Next meeting: April 16 at Perimeter College NC-1100 auditorium.

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.

6:30-8:30 Dinner with Bernice McFadden at Capozzi's in Decatur - details to follow.
...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
I suspect I am not alone when I confess that I love libraries. Borges creatively explored the possibility in his short story “The Library of Babel,” but it was Einstein who believed that Paradise would simply be a cosmic, eternal library (with no closing time or overdue fines, I presume). I share his hope. I love the monastic stillness of libraries, the rare tranquility in a frenetic world where study is possible and encouraged. I love the sight of row after row of books of all shapes and sizes. I love the smell of aging paper and binding and ink. I love the ability to access vast amounts of information and answer almost every conceivable question with the resources housed in libraries. I love what libraries represent – the accumulated knowledge of millennia of human progress and civilization. I love the social function of libraries as they serve a vital role in educating citizens and sustaining cultures. And I have absolutely no doubt that life would be dismal without them.

Needless to say, my affection for leather bound volumes and sliding ladders on floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and old globes and wood paneled reading rooms is romantic and a bit anachronistic. In the twenty-first century a library can refer to any accessible collection of information and has been used to refer to everything from the entirety of DNA in a genome to electronic archives of countless bits of retrievable data. We are a world away from the temple collections of cuneiform writing on clay tablets in ancient Sumer, the first evidence of the existence of libraries. Our form of preservation is different. Our subject matter is different. Our languages are different. But there is one important similarity between 3000 BC Sumer and 21st century modernity: we both believe that knowledge is worth preserving. And it is precisely this agreement that I want to highlight this month.

On April 9 in 1833 something remarkable in the history of libraries occurred. In Peterborough, New Hampshire, the first public library opened. Of course libraries were not a new invention in the nineteenth century. A venerable heritage of collecting knowledge in central locations was passed from the Sumerians through the cultures of the ancient world through the centuries to the present day. Scribal communities, temples, spas, monasteries, universities, private homes, and public collections all supported and preserved libraries at different times. What made the organization founded by the good people of Peterborough unique was that this was the first time that a library was publicly owned and sustained by tax revenue. It was open to everyone who wanted access to the collection, not just scholars or monks or gentlemen or stockholders or private members. Anyone could check out a book. All they needed was a thirst for knowledge. Finally, what made this such a remarkable venture was that there was a range of materials available, both popular and scholarly. This was not the private collection of a physician or clergyman, or an archive of rare volumes that was preserved precisely because it was kept out of the hands of the common reader. This was an intellectual feast where you could read novels or the latest newspaper or pore over maps or puzzle through philosophical treatises or indulge your curiosity about the birds and plants and animals that populated your corner of the world. It was a truly democratic enterprise. There was no bourgeoisie vs. proletariat, no noble vs. commoner, no social or economic distinction; there were only Readers. And for those who couldn’t read, the

(Continued on page 4)
emergence of public libraries paralleled and encouraged improvements in public education. It is a stellar and essential chapter in the sweep of human history.

As a writer or a committed reader, this should not surprise you. It would be a waste of space to try and convince you of the critical importance of libraries for our development and survival as a species. Most of you are no stranger to their benefits. You might regularly do your research in libraries, or check out the latest best sellers there, or just read in the blessed silence of the periodicals room. In fact, you might even be reading this newsletter on a library computer terminal. Regardless of your level of commitment to your local library, I would offer these suggestions for your consideration during this auspicious month:

a. If the last time you were in a library was when you were a student, GET THEE TO A LIBRARY IMMEDIATELY.

b. If you don’t have a library card, apply for one today. It’s free and opens a whole universe of opportunities for personal growth, intellectual development, and connection to the wider world.

c. Take advantage of the resources offered by your library: the books, videos, periodicals, lectures, exhibits, and programs that are available for little or no cost.

d. Join a Friends of the Library organization in your community.

e. Donate your old books to the local library.

f. If you are an author, consider libraries as viable venues for the promotion of your books.

g. Stop and thank a librarian for his or her labors to safeguard and perpetuate knowledge.

h. Offer your time and energy to the local library as a volunteer. Consider being a benefactor of the library system.

