Speaking at the May 18 meeting

♦ AWC Member Kimberly Garrett Brown, "How to Start Your Own Literary Journal"
♦ Graphic Novelist Leela Corman, "How I Wrote My Graphic Novel Unterzakhn and What Goes into Writing a Good Graphic Novel"
♦ Memoirist Christal Presley, "Breaking Out By Yourself, the Perils of New York Publishing and Getting Radio and TV Interviews"

The upcoming meeting will be at the usual location:
Georgia Perimeter College, Bldg. NC, Room 1100 Auditorium
...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.

Inside this Edition

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President:
Clay Ramsey
Officer Emeritus:
George Weinstein
Membership VP:
Ginny Bailey
Programs VPs:
Anjali Enjeti
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Adrian Drost
Photographers:
Jill Evans &
Rona Simmons
Videographer:
Jonathan Knott
Critique Groups:
Ron Aiken
eQuill Publisher:
Gene Bowen

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In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

This month represents the end of my second term as the president of the Atlanta Writers Club, so this column will be my final one in this role. The last four years have been life changing for me, and I want to thank you with as much enthusiasm and sincerity as I can offer for the great privilege of serving you and the club in this way. When I was accosted at the Decatur Book Festival in 2006 by enthusiastic members of the AWC, I had no conception of what would be the result of this chance encounter. Over the following seven years I would make true and, I suspect, life-long friends. I would meet world-class authors, publishers, agents, and professionals across the book business. I would receive an education in the craft and business of writing on a level that usually requires taking out student loans and paying graduation fees. I would indulge my love of language and books and be surrounded by those who share those passions. With the expectation that I would write a monthly column for the eQuill, I have surprised myself by creating some of the best non-academic writing of my life and producing a collection of work I am proud to call my own. I have also explored and improved my skills in writing fiction, composing more novel manuscripts, poems, and short stories than I ever have at any other time in my life. I have been prompted to think about career and meaning and life purpose in a fresh way. I have exercised and developed leadership skills that had long been dormant. While my natural, introverted tendency is to retreat into a book, I have been pushed to interact and grow in a supportive, welcoming community. I have been encouraged and strengthened and comforted and challenged, and desperately hope I may have done the same for you, if only by a fraction of what I have received. I am a better writer, indeed a better person, because of the AWC. Thank you. My gratitude and deep appreciation for who you are and what you have offered me over the years will not fade with time. And while my title might change, I look forward to many more years with you, doing what I can to support and advance this club that I have grown to love so dearly.

As my last official act as president, I have the true honor of introducing the one who will next assume this office. She has served for the past several years as the vice president of operations. In this role she has demonstrated her unflagging commitment to the AWC. She has approached every project she has assumed with energy and creativity and quietly handled her less glamorous duties without complaint, sour attitude or resentment. Without prompting she regularly goes beyond her stated job requirements to do whatever needs to be done without the expectation of praise or attention. She has done a marvelous job organizing our volunteers who do everything from manning our registration tables at monthly meetings to staffing our booth at the Decatur Book Festival. She has been a consummate professional on the Board and a valued contributor to the work of the club. I can also say she has become a treasured friend.

(Continued on page 4)
She is an emerging novelist, the author of GIVE ME LIBERTY, and has a deep commitment to the mission of the AWC. I have every expectation she will be a fabulous president. So, allow me to introduce Valerie J. Connors as the next president of the Atlanta Writers Club. She has my full and complete support, and I know over the coming months she will prove herself worthy of yours, too.

The last thing I want to do is point you back to your books. So, here are the last lines of a dozen great novels to test your memory, encourage your reading and re-reading, and remind you that even the best of things must eventually come to an end.

A) So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

B) But I reckon I got to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she’s going to adopt me and sivilize me and I can’t stand it. I been there before.

C) It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.

D) His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead.

E) And you say, “Just a moment, I’ve almost finished If on a winter’s night a traveler by Italo Calvino.”

F) It was the devious-cruising Rachel, that in her retracing search after her missing children, only found another orphan.

G) Are there any questions?

H) All that is very well . . . but let us cultivate our garden.

I) The old man was dreaming about the lions.

J) Tomorrow, I’ll think of some way to get him back. After all, tomorrow is another day.

K) But that is the beginning of a new story—the story of the gradual renewal of a man, the story of his gradual regeneration, of his passing from one world into another, of his initiation into a new unknown life. That might be the subject of a new story, but our present story is ended.

