

Newsletter of the ALABAMA WRITERS' CONCLAVE Founded 1923

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## Bringing up the Babe: 2006

by Sue Walker, Poet Laureate of Alabama

Imagine you have a baby on your lap, one who looks at you, eyes filled with wonder and love. Imagine this New Year cherub is your creative self. How will you bring up this word-child in the fullness of its being?

Take the word LOVE. I don't mean the triteness of it: "I love chocolate!" "I love my dog, cat, my potbellied pig." Ask how loving affects the writing self and that of others who write. Let's say:

"First, do no harm." Let's critique without condemnation. I once had a college literature professor who stamped papers with "Bull" in red ink. I recall how inadequate I felt. Another professor would take a poem, point out a line and exclaim: "Look how good this line is." A positive experience teaches better than a negative one.

What should we feed this new-born? A pabulum of words.

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Inside this issue:

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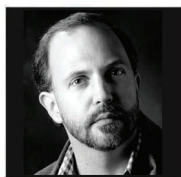
## CONCLAVE 2006 The Faculty

Auburn University's Samford Hall

Members of the AWC invite writers everywhere to participate in our conference and our contests.

The Conclave provides an organization where writers and aspiring writers of any genre or style can join together in a quality forum for enhancement of writing abilities. Sharing information, developing ideas, honing skills, and re-

ceiving practical advice are hallmarks of the annual meeting held each year.



Marlin Barton,  
Writer in Residence  
and Keynote  
Speaker says

"I look forward to  
*(Continued on page 7)*

# Notices

Next meeting of  
the AWC Execu-  
tive Board.



Saturday at 10:30 am on April  
1, 2006 at the  
E. L. Lowder Branch Library  
2590 Bell Rd. Montgomery

Any AWC member is welcome  
to attend.

## Important: Please Read MEMBERSHIP DUES

New rates beginning Oct. 1, 2006  
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 treas-  
urer as soon as possible. Dues received  
after Sept. 31 are credited for the fol-  
lowing year. **Keep your dues up-to-  
date to keep your *NewsWords* coming.**

Active members whose dues are cur-  
rent 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

**NOTE: If you have not renewed,  
this may be the last issue of the  
newsletter mailed to you unless  
your membership is renewed  
prior to the publication of the  
Spring issue in March.**

**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 re-  
sources 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 digi-  
tized 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 Spring *NewsWords*  
March 20, 2006  
The earlier the better!**

**Check the "Links" page** of  
www.alabamawritersconclave.com for  
the latest author websites. Send your  
website address for the Links page to  
jim@jimreedbooks.com.

## AWC OFFICERS 2005-07

### President

Jim Reed  
jim@jimreedbooks.com

### 1st Vice President/Program Chair

Jimmy Carl Harris\*  
harrisjc@bellsouth.net

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### Alabama Poet Laureate

Sue Brannan Walker  
negcap@bellsouth.net

\*Appointed to serve remainder of Reilly  
Meginn's term.



## From the Prez

Jim Reed (AWC President)

**Wonder of wonders!** We now have our five faculty members under contract for the 2006 Alabama Writers' Conclave meeting at Auburn University, July 21-23.

It will be the most intense and fun conference we've had in years. See why, when you review the program and examine the backgrounds of the faculty, at [www.alabamawritersconclave.com](http://www.alabamawritersconclave.com).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** See why the Conclave is more than just another rub-elbows-with-famous-authors meeting. It is evolving into a truly professional workshop designed to make you get up and do what must be done. Write!

We're so proud of our new line-up that we don't want anybody to miss out. Spread the word and start signing folks up. We invite new members and new conference registrants year 'round.

And check out the new contest rules at the website. Sharpen the pencil, re-fill your favorite pen, back up your computer data, change the typewriter ribbon, buy a new ream of paper, sharpen the chisel if you happen to write in granite, buy a new box of crayons if you're composing on butcher paper. Whatever your medium, prepare to learn and grow at the 2006 Conclave.


