

Newsletter of the ALABAMA WRITERS' CONCLAVE Founded 1923

PRESIDENT

Jim Reed  
107 Twentieth St. South  
Birmingham, AL 35233  
[jim@jimreedbooks.com](mailto:jim@jimreedbooks.com)

POET LAUREATE

Sue Brannan Walker  
62 Ridgelawn Dr. East  
Mobile, AL 36608  
[www.suebwalker.com](http://www.suebwalker.com)

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



## WORD-GATHERINGS: THE WE OF ME

by Sue Walker, Poet Laureate of Alabama

Consider for a moment the word **belong**. Just what does it mean? In its phrasal aspect, the verb means to be a member of a group or club or a native of a particular place. Georgia native, Carson McCullers, in her novel, *The Member of the Wedding*, writes of how thirteen-year-old, F. Jasmine Ad-dams longed to be a part of her brother and his bride's wedding and of how she called Janice and Jarvis "the we of me."

In an essay in her nonfiction book, *The Mortgaged Heart*, McCullers writes that "Love is the bridge that leads from the *I* sense to the *We*," and it is, she says, "in the security of this togetherness we find contentment," and "courage."

Sue Monk Kidd, author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Mermaid Chair* says in the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Mobile Register* that she is "grateful

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Inside this issue:

|  | Page                 |
|--|----------------------|
| From the Prez<br>Constitutional Amendments | 3                    |
| New Members                                | 4                    |
| Newsworthy                                 | 4                    |
| Shortwords<br>(Hopefully back soon)        |                      |
| Writer Resources                           | 6                    |
| AWC Writers' Contest                       | 6                    |
| Conclave Information                       | 7, 8,<br>9,<br>10,11 |



## Motivator's Corner

by Jill Davis

### Writing in the River

Have you ever heard the expres-sion, you never step in the same river twice? We are like a river when we write. In a screenwriting class that I had with Viki King, a student expressed anxiety about being able to

market her product when it was finished. Vicki told her, "Don't worry, the person you are now, is not the person you will be when it is time to market your work."

Where inside of ourselves do we write from? Where is that seemingly

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Notices

## Next meeting of the AWC Executive Board.



Our next AWC board meeting will take place at Dixon Center on the Auburn campus, Saturday, June 3, 2006, 10:30am.

Any AWC member is welcome to attend.

## Important: Please Read

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Student Dues: \$15 All others: \$25

For administrative purposes, the **Membership Year** has been changed to run from Oct. 1 to Sept. 31. If you have not renewed since October 1, your 2006 dues should be sent to the treasurer as soon as possible. Dues received after Sept. 31 are credited for the following year. **Keep your dues up-to-date to keep your *NewsWords* coming.**

Active members whose dues are current enjoy the following benefits:

- ▶ Subscription to the quarterly newsletter, *NewsWords*
- ▶ Lower contest entry fees
- ▶ Lower registration fees for the annual Conclave

Send membership dues to

Don Johnson, Treasurer  
137 Sterling Drive  
Hueytown, AL 35023

### Has your address changed?

If so, please notify the Treasurer.

## *NewsWords*

### Submission Information

1. **NEWSWORTHY.** Anything new been published since the last issue of *NewsWords*?

2. **YOURWORDS.**

☺ Got any tips about helpful resources in books, magazines, the Web?

☺ Writers' conferences, contests, etc. you know about?

☺ Are you qualified or skilled to do a guest column on a writing theme? Send it.

3. **GROUPWORDS.** Share meeting times of a writers' group in your area.

4. **SHORTWORDS.** Submissions (up to 500 words). Short fiction, essays, poetry, novel excerpts, book reviews, info on writing themes/techniques.

5. **PHOTOGRAPHS.** I prefer digitized but can use paper photos.

### HOW TO SEND YOUR STUFF

- ▶ Preferably e-mail attachments in MS-Word, PDF (or e-mail text).
- ▶ Regular mail, preferably typed, but I can use handwritten.

SEND TO:

**jsdhale4@juno.com**

or

**Dennis Hale**  
200 East Main Street  
Notasulga, AL 36866-2592

**DEADLINE**  
**For Summer *NewsWords***  
**June 20, 2006**  
**The earlier the better!**

Check the "Links" page of [www.alabamawritersconclave.com](http://www.alabamawritersconclave.com) for the latest author websites. Send your website address for the Links page to [jim@jimreedbooks.com](mailto:jim@jimreedbooks.com).