Of course many of you are vastly more creative than I am and can imagine many other ways to invest in libraries, but this should at least get you started. I recognize that it is often easier and more efficient to go online to look up something, scanning texts and data streams with the click of a mouse. But this month, I offer a plea for libraries. They are a jewel of civilization and for those of us who deeply love words and books and language, it is only right that we take a moment to consider how we can contribute to their preservation. Instead of the foolishness of the first of the month, ponder the wisdom of the ninth and make a conscious effort to do your part to see that libraries are a legacy that will not die with our generation. For if we don’t, we only insure that ignorance will prevail.
Speaker Profiles for April 16, 2011 Meeting
by George Weinstein, VP and Program Chair

From the Building NC auditorium at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody we’ll host an award-winning literary star who will talk about her influences and the author of a guide to publishing your work for free on the Amazon Kindle e-book.

1:45-2:30 p.m. Talk & 6:30 p.m. Dinner with the Author

Bernice McFadden is a true Brooklyn-ite, growing up and currently residing in that quintessential New York borough. In 1997, Bernice quit her job in corporate America and dedicated seven months to re-writing the novel that would become *Sugar*. In February 1999, after nearly ten years, four drafts, and 73 rejection letters, *Sugar* was finally acquired by Dutton Publishers. It remains in print today. Now she is the author of seven novels, including her most recent work--the award-winning *Glorious*--and *Nowhere Is a Place*. *Glorious* was selected as the debut novel for the One Book, One Harlem Program in 2010; the *New York Times Book Review* highlighted it; and *O Magazine* named it as a “Book to Watch.” For fun and profit, Bernice also writes racy, humorous novels using the penname Geneva Holliday. Read more about Bernice at [www.bernicemcfadden.com](http://www.bernicemcfadden.com).

On April 16 at 1:45, Bernice will speak about her writing journey, artistic process, and influences and answer your questions about her work and the art and business of writing. At 6:30 that evening, the AWC will host a dinner for Bernice McFadden at Capozzi’s in Decatur for current club members. Seating is limited to 30, so please reserve you place at the table by emailing AWC Social Director Cindy Wiedenbeck at CindyAcworth@AOL.com. The only cost to members is the price of your meal with gratuity.

3:00-3:45 p.m.

Kristi Weldon has been writing nonfiction for over 15 years, focusing on copywriting, documentation, and presentations. She reports that in every writing class, seminar, club, and group that she’d attended in recent years, someone invariably asked, "How do I publish my book on Kindle?" No one had an accurate answer, so she researched this and produced *Your Book on Kindle*, which can be purchased and downloaded from her site [www.yourbookonkindle.com](http://www.yourbookonkindle.com). This instruction manual teaches how to publish--at no cost other than your time--as many Kindle books as you want, how to set up your account, how to upload your books and their covers, understanding the rights and royalties clauses from Amazon, setting the price of your e-books, and much more.

On April 16 at 3:00 p.m., Kristi reveals many of these secrets and answers all your questions about how to take advantage of this sea-change in publishing: the rise of e-books. Take control of your publishing destiny and the profits you deserve for your work!
Helderman’s book sweeps Reader Views Literary Awards

AWC author Jennie Helderman’s book *AS THE SYCAMORE GROWS* has swept the prestigious Reader Views Literary Awards, including top honors in its Humanities, Memoir & Biography categories and first place honors in the RVLA’s southeast Regional Awards category, covering such states as KY, NC, SC, GA, FL, and AL. The book also received the top award from book marketing firm Pump Up Your Book for a package of services.

RVLA are given annually to authors of books published in English by small or university presses and independent book publishers and targeted for the North American market. Criteria for judging are content/originality, presentation/design, innovation, social relevance, production quality, enjoyment/impact, plot/story line, and resourcefulness.

Several top U.S. book reviewers are raving about *AS THE SYCAMORE GROWS*, the true story of one woman's escape from isolation and abuse in a cabin behind a padlocked gate and the Bible-toting, pistol-packing man who admits the abuse and would do it all over again.

As The Sycamore Grows
Published by Summers Bridgewater Press (October 2010)
Available at amazon.com, borders.com, barnesandnoble.com, booksamillion.com, jenniehelderman.com, asthesycamoregrows.com and various bookstores

Snipes announces the publication of his most recent book

AWC author Eddie Snipes announces the publication of his most recent book: “Tralena Walker and Tom Webster spoke and performed at AWC in September 2009. They worked with [me] to transform their song into a book. This will be launched on April 12th of this year. *I Called Him Dancer* will be available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and various retailers.

