December 16 - AWC Monthly Meeting & Potluck Holiday Party In-Person at GSU-Dunwoody for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-5:00 pm Eastern

Speaker #1 – Dr. Desiré A. Hulse Stewart: Basics of Crime Scene Processing and Law Enforcement Casework

Speaker #2 – Patti Callahan Henry and Mary Kay Andrews: Authors' Evolutions

Potluck Holiday Party: Bring Your Favorite Sweet or Savory Treat!
DECEMBER 2023

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GIVE BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our Next Meetings

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The cover theme for 2023 is “Accomplished Authors.” The images are computer generated drawings (AI), so it may be slightly more difficult to recognize than a photo. Can you guess who the author is this month? If not, you’ll find the answer somewhere in this edition of eQuill. Look for it.

Neither the authors on the cover nor their books are intended as an endorsement by the AWC, its officers, or its members.

Gene Bowen, eQuill Publisher.

Cover Image

Stay Connected to AWC

AWC Officers

President: Jill Evans
Executive Director: George Weinstein
Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors

George Weinstein
Clay Ramsey
Marty Aftewicz
Ron Aiken
Mike Brown

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eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Atlanta Writers Club
Admiration

Oh, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). Start cold with an idea, finish with a searing hot first draft. It’s the ultimate “just do it” challenge. If you can produce 50,000 words of story in 30 days, I bow down.

I can put myself in the chair, fingers on the keyboard, and disappear into a fever dream, but 2 to 4 hours a day is about my limit. Never mind sustaining it for a solid month. I hit the brakes hard for my other writing indulgences: research and liminal thought.

No matter the speed or the process, writers fascinate me.

”How, from the mind...can someone conjure worlds, ...”

More than any other type of creator. I somehow share the same planet as Ha Jin and Jasper Fforde and Marilynne Robinson. Philip K. Dick dropped in for a while, but I’m not convinced this was his first and only home. How, from the mind – something we cannot see operating – can someone conjure worlds, either real or strange? Or people in all their glory, from relatable to revolting?

Of writing Agatha Christie said, “...that is the moment one feels nearest to God because you have been allowed to feel a little of the joy of pure creation.”

Somehow I do a little creating, and for that gift I’m eternally grateful. I get to experience an incredible writing community. More thanks. And, then there’s the books. So many books. To read, to re-read.

The holiday season is loud. A jingle jangle riot of celebrations. But, in the quiet moments from Thanksgiving to New Years my glass will be raised to you, the writers out there, in admiration for your sheer audacity and willingness to share your gift with the world.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

AWC President Jill Evans is a computer nerd by trade, website designer, photographer and writer. Her work in progress is a novel that combines her love of art, intrigue and history. You can follow her on Instagram at @jillevanswriter and find out more at www.jillevans.com.
“VIRAL LITERATURE does what I'd always hoped the Decatur Book Festival would do... document the wild, glorious, and diverse abundance of talent that calls this region home. Together, these pieces tell the story of this place and time, but it also demonstrates the strength of this community of writers.”

~Daren Wang, Founder of the AJC Decatur Book Festival & Author of The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

The AWC’s Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia, is published by SFK Press. Viral Literature is a collection of the work of 32 of the top storytellers and poets in Georgia, ranging from the accomplished--Terry Kay (with his last published work before his passing), Janisse Ray, and Daniel Black--to talented emerging writers who are being published for the first time.

Twenty authors are from the wider creative community in Georgia, and the balance are AWC members, seven of whom were winners of a special club contest earlier this year.

The COVID-19 quarantine provided the opportunity for each contributor to reflect on the theme of “Alone Together in Georgia.” Some dealt with the pandemic directly, while others did not, but all circle the shared theme and show how these writers are finding a creative, hopeful, healing response to this crisis. The AJC Bookshelf featured our anthology here.

This diverse assembly of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction is available in both print and Kindle ebook formats from Amazon, and through orders with your local bookstore: see the store listing on Indie Bound. The cost is $19.99 for the paperback and $3.99 for the electronic version.

The net royalties and revenues will be split between The National Historic Landmark Wren’s Nest and Literacy Action, Inc., representing the literary and literacy aspects of the AWC mission.
November Meeting Photos & Recordings

October Meeting Videorecording
Courtesy of Jorge Barboza

To view the recording, click HERE

Photos
Courtesy of Patrick Scullin

Complete set of photos here: LINK
November Meeting Videorecording via GSU A/V setup:
To view the recording, click HERE
Passcode: EC.+9ef%

Caveats: Peter engaged in quite a lot of back-and-forth with the audience of more than 100. He is sometimes off-camera, and the audience isn't using a microphone, so it's sometimes hard to hear their comments, but it's usually possible to get the context from Peter's replies. It was the best we could do with the technology we had—we hope you find his feedback about the displayed pages useful.
December 16 AWC In-person Meeting

December 16, 12:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C auditorium and café.

