:
Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at January, 2011 meeting.)

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

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>1000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Fiction</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Poetry</td>
<td>32 lines</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Manuscript Format. Failure to adhere to the following format will result in disqualification.

- DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
- Only Word files (.doc) will be accepted. (Files with .docx may not be viewable by judges, therefore we recommend saving and sending the file as a .doc)
- Font: 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman
- Margins: 1 inch
- Line spacing: double – yes, even for poetry.
- White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images)
- Page size & layout: 8-1/2 x 11; Portrait
- First page: Title and Category should appear in the upper left corner
  Subsequent pages: Title - upper left corner; Page number - upper right corner

SUBMISSION RULES

Failure to adhere to any of the guidelines will lead to disqualification.

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to chramse@gmail.com.

The entry and SSF must be sent as attached Word documents (.doc).

IMPORTANT: Name the documents by title, i.e. Title.doc and SSF-Title.doc

Example: if the title is Moon Fire, the document should be named Moon Fire.doc and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.doc.

Standard Submission Form (SSF):

Prepare and submit an SSF for each entry that includes the following information:

   Author’s Name
   Contest Category

(Continued on page 11)
You may enter all 4 categories, by sending separate email entries.

PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

When sending the attached Word documents, your EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:

Subject Line: AWC Fall Contest
Your name, phone number, category, title
Example:

Dear Clay,
I have attached [Title] for the [Category] and the corresponding SSF.
Thank you,
[Your name]
[Your phone number]

Winning entries may be posted on the AWC web site.

Valerie Connors
I manage the financial side of an architecture firm in Marietta. I write all the time at work, analysis of financial statements, software training materials and so on, but it seems like I’m always taking words out. Trying to be respectful of other people’s time, and in the interest of getting to the point, I have to force myself to condense my thoughts into as few words as possible – nothing but the facts, as they say. Writing fiction, I can use all the words I want to. It’s fabulous! In July of this year I self published my first novel, Give Me Liberty. I always wanted to write a book, I just needed the right inspiration. This one is based on actual events in my mother’s life, set in the early 1950’s. I really enjoyed the historical aspect of the book, and had a great time doing the research. My goal is to have another book finished by the end of 2011. I discovered AWC at the Decatur Book Festival. I think it’s going to be a great opportunity to learn from experienced writers and connect with other people like myself.
Now accepting entries for the Scratch Fall Quarterly Contest

**submission criteria:** Two Categories

1. **any subject short fiction**
   
   from flash to novel excerpts, screenplays, scripts, 5000 words max*
   
   Please include name, address, phone, title and word count within body of email. Stories must be original, written in English and previously unpublished. Once submitted, entries cannot be altered.

   All entries will be considered for general online publication as well as for the scratch anthology

2. **poetry**

   submit up to two poems in any style, 40 line maximum per poem

   Poems must be original, written in English and previously unpublished.

   Once submitted, entries cannot be altered.

   All entries will be considered for general online publication as well as for the scratch anthology

   No translations, please.

**how to enter:** Post $10usd entry fee via PayPal using button on web site. Then cut and paste your story or poem into the body of an email please do not send attachments, and send to:

   **contestentry@scratchcontest.net**

   (be sure to note in your email
   the name used with PayPal, if different from entry)

**deadline:** December 23, 2010

   Winners announced January 3, 2011

**scratch:** the writing contest itching to discover new writers and poets.

Selecting winners every quarter. Submit today.
High School Student Essay Contest

WELCOME Magazine is pleased to present the 1st Annual High School Student Essay Contest entitled:

"To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required"

High School students in Metro Atlanta are welcome to enter this 500-word literary competition. The winner of our competition will have his or her work featured in a full-page article in the December 2010 edition of WELCOME Magazine including a photograph and profile listing. The value of this project is $2,400. Students will select one of the following celebrities as the subject of their original essay project: Monica Pearson, Tyler Perry or Usher.

The deadline to receive all entries has been extended to:

Monday, November 15, 2010 at midnight.

To receive an official entry form email Lea O'Neal at:

WelcomeMagazineUSA@yahoo.com
or WelcomeMag@yahoo.com

Prior to submitting an essay, students are encouraged to read the September 2010 interview with Monica Pearson in celebration of her 35th anniversary on page 10.

