**Next meeting:** March 19 at Perimeter College
**NC-1100** auditorium.

**1:45-2:30 p.m.**
Dr. Lawrence Jackson is Professor of English and African American Studies at Emory University, where he specializes in African American literature and literary history. He will discuss using archives and secondary sources in historical and "life" writing.

**3:00-3:45 p.m.**
A panel of published AWC members--Linda Sands, Casi McLean and Mark All--will discuss “Using Technology to Build an Audience.”
...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
March is Women’s History Month and I want to use this space to celebrate the achievements of women writers. Our female colleagues might bristle at this recognition, rightly claiming that it is in some measure sexist to identify female vs. male writers, rather than simply using the inclusive, non-discriminatory category of Authors. Just as we are encouraged to see all citizens as Americans, rather than as members of any constituent religious, ethnic or socio-economic class, so we are persuaded to look past biology and the anachronistic constraints of masculinity and femininity and see only Writers, members of the same creative class. Yet, our gender is one important element of what defines our unique identity. This is not a judgment of quality, skill or inherent worth. It is merely an acknowledgement that our relationship to our body, our emotional life, our intellectual perspective, our social grouping and (still, to some degree) our placement in social structures are all influenced by our gender. This, of course, affects our writing as well. Issues of access to education, equity in publication, reception by a reading audience, critical appraisal, form of expression and use of language have historically overlapped with gender issues.

I understand that sexual politics can be a bloody, brutal conflict, and I do not broach this topic with the naiveté of the unaware. It is a struggle often advanced by nuance and innuendo, subtle power plays in boardrooms and tenure review panels, blocked opportunities and missed advancements. Even when we recognize the social and historical context in which we speak about gender, it is still a notoriously sensitive topic, eclipsed only by conflicts over race and sexual orientation. I am by no means a feminist literary critic, nor am I an expert in the literature of, by and for women. Nevertheless, I do want to highlight the genius of women who have struggled over the centuries against misogyny, subjugation and outright discrimination to pen some of the best literature we possess and cherish. This is their month.

The Princeton scholar Elaine Showalter has written a magisterial literary history of women authors in America from 1650 to 2000 entitled A Jury of Her Peers: Celebrating American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx (Random House, 2009). It is perhaps the most thorough, scholarly and humane account available as an effort to acknowledge and in many cases recover the forgotten memory of women who have shaped our literary heritage. If you want a clear overview of what women writers have accomplished in this country, this book is a perfect place to start.

Showalter chooses the title of this first literary history of American women writers from a short story of the same name by journalist Susan Glaspell, written in 1917. Glaspell, in turn, based her story on a case she had covered in which a farmwoman stood accused of killing her husband. In the incident that inspired the story, the wives of the county attorney and the sheriff hide and destroy evidence under the assumption that the all-male legal system would be unable to give her a fair trial. In her substantial study, Showalter effectively argues that women writers do not need to manipulate the system, like these well-meaning women did; they need to be subjected to the same debate and criticism that their male counterparts have experienced. They do not need to be patronized, ignored, or judged by rigged juries. On the other hand, they do not simply need more women on editorial boards and in evaluative positions (although that too is necessary), but rather true “literary peers,” defined as “a reader who is will-

(Continued on page 4)
But this is not simply aggressive polemic. Showalter carefully uncovers the arc of literary history that moves from Anne Bradstreet’s *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up* (1650) to Annie Proulx’s *Fine Just the Way It Is* (2008). It is a fascinating journey to move from the introduction and legitimization of Bradstreet’s book by prominent men to Proulx’s appropriation and transformation of the genre most closely associated with male authors, stories about the American West. She does a masterful job exposing the intersection between history, politics, social movements and developments in literature by women, charting progress from an early imitation of the dominant (male) traditions and acceptance of a role of subservience and dependence (a phase she calls “feminine” in an earlier book), to a time of protest and advocacy of independence (“feminist” stage), to a period of self discovery and a search for identity (“female” stage), to finally a period in which women writers are “free” to write about all subjects and in all forms (p. xvii). With such technical distinctions I don’t want to suggest that this is an arid academic tome. It teems with life and language and struggle and true progress. But Showalter has no illusions that we have evolved into a utopia in which women writers are equally accepted and judged and read by the same standards that men are. There are still inequities and work must still be done.

