

August 2006 Issue

**New Reward for Renewing
Your Membership Early**

Next Event: First Meeting of the Fall on September 16

Independent booksellers are an author's best friend, and, for our first meeting of the fall, we'll host a roundtable with four of the top Atlanta-area indies. Learn how you can develop vital business relationships with these influential folks. They are willing to hand-sell your books and make you a success one customer at a time. Learn what sets them apart from the big-box corporations.

The Atlanta Writers Club was 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 judged contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

**MEETING LOCATION: Sandy Springs
Regional Library Meeting Room: 395 Mount
Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs, GA 30328.
(404) 303-6130. The library is one mile north of
I-285 and west of GA 400. For detailed directions,
view our website, or go to
<http://mapsonus.switchboard.com>**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.atlantawritersclub.org**

2006 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.):

- **September 16, 2006** Booksellers Roundtable—advice on how to maximize your sales
- **October 21, 2006** Darnell Arnoult, critically acclaimed poet and novelist
- **November 18, 2006** JoAnne Pinder, Director of Gwinnett County Public Library
- **December 16, 2006** Joe Bathanti, novelist and poet
- **January 20, 2007** Robyn Freedman Spizman, author/TV and radio personality on self-promotion
- **February 17, 2007** TBA
- **March 17, 2007** Terry Kay, award-winning novelist
- **April 21, 2007** Spoken Magazine—members share their work
- **May 19, 2007** TBA

Deadline for September e-Quill submissions is August 25th

Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Gearing Up for Fall”
by George Weinstein, President

Scroll or flip back to page 1 and note at bottom the talent already assembled for the next few seasons of AWC meetings. As you've come to expect, we're bringing you a variety of knowledgeable and notable speakers, from a panel of independent bookstore managers to the sublime Terry Kay. I hope you're looking forward to sharing the last of 2006 and all of '07 with us.

Naturally there are changes forthcoming. Given the number of volunteers eager to staff our booth at the Decatur Book Festival (see page 3), we hope to see more participation in the leadership and management of the club. More on club elections in the coming months.

Yes, the board voted to raise the membership dues, but we also enticed Chapter 11 Bookstore to provide coupons valued at more than twice this increase to new and renewing members (again, see page 3). Providing opportunities to do book-signings at the festival and negotiating discounts for you are two new ways to keep your membership relevant and beneficial.

We want to know what more you want us to do. To that end, board members will be calling everyone to confirm contact information, ask what you want from the club, and to let you know ways you can get involved.

Though this summer has not yet ended, we're already making plans for workshops next summer. Our May 2006 speaker, Dana Wildsmith, has agreed to lead a half-day workshop on writing poetry next August. Brian Jay Corrigan's workshop was phenomenal this past July, but next year I'd like to host one that is focused on non-fiction or some other area we haven't mined as successfully.

Finally, I'd like to devote more space in the E-Quill to your work. I will be asking two members each month to provide a brief biography and an account of why they joined the club and what they want to experience as a member. I want the poets to start sending in their poetry again. I also want your suggestions for what you'd like to see in these pages. Many of you have expressed compliments about the newsletter, but—as I tell every critique group that sees my work—make it better. That also goes for the club in general. Please, please, keep helping to make it better.

OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2006 Term:

President: George Weinstein, 770-552-5887 **First VP:** Ginger Collins, 770-424-0757
Membership VP: Kathleen Craft Boehmig, 678-393-9324 **Treasurer:** Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Publicity VP: Lu Ann Sodano, 770-739-4749 **Secretary:** Angela Harvey, 404-578-2002
Contests VP: Richard Anderson, 770-830-6131 **Quill Editor:** George Weinstein, 770-552-5887

OTHER CONTACTS:

Historian/Photographer/By-Laws: Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Copy Editor: Richard Anderson, 770-830-6131 **Poetry Editor:** Dorothy Worth, 404-636-1316
Speaker Interviews: Ginger Collins, 770-424-0757 **Achievements:** Fran Stewart, 770-682-7483

AWC AT THE DECATUR BOOK FESTIVAL—SEPTEMBER 2 & 3

Be sure to visit our booth at the Decatur Book Festival, sponsored by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, on Saturday, September 2 (10 a.m.-6 p.m.), and Sunday, September 3 (noon-6). Fifteen members have volunteered to staff the booth at intervals during those two days, so stop by to thank your friends, help them attract visitors to our tent, and wear your AWC t-shirt to help us publicize our club. Thanks to the following volunteers:

