June 4: No regular meeting at Perimeter College.

Annual AWC picnic at Hammond Park in Sandy Springs, 1-3 p.m. See p.5 for details.
...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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Officers
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Clay Ramsey
First VP:
George Weinstein
Membership VP:
Terre Spencer
Programs VP:
George Weinstein
Secretary:
Bill Black
Treasurer:
Kimberly Ciamarra
Operations VP:
Valerie Connors
Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP:
Nedra Roberts
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Historian/By-Laws:
Adrian Drost
Photographer:
Jennie Helderma
eQuill Copy Editor:
Gene Bowen
Critique Groups:
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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
A couple of years ago I wrote a column about cobbler’s wax, that commonplace, sticky substance the prolific novelist Anthony Trollope identified as the secret to his success. He said the stuff stuck him to the seat of his writing desk, forcing him to write. It was a nineteenth-century variation of the less delicate BIC (“Butt In Chair”) method of composition. It’s a simple idea – stop talking about and thinking about and reading about writing and start writing. Put in the time. Be persistent. Keep writing. The more you write, the more you produce and the better writer you become. It’s as simple as that - nothing more mystical or profound than just putting one word after another, again and again and again. Not that good writing is easy or mechanical. Writing is a craft and adequate preparation and ongoing study are necessary for improvement, but not at the expense of actually writing: fashioning sentences, shaping dialogue, struggling for clear expression. Get to work, I said. Just do it.

I stand by that advice. Industry, and a ferocious tenacity, will work wonders with your books and your career. I admit I wish I followed this counsel more faithfully, but I recognize the wisdom behind it. However, this month I would encourage you to ignore this guidance, as true and tested as it is. Yep. Push back from your computer, put down your pen, close your notebook.

Rest.

Don’t write a word. Not for the whole month, of course, but for now, do something else entirely. Go for a run. Walk around the neighborhood. Skip through a meadow of daisies. You pick your diversion, as long as it is not something like organizing your short stories by word count and publication date, or reconfiguring your hard drive. Be creative.

Remember when June meant the end of school? When you had a glorious three months of swimming and summer camp and sno-cones and movies ahead of you? I had a summer reading list to go through every year, so there were also weeks and weeks of reading good books, which was fun, too. Sure, there were chores and other responsibilities, but it was essentially a break from the burdens of the school year. It was a time of rest, however active that “rest” might be. That elation, that sense of release you felt as a child at the final school bell is something I’d like you to recover, and not simply remember for a fleeting moment as you are reading this essay. It is an attitude I’d like you to consider incorporating into your writing and into your life.

I want to be clear on this point: work is important, very important. Accomplished, successful writers (and business people and scientists and attorneys) are to a person exceptionally hard workers. They have reached a level of attainment because they have been driven to spend the time getting trained, taking advantage of opportunities and working long hours. This connection between work and achievement has not always been self-evident. You might be familiar with Max Weber’s book *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1905). In it he proposes the novel thesis that the Calvinist ethos of hard work, thrift, delayed gratification, and financial stewardship that
emerged from the Protestant Reformation was the driving force for the emergence of capitalism. In an elegant and persuasive argument, he essentially links time, money, production and moral imperative. Every moment must be utilized to insure the greatest economic production to make the most money. This process is elevated to a supreme ethical necessity and the result, money, is received as a sacred trust, a sign of earthly blessing and eternal salvation, not to be squandered or disregarded.

As members of the most extensive, profitable capitalistic economy on the planet, we are all familiar with the philosophical atmosphere identified by Weber, regardless of our religious background. Our culture demands hard work and abhors idleness in any form. While our economic contribution might be questioned by some, as writers we are not immune from this compulsive drive to be doing something every waking moment – writing, rewriting, editing, making marketing plans, doing book signings, studying, blogging, lecturing, corresponding. Most of us also have full-time jobs and family responsibilities that allow us the privilege of writing. We are busy people. We have to be. We should be. Our society tells us this. We tell ourselves this.

But this month, take a step back from the frenetic activity and breathe. Go on a writer’s retreat if you can. “Retreat” in military terms has a negative connotation, a ceding of ground after tactical failure. But it can be a positive experience: a time to remove yourself from everyday busyness, reflect, renew and be restored. Such a retreat doesn’t have to be a week in the mountains. Perhaps it is a few moments a day in meditation, quietly listening to music, or watching birds from your back deck, or feeding ducks at a nearby lake, or even just staring out the window.

