



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.

Facebook link

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383>

Twitter link

<http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub>

# Inside This Edition

## ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB



February 2010

Meeting location changed for February. See p.5 for details.

### Agenda — Feb. 20, 2010

#### February 20, 2010

- 1:45-2:30 Amanda Gable, author of *The Confederate General Rides North*, on the craft of fiction
- 3:00-3:45 Dr. John Evans teaches writing as a healing modality

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## In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

In a few weeks the full-scale assault on our emotions will begin. Plump putti bearing bows and arrows, heart shaped boxes of chocolate wrapped in scarlet cellophane, elaborate cards with sappy sentiments, candies and flowers and jewelry and professions of undying affection will sweep us up in a maelstrom of feelings and memories, hopes and longings. The romantics among us will revel in the passion and desires of Valentine's Day, while the cynics will try to control their gag reflex and dismiss it as merely a Hallmark-driven marketing strategy of sentimental excess and manipulation. Whatever your response, and however you plan to celebrate (or ignore) the day, there is no question about the focus of the holiday. It is universally acknowledged to be the exaltation of Romantic Love.



Sigmund Freud identified Love and Death as two of the basic drives of human nature and both have served as the defining themes of most of world literature. Both impulses, filtered through the creative imagination, have shaped the storyteller's art. The flight from extinction and the final acceptance of personal mortality have been grim threads that have run through our tales for millennia. But it is love, the expression of the longings of the heart for connection and fulfillment, that has inspired our most glorious eloquence. From the Roman poet Ovid's little book about the Art of Love, through the medieval troubadours with their lyric poems of courtly love, to the tales of Tristan and Iseult, Romeo and Juliet, Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy – the anguish and rapture of love have been explored and displayed in dizzying variety in our collective literature.

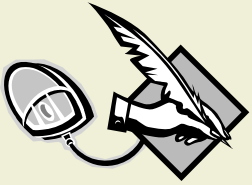
But it is not Love (or Death) that I want to present for your consideration this month. It is Beauty. I would understand if you assume that I mean only the beauty of the Beloved, especially in this month of romantic desire. Surely poets have praised sparkling eyes and seductive curves and unblemished skin. But the eye of the beholder has seen different things from age to age and from person to person. No, that's not exactly what I had in mind.

Nor do I mean only the beauty of language. As writers, we aspire to stunning language – not a florid, purple prose, or work that is overburdened with verbal excess, but the light touch of true art. We struggle for just the right phrase, words that sing, expression that shines, language that approximates clear thought as closely as possible.

Yet, I want to move beyond appearance, beyond even language, to consider a deeper concept of Beauty. The ancient philosophers spoke of order and balance and symmetry and form when they talked about beauty – timeless qualities that they believed transcended particular examples and individual observers. I think they were closer to what I have in mind. John Keats, in "Ode on a Grecian Urn," said, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, - that is all/Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." In his mind, what is true and what is beautiful is one and the same.

In this month that idealizes physical beauty and wraps its praise in lovely words, consider your relationship as a writer to true Beauty. So many of us are tempted to focus on raw and gritty details in our work, believing that it aligns our stories closer to "reality", to a world that is ugly and tragic and painful. This month, I urge you to think again about the highest art of the writer: uncovering beauty and truth with the music of language. Develop an eye for beauty – not just for the sunset and mountain range, but for the deeper virtues and soaring possibilities of the human spirit. Train yourself to draw out beauty from the messy, broken world we live in. Use your talent to look beyond the mud to see the stars.

Plato wrote, "What if the man could see Beauty Itself, pure, unalloyed, stripped of mortality and all its pollution, stains, and vanities, unchanging, divine ... would that be a life to disregard?" (*Symposium*, 210a-211d). Be such a writer. Be such a person.



# The Quill



**T**he Down Home Writing School (DHWS) offers seminars for writers working in any genre and at any level. But the DHWS delivers something different: Laurretta's Down Home Approach.

Think about it. When you go down home, you're surrounded by the people who will tell you the truth, help you along, and send you off with what you need. That is what Laurretta will do for you.

Down Home Writing School Seminars

• **How To Tell The Greatest Story Never Told—*Yours***

Lessons and solutions for taking your project from inception to published work. You will leave with a concrete plan to complete the project you've longed to finish. Expect to be energized and inspired by this lively, interactive experience.

\*\*Next Seminar: March 6, 2010\*\*

Register now: email Laurretta @ [hannonlaurretta@gmail.com](mailto:hannonlaurretta@gmail.com)

**In this seminar you'll learn:**

- How to determine the best genre for your project (novel, essays, memoir, fantasy, young adult, etc.)
- How to start and stick to it *no matter what*
- Why you should listen to some folks and not others
- How to banish writing blocks forever
- Why you must set goals and timelines
- How marketing can catapult you to success even *before* your work is complete
- How to avoid the Top Ten Mistakes writers make when looking for an agent
- How to navigate the business of publishing: finding an agent, drafting the book proposal, and designing your career

• **Don't Wait for 'Em to Die**

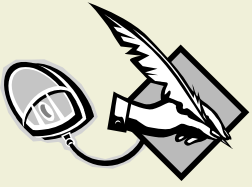
-*The Memoir Workshop*

Writing a memoir is a powerful, life-changing act, whether you ever publish it or not. This seminar addresses the issues and challenges specific to the memoir.

**In this seminar you'll learn:**

- How speaking your truth will set you free
- How to handle painful subject matter
- How to recognize the real F-word: FEAR—and put it in its place
- How to deal with the opinions and reactions of family and friends

(Continued on page 4)



# The Quill

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- How to revive old memories and fill in the gaps
- What The Zone is and why you have to go there regularly
- Why authenticity matters more than *anything* else
- How marketing can make all the difference
- Which agents are looking for memoirs (a list of literary agents actively seeking memoirs will be provided; list includes contact information)

## • Living & Writing The Way of The Cracker Queen

Based on the tenets of *The Way of the Cracker Queen*, this seminar shows how your living and your writing can be brim-full of joy, abundance, and freedom.