L) Come, children, let us shut up the box and the puppets, for our play is played out.

Answers on p.23
Spots Still Open for New Atlanta Writers Conference on May 10-11

Do you want the chance to earn a contract with a literary agent, leading to the publication of your book? Do you want an agent to tell you what you’re doing wrong and doing right in your manuscript, synopsis, and query letter? Would you like to discuss your writing project with an agent to see if there’s any interest in the marketplace? If you answer, “Yes,” to any or all of these questions, then the Atlanta Writers Club has a conference designed for you:

On Friday-Saturday, May 10-11, 2013 the Atlanta Writers Club will present its eighth Atlanta Writers Conference. The goal of this conference is to give you access to eight top literary agents--never any repeats from previous conferences; always an all-new lineup--and to educate you with a workshop and talks by experienced authors. The agents will respond to your pitch, critique the manuscript sample and synopsis (a new addition!) you submit in advance, critique your query letter in an updated Friday practice session, and educate you about the current environment of the publishing industry and the changing roles of agents and their clients. You could be offered a contract based on the materials you’ve submitted: after every conference some AWC members sign with conference agents or continue to work with them preparing their books for representation. You might be asked to send additional pages or an entire manuscript for their review. You certainly will know more about how your work is perceived by industry professionals, and you’ll gain valuable experience interacting one-on-one with them.

You also will have fun, learn more about the publishing business, and get a chance to chat informally with these agents and your peers. On Friday, May 10, we offer a cross-genre, writingexercise-rich workshop delivered by Conference guest speaker Claire Cook, bestselling author of MUST LOVE DOGS and eight other novels, who also will give two 75-minute interactive presentations beforehand. On Saturday, May 11, while the morning critiques are held, author, marketing guru, and billiards expert Shari Stauch will give two 75-minute presentations, and that afternoon while the pitch sessions are held, Terra Elan McVoy, author of five YA novels, former Program Director of the Decatur Book Festival, and creative writing teacher, will give two 75-minute presentations. Claire, Shari and Terra’s 75-minute presentations are free to those who participate in any of the other Conference activities. Finally, to close out the Conference on Saturday afternoon, we now will feature an award ceremony, where each agent will present a certificate to participants for the best manuscript sample and synopsis submitted for critique and for the best query letter pitched. Complete details about the Conference, remaining agent availability, and registration instructions are on this website: http://atlantawritersconference.com/
New Atlanta Writers Conference May 10-11

The goal of this conference is to give you access to eight top literary agents.
Speaker Profiles for May 18,
Soniah Kamal & Anjali Enjeti, Co-VPs of Programming

**Member mini-talk: Kimberly Garrett Brown** has a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Master of Science in Written Communication. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune, Today's Chicago Woman, The National View Alumni Magazine, Naperville Sun* and *Pitkin Review*. She believes the best way to grow as an artist is to share your stories and as result recently started *Minerva Rising Literary Journal* to celebrate the creativity and wisdom in every woman. Kimberly lives in Roswell, Georgia with her husband and three children. She will talk about how to start your own literary journal.

**Leela Corman** studied painting, printmaking and illustration at Massachusetts College of Art. Her book *Queen’s Day* earned her a Xeric Award in 1999 and was called “music to my eyes” by Scott McCloud. She has created two more graphic novels including her latest, *Unterzakhn*, published by Schocken/Pantheon. She has illustrated books for major publishers on crafts, fashion, gardening, dating and other topics, and for clients such as *The New York Times, New York Press, BUST Magazine, Thirteen/WNET*, and many more. Leela and her husband, Tom Hart, are the founders of The Sequential Artists Workshop, a non-profit organization dedicated to the prosperity and promotion of comic art and artists, offering instruction in comic art, graphic novels and visual storytelling in vibrant Gainesville, Florida, where she is also an adjunct instructor at University of Florida. In her talk, “How To Write a Graphic Novel,” she will go through the steps of how she wrote her graphic novel *Unterzakhn* and what goes into making a good graphic novel.

