March 17

1:45-2:45 Speaker Sabina Murray is the author of two short story collections, three novels & is also a screenwriter.

3:15-4:00 Holly McClure, a principal of the Sullivan-Maxx Literary Agency, on finding and working with small, regional, and niche publishers.

The March meeting will be at the regular location: Georgia Perimeter College, NC-1100 auditorium.
...founded in 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.

Inside this Edition

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It’s time again to call on our members for support, and ask for volunteers to help out with some of the many exciting programs heading our way in the coming months.

We'll need check-in volunteers for each of our future monthly meetings. If you would like to volunteer for a specific meeting, please let VP of Operations Valerie Connors know which month you prefer. Or, if you would like to volunteer but are unsure about your availability until the time gets nearer, she will gladly include you in her list of volunteers to contact at a later date. Please respond to: valerie1105@comcast.net.

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
Freud would have called it the *super-ego*. Writers know it by its intrusion in the creative process as the troublesome *internal editor*. It is that voice that bounces around your brain as you write. “You’re not good enough,” the voice says. If an image emerges to embody the criticism, it is usually in the form of a schoolmarm, tight bun atop her perfectly combed hair, pursed lips, cat eyeglasses balanced on the tip of her nose, her severe gaze in judgment of every sentence, every phrase, every word. “Who told you you could write?” she hisses, slapping a wooden ruler in the palm of her hand with every censure. “Who would want to read that? A five-year-old could do better.” And then the ultimate question: “Is that the best you can do?”

In itself, it is not a bad question. If the answer is a perpetual No, then you are being pulled into a vortex from which escape is difficult. If it leads to an eventual Yes, then there is hope. It is between these two answers that everything hangs in the balance – your literary output, your publication record, your future as a writer. I want to consider each response in turn and hopefully offer a perspective that can lead from the whirlpool of No to the *terra firma* of Yes.

If you cower before the withering look of the schoolmarm and accept her constant disapproval of every word you write, if you begin to tell yourself that you are not that good and are just fooling yourself by calling yourself a writer, if you are obsessed with every phrase and dither over every word, if your time before the computer screen is a never-ending session of self-recrimination and uncertainty, then you are no stranger to the trap of perfectionism.

The verb *to perfect* is derived from a Latin word that means *to end, finish, complete*. Now perfectionism is a syndrome that takes this healthy, normal desire to finish a task and twists it into a nasty little patch of personal quicksand. No, I’m not a good enough writer, you might think. No, this prose is pedestrian, this plot is juvenile, this dialogue frivolous. No, I’m never going to be good enough. This novel has to be perfect. This poem has to be flawless. This article has to be completely free of every error of grammar, logic, research, punctuation, and style. Everything I do has to be absolutely perfect. If it’s not, then it is not just the text that is flawed; it is I. If my work has faults, then I have faults – as a writer and as a human being.

Although it probably doesn’t need professional affirmation, psychologists will tell you that perfectionism can be a destructive cycle. In an overly simplistic schema, they would say that perfectionism, as an attempt to achieve an error-free life, leads to two conditions that can sideline an otherwise developing life and career. The first result of perfectionism is paralysis. If your goal is perfection, sooner or later you will realize that we live in an imperfect world where absolute perfection is impossible. When you come to this conclusion, you are hesitant to do what is ultimately pointless and the result is paralysis. You can’t be perfect, so you can’t move in any direction and you become stuck. Why write another line if it is not going to be perfect? Why start on a novel if it is not going to be a masterpiece? Hand-in-hand with this paralysis is procrastination, when you put off any action because you think it is futile, or too difficult, to strive for your perfect ideal. Paralysis is a mental state; indulged over time, it becomes procrastination. If you don’t start something, there’s no way you can fail or produce an imperfect book. So you stew in your paralysis.