## AWC OFFICERS 2005-07

### President

Jim Reed  
[jim@jimreedbooks.com](mailto:jim@jimreedbooks.com)

### 1st Vice President/Program Chair

Jimmy Carl Harris  
[harrisjc@bellsouth.net](mailto:harrisjc@bellsouth.net)

### 2nd Vice President/Scholarship Chair/ Membership Chair

Francesca Gross  
[fgross@bsc.edu](mailto:fgross@bsc.edu)

### Treasurer

E. Don Johnson  
[edjohnson2bellsouth.net](mailto:edjohnson2bellsouth.net)

### Associate Treasurer/Long Range Planning Chair

John Frandsen  
[jfrandsen2@charter.net](mailto:jfrandsen2@charter.net)

### Recording Secretary

Tommie Willis  
[tmwillis@charter.net](mailto:tmwillis@charter.net)

### Corresponding Secretary

Jill Davis  
[jillangeldavis@yahoo.com](mailto:jillangeldavis@yahoo.com)

### Historian

Richard Modlin  
[rfm1937@earthlink.net](mailto:rfm1937@earthlink.net)

### Contest Chair

Irene Latham  
[irenelatham@bellsouth.net](mailto:irenelatham@bellsouth.net)

### Publications Chair/NewsWords Editor

Dennis Hale  
[jsdhale4@juno.com](mailto:jsdhale4@juno.com)

### Publicity Chair

Melinda Dickinson  
[copyedit@bellsouth.net](mailto:copyedit@bellsouth.net)

### Parliamentarian (nonvoting)

Jimmy Carl Harris  
[harrisjc@bellsouth.net](mailto:harrisjc@bellsouth.net)

### Alabama Poet Laureate

Sue Brannan Walker  
[negcap@bellsouth.net](mailto:negcap@bellsouth.net)

Editors Note: All web addresses in this newsletter are correct and authentic.



## From the Prez

Jim Reed (AWC President)

## LOOKING FOR A *News- Words* EDITOR

*Newswords* editor, Dennis Hale has resigned effective June 30, 2006. He cites travel and other retirement pursuits which are not compatible with the duties and deadlines of the newsletter. We regret his leaving and continue to search for a replacement.

The current newsletter is created in Microsoft Publisher for printing and converted to an Adobe Acrobat PDF file for e-mailing and website use. Digital photography editing skills are also helpful. Dennis will give an orientation to the new editor in early August.

Volunteers please contact

[jim@jimreedbooks.com](mailto:jim@jimreedbooks.com)

To: Alabama Writers' Conclave

The Conclave is revving up to make this the most successful year ever!

1. Contest entries are now being accepted. Note the prize money is getting bigger each year! (Click on "contests" on the website at [www.alabamawritersconclave.org](http://www.alabamawritersconclave.org))

2. Membership is growing. Time to renew! (Click on "membership" at the website and download a membership form to mail in.) [or clip and mail the renewal form in the printed newsletter]

3. The 2006 conference is scheduled for July 21-23 at Auburn University. Registrations are already

arriving. Better register now! (Click on "register" at the website home page for a registration form.)

4. Writers young and old need to know how good the annual Conclave has become. Spread the word to anyone who wants to attend the state's only conference where you roll up your sleeves Friday night, get right to work, and end up, by Sunday afternoon, with more helpful instruction than you'll find at any other meeting in Alabama. Spread the word!

Tell everyone about our website: [www.alabamawritersconclave.org](http://www.alabamawritersconclave.org).

Jim Reed, President  
Alabama Writers' Conclave  
[jim@jimreedbooks.com](mailto:jim@jimreedbooks.com) ■

### Amendment to Alabama Writers' Conclave Bylaws, specifying the duties of the Program Chair

Replace the existing Bylaws Article IX with the following:

#### Article IX – Programs

Regular programs shall be arranged for the Conclave by the First Vice President as Program Chair.

Section 1. The Program Chair is charged with planning and staging the annual writers' conference and annual meeting of the AWC. Pursuant to these duties, the Program Chair:

- a. Follows the guidelines specified in the Standing Operating Procedure for the First Vice President.
- b. Adheres to the conference dates and site, as determined by the Executive Board, after the board has considered the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee.
- c. Determines the program events to be included in the conference.
- d. Hires appropriate faculty to facilitate the program.
- e. Works with the host site in making arrange-

ments for meals, meeting rooms, conferee rooms, audiovisual equipment, registration desk, book store, etc., as needed for the conference program and annual meeting.

f. Prepares a draft line-item budget for the upcoming conference for board approval at the fall board meeting of the calendar year preceding the conference.

Section 2. The Program Chair also plans and stages other appropriate events dedicated to fulfilling the stated purpose of the Alabama Writers' Conclave.