### In this seminar you'll learn:

- The Three Essentials of living and writing well
- The name of the enemy that holds you back
- How to bring your writing life--and the rest of your hectic life--into balance
- Why you should dance in the cemetery
- How walking in awareness makes you a better writer and person
- The importance of humor
- The virtues of the outlaw
- Strategies from *The Cracker Queen Tip Sheet For Living Out Loud, Laughing Hard, And Loving Life To Death* (tip sheets are a seminar exclusive; each participant will receive a tip sheet)

### More About The Seminars

Cost: \$99

Seminars are typically held on a Saturday from 11am to 4pm and include a complimentary lunch. The seminars are held in Historic Powder Springs, Georgia, in the Savannah Room of Bailey's Diner (think delicious comfort food). Or Laretta can easily offer the seminars at your location. Mini-seminars are available as well.

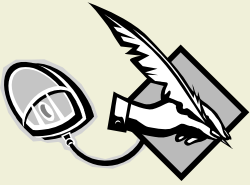
The lunch session gives participants time to share stories and have a Q&A with Laretta. The Down Home Writing School is not pretentious, hip, or sophisticated. But it *will* fill you up and give you the nourishment you need.

### About the Instructor

Laretta Hannon is a bestselling author and commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. She has taught and encouraged writers for nearly twenty years. As a writer she has captured more than 100 national awards.

Her memoir, *The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life*, became a bestseller only three weeks after its release in April 2009.

### Other Offerings



# e Quill

- **Manuscript Critiques**

\$250 fee includes a critique of the first forty pages and one-hour phone consultation

- **Marketing Analysis**

Marketing will make you or break you. Yes, it is *that* important to your writing success.

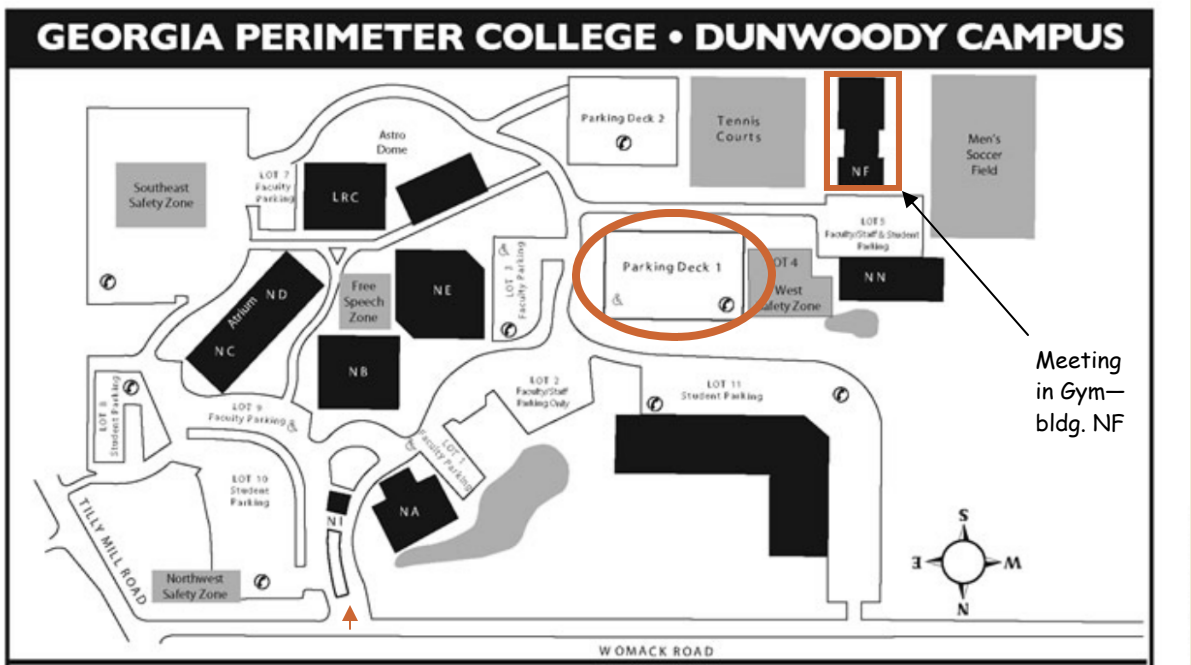
Lauretta has captured more than 200 awards for marketing and promotions and has been known for years as the most award-winning marketing expert in higher education. She will analyze your marketing efforts and present specific strategies and solutions for your project.

\$500 fee includes a written analysis and forty-five-minute phone consultation

For more information email Lauretta at [hannonlauretta@gmail.com](mailto:hannonlauretta@gmail.com)



**Meeting  
Location  
Changed  
for Feb.**



Meeting  
in Gym—  
bldg. NF

[http://www.gpc.edu/Campus\\_Maps/Dunwoody\\_Map\\_082009\\_large.jpg](http://www.gpc.edu/Campus_Maps/Dunwoody_Map_082009_large.jpg)

Georgia Perimeter College  
Directions to GPC-Dunwoody

Dunwoody Campus  
[http://www.gpc.edu/Campus\\_Maps/index.html](http://www.gpc.edu/Campus_Maps/index.html)

2101 Womack Road  
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338-4497

770-274-5000

Once on campus (refer to campus map above):

+ Enter campus at Womack Road entrance (red arrow above)

+ Drive past Guard Station and bear right in front of Student Center

+ Follow Road to Parking Deck 1 (on right – white rectangle circled on map)

+ Park in deck and walk across service road to Building NF, the Gymnasium (dark icon in red box)

+ There will be signs to direct you to the large gymnasium floor, where we will meet