(Continued on page 4)
Now I have a confession to make. I am a recovering perfectionist. When I was young, I
could not bear to have the various foods in my meal touching on the same plate. I would
always carefully color within the lines. School projects had to have a degree of verisimili-
tude that few professional architectural models had. Handwriting was neat and controlled,
essays thoroughly researched, math assignments with no extraneous marks. I was that
kid. I say “recovering” because I have since learned I am not perfect and the world isn’t
either. It was a hard lesson to learn, but I learned it. Among other lessons, I learned that
the alternatives of either perfection or failure are a false dichotomy. There is a middle way,
I learned – a *via media* between the ultimate blamelessness reserved for divinity and the
abject deficiency of the careless and lazy.

In the middle of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, he introduces a word that I think might
help us find our way out of this morass. The word is *arête*. *Arête* is defined as excellence,
but means more than just achievement. It refers to a fulfillment of purpose. The *arête* of a
knife is its ability to keep an edge and cut well. The *arête* of a human being, according to
Aristotle, is to effectively use all his abilities supremely well to meet the challenges of life.
In Greek literature, Homer especially, heroes and gods possessed *arête*. This feature of the
principal characters of ancient narratives made the tales worth telling and the stories worth
preserving. It later was associated with moral philosophy and virtue, but the original
meaning is broader than morality; it encompasses the physical, intellectual and spiritual
aspects of human life. In fact, *arête*, and the happiness that results from its expression,
were considered the supreme goal of life, and the Greek educational process, or *paideia,*
was designed to promote *arête* in the young, to train body, mind and spirit to pursue ex-
cellence, supreme effectiveness, and fulfilled potential.

Perfectionism wants to make sure every comma is correctly placed. Every misused semi-
colon is a blow to one’s self-worth and calls into question one’s ability as a writer. *Aretê*,
on the other hand, is concerned with the achievement of excellence, but it also allows you
to be secure in your identity as a writer. By all means struggle to make your words sing,
but be assured that your worth as a person and your profession as a writer does not hang
on every em-dash. I understand your desire to have perfect manuscripts and flawless
books. But I would encourage you to see your goal as *arête*, excellence, and not paralyz-
ing, procrastinating perfectionism. The former leads to achievement and satisfaction, and
the latter to paralysis and unrelieved anxiety. Develop a reputation for superior novels, po-
ems and screenplays, but let go of your perfectionism and replace it with the contentment
that can only come from a commitment to the *arête* of the ancients and the excellence that
is its own reward.

So, my writer-friends, choose excellence over unachievable flawlessness. Start that book,
write that agent, edit that chapter. Do your best, and then leave it alone. My college advi-
sor reminded me of Pilate’s statement when I was in the middle of writing my thesis.
“What I have written, I have written,” he said. There is a point when we have to say the
same. Tolstoy reportedly revised *War and Peace*, one of the longest novels in world litera-
ture at 560,000 words, eight times and was still making changes on the galleys before final
publication. He was not willing to settle for an inferior manuscript, but he did publish it. He
did finally say, *Yes, it is as good as it can be*. And the world is glad he did.
On February 18, Ellis Avery spoke to the Atlanta Writers Club about “Plot.”

Mary Grace Schaap presented a “Grammar Moment.”

John Sheffield presented “Road to Publication.”
Speaker Profile for March Meeting

By Soniah Kamal
1:45-2:45

Sabina Murray is the author of two short story collections, three novels & is also a screenwriter.

She received her B.A. in art history from Mount Holyoke College in 1989 and her M.A. in English and creative writing from the University of Texas in 1994. She has previously been a Roger Murray Writer-in-Residence at Phillips Academy (Andover, Massachusetts) and was published in Ploughshares, Ontario Review, and the New England Review. She was also the fiction judge for the Drunken Boat R17’s First Annual Panliterary Awards.

Murray lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, with her family, where she directs, and teaches in, the Creative Writing Program at UMass- Amherst.

3:15-4:15

Holly Sullivan McClure:

Holly is an author and the creator of the Sullivan Maxx Literary Agency (http://sullivanmaxx.com/).