### Amendment to Alabama Writers' Conclave Bylaws, specifying the duties of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Add the following section to the Bylaws Article VI – Duties of Committees:

Section 3. The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is generally charged with monitoring the operations of the AWC and developing plans and recommendations to improve these operations and advance the development of the organization. These plans and recommendations are submitted to the Executive Board for consideration and disposal. The Committee Chair will be appointed by the President. The Chair will then appoint the committee members. The number of members of the committee may vary but will not exceed

seven, including the Chair. Specifically, this committee:

- a. Adheres to the guidelines contained in the LRPC Standing Operating Procedure (SOP).
  - b. Identifies and evaluates sites and dates for future writers' conferences and presents these evaluations to the board for consideration and disposal. These recommendations will be presented to the board at the spring meeting of the board, in the year prior to the recommended dates.
  - c. Monitors board compliance with the governing documents (constitution and bylaws) and SOP and reports to the board discrepancies identified and perceived needs for change of practices or for revision of the text of these documents to make their mandates congruent with practice.
  - d. Identifies for board consideration means by which the organization can better and more effectively discharge its mission and, should the board endorse any of these means, develop plans for their realization as mandated by the board.
  - e. Assumes any additional responsibilities as directed by the president.
- Submitted on 1 April, 2006, to the Conclave Executive Board, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.*

# NewsWorthy

What our members are doing.....



**Patty McCoy Horton's** (Demopolis) poem "Unto the Hills" appears in the *Mature Living* March issue. Her poem "Memory is Precious" will appear in the May issue.

**Sue Walker**, Alabama Poet Laureate, (Mobile) was interviewed in the March online issue of **Southlit.com** by R.L. Hall. Southlit.com's mission is "To promote Southern Contemporary Literature." *Read the entire interview at southlit.com.* You may also visit Dr. Walker's website at: <http://www.suewalker.com/>



**Jill Davis**, Alabama writer (Auburn), took a screen writing class with Vicki King. One of the special guest speakers was Steven Simon, director of *What Dreams May Come*. After an engaging conversation about writing, he emailed her asking her to fly out to Ashland, Oregon and appear in a couple of scenes in his current film, *Conversa-*



*tions with God.* Jill tells us that it was an awesome experience and she encourages everyone to check out Spiritual Cinema Circle.

**Deborah Tainsh** (Midland, GA) has been contacted and spent hours over the phone providing input for a new screenplay for an independent film involving a military family. (Not hers, not yet) John Cusack ... is one of the actors. So, life is keeping her busy ... speaking to the Young Republicans Organization in St Marys, Ga in March, The Marine Parents Conference in April in Houston, Book Expo and TAPs in DC in May. She also has an article that is to appear in the Columbus Georgia Ledger-Enquirer called "Beyond the Folded Flag."

**Embry Burrus** (Auburn) had a reading and signing at Crosshaven Books (owned by Marie Peer-son, another AWC member), on March 18th. She has written a truly fine book about her mother and sister, *Mama and Margaret*. You can learn more about the book, and about Embry, on her website: <http://aeburrus.com/>



**Jim Reed** (B'ham) has been named editor of "The Undying Fire," the journal of the H.G. Wells Society, the Americas.

**Jimmy Carl Harris's** (B'ham) short fiction collection, *Walking Wounded*, will be published by Iris Press this summer. See details soon on his website: [www.jimmycarlharris.com/](http://www.jimmycarlharris.com/) His book is scheduled to be available for purchase on 1 June.



**Irene Latham** (B'ham) Board member/contest chair of AWC has been named **Alabama Poet of the Year** by the Alabama State Poetry Society. Quite an honor!



## ALALITCOM REBORN

**Irene Latham** has also graciously accepted the post of Editor, *Alalitcom*. The first online edition of *Alalitcom* will cover cash winners of the 2006 contest. *Alalitcom* will also have its own website: [www.alalit.com](http://www.alalit.com)

**BE A GUEST ON "CALLING ALL AUTHORS"** a popular, cutting-edge internet talk show hosted by **Valerie Connelly**, Publisher at **Night-engage Press**,

**CALLING ALL AUTHORS** presents a dynamic and entertaining focus on mostly independently published books. Authors talk about their books, promote events, reveal lessons learned in writing and publishing and explain marketing hurdles they have overcome. Industry experts talk about writing, manuscript submission, publishing trends, marketing success and publicity tips.

Some industry experts on **CALLING ALL AUTHORS** include Jan Nathan, PUBLISHER'S MARKETING ASSOCIATION, Peter Chamlis, FOREWORD MAGAZINE, MaryGlenn McCombs, MARYGLENN BOOK PUBLICITY, Irene Watson, READER-VIEWS.com, Francine Silverman, BOOK PROMOTION NEWSLETTER,

(Continued on page 7)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO AWC!

