



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

Facebook link

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383>

Twitter link

<http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub>

# Inside This Edition

ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB



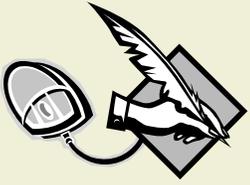
January 2011

Workshop at  
Perimeter College  
C-1100  
auditorium.

January 15, 2011

## 12:30—4:30 Steve Berry Writer's Workshop and Fundraiser (no regular meeting)

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## In Context, by Clay Ram- sey, President



We can waste time, bide time, run out of time, make the most of time. We can mark time, try to find the time, wish we had the time, wonder where the time went. We can make up for lost time, let time slip away, pine for time past, anticipate time to come. Our lives are defined by the passage of time. In fact, time has become almost a modern obsession. Since the advent of the industrial age we have developed technologies designed to save us time in our domestic, professional, and personal lives. Refusing to recognize the irony that we seem to have less time to enjoy life now that we are perpetually plugged into BlackBerries and cell phones and iPads, we continue to produce electronics, self-help strategies and business models that exploit the limited time we have. We hope to live at least the customary three score and ten years, and continue to define our existence in the interim according to the regular occurrences that mystified our distant ancestors – earth’s revolution around the sun, the moon’s orbit around the earth, the rotation of the earth around its own axis. For millennia people have kept track of these regular movements and have developed increasingly sophisticated methods of charting the passage of time, from ancient constructions such as Stonehenge, to devices like sundials, water clocks and hourglasses, to elaborate mechanisms like mechanical and atomic clocks. Our history has been an effort to improve precision in our time keeping, a struggle to define the inexorable, unchanging regularity of our world. Such enterprises were far from marginal pastimes; our survival as a species has depended on our understanding of time, the change of seasons, the course of the sun and moon.

But when a young patent clerk developed what would be known as the special and general theories of relativity, the conversation changed from how time is measured to how time is conceived. After Einstein, time was no longer “absolute and uniform.” Time is now relative to where in the universe you are and how fast you are moving in relation to any other timekeeper. Depending on your frame of reference, time can slow down or speed up, be affected by gravitational fields and loop back on itself. Now we know that time can do any of a number of strange, counter-intuitive things. And it is no longer considered to be an independent measurement; it is wrapped up in what Einstein called “space-time,” the multidimensional matrix that defines our reality. The Cambridge physicist Stephen Hawking wrote a slender, brilliant book several years ago called *A Brief History of Time*, making these mind-bending modern conceptions of time accessible to a general audience. Even if your background is limited to high school physics, I would still recommend it as a fascinating look at the universe through the spectacles of the intellectual heir of Newton and Einstein. I also ran across a delightful little book a few years ago by Alan Lightman entitled *Einstein’s Dreams*. If you are interested in clear writing and intriguing stories that embody these concepts of time, I would commend it to you as well.

However, I do not intend for this column to be a science lesson. I want it to be a shared conversation among friends who stand together on the same threshold. All of us are confronted with another year full of possibility, fresh with the hope that the disappointments and messes of the last twelve months can be transformed into successes and accomplishments. Admittedly we humans are a hopeful lot, expecting progress, improvement and advancement toward perfection, in spite of evidence that such aspirations are often specious and unrealistic. But for now we stand at the same place. And we think about time together. January is that one moment in the year when time is consciously evaluated. The Romans named the month after their god Janus, the god of doors and gates, the two-faced god that looked back to the past year and forward to the one to come. This month is a time to analyze what we have accomplished in the past twelve months and consider how we would like to improve our lives in the next twelve. It is a time for beginnings, for resolutions, for planning and new starts. I could encourage you to set writing goals for yourself – what you would like to do this year – finish a novel, find representation, compile a collection of your poems for publication, join a critique group, find

(Continued on page 3)



## e Quill

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*(Continued from page 2)*

more freelance work. Each of us has different goals and that's fine, as long as you have something toward which you direct your efforts. Without defined objectives we tend to become the victim, rather than the master, of our time here. By all means, make some resolutions about your writing life and then work to keep them.

