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This author (1932 – 2009) was an American novelist, poet, short-story writer, art critic, and literary critic. One of only four writers to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction more than once. His fiction is distinguished by its attention to the concerns, passions, and suffering of average Americans, its emphasis on Christian theology, and its preoccupation with sexuality and sensual detail.

You’ll find his name hidden in plain sight—two places—in this newsletter. 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
Going Places

“What releases are you looking forward to this summer, and where are you headed?”

I still have that Rand McNally in my car, along with state maps and county maps, the ones you can never figure out how to re-fold. I own map books, including a super nerdy, yet beautiful, one called Cartographia: Mapping Civilizations, and a framed print of the 1930s London Tube station map. I know the elevation of my house – 1,000 ft. – because I looked it up on a topographical map. Yes, I'm a freak.

You can make my day by serving up a map of something. In celebration of Independent Bookstore Day, Indiebound did just that with an interactive map of all their participating independent booksellers. How could it get much better? Enter your zip code to get a list of all the booksellers in your area. Find something nearby or plan your own bookstore crawl.

Booksellers are book lovers and so fun to get to know. They love reading as much as I do. They know the old books and the new ones, local authors, NYT bestsellers and obscure writers I've never heard of but obviously need to read.

The Atlanta Writers Club has a long-standing relationship with Bookmiser. Owner Annell Gerson has been in the book business for over 30 years, is on the boards of Friends of the Roswell Library, A Novel Idea Author Showcase, and more. She represents all that’s good and right in the publishing industry: a knowledgeable, personable, passionate advocate for the written word. Do you know your indie bookseller by name and do they know you?

This summer I plan to get out and meet more booksellers. I’ll be using the Indiebound map to chart the way, and I’m looking forward to spending more money than I should on great reads. What was the latest hand-sold book you bought? What releases are you looking forward to this summer, and where are you headed? Let a great map lead the way.

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.
April Meeting Photos & Link

Photo by Bill Kahnweiler of the AWC Poetry Critique Group (for pre-meeting readings)

Meeting Photos by Patrick Scullin:

View all of Patrick’s meeting photos here: [LINK](#)
AGENDA

May 18, 12:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m. at Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C auditorium and café. (If you're not on our mailing list, use the form here to add yourself so you will get any updates about this meeting.)

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

Please arrive for our meeting as early as 12:45 so you can check in, and then join everyone at our genre tables for a meet and greet opportunity to build your network and make new friends.

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

1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Presentation of 2024 AWC Writing Contest Winners and Runners Up

2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Speaker #1 - Susan Zurenda: Crossing the Line -- The Role of Thresholds in Successful Stories

3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Book signing for Susan Zurenda

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Speaker #2 - Mayra Cuevas & Marie Marquardt: How to Co-Author (and Sell!) a Novel

4:30-4:45 p.m. Book signing for Mayra Cuevas & Marie Marquardt

May 18th Atlanta Writers Club Meeting for AWC Members and First-Time Visitors

SUSAN BECKHAM ZURENDA

taught English for 33 years on the college level and at the high school level to AP students. Her debut novel, Bells for Eli (Mercer University Press, March 2020; paperback edition March 2021), was selected the Gold Medal (first place) winner for Best First Book—Fiction in the 2021 IPPY (Independent Publisher Book Awards), a Foreword Indie Book Award finalist, a Winter 2020 Okra Pick by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance, a 2020 Notable Indie on Shelf Unbound, a 2020 finalist for American Book Fest Best Book Awards, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for 2021. Susan has won numerous awards for her short fiction, including winning the South Carolina Fiction Prize twice. Her second novel, The Girl From the Red Rose Motel, was published in September 2023, by Mercer University Press and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, named a finalist in the American Book Fest Awards, and is a 2023 Shelf Unbound Notable 100 book. The author lives in Spartanburg, SC. Learn more at her website.

On May 18, Susan will speak about "Crossing the Line: The Role of Thresholds in Successful Stories":

"In the universe, there are things that are known, and things that are unknown, and in between them, there are doors.”
—William Blake

Why does the position of the threshold in literature exert such a compelling hold on our imaginative lives? Why is it a resonant space?

Why is it imperative that we create thresholds for our characters?

Many readers and writers are familiar with Joseph Campbell’s representation of the universal pattern of the hero’s journey that includes a departure, transformation and return in his seminal work The Hero With a Thousand Faces. Within the 12 or so classic stages of the journey, a hero typically crosses his/her first threshold around Stage 4. Stories like The Odyssey, The Wonderful Wizard of OZ, and The Hobbit come to mind.