The nineteenth-century fantasy writer George MacDonald wrote, “Work is not always required... there is such a thing as sacred idleness, the cultivation of which is now fearfully neglected.” (Wilfrid Cumbermede-An Autobiographical Story, 1871-2). By “sacred” I don’t want you to think such a time of rest is necessarily one of religious observance. Instead, I want to emphasize the more fundamental meaning of the word; it should be protected, honored, set apart as an essential component of your life, a sheltered garden in a world of incessant activity.

Work hard, by all means. Do what you need to do to reach your goals. But recognize that constant work, without the balance of rest, leads not just to professional success but also to eventual mental, physical and spiritual exhaustion. It didn’t just make Jack a dull boy; it also made him less able to enjoy the fruit of his success as fully and as long when it did come.
AWC Annual Picnic - Saturday, June 4, 2011
1:00pm - 3:00pm at Hammond Park in Sandy Springs

The AWC invites all of its members and their families to join us for a day of great good, friends, and relaxation. The AWC will be providing the burgers and dogs this year, but, as the potluck was such a success last year, we encourage you to dust off your best recipes and contribute a dish to the picnic.

To facilitate the meal, we need everyone who plans on attending to RSVP with the food or supplies they intend to provide (see list below) by sending an e-mail to Cindy Wiedenbeck, AWC Social Director. Please keep in mind that several items on the list (*) need to be delivered by 12:30 p.m., and food items should be on the tables and ready to eat no later than 1:00 pm.

In addition, volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up the picnic. If you wish to be included on the volunteer list, please contact Cindy.

This year, there will be the addition of a 50/50 raffle on the day of the picnic. Each ticket will be $1.00, and one lucky winner will take home half of the ticket earnings (the other half will defray the cost of the picnic). Please remember to bring a few dollars of cash to the picnic, because you have to buy a ticket if you want to win!

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 18. THE PICNIC IS OUR JUNE EVENT!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appetizer or snack</th>
<th>Date: Saturday, June 4th, 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salad</td>
<td>Time: 1:00 to 3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Side dish</td>
<td>Location: Hammond Park Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>705 Hammond Drive at Glenridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casserole</td>
<td>404-252-6310 (office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dessert or fresh fruit</td>
<td><a href="http://allaboutsandysprings.com/">http://allaboutsandysprings.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>24 cans of soft drinks</td>
<td>hammond-park/</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 bottles of water</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 bags of ice (in a large cooler if possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 large ketchup, 1 mustard, 1 relish</td>
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Monarca Press invites authors to submit bilingual manuscripts (in English and Spanish) to its monthly contest, THE INFINITY AWARD IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE. Each monthly winner receives a $1,000 award and publication for a book suitable for K-5. The deadline is the 15th of each month.

Monarca Press has already published two books (issued in March and April), has two others slated for May and June, and are eager to present your work.

Please visit their website—http://www.leerconmigo.com—for contest specs and for information about the award, previous winners and their books, and the Readconmigo program.

The 2011 Aesthetica Creative Works Competition is now open for entries! Aesthetica Magazine is inviting all artists, photographers, writers and poets to submit their work into the Creative Works Competition. Now in its fourth year, the competition is dedicated to celebrating and championing creative talent across the disciplines and welcomes entries from poets and writers working in short fiction!

The Competition has three categories, Artwork & Photography, Poetry and Fiction.

Winners and finalists are published in the Aesthetica Creative Works Annual.

Winners of each category receive £500 prize money (apx. $800) plus other prizes.

Entry to the Creative Works Competition is £10 (apx. $16).

The entry fee allows the submission of 2 images, 2 poems or 2 short stories. The deadline for submissions is the 31st August 2011.

More guidelines on how to submit can be found online at http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm
The 19th Annual Georgia Fine and Collectible Book Fair sponsored by the Georgia Antiquarian Booksellers Associations will be held at The Cobb County Civic Center, Marietta, Georgia this year. Marietta offers visitors the charm of a small town along with a stimulating urban environment. At the heart of the town is a turn-of-the-century square, restaurants, quaint shops, theatre and museums. The Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta, Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060, is conveniently located two miles west of Interstate 75.

SIXTY DEALERS will bring together their rare books, manuscripts, autographs, prints, maps, finely bound volumes and ephemera to make up the fair. With something for everyone, the exhibition and sale includes collections in all specialties, including: Literature, Literature in English Translation, Modern Firsts, Sci-Fi, Hunting & Fishing, History, Military, Law, Music, Dance, Fashion, Children’s Books, Art, Religion and Philosophy.