**Christal Presley** received her bachelor’s degree in English and her master’s degree in English Education from Virginia Tech. She received her PhD in Education from Capella University. She is a former intern at Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, and spent seven years teaching middle and high school English in Chatham and Danville, Virginia. Her first book, *Thirty Days with My Father: Finding Peace from Wartime PTSD*, was published by Health Communications, Inc. in November 2012. Christal grew up in Honaker, Virginia, and currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the founder of United Children of Veterans, a website that provides resources about PTSD in children of war veterans. In her spare time, you can find Christal playing with her dogs, tending to her chickens, and gardening. In her presentation, “Breaking Out By Yourself,” Christal will talk about the perils of New York Publishing as well as how she secured dozens of radio and tv interviews--CNN, Fox News, CBS, NPR, Sirius XM, and more--and made her book an Amazon best-seller before it was even published.
"We are thrilled to announce that the judges of the 2013 Southern Playwrights Competition have awarded first place honors to THE VANISHING POINT, a play by AWC VP of Contests, Awards, and Scholarships Nedra Roberts. In addition to a cash prize, her play will be performed in June 2014 at Jacksonville State University as part of their 2014 theater season. Congratulations, Nedra!"
The SCAD Writing Center Presents

Ivy Hall— Spring/Summer 2013 Programs: Ivy Hall Writers Series; Ivy Hall Student Workshops, Ivy Hall Writers Roundtables and Ivy Hall Lecture Series

Friday, May 3rd
"Spring Potlatch Reading"
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Ivy Hall
179 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA. 30308

Ivy Hall - The SCAD Atlanta Writers Center, presents the latest work from two of Atlanta's most exciting poets: Molly Brodak and Gina Myers. Molly Brodak is the winner of 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize for her collection A Little Middle of the Night. Her poems have appeared recently in FIELD, Kenyon Review Online, Colorado Review, The Collagist, Ninth Letter and elsewhere. Gina Myers is the author of A Model Year (Coconut Books, 2009), and several chapbooks, including False Spring (Spooky Girlfriend, 2012). Her second full-length book, Hold It Down, will be published by Coconut Books this May. She lives in Atlanta, GA where she runs Lame House Press and helps edit Coconut Magazine. The event is free to the public.

Thursday, May 16th
The Ivy Hall Writers Series - Daniel Wallace
6:30 – 8:00PM
Ivy Hall
179 Ponce de Leon Ave
Atlanta, GA 30308

Daniel Wallace, the celebrated author of Big Fish, will discuss his new book, The Kings and Queens of Roam, published in May, described by publisher Touchstones as "A wildly imaginative, beautifully written novel about two sisters and the dark, yet magical town that binds them.

Daniel Wallace is the author of five novels, including Big Fish, which was made into a motion picture of the same name by Tim Burton in 2003, with a musical adaptation coming to Broadway in 2013.

He is a contributing editor to Garden & Gun magazine, and is the J. Ross MacDonald Distinguished Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he teaches and directs the Creative Writing Program.

"Daniel Wallace is one of our most masterful storytellers and his latest creation is brimming with his brilliant visions and wise observations about life." - Jill McCorkle, author of Going Away Shoes

The event is free to the public. A book sale and signing will follow the event. Books can be bought at the event or in advance at A Cappella Bookstore. www.acappellabooks.com 404-681-5128
Friday, May 24th

The Ivy Hall Writers Series: David Gillham
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Ivy Hall, 179 Ponce De Leon Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30308

David R. Gillham was trained as a writer at the University of Southern California, where he moved from screenwriting to fiction. After relocating to New York City, he spent more than a decade in the book business. In his new novel City of Women, David Gillham explores what happens to ordinary people thrust into extraordinary times, and how the choices they make can either destroy them, or save them, or both. “‘City of Women’ is a big, brilliant, passionate book, a masterful evocation of Hitler’s Berlin in all its claustrophobia, duplicity, and fear. This is a thriller of searing intensity. . . . I found it utterly compelling.” -Margaret Leroy, New York Times bestselling author.

The event is free to the public. A book sale and signing will follow the event. Books can be bought at the event or in advance at A Cappella Bookstore. www.acappellabooks.com 404-681-5128

Tuesday, June 11th

The Ivy Hall Writers Series - Jeanette Walls
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Event Space Gallery 4 See
SCAD Atlanta
1600 Peachtree St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30357

Jeannette Walls, will discuss her new book, The Silver Star, a deeply moving novel about triumph over adversity and about people who find a way to love each other and the world, despite its flaws and injustices. Jeannette Walls was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and grew up in the southwest and Welch, West Virginia. She graduated from Barnard College and was a journalist in New York City for twenty years. Her memoir, The Glass Castle, has been a New York Times bestseller for more than five years.