Robert Bobkowski — Auburn  
 William Kelly — Birmingham  
 Sheila S. Mau — Cropwell  
 Sara W. McDaris — Huntsville  
 Leslie P. Parsons — Auburn  
 Peggy A. Stelpflug — Auburn  
 Carolynne B. Scott — Birmingham

(Continued from page 1)



for the opportunity” to talk “with those who cherish the written word.” A writer, she adds works “in isolation so much.”

Let’s examine these two words: belong and love. The communion of these words resonates within us and brings about a sense of fellowship, of sharing. It is the security of no longer being alone. The Right Reverend Pierre W. Whalon says that “one of the most basic constitutive elements of a person’s identity is belonging.” Yet, for writers, the craft necessitates *aleness*. We are alone with our pencil or pen, our typewriter or computer, and the words derived from the solitariness

of our inspiration and imagination, are an aspect of what being a writer means. But what about the need for a “we of me?”

Let us examine the phrasal verb: to belong to something, to be a member of a group or club. The word derives from the Middle English *bilongen*, *be* plus *longen* which means to belong and from the old English *geland* along, depending. The word *belong* unites us. It conjoins the solitary and lonely “I” with a community, a group—and I would like to add, here, a unity of like-minded fellows. The word fellowship comes immediately to mind.

A fellowship or community of writers is “the we of me” that fulfills a strategic need, and it is the means by which those who share a love of writ-

ing can benefit from asking questions, learning from each other, sharing joys and even frustrations sometimes. This, I believe, is the mission of the Alabama Writers Conclave and of other writing groups.

Let us suppose how it would be if each of us asked someone else to be “the we of me,” asked someone interested in writing and in reading to join the Alabama Writer’s Conclave. Obviously, it would mean that we would be doubly who and what we are. We would be able to meet new people, benefit from more ideas, share more, do more, enjoy more opportunities, and help each other become the best writers we can be. And we are the “conclave” that is the “we” of each of us. We belong. ■

(Continued from page 1)



elusive flow? Picture a river, one side of the river bank is chaos the other side is rigidity. Ultimately the finished product is in the center, where the river travels. Before we settle into the flow, both sides of our bank may be hit with a storm. Our ideas, like water might rush and crash on alternating banks. We can try to force stories that won’t come if our thinking is rigid. Sometimes that means we must let the chaos flow, give in to the storm inside of us and write it all down without looking back. In this part of the process, the river is charging and powerful and the banks are muddy. Creativity happens in the middle. As the water finds its own path, so must our words.

When our brainstorm has passed, like the river we are calmer. Now we must edit. It’s time for our right brain to rest and our left brain to work. We pick out the debris bobbing in the water and plant a bush and some monkey grass. As we perch on the riverbank, a story brews inside of us, and again we step into the river. ■

### BRIEF MEMORIAL

Today, Sat. Jan. 18, 2006 according to the Birmingham News, **Mr. Frederick 'Fred' Schlichter**, age 90 will be buried. According to the paper Fred was a member of AWC. I didn't know Fred at AWC but I met him several time at the cocktail parties for BSC's 'Writing Today' writers conference. We enjoyed eating and drinking wine together.

By *Tommie Willis*

### Sticky Notes (For Jim Reed)

They stick out from the pages of his books like fluttering tongues whistling up phrase and fable scribbled by messengers decked about with feathered hats and winged sandals.

--Betty Spence

The newest issue of *Birmingham Arts Journal* is online today!

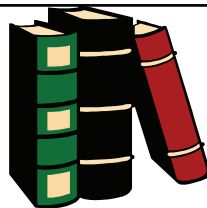
<http://www.jimreedbooks.com/baj.html>

### LET US DELIVER *NewsWords* TO YOUR COMPUTER

1. The full color digital version can be printed on your printer if desired.
2. To help with rising costs (almost \$1.00 per copy printing and postage)
3. Notify editor at: [jsdhale4@juno.com](mailto:jsdhale4@juno.com).
4. The .pdf file can be opened with the free Adobe Reader available at [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html).
5. *NewsWords* will still be mailed to those who do not choose the digital version.



# Writer Resources and Opportunities



## ALABAMA WRITERS' CONCLAVE 2006 WRITING COMPETITION GUIDELINES

WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
JULY 23, 2006

Multiple entries accepted, but you may win only one prize per category. Entries must be original, unpublished, and not have won a money prize in any contest. Current AWC voting Board Members not eligible. Entries accepted from now until April 30, 2006 (postmark).