This meeting may be recorded; if so, the recording link will be shared in the following month's eQuill newsletter.

• 12:45-1:30 p.m. Nosh and Networking Mixer for members and first-time visitors in the café. Get an early start on our potluck holiday party: attendees are invited to share some yuletide goodies with their peers and celebrate another sensational year with the Atlanta Writers Club!

• 1:30-1:45 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans

• 1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Speaker #1 - Dr. Desiré A. Hulse Stewart: Basics of Crime Scene Processing and Law Enforcement Casework

• 2:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Break

• 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Speaker #2 - Patti Callahan Henry & Mary Kay Andrews: Authors' Evolutions

• 4:15-5:00 p.m. Book signing for Patti Callahan Henry & Mary Kay Andrews in the café and AWC potluck holiday party

DR. DESIRÉ A. HULSE STEWART, Homicide Unit Detective and law enforcement instructor with the Atlanta Police Department, holds a PhD in public police and administration and a master's degree in criminal justice. She upholds the duties of investigating and solving homicide cases. Dr. Hulse-Stewart is a wife and mother of three who enjoys partaking in various educational opportunities that promote opening the mind to the complexities of the law enforcement profession. Her professional goals are to teach and assist other investigators in effectively investigating their cases and increasing their solvability rates. She began her law enforcement career as a Zone 3 Patrol Officer in 2016 before becoming a Zone 3 Field Investigations Team Patrol Officer, and then Criminal Intelligence/Gangs Unit Patrol Officer. She was promoted to Homicide Unit Detective in 2022. Currently an informal leader in the department, she is working on obtaining a supervisory role.

On December 16, Dr. Hulse-Stewart will share key steps in the Basics of Crime Scene Processing and Law Enforcement Casework that displays the importance of documentation from the beginning of an investigation to the end of the court process.
MARY KAY ANDREWS is The New York Times bestselling author of The Beach House Cookbook and more than thirty novels, including The Homewreckers; The Santa Suit; The Newcomer; Hello, Summer; Sunset Beach; The High Tide Club; The Weekenders; Ladies' Night; Spring Fever; Summer Rental; The Fixer Upper; Deep Dish; Blue Christmas; Savannah Breeze; Hissy Fit; Little Bitty Lies; and Savannah Blues. A former journalist for The Atlanta Journal Constitution, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

PATTI CALLAHAN HENRY is the New York Times and USA TODAY bestselling author of several novels, including The Secret Book of Flora Lea, Surviving Savannah, and Becoming Mrs. Lewis. She is the recipient of the Christy Award, the Harper Lee Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Writer of the Year Award, and the Alabama Library Association Book of the Year. She is the co-host and co-creator of the popular weekly online live web show and podcast Friends and Fiction. A full-time author and mother of three, she lives in Alabama and South Carolina with her family. Find out more at LINK.

Bookmiser’s Annell Gerson will moderate a conversation with them about their evolutions as authors over nearly 30 years.

Attendees are invited to share some yuletide goodies with their peers and celebrate another sensational year with the Atlanta Writers Club. Bring your favorite sweet or savory treats!
The Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference (ASPC) is dedicated to serving self-published authors and the independent publishing market.

No matter whether you're curious about the self-publishing market or you want to learn how to grow your independent author business, our professional speakers and networking opportunities will help you launch your career forward.

Our next ASPC will be on April 27, 2024, at the same location where we hold most of our monthly meetings: the GSU-Dunwoody campus, Building NC auditorium.

FOR A FULL DAY OF LEARNING AND NETWORKING, we will feature a blend of talks and workshops from running a small business and finding ways to diversify your income to character-driven plotting and mastering the tropes of your genre.

Schedule:
8:00 am - 9:00 am - Coffee & Conversations
9:00 am - 9:30 am - Welcome to ASPC, presented by JM Tompkins, ASPC Director
9:30 am - 10:30 am - Character-Driven Plotting Workshop, presented by Chris Negron
11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Using Tropes to Enhance your Reader’s Journey, presented by Danielle Kiowski
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Catered Lunch
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Finding Success: Where Networking and Volunteering Meet, presented by Brittany Dowdle and Linda Ruggeri
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Business Basics, presented by Jerry Weiner
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Diversifying Your Creativity and Income, presented by Milton Davis

While any writer is welcome to register for #ASPC24, only AWC members will get a host of bonus content when they purchase their ticket, including:

- **The Editor Connection Program** which pairs writers with book professionals for free sample edits of their current manuscripts.
- **Pre-conference events** where registrants can get extra face time with presenters and industry experts, as well as an opportunity to ask questions.
- **Perk Packs** that include educational recordings (such as Jennifer Lawler’s "Diving Into Development" webinar recording), ebooks, audio books, and other resources to help support a strong start to an indie author career. Note: Perk Packs get smaller every month, so the sooner you register, the more goodies you get!
- **Author education emails** each month providing support, reminders, resources, and guidance related to writing and publishing books.