My profession is forensic toxicology. I have a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor’s in chemistry from Harvard University. During my graduate career, I had published several scientific articles, but I also pursued writing fiction in my spare time, including poetry and short stories. Now I have the motivation and desire to develop my skills further, learn from others and find my voice. One of my inspirations who fuels my passion to explore writing is Rainer Marie Rilke, who said that “for the creator there is no poverty and no indifferent place.”
Workshop—Spend a Day with a Literary Agent

Literary Agent Sheree Bykofsky (www.shereebee.com)—one of our guests at the May 2010 Atlanta Writers Conference—is offering a **Spend a Day with a Literary Agent** Workshop, to be held on November 21st at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The price is $120, payable in advance by check or Paypal.


(Shes promises it's not for idiots!)

If you are paying by Paypal, please make your payment to shereebee@aol.com and send a concurrent confirming email to her with your name, address and telephone number.

Registrants may optionally submit a sample query letter in advance of the seminar, provided you do so knowing and agreeing that it will be publicly critiqued and copied for the entire class.

Special parking rates will be offered.

Sheree hopes to see you on November 21st and would be grateful to hear from you as soon as possible regarding your plans to attend.

About Sheree


Sheree is also an avid poker player and author, with Lou Krieger, of *Secrets the Pros Won’t Tell You About Winning Hold’Em Poker* (Kensington) and *The Rules of Poker: The Ultimate Argument Settler* (Kensington). In December 2005 Sheree placed first out of 164 women who competed in the World Series of Poker Ladies’ Circuit Event at the Showboat in Atlantic City.

One of Sheree’s oldest books, *500 Terrific Ideas for Organizing Everything* (Simon & Schuster, 1992), has hundreds of thousands of copies in print and was recently #20 on bn.com after ten years in print. Many of Sheree’s books, including *Me: Five Years From Now* have been selected by the Literary Guild and other book clubs. She gives walks and talks about travel and publishing at locations and venues such as the Learning Annex, Hyatt Hotel and other conferences, AOL, and Seminar Center. Sheree appeared on a special fundraising edition of "The Brian Lehrer Show" on NPR for an hour, generating nearly 200 pledges. She has appeared on "Good Day New York," "Eyewitness News," "News 1," and on television and radio stations nationwide, and she was a romantic consultant on NBC for a new reality show. Sheree also speaks widely about all areas of publishing at colleges, writer’s conferences, and libraries.
All of the following events will take place at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody in the C-1100 auditorium:

**November 20, 2010**

1:00-1:30 Intellectual property attorney Neil Goldstein answers your questions about copyright protection, contracts, and the business-side of publishing.

1:45-2:30 Vanessa Woods, author of Bonobo Handshake, discusses the art of the memoir.

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
ANNOUNCING
THE 2011
ATLANTA
WRITERS
CONFERENCE
PREP
WORKSHOPS

In 2008-2010, we offered preparatory workshops with well-published authors to help AWC members get their manuscripts and pitches ready for the Atlanta Writers Conference with literary agents and publishers each May. During these conferences, all of the agents remarked on the polished work they reviewed and the smooth pitches delivered, so it’s evident these workshops helped. Therefore, we’re pleased to announce the 2011 Atlanta Writers Conference Prep Workshop, the opportunity to submit your work and give your pitches to fiction and nonfiction authors who have succeeded in this difficult business. Their mission is to help you make your manuscript sample and/or your verbal presentation as solid and professional as possible, so you can succeed when you query on your own, attend literary events, and participate in the Atlanta Writers Club conference with the agents and publishers in May 2011.

OVERVIEW:
The preparatory workshop is structured the same way the Atlanta Writers Conference is set up: you can submit the first 20 pages of your manuscript for critique in advance, and, on the day of the prep workshop, the author you chose will give you 15 minutes of verbal feedback about your work. We’ll break for lunch and then you can practice explaining (“pitching”) your project to the same author or a different one and you will receive advice about better structuring your pitch for use in query letters and face-to-face encounters with agents and publishers, a process lasting for 10 minutes.

This session should give you the recommendations you need to make your work shine for the Atlanta Writers Conference. Be sure to register ASAP—spots for the prep workshop will fill up quickly. Here are the details:

PARTICIPATING FICTION AUTHORS:

David Fulmer (www.davidfulmer.com)—Author of nine historical mysteries, including the critically acclaimed The Blue Door, his popular New Orleans mysteries with Valentin St. Cyr, and his newest, The Fall. His works have won the Shamus Award for mysteries and the Benjamin Franklin Award for audiobooks, and he was an LA Times Book Prize nominee. He also regularly teaches the craft and business of writing in classes held at Eagle Eye Bookshop. David will critique mainstream fiction, mysteries, thrillers, and suspense.