► Send one copy on standard white paper in standard font to

Irene Latham, AWC Contest Chair  
412 Windchase Way  
Birmingham, AL 35242

► Put title and category on manuscript but no author identification.

► Enclose a separate cover sheet with title, category, author name, address, e-mail. Please provide a separate cover sheet for each entry.

► **Entry fees: \$3.00 per entry for AWC members. \$5.00 per entry for non-members.** Checks must be written to Alabama Writers' Conclave. (Membership and conference fees must be submitted separately to Treasurer.)

► Prizes announced at the annual AWC Awards Ceremony.

### Prizes in each category:

First - \$100    Second - \$75    Third - \$50    Fourth - \$25  
Up to 4 Honorable Mentions.

### Seven categories:

- Fiction – maximum 2500 words.
- Short Fiction – max. 1000 words.
- Juvenile Fiction (stories for ages 4-12 ) – max. 2500 words.
- Nonfiction – maximum 2500 words.
- Traditional Poem (any “form” poem, i.e. villanelle, sonnet, sestina) – maximum 40 lines.
- Free Verse Poem – max. 60 lines.
- Humor (fiction, nonfiction, or poetry) maximum 2000 words or 50 lines (for poems).

### SOUTHERN FRIED REGIONAL POETRY SLAM

BIRMINGHAM JUNE 2006

On June 8-10, The Southern Fried Regional Poetry Slam will be held in Birmingham! Alabama State Poet Laureate, Sue Walker, is scheduled to take part in Opening Ceremonies and Finals

Night Ceremonies. The event will take place at a number of venues around the Five Points area of B'ham, with the finals at the Carver Theater. For more information, contact

**Jerri Hardesty**  
**www.NewDawnUnlimited.com**  
**PoetrySlam.net**

## WRITERS' GROUPS

**Baldwin Group** meets every third Saturday, 10 'til 12 at Daphne Library. Contact: Reilly Maginn(251-625-0581)

☺ ☺ ☺

**Ashville, AL** St. Clair Bapt. Assn office on Hwy 231 S., usually every 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm. Contact: Ben Chandler at (205) 594-5173

☺ ☺ ☺

**Oneonta, AL** Meets every Wednesday at 5:45 pm in the museum beside the courthouse.

☺ ☺ ☺

**Cullman, AL** Poets and writers meet in homes monthly. Contact Sylvia Morris at (256) 734-3347

☺ ☺ ☺

**East Alabama Writers' Group** meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6 til 8 pm at the Jan Dempsey Arts Center 222 E. Drake Ave. Auburn, AL For meeting schedule, contact John Frandsen, 821-2036 or jfrandsen2@charter.net

☺ ☺ ☺

**Columbus Pod of Georgia Writers** meets every fourth Saturday at the New Columbus Library on Macon Road. 10 am (Easter time) for Georgia Writers and those interested in joining. 11 am General meeting for all other writers. AWC member, John Frandsen leads that group. Open to all.

### For immediate release from Contest Director, Carole Timin

19th Annual Penumbra Poetry & Haiku contest open to writers of all skill levels. Sponsored by Tallahassee Writers' Association. Prior judges Lola Haskins, David Kirby, Barbara Hamby. Deadline June 30 2006. Cash prizes and publication in annual Penumbra anthology.

\$5/poem and \$3/haiku entry fees. Send entries, fees, SASE, and short bio to: TWA Penumbra, PO Box 15995, Tallahassee, Florida, 32317-5995. Complete guidelines and `contestemailatwww.tallahasseewriters.net`

Tallahassee Writers' Association is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit association

# Conference Site



For 2006, the Alabama Writers' Conclave is pleased to announce that our conference will be held at the Dixon Conference Center and Auburn Hotel, on the lovely campus of Auburn University.

Please visit their website to learn more about the facility, including its location. <http://www.auhcc.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*

An important reminder about conference accommodations

Room reservations must be made separately. In order to ensure that you receive the AWC discount (\$84 plus tax per room night), you must call the hotel no later than June 21. After that, expect to pay the standard (much higher) rate. Call 1-800-228-2876, ask for reservations, make sure they understand you will be attending the Alabama Writers' Conclave conference and you want the rate of \$84.