Campbell’s emphasis on thresholds applies to all good stories. Threshold scenes allow for transformation not only in characters but often in the structure of the narrative as well. “In between” spaces (whether literal, figurative, or both) act as triggers to catapult a character into a place he or she has never been, from which there is no return. Liminal spaces hook readers because they are
powerful and common occurrences in our real lives.

In this workshop, we will examine how elements such as atmosphere (setting and tone), pacing, detail, rhythm, imagery, and actions help to create meaningful crossings in stories. Before responding to a writing prompt, participants will examine illustrations for analysis, including a significant threshold scene for each of the three main characters in Susan’s novel The Girl from the Red Rose Motel.

MARIE MARQUARDT is the author of YA novels Does My Body Offend You? (with Mayra Cuevas), Dream Things True, The Radius of Us, and Flight Season. Her books have earned many awards and commendations, including BEA Buzz Books, Books all Young Georgians Should Read, and the CLASP Américas Commendation, and they have been shortlisted for several state book awards, including the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award and the Missouri Gateway Readers Award. Marie also has published articles and co-authored two non-fiction books about Latin American immigration to the U.S. South, and has been interviewed on National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and BBC America, among many other media outlets.

She lives in a busy household in Decatur, Georgia with her spouse, four kids, several chickens, a dog, and a bearded dragon. You can connect with Marie on Instagram, @Marie_Marquardt and at her website.

On May 18th at 3 pm, Mayra and Marie will present "How to co-author (and sell!) a novel":

Georgia Authors of the Year, Mayra Cuevas and Marie Marquardt share the secrets of their multi-book contract collaboration

We’re often told writing is a solitary business, but it doesn’t have to be! Co-writing a book can create a story with rich layers and diverse perspectives. Sharing the publishing journey can also be a gratifying experience, especially if it’s with someone whose artistic values align with yours. In this hour-long workshop, you will learn what it takes to co-write and publish a book. We will explore how to select an idea and structure a story that lends itself to co-writing, taking into account things like workflow, expectations and communication styles, creating a co-author contract, and the importance of checking ego at the door.

Mayra and Marie started their co-writing journey as critique partners and today they are the co-authors of the YA novel Does My Body Offend You? long-listed for the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award, named a 2023 Book All Young Georgians Should Read, a New York Public Library Best Books for Teens 2022 and a Target YA Book Club selection. In 2023, they were named Georgia Authors of the Year in the Young Adult category. They currently have another young adult novel in development with Penguin Random House and a debut co-authored adult novel with Alloy Entertainment, a division of Warner Media Discovery.
In 2024, we are offering two separate quarterly webinar series to AWC members. Each series is $50 total and will grant you live online access via Zoom on the date of each quarterly webinar as well as a link to the recording for each one, in case you're unable to attend the live presentation or want to watch it again. Each recording will be retained online, so if you register after one or more of the webinars are held, you will still be able to view the ones you missed. You will also receive any handout(s) created for each webinar in the series.

The $50 cost for each series will help to pay for the speaker's honorarium as well as contribute to the Atlanta Writers Club's reserve for scholarships, support of literary activities, and our building fund.

If you are not yet an Atlanta Writers Club member but want to register for one or both webinar series, you will have the option to add AWC membership to your total. You will then also be able to attend our monthly in-person meetings at no charge, participate in our critique groups, enter our contests, and register for periodic standalone online workshops offered free to members.

Quarterly Webinar Series with Lorin Oberweger ($50)

LORIN OBERWEGER is a highly sought-after independent book editor and ghostwriter with almost thirty years’ experience in publishing. Her company, Free Expressions, offers intensive, deep craft workshops nationwide. She’s also known for her one-on-one story mastermind session for writers of all genres of fiction and creative nonfiction. In 2023, Lorin’s webinars for the AWC were consistently the most popular online educational experiences we offered. Note that she will not be doing critiques this year.