But I am not your conscience, or your mother, or your editor; I'm just a fellow writer, and I want to nudge you to think about the concept of time in your work. As with most humanly perceived phenomena, time is defined by language. We have names for the divisions of time, from nanoseconds to epochs. According to strict rules of syntax and grammar our discourse is time-dependent. We have verb tenses to situate our communication in time. Of course, our particular linguistic constructions of time say as much about our culture and mind as they do about our world. We write speculative fiction to play with the possibilities of time, science fiction to fly to the future and historical fiction to anchor us in the past. Our language forms our ideas of time, and I would argue that time exists in service of story. I contend that the myths we tell each other about our world determine how we conceive of time, and not the reverse. For instance, consider that the linearity of the historical narrative of the Hebrew Scriptures molded our Western sense of the unidirectionality of time, the movement from a moment of creation through the present to an inevitable end. Eastern mythologies, on the other hand, defined by concepts of reincarnation, the transmigration of souls, and the repetition of ages, reinforce a cyclical view of time. Story and time are linked, but I think story came first and unfolded in the medium of time.

So what role does time play in the work of a writer? How does the storyteller see and use time to tell her tale? There are technical aspects to such a question, of course. There are considerations of linear vs. nonlinear narratives, the judicious use of flashbacks, the placement of the story in historical context. But this is just part of an answer. Above all, we must start with an awareness of time in our writing. It is inextricably linked to setting and character and even dialogue. Time is an element that is not always acknowledged, but it is critical. The images you evoke, the language you choose, the fictional world you build are all tied to your notion of time. When something takes place, what is remembered, how something is anticipated, in what way the present experience is represented, the sequence of events that define the narrative – all depend on the writer's conception of time. I don't want to be too esoteric or belabor the point; I simply want to focus your attention on an aspect of craft that is not always emphasized: the use of time in your writing.

I'm not talking about playing loose with facts in non-fiction, or ignoring the internal logic of fiction; what I'm suggesting is that you stretch your mind and see how you can improve your work by thinking of time in a creative way. The best story is not always a straight line from cradle to grave. Improve your craft by experimenting with pace, the passage of "time" in the narrative flow. Compress and expand time to enhance dramatic effect. Learn the art of seamlessly switching between past, present and future to tell a compelling tale. As the storyteller you determine the time. Time is another variable in your work. Work to shape it to suit your artistic purpose.

So remember – time is short. Write what you can. Make the most of these days, and resolve to take full advantage of the great gift we have all been given in 2011 – the irreplaceable commodity of time, time to dream, time to write, time to become the people and the writers we were meant to be.



**Steve Berry  
Writer's  
Workshop and  
Fundraiser on  
January 15, 2011**



to benefit the Historic Oakland Foundation, Oakland Cemetery ([www.oaklandcemetery.com](http://www.oaklandcemetery.com)). This is the final resting place of Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone with the Wind*, among many other notables.

*New York Times* bestselling author 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



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](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:**

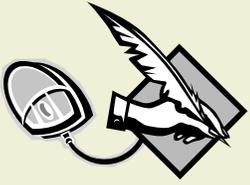
The Atlanta Writers Club is collecting registrations and contributions but, unlike most AWC events, payments must be made to [Historic Oakland Foundation](#).

Click here to download registration form, which includes payment and mailing instructions.

use this link-  
[http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/forms/Registration\\_Berry\\_20110115.pdf](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/forms/Registration_Berry_20110115.pdf)

Contact John Sheffield at [dacejohn@aol.com](mailto:dacejohn@aol.com) if you have any questions.





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## **PRIMARY SPEAKERS FROM OUR DEC. 18 MEETING**

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Keith Badowski

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Poetry Day Emcee  
Jill Jennings



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Amy Pence



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John Ottley, Jr.



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Memye Curtis Tucker



**Poetry Workshop  
with Collin Kelley  
February 26,  
2011**

Poet and novelist Collin Kelley is offering a workshop exclusively for members of the Atlanta Writers Club--where existing work will be critiqued and new poems will be written. **Only the first ten 2011 AWC members to register will be accepted for this workshop.**

On February 26, 2011, up to ten participants will bring a draft of a poem with copies to share with their fellow workshop poets. Collin and the group will discuss and critique each draft with written and verbal suggestions about ways to improve the poem. This will be followed by two short exercises where participants will write new poems and share them during the workshop.

