Next meeting: Feb. 19 at Perimeter College

NA-2200 auditorium.

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.
...founded in 1914
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.

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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

A
nglo-Saxons called February Solmonath. There are a number of theories about the meaning of the word, but the most reasonable translation – and the one I find the most likely – is “Mud Month”. It is not a clever name, but it is perfectly descriptive. When I was in college in New Jersey, it was called “slush season,” the time when the stunning, pristine drifts of snow melted into the dirt and formed a mash of ice, mud, and exhaust – a nasty reminder of what was once a beautiful winterscape. It was always a dreary month. The excitement of the holiday break had passed. It was cold, grey and raw, but without the compensation of a gorgeous blanket of snow. The demands of new classes added to the burden, and the shining hope of spring break was a distant possibility. The trees were stripped bare, the sky was leaden, and the ground was a dark mush. Needless to say, it was hard to be trapped in the barren season that stretched between the wonder of snow and the reemergence of dormant life with its flowers and sun and joy.

I think this month is the most appropriate time to consider several of the more challenging aspects of writing, those experiences not always considered when one is flush with dreams of becoming an author. Between the exuberance of finishing a project and the elation of publication comes the wasteland of rejection and uncertainty – the “Mud Month” of the writing cycle – what T.S. Eliot in “The Hollow Men” could have meant by “Between the idea/And the reality/Between the motion/And the act/ Falls the Shadow” (V.5-9). It is this Shadow, this mud, this slush that we turn to now.

There are legends that circulate among those who dream of the imagined Paradise of the Successfully Published. According to the chronicles of this mythic land, there are those luminous authors whose masterpieces emerged from their minds fully formed, like Athena from the forehead of Zeus. The first agent enthusiastically accepted the blessed manuscript after a moment’s inspection, and the first publisher bought it amid a flurry of praise and promises of an astronomical advance. That might happen; every myth has some basis in reality. However, in the world that most of us inhabit, this is not quite how the process works. The conceptualization and planning is difficult. The composition is difficult. The search for representation and publication is difficult. But perhaps the most difficult are the twin challenges of rejection and uncertainty, the Scylla and Charybdis through which all authors have to navigate in their odyssey. For us mortals we can expect the envelopes in our mailbox that we have addressed to ourselves, or the brief, polite emails that ping in our obsessively checked inbox, confirming our fears. Even worse, we hear nothing at all, the thunderous silence we eventually interpret to mean that our prospective agent has passed on our work, not that he is busy running around New York, sharing its brilliance with interested publishers.

Between the arrival of the occasional email or returned SASE, there are the questions. There are always the questions, those uncertainties that circulate relentlessly, like New Jersey sludge, in the mind of the writer: Will I ever be published? Will I languish in the “slush pile”? Will my writing ever provide a full-time living? Will all the effort be worth it? Am I wasting my time? Am I good enough? Should I be doing something else? Do I need a new query letter, or synopsis, or introduction? Is it the plot, or the dialogue, or the main character? Is it too cliche, or too morbid, or too frivolous, or too dated? Why can’t I seem to catch a break, when that [friend/relative/Neanderthal from aerobics class] has published a handful of books? If I’m already published, will my next project sink? Did I just get lucky with my other book[s]?

(Continued on page 4)
When you feel overwhelmed by the uncertainties of “Mud Month,” remember three facts:

1. Every Nobel, Booker, and Pulitzer Prize winner has experienced this. Shakespeare, Dickens, and Hemingway did, as well. Every author has, regardless of how brilliant or talented they may be.

2. Rejection is not a permanent evaluation of your work. Rejection today doesn’t necessarily mean rejection tomorrow. It just means this particular form of your work is not right for this particular agent/publisher at this particular time. Maybe it is too similar to a book she is already representing, or maybe it needs polishing, or maybe it is not the genre she represents, or maybe you just caught her on a bad day. It’s not always a reflection of the quality of the manuscript or the possibility for improvement.

3. Rejection is not a judgment on your worth as a human being. You are a valuable person and a capable writer. Repeat that to yourself as needed.