So, if you want to take full advantage of this event, make sure you become an AWC member, if you haven’t joined already, and then register for #ASPC24 with your AWC member email address.

Become an AWC member

View the ASPC schedule for 2024

Purchase advertising (display ads, conference tables, etc.)

Register for #ASPC24
Our 30th Atlanta Writers Conference will be held in-person (with an option to participate virtually for agent/editor meetings only) at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel on May 3-4, 2024 with agent/editor critique and pitch meetings, a two-hour workshop on building your author platform, two Q&A panels, emailed pre-conference edits, a Friday night mixer with music, two days of educational talks, and our book fair!

Location:
WESTIN ATLANTA AIRPORT HOTEL
4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337

- Whether you are...
- In search of an agent or a publisher
- Working on a manuscript and in need of feedback
- Seeking to learn more about the writing craft and/or publishing business
- Building your network of industry professionals and writing colleagues
...this is your opportunity to take the next big step toward your writing goals.

Want to get published?

- The May 3-4, 2024 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you meetings with literary agents and publishing acquisitions editors—with an option to participate virtually if you are unable to travel to Atlanta—along with a host of other in-person activities:

- Access to 18 acquisitions editors and literary agents seeking every major fiction genre and nonfiction topic, as well as graphic novels, picture books, and short story collections.

- Critiques of manuscript samples by the editors and agents, with work submitted a month in advance.

- Pitches to the editors and agents with query letters you will bring for their review.

- Query letter critique by a pair of editors/agents to improve your pitch (at past conferences, nearly 50% of Best Pitch awards by an agent or publisher went to those who participated in the Query Letter Critique).

- Pre-conference edit of your manuscript submission via email months before the conference by a freelance editor of your choice (at past conferences, nearly 50% of all awards—for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitch—went to writers who participated in the Pre-Conference Edit).
• Two-hour workshop with bestselling author, speaker, and coach Tama Kieves on “The Unstoppable Writer: The Infallible Way to Build Your Writing Power, Practice and Platform” and two free bonus talks by Tama beforehand.

• A publisher Q&A panel with all participating acquisitions editors and a separate Q&A panel with all participating literary agents to address your questions about the business of writing.

• Free bonus educational talks by award-winning and bestselling crime novelist and memoirist Jeff Shaw, Southern women’s fiction author Love Hudson, and Jennifer Moorman, bestselling author of the magical realism Mystic Water series.

• Friday-night mixer with musical entertainment by pianist/singer and AWC member Mike Shaw and his accompanist.

• Award ceremony, where each of the agents and editors will select participants for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitches, with certificates to be given to the awardees—or sent after the conference for those not in attendance.

• And our book fair offers opportunities to participants who want to sign and sell their traditionally and self-published books on Friday, May 3.

More than 50 of our members have signed with agents or editors they met at our Conferences, and a number of those have scored major book deals (and one, so far, has hit the big-time with a movie and TV deal). You could be next!

We’re now accepting registrations. As past Conference participants will tell you, the spots fill up fast, so don’t delay!

The Atlanta Writers Conference is presented exclusively for members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you are not a current member through May 4, 2024, you can join/renew as part of your Conference registration—you do not need to do this as a two-step process.

To read all the details for the May 3-4, 2024 Atlanta Writers Conference, click link to start:
LINK
THE AWC MERCH STORE IS NOW OPEN ON CAFÉ PRESS

Cups, caps, hoodies, shirts, and more items with AWC logos are now available for sale on CafePress.com. All purchases help us add more in-person and online content and offer even more through our conferences.

Show your support for The Atlanta Writers Club with our new line of branded merchandise and join Cafe Press for special discounts. Go to: cafepress.com/awc.

Start shopping here: LINK
Jane Cleland—January 24 Webinar

The Art of Distraction: Using Red Herrings —
Webinar
Free for AWC Members

JANE K. CLELAND writes a variety of crime fiction, including thrillers, middle grade, espionage, and the long-running Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series. All her novels have been published by St. Martin’s Minotaur. All her short stories (and a novella) have been published by Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. Her books and stories have been IMBA-best-sellers, multiple award winners, and have received starred reviews from prestigious journals like Library Journal. The series has been reviewed as an Antiques Roadshow for mystery fans. Library Journal named Consigned to Death a “core title” for librarians looking to build a cozy collection, one of only 22 titles listed, along with books by Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers.

Jane also chairs the Black Orchid Novella Award, one of the Wolfe Pack’s literary awards, granted in partnership with Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. She is a past chapter president of the Mystery Writers of America/New York Chapter and served on the national board as well.