“*I Called Him Dancer* is about how one woman’s enduring faith and unconditional love drives her to reach out to a homeless man.”
Adam Newman once had it all. But then he lost it.

Now Adam yearns to reunite with his estranged wife, Evelyn, and recapture the Edenic life they once had running Paradise Dogs, the roadside hot-dog restaurant now legendary throughout central Florida.

He has a few obstacles along the way. For starters, there’s his impending marriage to Lily. There’s also the matter of a quarter million dollars’ worth of diamonds that he mislaid, along with what appears to be a shadowy conspiracy that is buying up land around the Cross-Florida Canal (and which may or may not be a product of Adam’s alcohol-infused imagination).

Despite his own troubles---and a brief stay in Chattahoochie---Adam looks to mentor his son, Addison, in the ways of love. Awkward, unsure, and employed as the world’s least accurate obituary writer, Addison pines for a beautiful and painfully earnest linguistic student but must compete for her attention with his older and more sophisticated half brother from Evelyn’s first marriage.

But if anybody can set these worlds in order, it is Adam, who has an uncanny knack for being in the right place at the right time and allowing others to believe he’s someone he’s not. Whether it’s delivering a baby, rescuing a marriage, or exposing a Communist conspiracy, our protagonist is up for the job. Paradise Dogs, from Georgia Author of the Year Award winner Man Martin, is a farcical tale of paradise lost, the American Dream, and the true measures of love.

“A generous, wry, and endlessly sweet novel, one that swept me out of a gloomy, blue day and into Man Martin’s surreal and hilarious take on pre-Disney Florida.” --Lauren Groff, author of The Monsters of Templeton

Look for Paradise Dogs, June 2011 from Thomas Dunne Books
Georgia Writers Association Author of the Year 2008
Visit http://manmartin.blogspot.com/ and manmartin.net

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
Free Seminar April 16
AWC Member, author and editor Fran Stewart will be teaching a free seminar at the Booklogix Publishing Services, Inc. offices in Alpharetta (1264 Old Alpharetta Road, Alpharetta, GA 30005) on Saturday, April 16.

Writer's Block: Is it a Myth?
Registration: 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Session: 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Whether or not we believe in the concept of writer's block, there are times when most of us stare unproductively at the paper or the computer screen. Knowing how to get through such times is necessary to any writer. During this interactive workshop, you'll learn:
- What writer's block is, and what it isn't
- Specific techniques and exercises to overcome those blocks
- How to recognize and counteract the five patterns of failure
- Six patterns for success

To register for this seminar, please call (770) 346-9979
Open call for submissions to the Young Writers Anthology!

VerbalEyze Publications is producing a special online edition of the Young Writers Anthology. We are looking for bright, young voices to speak out against teen violence and bullying and speak up for peace. We are accepting submissions from writers between the ages of 15 and 22 in any of the following genres:

- poetry,
- short story,
- creative non-fiction,
- songwriting,
- playwriting,
- graphic novel

Submissions can take the form of written work, audio recordings, and videos. Send your work to submissions@verbaleyze.org by May 27th. Selected submissions will be featured in the upcoming online edition of Young Writers Anthology. Click here for additional details.

Words are power. Words are life. Words make worlds. So bring forth words full of passion, purpose and love!

www.verbaleyze.org
Silverland Press’s First Annual Writing Contest

Want to be published? Want to get paid for your writing? We invite you to enter your short story in Silverland Press’s First Annual Writing Contest. The entries of ten lucky winners will be included in an anthology and published.

Silverland Press is looking for original fiction that is intended for a young adult audience. We are especially interested in stories involving aspects of the paranormal or urban fantasy (for example, see the work of Jim Butcher or Kim Harrison).

Entries should be between 3,000 and 8,000 words.

We look forward to reading your entry!

There is no entry fee for this contest.

All entries must be submitted by midnight, May 31, 2011.

How To Enter the First Annual Silverland Press Writing Contest:

1. Make sure your short story is between 3,000 and 8,000 words, that it is intended for a young adult audience and that it includes a paranormal or urban fantasy theme (see the work of Jim Butcher or Kim Harrison).