In an article in *The New Republic* entitled “The READ: Franzen Fallout” (September 7, 2010), author Ruth Franklin cites a *Double X* study that surveyed *New York Times* reviews from June 29, 2008 to August 27, 2010. They show that 545 works of fiction were reviewed, of which 338 (or 62%) were written by men. During that period 101 were reviewed in both the daily NYT and the Sunday *Book Review*, 72 of them by men – an even higher percentage. Scientifically, conclusions based on these data are incomplete and suspect, since this study apparently does not cite the percentage of male vs. female authors of published fiction during the same period. But Ms. Franklin advances her suspicion that women probably write more fiction than men, which would make the disparity even more remarkable. It is a provocative article. The bias against women seems apparent, although the nature of the bias is somewhat more complex than that, of course.

As of the third week of February 2011, the AWC has a total of 742 members. 498 are women – a little more than 67%. I have no complete records of who has published what among our members, if they were reviewed, what their sales records were, and similar information. However, I’d like to believe that we are doing all we can to reverse the type of statistics reflected in the NYT. I hope we are providing a safe and encouraging place for women to write and publish and sell their best work, as we do for all our members, including those who may be a part of historical minorities, emerging populations and other marginalized groups. If you want to write, you have a place with us. And that commitment is something we can all celebrate this month – as men and women, writers together.
FULL HOUSE

PATTI SPEAKS

Scenes
From
February
Meeting

LYNDA & LEE

FALL CONTEST WINNERS

PATTI SIGNS

PUBLISHING PANEL
David Fulmer's PITCH WORKSHOP: March 5

David Fulmer, award-winning mystery author and educator on the craft and business of writing, is bringing back his Pitch Workshop, just as the economy recovers and publishers are loosening their purse strings again.

The three-hour workshop covers creating synopses, treatments, cover letters, and book proposals for fiction and non-fiction books and the essential strategies for using them to approach agents and editors.

For those who are not participating in the May 21 Atlanta Writers Conference, with face-to-face interactions with agents, this is an excellent workshop for perfecting your written pitch to agents and publishers.

**Date & Time**
Saturday, March 5th from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Location**
Java Vino (in their Wine Cellar) in Virginia-Highlands: 579 N Highland Ave., Atlanta

**Cost**
The $79 cost includes lunch or a dessert from Java Vino (wine not included) and a copy of one of David's paperbacks. Signed, of course.

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DeKalb County Library Fundraiser: March 12

The DeKalb County Library will host "A Mysterious Evening," on March 12 with Honorary Chairperson Karin Slaughter and her special guests Kathryn Stockett and Mary Kay Andrews, to raise funds for the DeKalb County Library.

**Date & Time**
March 12, 7:00 -10:30 p.m.

**Location**
Decatur Library 215 Sycamore Street Decatur, GA 30030

**Donation**
$65.00, to benefit the DeKalb County Library
We return, thankfully, to the Building NC auditorium at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody, for our March 19 meeting, when we’ll host a non-fiction writer and an AWC panel of authors who are using technology to build an audience.

1:45-2:30 p.m.

Dr. Lawrence Jackson is Professor of English and African American Studies at Emory University, where he specializes in African American literature and literary history. Dr. Jackson earned his doctorate at Stanford University in English and American literature in 1997; he also holds a master’s degree from Ohio State University, and he completed his undergraduate work at Wesleyan University.


On March 19, Dr. Jackson will discuss the use of archives and secondary sources in historical writing and “life writing” (biography/memoir). In addition, he will talk about Ellison and two current projects, a biography of Chester Himes and a biography of his great grandfather. He also will comment on his experiences with publishers, agents, and the business of writing.

3:00-3:45 p.m.

A panel of published AWC members--Linda Sands, Casi McLean and Mark All--will discuss “Using Technology to Build an Audience.”

Mark All is the author of the urban fantasy *Mystic Witch, which* was published in trade paperback and eBook formats by ImaJinn Books in 2010. Mark contributed to the anthology *Computer Legends, Lies & Lore*, has won two international writing awards, and taught a writing class at the Spruill Center for the Arts. His website offers reviews of current books and films as well as writing tips: [www.markallauthor.com](http://www.markallauthor.com).

Casi McLean’s first book, the memoir *Wingless Butterfly: Confessions of a Recovering Jerk-Magnet*, will be published this spring. Casi uses a blog, [http://jerk-magnet.com](http://jerk-magnet.com), to build her audience along with video interviews posted on her blog, YouTube, and elsewhere. Her video producer also will be on hand on March 19 to explain the process of recording and posting. Casi’s website is [www.casi-mclean.com](http://www.casi-mclean.com).