It’s easy to say Persevere, and an entirely different thing to feel lost in a thicket of uncertainty, surrounded by broken dreams and unpaid bills, detractors and wasted opportunities, when encouragement is rare and nothing seems to help. I agree; it is demoralizing and depressing to run up against what seems to be a wall of steel and reinforced concrete. Do you keep pounding away? Do you try to burrow under, or drill through, or do you just sit and cry?

I would not presume to make career decisions for anyone else; I can barely manage my own. Even so, I want to encourage you to keep on. Hold fast to what gives your life meaning and direction and fulfillment. If you love to write, if given your heart’s desire you would choose to write, then write. Do what you have to do to earn a living, but keep writing. Listen to valid critiques, improve your craft, learn from other writers, understand the business, move in the direction of your goals, and keep on writing. Einstein said, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” Don’t be insane: adapt, change, develop.

The question is, where is the line between perseverance and insanity? At what point do you put aside that 200,000-word epic supernatural romance with sci-fi/Victorian mystery thematic elements and comedic allusions to Vaudeville and spaghetti Westerns? When is it time to move on? After one rejection? After two? Twenty? Three hundred? Only you can answer that question. Yet, as any good coach would tell his team, “Give it all you’ve got with the best you’ve got for as long as you’ve got.” Don’t stop before you have to. And while I can’t promise you success, I do know that it often comes only after prolonged struggle and many a “dark night of the soul.” Believe in yourself. Try to be realistic, but also realize that it is our dreams that give us life and hope, and without them, we are lost. In the end it is only these dreams and an unwillingness to quit that will see us through the slog of “Mud Month” and into the better days ahead.
Steve Berry Writer’s Workshop and Fundraiser on February 26, 2011

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 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, February 26, 2011
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

CONTRIBUTION:
$100

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.
FEBRUARY SPEAKERS’ INTERVIEWS

Speaker Profiles for February 19, 2011 Meeting
by George Weinstein, VP of Programs

1:45-2:30 p.m.

Patti Callahan Henry is the New York Times bestselling author of six novels: Losing the Moon, Where the River Runs, When Light Breaks, Between the Tides, The Art of Keeping Secrets, and Driftwood Summer. Her latest work was the holiday novella, The Perfect Love Song. Patti has been short-listed for the Townsend Prize for Fiction and has twice been nominated for the Southeastern Independent Booksellers Fiction Novel of the Year.

Patti grew up as a minister’s daughter, learning early how storytelling affects our lives. She spent many summers on Cape Cod, sparking a love affair with the beach, ocean, tides and coastline nature, which are themes in most of her work.

She will be discussing the power of story and the importance of storytelling. Even memoirists and creative-nonfiction writers need to convey biography and life incidents in the form of a compelling story. Poetry is very often story without the boundaries of formal sentences, so all of our members can relate to the themes of Patti’s talk. She is eager to engage in a lively discussion with the club and to answer any questions you have about story or her publishing experiences. Find out more about Patti and her work at www.patticallahanhenry.com.

3:00-3:45

We’re going to try something new for our second speaker slot: a panel consisting of AWC members who are finding success in publishing and creating an audience for their work. The February 2011 panel includes Lee Gimenez, Renea Winchester, Lynda Fitzgerald, and Frank Cox, who tackle the topic “The Many Paths to Publication.”

Franklin (Frank) Cox has been described as “the new balladeer of the USMC” for his Lullabies for Lieutenants: Memoir of a Marine Forward Observer in Vietnam, 1965-1966, published by McFarland and Co. in March 2010. Frank was a finalist in the 2010 Pirates Alley Faulkner Society Literary Competition, and his memoir was named Book-of-the Month in September 2010 by the Military Writers Society of America. He is at work on two additional nonfiction books.

Lynda Fitzgerald’s debut romantic-suspense novel, If Truth Be Told, was released by Five Star (Thompson-Gale) in June 2007. Her second book, the multigenerational novel Of Words & Music, was released in March 2009, and her third, LIVE Ringer—the first in a mystery series—was released in April 2010. Lynda is an active member of Mystery Writers of America, Florida Writers Association, and Sisters in Crime, in addition to AWC. Her website is www.fitzgeraldwrites.com.