2. Although stories may contain sexual themes, care must be taken to ensure that the story is suitable for a young adult audience.

3. Include, at the beginning of the story, the following information:
   - Your first and last name.
   - Your email address
   - The city you live in, the state/province and country.
   - A phone number at which you could be contacted.
   - How did you hear about this contest?

4. All entries must be previously unpublished and written in English.

5. The individual who submits an entry must hold the copyright for that entry. Original work only, please.

6. All entrants must be 18 years old or order.

7. Up to two stories may be submitted.

8. No simultaneous submissions are allowed.

9. The results of the contest will be mailed out to everyone who entered on or before July 1, 2011.

Visit the website for details: http://www.silverlandpress.com/
ODYSSEY WRITING WORKSHOP
ANNOUNCES ITS 16th SUMMER SESSION

Since its founding in 1996, Odyssey has become one of the most respected workshops in the science fiction, fantasy, and horror writing community. Odyssey is for developing writers whose work is approaching publication quality and for published writers who want to improve their work. The six-week workshop combines advanced lectures, exercises, extensive writing, and in-depth feedback on student manuscripts. Top authors, editors, and agents have served as guest lecturers, including George R. R. Martin, Harlan Ellison, Jane Yolen, Terry Brooks, Robert J. Sawyer, Ben Bova, Nancy Kress, Elizabeth Hand, Jeff VanderMeer, Donald Maass, Sheila Williams, Shawna McCarthy, Carrie Vaughn, and Dan Simmons.

Held every summer at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH, this six-week program runs from June 6 to July 15, 2011. Class meets for four hours in the morning, five days a week. Students spend about eight hours more per day writing and critiquing each other's work. Prospective students, aged eighteen and up, apply from all over the world. The admission deadline is APRIL 8. Tuition is $1900, and housing is $775 for a double room and $1550 for a single.

The Odyssey Web site, www.odysseyworkshop.org, offers many resources for writers, including online classes, a critique service, free podcasts, writing and publishing tips, and a weekly writing LiveJournal, as well as more information about how to apply. Those interested in applying to the workshop should visit the Web site, phone (603) 673-6234, or e-mail jcavelos@sff.net.
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.

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
**Scribblers’ Retreat Writers’ Conference**

*St. Simons Island, GA*

May 12-14

**Phillip Margolin,** *New York Times* bestselling author "How to Write a Novel in Your Spare Time." Phil will show you how to go from your idea, to actually beginning your book, and how to work it out all the way through to the end.

**June Hall McCash** – "Writing Historical Fiction"

**Victor DiGenti** – "Revving Up Your Narrative Drive"

**Anna Silver** - "Writing Poetry: The Enchanted Craft"

**Denise Tompkins** – "Effective Query Letter Writing"

**Ricki Schultz** – "Online Presence-Building, Made Easy"

**Jane Wood** - "Schools, A Niche Market"

**Pat Bertram** – "Creating Incredible, but Credible, Characters"

**Chuck Barrett** - "Who’s Point of View is It Anyway? How Not to Confuse Your Reader”

Please Register today, as seating is limited!

[www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.org](http://www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.org)

800-996-2904

King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort

[www.kingandprince.com](http://www.kingandprince.com)

620 Arnold Rd. St. Simons Island

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AWC member Shane Etter's first novel, *Bottom Dwellers*, is being released on April 7th by Black Rose Writing in trade paperback. It’s a supernatural thriller about mutant green people living on the bottom of Lake Lanier. Shane is doing a book signing at Peerless Bookstore ([www.peerlessbookstore.com](http://www.peerlessbookstore.com)) in Alpharetta on April 28th at 7:00 p.m. and would love AWC members to come out in support of George Scott’s new store and him as well.
You are Invited to Attend...the 2nd Annual Northwest Georgia Valley Writers Conference May 6 & 7 at the Harris Arts Center
212 South Wall Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
www.harrisartscenter.com

This Year's Keynote Speaker is...Jackie Lee Miles

OPTION ONE / For Writers: Pre-Registration at the Harris Arts Center or by Phone (706-629-2599) is highly encouraged as there will be limited registration on the day of the event. $50 for the conference / price does not include meals.