Lorin's 2024 Webinars: (each one at 7 pm Eastern)
1. February 21, 2024: What the Heck Is Agency?
2. May 22, 2024: Emotional Storytelling and Deep Point of View
3. August 21, 2024: Keeping the Wind in Your Sails: How to Give, Get, and Work with Feedback
4. November 20, 2024: Reimagining Revision

Quarterly Webinar Series with Diane Callahan ($50)

DIANE CALLAHAN is the Fiction Editor for Consequence, an international literary journal that addresses the realities of war and geopolitical violence through literature and visual art. She is also the managing editor at Story Garden Publishing, a collaborative writing venture with fellow authors Jordan Riley Swan and Hero Bowen. Together, they plot, write, and edit novels in various genres, from comedies and romances to fantasy novels and fairy-tale retellings. She has been a full-time developmental editor for over six years, critiquing fantasy, science fiction, literary, middle grade, thriller, and romance novels. Prior to Story Garden, she worked for three years as a developmental editor and plot outliner for a bestselling indie publisher under an NDA, overseeing the production of thirty novels across four series. She also wrote and edited interactive fiction games for Talented, an e-learning platform for universities and business leadership.

Diane's 2024 Webinars: (each one at 7 pm Eastern)
1. March 28, 2024: Crafting a Compelling Short Story
2. June 27, 2024: Finding Your Narrative Voice
3. September 26, 2024: Sharpening Your Prose on a Sentence Level
4. December 12, 2024: Blending Genres to Create Fresh Stories

For a complete description of each webinar and to register for either or both quarterly webinar series, click HERE.
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).

• 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.

Start shopping here: LINK
Member Book Launches & Accolades

AWC MEMBER ESTELL SIMS HALLIBURTON’s second memoir is *If Grits Could Talk*. In this sequel to *Leaving Aberdeen*, a young mother returns to the South with her husband and daughters, searching for the American dream in the 1970s. It is the second installment in this series: *A Letter to My Family*. The story captures the essence of family, memories, and the unique charm of the South.

[Purchase Link]

Estell Sims Halliburton is a writer, author, and lecturer. Her debut book, *Leaving Aberdeen, Memoir of a Southern Girl*, delves into her formative years in a small town in rural Mississippi. Through this tumultuous journey, she discovered her voice and the love and faith of her connected family.

AWC MEMBER KAY PASCHAL’s book *Insert Giggle Giggle, Laughing Your Way through Raising Kids and Running a Business* was recognized by the Zibby Books 2023 Awards as a Finalist in the Best Book for the Parent category. In this book, she shares advice and funny family stories on a wide range of parenting topics and giggles through mistakes made and successes enjoyed in raising her two boys as well as observing and learning firsthand from thousands of parents with their children during her 25 years of owning two private preschools. Merging sober guidance on some tough subjects while weaving touching insights on what goes right and wrong in taking advice, even her own, *Insert Giggle Giggle* shows us all that there is humor as well as lessons learned in almost every aspect of being a mom and being a businesswoman.

[Purchase Link]

AWC MEMBER KATHARINE ROBEY is the first-place winner of the 2023 Short Story Contest of the *International Conference of the Short Story in English*. Her submission, *Last Trainto Banff*, is a great read and you can access it by clicking here.

Go to Katharine's name and download this magical and poignant story set on the train from Vancouver to Banff. *Last Trainto Banff* will appear in Katharine’s collection of short stories, *Men, Women, Birds*. The ten stories contain themes that explore love, loss, and longing. The characters are different in each story but the common thread woven throughout the collection is the presence of wild birds. (Fully one-third of all Americans consider themselves birdwatchers.)

Her [website](#).
AWC MEMBER JOHN TURES reports: “One year at the Atlanta Writers Conference, I met a publisher with Devil's Party Press. Dianne Pierce was great to talk with and she gave me some useful feedback on my manuscript. We kept in touch, and about a year later, she accepted my first-ever flash fiction piece, The Sophist, for her Instant Noodles Lit Magazine (THE SOPHIST – John Tures).

AWC is great for not only making connections but also for helping you learn to improve the writing that you love to do. I liked my first conference so much that I asked to be a volunteer!”

AWC MEMBER AGITU WODAJO’s book A Purposeful Life received a 2023 Certificate of Excellence in Literature in the biography/autobiography/memoir category from the Royal Dragonfly Story Monsters® Book Awards. A Purposeful Life is the inspiring personal story of Agitu detailing her life and extraordinary accomplishments growing up in the 1960s in Ethiopia, studying and working in both Ethiopia and the United States, her services to others while raising five well accomplished children as a single mom, and traveling the world. The author takes readers through her various tribulations and the incredible perseverance, optimism, and faith she sustained through it all in order to find and heed her call to empower underprivileged women to become self-reliant and bring a positive change to their family lives and their communities.

Agitu has a book signing scheduled at the Buckhead Public Library, 269 Buckhead Ave. NE, Atlanta GA 30305, 404-613-7350, for May 11th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. if you would like to meet Agitu and purchase a signed copy.