Jim Reed  
President

Quotes in these peculiar boxes are taken from

***ON WRITING WELL: An informal guide to writing nonfiction,***  
by William Zinsser  
Harper & Row, Publishers, 1976.

**Applies to fiction as well**

LOOKING FOR A *NewsWords* EDITOR



The AWC board is looking for someone with desktop publishing skills who can take over publication of the newsletter when the current editor retires. 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 also helpful. If you are interested in volunteering, Contact Jim Reed [jim@jimreedbooks.com](mailto:jim@jimreedbooks.com)

**AWC WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS**

*If you are a new member and your name is not listed below, please pardon the oversight and let the editor know your status.*

Heather Fisher — Madison  
Cathy Lee — Birmingham  
Jessica Dehart — Atlanta, GA  
Robert D. Stainback — Sandestin, FL  
Mary W. Craig — Letohatchee  
Louise A. Nelson — Huntsville  
Dottie Redmond — Huntsville  
Shawn Jacobsen — Auburn

*Welcome back returning members....*

Deryl Barnhill — Northport  
Barbara Belisle — Montevallo  
Elizabeth Ivey — Fairhope  
N. S. Xavier — Birmingham

*The only way to learn to write is to force yourself to produce a certain number of words on a regular basis.*

*On Writing Well*

# NewsWorthy

What our members are doing.....



**PRESS RELEASES:** Send the information as soon as possible after its occurrence to Melinda Dickinson, AWC Publicity Chair. Include the name of the award, name of organization, what you did to win the award, books you have authored, and the name of your hometown. Send to Melinda at: [copyedit@bellsouth.net](mailto:copyedit@bellsouth.net)

Or: 525—20th Ave. South  
Birmingham, AL 35205

**Dana Wildsmith's** fourth book, *One Good Hand*, from Iris Press. It's available on Amazon. A poem from this collection, "Making A Living" was read by Garrison Keiller on Writers Almanac on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Check out her latest news at [www.danawildsmith.com](http://www.danawildsmith.com)

**Darnell Arnoult** read and signed on December 3 at Crosshaven Books, Birmingham, her new book, *What Travels With Us: Poems*. Published by Louisiana State University Press.

**Irene Latham's** new book of poetry will be published by Mercy Seat Press. Irene is an AWC board member. Her book is illustrated by Alabama artist Jeff Faulk. Visit Irene's website at [www.irenelathan.com](http://www.irenelathan.com)



The new issue of *Active Culture Magazine* is edited by AWC member **Liz Reed** and includes work by AWC members **Melinda Dickinson** and **Jim Reed**. AWC's **Geoff Langdon** publishes this glossy, 122-page magazine, which has a current circulation of 30,000 per issue. More info: [www.activeculturemagazine.com](http://www.activeculturemagazine.com)

**AWC member Myra Crawford**, chair of the Hackney Awards, just retired from the University of Alabama at Birmingham after more than three decades of work as editor and author, among other academic duties. The former editor of *Folio* and *Alabama Journal of Health Sciences*, Myra is fine-tuning a new novel.

*The Birmingham Arts Journal*, featuring a number of AWC members' works, is now online, too. In addition to reading the journal on the printed

page, you can read it and enjoy the full-color photography and artwork therein, on the internet. Goto <http://jimreedbooks.com/baj.html> to read. A recent issue featured work by AWC members **Geoff Langdon**, **Frieda Stevenson**, **Jim Reed**, and AWC contest winner: **Margaret Spruill**.

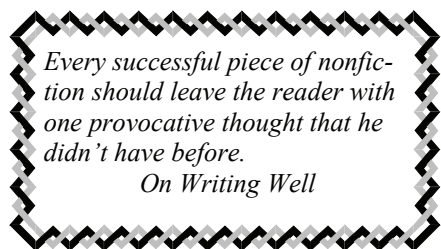
**Deborah Tainsh**, Midland, GA, has received a contract offer from a traditional publisher for a new edition of her self-published book, *Heart of a Hawk, Eye of the Eagle*. She has been invited to Washington DC for signings at the Book Expo (about the largest in the country) the weekend of May 20th.

In an e-mail, Deborah expressed her gratitude to those who had proof-read and helped with copy edits of her work, including work done by members of her local writer's group. The publisher said that because the copy-edits were so near perfect that very little other work needed to be done before publication.