OPTION TWO / For Readers: There is no charge to attend end-of-day events on Saturday. Join us at 5:45PM for a panel discussion on "The Writer's Life" then stay for book sales and signing at 6:15PM Those attending ONLY the "readers" portion of the event do NOT need to register and admission is free.

Friday Night: New this Year—Bonus workshop!

7:00 PM Enjoy dinner with several authors & workshop leaders at the Velo Vineyard in Downtown Calhoun while you participate in the workshop, "What a Publisher Wants From You" with Publisher Tony Burton of Wolfmont Press.

If you are joining us for dinner, please check the box on your registration form, as we will need a headcount. ($15 buffet dinner is not included in price of conference)

SATURDAY: Main Event

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Check in at the Registration Desk / Authors available for book signing & sales
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Introduction & Welcome with Literary Chair, Gray Bridges
9:15 AM - 10:45 AM Five Things that Make a Good Story Great, with Keynote Speaker, Jackie Lee Miles
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Workshop A: Recipes for Success; A complete Guide to Writing Cookbooks Food Blogs, Reviews & More, with Aletia DuPree (OR) Workshop B: Writing Through Grief with Jessica Handler
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Break for Lunch (cost of lunch not included)
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM Panel Discussion: How the Face of Publishing Has Changed
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM Workshop A: Writing and Publishing for Children & Young Adults with Donny Seagraves (OR) Workshop B: Writing Historical Fiction; Imagine the Facts with Amanda Gable
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Workshop A: Polish; Making your Writing Shine with Barbara Tucker (OR) Workshop B: Stress-Free Marketing for Newly Published Authors with Renea Winchester
5:45 PM - 6:15 PM Panel Discussion: Living the Writer’s Life
6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Authors Available for books signing & sale
7:45 PM Conference Attendees are invited to join some of our authors & workshop leaders for dinner at Ruby Tuesday’s on Hwy 53 by 1-75
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/](http://thelittleshopofartsandantiques.com/)
ZONA ROSA WRITERS’ RETREAT WITH ROSEMARY DANIELL  
IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE  
May 21-28, 2011

Rosemary Daniell, award-winning author, founder of Zona Rosa writing-and-living workshops, and renowned as one of the best writing coaches in the country, will return to the South of France to lead a one-week workshop. We will stay in Aix-en-Provence, the “Paris of the South.”

Aix-en-Provence was founded by the Romans (Aquae Sextiae, named for its hot springs) in 122 BC. It is a city of elegant architecture and fountains, music and culture, an important law center, and a lively student hub. (In 2009 the university celebrated its 600th birthday.) A prestigious summer music festival draws celebrated performers and music lovers from around the world. But Aix is also a city of leisure. Walk along the stately, tree-lined Cours Mirabeau and stop at a sidewalk café to enjoy a coffee and people-watching. Explore the Vieille Ville, the Old City, and marvel in the warm ochre shades of buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries, a period of power and prosperity for the city. Enjoy the sights and scents of the morning outdoor food market, held every day of the year. (Incidentally, Aix is pronounced like the letter X.)

Our schedule consists of afternoon group meetings, with subjects tailored to participants’ needs; individual sessions with Rosemary; and private writing time.

The cost, based on twin occupancy and current rates of exchange, is $1695. Included in the cost: accommodations for the week in a charming small hotel located in a quiet neighborhood, several lunches, a gala dinner, group airport transfers, manuscript critique, and private and group sessions with Rosemary. Single supplement: $325.

Payments: A non-refundable deposit of $350 is due upon application. For an application form, contact Suzan at genet1136@gmail.com. Since space is limited, participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about Rosemary Daniell and Zona Rosa, visit the web site at www.myzonarosa.com.

Air travel: You will fly into and out of Marseille, arriving on Saturday, May 21, and departing on Saturday, May 28. Group transfers will take you from the Marseille airport and back. If you need a travel agent’s assistance for your air travel, you can contact Phyliss Brassey at Explorations Travel in Atlanta (770-432-3247; 800-451-9630; Phyliss@explorationsltd.com). Travel agencies charge fees for their booking services.

Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly advised, and you may purchase it through a travel agency.

Questions? Please contact Suzan at genet1136@gmail.com.
Registration Now Open For Moonlight & Magnolias 2011 Conference – *The Course of True Love*

A weekend of writing sessions designed to smooth out the rough edges of your romance.