**We will meet here only for our February 20 meeting. Thank you for your understanding!**



# The Quill

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- Bios**
- David S. Weiss** I am writing my first novel, a version of Shakespeare's history plays reset to the New York business world of the 1980s and 90s. I have degrees in English and accounting from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Wharton. Having taken a company public as its CFO in 1993, I was able to retire in 2003 to pursue my writing and other interests, which include investing, helping non-profit organizations and spending time with my family. I am currently the chairman of the board of The Atlanta Shakespeare Company. This is my first creative writing venture, so I look forward to using the Atlanta Writers' Club as a resource for input on the process of writing and critiques of my work.
- 
- Fiona Page Hobbs** Fiona Page Hobbs has shared tales of wit and wisdom across the country. A founding member of Southern Order of storytellers, she was one of the first teachers in the nation to introduce storytelling as an elective class. Ironically, she woke up blind from a simple surgery just weeks after accepting the Christa McAuliffe fellowship for the project in storytelling.
- One of the ways Fiona mentored many like herself was in her speech *Autograph Your Life with Purpose*. As an advocate for disabilities, she received the prestigious Tommy award. She will tell you she survived the trauma of nearly losing her life to wake up and see differently—a new purpose for her own life!
- Fiona has recently joined the Atlanta Writers Club to learn how to hone her craft and get her book published.
- "I wrote about growing up in the Deep South with a mother who never saw herself as handicapped. I had to become blind to realize it! Mama was the first female to walk on two artificial legs. Her optimism has been my transformation!"
- 
- Rebecca Rosenberg** Rebecca is a retired entrepreneur and business owner now living in North Georgia with her husband, Michael. The majority of her writing was business related with the occasional *Letter to the Editor* sprinkled in over the years. Her real life experiences and travel adventures are inspiration for her novels.
- She is a graduate of Maryville College, a former *Who's Who in American Women*, and a personnel industry award winner. Aside from family members, her passionate interests are bridge, her Kindle and her Shih Tzu, Moishe.
- Becoming a member of the Atlanta Writers Club is her first step in the process of keeping a promise to her best friend to write a book.
- 
- Robert E. Dell, Jr.** Commercial real estate finance professional.
- BA in Economics from William and Mary (1982); MBA in Finance from Emory University (1986).
- Nearly finished with first book: ***A Republican New Deal; An Economically Compelling and Politically Competitive Alternative to Obamanomics*** (145 pages). Provides a policy vision to efficiently and equitably resolve the nation's long-term fiscal gap without raising taxes. Discussion of the Fair Tax (a fundamental tax reform); federal downsizing and consumer-driven health care with vouchers. Concerns both policy and politics.
- Need help figuring out the best strategy to monetize the project. [robdell@comcast.net](mailto:robdell@comcast.net)



## January Speaker Summaries, by Shyla Nambiar



At 1:45, Rebecca Ann White, award-winning author of the novel *Bound South*, and her husband Alan Deutschman, journalist and writer of nonfiction books on business and leadership, gave an account of life in a two-writer household, its benefits and special requirements. The two, who met while living in San Francisco, began by talking of the need to have “a room of one’s own” and their own preferences. Ms. White confessed to being unable to write at home and having to rent office space, complete with an Internet-free computer to ward off distractions, while Mr. Deutschman worked out of a home office. Both believe that their collaboration refutes the idea of the writer’s solitary existence. In fact, they see it as a source of strength as they support each other and rely on each other for advice and suggestions on their writing, though neither write in the same genre. Both value the empathy and experience each spouse brings to their partnership, as well as the hands-on help during an emergency. As an example, Mr. Deutschman cited an instance in which he was given a one-day deadline to revise his book. He and Ms. White worked all night together to rework the book. When asked by an audience member a question on who was the better writer, Mr. Deutschman graciously replied that his wife was the better writer because she was an artist, thus demonstrating the kind of support that plays a part in their successful union.



At 3:00, Steve Berry, international bestselling author of eight thrillers, spoke to the club about the business of writing and publishing. His energetic and ebullient manner enlivened the information-packed presentation. Employing a question and answer format, Mr. Berry responded to a variety of topics brought up by the audience, ranging from acquiring agents and writing proposals to the future of the publishing industry, which is undergoing dramatic changes due to the emergence of e-books and e-publishing. Noting the difficulties of breaking into publishing, he suggested that writers should consider Internet publishing, using blogs and social networking sites to increase sales and obtain name recognition. He also cited participating in activities that build friendships and connections within the world of writing. Mr. Berry described his own research, writing and editing habits, such as perusing 300 sources per novel and reading his book repeatedly, each time focusing on one element. He stressed how essential it was to write the perfect first sentence in a novel. On the all-important subject of motivation, he recommended, “Don’t write what you know. Write what you love.”



# Looking Ahead

## **February 20, 2010**

1:45-2:30 Amanda Gable, author of *The Confederate General Rides North*, on the craft of fiction

3:00-3:45 Dr. John Evans teaches writing as a healing modality

## **March 20, 2010**

1:45-2:30 Wendy Wax, author of *The Accidental Bestseller*, speaks about *The Realities of a Writing Career*

3:00-3:45 Jack McDevitt, science fiction author, on *How to Ensure Your Work Gets Rejected: how new writers go wrong.*

## **April 17, 2010**

1:45-2:30 Shannon Clute on the basics of podcasting: why to do it and how to do it.

3:00-3:45 Richard Krevolin, screenwriter, playwright and author, on the power of story.

## **May 15, 2010**

Atlanta Writers Conference at Westin Atlanta Airport (no regular meeting this month)

## **June 19, 2010**

Annual club picnic at Hammond Park in Sandy Springs (no regular meeting this month).





## AWC FALL 2009 CONTEST WINNERS

### MEMOIR

1<sup>st</sup> PLACE – Laura Lee P. Huttenbach

2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE – Janet Sierzant

3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE – Evan Guilford-Blake

### LIGHT POETRY

1<sup>st</sup> PLACE – Kerry Denney

2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE – Evan Guilford-Blake

3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE – Christina Hodgens

### YOUNG ADULT FICTION

1<sup>st</sup> PLACE – Gina Boyle

2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE – Christina Hodgens

3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE – Sandra Havriluk

### FLASH FICTION

1<sup>st</sup> PLACE – Robert Gwaltney

2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE – Eddie Snipes

3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE – Jef Blocker

## SPRING 2010

### ELIGIBILITY:

#### WRITING CONTEST

1. The AWC Fall Writing Contest is open to: **All current, paid club members.** (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Marty Aftewicz.)

Submissions must be *original, unpublished, and un-awarded work.*

### DEADLINE:

**April 17, 2010.** (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

### AWARDS:

Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at June, 2010 meeting.)