Deborah said, "Never let it be said that there's anything wrong with self-publishing. It can work when you prove you've got the marketing and sales skills to go along with the writing. Thank heaven for over 25 years of customer and public relations and in the world of banking business and learning to become a public speaker!"

The first edition is still available from Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

Deborah's website: [www.heartofahawk.com](http://www.heartofahawk.com)



**Helen Norris (Bell)**, AWC member for many years and former Poet Laureate of Alabama is recovering from a stroke in North Carolina. She may not be

able to write back but would certainly be pleased to hear from those who so fondly remember her.

*Helen Norris Bell*  
*Highland Farm Retirement Community*  
*200 Tabernacle Road*  
*Black Mountain, NC 28711*

**Sue Brannan Walker's** book, *In the Realm of Rivers*, was reviewed in the latest issue of *First Draft Magazine*. Check out her anthology at the following web site: [suewalker.com/alabamaanthology.html](http://suewalker.com/alabamaanthology.html)

**Mary Halliburton** (Montgomery), former president of AWC, was a delegate from the U.S.A. to China for the 19th International World Congress of Poets. 150+ delegates from 48 countries around the world attended. She went from Beijing by bus to the congress venue at Tia'an in Shangdong Province. She was honored when after reading a poem through an interpreter, she received the only standing ovation accorded to anyone that night. Montgomery will host the 20th International Congress of Poets in 2007, with many members being Poet Laureates, Pulitzer Prize Winners, and Pulitzer nominees.



(Continued from page 1)



“Book,” we say, The babe learns to read. Mary Oliver, (*A Poetry Handbook*), says that “to write well it is entirely necessary to read widely and deeply. Good poems are the best teachers. [ . . . ] If one must make a choice between reading or taking part in a workshop, one should read.” An entire chapter in Jack Heffron’s *The Writer’s Idea Workshop: How to make your good ideas great* is entitled “Reading is Fundamental.”

Heffron, the author of *The Writer’s Idea Book* and former editor of *Story Magazine*, says: “If there’s a *secret* to learning to write well [ . . . ] it’s reading, reading, reading.” Reading “adds richness to your language and to your imagination. By

reading good work, we learn the sound of good writing. We learn how to handle the elements of craft.”

Read Alabama State Poetry Society’s publication, the *Sample* to acquaint yourself with other Alabama writers and their work. I am (with John Chambers) putting together an Alabama Anthology – poems that refer to or reference Alabama. Please send submissions to [negcap@bellsouth.net](mailto:negcap@bellsouth.net). The anthology is online at [suewalker.com](http://suewalker.com). A print version will follow in 2007.

Children grow fast. The babe is ready to leave the nest. Let’s speak of submissions. The Alabama Writer’s Conclave and the Alabama State Poetry Society have current competitions underway. The Eugene Walter Writer’s Festival ([ewwfest.com](http://ewwfest.com)) has posted 2006 contest guidelines

on its website. Poetry Daily ([www.poems.com](http://www.poems.com)) has a free online newsletter that keeps writers abreast of competitions and that sends subscribers a poem each day. *Poets and Writers magazine*, *Writer’s Digest*, and *The Writer* can be found in most bookstores. They feature “what’s wanted” sections, so sample books that say “take a look at me.”

Take the growing child a trip to a bookstore, a library, a conference, a reading. As Tennyson says in “The Palace of Art,” the soul does not thrive shut away from human commerce. We need each other, need to support each other, and read each other. This way our child will become the father of the man who will bring up a New Year baby in 2007. ■

## 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 \$1.50 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.



### *NewsWords* is now online, too!

Now you can see each issue in **living color**. Make sure your fellow writers and prospective members know about it--it's a great recruiting tool for the **Alabama Writers' Conclave**. Whenever you're trying to get someone to sign up for membership, tell them to click on [www.alabamawritersconclave.org](http://www.alabamawritersconclave.org) and see the lineup for the next conference in Auburn....then click on the "**Latest News**" page to read the latest issue, followed by a click on the membership application form to join!