LEARNING SESSIONS FOR NEW COLLECTORS
Learning sessions on Saturday and Sunday by Dr. Tamara Livingston, Associate Director, Museums, Archives & Rare Books, Kennesaw State University and Robert B Williams Senior Curator of the Bentley Rare Book Library, Kennesaw State University.

Noon - Saturday and Sunday:
How to Judge a Book by Its Cover
In this session we will discuss what makes a book collectible and dispel some commonly held assumptions about “old books,” with examples from the Bentley Rare Book Library at Kennesaw State University.

2:00 PM - Saturday and Sunday
Book Collecting for Everyone
You don't need to have a lot of money or expertise to start a collection that will give you years of pleasure. This session gives practical hints on how to get started, what kinds of books people collect, and how to build a good collection.

SOUTHERN MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR & LOCOMOTIVE HISTORY EXHIBIT
See a superb display from The Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History Archives & Library. A sampling of the collection includes:
Civil War Sheet Music
Civil War Receipts for Fodder and other goods
Civil War Letters (some written at Camp McDonald and Big Shanty)
Civil War Diaries
William J. Knight’s Death Certificate (Raider)
Rare Books including Daring and Suffering: A History of the Andrews Railroad

THE ROBERT C. WILLIAMS PAPER MUSEUM EXHIBIT
Museum staff will offer visitors a rare opportunity to view a selection of Dard Hunter’s original handmade limited edition books as well as unique artifacts and papers from the permanent collection. In addition to their beauty and rarity, these volumes, represent the work of the man who was responsible for introducing an American renaissance in the crafts of hand papermaking, printing and bookmaking. The Robert C. Williams Paper Museum is home to the Dard Hunter Collection, and is the most comprehensive collection of paper-related artifacts in the world.

DRAWINGS FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES
Hourly drawings will take place during the fair for $50 Gift Certificates which can be used at the fair.

DISCOVERY DAY
Ticketed visitors can bring their own rare books, manuscripts, maps, etc. (up to 5 items) to Discovery Day, Saturday, June 11, Noon – 2pm. Exhibitors will be on hand to offer expert advice and free appraisals.
Photos from our Atlanta Writers Conference

Panel Discussion with guest editor Peter Lynch and guest agents Katharine Sands, Mollie Glick, Katherine Fausset, Zoe Fishman Shacham, and Celeste Fine

Katharine Sands
You are invited to: **Getting in Touch with the Source**
A 2-Day Writing Experience for Women

**What:** A one-of-a-kind writing experience

**When:** Friday, October 21 and Saturday October 22nd

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA)

**Cost:** – Friday night only, Keynote Speaker Pearl Cleage $30.00;
2 Day event: $85.00;
Saturday at the door: $100

*Financial Assistance is available*

There are 3 ways to submit your work!

1) Submit a piece to be published in the Getting in Touch with the Source Anthology - **Deadline May 30, 2011**
2) Have a one-on-one with a professional editor - **Deadline for Editor Review is August 15th, 2011**
3) Perform for an audience at the Coffee House Reading - **Deadline for Coffee House is August 30, 2011**

All submitters must be registered for *Getting in Touch with the Source*
For registration and submission Information:
www.uucawomenwriters.org

**Tickets available at:**
UUCA - 1911 Cliff Valley Way, Atlanta 30329
Charis Books & More: 1189 Euclid Avenue, NE, Atlanta 30307
Phoenix & Dragon Bookstore: 5531 Roswell Road, NE Atlanta, 30342
AWC member Calvin Ramsey’s *Ruth and the Green Book* has been named an honor book by the 2011 Jane Addams Children’s Book Award in the Books for Younger Children category. The Addams Award is given annually by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) through its educational arm the Jane Addams Peace Association. It recognizes excellent children’s books that incorporate themes that invite young readers to think deeply about peace, social justice and world community, past and present. His book has also received the Gold Medal in the Children’s Picture Books (All Ages) category of the Independent Publisher Book Awards. Congratulations, Calvin!

AWC member Jennie Helderman continues to garner praise and win awards. International Book Awards announced on May 12 that her *As the Sycamore Grows* is an award winner in Narrative Nonfiction and in Women’s Issues. Entries came from many countries and included books published from 2009 to the present. Congratulations, Jennie!