**DATE & TIME:**

February 26, 2011

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION:**

Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody

**COST:**

The cost is \$75 per person with a maximum of 10 participants and minimum of 5. Participants must be 2011 members of the Atlanta Writers Club. To renew or join for 2011, use the membership form on the last page of the eQuill.

**REGISTRATION:**

To register, e-mail John Sheffield at [dacejohn@aol.com](mailto:dacejohn@aol.com). He will respond with payment instructions. After the first ten register, additional individuals will be placed on a standby list.

**INSTRUCTOR BIO:**

Collin Kelley is a novelist and poet from Atlanta, Georgia. His debut novel, *Conquering Venus*, is out now from Vanilla Heart Publishing. His poetry collections include *After the Poison*, *Slow To Burn* and *Better To Travel*, which was nominated for the 2003 Georgia Author of the Year Award and Lambda Literary Award. He is a multiple Pushcart Prize nominee and a recipient of the 2007 Georgia Author of the Year/Taran Memorial Award from the Georgia Writers Association at Kennesaw State University. His poetry has appeared in journals and anthologies around the world, including *Atlanta Review*, *Chattahoochee Review*, *Terminus*, *New Delta Review*, *Chiron Review*, *Blue Fifth Review*, *Ecotone*, *MiPOesias*, *Tears in the Fence* and many more. Kelley is also co-editor of the award-winning *Java Monkey Speaks* anthology series from Poetry Atlanta Press. He has presented workshops on poetry and social media both in the United States and abroad, most recently at Worcester College at Oxford University in England. By day, he's the editor of Atlanta INtown newspaper. For more, visit [www.collinkelley.com](http://www.collinkelley.com).





# The Quill

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## POETS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE:

Whether you're harnessing the healing power of language to transcend personal trauma or transform social ills, this group is open to all literary artists dedicated to the constructive use of their creativity.

## TRANSFORMING LIFE THROUGH LANGUAGE

Beginning this January, we'll meet in person on the fourth Saturday of every month, 3:00 p.m. at Dr. Bombay's Coffee Shop, 1645 McClendon Avenue, in Candler Park. And starting immediately, we'll connect continuously as an on-line group at [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com).

For more information, please contact Roxanne Ivey at [unitypoet@gmail.com](mailto:unitypoet@gmail.com).

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## Help Lorraine

If you live in Duluth, AWC member Lorraine Norwood needs your help. If you have pre-1970 photographs of ordinary life in Duluth, please call Lorraine. Think school and church functions, parades, holidays, events, businesses; in other words, anything that shows pastimes in Duluth. The photos will be included in an upcoming book to be published by Arcadia Publishing, the nation's leading publisher of local and regional history. To share your photographs and stories, please contact Lorraine Norwood at [678-372-3770](tel:678-372-3770) or [slorrainenorwood@gmail.com](mailto:slorrainenorwood@gmail.com). She can even come to your home/business and scan the photos on site.

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## Need to market your self-published book?

Try BlueInk Reviews.

So. You've crafted a literary masterpiece or written a handbook to get other people enthused about your favorite hobby. Frustrated with the traditional publishing route, you published it yourself. You just received your box of finished copies, and...

What do you do now?

If you had published through a traditional publishing house, you would now be pursuing reviews in newspapers or online review sites, but since you published your book yourself, you're at a loss. Where can you get an unbiased, professional review to help market your book? How can you pitch your novel to libraries or bookstores without a professional review? The answer: it's difficult, if not impossible.

BlueInk Reviews can offer just such a review, and it can help you get your book to the right audience. Created by book publishing pros, BlueInk Reviews seeks to help the best of self-published books rise to the top. By employing some of the best book critics in the country, BlueInk Reviews provides objective, professional reviews that can help your book find success.