FIRST PLACE                      \$50 CASH PRIZE

SECOND PLACE                    \$30 CASH PRIZE

THIRD PLACE                      \$20 CASH PRIZE

### CONTEST CATEGORIES:

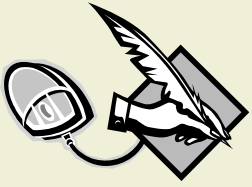
#### Categories

Spiritual/Religious/Inspirational

#### Maximum

2,000 words

#### Specifications



**Spring 2010  
Writing  
Contest  
continued**

Article	1,000 words	Any subject
Short Story	2,000 words	Any subject
Serious Poetry	32 lines	Any subject

**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**

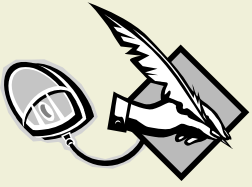
Failure to adhere to any of the guidelines will lead to disqualification.

**Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to Contact@TaraCoyt.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.



**Spring 2010  
Writing  
Contest  
continued**

**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 5 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 Fall Contest

Your name, phone number, category, title

Example:

Dear Tara,

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.**



**ANNOUNCING  
THE 2009-2010  
ATLANTA  
WRITERS  
CONFERENCE  
PREP  
WORKSHOPS**

In 2008-2009, we presented two preparatory workshops with well-published authors to help AWC members get their manuscripts and pitches ready for the Atlanta Writers Conference with literary agents in May 2009. All of the agents remarked on the polished work they reviewed and the smooth pitches delivered, so it's evident these workshops helped. Therefore, we're pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Atlanta Writers Conference Prep Workshops, the opportunity to submit your work and give your pitches to fiction and non-fiction authors who have succeeded in this difficult business. Their mission is to help you make your manuscript sample and/or your verbal presentation as solid and professional as possible, so you can succeed when you query on your own, attend literary events, and participate in the Atlanta Writers Club conference with the agents in May 2010.

**OVERVIEW:**

The preparatory workshops are structured the same way the agent conference is set up: you can submit the first 20 pages of your manuscript for critique in advance, and, on the day of the prep workshop, the author you chose will give you 15 minutes of verbal feedback about your work. We'll break for lunch and then you can practice explaining ("pitching") your project to the same author or a different one and you will receive advice about better structuring your pitch for use in query letters and face-to-face encounters with agents and publishers, a process lasting for 10 minutes.

**PARTICIPATING FICTION AUTHORS:**

**David Fulmer**—Author of seven historical mysteries, including the critically acclaimed *The Blue Door*, his popular New Orleans mysteries with Valentin St. Cyr, and his newest, an e-book titled *The Last Time*. His works have won the Shamus Award for mysteries and the Benjamin Franklin Award for audiobooks, and he was an LA Times Book Prize nominee. He also regularly teaches the craft and business of writing in classes held at Eagle Eye Bookshop. David will critique mainstream fiction, mysteries, thrillers, and suspense.

**Joshilyn Jackson**—Author of three mainstream novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*. Her first two works, *gods in Alabama* and *Between, Georgia* were #1 BookSense Picks, making her the first author ever to receive that honor in back-to-back years. The editor of BookPage remarked in a review of her work, "Every now and then...a remarkable writer comes along to reenergize American Fiction. So it is with Joshilyn Jackson." Joshilyn will critique all fiction genres, from mainstream to sci-fi/fantasy.

**PARTICIPATING NONFICTION AUTHOR:**

**Jedwin Smith**—Author of the award-winning nonfiction books *Fatal Treasure* and *Our Brother's Keeper*, which *Publishers Weekly* called a "muscularly written, starkly honest memoir." Jedwin started critiquing work at our 2008 prep workshop and enjoyed it so much--and proved so adept at it--that he began teaching writing at Eagle Eye Bookshop as well as providing one-on-one coaching for writers. Jedwin will critique any non-fiction works (memoir, history, military, self-help, etc.) and even fiction works.

If demand dictates, we will try to add other authors to these workshops.

**REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR WINTER 2010 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:**

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.
- For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique (either reworked using the author's Fall Workshop feedback or a new piece if you didn't attend the Fall Workshop) is due by January 2.
- The Winter 2010 Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour



for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody (or the GPC campus in Clarkston if a scheduling conflict arises).

**COST:**

You must be a member of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate in these workshops. If you are not, add \$40 to the costs below to cover your membership for the remainder of 2009 and all of 2010. For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, if you signed up for the Fall Workshop too, the cost for reevaluation of your work is \$75 for a critique and \$25 for a pitch. If you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add \$10 to the total.

If you didn't sign up for the Fall Workshop but want to participate in the Winter Workshop, or you participated in the Fall Workshop but want a different work evaluated this time, or want a different author to critique it, the cost is \$100 for a critique and \$30 for a pitch. Again, if you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add \$10 to the total.

**TO REGISTER:**

RSVP to Atlanta Writers Club VP George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com) to tell him:

1. Which author you want as your first choice and second choice
2. Which session you want: critique or pitch or both
3. Whether you want lunch with the authors at the Winter workshop

You will receive George's reply about whether a seat still is available with an author for the sessions you desire. If a seat is not available, you'll be placed on standby for your first or second choice (whoever has the shortest standby line).

In addition, you will receive payment instructions and the deadline for payments. Once he receives your payment, he will provide a reminder about the due date for your 20-page manuscript and submission instructions if you chose that option, and/or he will recommend some books to help you work on your pitch.

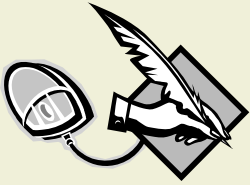
If you RSVP but do not submit payment by the deadline, you will be dropped from the roster and the next available person on standby will take your place.

**REFUND POLICY:**

For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the February 6 event, you will receive a refund if you have not submitted your work and you notify George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com) no later than January 2. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the February 6 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com) no later than January 23.