Cost is $10 at the door; free with a valid SCAD ID, or with the purchase of a book. Books can be bought at the event or in advance through A Cappella Bookstore. www.acappellabooks.com 404-681-5128
Winners of the AWC Spring 2013 Writing Contest

Memoir
1. Susan Crawford for "Gorgeous Gorge"
2. Glenn Emery for "61 & 49"
3. Pattie Welek Hall for "A Mother's Dance"

Short Story
1. Connie McKee for "Raymond Carver and Me"
2. Ruth Gresh for "Martin"
3. Roy Richardson for "Viking Funeral"

Poetry
1. Dan Lowery for "Rodriguez in Detroit"
2. Bonnie Yvonne Williams for "Bipolar Season"
3. Jalane Rolader for "Dad's Work"

Wild Card
1. Rona Simmons for "Clovers, Nudes, and Nightingales"
2. Nancy Johnson for "A Man's Drink"
3. Alma D. Bass for "A Bad Day for Dennis"
Many of our members have asked if we could post our winning contest entries on the club website. Alas, the answer is no. Nedra Roberts (club VP for awards, contests, and scholarships) recently had a lengthy consultation with Lisa Moore, the director of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, to discuss the publication and copyright issues that would arise from such postings. Lisa assures us that by posting the winning entries on our web page we are, in effect, publishing them; even posting the winning entries on a password-protected section of the website, with access available to members only, would still constitute publication. Such publication then becomes a problem for members who might want to enter their work in another contest designed for unpublished material. A more serious issue arises should a publisher become interested in the work but, of course, not want to deal with material that has already been published.

What we can offer, however, is a clumsy but possibly effective work-around. If you are interested in reading a particular winning entry, you can email Nedra at nedra@nedrapezoldroberts.com, and she will forward your request to the specific winner.

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Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition is now open for entries! The competition celebrates and champions creative writing, nurturing talent and bringing work to international attention. Aesthetica is inviting all writers and poets to submit to the Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition 2013. There are two categories for entry, Poetry and Short Fiction, and a selection of fantastic prizes including:

- £500 prize money – Poetry winner
- £500 prize money – Short Fiction winner
- Publication in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual
- Complimentary copy of the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual
- A selection of books from our competition partners

Submissions previously published elsewhere are accepted. Deadline: 31 August 2013.

Entry is £10 and allows for the entry of two works into any one category. For more information and to enter please visit: www.aestheticamagazine.com/creativewriting
Open to Interpretation

Open to Interpretation brings together photographers and writers in an exciting and innovative book project that has never been done before. Each book begins with a themed call for photos. The chosen photos become the literary inspiration for the writers' submissions. A book is created that matches each winning photo with two stories or poems that offer different interpretations of the image.

Announcing Love + Lust

The photographers sent us their images and interpretations of Love + Lust. Now it's the writers turn to use the images to inspire your words. Poems and stories may include a literal description of the work, personal memories, metaphorical associations, or your mood inspired by the image.

Poetry, flash fiction, narrative, ekphrastic poetry, short story, memoir, non-fiction, song lyrics, myth, tall tale or fairy tale - all genres are acceptable.

Book Title: Open to interpretation
Theme: Love + Lust
Judge: Dorianne Laux
Submission Fee: $15 for first submission, $10 additional

Deadline for submission: August 6, 2013

Awards: $500 Judge's Selection Award

For full details go to www.open2interpretation.com/submit_writing_fading_light.html
Seven Hills and Penumbra Writing Contests
Accepting Submissions

The Seven Hills Literary and Penumbra Poetry and Haiku contests are now accepting online manuscript submissions. Aug. 30 is the upload deadline.

The contests, sponsored by the Tallahassee Writers Association, are in their 19th and 27th years, respectively, and are open to all.

Short stories, creative nonfiction, flash fiction, and children’s picture books (text only) are the categories for prose competition.

Winners in prose and poetry receive $100 for first place; $75, second; and $50, third. Haiku winners receive $50, $35, and $20. Winning entries will be published in the 2014 Seven Hills Review.

See the Tallahassee Writers Association website (www.twaonline.org) for complete contest guidelines, rules and entry fees. TWA members receive a discounted fee for entries, but all judging is blind.

Peer Review Service

Need a Review of Your Published (Self or Traditional) Book?
Open to AWC Members Only

Promoting your book is hard work, as no doubt you’ve learned, whether from firsthand experience, from listening to AWC meeting speakers, or from participating in any number of literary events and online communities.