For more information: <http://blueinkreviews.com/>



## The Quill

**ArNetta Adkins**



Just-ArNetta “The Singing Poet” also known as ArNetta Adkins is a published poet, author and creative writer. Just-ArNetta has been a published poet for years. She captures inspiration through the human experience. She is a motivational speaker who delivers a powerful message of victory, forgiveness and peace. She is an urban city product of a single parent household. Through grace and mercy she graduated from the inner city experience which took her through drug abuse, childhood rape and low self-esteem. Her writings may be used as an encouraging apparatus to move beyond the daily dumps, negative thinking and self-defeating behavior.

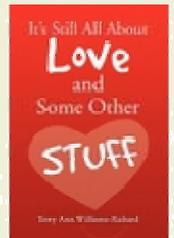
“The small things that makes us BIG” is a pocket size of motivation which may be used anywhere to uplift your thinking. In the near future she will be releasing her new books “The One God gave them to Love” and “Snooty Blues” two amazing stories which gives the reader the path to love beyond the surface. Also, she provides the method to love beyond ALL circumstances. Please contact her for your next event at one of the following:

[JustArNetta@yahoo.com](mailto:JustArNetta@yahoo.com) Or [ArNetta.Adkins@yahoo.com](mailto:ArNetta.Adkins@yahoo.com)

“Love, Peace and Success starts within you”

**Terry Ann Williams-Richard a.k.a Tenacity,**

...a lover of words both written and spoken. *It's Still All About Love and Some Other STUFF* is what she calls her first widely published recreational work...just plain fun. This debut collection of poetry was released in 2009. She considers writing overall to be a joy and as an educator, entrepreneur, speaker and author she spreads the gift of writing to many. Through rhythm, rhyme, reason and keeping it real, **Tenacity** strives to provide a source of renewal, inspiration and a voice to encourage others to never give up. “Let’s keep pressing toward the mark” is the rallying cry she trumpets on her journey toward making the vision a reality. She is expecting her next book, a collection of inspirational essays, to be released by the spring of 2011. Stronger marketing and increasing her readership is what she is working diligently to have more of in her life. Terry is a native Cincinnati, she moved to Georgia in July of 2005. She and her daughter currently reside in a suburb of Atlanta, GA.



**Molly Read Woo**



...grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, then studied in Denmark, Italy, and Boston before graduating with honors from the UGA School of Journalism. She reported for several newspapers in the Southeast, winning six Georgia Press Association Awards for writing and photography before moving to Japan, where she worked for the Ministry of Education. Returning stateside, she founded Planet Atlanta, the first news journal dedicated to covering the international communities within a major U.S. city. In 2006, she presented *The Read Report*, a documentary to help Georgia improve the effectiveness of its crisis preparedness programs. Ms. Woo's first novel, *The Red and Black Breed*, a murder mystery set at the University of Georgia, will be published in January 2011.



John C. Campbell  
Folk School



**Sing and Paint  
with Words  
January 30-  
February 5**

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](http://www.folkschool.org)

**Atlanta  
Area  
Poets!**

Resolve for the New Year to participate in the Fifth Annual Celebration of National Poetry Month Exhibit at Georgia Perimeter College's Dunwoody Campus throughout April.

Check The Writers' Circle websites at <http://www.gpc.edu/~duniss/WritersCircle.htm> and <http://writerscircle.homestead.com> during January for announcements, submission guidelines and deadlines.



# The Quill

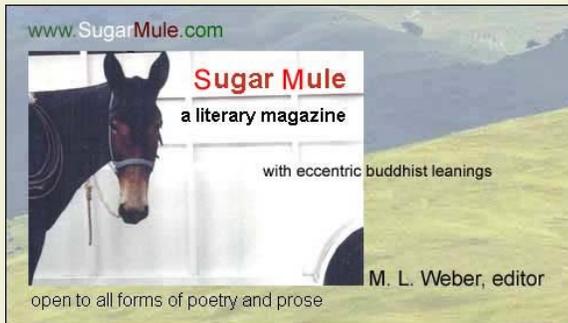
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## Past President Dorothy Worth