Bill Black	Peter Gibson	Patricia Patterson	Fran Stewart
Janean Brown	Walter Lawrence	Erika Perz	Jack Thomas
Patrice Dickey	Kathy Lewis	John Sheffield	John Turman
Adrian Drost	Sara Martin	Jim Stevens	

And special thanks to Ginger Collins for so much vital behind-the-scenes work.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again, but—in addition to a \$5 savings off the new membership rate—we have a super incentive for you to join early: the Chapter 11 Bookstore at 220 Johnson Ferry Road in Sandy Springs has awarded coupons to the club, to be given to everyone who renews by October 21. You'll save at least 11% on nearly everything in their store and on-line. Use the membership form at the end of this newsletter (page 7), or renew/join on our website at <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html>.

PARTNERING WITH CHAPTER 11 BOOKSTORE IN SANDY SPRINGS

Since Chapter 11 is directly across Roswell Road from our Sandy Springs Library meeting place, we have invited this important supporter of writers and literature to become the official bookstore of The Atlanta Writers Club. In addition to offering the discount to new and renewing members (see Membership Renewal announcement above), they will help us to attract topflight speakers.

In return, we will honor them by announcing upcoming book-signings. Come to the Chapter 11 Bookstore (220 Johnson Ferry Road in Sandy Springs/404-256-5518) and meet:

- **Women's fiction writer Milam McGraw Propst on Aug.12th at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Thriller writer Jeff Abbott on Aug 22nd at 6:30 p.m.**

TWO CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS NOW IN OPERATION!

Wednesdays, August 9 and 23: The Atlanta Writers Club sponsors a critique at **Nirvana Cafe and Grille in Roswell** on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. All members and guests are welcome. This group focuses solely on critiquing one another's work. Please bring up to four pages of your work and eight copies to share so we can give you written feedback. Nirvana Cafe and Grille (678-277-2626) is located at 10930B Crabapple Road, Suite 120, in Roswell, situated between Von Gogh's Restaurant and the BP gas station at the corner of Hwy. 92 (Crossville Road) and Crabapple Road. We meet in the semi-private room.

Thursdays, August 10 and 24: Our midtown critique group meets at the **Chapter 11 in Ansley Mall** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All members and guests are welcome. Please bring up to five pages of your work and eight copies to share so we can give you written feedback. Directions: from Buckhead, take Piedmont Road south. Cross over Monroe and the mall will be on your right.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to failure to meet the minimum class size required, the August 19 seminar with Peter Bowerman has been canceled.

Southern Breeze Region of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators presents its annual fall conference called Writing and Illustrating for Kids '06. The conference will be held in Birmingham, AL, on Oct 21st and will include workshops with several editors, agents and published authors. For more information regarding the conference details and registration, please see the web site at http://www.southern-breeze.org/conf_fallconference06.htm.

Contract SEO Writer needed to write key word saturated web copy for a company. The contract is for ONE MONTH and is required to be ON SITE. However, it could lead to a longer contract. For more information, please contact Shelli Wells @ sjohannes@bilaninc.com.

Iodine Literary Conference—Beaufort SC January 26 & 27, 2007—sponsored by the Arts Council of Beaufort County. Conference includes:

- Friday small press reception at Firehouse Books: Writers, readers, authors, and small press representatives will attend this free-to-the public reception, to enjoy and explore the changes in the literary marketplace, and the value of small press books.
- Saturday Manuscript Critiques at the Cuthbert House Inn: Writers meet in private with a small press representative for a manuscript critique geared towards publishing book-length work; \$35. Manuscript submission deadline is **November 10, 2006**. Call 843-379-6607 or visit <http://www.eatgoodbread.com/iodine.html> for details.

NOW OPEN: The Col. Hiram Parks Bell Southern History & Genealogical Research Center, Inc. Historic Cumming School, Room 113, 101 School Street, Cumming, GA 30040. The Bell Research Center houses a museum and library dedicated to the collection and maintenance of printed, microform and electronic publications as well as original and reproduction artifacts, available to the public for researching the history and culture of the American South. Admission is free. For more information and directions, call 678-455-7216 or visit their website: <http://www.bellresearchcenter.com/index.html>.