One of our members wants to help and is offering to coordinate the process of receiving and posting reviews of AWC members' books. If you have a completed book (recently or about to be self-published or traditionally published) and would like to have another AWC member read, review, and post their review to selected review sites, please sign up to participate in this opportunity.

What's the catch? It's free, but, you must be willing to do the same for one of your fellow AWC members and you must provide a copy of your book (ebook or physical book) at no cost to the reviewer. Look for a list of books pending reviews on the AWC website.

To participate in this opportunity, please send an email to rona_simmons@bellsouth.net. Include the following in your email:

your name,
your contact information,
the title and genre of your book,
page length, and
your preferred review site.
Victoria Wilcox announces the release of *Inheritance*

AWC member Victoria Wilcox announces the release of *Inheritance*, the first book in her trilogy about Doc Holliday, entitled *Southern Son: The Saga of Doc Holliday*, and posts the following schedule of signings:

**June 1:** 2pm -- Margaret Mitchell House Museum, Atlanta -- US Book Launch

**June 15:** 1pm -- Omega Book Center, Peachtree City -- Signing

**June 23:** 2pm -- Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum, Marietta -- Talk & Signing

**August 7:** 11:30pm -- Booth Museum of Western Art, Cartersville -- "Art for Lunch" Series Talk & Signing

Her full book tour includes 40 events in 10 states, with other Southern cities including Charleston, Macon, St. Petersburg, Pensacola, and Seaside, Florida. She will be a featured speaker at the Western History Symposium in Prescott, Arizona, and signing at the Western Writers of America in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The name Doc Holliday conjures images of the Wild West and the shootout at the OK Corral, but before he was a Western legend he was a Southern son, born in the last days of the Old South with family links to *Gone with the Wind*. Now this amazing story is told for the first time in a trilogy of novels entitled *Southern Son: The Saga of Doc Holliday*.

*Inheritance* is the first novel in an epic tale of heroes and villains, dreams lost and found, families broken and reconciled, of sin and recompense and the redeeming power of love.

**Victoria Wilcox** is founding director of Georgia’s Holliday-Dorsey-Fife House Museum, the antebellum home of the family of Doc Holliday. Her work with the house led to eighteen years of original research and inspired her novel trilogy. She has been advisor and contributor to other authors, has lectured extensively and appeared on various television programs relating to her work. A member of the Western Writers of America, Wilcox’s writing on the Old South and Wild West has been featured in such publications as *TrueWest Magazine* and *North Georgia Journal*. Drawing on her lifelong love of music and theater, she has written songs for Nashville recording artists and authored the musical *Goin’ to Zion!* along with numerous smaller theatrical works.
Il Chiostro presents

2 Unique Writing Workshops

in Tuscany/Umbria, Italy

The valley below our Danciano writing retreat center

Finding and Developing Your Stories with Maureen Brady
For the Love of Writing with Martha Hughes

June 15-22, 2013

No matter your level, fresh strides can always be made in your writing. This is best done by getting away from life's distractions. Go to a place where you can focus - full immersion with other writers for a week. The hills of Tuscany can certainly provide that inspiration. These structured workshops provide the professional guidance you need to take your writing to the next level.

The program will take place in a retreat center straddling the border of Tuscany and Umbria. Terzo di Danciano just outside of medieval Cortona, has beautiful gardens, poolside grounds and easy proximity to quaint Umbrian hilltowns.

Program Highlights:

- 7 nights at Danciano, restored villa, large rooms, ensuite baths*
- all breakfasts; dinners (with wine) prepared by our personal chef
- daily writing classes with Maureen and Martha
- excursion to Cortona, Assisi and inspiring Umbrian towns

About Maureen and Martha: together and separately they have been teaching writing for many years, guiding writers of all levels to get their stories and manuscripts in shape for publishing. They are award-winning authors as well as teachers and editors. Their teaching style is relaxed, professional and empowering.

Price p/p for 7 days: $2,350 p/p
(single supp. $400)
-- * Dormitory spaces available for $1,500 p/p --

For full details & registration:
www.ilchiostro.com
800-990-3506
Announcing

2 Grants Available
for Writing Program in Tuscany, Italy

June 15-22, 2013

Il Chiostro, an arts retreat in Italy, announces its grant program for a one-week writing workshop this June with writing instructors Maureen Brady and Martha Hughes.

This is our eighth year of offering grants to writers. Our workshops are designed for serious writers who need to get away to this sensual and seductive environment to concentrate on their writing. The groups are small, a maximum of 10 students, representing a variety of cultural, ethnic and experiential backgrounds. (All details about the workshop are on our web site.)