To include your book launch, signing, publication, and award announcements in a future edition of the eQuill, please send an email to Executive Director George Weinstein.
Adult Services
Author Talks & Writing Workshops

**Author Stephanie Evans**
May 9 | 7 pm | Norcross Branch
Author Stephanie Evans will discuss her book, *Africana Tea: A Global History of Tea and Black Women's Health*. Books will be available for sale and signing.

**Author Terah Shelton Harris**
May 16 | 7 pm | Duluth Branch
Author Terah Shelton Harris discusses her new book, *Long After We Are Gone*, an explosive and emotional story of four siblings each fighting their battle amid their father's death. Books will be available for sale and signing.

**Grief Writing Workshop**
May 18 | 11 am | Lawrenceville Branch
Author Zoe Fishman, who lost her husband in 2017, will lead the workshop to explore the good, bad, and ugly of your hard-won identity.

**Author Randy Louis Cox**
May 22 | 11 am | Peachtree Corners Branch
Author and photographer Randy Louis Cox will discuss his new book, *715 at 50: The Night Henry Aaron Changed Baseball and the World Forever*. Books will be available for sale and signing.

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ATLANTA AUTHORS

a program of Friends of the Roswell Library, in partnership with the City of Roswell and Bookmiser

presents

Pamela Terry

Saturday, May 11 @ 2 p.m.

From the author of The Sweet Taste of Muscadines comes a deeply moving work of Southern fiction. *When the Moon Turns Blue* is the story of one woman’s fight to hold on to friends, family and community amidst a brewing conflict that divides her small Georgia town. At once poignant and timely, the novel is written with humor, elegance and grace.

Join us for a free in-person OR online/Zoom presentation with Pamela Terry discussing *When the Moon Turns Blue*

Moderated by Allison Adams, Director of research and scholarly writing at Emory University’s Center for Faculty Development and Excellence.

For autographed copies, contact Bookmiser @ 770-509-5611, Bookmiser.net

See the virtual event on Zoom or attend live at the Roswell Library, 115 Norcross Street, Roswell.

RSVP
LIVE- https://AtlantaAuthorsPresentsPamelaTerryLIVE.eventbrite.com
VIRTUAL- https://AtlantaAuthorsPresentsPamelaTerryONLINE.eventbrite.com

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ADAM LAZARUS

"In the air with Captain Teddy Ballgame, tight on Major John Glenn’s wing, dropping bombs and dodging flak, is about as thrilling as reading gets for this baseball fan. A terrific, surprising book about two American heroes who trusted each other with their lives and became the unlikeliest of friends."

Robert Lipsyte, author of An Accidental Sportswriter

JERRY GRILLO

“This is terrific stuff. Mize is not an easy subject to write about. Grillo makes him come alive.”

Peter Golenbock, author of Whispers of the Gods: Tales from Baseball’s Golden Age

DAWN MAJOR

“Flannery O’Connor and Eudora Welty move over, there is a new voice on the stage, Dawn Major’s first novel, The Bystanders, is about to enter the ranks of Southern Literature.”

J.M. White, Author of Pulling Down The Sun and The Beyond Within

TUESDAY
MAY 21, 2024
7:00-8:30 P.M.
Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern
10595 Old Alabama Rd Con
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Music by Fair-weather Friends
**BLACK WRITERS WEEKEND** (BWW) is an annual event celebrating the literary achievements and contributions of Black writers. It features workshops, panels, and networking opportunities for writers of all genres. The weekend culminates in a showcase of Black literary talent, fostering community and inspiration within the writing community.

**INSTAGRAM:** @blackwritersweekend

**TWITTER:** @blkwriterswknd

**WEBSITE:** BlackWritersWeekend.com

**DETAILS:** Festival details

Do you want to have an author vendor table at Black Writers Weekend? The author table costs $350 initially, and you have the option to secure your table by paying a $75 deposit. You can then pay off the remaining balance over 90 days, making it easier to manage financially without a significant immediate outlay. Additionally, authors can utilize the BWW market for two days, where they will be provided with a 6ft table and two chairs for hosting purposes. [Register here.](#)

**CALLING ALL SCREENWRITERS AND AUTHORS!**

Are you ready to showcase your storytelling prowess and take your project to the next level? Join an electrifying opportunity at Black Writers Weekend's Pitch Fest!

BWW is seeking passionate screenwriters to pitch compelling concepts for series or films, and authors who want to submit their books to agents and publishers, all in-person, in front of a panel of esteemed judges comprised of filmmakers, producers, directors, agents, and publishers.