**The hotel does offer on-line registration, but to ensure that you get the special Alabama Writers Conclave rate, it is strongly recommended that you call them at (334) 821-8200 or (800) 228-2876 (Toll-Free).**

## From the AWC Historian

— Richard Modlin

### MEMBERS, WE NEED MORE IN OUR HISTORICAL ARCHIVES THAN DUST!

With a dust guard over my nose and mouth, I dove into the archives of the AWC only to find that prior to the 1990's our organization doesn't have much history. Now that's not possible, because we've been actively directing, mentoring, and promoting writing in Alabama since the early 1900's. But, I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of pre1990 artifacts, e.g., meeting brochures, programs, pursuits and pictures of notable, as well as notorious members, special publications, etc., that I found in the archives. Future generations of AWC members and others need evidence—hard stuff one can hold and read—of the Conclave's past creative contributions and activities if they are to remember us. So, as

your Historian, I am asking members to check personal files and bookshelves and donate to the AWC Archives any items you may find pertaining to the Conclave. A specific example of something the AWC Archive needs, and doesn't have, is the tome published under its auspices titled *Giant Sages of the Pen, A Narrative History of the Alabama Writers' Conclave 1923-1946, Volume 1*.

Please check your libraries for a dusty copy you can part with and send it, and all other historical materials, to me.

### ATTENTION AWC POETS

The prestigious literary journal *POEM*, published by the Huntsville Literary Association, has been publishing the works of established, less known, and beginning poets from around the world since 1967. But recently, the editors have noticed a dearth of submissions from poets in our own State of Alabama. To remedy this, the Editors of *POEM* are requesting submissions from the poets of Alabama. Submis-

sion information can be obtained by logging into the HLA web site, [http://www.knology.net/~lizstagg/programs\\_poem.html](http://www.knology.net/~lizstagg/programs_poem.html).

Richard Modlin, AWC Historian  
250 Hartside Road  
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763.

**Ed note:** Visit Richard's new website at [www.richardmodlin.com](http://www.richardmodlin.com)

*(Continued from page 4 Calling all Authors)*

and Lee German, Publisher, SYLVAN DELL PUBLISHING.

Display ads and 60-second commercials are also available. Listen to archives at

[www.globaltalkradio.com/shows/callingallauthors](http://www.globaltalkradio.com/shows/callingallauthors).

Appear on the program: email [publisher@nightengalepress.biz](mailto:publisher@nightengalepress.biz).

Include your book's title, ISBN, Price, and a short 300 words or less synopsis of your book or explanation of your expertise.

**Alabama Writers' Conclave Conference      July 21-23, 2006**  
**Registration, Critique Group, and Membership Form**  
 Dixon Conference Center on the campus of Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama

*This form is NOT to be used for contest entry. Contest entry is a separate process. (See Page 6)*

If you are not already a member for 2006, you may join on this form. Membership privileges include reduced rates for the conference and contests, the quarterly newsletter, and a vote at the annual meeting. The one year membership fee is \$25.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY THE COSTS THAT APPLY TO YOU**

|  | Members | Non-Members |
|--|---------|-------------|
| <b>FULL</b> Registration (All workshops, Friday Supper, Saturday Banquet, refreshments. <u>Note that critique group participation and membership are additional costs, listed below.</u> ) | 145     | 175         |
| Friday Only, Conference Events & Supper  | 45      | 55          |
| Saturday Only, Conference Events & Banquet   | 70      | 80          |
| Sunday Only, Conference Events   | 45      | 55          |
| Membership for 2006 (unless already paid)  | 25      |             |
| Critique Group Participation (Fee only for critique participants)  | 20      | 30          |
| Saturday <b><u>Banquet ONLY</u></b>  | 30      | 40          |

Total enclosed (registration + membership if not already a 2006 member + critique group if desired)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Example: Full registration + membership + critique group = \$190. Saturday only + membership = \$95.

Full-time students may receive a 10% discount on all AWC fees (not hotel room). Please note "student" on your registration payment.

To receive vegetarian meals, please check here \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to **Alabama Writers' Conclave**.

Mail all registration materials, including this form, critique manuscripts (if you've paid to participate in critiques) and check to:

Don Johnson, Treasurer      137 Sterling Drive, Hueytown, AL 35023

Please indicate your choice of **ONE** critique group, **IF** you wish to participate in this extra-cost offering:

Poetry \_\_\_\_\_ Writing for Children \_\_\_\_\_ Fiction \_\_\_\_\_ Humor \_\_\_\_\_

Manuscripts for critique groups (up to 2000 words prose, up to 30 lines poetry) **MUST** be submitted by **15 June 2006** along with this registration form and your payment. You **MUST** put your name and genre on your critique manuscript. Groups will be led primarily by workshop faculty. If needed, additional group leaders will be employed. Assignment will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Room reservations must be made separately.** In order to ensure that you receive the AWC discount (\$84 plus tax per room night), you **must** call the hotel no later than **June 21**. After that, expect to pay the standard (much higher) rate. Call 1-800-228-2876, ask for reservations, make sure they understand you will be attending the Alabama Writers' Conclave conference and you want the rate of \$84.