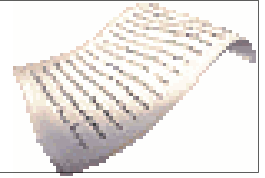
*Simplicity: The secret of good writing is to strip every sentence to its cleanest components. Every word that serves no function, every long word that could be a short word, every adverb that carries the same meaning that is already in the verb, every passive construction that leaves the reader unsure of who is doing what—these are the thousand and one adulterants that weaken the strength of a sentence.*  
*On Writing Well*

*Clutter: Writing improves in direct ratio to the number of things we can keep out of it that shouldn't be there.*  
*On Writing Well*



# ShortWords

Member contributions for your enjoyment.....



## John Miller's Green Boat

Blue on blue  
Baby blue  
White  
Beige

A little green boat  
With dots of yellow  
Sailing amid light blue

An emerald leafy green plant  
In a red pot sits on white rocks

In the middle of the ocean's blue  
Is peaceful, cool, calm

Charming, too.

*Vincent J. Tomeo  
Flushing, New York*

## ALIENS AND EARTHLINGS FINALLY COMMUNICATE

by Jim Reed

The greyhaired man and his wife wander attentively through the stacks of books and ephemera in my Museum of Fond Memories.

They've never been here before, but they are excited to find a quiet haven, surrounded by 500 years of artifacts, the kinds of artifacts they know have just been lost to them forever in their hometown, New Orleans.

They are staying with friends and don't know whether they have a home to return to.

A rough-edged woman shows up at the bookloft, talking excitedly about the old magazines and books she's trying to sell to me. She's getting rid of her possessions so she can trek southward to spend her life helping victims of Katrina. She's had an epiphany but doesn't know what an epiphany is.

Larry Fikes at the Redmont Hotel tells me stories about refugees he's housing, Teresa Thorne sends emails pleading for aid for refugees at the Civic Center. Beth Williams is lying in the hospital nearby, donating a kidney to a friend. My daughter, Margaret, sends a note that her church in Fairhope has turned itself into a refugee soup kitchen, that thousands are being helped throughout Baldwin County. Over the Mountain neighbors say they still don't have electricity, but they don't seem to be complaining or whining as much as you might think.

I remember back to the day after 9/11, when my son-in-law, Derek, walked into his home with a funny look on his face. He told Margaret, "They didn't turn the trashcans over this time. And they even replaced

*(Continued on page 7)*

## AN ENDLESS TIME (DUSK)

I cast my heart out, and like a stone it skimmed across the waters of life and up on the deserted shore of loneliness where it laid shimmering in the sunlight, slowly dying, waiting for the eternal darkness. Suddenly, as if a miracle occurred, a beautiful woman appeared walking on the shore. The sun was fading and life was turning to dusk. The "heart-stone" too was fading. The young woman picked it up in her gentle hands, held it close to her heart and the love emanating from her re-kindled the fading "heart-stone." It was like a resurrection for there was a magnificent sunset then the rapture of a soothing dusk. And dusk will always be the time for two hearts to join and quietly, but firmly,

beat to the rhythm of understanding love.

— *Robert Zambs*

(Aliens and Earthlings... Continued from page 6)

the lids," referring to garbage workers who usually toss things about in their rush to get it done. They, too, acted not quite as abruptly as you might predict.

Every few minutes, I run into more anecdotes and stories about post-Katrina, post-9/11 times. Despite the horrors, many people are being kind to one another, and respectfully quiet now and then.

One of my favorite movie scenes drifts into full view in my mind. In the film STARMAN, an enthusiastic and frustrated SETI scientist, played by Charles Martin Smith, is desperately attempting to communicate with a superior-intelligenced alien, played by Jeff Bridges. Smith is trying to learn all he can before the Government and the vivisectionists arrive to enslave and examine this alien, just in case he presents a threat to Earth.

And then, a great cinematic moment occurs.

Scientist and alien are sitting face to face, just before all Bureaucracy breaks loose.

In reply to the scientist's obvious question, "Why are you here?" the dying alien says, "We are interested in your species. You are a strange species...not like any other...and you would be surprised how many there are--intelligent but savage."