During your ten-minute slot (5 minutes to pitch and 5 minutes for feedback), you'll have the chance to captivate the panel with your vision and creativity. Be prepared to leave a lasting impression! Submit your pitch today and get ready to bring your vision to life at [Black Writers Weekend's Pitch Fest!](#)

For complete details about Black Writers Weekend, click here: [LINK](#)
Miami Book Fair’s **Emerging Writer Fellowships program** offers a life-changing experience to fresh literary voices. Through the generous sponsorship of the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at the Miami Foundation and the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, we are beginning the third cycle to select three program recipients who will enjoy critical mentorship from a nationally established author in their respective genre, as well as a host of other strategic supports.

EWF supports developing writers who demonstrate exceptional talent and promise by providing them with time, space, and an intellectually and culturally rich artistic community. The program’s goal is to actively support previously unpublished writers – who are working to complete a book-length project within a year – and help them launch their literary careers. Emerging Writer fellows are granted professional experience in arts administration, teaching creative writing, and other opportunities; a $50,000 stipend; and strong literary community support to allow for 12 glorious months of uninterrupted time to craft their works.

Applications available in English and Spanish for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Full submission guidelines and eligibility can be found [here](#).
Southeastern Writers Association Conference

June 7-11, 2024
Epworth by The Sea
St. Simons Island, Georgia

Register at our brand new website:
https://www.southeasternwritersassociation.org/
Outrageous Voices Spring Writers Retreat

Spring Writers’ Retreat
Thursday, May 16–Sunday, May 19, 2024
Location: Near Atlanta, GA

An inclusive lesbian writers' retreat welcoming self-identified lesbians, bisexual women, trans, and nonbinary folks. To learn more, visit outrageousvoices.com or email outrageousvoices@yahoo.com.
As a journalist who runs a content marketing agency, I was intrigued (and, yes, somewhat apprehensive) when I first heard that new AI tools were fueling the content creation process. I had no idea what AI would mean for our core business services--or how it would help us develop our marketing materials.

Once I saw how businesses of every kind were starting to use AI, I realized we needed to start testing out different AI tools and experience firsthand how they could support our content development process.

After trying several options, I quickly realized that AI still isn't capable of writing meaningful content (like the 100 percent human-crafted piece you're reading now), but it can speed up your creation process in the following ways.

How One Author Pushed the Limits of AI Copyright

Elisa Shupe was initially rebuffed when she tried to copyright a book she wrote with help from ChatGPT. The novel draws from Shupe's eventful life, including her advocacy for more inclusive gender recognition. The US Copyright Office changed course earlier this month after Shupe appealed, granting her copyright registration for AI Machinations: Tangled Webs and Typed Words, a work of autofiction self-published on Amazon under the pen name Ellen Rae—but there's a catch.

The USCO's notice granting Shupe copyright registration of her book does not recognize her as author of the whole text as is conventional for written works. Instead, she is considered the author of the “selection, coordination, and arrangement of text generated by artificial intelligence.” This means no one can copy the book without permission, but the actual sentences and paragraphs themselves are not copyrighted and could theoretically be rearranged and republished as a different book.

This registration provides a glimpse of how the USCO is grappling with artificial intelligence, especially as more people incorporate AI tools into creative work. It is among the first creative works to receive a copyright for the arrangement of AI-generated text.

To read the entire article, click here: [LINK]
LAST YEAR, Alex Reisner reported in The Atlantic that more than 191,000 books had been absorbed into a data set called Books3, which was then used to train generative-AI large language models that may someday threaten to take the place of human writers. Among the books in question was my debut novel, Goodbye, Vitamin, which took me five years to complete. My new novel, Real Americans, took even longer: I began working on it in December 2016, and it's being released at the end of April, seven years and four months later. Those numbers don't even account for the years of reading, practice, and education (both formal and self-directed) that preceded the writing itself. Now ChatGPT and other LLMs, trained on a wide store of human-generated literature, stand on the cusp of writing novels in no time at all.

This seems, initially, discouraging. Here is an entity that can seemingly do what I do, but faster. At present, it "hallucinates" and gets basic facts wrong, but it may soon be able to generate text that can seamlessly imitate people. Unlike me, it won't need sleep, or bathroom breaks, or patience, or life experience; it won't get the flu. In fact, AI embodies hypotheticals I can just imagine for myself: If only I could write all day and night. If only I were smarter and more talented. If only I had endless knowledge. If only I could read whole libraries. What could I create if I had no needs? What might this development mean for writing?