Linda Sands is the founder and editor of *scratch*, a monthly writing contest and anthology. Her award-winning short stories and essays have been published in print and electronic media. She also offers the writing retreat “Write by the Water” four times each year. Linda is a devoted blogger and user of social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Her website is [http://linda-sands.com](http://linda-sands.com).
Peersless Bookstore opens March 13

George Scott, formerly of Chapter 11 Bookstore and Eagle Eye Book Shop, is opening his own place--Peerless Bookstore--in Alpharetta in March. The AWC is providing the food and drink to welcome author-duo Jefferson Bass. Jefferson Bass is the writing team of Dr. Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson. Dr. Bass, a world-renowned forensic anthropologist, founded the University of Tennessee's Anthropology Research Facility--the Body Farm--a quarter-century ago. He is the author or coauthor of more than two hundred scientific publications, as well as a critically acclaimed memoir about his career, Death's Acre. Dr. Bass is also a dedicated teacher, honored as National Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Jefferson is a veteran journalist, writer, and documentary filmmaker. His writings have been published in the New York Times, Newsweek, USA Today, and Popular Science and broadcast on National Public Radio. The coauthor of Death's Acre, he is also the writer and producer of two highly rated National Geographic documentaries about the Body Farm. For more details about these authors, go to www.jeffersonbass.com.

Come out for a book signing and to hear the author-duo talk about the craft and business of writing!

**Date & Time**
March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

**Location**
Peerless Bookstore
8465 Holcomb Bridge Road, Alpharetta
(404) 451-7112

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
An Evening with Suzanne Brockmann

Gwinnett County Public Library and Ballantine Bantam Dell Publishing Company present an evening with New York Times bestselling author Suzanne Brockmann

Duluth, GA – Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 7pm

Suzanne Brockmann is the bestselling author of fifty books, and is widely recognized as one of the leading voices in romantic suspense. Her work has earned her repeated appearances on the USA Today and New York Times bestseller lists, as well as numerous awards. Her books have been chosen three times for the Romance Writers of America's #1 Favorite Book of the Year Award. She was awarded two RITA Awards, and many Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Awards.

This event takes place at and in partnership with Parc at Duluth, 3315 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Duluth, GA 30096. It is free and open to the public but reservations are required and seating is limited.

To reserve a seat email: events@gwinnettpl.org Books will be available for sale and signing. Complimentary Shuttle Parking is available, look for signage at main entrance.

For more information, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770.978.5154.
Writers will learn to hone their skills and expand their markets at the next Blue Ridge Writers’ Conference. The conference will return this year with agent Sally McMillan as keynote speaker. Other featured speakers will be Robert Brewer, editor of Writers’ Market and Poet’s Market; Scott Owens, editor of the online journal Wild Goose Review, and Hope Clark, editor of the website Funds for Writers.

The conference will be held April 2, 2011, at the Art Center in Blue Ridge, GA. A reception on Friday, April 1, will be open to the public, and will feature a book fair where many local authors will have books available for sale.

We hope you will join us in welcoming back this 13 year old Art Center tradition.

For registration information, call 706-632-2144. www.blueridgewritersconference.com

Application on line.

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**Winners of the AWC Fall 2010 Writing Contest**

**Serious Poetry:**

1st – Gelia Dolcimascolo, “Breakthrough”

2nd – Susan Crawford, “Fissures”

3rd – Jef Blocker, “Rejuvenation”

**Article:**

1st – Walter Lawrence, “The Wildcat and That Indian Woman”

2nd – Evan Guilford-Blake, “How I Learned to Stop Smoking in 15 Minutes (At a Time)”

3rd – Mary Stripling, “Zennie Takes the Wednesday Wheel”

**Juvenile Fiction:**

1st – Sandra Havriluk, “The Secret of Elijah”

2nd – Jef Blocker, “April and June”

3rd – Walter Lawrence, “Prince of Cheap”

**Short Story:**

1st – Josh Green, “Blood Allies”

2nd – Libby Ware, “Dog Love”

3rd – Ralph Ellis, “Someday You’ll Thank Me”
Announcing Doe Branch Ink

Doe Branch Ink is a writers’ retreat located on 50 acres in the heart of the Blue Ridge mountains just 30 miles north of Asheville in historic Madison County, North Carolina. We offer writers experiences of several kinds: in the late spring and early fall, we organize facilitated writing experiences for 8 to 10 guests with successful writers-in-residence who are also proven teachers. Writers of all levels are welcome. At other times of the year, our guest house is available to rent for individual writers or writers groups, both short and long-term.