Dorothy Janis Williamson Worth passed peacefully on December 23, 2010. She was a long time member of Atlanta Writers Club, Southeastern Writers Association, and Georgia Poetry Society and served as president of each; also active in The Village Writers. From age ten she was a poet and winner of awards, nationally, internationally, and locally, including the 1996 Dickson award of the Georgia Poetry Society for her chapbook *Desert Places*. She was widely published and frequently taught at writers conferences. Her careers included reporter, legal secretary, and then teacher of languages, French, Spanish, and English. She retired from Georgia State University in 1997. She is survived by husband Gene Worth, son John Worth, his wife Concha and grandsons Christopher and Henry Worth.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



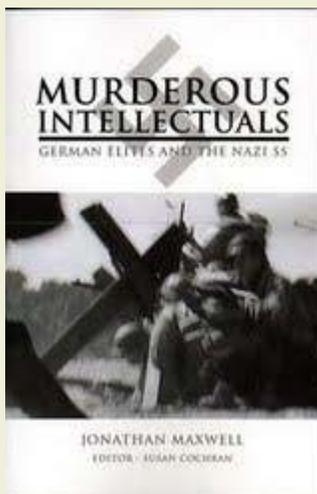
## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS Sugarmule.com

Soniah Kamal has been invited to guest-edit an issue of the ezine [www.Sugarmule.com](http://www.Sugarmule.com) for next year (probably Oct-Nov 2011). She is inviting AWC members to submit for publication.

She is looking for short stories, poems, creative non-fiction essays as well as

memoir pieces. Interested individuals should contact Soniah at [soniah\\_k@yahoo.com](mailto:soniah_k@yahoo.com)

## Jonathan Maxwell Speaking January



Author and fellow AWC member Jonathan Maxwell (*Murderous Intellectuals: German Elites and the Nazi SS*) will be speaking at the Brookhaven Library on January 29 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. His book has been nominated for the 2011 *Allbooks Review Editor's Choice Award* in the Best Nonfiction Book Category.



# LOOKING AHEAD

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## **February 19, 2011**

1:45-2:30 Southern novelist Patti Callahan Henry speaks about the power of story.

3:00-3:40 AWC Panel on getting published: Lee Gimenez, Renea Winchester, Lynda Fitzgerald, Frank Cox.

## **February 26, 2011**

1:00-4:00 Poet and editor Colin Kelley conducts a poetry workshop exclusively for AWC members

## **March 12, 2011**

12:30-4:30 Technology Workshop, Part 1, led by AWC Membership VP Terre Spencer, free to AWC members - details to follow.

## **March 19, 2011**

1:45-2:30 Dr. Lawrence Jackson, Emory professor and author, on using the archives and secondary sources in historical writing and life writing.

3:00-3:30 AWC Panel: Using Technology to Build an Audience with Linda Sands, Casi McLean, Mark All, Mike Buchanan.

## **April 16, 2011**

1:45-3:00 Bestselling author Bernice McFadden discusses her writing journey and which authors inspire her.

6:30-8:30 Dinner with Bernice McFadden at Capozzi's in Decatur - details to follow.

## **April 30, 2011**

12:30-4:30 Technology Workshop, Part 2, led by AWC Membership VP Terre Spencer, free to AWC members - details to follow.

## **May 21, 2011**

Atlanta Writers Conference at Westin Atlanta Airport - no regular meeting this month.

## **June 18, 2011**

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



**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](http://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/](http://www.joshilynjackson.com/))--Author of four mainstream novels, including *Backseat Saints* and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Girl Who Stopped*



# The Quill

*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/](http://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.**



Photo Credit: Gerald Evans

## PARTICIPATING NONFICTION AUTHORS:

**Jackie K. Cooper** ([www.jackiekcooper.com/index.html](http://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.**





## The Quill

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**Jedwin Smith** ([www.jedwinsmith.com/](http://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](mailto: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



## *The Quill*

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dacejohn@aol.com).



*The Quill*

## From the Tip of My Pen



# Fran Stewart

Author, Editor, & Speaker

### Author & Editor

The Biscuit McKee Mystery Series featuring Biscuit, the librarian and Marmalade, the library cat.