Considering limitlessness has led me to believe that the impediments of human writers are what lead us to create meaningful art. And they are various: limits of our body, limits of our perspectives, limits of our skills. But the constraints of an artist's process are, in the language of software, a feature, not a bug.

To read the complete essay, click: LINK

(NOTE: the webpage will initially show a little popup that states, "Have an account? Sign in" but you can collapse that and read the article until May 9, 2024.)
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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**KAY HUNT**

*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.

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**JUDITH KOLBERG**

*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.

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JANIE MILLS
Email  Website
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.

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.

STEPHANIE SIEGEL
Email  Website
Final editing available for nonfiction (especially health for general audiences).

If you are an AWC member, offer editing services, and want to add your information to this directory, please send an email to AWC Executive Director and Acting President George Weinstein with the following information: Your name, Your email address, Your website (if available), The fiction genres and/or nonfiction topics you have experience editing, & a brief statement detailing your editing experience of 75 words or less.

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
Show Us What You Got

MAKE A read-your-book CLIP

1. Make a video (SIXTY SECONDS MAX!) of you reading a sample of your work. Videos can be created with a phone, tablet, or computer.

2. Upload your video to AWC VIDEO This may take a few minutes.

3. 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

1. 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.

2. Send the picture to awc.member.services@gmail.com with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.

3. 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 OPEN
All Genres 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm
Gail Lash EMAIL

Online #5 WAIT LIST
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 #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 #11 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

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
Perry Powell 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

Online #20 WAIT LIST
Horror of any style. Virtual meetings are every other Tuesday, 7-8 pm. Contact Daniel Cozart's EMAIL

Online #21 WAIT LIST
Poetry group for six experienced poets, published/seeking publication. Meets weekly via Zoom on Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Poems to be shared on Google Drive & reviewed before each session. Send 3 poems to Jennifer Kahnweiler

Online #22 WAIT LIST
Horror of any style. Virtual meetings are every other Tuesday, 7-8 pm. Contact Daniel Cozart’s EMAIL

Online #23 WAIT LIST
Study/Critique Group open to all levels of writers and all genres. The Storywrighters group meets online every other Thursday at 5 PM ET to explore well-regarded writing craft books and support each other as we apply what we learn to our work. Our current study is The Emotional Craft of Fiction: How to Write the Story Beneath the Surface by Donald Maass. Contact: Mary Thornton

Online #24 OPEN
Nonfiction (except children’s, memoirs/biographies, erotica). Email critiques twice monthly on nonfiction book content or anything else related to the “business” of being an author. Contact Vic Darling

Online #25 OPEN
All genres but with focus on self-publishing authors. Meets virtually on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 12pm to 12:45. Contact J.M. Tompkins

Online #26 OPEN
Science Fiction and Fantasy. Meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. Eastern Contact: Xander Jon Dijk

Atlanta Northside OPEN
SciFi but open to other types of speculative fiction. Meetings every second Saturday of the month at the Fellini’s Pizza in Buckhead @ 11 AM. Joe Lamb EMAIL

Atlanta/South Brookhaven OPEN
Literary fiction. Meets in person at pre-selected location, 7-9pm every other Tues. We’ll discuss preshared excerpts and pre-meeting critiques. Jim Trueblood, EMAIL (LIMITED TO 10)

Atlanta/Virginia Highlands OPEN
Fiction writers with a creative writing degree or history of publication. Meets once a month usually from 1 to 3 pm at a coffee shop. Contact: Dawn Abeita

Conyers/Lithonia OPEN
Picture books to middle grade, no sci-fi or graphic novels. Meets 4th Saturday of each month at Panera Bread, 10 am - 12 pm. Contact Carla Walter

Decatur/Emory OPEN
Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Horror. Meet every two weeks, time and location TBD. To discuss pre-shared excerpts of around 5000 words, for constructive feedback. Contact: Eric Reinders

Dunwoody/Sandy Springs OPEN
Advanced Writers in Thriller/Mystery/Suspense Meet on the Meeting on 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 7pm. Must have completed MS. To apply, send Bill a short bio & first chapter. Bill Robbins EMAIL

Dunwoody/Sandy Springs WAIT LIST
Speculative fiction (novels and short stories). Meets every other Wednesday, 6:30pm. Usually at a
Memberships 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.
Membership Renewal

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.
Name

Email Address

Phone

Street Address

City, State, ZIP

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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
Name
Email Address
Phone

Name
Email Address
Phone

Atlanta Writers Club