Advisory Board: Judy Dearlove, Jill McCormick, Ariel Dorfman, Clyde Edgerton, David Gessner, Michael Malone, Ron Rash


www.doebranchink.org  ·  doebranchink@gmail.com  ·  919-490-1558

Comments from Our Inaugural Fall Workshop

“Fresh from a week at the Doe Branch writing retreat, I have new energy and greater confidence about my writing. Away from work, life chores, and all the excuses I come up with for not writing, this time away was just what I needed.” *** “I have had a great time at Doe Branch too, great company, lovely mountain scenery and walks, and fabulous food and care taking. I’d call this the deluxe plus workshop!” *** “This was my first writing retreat ever -- now I’m utterly spoiled. To have such a debut for Doe Branch, with no false notes? Kudos!” *** “Thank you for your vision and for the opportunity to be among the first to experience it.”
About My Mother Writing Competition

AWARDS

First Place
- Publication by Aberdeen Bay in Amazon Kindle format. First place story will be specially placed with those of 10 finalists.
- A flower bouquet and one $50 gift certificate to author’s designated mother who resides within continental US (both to be delivered on or before Mother’s Day).
- Aberdeen Bay Digital Certificate recognizing author’s outstanding accomplishment.

Second through Tenth Place
- Publication by Aberdeen Bay in Amazon Kindle format along with winner’s story and those of other finalists.
- Aberdeen Bay Digital Certificate recognizing author’s outstanding accomplishment.

RULES
- Contest is open to United States residents only.
- Author must be at least 18 of age on February 1, 2011.
- Contest opens February 7 and ends at midnight on April 10, 2011. All submissions must be received by the end date. Publisher’s computer clock governs stamp time.
- Manuscripts are limited to 2,500 words maximum. Manuscripts exceeding this word count will be disqualified.
- Winner and finalists will be announced on May 3, 2011. Emails will be sent to winner and finalists. The contest results will be available at the Aberdeen Bay website.

ENTRY
- Complete your cover page by filling out the contest entry form. Please send your printed author bio, cover page, and your original and previously unpublished story (with word count) to the following address:

Aberdeen Bay Publishing
2711 Azalea Drive
San Diego, CA 92106

Further details and link to the cover page template can be found at:
http://www.aberdeenbay.com/contest_front.aspx
Spring Book Show 2011 Seminars in Atlanta might be just the ticket!

The Southern Review of Books has once again organized an outstanding faculty that will inspire and inform you. This year, we’re offering two one-day comprehensive seminars featuring 10 experts on the book business. Both seminars will be held in classrooms at the Cobb Galleria Centre just off Interstate 285 in North Atlanta (Cobb County). Attend either or both, and you get free admission to the Spring Book Show, a $75 value.

Theme of the first seminar, to be held Friday, March 25, is "Authorship 101: How To Become a Successful Author - The Basics." Instructors include Jennie Helderman, author of three books, "Tips on writing nonfiction for publication"; Rebecca Burns, former editor, Atlanta magazine, "Writing History: There's Gold in Material Right in Your Back Yard"; Rob Jenkins, nationally known columnist and professor of English, Georgia Perimeter College, "Write What You Know for Pleasure and Dough"; Ahmad Meradji, CEO, Booklogix Publishing Services and Apex Book Manufacturing, "Is Self-Publishing for You? What You Need to Know to Publish Your Book"; Peter Bowerman, author of the four award-winning “Well-Fed” titles on making a living as a writer, author and publisher, "The Well-Fed Self-Publisher: How to Turn One Book into a Full-Time Living"; Blane Bachelor, journalist, nationally syndicated columnist, author, "10 Pitfalls to Avoid on Your Way to Being Published"; Angela K. Durden, author of children’s books, editor of a new anthology of business essays, publisher, businesswoman. She will ask participants to discuss their unpublished works for critique; and Echo Garrett, award-winning journalist with Sam Bracken, "Finding Your Voice: Writing Inspirational Biography."