“Where I Go” is a new weekly feature from Zócalo, an intellectual web magazine based in Los Angeles, in which contributors describe—in a few words or in a few hundred words—a place in which they find a sense of connection to people or place. The place can be anywhere in the world and it can hold any kind of meaning to the author. The prose pieces are generally in the 600-900-word range. Unfortunately, there is no payment for submissions, but there is good exposure for featured authors. About 70,000 visitors a month visit the site.

Zócalo has only featured three entries so far, but you can see them at: [http://zocalopublicsquare.org/thepublicsquare/category/where-i-go/](http://zocalopublicsquare.org/thepublicsquare/category/where-i-go/)

Anyone who is interested can send a pitch or a fully-written piece to Zócalo Managing Editor Megan Greewell at [megan@zocalopublicsquare.org](mailto:megan@zocalopublicsquare.org).
AWC member Myron Kaufman would like to announce that his second college scientific textbook, *Order and Disorder, Science Essentials for the Non-Scientist*, has been published. It is a non-mathematical introduction to the most important ideas in science for university students not majoring in a scientific area and for the general public. Its objective is to prepare the reader for making both life and political decisions involving science and to help them to understand the advances in science as reported in the mass media. The book is highly comprehensive in physics and chemistry, and provides essential background to gain a better appreciation of selected topics in biological and neurological sciences, as well as astronomy and geology. The topics are integrated with the recurring theme of order and disorder, the organization achieved in the universe in the face of its never-ending drive towards disorganization. It gives some insight into the philosophy of science, as well as the applications of science to health and a variety of other professions. The book is available from the publisher, World Scientific Publishing, or from Amazon.

This coming year, he will be starting a humorous science book for the general public, while continuing to teach in the Chemistry Department at Emory. He has just finished a historical novel, *My Name is Abe*, that covers the first three quarters of the twentieth century through the eyes of a Jewish immigrant who comes to New York by himself at the age of sixteen. He hopes to find a publisher for this book.
Norcross, GA – Friday, July 1 at 7:00 pm

Karin will kick off her book tour for the new book Fallen here in Gwinnett! With more than 17 million copies of her books in print worldwide, #1 internationally bestselling author Karin Slaughter has wowed readers and critics alike with the gritty forensic detailing, all-too-human characters, and stark rendering of crime found in her lacerating thrillers.

Signed books will be available for purchase at the event. When customers mention the library at the time of checkout in the bookstore or café, anytime on July 1st and 2nd, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of that sale to the library system.

This event is free and open to the public and it takes place at and in partnership with the Forum Writer’s Group and Barnes & Noble Booksellers located at 5141 Peachtree Parkway in Norcross.

For more information, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770.978.5154.
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.”

---

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 writing 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

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

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.
Emory University’s Certificate in Creative Writing

Atlanta Writing Club members should be happy to hear that Emory University has created a certification program for creative writing through its Emory Continuing Education division (ece.emory.edu). ECE’s Creative Writing certificate program has flexible scheduling to accommodate students with full or part-time work schedules, and also offers one-on-one instruction from recognized authors and writing instructors as part of the courses.

AWC member Dwayne Morris was Emory’s first graduate under the new program.

“I’d already taken several writing courses through the school’s Evening at Emory catalogue. When I learned that the university had just launched a program that offered a certificate in creative writing, I enrolled right away. The flexible scheduling was a major factor, since I was preparing to relocate to Oklahoma and needed to double or triple-up on the core courses. I finished the program in just under a year, but you can work at your own pace. I also liked having Emory’s ‘Blackboard Academic Suite’ available for me to use in ‘virtual’ meetings with Julius Thompson, my capstone project advisor, even while I was in Peru.”

Under the program, ECE has established core courses to ensure that foundational building blocks are included in each student’s education. Writers may design their studies under either the fiction or non-fiction genres, with publishing courses and workshops integral to either course of study. At least twenty hours of electives are also required, and students can choose from nearly a dozen offerings ranging from proofreading to poetry.

“I enjoyed the Writing Movies 101 elective taught by Mike Lucker,” Dwayne said. “I’m working on a thriller novel, so learning the formula of cinematic script-writing was helpful to developing a sense of rapid pacing.”

A writing sample and application fee are required for consideration for certificate program admission. At the end of the program, students must submit a final capstone project consisting of a substantial body of work supervised by an Emory Continuing Education instructor. Interested AWC members should visit ece.emory.edu and click the Creative Writing link for program specifics. Georgia Davidson is ECE’s Program Advisor for the Creative Writing certification program, and can be reached at gddavid@emory.edu or 404-712-8823.