We accept only 2 grant students per year to participate fully in the workshop with the group.

Applicant Qualifications: awards will be given based on:
- quality of writing – fiction or non-fiction – and
- candidate’s unique cultural perspective

Grant Awards:
The normal workshop cost is $2,350 per participant in the villa, $1,500 in dormitory space. The Grant amounts are as follows:

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<th>Place</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>$500</td>
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Included in program:
- Daily class, critique and discussions with instructors Maureen Brady and Martha Hughes
- Shared double room in the Danciano retreat center outside of Cortona, Italy
- Breakfast and dinner each day

For full program details go to our web site: www.ilchiostro.com and locate the writing program at Terzo di Danciano in June, 2013.
Novel Workshop 6/29

June 29 to July 3 a unique novel workshop will take place over an intense three and half days, on the beautiful Kenyon Campus in Gambier Ohio, under the guidance of Geeta Kothari, Nancy Zafris, and Georgia Author of the Year, Man Martin.

With 20 hours of workshop time, the group will be able to meet as a whole as well as in smaller units that will rotate through the trio of instructors. Unlike most novel workshops that are limited to considering a single chapter, 100 pages will be workshopped. Using an original method developed by the instructors, the workshop participants will be able to pull out structure, isolate plot, character, theme, and movement. This provides a new way to brainstorm toward revision. Introduced last year as a trial, the workshop met with great success.

Meredith Doench, one of last year’s participants, contracted her revised detective novel to an agent. Nancy Zafris used the system with Virginia Pye who, after many years of rejection quickly sold a completely revamped literary novel, River of Dust, to Unbridled Press (spring 2013).

Whether writing literary or genre fiction, the best participant for this workshop is someone who is serious and committed. Applicants should send the first 100 pages of the novel for consideration. The participant will be responsible for reading two other participants’ works.

Registration opened January 7 at www.kenyonreview.org - spaces are limited!

Announcing the release of  

Clive Barrow

By Thomas Young

www.thomas-young.net

www.facebook.com/AuthorThomasYoung

Release Date: April 19, 2013

220 pages; from Vabella Publishing,

www.vabella.com

Available in paperback and e-book from Vabella Publishing,

Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com, or your local bookstore!!
Trisha Slay Book Launch Event

It's a terrible thing to live under a question mark. When Erika helps her best friend, teen beauty queen Cassie Abbott, escape their “Nowhere, Ohio” town, she promises to keep all of their secrets safe, but then the days stretch into weeks with no word from Cassie. Worse, the sheriff's investigation into Cassie’s disappearance is making Erika doubt she ever really knew Cassie at all. Under the weight of scrutiny and confusion, Erika struggles just to breathe...until a new movie called Star Wars transforms her summer with a new hope. For Erika, Star Wars changes everything! She volunteers to do chores for a local theater owner just to gain unlimited access to a galaxy far, far away from her current reality, but she can’t hide in a darkened movie theater forever. Eventually, Erika must step out of the shadows and, armed with her Super 8 camera and the lessons she’s learned from Star Wars, she’ll have to fight to save herself and the theater that has become her home.

AWC member Trisha Slay will be hosting a book launch event to celebrate the publication of her first novel, Not So Long Ago, Not So Far Away, on Saturday May 25th from 5:00 - 8:00 PM at Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee House in Historic Roswell (352 South Atlanta Street, 30075). For more information about Trisha, her book and all upcoming events, please visit her website at www.trishaslay.com.
Welcome to GKBCinc’s inaugural short story competition, where you could win £100 by penning a tantalising two thousand-word tale with crime at its heart. The competition is open to anyone and everyone over the age of 18 and we’ll be accepting submissions until 30th June 2013.

Although we want stories that feature crime, we don’t want you to be tied to the traditional crime-writing genre. While we’re more than happy to accept murder mysteries and police procedurals and any stories of that ilk, crime is just the theme for our first competition. You can write in any genre you like.

This means your story could be about a bank robbery on Jupiter in the year 2599, or it could be a tragic romance set in ancient Greece, or a rollicking Western adventure. We’re not fussy, as long as the plot centers on a crime of some kind.

After the submission deadline closes, we’ll be assessing the entries over a two-month period before sending a shortlist to competition judge Tim Weaver. Tim is a Sunday Times bestselling author published by Penguin Books. You can learn more about him and his work at timweaverbooks.com.