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We hope you take advantage of the Fall 2009 and Winter 2010 Prep Workshops. They should help you present your best work whenever your query or speak with an agent/publisher, and especially at the Atlanta Writers Conference in May 2010. Conference information and the opening date for Conference registrations will be announced in February 2010. If you have any questions, please direct them to George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com)



**Atlanta  
Writers Club  
Presents a  
Fundraising  
Seminars**

**Date:** Saturday, February 27, 2010

**Time:** 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody

**Cost:** \$20 to Atlanta Writers Club members

Award-winning author of *When the Finch Rises* and *The Fireman's Wife*, Jack Riggs will address a craft-of-writing topic suggested by several members in a seminar he's calling "Oh Give Me a Home, Where My Characters Roam: The Importance of Character and a Sense of Place in Fiction." Here's the write-up he provided:

We all come from somewhere, and we are all on a journey to someplace else. During that time, the geography that surrounds us matters. It plays on our minds, affects our moods, thoughts, and actions. When a writer is creating story, she or he must be concerned with a sense of place and how it might affect the character. Historical place and present geography must be considered. In this workshop on Character and Sense of Place, we will discuss ideas on how best to set character in a geography that not only feels right, but is authentic to the story and true in the reader's mind.

**To register** for Jack's seminar, e-mail AWC VP George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com).

The Atlanta Writers Club will use the funds raised by these seminars to support the 2010 Townsend Award, given to the best work of fiction during the preceding two years by an author living in Georgia. This is an opportunity for the club to increase its standing in the local literary community by working alongside the Georgia Center for the Book, Margaret Mitchell House and *Atlanta* Magazine, together with the Townsend Award sponsor and provider of our meeting spaces, Georgia Perimeter College.



**SCRIBBLERS'  
RETREAT  
WRITERS'  
CONFERENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Jonathan Rabb – To Speak at the King and Prince**

Stunning historical novelist, Jonathan Rabb, *Rosa* and *Shadow and Light*, set in Europe between the wars. The title of his session is "Place" as Character in Historical Fiction. His spellbinding novels have been translated into over ten languages. Jonathan graduated from Yale, and completed his graduate work at Columbia in political theory. He teaches creative writing at both NYU and SCAD.

**St. Simon's Island, Georgia (February 11-13, 2010)** – Scribblers' Retreat Writers' Conference announces a "bold new year" of conferences for 2010. In keeping with our mission to provide world-class authors, speakers and lecturers we have a line-up that is hard to beat. Scholarship students are our focus as well as all professional and budding writers who want to hone their craft in a variety of ways.

Scribblers' Retreat hosts four conferences per year at the spectacular *King and Prince Resort*. Ten speakers are presented each time over two days flanked by an *Opening Ceremonies Banquet* and *Evening With the Author* cocktail reception on Saturday.

Conference discount group rates for three or more.

For more information please call 1-800-996-2904 or visit our site at:

[www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.com](http://www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.com), click schedule Feb. 2010

**Spring Book Show**  
**MARCH 26-28,**  
**2010**  
**ATLANTA, GA.**

**When?** March 26th - 28 th  
**Where?** Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta GA.  
Show Hours Friday, March 26 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 27 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 28 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
For your convenience SBS has reserved a block of rooms at The [Renaissance Waverly Hotel](#) for \$139.00 per night. Call 1-770-953-4500 or 1-888-391-8724.  
Ask for the Spring Book Show Room Block.  
[Register to attend 2010 show !](#)  
<http://springbookshow.com/>





*The Quill*

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**AWC member  
Julius  
Thompson  
will be  
teaching  
several  
classes this  
semester at  
Evening at  
Emory.**

"The Creative Writing Certificate Workshop is an evolutionary development of the six-year creative writing classes I taught for Evening at Emory. The distinction between the two curriculums is in approach. The creative writing workshop presents the students with more hands on activities, in-class writing exercises and an innovative online chat format between instructor and students to follow up on the in-class activities. The student comes with more expertise and the criticism will be more in depth. It's a workshop not a lecture-based class."

The classes begin on March 8, 9 & 10, and April 19, according to the following schedule:

Creative Writing Workshop I      Tuesday: March 9-April 6      7:00-9:00 p.m.      \$400

Creative Writing Workshop II      Monday: March 8-April 5      7:00-9:00 p.m.      \$400

Creative Writing Workshop III      Monday: April 19-May 17      7:00-9:00 p.m.      \$400

Publishing Workshop      Wednesday: March 10-April 7      7:00-8:30 p.m.      \$210

Please click on the following link for details and registration information:

<http://cll.emory.edu/instructor.cfm?ins=2044590950>

**Accolade**

Evan Guilford-Blake won a major Canadian playwriting competition, the Bottle Tree Productions One Act Competition for Writers ([http://www.bottletreeinc.com/script\\_contest.html](http://www.bottletreeinc.com/script_contest.html)).

He won first prize for "American Blues." In a description of his work, "the blues act as a backdrop for love and despair in a beautifully crafted tale of a mother and daughter clinging to their dreams. Lyrically written, this play is reminiscent of Tennessee Williams."

Evan also had three scripts accepted for publication.

**Quarterly  
Writing  
Contest**

(Not an AWC managed event)

- **Scratch**, the quarterly writing contest itching to discover new talent.
- This contest seeks new short fiction and offers rotating guest judges who are authors, agents, editors and publishers.
- Help them discover new writing talent. Let them help you build publication credits.
- Small fee to enter, cash prizes and publication every month, plus annual anthology.

For more information and links to ENTER this month, go to

<http://www.scratchcontest.net/>





*The Quill*

**CALL FOR  
POETRY  
SUBMISSIONS  
2010**

***Visual Voices***

**NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, APRIL: FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBIT**

**GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE, DUNWOODY CAMPUS**

**WHO:** Current or past members of *The Writers' Circle* and *The Writers' Forum*; GPC faculty, staff, and students; Atlanta Writers Club; and Georgia Writers Association.

**WHAT: OPEN THEME.** One original poem with artwork, framed and wired-to-hang. Maximum size: 11" X 17" Attach your name, address, phone, email and brief (25-word) bio..

**WHEN:** *Deadline for bio and contact info:* **March 5, 2010.**

*Deadline for poem/art submission:* **March 19, 2010.**

**WHERE:** The GPC Dunwoody Campus LTC Writing Center, NLRC 3200, third floor, Library. Deliver your wired-to-hang work to Nancy McDaniel, Writing Center Supervisor, to be exhibited in the gallery area outside the labs throughout April.