In addition, Jane writes about the craft of writing, including articles for Writer’s Digest Magazine, where she is a contributing editor. She’s also written the bestselling and Agatha Award-winning how-to books, Mastering Plot Twists and Mastering Suspense, Structure & Plot, both published by Writer’s Digest Books. Other nonfiction titles include Business Writing for Results (McGraw Hill) and Putting First What Matters Most (NAL/Penguin Putnam).

She also presents a free monthly series of webinars on the craft of writing as well as her small-group, virtual writing workshops—the Mystery Mastermind series.


One of the secrets of writing success is creating complex and surprising plots is a deliciously sneaky technique writers use to befuddle readers—red herrings. By using red herrings the same way that a magician uses sleight of hand, you’ll be able to divert your readers’ attention from the actual to the illusionary; if done well, your readers will believe what they see on the printed page—an irresistible way to draw them in and keep them turning pages.

This will be a live event only, with no recording.

AWC members who want to register for this free webinar can email AWC Executive Director George Weinstein with their request.

To renew or join the AWC to participate, please click here.
Our annual writing contest—
with awards for fiction,
nonfiction, and poetry—is now open for submissions.

ELIGIBILITY:
The AWC 2024 Writing Contest is open to all current (through May 31, 2024), paid club members. Please check your membership status before submitting your entry. To join the AWC or renew your membership, please use this link. If you have a question about when your AWC membership expires, please contact the Membership VP, Yvonne Green.

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

Entrants may submit only one piece to only one category per contest year.

DEADLINE:
Midnight, March 20, 2024. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

AWARDS:
Winners will be announced at our club meeting on May 18, 2024. Each award carries a $300 cash prize and a plaque as well as—new for 2024—dinner with the other award winners and finalists after the May 18th meeting.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:
Terry Kay Prize for Fiction (Maximum, 3000 words) - can be a short story or book chapter(s)

Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction (Maximum, 3000 words) - can be a short piece or book chapter(s)

Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry (Maximum, 90 lines)

For complete submission instructions, please click HERE
AWC member JOHN TURES’$ first published short story, "Deep Plots," has appeared in Ariel Chart, an international literary journal. Click HERE to read it.

Originally from El Paso, Texas, John A. Tures is a first-time fiction writer, but is a regular newspaper columnist and magazine writer who has published in Politico, The Conversation, Yahoo News, MSN, Savannah Morning News, Houston Chronicle, HuffPost, USA Today, SFGate, Newsweek Europe, The Observer, Salon, The Daily Beast, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, The Forward, AlterNet, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and many more newspapers. He is a professor of political science at LaGrange College.

AWC Executive Director GEORGE WEINSTEIN and AWC VP of Operations KIM CONREY will be signing their books at Posman Books-The Avalon on December 2nd and 23rd from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and at Posman Books-Ponce City Market on December 9th from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What: Short Short Story Contest
Flash Fiction - 100 words on one of four topics

Sponsor: Ethos Literacy, a nonprofit adult literacy program

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2024

Why: Fundraiser to support free literacy and ESL tutoring to adults

Prizes: 6 cash prizes

Publication: E-magazine

Ages: All ages

Fees: Standard: $15
Youth (14 and younger): $10

website: LINK
In Memoriam

In November 2023, we lost two well-respected members of our literary family:

**Michael Bishop**: science fiction and fantasy author, teacher, and 2018 Georgia Writers Hall of Fame inductee.

**Dawn Dowdle**: literary agent, founder of the Blue Ridge Literary Agency, and guest of the November 2023 Atlanta Writers Conference.
Novel Idea December 7 Event

Come to Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern in Alpharetta for 
BITES, BOOKS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

- The authors will be glad to sign books purchased at the event from our independent bookseller, Bookmiser.
- December 7, 2023 at Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern, 10595 Old Alabama Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30022.
- Event is 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Following his January meeting presentation at GSU, professional screenwriter and professor of screenwriting Michael Lucker returns for a quarterly webinar series offered exclusively to AWC members. This is a free member benefit.

ON DEC. 13 AT 7 P.M. EASTERN, MICHAEL WILL DISCUSS CREATING THE PROTAGONIST.

To register for Michael's quarterly webinar series, AWC members are encouraged to reply to AWC Executive Director George Weinstein to confirm your spot. If you need to join or renew so you can take advantage of this free member benefit, CLICK HERE.
Author Talk with Denene Millner  
December 1 | 7 pm | Snellville Branch  
Join *New York Times* bestselling author Denene Millner as she discusses her newest novel, *One Blood*, where three women are tied together by blood, love, and family secrets. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Author Talk with Zoe Fishman  
December 2 | 12 pm | Duluth Branch  
Meet award-winning author Zoe Fishman as she discusses her novel, *The Fun Widow’s Book Tour*, a funny, moving story of friendship and resilience. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Literary Inspiration - Prince Edward Island with Author Liz Johnson  
December 4 | 12 pm | Virtual  
*New York Times* bestselling author, Liz Johnson, is the author of seven novels set on Prince Edward Island. Join Liz, as she explores the literary legacy of Canada’s smallest province.

