Monthly Meeting July 20th

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Atlanta Writers Club - founded 1914, we are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment
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July 15 - AWC Monthly Meeting & Mixer In-Person at Lilburn Public Library (due to GSU campus summer closure) for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:00-5:00 pm Eastern

Pre-meeting Speaker (1:00-1:30 pm) - **Carey Brown:**
Get Noticed Through Magazine Publishing

Speaker #1 - **Wanda Morris:** So Why’d You Decide to Write A Historical Novel?
Speaker #2 - **Letitia Carelock:** Indie Author Best Practices

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Stay Connected to AWC

Cover Author Clues

(b. 1952) Through rich imagery, this author evokes sensory experiences, making her narratives come alive. Whether it’s the taste of a dish, the sound of chopsticks, or the scent of memories, Her descriptions resonate deeply. She allows emotions to seep in through the unspoken. She delves into generational conflicts, portraying the clash between tradition and modernity.

You’ll find her 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

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AWC Officers

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Disciple and Creativity —
Our Writing Frenemies

I’m looking forward to watching the Summer Olympics, held this year in Paris July 26th - August 11th. My favorite sports to follow are gymnastics and swimming. This year I’m paying close attention to swimming because I’m working on a novel with a central character who is a former elite butterfly specialist.

It’s a toss-up for me what the best part of the writing process is, writing or research, so when I say I’m “paying close attention” I mean obsessing. What strikes me every go around with the Olympics is how young the athletes are. This year, the average age of a US Olympic swimmer is 23. The oldest competitors are two 30-year-olds, Nic Finke and Chase Kalisz. And there are three 17-year-olds, Thomas Heilman, Alex Shackell and Claire Weinstein.

I’ve watched a lot of interviews with current and retired swimmers, and they typically have to figure out their “what next?” between the ages of 25 and 30. By this time they’ve been expected to be mentally and emotionally mature and in peak physical condition for over fifteen years, most of them competing seriously since the age of 10.

The post-competitive swimming life might be a continued involvement in the sport, for example broadcasting, coaching, or mentoring. Or it might be something completely different. Regardless, these athletes have to get ready to reinvent themselves at the quarter-life mark.

Most writers come to it from a background in some other discipline. There are novelists who are former lawyers, doctors, or teachers. Memoirists come from every job and life experience imaginable. One thing that’s true about writing is that you don’t have to be young. Yeah!! Millard Kaufman, former marine, screenwriter and co-creator of Mr. Magoo had his debut novel Bowl of Cherries published by McSweeney’s at the age of 89. And he lived long enough to pen another novel Misadventure, which was published one year after his death at age 92.

The other true things about writing are that you have to practice discipline, and you have to surrender yourself to creativity. These seem diametrically opposed, but our workshop speaker William Kenower spoke about both in his session “Fearless Writing.” You have to start whether you feel like it or not. He said to ask yourself if writing is a waste of time. If you answer no, then you’ll find the time for it. You’ll sit down and begin. Write something — anything — then ask yourself what happens next? Capture that answer. Repeat and repeat until BAM, something surprises you. That’s your imagination kicking in. Then you’re in the flow. Keep going and stay in the flow as long as you can. This is great practical advice, the kind I love most.

I’m looking forward to reading William’s book Fearless Writing, between researching and writing my novel projects and short stories, for more inspiration and motivation. I need it, and I suspect we all do in the sticky, slovenly dog days of summer.
DONATE NOW AND HELP THE AWC GROW

The IRS has awarded the Atlanta Writers Club 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization, so you can make tax-deductible donations to the club!

We have a special donation link set up in support of our 2025 Townsend Prize for Fiction, which honors the best literary novel by a Georgia author in 2023-2024.

Click here to donate and support:

- Scholarships for AWC memberships and conference attendance for those in need.
- Expansion of our programming.
- Endowment of our monthly meeting speakerships.
- Building fund to provide a permanent home for the AWC to enable weekly learning and networking activities.