**HOW:** Be creative and visual! Submit your work in person (preferred).

**IMPORTANT NOTE: WORKS MUST BE READY FOR HANGING WITH WIRE IN PLACE. NO SAW-TOOTH HANGERS ACCEPTED.** Poets will need to retrieve their works at the end of the exhibit. All participants will be invited to read their poems at an on-campus reception/reading in early April.

For further information, contact:

Nancy McDaniel (770) 274-5243 [nmcdanie@gpc.edu](mailto:nmcdanie@gpc.edu)

Gelia Dolcimascolo (770) 274-5246 [gdolcima@gpc.edu](mailto:gdolcima@gpc.edu)

Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Road, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338



## **Share your Atlanta Story on the Radio**

Dana Goldman of WABE 90.1 FM has extended an invitation to the members of the Atlanta Writers Club to apply to participate in a new series called 'The Radio Story.' In her words, "Radio Stories are sincere, stirring, and surprising true-life tales of encounters with Atlanta. If your story is selected, we'll match you with a WABE staff person to edit, record, and produce your piece for use on the air. We are looking for stories that express an original idea or portray a unique moment with clear, creative writing. Different from a political or finger-pointing commentary, our hope is that the series will uncover great true-life moments that show the unique texture of the city. For example:

- + Can you share a unique moment you experienced in a neighborhood?
- + Can you talk about a random act of kindness that you witnessed or experienced?
- + Does your 'field of expertise' allow you to see Atlanta in a unique way?
- + Were you witness to a moment of Atlanta history?

You can learn more about the Guidelines for Submission (and hear a few of the pilot stories) at:

<http://www.pba.org/programming/programs/citycafe/radiostory/>

This is a wonderful opportunity for AWC members to explore a new media outlet and expand their platform and publication resume. If you are interested in applying to share your Atlanta story on the air, send your story to [citycafe@wabe.org](mailto:citycafe@wabe.org).



## Speaker Profiles for February Meeting

by George Weinstein,  
VP and Program Chair

**1:45-2:30 p.m.**

Amanda Gable's short stories have appeared in *The North American Review*, *The Crescent Review*, *Quarry West*, *Sinister Wisdom*, *Hurricane Alice*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Art Times*, *Kalliope*, *Other Voices*, and elsewhere. She has been awarded residency fellowships by Yaddo, the Hambidge Center, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize, she has been awarded grants for her fiction by the Georgia Council for the Arts, the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, and the Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund. Currently, she is an MFA candidate in creative writing at Georgia State University and recipient of the Paul Bowles Graduate Fellowship in Fiction Writing. A native of Marietta, she lives in Decatur, Georgia. Published in 2009 by Scribner/Simon & Schuster, *The Confederate General Rides North* is her first novel and tells the story of eleven-year-old Katherine McConnell, a precocious Civil War buff so fascinated by stories of the war's generals that she often imagines herself one of them. When a journey with her mother comes to an abrupt halt in Gettysburg and Kat faces the threat of real tragedy, she must make an irrevocable choice about where their ultimate destination -- and her loyalty -- lies. On February 20, Amanda Gamble has chosen to discuss the craft of creating a distinctive voice and the art of point of view, and a little history thrown in. Read more about Amanda and her work at [www.amandagable.com](http://www.amandagable.com).



CAROLINE JOE

**3:00-3:45 p.m.**

John F. Evans is a writer, speaker, and workshop leader, recently focusing on the health benefits of writing, as an outgrowth of his own health challenges. His research on writing and healing prompted him to create and direct *Wellness & Writing Connections*, a nonprofit corporation providing an interdisciplinary forum for writers and health care professionals interested in the wellness benefits of writing. His most recent publication, *Wellness & Writing Connections: Writing for Better Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Health*, is a collection of essays from the previous *Wellness & Writing Connections* Conferences. John received a scholar-in-residence and post-doctoral fellowship award in Expository Writing at NYU, a doctorate in post-secondary computer-assisted composition studies from North Carolina State University, and an MA in English from Middlebury College, Bread Loaf School of English. Currently writing about his experience as a stay-at-home dad for his nine-month old son, John served several universities in various roles including English professor, department chair, and associate dean of general education before he retired from full time academic work last September.



For more about John Evans see: <http://www.facebook.com/JFEvans?ref=profile>

To learn more about the *Wellness & Writing Connections* Conference see:  
<http://www.wellnessandwritingconnections.com/>

And to join the WWC fan page see: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wellness-Writing-Connections/178805186891?ref=mf>



The Quill

## From the Tip of My Pen



# Fran Stewart

Author, Editor, & Speaker

### Author & Editor

The Biscuit McKee Mystery Series featuring Biscuit, the librarian and Marmalade, the library cat.

Fran's newest mystery is a stand-alone: "A Slaying Song Tonight"

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

"Healing the World through Teaching the Power of Gratitude"

Fran Stewart

Author / Editor

[fran@franstewart.com](mailto:fran@franstewart.com)

Available now for pre-orders: **A SLAYING SONG TONIGHT**

### Come to My Party

Yesterday I hosted an open house for my sister Diana Alishouse, who's visiting me from Colorado, so I could introduce a lot of people to her new book, *Depression Visible: the Ragged Edge*. This morning I got to thinking about how an open house relates to our experiences as writers.

I have cats who prefer to be reclusive until they make up their minds about new people, so I chose to sequester them during the party. In my books, some of my characters have secrets (doesn't everyone?), areas of their lives they choose to keep private, and I reveal those secrets only when they're pertinent to the plot. Yesterday, for instance, one person asked to see the cats, so I took her upstairs for a private viewing, although one cat stayed burrowed under the comforter. Give your readers glimpses by building your plots carefully so the secrets don't spill out all at once.