For details, a full schedule of the presentations, background on speakers and registration information, please click on: Authorship 101 Seminar

Saturday, March 26, is the date for the one-day seminar "How To Become a Successful Author - Getting Down to Business." Instructors include: Man Martin, award-winning novelist and comic strip artist, "Self-Promotion 101"; Prudy Taylor Board, author of 22 books, "Writing and Selling Your First Novel"; Lynda Fitzgerald, a multi-genre author, "Developing Characterization and Writing Dialogue in the Novel Genre"; Patricia Patterson, author of Uncertain Choices and many short stories, essays and poetry, "On the Importance of Networking"; Eric and Robin Gagnon, "Have Expertise? Get Published! How to Pitch and Publish your Non-fiction Book"; Mara Shalhoup, editor, Creative Loafing, "Stranger than Fiction: True Stories that Read Like Novels"; Valerie Connelly, publisher, Nightengale Media LLC, "So, You've Written and Published a Book. Now What?"; and Haywood Smith, award-winning historical fiction novelist, "How to Create Characters That Jump Off the Page."

For details on curriculum, background on speakers and registration information, please click on: Authorship 201 Seminar
2011 Spring Writing Contest

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

DEADLINE:
April 16, 2011. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:
Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at July, 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>Memoir</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash Fiction</td>
<td>1000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Poetry</td>
<td>20 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 nedra.roberts@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
   Title of Entry
   Word Count (Line Count for poetry)
   Named the document: SSF-Title.doc

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 Spring Contest
Your name, phone number, category, title

Example:

Dear Nedra,
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.

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New shop in Lilburn, Georgia features art, antiques and writer's guild. Looking for authors who would like to have a book signing or teach a small writing group. Events every Saturday include book signings, art openings and live music. We are scheduling out to June now. If you'd like more information contact Barbara Barth, The Little Shop Of Arts And Antiques, Lilburn, Georgia at 404-326-7306.

Visit the shop's web and link to the blog which shows the past book signings and future events. http://thelittleshopofartsandantiques.com/.
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/.
Writing Children’s Books: 8 Week Workshop

Do You Have a Children’s Book in You?

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!
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.

April 16, 2011
1:45-3:00 Bestselling author Bernice McFadden discusses her writing journey and which authors inspire her.
3:00-3:45 Publishing on the Kindle for Free and Getting Your Work on Amazon: author Kristi Weldon and AWC member Ben Roberson.
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.

(All venues subject to change.)
From the Tip of My Pen

Fran Stewart
Author, Editor, & Speaker

Blondie and Popeye – Giving Life to Minor Characters

You’ve let us know that your protagonist is compassionate or bull-headed, reserved or impulsive, wise or confused. I’d be willing to bet that your readers will be more interested in an impulsive, bull-headed, confused person that in the opposite; there’s more of a story when people strain the limits. Who wants to read about folks who are simply good all the time? Who can possibly feel a connection to someone who never makes a mistake?

So, let’s say you have your cranky, mixed-up main character all lined up. What do you do with the walk-ons, the minor characters who people your fictional town? You’d better make them distinctive, for that’s the only way your readers will

a. keep them straight,

b. stay involved the story, and

c. believe they’re real.

Let’s have your main guy, we’ll call him Mike, eating in a restaurant, where—unbeknownst to him—his waiter, George, will turn out eventually to be the hinge on which the mystery revolves. If the waiter comes in at Chapter 2, disappears for most of the book, and shows up again near the end, you’d better have given him an easily-recognizable persona. Otherwise, your readers will think you pulled a fast one out of magic-hat-land. Mike could be disgruntled because his waiter looks like Popeye—Is he gonna make me eat some spinach with my steak sandwich? That way, when Mike remembers Popeye in Chapter 39, readers will know precisely who he’s talking about and won’t have to look back through the book to figure out where George came from. (Did you have to look back at the beginning of this paragraph to see where I got the name George?)

Mike’s cousin Marie might look like Blondie, or the Hulk, or Mick Jagger. Two men attacking Mike in a dark alley could be Mutt and Jeff. The good cop/bad cop routine may be carried out by Carmichael and Davidson, but Mike’s going to call them Twinkletoes and Lurch. Get the idea?

The fun part of this is doing research at the mall or the movies or even church. Collect faces, give them outrageous nicknames, and stick them in your next book. I can’t wait to meet your Mussolini, Raggedy Ann, and Yogi Bear.

Fran works as a freelance editor by day and writes mysteries all the rest of the time, except when she’s knitting or singing or playing with her grandkids or learning about beekeeping. Her blog is www.beeskneesbeekeeping.blogspot.com. Fran’s mysteries are now available as eBooks.
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.

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.

A 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.

A 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 ricky-jacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list.

A 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 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.

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.

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 rebeecaewing@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 Schmanski 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. 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
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 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 online 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.