Lee Gimenez is the author of five books and over fifty short stories. His novel Virtual Thoughtstream, which was published by Double Dragon Press in 2010, became the number-one bestselling science fiction book on Fictionwise (the Barnes & Noble Company) for four weeks in a row. His novel Azul 7, published by Whiskey Creek Press in 2009, also became a sci-fi best-seller. In addition to AWC, Lee is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and is a Featured Author on that website. His website is www.leegimenez.com.

Renea Winchester is the author of In The Garden With Billy, a nonfiction book about relationships and overcoming obstacles, which was published in 2010 by Little Creek Books. Renea is a winner of the Appalachian Heritage Award. She blogs for Grit Magazine and has written for Georgia Magazine, Georgia Backroads, and Smoky Mountain Living among others. Her work also has been featured in Cup of Comfort for Families Touched by Alzheimer’s and Chicken Soup Teens Talk High School. Her website is www.reneawinchester.com.
**Job Opening for a Sports Writer**

PR Specialist Rebecca I. Long announced that Chattahoochee Technical College has officially posted a job opening for a sports writer position. Currently it is a part time position with a salary of $15 an hour.

The link to the job description and details is:


All interested persons should contact Ms. Long at:

North Metro Campus
5198 Ross Road
Acworth, GA 30102
770-529-2319 (phone)
678-756-3634 (cell)
770-975-4156 (fax)
rlong@ChattahoocheeTech.edu

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**Lauretta Hannon Speaking in Gainesville**

The Northeast Georgia Writers will have Lauretta Hannon as their conference speaker, 1:00 -3:00 p.m. on April 6, 2011, Wednesday, at the Peach State Bank, 325 Washington St. Gainesville, GA 30501, 3rd floor. Topic: "How to Tell the Greatest Story Never Told - Yours"

No registration at the door. Pre-registration is required.
Cost is $25. Make checks payable to Northeast Georgia Writers.
(Mail checks to Tom Nichols, 1883 Pinetree Trail, Gainesville, GA 30501.)

Details: HolmesLynda@bellsouth.net

www.negawriters.org
POETS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE: TRANSFORMING LIFE THROUGH LANGUAGE

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.

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.

For more information, please contact Roxanne Ivey at unitypoet@gmail.com.

Writing Raw

Looking for a new venue for your writing? Are your short stories, poems and non-fiction pieces gathering dust under your bed? Frustrated by closed doors, slush piles, and unpublished anonymity? Then consider submitting your work to Writing Raw, a FREE weekly literary magazine dedicated to new and emerging writers. Their mission is simply “to serve the literary community with the opportunity to have their work online and out in the world.” As they say, “In this world of disappearing literary magazines, Writing Raw is providing the blank pages for writers to fill.” Sound good?

+ Use the Writing Raw Book Store to promote your novel or poetry collection for FREE. Send them a jpeg copy of the book’s cover, a brief synopsis and a link to where the book can be purchased - all for absolutely NO charge.

+ Write a weekly column about topics that would be helpful for writers – book and publishing news, exercises and tips – anything of interest to those who read and write books. The column would have your byline, your bio, and you would retain all copyright.

+ Keep up with the latest announcements about writers groups and organizations, fellowships, contests and writers’ websites from around the world.

+ In addition to the highlighted fiction, poetry, reviews, interviews, serials and assorted writings on the site, you can also enjoy the unique features like “really BAD Shakespeare,” a black comedy based on the "end of days" in the fictional town of Potter's Field, Illinois, and The Wall, which contains a Shout-Out box so you can self-promote your material.