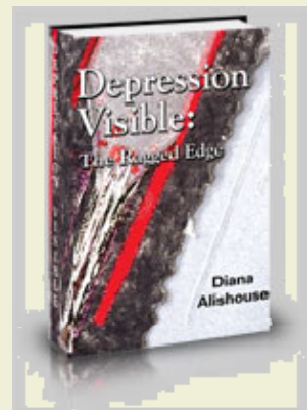
Deciding how to unveil those revelations is a bit like putting together the shopping list before the party. M&Ms in a pretty bowl? Sure. Cream cheese smothered in hot pepper jelly? Of course. (It was the hit of the party, by the way.) Chicken wings? Too messy. And so on. Sometimes, though, a guest will appear bringing a gift of food to share. Find a bowl for that trail mix and see how it goes. If nobody eats it, you'll have leftovers. If a plot element doesn't seem to work, delete it and either throw it out or try using it in your next book.

My mystery series has a lot of characters, rather like the extensive list of people I invited to the party. I'd better think about how my guests might interact, and be sure that people get more than a cursory introduction. Mozelle is an artist that I know through the National League of American Pen Women. Mozelle, this is Nancy, who is a tenor in the Gwinnett Choral Guild. After a few more comments I can leave them, fairly certain that their conversation will lead them to some common ground. Likewise, the characters in our books show most clearly through their dialogue. Put them together and let them talk about something that is interesting to them both. Or something that one is passionate about and the other is antagonistic toward. It's up to you to introduce your characters effectively. Be sure that somehow or other you let your readers come to understand their motivations, their passions.

Getting our houses ready for a party is somewhat akin to creating the setting of our books. Whoops! That means I'd better clean my *whole* house, since people will be roaming all over, looking for the toilet but glancing into other rooms as they walk past. If you can't draw a map of the place where your story is set, you may be missing the boat. That doesn't mean you have to put a map in your book, but you need that map in your head, and then you need to translate it onto the pages so your readers will feel they could walk along the streets or canoe down the river you've put before them.

The purpose of my party (the plot) was to let people meet my sister and buy an autographed copy of her book. But books without interesting subplots are boring. I had several tables (subplots) set up in my family room where my guests could work on putting together a jigsaw puzzle of Biscuit McKee's attic (maybe I'll explain that in one of my future columns) or they could decorate rocks. Yes. That's what I said. My granddaughter and I took dozens of smooth, fairly flat rocks several weeks ago and painted them white on the top surface. I spread all of them on a table along with two dozen or so bright-colored markers. Amazing what people came up with. And you should have heard the conversations that sprang up as people drew stars and arrows and words and pictures. Meanwhile, the talk around the jigsaw table started out with "We need to find all the straight-edged border pieces," but soon spread to a networking meeting—"Stellar psychology? What's that?" In my own books, I've used subplots to introduce my readers to suicide prevention, bipolar disorder, green funerals, ethical treatment of animals, and organic gardening. So, in your own writing, set up those tables, put your characters there, introduce a few new guests, and see what happens.

Remember to invite me to your next open house. I'd love to meet you and your friends.



You can sign up for Fran's newsletter at her website [www.franstewart.com](http://www.franstewart.com).

Each week she features an author whose work she enjoys. If you'd like to be considered for a feature spot, contact Fran – put "Feature Author" in the subject line

[fran@franstewart.com](mailto:fran@franstewart.com)



## Writing Past Grief Workshop

By the time she was nine, Jessica Handler had begun to think of herself as the “well sibling.” She lost both of her sisters due to hereditary illnesses, and vowed to write a book to honor her family. Moreover, she wanted to understand the girl she was—her questions, fears, and triumphs—so she wrote *Invisible Sisters* to remember her family entirely, both the bad times and the good.

Based on Jessica’s Pushcart Prize–nominated essay, *Invisible Sisters* is a “clear-eyed, candid work [that] portrays the immense emotional toll that two daughters’ illnesses take on a family living in Atlanta,” according to *Publisher’s Weekly*. Jessica spoke to the club in October 2009 and now will present a 2.5-hour workshop on confronting the hardships in your life so you can produce your most powerful work ever.



Date and Time: April 24, 2010, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Location: GPC-Dunwoody, NC-1100 auditorium

Cost: \$20. Open to all 2010 members of the Atlanta Writers Club

### Workshop Description

Robert Frost said, “no tears for the writer, no tears for the reader,” but how does a writer work effectively with emotionally difficult material, moving through his or her own trauma to create powerful and effective writing that serves the larger narrative?

In this seminar, the author will draw from the work of leading nonfiction authors to examine the rewards for the writer – and the reader – in confronting tears, finding joy, and meeting on the page the little known continuation of Frost’s quote: “No surprise for the writer, no surprise for the reader.”

Participants will create new work or expand existing work through a variety of in-workshop writing exercises. This workshop is open to fiction and nonfiction writers at all levels.

### Outline of Workshop

Introduction, discuss universality of grief in NF. Examples from leading nonfiction writers incl. Joan Didion, Abigail Thomas, James Baldwin, & others.

All compelling writing is based on the writer’s obsession. Introduction to freewrite concept. In class free-write “what obsesses me?”

- Discussion of outcomes (reading of exercise not expected) re: what showed up in obsession, what can we use to build scenes?
- Discussion of scenic development techniques, dialogue recreation, sensory development.
- In-class writing exercise: scene development
- The emotional value to the writer – and the reader! – of the finding the ‘red hot center’ in your work. In-class writing exercise.

Question & Answer with participant-led discussion.

To register, e-mail AWC VP [George Weinstein](mailto:George.Weinstein@atlantawritersclub.org) at [george@atlantawritersclub.org](mailto:george@atlantawritersclub.org) to receive payment instructions.



## Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

AWC critique groups cover the Atlanta metro area like the dew. Check the list below to find a group that fits your needs. If you don't find one and would like to start a new group, contact Jennie Helderman at [jmhelderman@comcast.net](mailto:jmhelderman@comcast.net). The AWC may soon offer additional and alternative opportunities for feedback and sharing of information among club members, such as online groups or genre groups such as historical fiction or mystery writing.

AWC critique groups continue to expand in number and now in kind as we launch online groups. Please bear with us while we work out the kinks. Thanks to all who offered to moderate the online groups. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Clay Ramsey.

Anyone interested in a **group focused solely on business writing**, please contact Walter Lawrence at 404-374-9269.

The traditional in-person groups are listed by neighborhoods below. Check with the group leaders to confirm meeting times and locations.