The scientist is hanging on to every word during this first-ever conversation between planets.

The alien asks, "Shall I tell you what I find beautiful about you (Earthlings)?"

The scientist can only nod.

"You are at your very best when things are worst."

And that's the scene.

It's the kind of thing you don't think about too much on a conscious level, but by and by, the significance begins to sink in. The metaphor applies. The soul takes a turn for the better.

We are at our very best when things are worst.

I look around me at the changed people, the changed lives, the refugees of 9/11 and Katrina and Hiroshima and Tsunami and a thousand other catastrophes human-made or human-preventable or human unpreventable. I see the good that people do lives after them. The bad is interred with their bones.

Sorry about paraphrasing you, Mark Antony, but you got it wrong. Most people are capable of great kindnesses, especially when they aren't prepared to resist their gentle impulses.

Look around you. You'll see small kindnesses everywhere.

Like the Starman, you will wonder at the mistakes and vanities, but you will think we're all worth saving, once you see how we react when times are worst.

© 2005 Jim Reed

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

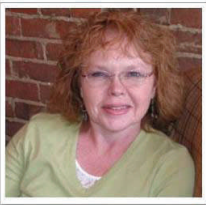
(Conclave Faculty: Continued from page 1)

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."

**Program Chair Note:** Marlin will serve as a table host for the Friday evening meal, conduct a "Conversation with the Writer in Residence" session on Saturday afternoon, deliver the keynote address at our Saturday evening banquet, lead one of our fiction critique groups.

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*.

**Marianne Worthington, Poetry Workshops** says



"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." Marianne's website: [www.cumberlandcollege.edu/academics/communications/faculty/worthington/](http://www.cumberlandcollege.edu/academics/communications/faculty/worthington/)



**Judy DiGregorio, Humor Workshops** says:

"Saturday workshop. Don't Make Me Laugh! Is Humor Writing for You? Sunday workshop (builds on Saturday workshop). Make Your Humor Appealing, not Appalling Judy's website: [home.comcast.net/~digregorio5/](http://home.comcast.net/~digregorio5/)

**Jo Kittinger, Children's Writers Workshops** says:

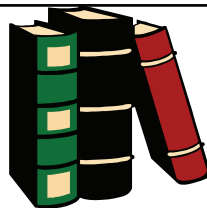


"Saturday morning workshop: The Truth About Nonfiction for Kids Saturday afternoon workshop: Easy-to-Read, Hard to Write Part I Sunday morning workshop: Easy-to-Read, Hard to Write Part II Participants will continue working on an easy reader manuscript, learn how to create a dummy, plus we will share and critique our work. Time allowing, we will also discuss marketing of children's manuscripts for all genres." Jo's website: [jokittinger.com](http://jokittinger.com)

**Mary Moran, Fiction Workshops.** Mary midwifed the talent of a number of aspiring writers who attended her Novel Writer Workshops, a program she founded, at Auburn University. Many subsequently became published authors. All who attend her workshops will benefit immensely.



# 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 IN JUNE 2006

**Jerri Hardesty (AWC) writes:**

In June, we have a really special event! On June 8-10, The Southern Fried Regional Poetry Slam will be held in Birmingham! As many as 30 teams from all over the Southeast and beyond will compete to be the Regional Championship team and/or individual, and, beginning this year, a Youth Slam Champion will also be named. The event began in 1993 and moves from city to city each year. This is THE official regional poetry slam for our region, preceding the National Poetry Slam in August 2006 in Austin, TX.

Alabama State Poet Laureate, Sue Walker, has been so supportive and is already 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 see:

**NewDawnUnlimited.com**  
**PoetrySlam.net**

## ALABAMA GULF COAST...

Not another hurricane, but the **Annual Writers Workshop** of the **Baldwin Writers Group** scheduled for April 15, 2006 in Daphne.