**Questions about registration and critique groups may be addressed to**  
**Jimmy Carl Harris, Program Chair, at [harrisjc@bellsouth.net](mailto:harrisjc@bellsouth.net).**

Visit our website for additional information.      **<http://www.alabamawritersconclave.org>**

## Schedule of the 2006 Alabama Writers' Conclave Conference and Annual Meeting

21 – 23 July Dixon Conference Center Auburn, Alabama

### Friday, 21 July

- 5 PM Hotel check-in and conference registration (at front desk).  
7-10 Authors buffet. Meet the faculty, poet laureate, writer in residence, each other.  
Faculty will describe their workshops and read from their work. Participants who registered for critique groups will meet with designated group leaders.

### Saturday, 22 July

- 7:30-8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast (in conference area).  
8 Bookstore opens.  
8:30-9:45 Writing for Children I (Kittinger) or Humor I (DiGregorio).  
9:45-10 Break. Refreshments.  
10-11:15 Poetry Workshop I (Worthington) or Fiction Workshop I (Moran).  
11:15-1 Lunch on your own. A superb restaurant is within the conference center.  
1-2:15 Writing for Children II or Session with Writer in Residence (Barton).  
2:15-2:30 Break. Refreshments  
2:30-3:45 Poetry II or Fiction II.  
3:45-4 Break. Snacks and other Refreshments.  
4-6 Book Signing. Critique groups meet.  
6 Bookstore closes.  
7 Annual Grace Gravlee Banquet with Writer in Residence as Keynote Speaker.

### Sunday, 23 July

- 7:30-8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast (in conference area). Check out of hotel.  
8:30-9:30 Writing for Children III or Humor II.  
9:30-9:45 Break. Check out of hotel.  
9:45-10:45 Poetry III or Fiction III.  
10:45-11 Break. Check out of hotel.  
11:00-12:30 Reading by Poet Laureate (Walker). Annual meeting. Contest awards.

Farewell. Y'all come back!



Toomers Corner downtown Auburn



Samford Hall

## Writer in Residence and Other Faculty

2006 ALABAMA WRITERS' CONCLAVE JULY 21-23



### **Marlin Barton, Writer in Residence and Keynote Speaker**

I look forward to meeting and talking with other writers, and I hope to share some of my experiences with writing and teaching and publishing. We're all struggling to shape our voices into something meaningful, and when writers come together to listen to each other, we often find the kind of support that enables us to continue our work with a sense of purpose and renewal.

Marlin Barton is from the Black Belt region of Alabama. He has published three volumes of fiction: *A Broken Thing*, a novel, and two collections of short stories, *The Dry Well* and *Dancing by the River*. His stories have appeared in a number of literary journals and anthologies, such as *The Southern Review*, *The Sewanee Review*, and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*. He teaches writing to juvenile offenders in a program called "Writing Our Stories," which was created by the Alabama Writers' Forum.



### **Marianne Worthington, Poetry Workshops**

I want AWC participants to know that the poetry workshops are for everyone—not just those of us who call ourselves poets—and that writing poems is one way into exploring identity, family, and place. These issues are, to me, universal elements in all writing. We will work on finding our singing voices as poets as well. By the end of the weekend, I hope workshop participants will leave with a notebook full of poetry sketches, ideas, and drafts.

Session I (Saturday morning):

Shared Ground and Sympathetic Resonance. Writing Poems that Create Reading and Writing Communities

Session II (Saturday afternoon): How Can I Keep From Singing? Discovering Musical Elements in Poetry

Session III (Sunday morning): Show Me the Poetry! Sharing Your Poems with the World and a Mini-Reading by Participants. Link to Marianne's website <http://www.cumberlandcollege.edu/academics/communications/faculty/worthington/>



### **Judy DiGregorio, Humor Workshops**

Saturday workshop. Don't Make Me Laugh! Is Humor Writing for You?

Class will include writing exercises and discussion of the following: 1) how I became a humor columnist, 2) what humor is, 3) tools and techniques used in humor writing, 4) favorite humor writers and what makes them funny, 5) why do you want to write humor, 6) who is your audience?