Winning submissions will be announced at the end of September and not only will our victorious scribe pocket £100, they’ll also have their story published on our website alongside an author interview, and theirs will be the lead story in an anthology of short stories published by GKBCinc. Two runners up will receive a cash prize and have their stories published on our website and in the anthology.

For further information and guidelines for submissions, go to: http://gkbcinc.com/the-gkbcinc-short-story-competition/
**New Book by Robert Finch**

*Worlds* that don’t touch: a stodgy, mega law firm and an urban strip club, the Mob and the CIA—plus a quantum physics lab. To each of these worlds is attached a literary genre—the “Legal Thriller,” the “Mob Tale,” and the “Science Novel.” Put these genres, these worlds, in a blender — together with a dash of comedy because there’s something funny about each of them —and out comes *Skin in the Game*.

Atlanta Writers Club member **Robert P. Finch** has written *Skin in the Game* from the vantage point of personal experience gained from his practice of law—although his experiences with street thugs and the Mob, strip clubs and the CIA remain shrouded in mystery. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia. *Skin in the Game* is his first novel.

Robert will be doing the first public reading for this book at Peerless Book Store in Alpharetta on May 31st at 7 p.m.
Manuscript Match Service

It can be difficult to find a fellow writer who (1) writes in your genre, (2) writes at the same skill level, (3) has a completed manuscript in need of critiquing, and (4) has the time to critique your manuscript.

The Atlanta Writers Club now offers a Manuscript Match Service to enable our members to find someone else who meets these four criteria. Any current member can participate by replying to George Weinstein at any time with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your preferred e-mail address or social media account where other members should contact you
3. Your genre (be as specific as possible: "fiction" isn't nearly as helpful in finding a match as "literary historical fiction with paranormal elements")
4. Whether the manuscript you want critiqued is completed
5. Current number of pages in your manuscript, with standard publishing formatting: double-spaced and one inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom
6. One-paragraph summary of the manuscript

George will compile these, have them posted to the website, and send them via e-mail periodically to enable those seeking someone to critique their work to connect with one another. If he sees any obvious potential match, he may personally introduce you two with an exchange of the information you provided.

Once you've identified a potential writer with whom you could swap manuscripts, we recommend starting slow: introduce yourself via e-mail/Facebook/etc. and offer to swap five pages of work for critique. This will enable each of you to see if the other person is writing at about your skill level (if this is too unequal, the writer at the higher skill level won't benefit from the swap) and if you will enjoy reading and critiquing the rest of the manuscript. It's important too that you agree on not only a deadline but also what constitutes a "critique": line editing, story and character criticism, fact-checking, etc. If you agree with the other writer that this could be a helpful match, then proceed to trade manuscripts and set a deadline by which each of you will have finished critiquing the other's work.

If you are concerned about someone stealing your work, otherwise violating your copyrights, or criticizing your writing abilities, then please do not participate.

If you want to give it a try, please contact George with the above 6 items. If you are not a current member of the Atlanta Writers Club but want to participate, then you can join online at www.atlantawritersclub.org or at any AWC event.
June 14-18, 2013
St. Simons Island, GA

Workshop Features:
- Agent in Residence
- Writing Short Fiction
- Writing Fiction
- Nonfiction for Young Writers
- Beginning Novel Writing
- Advanced Novel Writing
- Writing Memoir
- Creative Nonfiction
- Finding Your Niche
- Researching Your Topic
- Contests
- Cash Prizes
- Expert Manuscript Review
- Open Mic Night
- Peer Networking

And more....

Building a career as a writer requires a solid foundation...

And the right set of tools.

The 2013 Writers Workshop

35 years of proven results cannot be wrong....

For 35 years, SWA has helped experienced and aspiring writers grow their skills. Our expert faculty, agent in residence, writing contests, and manuscript reviews will help you, too!

Join published and aspiring writers in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere on beautiful St. Simons Island, Georgia. Learn new techniques, network with writers of all levels, build your skills, and spend time with the exceptional faculty.

Registration is open NOW! Go to www.southeasternwriters.org for more information and online registration.
May 18
Kimberly Garrett Brown (AWC Member)
Leela Corman (graphic novelist)
Christal Presley (memoir)

June 15
Annual Picnic

July 20
Workshop with Terry Kay

August 17
Anna Schachner (*The Chattahoochee Review*)
Joshilyn Jackson


It’s time again to call on our members for support, and ask for volunteers to help out with some of the many exciting programs heading our way in the coming months.