Author Talk with Robin Allen  
December 6 | 7 pm | Lawrenceville Branch  
Join author Robin Allen as she discusses her romance suspense novel, *It’s Complicated*. Books will be available for sale and signing.
ANI announces an exciting collaboration with the AWC, inviting any AWC member to launch a new or recent book at an ANI Author Showcase Event.

ANI will provide:

- A welcoming venue where friends, family and fans can attend your talk and signing.
- Promotional assistance reaching 6,500+ supporters, together with print and online articles.
- Shared videotaped presentations as available.
- Professional assistance, as needed, for presentations.

**Author Indication of Interest**

Interested? Please send completed info to anovelidea.authorshowcase@gmail.com

YOUR NAME: ____________________________ EMAIL: ____________________________

TITLE OF BOOK: __________________________________ ISBN: ______________________

GENRE: ___________________________________ YOUR WEBSITE: __________________

PLANNED RELEASE DATE: __________________ PUBLISHER: _______________________

PUBLISHER CONTACT: ______________________ QUERY LETTER: Please attach.

Bookmiser coordinates all ANI book sales utilizing the following criteria:

- Bookmiser purchases books from Ingram Content Group if the books are listed as:
  - Returnable.
  - Wholesale priced as REG (=40% discount off the retail price).
- Bookmiser purchases books from the author if the above criteria are not met. In such cases, the author provides the books for the event. Bookmiser handles sales. At the end of the evening, Bookmiser pays the author 60% of the retail price (set by the author) for all books sold, pays all applicable sales tax, and reports sales to *NYT* and ABA.

**WEBSITE LINK**
For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages)--some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01-$0.05/word)--and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

The AWC maintains this directory in an effort to assist AWC members with editor options for consideration; however, the AWC does not endorse the individuals in this directory and is not liable for any member’s experiences with these editors.

**MJ BIGGS**

**Email**  
**Website**  
Content editing, line editing, copy editing, proofreading, and book coaching for all fiction genres.

I’ve worked as a copywriter and editor in corporate settings for over 10 years and have won numerous regional and national awards for my marketing content. In 2022, shortly after publishing my literary fiction novel, A Wonderful Place to Die, I started my own book editing business, Night Owl Fiction. I’m open to all fiction genres and do not shy away from heavy or difficult topics. Email me for more details on services and pricing.

**BOBBIE CHRISTMAS**  
**Zebra Communications:** Excellent editing for maximum marketability  
**Email**  
**Website**  
Fiction: Mainstream, science fiction, paranormal, romance, action adventure, fantasy, suspense/thriller, mystery, young adult, biographical novel, historical fiction, and more. Nonfiction: Memoir, biography, autobiography, self-help, travelogue, essays, and more.

When you hire me, you hire a professional with more than 50 years of experience. After 27 years of editing and writing newspapers, magazines, and corporate communications, I founded Zebra Communications in 1992 to specialize in editing fiction and nonfiction. You and your manuscript will be treated with kindness yet honesty. I’ve edited books for seven publishing houses, so I know what publishers and readers want. My services and pricing are listed on my website.

**KAY HUNT**  
**Email**  
**Website**  
Nonfiction Genres: lifestyle, health, business, personal growth, self-help, memoir, spiritual, inspiration, and narrative non-fiction. I am an experienced developmental editor with fifteen years of experience bringing multiple authors to publication. I specialize in content editing which includes structure, clarity, interest, flow, segue, overall readability and other writing elements that make for a fantastic reader’s experience. Perfect for writers in need of a rigorous, honest, and compassionate first-reader or for authors at any level seeking a collaborative, effective editing process designed to fit their schedule and budget. Confidential ghost-writing services available.

**JUDITH KOLBERG**  
**Email**  
**Website**  
404-226-1381  
Nonfiction Genres: lifestyle, health, business, personal growth, self-help, memoir, spiritual, inspiration, and narrative non-fiction. I am an experienced developmental editor with fifteen years of experience bringing multiple authors to publication. I specialize in content editing which includes structure, clarity, interest, flow, segue, overall readability and other writing elements that make for a fantastic reader’s experience. Perfect for writers in need of a rigorous, honest, and compassionate first-reader or for authors at any level seeking a collaborative, effective editing process designed to fit their schedule and budget. Confidential ghost-writing services available.
Available for editing: query letters, science fiction, memoir, Southern fiction, YA fantasy, sports fiction, apocalyptic, detective/crime fiction, soft erotica

I have a master's degree in English (Creative Writing) and have been a full-time editor for three years. I believe in understanding an author's voice and putting in the work to get it right. I am blessed with my editing talent and am pleased to offer affordable, yet professional, editing services.