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month:

“Mockingbirds, Crickets, and Humpback Whales: A Writer’s Voice” by Fran Stewart

Almost any scientist can tell you that when you record animal sounds and slow them way down, the resulting music is intricate, involved, intriguing. Each sound is also unique to that individual species and to the animal itself. That’s what *voice* is. That’s what we as writers strive to reach—our own distinctive way of imparting the stories we tell.

A valuable exercise for any writer is to take a passage, any passage, and try to give it different voices, each distinct from the others. Let’s say, just for the fun of it, that you’re describing a tree.

You might want to use words that bring to mind the wind-swept, stark landscape of *Wuthering Heights*.

Perhaps *Moby Dick* comes to mind. I know, I know. There weren’t any trees on the ocean. But that sense of man grappling with overpowering natural forces could lend itself to your vision of the tree as a vindictive presence, rather the way Tolkien did with Old Man Willow in *The Hobbit*.

A Hemingway tree would be terse.

An Austen tree would be proper. Get the idea?

Then, let’s borrow from the animals above. The trouble with mockingbirds is that they don’t have a distinctive voice of their own, since they’re so good at borrowing voices from everybody else. So we might want to avoid too much “mockingbird” in our descriptions. Crickets, on the other hand, have that unimaginably involved chirruping. It may sound simply like background noise in the woods at night, but record it and slow it down, and you have a veritable symphony. The good news is that you, as a writer, get to choose which aspects of the cricket chirp you want to emulate. Ditto with whale songs. Do you go for the high squeaks or the resonant bass soundings?

Of course, regardless of which author or which animal you admire, your own voice, after you’ve done all your experimenting, must be uniquely yours. It is only when we step into our *voice*, pulled from the sum total of our life experiences, that we become full-fledged writers. Cheep, chirp, chatter, squeak, hum, or boom. You decide.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

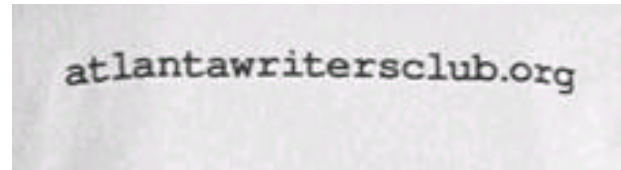
(Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, myownship@earthlink.net, 770-682-7483)

A poem by **Maggie Hunt-Cohn** (I’m Somebody; You Are Too”) was published in the South Cobb Arts Alliance News Notes

Sara Hines Martin spoke and signed books at the Royston Public Library.

Jean Osbourne Shaw was named the Georgia Senior Poet Laureate Award Winner by the national organization of Senior Poets Laureate. She received a certificate and a monetary award. Her winning poems were “Abalone” and “The Shredder.”

THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB T-SHIRTS—2 STYLES ON SALE



Each shirt is a bargain at \$10 apiece, or buy two for \$18 (or three for \$27, four for \$36, etc.). There's a bonus discount if you order them on-line at www.atlantawritersclub.org/merchandise. You may also order by check, payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club*, by contacting George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com or (770) 552-5887. Tell him:

- 1) Whether you want black, white, or both styles of t-shirt.
- 2) Which size(s) for each color: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL; and/or Child L.
- 3) What quantity of each size.
- 4) Whether you want the shirt(s) mailed to you or you will pick it up. They will be available for pickup and for sale at every meeting. If you want mail delivery, add \$7 for the first shirt and \$3 for additional ones for packaging and shipping charges.

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

2007 Membership Dues:

- \$35 per member if paid by Oct. 21 and receiving e-Quill by e-mail \$_____
- \$40 if receiving e-Quill by regular mail, or joining after Oct. 21
- Students, ages 25 and under, pay only \$30 year-round

Donation in the amount of \$_____

Total \$_____

Please mail with checks payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club* to
Adrian Drost, 500 Periwinkle Drive, Roswell, GA 30075-4328

- Unpaid members will be removed from *The E-Quill* mailing list.
- Payment in 2006 grants membership through the rest of 2006 and all of 2007.

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

Name _____

Address _____ City & Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Sponsor (if any) _____

Tell us about yourself:

1. Please circle your three primary interests
novel/ poetry/ short-story / humor/
nonfiction/ fiction/ juvenile/ travel/
drama/ screen-writing/ other
2. Please identify you experience level
published submitted none
3. Please tell us how long you have been writing
<5 yrs <10 <20 or >20
4. Please tell us what you expect from the club _____

Date: ____/____/____