We’ll need check-in volunteers for each of our future monthly meetings. If you would like to volunteer for a specific meeting, please let VP of Operations Jennifer Wiggins know which month you prefer. Or, if you would like to volunteer but are unsure about your availability until the time gets nearer, she will gladly include you in her list of volunteers to contact at a later date. Please respond to: jennwggns@yahoo.com.
## Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Genre</strong></th>
<th><strong>Day/Time</strong></th>
<th><strong>Contact</strong></th>
<th><strong>Contact Info</strong></th>
<th><strong>Status</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon</td>
<td>Buzz Bernard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hwbernard@att.net">hwbernard@att.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 7-9 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Rebecca Ewing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebeccaewing@earthlink.net">rebeccaewing@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11 a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hiatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Closed to new members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Children’s and YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 10 a.m. – 12:00 Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction groups</td>
<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 p.m. @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ron Aiken</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron@hraiken.com">ron@hraiken.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Every 4th Sunday, 1:30—2:30 At Eagle Eye Bookstore</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ Chocolate, Clairmont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm 3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimasocolo</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennesaw</td>
<td>Fiction Only</td>
<td>Thursday evenings 6-8 PM at Cuppy’s Coffee, 1600 Kennesaw Due West Rd.</td>
<td>Linda Joyce Clements</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lj_clements@yahoo.com">lj_clements@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Organization meeting Dec13, 6 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
<td>Novel &amp; short story</td>
<td>Every other Thursday, 10 a.m.- 12 @ Applewood Towers</td>
<td>Barbara Connor</td>
<td>678-226-1483</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member’s home</td>
<td>Ken Schmanski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kschmanski@yahoo.com">kschmanski@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. member’s home</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>770-552-5887</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Jemille Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemille@bellsouth.net">jemille@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
<td>Lynn Wesch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lewesch@me.com">lewesch@me.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Spalding</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liannesimon@yahoo.com">liannesimon@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Changes in red*
Regular membership dues are $40 per year per person.
Students can join for $30 per year.
Family members of active AWC members can join for $20 per year.

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Here are a just a few membership benefits:

- Monthly meetings. On the third Saturday of each month, approximately 100 of our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers from varied areas of the literary world. Please refer to our list of forthcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.
- Workshops. Your membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops, and some are free with membership. Watch for announcements for upcoming workshops.
- Critique Groups. We now have approximately twenty (20) different critique groups available to members. Scattered about the Atlanta metro area, these critique groups meet regularly to work with each other to read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.
- Dinner with Authors. I routinely attend many author book signings so I wondered how I could spend just a few minutes with some of these authors to ask them an impromptu question, or just learn more of their successful habits. In the past several months, our members have had that experience, with authors Nathan McCall, Jedwin Smith, Carol O’Dell, James O. Born and others. We are currently working to schedule others, and there is no admission fee to these special dinners. Members are only required to pay for their own consumption at the restaurant. The Atlanta Writers Club pays for the author and their guests.

I could continue with additional benefits, but alas, this is only a newsletter. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings. Or pay on line at our website, using PayPal at http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Clay Ramsey at clay@atlantawritersclub.org.
The Atlanta Writers Club
Membership Dues valid from today through December 2013 • Donations • Contact Information

❑ Renewal through 12/31/13—please provide your name and any changes to your contact information
❑ New Member through 12/31/13—please complete the information below
❑ Family Member through 12/31/13—please complete the information below

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

Please register your last name accurately—this is how your AWC membership will be filed

(If you are a family member, who is the Primary Member? __________________________)

Preferred Phone: ___________________________ Secondary Phone: ___________________________

Preferred Email: ___________________________

Secondary Email: ___________________________

Website: ___________________________ (if you want this listed on the AWC website)

LinkedIn Profile: ___________________________ (if you want AWC to link to you)

Facebook Name: ___________________________ (if you want AWC to friend you)

Ways you want to contribute to the Atlanta Writers Club (e.g., volunteering at meetings or events):
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

AWC Membership Dues

$40 Membership through 12/31/2013 $___________

Add any family member for $20 each $___________
(Please supply family members’ contact information using a separate form)

$30 Student Membership through 12/31/2013 $___________

Tax Deductible Donation in the amount of $___________

Total $___________

Please mail with checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

Mail to: Kathleen Gizzi • Atlanta Writers Club • 9540 Fenbrook Court • Alpharetta, GA 30022

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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.