In a special promotion, AWC members who become fans of ECE’s new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EmoryContEd will receive a 15% discount code towards online registrations completed between now and June 15, 2011 (some restrictions apply).
June 04, 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.)
My Last Hurrah

In 2003, I sat next to Adrian Drost at a poetry open mike presentation at Humpus Bumpus Books in Cumming. Adrian, for whom English is a second language, leaned over to me between readings and said, "Fran, why don't you write a column for the E-Quill to help me make some sense out of this English language?"

Not on your life, I thought. Just what I need—one more thing to do each month. My reply, carefully neutral, was, "Why Adrian, what an idea. I'll have to think about that."

The next day I had an email from George Weinstein: "Adrian tells me you're thinking of writing a column for the E-Quill. How wonderful. We'd be delighted to have you on board. The deadline each month is..."

So much for my polite refusal. And what a pertinent example of the trouble we can get ourselves into when we don't pay attention to (or don't understand) the nuances of English. Does “thinking about something” imply merely thinking, or is some potential for action (or inaction) automatically involved?

Over the years that I’ve been writing these monthly tips, though, I’ve come to understand that Adrian knew darn well what I meant, but refused to take a vague platitude as a refusal. And I have been richer indeed for his insistence.

Each month (before the deadline on the 20th) I’ve had to look for a topic of true value that I could share with you, and then consolidate my thoughts into a cogent, useful, and hopefully interesting essay. I’ve talked about hummingbirds, whales, squirrels, and cows; breathing space, esoterica, the rule of three, and pencils; heat, floods, maps, and avalanches. In each essay I’ve tried to show more effective ways of using this wonderful language of ours.

Two of my favorite essays were Skunks and Stinky Feet, in which I bemoaned the difficulty of describing smells, and Confessions of a Time Saver, where I likened the editing process to brushing and flossing in the shower. I’m proud to say that Confessions won a National League of American Pen Women non-fiction essay award.

The easiest book I ever wrote was FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN: A WORKBOOK FOR WRITERS. My publisher asked that I develop a writing exercise to go along with each of the essays from the first six years of columns. Since everything except the exercises, a preface, and the indexing was already written, meeting the deadline was a breeze.

This month marks seven and a half years of tips from the tip of my trusty pen, and it’s time to step aside, to bow out, to pass the gauntlet. Let’s see, what other cliché can I use? I’ve been thinking about this decision for several months, and it’s time to emulate Adrian and change thinking about it into doing it.

If you’ve enjoyed these essays, you might want to check out my daily blog about backyard beekeeping. I wish you good reading and good writing always and all ways.

With deep gratitude,

--Fran
Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Online Groups

**AWC-NF-Critique@yahoogroups.com** is a non-fiction group led by Terre Spencer at terre-spencer@me.com. **Online Fiction Critique Group 1** is led by Derek Koehl at Derek@nonhappyendings.com.

In-person Groups

**Austell**

An all-genre group is looking for a new location to meet, a new leader, and new members. Contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net if you are interested in leading a group in this area.

**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. 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 no opening at present. Write to Ricky Jacobs rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list, attaching a brief bio and 5-6 pages of your fiction. Please do not contact him without that submission. There is a possibility of a Wednesday evening group, though that is not yet definite.

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 Monkey 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 perreaultrmp@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 imaaa@charter.net to be put on a wait list.

Lawrenceville/Snellville

An all genre group meets on the first Saturday of every month 9:30 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 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. in a member’s home. Contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or giweinstein@yahoo.com to get on his distribution list.

Estrogen Ensemble, an all-genre women’s group, meets at the home of Jemille Williams in historic Roswell. Any women interested please contact Jemille at jemille@bellsouth.net.

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.
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Membership dues are $40 per year. Also, we now have our family memberships, where each additional family member can join for $20 and earn full membership benefits. We will gladly accept your cash or checks at any AWC event, or you can mail your payment to the address on the membership form on the next page. You may also renew via PayPal at [www.atlantawritersclub.org](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org).

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Here are 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](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 check payable to: The Atlanta Writers Club
Mail to: Kimberly Clamara • The Atlanta Writers Club • 10256 Rillridge Court • Alpharetta, GA 30022
(Please note—this is a new address as of August, 2010)

Date: __________________________

Name: __________________________ has donated $__________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

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

Please retain this lower portion as your donation receipt.