### Austell

An all-genre group meets in the café area of Borders in Austell on the first and third Sundays at 3 p.m. Contact Marjorie Gore at 770-317-4061.

### Buckhead/Midtown

**Poetry group.** Contact Karen Holmes at [karen.holmes@comcast.net](mailto:karen.holmes@comcast.net) to be put on the distribution list and notified of future meeting dates. The group is almost at capacity and will soon close to new members.

A Novel critique group meets on alternating Tuesday nights beginning on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. at Starbucks at Lindburgh Plaza. Group has openings for two fiction writers. Contact Patricia Patterson at [pepatterson@bellsouth.net](mailto:pepatterson@bellsouth.net).

The **nonfiction group** which meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 at Caribou Coffee, 4500 Roswell Road is on hiatus until the online groups are organized. Contact Terre Spencer at [terrespencer@me.com](mailto:terrespencer@me.com) or Richard Kirby at [executiveimpact@gmail.com](mailto:executiveimpact@gmail.com) if more information is needed.

### Conyers

The group serving Conyers, Covington, Madison and surrounding communities is full. Contact Zoe Courtman-Smith at [zoe.courtman@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.courtman@gmail.com) or 770-826-9425 to be put on a wait list.

### Decatur

A **fiction** group meets Saturday mornings 9:30-12 at the Indie Book Store on Ponce de Leon near the post office. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write [rickyjacobs@mac.com](mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com) to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

An **adult/YA fiction** group meets every other Sunday, 3 p.m.-5:45 at the Indie Book Shop on Ponce de Leon near the post office. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write [rickyjacobs@mac.com](mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com) to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

A **children's and YA fiction** group meets every other Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12:15 at the Java Monkey on Church Street almost opposite the Decatur Marta Station. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write [rickyjacobs@mac.com](mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com) to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

An **adult and YA fiction** group meets on Thursdays 7-9 p.m. at the Dr. Bombay Coffee Shop, 1645 McLendon Ave. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write [rickyjacobs@mac.com](mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com) to be put on a



# The Quill

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wait list.

An **adult/YA fiction** group meets Thursdays 7 p.m.-9 at the Chocolate Café on Clairmont and Church Streets. The group is **full** at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

A **nonfiction** group meets Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Email Sally Parrott Ashbrook at sally.parrott@gmail.com to get on her distribution list.

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

## Dunwoody

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

## Emory

A **fiction** group meets every other Wednesday at 6:30 at Panera's in the shopping area on North Decatur Road opposite the main entrance to the Emory campus. The group is full and closed at this time. E-mail Ruth Gresh at hrgrish@bellsouth.net to be added to a wait list.

## Lawrenceville

The **novel/short story** group which meets every other Thursday 10 a.m. to noon is full. Contact Barbara Connor at 678-226-1483 or imayaya@charter.net to be put on a wait list; or contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

## Lawrence/Snellville

An **all genre** group meets on the first Saturday of every

month 10 a.m. to noon at a member's home. Contact Ken Schmanski at 770-377-1771 or 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. at the Main Library on Roswell St. Contact Linda Sullivan3@gmail.com.

An **all-genre** group meets on alternating Wednesdays at Borders at 1745 Peachtree St. Contact Hollis Wright at 404-964-3702 for time and dates.

## Roswell

An **all genre** group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. at the Atlanta Bread Company near the corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. Contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com to get on his distribution list.

## Sandy Springs

An **all genre** group meets twice monthly on Mondays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Roswell Library. Contact Lynn Wesch at lewesch@me.com to get on her distribution list.

## Woodstock

A **poetry** group meets but with no set time. Contact Jill Jennings at 770-516-2482 or magistra\_jennings@yahoo.com for more information.



eQuill

## The Atlanta Writers Club Board

President: Clay Ramsey

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Emcee of open Mic: Alicia Plant

T-Shirt Sales: Terre Spencer

Critique Groups: Jennie Helderman

Lending Library: Lisa Heidle

### Northeast Georgia Writers Conference

1:00–3:00 p.m. **February 3, 2010**

Peach State Bank, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 325 Washington  
St. Gainesville, GA 30501

Cecil Murphey

“Dancing With Dialogue”

“Dialogue isn’t real,” says Cecil Murphey, “but it must sound real.” To make your prose dance, he teaches the secrets of writing conversation that enlivens your writing and makes you a better writer. Murphey is the author of over 100 books, fiction and non-fiction: [www.themanbehindthewords.com](http://www.themanbehindthewords.com)

Members: Free

Non-Members: \$25 Pre-Registration is required

(No registration at the door) Details: [www.negawriters.org](http://www.negawriters.org)

Contact Elouise Whitten, 770-297-0680 or  
[HolmesLynda@bellsouth.net](mailto:HolmesLynda@bellsouth.net)

Additional Northeast Georgia Writers Conferences

**April 7**, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

Julie Garmon

“Writing Real”

Fear Unmasked (Non-fiction)

Julie Garmon is a prolific writer of *Guideposts* stories: [www.juliegarmon.com](http://www.juliegarmon.com)

**August 4**, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

Amy Wallace

“Fiction Writing”

Amy Wallace has written a trilogy published by Multnomah Books: [www.amywallace.com](http://www.amywallace.com)

**October 6**, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

Sandra Brim, Ph.D.

“Structuring and Writing Poetry”

Sandra Brim is a professor at Brenau University, Gainesville,

of Creative Writing and Poetry:  
[www.brenau.edu](http://www.brenau.edu)





## 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 a just a few membership benefits:

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

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

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Clay Ramsey at [clay@atlantawritersclub.org](mailto:clay@atlantawritersclub.org).

# THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

## 2010 Membership Dues, Donations and Contact Information

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:       NEW       RENEWAL

**2010 Membership Dues** (covers remainder of 2009 and all of 2010):

- \$40 - Membership is valid through 12/31/2010      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Add any family member for \$20 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please supply their contact information using the form below or 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* to  
**Marty Aftewicz, 115 Ashford Circle, Dunwoody, GA 30338**

- 2010 Membership Year runs from payment date through 12/31/2010
- If you are **renewing**, please indicate only your name below unless other contact info has changed

**Member Information:**      (Please complete this section in full to update our files.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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