Joshilyn Jackson (www.joshilynjackson.com/)—Author of four mainstream novels, including Backseat Saints and the New York Times bestseller The Girl Who Stopped
Swimming. Her first two works, gods in Alabama and Between, Georgia were #1 BookSense Picks, making her the first author ever to receive that honor in back-to-back years. The editor of BookPage remarked in a review of her work, “Every now and then...a remarkable writer comes along to reenergize American Fiction. So it is with Joshilyn Jackson.” Joshilyn will critique all fiction genres, from mainstream to sci-fi/fantasy.

Haywood Smith (www.haywoodsmith.net/)--Author of twelve novels encompassing historical fiction and women’s fiction, including the hugely best-selling Red Hat Club series and her latest novel Waking Up in Dixie. Haywood first participated in the 2008 Atlanta Writers Conference prep workshop, and participants still talk about the helpfulness of her critiques and advice. She will critique all genres of popular fiction except occult (vampires, etc.) and erotica.

PARTICIPATING NONFICTION AUTHORS:

Jackie K. Cooper (www.jackiekcooper.com/index.html)--Author of five memoirs, including his latest from Mercer Press, The Sunrise Remembers, as well as entertainment reviews that run in a number of newspapers. Jackie is a contributor to The Huffington Post. In addition, his short stories have been used as commentary on Georgia Public Radio. Jackie will critique all types of nonfiction and—as an entertainment critic—can also help with fictional works.

Lauretta Hannon (http://thecrackerqueen.com)--Author of the memoir The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life, which became a Southern Indie Bestseller three weeks after its release and in 2010 was named one of the Top Twenty-Five Books All Georgians Should Read, according to the Georgia Center for the Book. Southern Living called her “the funniest woman in Georgia.” Lauretta has written for Creative Loafing in Savannah, read her essays on National Public Radio, and regularly conducts writing workshops. Lauretta will critique any nonfiction works.
Jedwin Smith (www.jedwinsmith.com/)--Author of the award-winning nonfiction books Fatal Treasure and Our Brother’s Keeper, which Publishers Weekly called a “muscularly written, starkly honest memoir.” Jedwin started critiquing work at our 2008 prep workshop and enjoyed it so much--and proved so adept at it--that he began teaching writing at Eagle Eye Bookshop as well as providing one-on-one coaching for writers. **Jedwin will critique any nonfiction works as well as fiction.**

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR 2011 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.

- Your 20-page manuscript sample for critique is due by December 20, 2010.

- The Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with an hour for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody.

COST:

You must be a **2011** member of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate in this workshop. If you are not, add $40 to the costs below to cover your membership for 2011.

The cost is $100 for a critique and $30 for a pitch. If you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add $10 to the total. Thus, to participate in all activities including lunch with the authors, the total is $140, or $180 if you need to renew your club due for 2011 or join.

TO REGISTER:

RSVP to Atlanta Writers Club VP of Programs John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com to tell him:

1. Which author you want as (A) your first choice, (B) your second choice, and (C) your third choice
2. Which session you want: critique or pitch or both
3. Whether you want lunch with the authors at the Prep Workshop

You will receive John’s reply about whether a seat still is available with an author of your choice for the sessions you desire. If a seat is not available, you’ll be placed on standby for one of the authors you chose (whoever has the shortest standby line).

In addition, John will provide you with payment instructions and the deadline for payments. Once he receives your payment, he will provide a reminder about the due date for your 20-page manuscript and submission instructions if you chose that option, and/or he will recommend some books to help you work on your pitch.

If you RSVP but do not submit payment by the deadline, you will be dropped from the roster and the first person on standby will take your place.

**REFUND POLICY:**
If you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the January 29, 2011 event, you will receive a refund if (A) you have not submitted your work and (B) you notify John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com no later than December 20, 2010. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the January 29, 2011 event, you will receive a refund if you notify John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com no later than January 15, 2011.

***
We hope you take advantage of the Prep Workshop. This should help you present your best work whenever you query or speak with an agent/publisher, and especially at the Atlanta Writers Conference in May 2011. Conference information and the opening date for Conference registrations will be announced in January 2011. If you have any questions, please direct them to John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com.
The Power of the Written Word

Over the past month, my life has taken quite a turn, and it’s all - well mostly - because of two particular books: No Impact Man by Colin Beavan and Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, by Barbara Kingsolver.