For specifics contact:

**Rob Zamb**

Phone: (251) 929-1640

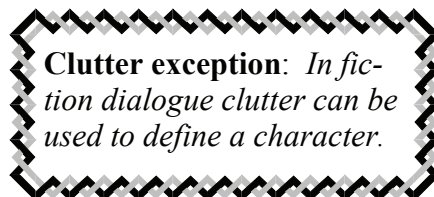
Email: [Robert.z@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Robert.z@worldnet.att.net)



## Motivator's Corner

by Jill Davis

[Not in this issue. Watch for it again in the  
Spring *NewsWords*]



**Clutter exception:** *In fiction dialogue clutter can be used to define a character.*

ByLine's Silver Anniversary  
**Poetry Chapbook Competition**  
Sponsored by *ByLine* magazine  
Celebrating 25 years of continuous publication  
www.bylinemag.com  
Deadline March 1, 2006

**Entry:** 24 to 30 original poems, maximum 39 lines each including title and stanza breaks. Style and subject are open. We suggest (but do not require) that the poems be centered on a theme. Both the entry and the individual poems must be titled. Type poems single-spaced, one to a page, with the chapbook title on a page by itself. If any poems in the entry have been published, include a separate acknowledgment page. Author's name must not appear on any of the poems, nor on the title or acknowledgment pages.

On a typed cover sheet, list the following information: author's name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail if available, title of chapbook manuscript, and a list of individual poem titles.

Place the cover sheet on top of entry and mail FLAT to *ByLine* Chapbook Competition, PO Box 5240, Edmond, OK 73083-5240. Enclose either a large SASE for return of entire manuscript after judging, *or* a business-sized envelope for winners' list only. Winners will be announced in the June issue of *ByLine*.

**Prize:** A \$200 cash award, plus 50 copies of the published book. Additional copies available at an author's discount.

**Deadline:** March 1, 2006 (postmark)

**Entry fee:** \$15 per manuscript (not per poem)

**Judging:** Manuscripts will be judged by well-published, professional poets.

For a copy of the 2004 winner, *Sailing in the Blue* by Robert Colleen, send \$8 (includes postage & handling) to ByLine Press, PO Box 5240, Edmond, OK 73083-5240, or click the link below to purchase online.

## WRITERS' GROUPS

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

☺ ☺ ☺

**Ashville, AL** Meets at 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.

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**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.

## The Fifth International Greensboro Awards For Short Fiction

\$500.00 ~ First Prize - Top ten finalists will be published in our anthology. - Two (2) free contributor copies for each finalist.

All non-published entries will be entered into a random drawing for one tuition-free seat in a future session of the on-line writing class, "Impact Of Style" (reg. tuition \$499) offered by To Write Well www.towritewell.com

Entries must be postmarked between January 1, 2006 and May 1, 2006

Winners Announced: September 1, 2006

- ▶ All work must be original and previously unpublished, including the Internet and your personal web site.
- ▶ Must include a COVER SHEET stating name, address, phone, email, title of story, a one-paragraph bio, and word count for the story.
- ▶ NO NAMES ON THE ACTUAL SHORT STORIES.
- ▶ All published finalists must be prepared to provide an electronic copy of their story.
- ▶ Multiple submissions accepted. \$20 for each submission.
- ▶ Manuscripts will not be returned. They will be recycled.
- ▶ Contest open to writers everywhere, except members of the Writer's Group Of The Triad (WGOT), and employees and family members of sponsors.

Final Judge for Short Fiction P.T. Deutermann, author of ten novels published by St. Martins' Press (www.ptdeutermann.com)

- Send SASE for list of winners. Winners will also be listed on the WGOT website, as will information for purchase of the anthology.
- Entries that do not adhere to all guidelines will not be considered.

(Continued on page 11)

## Alabama Writers Conclave

### Annual Conference and Contest

21-23 July 2006

Dixon Conference Center Auburn University Auburn, Alabama

- **Novelist Marlin Barton will be the Writer in Residence and Keynote Speaker at the Saturday evening banquet.**

An intensive learning opportunity featuring workshops and critique groups

- Poetry Marianne Worthington
- Writing for Children Jo Kittinger
- Fiction Mary Moran
- Humor Judy DiGregorio

- **Critique groups, led by experienced writers, will meet twice during the conference. Participants who wish to include this option in their registration must indicate genre choice on the registration form and must submit a manuscript by 15 June 2006. More information about critique group requirements and fees will be available on the AWC website and in NewsWords, the AWC newsletter.**

- **Seven writing contests with cash prizes to be given at the Sunday awards ceremony. Details on page 8 or AWC website.**

**Please visit the Alabama Writers Conclave website.  
<http://www.alabamawritersconclave.org>**

Program, membership, registration, and contest details will be posted as they become available.