To submit your work or to check out the website, go to www.WritingRaw.com.
Catherine A. Calabro

AWC member Catherine A. Calabro announces the publication of her ebook *Song of the Flaming Fountain Book I: When the Dawnstar Rises*. Targeting the young adult market, *Song of the Flaming Fountain* (SFF) is a series of four fantasy novels. Its theme, the power of prayer, develops in a manner broad enough to appeal to young people and adults of many faith traditions and spiritual persuasions. The theme arose from the author's own battle with cancer, celiac disease, bi-polar disorder, and grief. Spanning decades, her remarkable recovery from these health challenges was fueled by the potent prayer ministry at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Dunwoody. *Book I* of the series is now available for download at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

You may contact Catherine at [jazzycat07@comcast.net](mailto:jazzycat07@comcast.net).

Layton Green

AWC member Layton Green has just published his novel *The Summoner* for Kindle and Nook. It's an upmarket mystery/suspense novel set in present-day Zimbabwe, and centers around a religious phenomenologist (an expert on cults) and a Diplomatic Security Agent who investigate the mysterious disappearance of a U.S. diplomat at a religious ceremony outside Harare. The novel is the first work in a globe-hopping series whose protagonists investigate the world’s most bizarre and dangerous cults.

Richard Marek, former President and Publisher of E.P. Dutton says of the ebook, “Layton Green has written a tale with supernatural and political undertones that unravels with ever increasing suspense . . . The book is plain terrific.”

And award winning author Melody Moezzi says, “*The Summoner* ... beautifully captures Zimbabwe's diverse and conflicting landscapes — both urban and rural, ancient and modern. The result is a fast-paced and searing narrative that offers a glimpse into a world of religion, politics, and culture few could imagine.”

Formerly a practicing attorney, Layton has a keen interest in religion, travel and writing, and combined these diverse passions and experiences with fifteen years of Jujitsu training to create an unforgettable series of suspense novels.

His website is [laytongreen.com](http://laytongreen.com), which includes links to the book.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS Sugarmule.com

Soniah Kamal has been invited to guest-edit an issue of the ezine 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

Meacham Writers’ Workshop

Endowed by the late Jean Meacham in honor of her husband, Ellis K. Meacham, the Meacham Writers' Workshop was created to provide support and critiques for developing writers through a program of readings, discussion sessions, and group conferences. Occurring each fall and spring, the workshop is free and open to the public; there is no registration. The conference also welcomes non-writers who are avid readers of contemporary prose and poetry, as well as school groups, and is open to persons of every age, race, religion, sex, veteran status, national origin, or disability.

The Meacham Writers' Workshop will be held on March 24-26, 2011, in Chattanooga, TN. This year's visiting writers include Cathy Holton, John Hoppenthaler, Beth Nugent, Amir Or (Israel), Iztok Osojnik (Slovenia), Art Smith, Laurel Snyder, and Robert Vivian. The organizers are currently working on the schedule and will provide more information when it becomes available on their web site: http://www.meachamwriters.org/.
Do You Have a Children’s Book in You?

Writing Children’s Books: 8 Week Workshop

Facilitated by children’s author and commercial writer, Angela K. Durden, group members will be encouraged to bring existing stories, whether completed or not, or their ideas for a story they want to write. We will read excerpts from each and get and give feedback. We will discuss the business of publishing, the challenges and realities of publishers in this marketplace, illustrating, self-publishing options, production types, and marketing.

Cost: $250.00 (Atlanta Writer’s Club members: $215.00)

At Eagle Eye on Thursdays, 7 PM until 9 PM

March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2010  April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2010
Limit 10 Workshop Participants.
Sign up by email to: angeladurden@msn.com
Bring check or cash with you at the first meeting.

Author:
- A Mike and His Grandpa Story: Heroes Need Practicing Too!
- Nine Stupid Things People do to Mess up Their Resumes
- Opportunity Meets Motivation: Lessons From Four Women who Built Passion Into Their Lives and Careers
- Coming soon: The second book in the series.
  A Mike and His Grandpa Story: The Balloon That Would Not Pop

Small publisher and publishing business consultant, book designer, and more, Angela teaches creative writing to children and adults through a one-hour stand-alone workshop and workshop series.