**Sponsor:** Georgia Romance Writers

**Dates:** September 29-October 2, 2011

**Location:** Holiday Inn® Decatur Conference Plaza, in historic downtown Decatur, near Atlanta, 130 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030.

**Fee:** GRW members/Media: $189; RWA members: $209; General Registration for nonmembers: $219.

**Agents Attending:**
Laura Bradford, The Bradford Literary Agency
Jessica Faust, BookEnds, LLC
Michelle Grajkowski, 3 Seas Literary Agency, Inc.
Deidre Knight, The Knight Agency, Inc.

**Editors Attending:**
Holly Blanck, St. Martin’s Press
Victoria Curran, Harlequin Enterprises
Leah Hultenschmidt, Sourcebooks, Inc.
Wendy McCurdy, Berkley Group/Penguin
Charlene Patterson, Bethany House Publishers

**Keynote Speaker:** Eloisa James, *NY Times* Bestselling Historical Romance Author and Shakespeare Scholar

**GRW Featured Speaker:** Karen White, *NY Times* Bestselling Southern Literature Author

**Special Craft Speaker:** Leigh Michaels, Craft Workshop

**Conference Features:** 30+Workshops, Maggie Awards, Editor &
Agent appointments, raffles, critiques, literacy book fair.

For more details and to register, visit the conference page http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/mm-conference/ and view editor/agent information, the conference schedule, and reserve your hotel room.

*Register for *The Course of True Love* by May 1, 2011, and receive a guaranteed second editor/agent appointment or publicity for published authors (your name and a screen shot of your newest release in a special section of the conference book).

Questions? Contact Vice President-Conference, Anna Steffl at MMChair@georgiaromancewriters.org.

Georgia Romance Writers (GRW), a chapter of ROMANCE WRITERS OF AMERICA®, is made up of approximately 200 serious, professional writers, nearly one-third of whom are multi-published in book length fiction. A nonprofit organization, GRW is dedicated to bringing quality women’s fiction to the market. GRW was founded in 1982, held its first regional conference the same year, and has grown steadily ever since. But the heart and soul of GRW are its members who reach out to every writer who is dedicated to his or her craft.

**New Poet Series**

Redwood Coast Press publishes first books of poetry. This is for you if you have not yet had a manuscript of your poetry published by a professional press. Our thinking is that it is much easier to get a second book published than it is to get a first out there. We are committed to bringing new poetry into the world. Through to May 31, 2011 we invite submissions for our 2011 list.

Any time from this very instant, through May 31, 2011, we invite you to send, in pdf format, a:

- poetry manuscript of at least 64 pages
  
  You may also send:
  
  - brief biography (25 to 50 words)
  
  - publishing history (list of publications and awards)
  
  - list of work from the collection that has been previously published

Please send submissions to redwoodcoastpresssubmissions@gmail.com

Submissions before May 31, 2011, will be considered for publication in 2011.

We will send you an immediate notification of receipt, and will post the forthcoming book(s) on this webpage before August 30, 2011.

We pride ourselves on honoring aesthetic diversity. Our press publishes work of exceptional skill and craft, and is not tied to any particular school of poetic thought. Create strong work and send it to us. We will read it.

We pay royalties of 10%, enter your poetry book into competitions, and partner with you to publicize the book.

Small Press Distribution carries our books.
April 2, 2011
Part I of Technology Workshop For Writers from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM at Booklogix Publishing Services (1264 Old Alpharetta Road, Alpharetta, 30005).

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

May 14, 2011
Part II of Technology Workshop for Writers at Booklogix Publishing Services. Details to be announced.

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.

July 16, 2011:
Free workshop by author and wellness expert Brenda Stockdale on Writing for Health.

August 20, 2011:
Holly Goddard Jones, author of the collection Girl Trouble, on writing short stories.

September 17, 2011:
Indu Sundaresan, author of the Taj Mahal trilogy and two other novels set in India, discusses writing about history, exotic locations, and intriguing characters.

October 15, 2011:
Women’s National Book Association award-winner, journalist, and author of four novels Masha Hamilton on the importance of encouraging women writers and readers.

November 19, 2011:
Meg Waite Clayton, bestselling novelist, reveals how to catch the eye of editors and agents and how to successfully submit for publication.