## CONCLAVE FOR 2006:

Auburn, Alabama

DATE: 21-23 July 2006

Dixon Conference Center  
Downtown Auburn, Alabama  
2006 Conclave Venue



## From T-Town to the Forks of Troublesome

Jimmy Carl Harris (Program Chairperson)

It's a long way from Tuscaloosa, Alabama to Hindman, Kentucky. The trip is a nine hour drive, a transition from mostly flat country, the cotton south, to essentially vertical country, the coal-mining south of Appalachia. By the time you get to the Hindman Settlement School, at the Forks of Troublesome Creek (that really is the address), you've passed into another world.



Yet, when I made that pilgrimage last July, when I put Conclave 2005 behind me and headed deep into the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to participate in the Appalachian Writers' Workshop, the first words I heard when I arrived was, "Hey, Jimmy Carl, I hear y'all had a great conference down in



Alabama." The news is out, it's being repeated throughout the whole Southeast—the Alabama Writers' Conclave had a great conference in Tuscaloosa and is going to have another in Auburn. Writers from Kentucky and Tennessee and Georgia who made the trek to T-Town to learn in our workshops and enjoy our company are encouraging their friends and colleagues to put the AWC conference on their calendars.

Why is this happening? Why do writers with the fierce regional loyalty typical of Appalachia gather in a hollow in Knott County, Kentucky and talk about returning to a conference in Alabama? Two reasons. First, we invited them to come. We told them we had a great program plus seven fair and efficient contests. Second, we delivered. We had an outstanding, student-centered series of workshops and other events. As for the contests, the folks from Tennessee and Kentucky and Mississippi and Louisiana and Georgia carried off a whole slew of prizes, which left them mighty pleased.

The truth is self-evident. Our conference now has a broad appeal. We would be very wise to continue to encourage that. Ask them and they will come. On to Auburn!

MAKE THE 2006  
WRITERS' CON-  
CLAVE  
A FAMILY AFFAIR



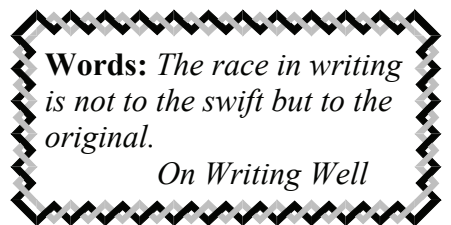
Bring the whole family to the conclave and enjoy the cultural and entertainment opportunities available at the home of Alabama's largest university.

► Numerous places for eating, entertainment, or passing the time of day within walking distance of Dixon Conference Center.

► A waterpark within two miles

► Shopping galore

► More specifics in Spring issue of *NewsWords*



Toomers Corner downtown Auburn

(Continued from page 9)

For additional information, copies of guidelines, etc. go to: [www.TriadWriters.org](http://www.TriadWriters.org)

Format: Typed, double-spaced. Font should be Courier or Times New Roman 12 point with one (1) inch margins. Maximum length is 4,000 words. Any theme or genre. (No fiction for children or young adults.) Send two (2) copies of each story.

Entry Fee: \$20 for each short story. Entry fees for submissions sent from outside the US must be in US funds/money order/bank draft/ or cashier's check. Make all checks payable to Writers' Group of the Triad.

Send entries to: **The Writers' Group of the Triad — 4118 Huff Rd. — Archdale, NC 27263**

*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***

The Alabama Writers' Conclave is an Alabama-based writers' organization serving published and aspiring writers anywhere. To join, complete the appropriate lines on application form and mail along with a check for \$25 per year (Students \$15), marked "for AWC dues" 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. \_\_\_\_\_