All gifts are appreciated.
Thank you for your support of the Atlanta Writers Club!
June Meeting Photos & Link

View all meeting photos here: [LINK](#)

Meeting Photos by Phil Fasone:

A link to the June meeting video recording will be shared in the AWC weekly email as soon as possible.
July 20th Atlanta Writers Club Meeting for AWC Members and First-Time Visitors

July 20, 12:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m. at the Lilburn Public Library, 4817 Church Street, Lilburn, GA 30047-6827, in their meeting room. (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 a weekly AWC email the following month.

12:45-1:30 p.m. Nosh and Networking Mixer for members and first-time visitors in the meeting room. Please arrive for our meeting as early as 12:45 so you can check in, and then join everyone for a meet and greet opportunity to build your network and make new friends.

1:00-1:30 p.m.: Carey Brown will present "Get Noticed Through Magazine Publishing," in which he will discuss how magazine serials can be the best route for new writers to break into the publishing industry.

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 - Wanda Morris: So Why'd You Decide to Write A Historical Novel?

2:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Book signing for Wanda Morris

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Speaker #2 - Letitia Carelock: Indie Author Best Practices

4:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Book signing for Letitia Carelock

CAREY BROWN will present "Get Noticed Through Magazine Publishing," in which he will discuss how magazine serials can be the best route for new writers to break into the publishing industry.

WANDA M. MORRIS is the award-winning author of All Her Little Secrets, which has been praised by Karin Slaughter as “brilliantly nuanced” and reviewed by The Boston Globe, LA Times, New York Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Seattle Times, and South Florida Sun Sentinel among others. Her second novel, Anywhere You Run, won the Anthony award for Best Historical Novel of 2023 and was long-listed for the prestigious Mark Twain Voice in American Literature Prize. She is married, the mother of three, and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Photo credit: Monique and Brandon Chatman
LETITIA CARELOCK (aka Kyoko M) is a USA Today bestselling author and a fangirl. She is the author of The Black Parade urban fantasy series and the Of Cinder and Bone science-fiction series. The Black Parade has been reviewed by Publishers Weekly and New York Times bestselling author Ilona Andrews. Of Cinder and Bone placed in the Top 30 Books in Hugh Howey’s 2021 Self Published Science Fiction Contest.

Kyoko M has appeared as a guest and panelist at such conventions as Geek Girl Con, DragonCon, Blacktasticon, Momocon, JordanCon, ConCarolinas, and MultiverseCon. She is also a contributor to Marvel Comics' Black Panther: Tales of Wakanda (2021) anthology as well as the Captain America: The Shield of Sam Wilson (2024) anthology. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Lit degree from the University of Georgia.

On July 20, she will be discussing all of the many things that an independent, small press, or self-published author can do in order to sell books and put their best foot forward as a published writer.

Letitia will talk in detail about different marketing and advertising methods that range from free to low cost to expensive. She will also discuss some things about the craft of writing itself and how to stand apart from traditional publishing.

To become an author, follow these steps:

Develop your writing skills: Practice writing daily, read widely, and study grammar and vocabulary.

Educate yourself: While a college degree is not required, consider higher education to learn the fundamentals of writing.

Master storytelling: Understand the art of storytelling to enhance your writing.

Decide what you want to write long term: Choose your genre or niche.

Get involved locally: AWC meetings, workshops, & events.
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.

If you submit, expect to get a reply with edits and comments and be willing to rewrite accordingly. Abide by the word counts; 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.

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.

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.
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 best-selling 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 31st 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 November 1-2, 2024 with agent/editor critique and pitch meetings, a two-hour workshop on the biggest mistakes writers make, 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 November 1-2, 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 veteran editor Tiffany Yates Martin on “The Biggest Mistakes Writers Make: Workshop including Live Edits”—where participants can submit the first page or their manuscript and Tiffany will randomly select entries to do on-the-spot edits to demonstrate ways writers can improve their work—and two free bonus talks by Tiffany 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.


• Friday-night mixer with musical entertainment by the Mike Shaw Trio.