Raised by a family of storytellers, mystics, preachers, and blue grass musicians, Holly tried on all of those personas except the musician. “Preacher” took awhile, but on May 13th 2010, she was ordained into the priesthood of the Celtic Christian Church. As a professional storyteller, she channeled her mother’s Cherokee family as well as her father's Scottish ancestors and came up with her own blend from both cultures. Holly's writing usually has an element of the supernatural. She is the author of four novels and one non-fiction history.

Sullivan Maxx Literary Agency was formed with the plan that she would work alone and represent a few Southern authors. It didn’t work out that way. There are five agents now, in addition to Holly, with clients are from all over the country who write in numerous genres, both fiction and non-fiction.

On March 17, Holly will speak to the club about finding and working with small, regional, and niche publishers.
Current Call for Writers: *Intimate Landscape*

Open to Interpretation is a juried book competition bringing together photographers and writers. Each book begins with a themed call for photographs. The selected images become the literary inspiration for the writers’ submissions, from which two are chosen to accompany each image. The subsequent pairing of photographs and written pieces, culminates in the publication of a high-quality, fine art book.

The photographs have been selected and they are currently accepting poetry and prose for Open to Interpretation: Intimate Landscape

**Entries Due** March 29, 2012

**Submission Fees** $10 per entry

**Theme** Intimate Landscape. Landscapes conjure images of vast, sweeping scenes, but the details captured by a photograph can turn a seemingly impersonal setting into an intimate story. It's up to the artist to define what constitutes an intimate landscape, be it representational, non-representational, urban, suburban or rural.

**Judge** Patrick Thomas is the editor and program manager at Milkweed Editions. As an editor, his work focuses on acquisitions that consider our relationship to the more-than-human world. As program manger, he works to find the best way to bring literary art to the widest possible audience. He lives in Minneapolis, MN.

**Awards** $300 Judge's Choice Award

View the [online gallery](#) for selected images chosen by Karen Irvine, Curator of Photographs at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago.

For more information, visit the [Open to Interpretation](#) website, like them on [Facebook](#), and/or follow them on [Twitter](#).

Clare O'Neil, Publisher   Tel: 651-312-0113   info@open2interpretation.com
Community Outreach

Mission

To be a bridge from the Atlanta Writers Club to the public by promoting and supporting literacy campaigns and efforts through educational programs and events.

Event

Save The Libraries

SavetheLibraries.com
Date: Saturday March 24
Time: 7 PM -10:30 PM
Where: Decatur Library
Who: oh, that is the Mystery!!

Join in the fun and support the local and national efforts to Save Our Libraries!
www.savethelibraries.com

The DeKalb Library Foundation presents "A Mysterious Evening" on Sat., March 24, from 7-10:30 p.m. Honorary Chair is world-renowned mystery writer Karin Slaughter.

Meet well-known established mystery writers Grant Jerkins, William Rawlings, Patricia Sprinkle and Amanda Kyle Williams.

Thank you very much to Atlanta Writer’s Club member Jill Evans for working so diligently to have AWC as a proud sponsor.

Programs

KIPP Vision Academy

Address: 660 McWilliams Road SE (Fulton County) 30315
Grades: 5th & 6th
Contact: Dean Wheda Carletos
Phone: 404-537-5252

If you are interested in being a part of any of these programs please contact Neda Gayle nedagayle@att.net or call 615-477-3152.
KIPP is an ongoing community program. Thanks to the contribution of AWC members’ time and charitable donations the library is complete. The school is making great strides, however there is still more we can do!

**End of Year Essay Contest**

Atlanta Writers Club is the sponsor for the Essay Contest. The teachers will assign the topic and judge. The writers of the top three essays will be awarded gift cards from Barnes & Noble at the final assembly on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Email Pal**

We had a lot of requests from our AWC members to be “email pals”. This would encourage writing and enhance the communication skills of KIPP students. It is ready to begin! Please let Neda Gayle know and we will provide a list of those wanting to participate to the school. All emails will be sent to the school web address with the subject line being your selected email pal’s name. Details to follow for those interested.

**Wednesday Assembly 2:20-3:00PM**

Every Wednesday the school assembly provides different platforms to engage the students. Would you like to read your book? Talk about a career? Reach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders on a personal level?