Fran's newest mystery is a stand-alone: "A Slaying Song Tonight"

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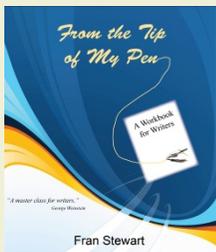
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Author / Editor

[fran@franstewart.com](mailto:fran@franstewart.com)

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### The Advantage of Age

One of the advantages of getting older—notice I did not say *getting old*?—is the understanding that the years flow together almost seamlessly. How is that an advantage? I'm glad you asked. I am saved from the endless year-end stock-taking that so many people burden themselves with.

Yes, I do sit down about halfway through each December and mull over the preceding year, perhaps glean some bits of wisdom from what has gone well (or even more wisdom from what hasn't), but then I say goodbye to that year and welcome the next. I've had enough years behind me to know that the coming year will be pretty good, with maybe some pretty bad stuff thrown in, but that I'll get through it and still be smiling at the end.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, I read a good book, went to sleep at a reasonable hour, and woke up the next day to wish myself a Happy New Year. Does this make me an old fogey? Years ago, when I lived in Vermont, I helped transport a seriously-injured woman to the hospital through a blizzard in the wee hours of New Year's Eve. I sat in the back seat, holding her, trying to reassure her for three grueling hours. The roads were so bad, no ambulance would take the risk of driving out to the old farmhouse where the party was, where a driver leaving the party had slammed into a tree on his way down the hill. At the hospital, the nurses had to peel her from me, as her blood had dried between us, welding her clothing to mine. The woman survived, but I've never much enjoyed New Year's Eve parties since then.

I've occasionally thought about using that event in a book. Writers do write from what they know. I've skirted the issue, using a drunk driver in one mystery, but avoiding the depiction of myself—four months pregnant and covered in another person's blood, one of only two people at the party who hadn't been drinking (the other one was the man driving the car). You see, if I put that young woman in a story, it *would* be me. Even after thirty-six years, I'm not far enough removed from the event to want to fictionalize it. I *could* do it, because I'm a writer; but I choose not to, because it still feels raw to me.

So, another advantage of age is that, no matter how many memories pile up, I can pick what I want to write about. For the rest of 2011, I wish you good writing, indeed.

You can sign up for Fran's newsletter at her website [www.franstewart.com](http://www.franstewart.com).

Each week she features an author whose work she enjoys. If you'd like to be considered for a feature spot, contact Fran – put "Feature Author" in the subject line

[fran@franstewart.com](mailto:fran@franstewart.com)



## Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

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](mailto: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](mailto:terrespencer@me.com).

**Fiction Critique Group 1** is led by Derek Koehl at [Derek@nonhappyendings.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 con-

tact Nancy at [ncfletcher50@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com) to be put on a wait list.

An **adult/YA fiction** group meets Thursdays 7 p.m.-9 at the Chocolate Café on Clairmont and Church Streets. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write [rickyjacobs@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto:janeonline@bellsouth.net).

A **nonfiction** group meets Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds



in Avondale Estates. Contact Emily Strasser at [emstrasser@gmail.com](mailto:emstrasser@gmail.com).

### 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 [hrgresh@hotmail.com](mailto:hrgresh@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 [imayaya@charter.net](mailto:imayaya@charter.net) to be put on a wait list.

### Lawrenceville/Snellville

An **all genre** group meets on the first Saturday of every month

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.

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 Borders on Barrett Parkway.

Contact Linda Sullivan at [lindasullivan3@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:magistra_jennings@yahoo.com) for more information.

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 you 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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President: Clay Ramsey

First VP: George Weinstein

Membership VP: Terre Spencer

Programs VP: John Sheffield

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Operations VP: Neda Gayle

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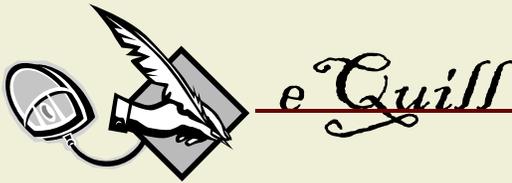
Emcee of open Mic: Alicia Plant

T-Shirt Sales: Terre Spencer

Critique Groups: Jennie Helderman

Lending Library: Open

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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](http://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](mailto: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 Ciamara • The Atlanta Writers Club • 10285 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.*