• 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.
• Our book fair offers opportunities to participants who want to sign and sell their traditionally and self-published books on Friday, November 1.

• In addition, we offer the pre-conference edit activity to help you improve your work before submitting it for agent/publisher manuscript sample critiques. **We’ve added two new freelancers to assist you, with picture books, poetry collections, and short story collections now covered as well as all the major fiction and nonfiction genres.**

More than 70 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 November 2, 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 November 1-2, 2024 Atlanta Writers Conference, click link to start:** [LINK]

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*WOW!*  
We’ve added two new freelancers to assist you, with picture books, poetry collections, and short story collections now covered as well as all the major fiction and nonfiction genres.
The Atlanta Writers Club, Georgia Writers Museum, and St. Simons Island Writers present a writing retreat designed to help you relax, recharge, and write!

Unlike many such events that are so intent on offering value that they overwhelm participants with activities, leaving no time for creative output, the AWC-GWM-SSIW retreat is designed to give you ample networking and learning opportunities while also providing long stretches where you can further develop your work-in-process, get inspired to start something new, or just rest and rediscover your muse.

St. Simons Island, Georgia, is the perfect place to do this. Write with innumerable island views to delight you or explore its icon lighthouse and pier, long shorelines, plentiful dining and shopping, miles of bike paths, and nature trails galore while you contemplate your next chapter.

Below you will find the schedule of events, speaker profiles, lodging options, and more.
Schedule of Activities

- **Wednesday**, November 6, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Porch restaurant (549 Ocean Blvd.): Network & Nosh Welcome Reception with appetizers, wine, and beer

- **Thursday**, November 7, 8:00 am-10:30 am at AW Jones Heritage Center (610 Beachview Dr.): Wanda Lloyd keynote talk on writing memoir and Tina McElroy Ansa keynote talk on writing fiction, with a light breakfast and coffee

- **Thursday**, November 7, 7:00 pm -9:30 pm at AW Jones Heritage Center (610 Beachview Dr.): Celestial Holmes keynote talk on lessons learned as a debut author, plus open mic for participants, with dessert and coffee

- **Friday**, November 8, 8:00 am-10:30 am at AW Jones Heritage Center (610 Beachview Dr.): Jonathan Rabb keynote talk on research, structure, and the discovery of a novel, plus a writers' panel on paths to publication, with a light breakfast and coffee

- **Friday**, November 8, 7:00 pm -9:30 pm at AW Jones Heritage Center (610 Beachview Dr.): Open mic for participants and a writer's panel on marketing tips, with dessert and coffee

- **Saturday**, November 9, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Porch restaurant (549 Ocean Blvd.): Farewell Brunch

**Registration is $250 and includes all the activities and meals above.**
For registration, recommended lodging options, speaker profiles, and more, click here: [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
Recently, I had a baffling exchange with my undergrads. I was teaching a course on southernness and southern literature, at a southern university, and I asked the nineteen students in front of me how many considered themselves to be “southern.” Only one. Then I asked how many grew up in a place that is technically part of the South. Fifteen tentative hands.

How could this be? I asked. What was the distinction these young people were making?

The problem, they said, was the act of claiming southernness. It seemed impossibly intertwined with white supremacy, traditional gender roles, and a demand to return to an antiquated society, one they did not want to rise again.

That seemed more than fair, I said, but if they weren’t southern, what were they? After all, most had never lived outside of Virginia. No one could quite say for sure. They were not southern, but they weren’t anything else either.

A beautiful new memoir, *Dust*, published April 28 by Georgia native Summer Brenner, explores this predicament, one which many southern authors find themselves in today. Once hailed as producing much of the best of American literature, by the end of the twentieth century, southern voice had largely fallen out of fashion. A notion seems to have arisen that the South—as globalization and big tech increasingly penetrate all aspects of our lives—is too backward, too isolated, and too tainted to speak to the zeitgeist.

To finish reading this article, click [HERE](#).