You can use all of the 40 minutes or a part of it. For details and questions please contact Neda Gayle.

**Library**

The library is growing! As more books come in KIPP would appreciate a volunteer to help enter them into their software system (computer). Time is flexible!

Is the secret librarian in you ready to come out? KIPP would appreciate a volunteer for to serve as media center volunteer / librarian to visit school twice a month.

As always, AWC members can support the KIPP program by purchasing a book for the school. KIPP school donations are tax-deductible and available on line at Barnes and Noble.

We are looking for a project leader for this effort. If you are interested or have further questions please call Neda Gayle (cell 615-477-3152).
Community Outreach, cont.

**Community Outreach Update on other events**

Berkmar Middle School in Gwinnett County. They are studying poetry and ask for volunteers to talk about the importance and value of poetry. Montessori school support for events on our website.

**If you are in the Sequoyah Middle School area and would like to volunteer:**

8th grade students preparing for the state-mandated writing assessment - the Middle Grades Writing Assessment. This particular assessment measures students’ aptitude in using writing skills to write a 5-paragraph essay that is either persuasive or expository in nature. Two of the biggest challenges at Sequoyah are overcoming the language barriers and the limitations of their English Language Learners, as well as promoting and encouraging their students to think outside of the box in order to generate ideas.

Writing Camp that currently takes place after school on Mondays and Tuesdays between 4:06-5:45 p.m. They also have Extended Learning Time (ELT) in the mornings between 8:40-9:40 a.m. to assist with the writing needs and concerns of their struggling writers.

Work with students daily in their classrooms during the English and Language Arts sessions.

**Congratulations, Jennie!**

The world’s largest book club network voted AWC author Jennie Helderman’s book *As the Sycamore Grows* Bonus Book of the Year. Helderman accepted the award from Kathy Patrick, founder of the Pulpwood Queens and Timber Guys book clubs, at the annual Girlfriends Weekend in Jefferson, Texas. The book clubs now number 525 in the United States and 11 other countries.

The Pulpwood Queens award follows a 2011 USA Best Books Award announced in November and five other literary awards in national and international competition.
Saturday, March 24, 2012
7:00–10:30 p.m.
Decatur Library • 215 Sycamore Street • Decatur • GA 30030
Tickets $65 in advance
$75 at the door
Available at:
www.dekalblibrary.org/foundation
or mail check to DeKalb Library Foundation at address above

Cajun hors d’oeuvres • Silent Auction • Book Signing
Mystery Theater Performance, A Tale Of Two Swamps by Black Box Productions

For more information: foundation@dekalblibrary.org
or call 404.370.8450, ext. 2238

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Shannon Clute announces the publication of her first book by Dartmouth College Press (UPNE)--a non-fiction study of film noir entitled *The Maltese Touch of Evil: Film Noir and Potential Criticism*. A former AWC member, Shannon spoke at the April 2010 meeting about podcasting and she reports that this book is a direct outgrowth of her podcasting efforts. It is available on Amazon and other online retailers.
THE ALMIGHTY PLATFORM—a free workshop

-why a writer with a manuscript and no platform is a tragic thing.

A free workshop presented by Lauretta Hannon on April 14, 2012, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Book deals are often granted based on the strength of a writer's platform. Its importance is second only to the writing itself, yet many of us neglect it and wonder why we're not moving forward. This workshop eliminates the confusion surrounding the topic and shows you step-by-step how to define, create, grow, and sustain a platform that is right for you. Packed with hands-on exercises, this workshop will deliver lessons, specific strategies, and answers that will lay the foundation for a successful writing career.