CHRIS NEGRON
Email
Website

Available for query letter consults, developmental editing

Author of the middle grade novels Dan Unmasked (July 2020) and The Last Super Chef (July 2021), both from HarperCollins, available for editing novels of all genres, but with a particular focus on middle grade and contemporary fiction for adults and teens as well. Novel editing price proposed after review of sample chapter(s). Single-page query letter feedback available for $50 / query.

STEPHANIE SIEGEL
Email
Website

Final editing available for nonfiction (especially health for general audiences).

I read literature and am trying to write it. But most of my career was spent writing newspaper articles (12 years) or editing them (12 years). My eagle eye for details such as unanswered questions, unsupported statements, and inconsistencies made me a valued copy editor at CNN.com, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, WebMD, and the CDC.

MARI ANN STEFANELLI
The Writer's High, LLC: Take your writing to a higher level with experienced, professional editing.
Email
Website

Specialty areas: memoir and narrative nonfiction; mystery, thriller, romance, fantasy, women's fiction, and commercial fiction; book proposals and query letters.

A former public relations professional, I've specialized in developmental and line editing since 2014. Editorial assessments honor your voice and vision; all communication is shared in a respectful, encouraging manner. I'm a coordinator for the Georgia chapter, Editorial Freelancers Association, and founded the Writer's High Retreat, an inspiring weekend retreat featuring literary luminaries such as Winston Groom, Cassandra King, and Patti Callahan Henry. Read more about me and my services HERE.

DAVE SWAN
Email
LinkedIn

Nonfiction topics: Politics, defense, foreign affairs, crime and legal issues, education, taxes, music, film, humor, relationships, and writing about writing.

My experience: As a journalist and all-around communicator, I've edited news and information on a wide range of issues for audiences all over the world. One of my specialties is presenting complex subjects in plain, hard-hitting language. I can help you shape your story from the beginning or proofread your final draft. My goal is to make YOUR voice as powerful and compelling as it can be.

A.E. WILLIAMS
Email
Website

Genres I edit: fantasy, sci-fi, horror, thriller, screenplays, comic book scripts, memoir, and various nonfiction topics
Bio: My name is A.E. Williams. I run an editorial firm, A.E. Williams Editorial. My clients are oftentimes independent authors for which I perform copyediting, developmental editing, and line editing. I am also a freelance copyeditor with Hachette Book Group. If interested in working with me, please email a 1,000-word sample and I will complete it for free. In my response I will provide your edited sample, testimonials, rates, resume, and a list of recent projects.
WHAT MAKES THE AWC SUCH A SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING RESOURCE for our members is our willingness to assist others. Many of our members have stories and lessons to share from their writing journeys. Put those experiences in an article and submit them for consideration in an upcoming issue of the eQuill. Not only will you be helping your fellow members learn from your triumphs and mistakes, but you also will get a publishing credit.

A caution: this is NOT a chance to tout your book(s) and say, “Buy this!” We’re not offering billboard space here. Rather, this is an opportunity for you to help other writers avoid pitfalls and apply successful strategies that pertain to the craft and business of writing. Naturally, you will cite examples from your work. That’s a fine way to let people know you have books for sale; we’ll also include a brief bio with links, a head-shot and book cover(s) at the end of your article. The point is to be respectful of your readers, who want knowledge—not product placement.

If you submit, expect to get a reply with edits and comments and be willing to rewrite accordingly. Abide by the word counts given below; one reason publishers and contests reject work is that the writer can’t/won’t follow the rules. While we want to publish articles by as many of our members as possible, we also need these pieces to be uniformly high-quality and beneficial so the 6,200+ recipients will look forward to reading them month after month.

Can you submit multiple articles over time? Absolutely! We’d love to have regular contributors.

If you want to submit an article for consideration, please email the following to AWC Executive Director George Weinstein.

- Your article, with a catchy/provocative/thought-provoking title, that addresses your personal lessons about aspects of the craft and/or business of writing, in 300 words or less (can be in a Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

- A profile of you and your book(s) in 50 words or less, as well as your website and social media links (can be in the same Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

- Your head-shot and book cover image(s) in JPG or PNG format, the higher the resolution, the better

Get a Publishing Credit
Complete Your
“I Am Creative” Grant Application TODAY

As an applicant, you'll get

- Feedback of your overall submission
- Recommendations to grow your creative career
- An invitation to join us for a free two-month membership in our paid virtual community

Recipients will receive

- $500 No-Strings-Attached Grant
- One-on-One Strategy Session with a Creative Expert
- Six Year Membership in the AAMBC Community
- Consideration for a $500 Year-End Grant

For more details visit AAMBC.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR BREN MCCLAIN OFFERS WRITERS MASTER CLASS, “WHAT IS WORKING? DO MORE OF THAT!” AT THE CARROLLTON BOOKFEST, APRIL 5, 2024.