(Summer Brenner adds this disclaimer: “I didn’t get to vet the piece before publication. I’m from an Atlanta Jewish family, and there were certainly no Jewish debutantes, but I was very privileged, went to Westminster, etc. So the gist is right.”)

### Litmosphere Call for Submission

*Litmosphere*—formerly home for Charlotte Lit’s Lit/South Awards winners and finalists—is now an open submission, paying online literary and art journal, published twice a year in the Spring and Fall. We have envisioned Litmosphere as an oasis in the desert of long response times and impersonal rejection notes. Send us art, flash (fiction and nonfiction), poetry, and short prose (fiction and literary nonfiction) via [Submittable](#) July 1–31 for the Fall 2024 issue and January 1–31 for the Spring 2025 issue. The journal is free to read and there is no fee to submit. Information and guidelines are available [here](#).
Call For Unproduced Scripts By LGBTQ+
Southern Writers

NEWS: The Del Shores Foundation had its Festival in Atlanta in February, the winning play was by an Atlanta playwright, and his world premiere with the supporting production grant is happening at Actors Express in October 2024.

The third Del Shores Foundation Writers Search is now open for submissions from unproduced playwrights and screenwriters who identify as LGBTQ+ and currently live in the South. CASH AWARDS are given to the semifinalists, finalists and winners and PRODUCTION GRANTS accompany the winning scripts to move their work toward production.

Final submission deadline 7/31/24. Use waiver code "DSFGA" for FREE submission! For more information and submissions visit LINK

Their Writers Search includes Cash Awards for the winners with $3000 for Best Screenplay and Best Play and $1000 for Best Short/Web Series. They also award $250 to all finalists and $100 to all semifinalists and they are open to all screenwriters and playwrights who:

• identify as LGBTQ+
• currently live in the U.S. South
• have not been produced in the submission category

They have Production Grants associated with each category. $2000 to the production budget of the winning short film, travel to Los Angeles and production company meetings for the winning screenplay, and $10,000 to the Del Shores Foundation Theatre Partner who produces the world premiere production of the winning play. They also have Play Finalists Reading Grants to support one-night stage readings with the writer in attendance at one of their Theatre Partners. Three of those from last year’s Writers Search happened in June 2024.

Additionally, each year they produce a Del Shores Foundation Writers Festival featuring live stage readings of all three winning scripts, private workshops with film and theatre professionals and public panels. ALL EVENTS ARE FREE! They also cover all travel, accommodation and meal costs for the winning writers and finalists in all three categories who are available to attend! Enjoy highlights from their 2024 Writers Festival in Atlanta
Author Bijal Shah
July 10 | 10 am | Virtual
Author and counselor Bijal Shah will discuss her transformational guide, *Bibliotherapy: The Healing Power of Reading* and explore the restorative power of reading.

Author Elle Cosimano
July 13 | 7 pm | Duluth Branch
Enjoy an evening with *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Elle Cosimano as she discusses her newest witty mystery, *Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice*. Registration is required.

Author McCracken Poston Jr.
July 18 | 7 pm | Dacula Branch
Attorney and author McCracken Posten, Jr. will discuss his true crime story of *Zenith Man*. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Author Shauna Robinson
July 26 | 12 pm | Virtual
Acclaimed contemporary fiction author Shauna Robinson will discuss her newest book, *The Townsend Family Recipe for Disaster*.

DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS:
WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
Do Authors Really Need to Spend Their Own Money to Make a Book Successful?

by Maris Kreizman for Literary Hub

In mid-June, The Guardian ran an article about how some authors are seeking help outside of their in-house publishing teams to promote their books. This is nothing new. There are lots of independent publicists who’ve been working with authors to supplement the work of their in-house teams for years. But this piece seemed to strike a particular chord with literary Twitter, probably because of one particular line: “Book tours can cost $15,000, publicity campaigns up to $16,000, and marketing work up to $100 an hour – figures that can be considerable when compared to authors’ advances and distant promises of royalties.”