Sunday workshop (builds on Saturday workshop). Make Your Humor Appealing, not

Appalling

More in-class exercises and discussion of the following: 1) develop your comic perspective, 2) use your imagination in humor writing, 3) develop a comic character and anecdote/skit to be discussed in class 4) topics suitable for humor writing, 5) humor writing resources and markets, 6) lighten up, loosen up, and go write some humor. Link to Judy's website: <http://home.comcast.net/~digregorio5/>



### **Jo Kittinger, Children's Writers Workshops**

Saturday morning workshop: The Truth About Nonfiction for Kids

Class will include instruction and discussion of the following: 1) nonfiction genres in children's lit, 2) researching nonfiction books and articles, 3) photo research, 4), markets for nonfiction. Plus you'll be caught up in a brainstorm to flood you with ideas for your next project.

Saturday afternoon workshop: Easy-to-Read, Hard to Write Part I

Easy readers contain the simplest text of any genre, but they are not as easy to write as they appear! The first workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of writing easy readers and the wide variety of formats they take among various publishers. Plus, we'll start writing an easy reader in class. Sunday morning this class will continue.

Sunday morning workshop: Easy-to-Read, Hard to Write Part II

Participants will continue working on an easy reader manuscript, learn how to create a dummy, plus we will share and critique our work. Time allowing, we will also discuss marketing of children's manuscripts for all genres.

Link to Jo's website: [www.jokittinger.com](http://www.jokittinger.com)



### **Mary Carol Moran, Fiction Workshops**

Whether you have a manuscript gathering dust, one you are actively working on, or one that's still in your head, all writers can participate and learn from these nuts-and-bolts sessions. We'll share ideas that work and gain inspiration from each other's stories.

**Session 1:** Plotting by escalating events and plotting by character arc; major and minor characters -- how to put in the quirks that make them real

**Session 2:** editing for publication -- a checklist and practice on your own manuscript

**Session 3:** learning from group critique; the business of publishing

Mary Carol Moran began and for six years taught the popular Novel Writers' Workshop through the Auburn University Outreach Program. Six of her students are now published authors of book length works. She is the author/editor of 10 fiction and non-fiction books. She now teaches high school English in Florida.

**ALL FACULTY MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE WRITER IN RESIDENCE, WILL SERVE AS CRITIQUE GROUP LEADERS. IN ADDITION, EACH WILL SERVE AS A TABLE HOST AT THE FRIDAY EVENING BUFFET AND WILL READ FROM HER OR HIS WORK ON FRIDAY EVENING. THOSE WITH BOOKS IN PRINT WILL PARTICIPATE IN A BOOK SIGNING ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.**

## **Critique Groups**

Those who register for the conference are encouraged to participate in a critique group. If you wish to participate, you MUST do two things: 1) Indicate on your registration form the type of group (genre) in which you wish to participate and 2) submit, with the registration form, a manuscript of no more than 2000 words (prose) or 30 lines (poetry). These limits MUST be strictly adhered to, in order to ensure that all group members get a fair discussion of their manuscript. Critique group leaders will receive the manuscripts in advance—therefore, manuscripts MUST be submitted no later than 15 June 2006. Group members will receive copies of their group members' manuscripts the first evening of the conference.

**Participation in the critique groups will require an additional fee of \$20.00 per participant.** This fee MUST be paid along with your conference registration.

Faculty members will serve as primary critique group leaders. If additional group leaders are needed, they will be drawn from qualified members of the Alabama Writers' Conclave. Assignment to groups will be on a first received, first served basis.

These groups, of no more than ten participants plus a leader, will meet for ½ to 1 hour on Friday evening, after the faculty introductions. They will quickly become acquainted and plan their activities.

Between Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, participants should read each others' manuscripts and plan their comments.

On Saturday afternoon, the groups will meet for 1½ to 2 hours. The group leader will facilitate a discussion of each manuscript.

Any other critique group activities will be at the discretion of the group members, with the leadership of the group leader.

Groups, by genre. You MUST indicate ONE choice on your registration form.

Poetry

Fiction

Writing for children

Humor

*NewsWords* Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Alabama Writers' Conclave ♦ Founded 1923

Editor: Dennis Hale  
200 East Main Street  
Notasulga, Alabama 36866-2592

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**TO:**

***Alabama Writers' Conclave Application for Membership & Renewal Form***

Membership dues are \$25 per year and include the quarterly newsletter, reduced registration costs, and reduced contest entry fees. (Students \$15). Membership application and dues should be mailed to::

Treasurer: Don Johnson  
137 Sterling Drive  
Hueytown, Alabama 35023

To qualify for lower fees for 2006 Writing Competition,  
membership dues must be paid before the contest deadline.

Check applicable boxes: Application for membership  Renewal only  Student

Membership renewal for following year is from October 1 until January 1.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Website Address if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have time and skill to volunteer in the service of our members?

Please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

Many members pay their annual dues and register for the conference at the same time. Do both on the Conference Registration form