2076 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, GA 30033 — www.EagleEyeBooks.com
404-486-0307
EAGLE EYE BOOK SHOP
A Great Eye for Good Books!
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
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Steve Berry Writer’s Workshop and Fundraiser

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 BerniceMcFadden 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.
From the Tip of My Pen

Fran Stewart
Author, Editor, & Speaker

Templates: To Use or Not to Use

Recently I read a self-congratulatory blog post by a writer, speaking of her newly-published mystery. She said that the publisher had contacted her and asked her to write a series set in a particular type of shop. I’m not going to tell you what kind, because you could then figure out who she was. She went on to admit (or maybe it was to brag) that they had given her the setting, a fictional town which the publishing company had already named, in such and such a state which the publisher had indicated.

Furthermore, the protagonist was xx years old, with x (number of) children, a xxxx (relative) who was xxxxxx (psychological condition), and three friends whose names were xxxx, xxxx, and xxxx. The publisher even told her who was to be the murder victim.

The writer said that she’d never thought much about a xxxx shop, but she did a little research and wrote the first book of her new series. I read the book. It was about what I would have expected.

Then I learned of a highly-touted template for writing a mystery. Filled with exclamation points, and if you’ve read this column for any length of time, you know what I think of those, there were such instructions as “the first sentence in EVERY scene must have a hook!” and “the last sentence in EVERY scene must make you want to turn the page.” While I agree with the general idea here, I could do without the capital letters. In a fast-paced thriller, these strictures make a certain amount of sense. But not everyone writes thrillers.

A template is only as good as the thoughtful writing that results from it. And not all the templates in the world can make a xxxx shop-owner live and breathe and impel me to buy the blinkin’ book.

Fran Stewart lives and writes (without templates) in Lawrenceville GA and is planning for 30,000 bees who will be installed on her back deck in late March. Her beekeeping blog is http://www.beeskneesbeekeping.blogspot.com/. Follow along for the fun of it.
Fran’s mysteries are now available as e-books on Amazon and Smashwords.
Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Critique Groups Face-to-Face and Cyberspace

Whether online or in-person-neighborhood-groups, the Atlanta Writers Club offers a variety of critique groups as a service for its members. If your writing is ready for a critique group -- meaning you’re ready to hear what others think and offer constructive criticism in return -- then search the directory below. Pick a group and contact its leader to see if this is the best group for you. Some of the groups are at capacity and have wait lists; others are eagerly seeking new members. The critique groups are a service of AWC and thus open to dues-paying members.

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.

**Notice that Evan-Guilford online group should be deleted.**

**Austell**

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

**Buckhead/Midtown**

**Poetry group.** The Buckhead/Midtown poetry group meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Group is nearing capacity. To be included on the distribution list for meeting details, please email Karen Holmes at karen.holmes@comcast.net and give a brief description of your writing experience.

The **Buckhead Novel/Fiction Critique Group** meets every other Tuesday evening at 7PM at the Starbucks in Lindbergh Plaza. The group is closed. Contact Patricia at pepatterson@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 ricky-jacobs@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 rickyjacs@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 rickyjacs@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 rickyjacs@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 rickyjacs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

A **nonfiction** group meets Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Contact Emily Strasser at em-strasser@gmail.com or 404-299-5193.

A nonfiction group meets Thursdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds in
Avondale Estates. Email Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net.

Dunwoody
Georgia Perimeter College's Learning and Tutoring Center sponsors Writers' Circle, an ongoing group of students and community members who enjoy the writing process and seek the support and insight of other writers. Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays, 1-3 p.m. in LTC Dunwoody campus, LRC (Library Building), Rm 3100. During school breaks, the group meets at Borders Bookstore. Contact Gelia Dolcimascolo at 770-274-5246 for further information.

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 now has openings. Contact Ruth Gresh at hrgresh@bellsouth.net 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 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 Schmansi at kschmanski@yahoo.com for location and to get on his distribution list.

Marietta
An all genre group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. The group is full. Contact Linda Sullivan at lindasullivan3@gmail.com to be on a wait list.

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 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.
10. Pay attention to those comments you receive over and over again. Learn from them and self correct.

2010 Sylvia Dickey Smith
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 • 10255 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.