Join critically acclaimed author of One Good Mama Bone at Bren McClain's highly interactive Master Class designed to take your novel, short story or memoir to the next level. Twelve writers will join her in this day-long session in which writers will receive critique and guidance to improve their work. Selection is competitive and open to writers of prose: fiction or nonfiction (no poetry).

To be considered, prepare a piece of 1,000 words (preferably from the beginning of your manuscript). Do not put your name in or on your file (a numbering system will be applied). Submit to EMAIL. Include your name and contact information in the email.

There is a non-refundable fee of $25 which is payable through Eventbrite. If selected, instructions for payment of the remaining fee of $75 will be sent by email. Total for the workshop is $100.

Submission deadline for consideration is February 17, 2024. Selected authors will be notified March 2nd and must submit a piece of work up to 2,500 words by March 16th. All work will be distributed to the group and specific questions will guide the critique. The morning will include feedback and the afternoon will be spent revising or writing additional material.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to work with this warm, exciting and creative author.

All events are at the Carrollton Center for the Arts, 251 Alabama St., Carrollton, GA For more information, visit WEBSITE or EMAIL.
Our mission: The ongoing Writers Discovery fellowship program is designed to nurture and assist in accelerating the diversity of voices in our industry. Circle of Confusion’s core mission has always been discovery, and we have been fortunate enough to have identified and promoted many talented writers, directors, actors and creators from all walks of life. It is based on this tradition and fundamental strength of the company that Circle of Confusion launched the program. The excitement of film and television has always been the joy that great storytelling brings to audiences around the globe. By promoting voices that have been historically excluded, the Fellowship will enrich both the professional lives of the Fellows and the dynamic quality of the entertainment industry.

The Fellowship: Circle of Confusion and Anarchists United will provide an immersive introductory experience to the world of professional screen and television writing to a diverse group of aspiring writers who have not yet been employed or represented by the industry. The Fellows will each be given a stipend. Once per year, the program will select six to eight writers for a six-month fellowship which closely replicates the writer-representative (manager and agent) dynamic. Each Fellow will be assigned a mentor who will educate and guide them by way of script development, career advice, and support. While the Fellowship cannot guarantee the sale of the pilot or specific employment, by the end of each Fellowship session, each Fellow will have developed a submission-ready television pilot, been afforded multiple opportunities for industry networking, and generally equipped with the essential tools for their success as writers in the entertainment industry. The Fellowship is open to applicants of all ethnicities, races, cultural backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and ages.

Mentorship: Our mentors will include literary managers, agents, and other senior industry professionals, offering general business advice and script development within the duration of the Fellowship. In the first four months, each Fellow will develop an original pilot script with their dedicated mentor. The pilot scripts will be reviewed by the Fellowship’s Advisory Board (composed of established members of the film and television community with an expertise in content evaluation) and then submitted to relevant industry professionals, with the explicit goal of using the last two months of the Fellowship to arrange general one-on-one Zoom meetings with producers and executives. Throughout the entire Fellowship session, the mentor will be available to guide the Fellow through each step, assisting the Fellow in their development of writing and storytelling skills, pitching skills and navigating the meeting process.

Programming: The Fellowship program will begin in May of 2024 and include informational panels, speakers and workshops with industry professionals. Additionally, Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in practice/mock-general meetings and pitch sessions in preparation for their final professional meetings.

Applicant Qualifications:
- Have never worked in the entertainment industry as a writer
- Must submit one pilot sample to further develop alongside a mentor during the Fellowship

Application Materials:
- Fellowship application
- Personal statement
- Brief questionnaire
- A Television Pilot, which, if selected, will the be project that will be further developed during the program

To Apply: [LINK]

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 5, 2024
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APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 5, 2024
MAK E A R E A D-Y O U R - B O O K C L I P

- Make a video (SIXTY SECONDS MAX!) of you reading a sample of your work. Videos can be created with a phone, tablet, or computer.
- Upload your video to **AWC VIDEO** This may take a few minutes.
- Once uploaded, send an email to **awc.member.services@gmail.com** with "AWC VIDEO" in the subject line. Let him know you have uploaded your video and include info about where your book can be purchased. Include the title and author name.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WORKPLACE

- Take a picture of where you write. Don’t clean it up, show us the natural environment where you make the magic. You can be in the shot, or not.
- Send the picture to **awc.member.services@gmail.com** with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.
- Keep watching the Atlanta Writers Club Facebook page and Instagram page and when you are featured, share it with the world.
The Atlanta Writers Club website offers Free Promotion. We're now featuring a page where AWC members can promote their latest publication: **SEE IT HERE**