Colin decided he would try to live one year without making any environmental impact. Some of the life changes he made, such as no paper napkins or paper towels, are ones that I’d already adopted years ago, but I still have a long way to go.

Colin Beavan chose, for instance, to use no electricity. He, his wife, their daughter, and one dog lived in a ninth floor apartment in New York. No elevators (electricity!) meant an awful lot of stairs. No electricity meant no light bulbs. Locally-produced candles solved that problem.

And no car. So they walked, biked, or rode scooters made from all used equipment. Did I mention that they vowed to buy nothing new (other than food from local sources)? And, they came out with a way to live without toilet paper. Don’t ask me how they did it. Colin refused to give specifics in his books - he said it was too personal a topic.

So, I sat down and tried to figure out how they could have accomplished that. Why cut down trees to make a one-use product that will be flushed into the sewer system, to be dealt with in a water treatment plant (which we pay for with our tax dollars)? I eventually developed a real good system. No, I’m not going to tell you how I did it. You’ll have to come up with your own solution.

Then, the Kingsolver book changed the way I think about food. She and her family vowed to live an entire year on food that they had either produced themselves or that came from within their county. I’ve been telling myself for years that I should go to farmer’s markets more often. For that matter, I know I should learn to cook, a skill that has eluded me since childhood. Listening to her (it was a CD version, read by the author), I saw the light. So, I’ve gone to farmer’s markets and have signed up with www.equinetlocallygrown.net so I can order SOLE food (sustainable, organic, local, ethical) and pick it up at Rancho Alegre in Dacula once a week. I made pickled beets yesterday, and you would have thought I’d invented something divine. Don’t laugh. A year ago I would have scoffed at the idea of pickling anything.

I won’t belabor all the other changes I’ve made, but suffice it to say that the total effect has me feeling like a brand new person. All because of two books. All because of two writers. Pretty impressive, eh?

I can’t claim to write words as powerful as Beavan and Kingsolver, although I do spend a great deal of effort revising until my novels (and these Tip essays) say precisely what I want to convey. And I always try to include good information about bipolar disorder, suicide prevention, ethical treatment of animals, and even blood donations, for heaven’s sake! Perhaps my work doesn’t have quite the same impact as Beavan or Kingsolver’s work, but I’m doing what I can.

So, the question now is -- what does your writing contribute to the health of this world? Think about it. Could you change some of what you write to put added value in your work? And let me know what you’ve decided. We’re writers. We can make this world a better place.

p.s. I’d like to thank those of you who took the time to answer my “assignment” last month. Your animal stories were delightful -- downright happy, heart-wrenching, or a combination of both. I appreciate your sharing them with me.
Steve Berry, one of our most popular and successful authors, has over 11 million books published worldwide. An accomplished instructor as well, he has taught writing to audiences around the globe. Steve also is passionate about preserving history—he is the founder of the nonprofit History Matters—so he has teamed up with the Atlanta Writers Club and Eagle Eye Book Shop to present a 4-hour writer’s workshop, with all proceeds to benefit the Historic Oakland Foundation, Oakland Cemetery (www.oaklandcemetery.com). This is the final resting place of Margaret Mitchell, author of Gone with the Wind, among many other notables.

Steve Berry will teach the craft of writing, including the Four “C’s” of story structure, effective dialogue, point of view, and the all-important 10 Rules of Writing in three 50-minute sessions, followed by a Q&A session. This workshop is not restricted to members of the Atlanta Writers Club; the first 175 people registering and paying the contribution amount will be admitted.

To download the flyer, which includes the registration form, click here:
use this link- http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/forms/Berry_20110115a.pdf

DATE & TIME:
Saturday, January 15, 2011
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION:
Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus
2101 Womack Rd.
Dunwoody, GA 30338

CONTRIBUTION:
$85 - Early Bird special through November 30, 2010
$100 - December 1, 2010 - January 15, 2011

Attendance is limited to the first 175 registered attendees. All reservations after that will be put on a waiting list. You will receive an email confirming your reservation or stand-by status. Walk-in registration and payment the day of the event will be accepted as space permits.