That’s a lot of money, I think we can all agree. So yes, (some) commercial authors are spending significant amounts of money on outside help, and the authors featured in the Guardian piece are happy with their investments. But I think a lot of readers came away from that piece feeling like they could not be successful without spending extra money. Not true! Here are some other things to keep in mind.

To read the rest of this article, CLICK
**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](#)
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.

**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.

**KAY HUNT**

Email

Available for editing: Adventure, women’s fiction, fantasy, historical fiction

I have over 20 years in print production and graphics, proofreading annual reports, business brochures and related materials, catalogs, and advertising copy. I have six years of freelance experience proofreading/copy editing website pages and blogs for service industry businesses. Additionally, as a freelancer, I have copy-edited two novels as well as made some structural edits.

**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.

**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 five 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.

**JOE RENDACE**  
**Email**  
**Website**  
Screenplays - All genres  
SCREENPLAY REVIEWS: $99. Think your script is ready? It's probably not. Receive professional notes on your plot/structure/characters/dialect. I have written over a half a dozen screenplays, published two novels and run two active podcasts. I also have spent time as a script reader for a NY movie production house. Please sign up on JoeRendace.com.

**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.

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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.
Show Us Where the Magic Happens

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.

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.
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](mailto:).
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 #3 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 #4 WAIT LIST
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 #8 WAIT LIST
Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, & Memoir Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm Quinn Eastman

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

Online #10 WAIT LIST
Fiction 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM
Perry Powell 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
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm. Abigail Biles 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
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm. Abigail Biles 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 Rick Rohdenburg

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
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 #25 OPEN
Picture book authors & author/illustrators interested in crafting stories. Virtual meetings on Google Meet, 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7-9pm. Contact Kelley Likes by email.

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/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 pre-shared 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 OPEN
Memoir and Narrative nonfiction. Discuss publishing paths, marketing plans, & network growth. In-person meetings on the third Saturday of each month before the AWC meetings, starting at 12:05 p.m. Contact May Spangler by EMAIL

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 2 WAIT LIST
Speculative fiction (novels and short stories). Meets every other Wednesday, 6:30pm. Usually at a restaurant. Zoom used if necessary. Calvin Clark EMAIL

Atlanta/Westside OPEN
Fiction-All Genres
Thursday evening once a month, 6-8 p.m. In a restaurant/coffee shop. Emilee McWilliams

Online/In-person
Dunwoody, Duluth OPEN
Science Fiction, Space Opera, & Fantasy. Online file sharing. In-Person before/after AWC meeting. Podcasts LINK

Lisa Cooper EMAIL

Online/In-person
Alpharetta OPEN
Screenplays Online file sharing for 30 days (one Act and then in-person meeting near North Point Mall on first Saturday of month. 10-12:30pm Joe Redace EMAIL

Lilburn WAIT LIST
All Genres. Meets on 3rd Thursday of each month at Mountain Park Library, 1210 Pounds Rd., Lilburn, GA 30047 s@ 6:30pm. Laura Sellers EMAIL

Marietta WAIT LIST
All genres. Meets at member’s house 1st & 3rd Tues. 6:30 -8:00PM Linda Sullivan EMAIL

Marietta/East Cobb OPEN
Gritty thriller/crime/drama/sct-fi.
Meeting every Saturday at 12pm at Swell Mill Library. Contact Arthur Beauford

Marietta/East Cobb OPEN
All genres. 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00PM in the East Cobb Library community room (4880 Lower Roswell Rd.) Margaret Richlin EMAIL

Roswell WAIT LIST
All genres. Every Tuesday 6-8pm at Scooters in West Roswell. George Weinstein EMAIL

Sandy Springs WAIT LIST
Fiction & N/F (Please indicate what you are writing, any published work, and expectations.) Saturdays except when AWC meets, 2:00-4:00 PM in member’s home or virtual. Contact Jerry Weiner.

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.
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.
- Annual Atlanta Self-Publishing 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

**New Membership**

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## AWC Membership Dues

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<td>One-Year Membership</td>
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<td>One-Year Student</td>
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<td>Five-Year Membership</td>
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<td>Lifetime Membership</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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