Current Atlanta Writers Club members are invited to add/update their listing: please email your head-shot, book (or other publication) cover, and website URL to AWC Executive Director **George Weinstein**.
GREEN groups are OPEN; RED groups are FULL

Online #1 WAIT LIST
Fiction: Short Stories & Novels
Meets on 2nd & 4th Friday of the month via Zoom, 1pm.
Kelley Cody-Grimm EMAIL

Online #2 OPEN
Fiction only Ongoing. Please submit 100 pages for vetting. Linh Pham EMAIL

Online #4 WAIT LIST
All Genres 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm
Gail Lash EMAIL

Online #5 OPEN
Short Stories Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm Pat Bowen EMAIL

Online #6 WAIT LIST
Young Adult & Middle Grade Fiction Work shared by email
Brad Scott EMAIL

Online #7 WAIT LIST
Screenwriting (email for details) 1st & 3rd Friday of every month at 7pm via ZOOM Liz Irland EMAIL

Online #8 OPEN
Advanced Writers in Thriller/Mystery/Suspense Meet on the

Online #9 WAIT LIST
Romance 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets Olga Jackson EMAIL

Online #10 WAIT LIST
We study books about the craft of writing together. Each member is expected to: 1) read the portion of the book assigned each week and 2) Come prepared with whatever exercise we agree to each week. We meet every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. EST.
April Love-Fordham EMAIL

Online #12 OPEN
Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, & Memoir Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Quinn Eastman EMAIL

Online #13 WAIT LIST
All Genres Meeting online every other Tues.
Nancy Fletcher EMAIL

Online #14 WAIT LIST
Adult Fiction Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm
Susanne Fincher EMAIL

Online #15 WAIT LIST
Fiction 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM
Mike Brown EMAIL

Online #16 OPEN
All genres Meetings are virtual via Zoom every other Monday at 10:30am. Members exchange drafts twice monthly for critiquing.
Toni Bellon EMAIL

Online #17 WAIT LIST
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm Abigail Biles EMAIL

Online #18 WAIT LIST
Fantasy and Science Fiction Meetings are on Sunday, 9-11 a.m. every other week, with work sent to Nathaniel ahead of time.
Nathaniel Chaney EMAIL

Online #19 OPEN
Memoir. Meets on 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m. Contact Chetan Sanker at EMAIL

Atlanta Writers Club
Membership in the Atlanta Writers Club entitles members to participate in or start their own AWC-sponsored writing and critique groups, where you and your colleagues can help each other improve your writing craft.

Above is the current list of active AWC writing/critique groups. If you have any questions about any of these groups, or if you would like to start your own group, please contact Officer Emeritus George Weinstein.
The AWC has an automated system for tracking memberships and alerting members when it's time to renew. Without your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club we would not be able to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings nor provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest.

**IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A MEMBER...**

- You will receive an e-mail from the system (showing Executive Director George Weinstein’s *(e-mail address)*) one month before your membership expiration date.
- If you haven't renewed within a week, you will receive another e-mail every seven days, with a final e-mail one week from expiration.
- If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired.

- It is a good e-mail practice to check your spam/junk folder to see if any legitimate e-mail has been misfiled there, possibly including the email you'll receive from George prior to the expiration of your membership.
Membership Benefits

• Monthly Meetings.
• Periodic Workshops.
• Twice-Yearly Atlanta Writers Conference.
• Critique Groups.
• Writing Contest With Cash Prizes And Publication.
• Opportunities To Sell Your Books.
• Free Tickets To Author Events.
• Free Monthly Newsletter
• Free Book Promotions

WE ARE ONE OF THE BEST literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Potential members are invited to attend a first meeting as our guest. After that, we’re sure you will want to become a member and take advantage of all the benefits that come with it.

You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings, or pay online at our website using PayPal at OUR WEBSITE.

Regular membership dues are $60 per year per person. Students can join for $10 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $30 per year. Our Membership Form is on the last page of this newsletter. If you have additional questions, contact AWC Executive Director George Weinstein.
## Membership Form

### AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-Year Membership</td>
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<td>One-Year Student</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>Five-Year Membership</td>
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<td>Lifetime Membership</td>
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### FAMILY MEMBERS (Enter names below)

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<th>Membership Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family Members - One Year</td>
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<td>Family Members - One-Year Student</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Members - Five Year</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Members - Lifetime</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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### TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

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<td>AWC General Fund</td>
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<td>AWC Scholarship Fund</td>
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### TOTAL

Make checks payable to **Atlanta Writers Club**

### Mail your check and this form to:

Atlanta Writers Club  
c/o Jerry Weiner, Treasurer  
8080 Jett Ferry Road  
Atlanta, GA 30350

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Yes! I would like to become an AWC Volunteer

- [ ] Monthly Meetings
- [ ] Conferences
- [ ] Book Festivals
- [ ] Other ________________

### Family Members

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