REGISTRATION:
The Atlanta Writers Club is collecting registrations and contributions but, unlike most AWC events, payments must be made to Historic Oakland Foundation.
Click here to download registration form, which includes payment and mailing instructions.
use this link- http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/forms/Registration_Berry_20110115.pdf

Contact John Sheffield at dacejohn@aol.com if you have any questions.
AWC sponsors critique groups throughout the metro Atlanta area. 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 information sharing among club members. Genre groups and e-publishing groups are among the ideas that are being discussed. If you are interested in contributing, then email Jennie.

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 posts its rules at its 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.

Buckhead Novel/Fiction Critique Group meets every other Tuesday evening at 7PM at the Starbucks in Lindbergh Plaza. The group is closed. Contact Patricia at pepatter-son@bellsouth.net to be placed on a wait list.

Conyers

The Conyers critique group meets every other Wednesday at 6:30 at the Whistle Post Tavern in Conyers, GA. We are looking for new members. If you’d like more information, please contact Nancy at ncfletcher50@gmail.com.

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 Thursdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Contact Jane Howe at janeonline@bellsouth.net.

A nonfiction group meets Tuesdays 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.

Emory
A fiction group meets every other Wednesday at 6:30 at Chocolate Coffee located in a shopping center at the intersection of Clairemont and North Decatur Road. The group is full and closed. Contact Ruth Gresh at hrgrush@hotmail.com to be added to a waiting list.

Lawrenceville
The novel/short story group Fiction Crafters meets every other Wednesday 10 to 12 at Applewood Towers. The group is full. Contact Barbara Connor at 678-226-1483 or playa@charter.net to be put on a wait list.

Lawrenceville/Snellville
An all genre group meets on the first Saturday of every month 10 a.m. to noon at a member’s home. Contact Ken Schmanski at 770-241-4832 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 Starbucks on Church Street north of Marietta Square. There is one opening for a new member. Contact Linda Sullivan at lindasullivan3@gmail.com.

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 magistra_jennings@yahoo.com for more information.

Guidelines that might help your group be the most effective:

1. Remember to comment on the TEXT, not the author.
2. Remember to speak from your own perspective.
3. Give honest feedback.
4. Always give positive feedback at the first, middle and last of the critique.
5. Honor the author’s own voice. Do not try to make their writing sounds like yours.
6. Remember to keep the writer’s work and the conversation of such private.
7. Remember to consider the goals of the writer and include that in your feedback.
8. Don’t be nitpicky, but be specific.
9. Allow time for other’s comments.
10. Remember to keep a sense of humor.

Guidelines that might help when you are receiving critique:

1. Remain open-minded
2. Don’t argue or defend your writing. Do ask for clarification. (“Help me understand what you mean.”)
3. Be open to receiving feedback.
4. Identify to the group what type of feedback you seek for any particular submission. (ideas, line edits)
5. Do not bring your ego to the meetings.
6. Remember to keep a sense of humor.
7. Learn to accept praise as well as criticism
8. Remind yourself why you are there.
9. Remember, feedback is just one person’s opinion. If it doesn’t fit, let it go. HOWEVER, if you receive the same feedback from more than one person be sure to pay attention to it and consider what they are saying.
10. Pay attention to those comments you receive over and over again. Learn from them and self correct.

2010 Sylvia Dickey Smith
The Atlanta Writers Club Board

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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
2011 Membership Dues • Donations • Contact Information

☐ Renewal—please update us with changes only ☐ New Member—welcome, your membership is through 12/31/2011
☐ Family Member—additional contact information only

First Name: ____________________________________________ ☐ Primary Member: ____________________________
Last Name:____________________________________________

Please register your last name accurately—this is how your AWC membership will be filed
Street Address: _______________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _________ ZIP ______
Primary Phone: _________________________________________
Secondary Phone: _______________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________

Website: _____________________________________________ ☐ List my website on the AWC website __
LinkedIn Profile: ________________________________________ ☐ Link to me ____________________________
Facebook name: ________________________________________ ☐ Friend me ____________________________
Writing genre(s): _______________________________________

Ways you might contribute to your club: __________________________

2011 AWC Membership Dues
(covers remainder of 2010 and through entire year of 2011)

$40 Membership through 12/31/2011 $______

Add any family member for $20 each $____________________
(Please supply family members’ contact information using 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
Mail to: Kimberly Clamara • The Atlanta Writers Club • 10256 Rillridge Court • Alpharetta, GA 30022
(Please note — this is a new address as of August, 2010)

Date: _______________________________________
Name: ________________________________________ has donated $__________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

This amount is not associated with any services provided in exchange or related to this contribution.

Please retain this lower portion as your donation receipt.