December 17, 2011:
Simon & Schuster author Terra Elan McVoy on writing for the young adult audience.

Upcoming workshops, author dinners, and other special events exclusively for current AWC members.

(All venues subject to change.)
Building a Squirrel

There’s a gray squirrel sitting about ten feet above my head, on one of MossFoot’s lowest branches. Yes, you’re right. I do name the trees around my house. He’s been there for at least five minutes, an inordinately long time for a squirrel to sit still. During that time, I’ve been trying to find the words to describe his utter suitability to his environment.

Anyone who’s ever watched a squirrel for any length of time will understand what I’m talking about. That undulating tail, outlined in light fur, perfectly balances his body when he scoots across a lawn or a road. The markings on his fur camouflage him. His incredibly clever front paws manipulate nuts and seeds with precision. His muscled back legs thrust him quickly away from danger, no matter which direction he’s headed—up, down, or sideways. His ability to run straight up a tree trunk leaves me astonished. His assurance is breathtaking as he scurries across the aerial highways we humans so thoughtfully provide for him, thinking that we serve our own electrical needs, woefully unaware of the true purpose of those overhead roads. His acrobatic leaps from one branch to another, and often from one tree to another, would rival the moves of any circus performer.

I like to create characters for my novels that are as well-suited to their pages, moving through the landscapes I’ve created with the verve of a squirrel. I’ve certainly enjoyed enough good books written by master writers over the years that I can recognize a live squirrel when I read one. Anne McCaffrey’s dragons, Dick Francis’ horses, Anne Perry’s servants, James Michener’s archeologists all fit their literary locations as elegantly as my squirrel fits MossFoot.

The trick, of course, is to write the squirrels so the reader’s imagination ignites them into the fire of life. A large part of this task falls to the selection of specific details, interspersed with vivid, dynamic verbs to show the movement (or the lack of it) in that character.

A writer, a book, a reader—those three elements form a magic circle, as long as there are plenty of squirrels.

Fran will present her popular class: Writer’s Block: is it a Myth? in the series of seminars hosted by Booklogix Publishing Services in Alpharetta, Saturday April 16th.

https://www.booklogix.com/April_Free_Seminars.html
Welcome to the Club-Sponsored Critique Groups section of the eQuill newsletter. 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.

Women writers—Jemille Williams has offered to host a critique group for writers of women’s fiction and/or chick lit in her home in historic Roswell. Any women interested please contact Jemille at jemille@bellsouth.net right away.

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.

Onsite Groups

Austell
An all-genre group is looking for a new location to meet. Previously meeting on the first and third Sundays at 6 pm Anyone interested in joining please contact Marjorie Gore at 770-317-4061.

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

Buckhead Novel/Fiction Critique Group meets every other Tuesday evening at 7PM at the Starbucks in Lindbergh Plaza. The group is closed. Contact Patricia at 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
An adult/YA fiction critique group meets every other Tuesday at 6:30 in Decatur. There is one opening at present. If interested, email Ricky Jacobs rickyjacobs@mac.com attaching a brief bio and 5-6 pages of your fiction. When the slot is filled, a waitlist will be created. Please do not contact him without that submission.

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. Write to Ricky Jacobs rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You are asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio. Please do not contact him without that submission.

Two adult/YA fiction groups meet every other Thursday 7 p.m.-9 in Decatur. Both groups are full at present. Write to Ricky Jacobs rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You are asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio. Please do not contact him without that submission.

An adult/YA fiction group meets every other Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 at the Java Monkeys Café in Decatur. The group is full at present. Write to Ricky Jacobs rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You are asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio. Please do not contact him without that submission.

A nonfiction group meets Mondays 6:30 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Contact Emily Strasser at emstrass@gmail.com. A nonfiction group meets Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Email Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net

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

**Redshirt Writers** meet Tuesday afternoons at 3:00pm in the Perimeter Mall area. Writers in all genres with a desire to hone their craft in a supportive and engaged group are welcome. Please email Richard Perreault at perreaultmp@gmail.com with a brief description of your writing experience and a short sample of your writing.

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

**Lawrenceville**
The novel/short story group Fiction Crafters meets every other Thursday 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 10a.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 has openings. Contact Linda Sullivan at lindasullivan3@gmail.com for more information.

**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 giweinstein@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.

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 Ciamara • 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.