The following is an outline of the April 14 workshop:

1-2pm
Will Someone Please Explain What Platform Is?
Is It Really That Critical?
How to Get Started
Writers With Stellar Platforms

2-3pm
Defining Your Authentic Platform
Why It's An Inside Job
Steer Clear of The Top 12 Platform Mistakes
Niche Development
Lessons From The Road

3-4:15pm
Building Your Platform--Right Here, Right Now
How to Develop Visibility
Establishing Authority & Trust
Creating Wise Partnerships
Audience Engagement
Charting Your Plan

4:15-5pm

**How to Approach Bookstores & Others About Selling Your Book**

The Role of Marketing Materials
What NOT to Do at a Book Signing or Reading
A Final Look at Your Platform Plan

**About the Instructor:**

Lauretta Hannon started her platform years before she wrote her book. As a result, *The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life*, became a bestseller three weeks after its release. In 2010 the Georgia Center for the Book named her work one of the Top Twenty-Five Books All Georgians Should Read, and *Southern Living* called her "the funniest woman in Georgia." In addition to her tenure as a commentator on National Public Radio, she has taught and encouraged writers for over twenty years. Today she presents seminars and one-on-one coaching through her Down Home Writing School. More info at [thecrackerqueen.com](http://thecrackerqueen.com).

**Location:**

Georgia Perimeter College-Dunwoody
2101 Womack Rd.
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Building NC auditorium

**Registration:**

Workshop is open to all paid 2012 AWC members.

Memberships expire at the end of each calendar year, so if you didn't pay your 2012 dues last fall, it's renewal time! To renew your membership or join the Atlanta Writers Club (still only $40, with student and family discounts), please go to our website to pay online or download the form to mail in with your check: [http://atlantawritersclub.org/membership/index.shtml](http://atlantawritersclub.org/membership/index.shtml)
March 17, 2012
1:45-2:45 Speaker Sabina Murray is the author of two short story collections, three novels & is also a screenwriter.
3:15-4:15 Holly McClure, a principal of the Sullivan-Maxx Literary Agency, on finding and working with small, regional, and niche publishers. She and one of her local agents--Melissa Lee--will respond to 10-min. pitches that day.

April 21, 2012
1:45-2:45 Award-winning Marina Buddhos: author of nonfiction and fiction for adults and younger audiences
3:15-4:15 AWC members Bobbi Kornblit, Walter Lawrence, and John Turman discuss their advice and lessons learned about self-publishing

May 19, 2012
1:45-2:45 Mystical thriller author and blogger Jeffrey Small on writing about religious and spirituality topics

June 16, 2012
1:00-4:00 Annual Picnic at Hammond Park in Sandy Springs

July 21, 2012 [Location TBD]
9:00-4:00 Debra Dixon, publisher of Bell Bridge Books, and Nancy Knight--author, editor, agent, and former AWC president--will present a free daylong workshop on the craft and business of writing fiction.

August 18, 2012 [Location TBD]
1:45-2:45 Joshua Corin, whose thriller series protagonist is a woman, will speak about writing from the perspective of the opposite sex
3:15-4:14 Janell Agyeman, agent for Marie Brown Assoc., will speak about writing from the perspective of a different race or culture

September 15, 2012
1:45-2:45 Nationally bestselling Random House author Meg Waite Clayton

October 20, 2012
1:45-2:45 Amy Waldman, international correspondent and author of The Submission

November 17, 2012
1:45-2:45 Author and public relations professional Mary Glickman

December 15, 2012
1:45-2:45 Nonfiction author and former Atlanta Magazine editor Rebecca Burns

Upcoming workshops, author dinners, and other special events exclusively for current AWC members.
(All venues subject to change.)
Southeastern Writers

For 34 years the Southeastern Writers Association’s annual workshop has helped both experienced and aspiring writers grow their skills.

Learn more about our expert faculty and our agent in residence, review the workshop schedule and the writing contests available for attendees, and then make your plans to join us.

June 15, 2012 - June 19, 2012
St. Simons Island, GA

Join other published and aspiring writers in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere on beautiful St. Simons Island, located off the coast of Georgia. Learn new techniques, network with writers of all levels, focus on building your skills, and spend time with the exceptional faculty. Click here for the full Workshop schedule.

Join us for the day, the weekend, or for the full Workshop.

2012 Faculty

Brian Jay Corrigan • Novels; Keynote Speaker
Brian won his first national award at seventeen. Since then, he has had a dozen of his plays produced professionally. His first novel, THE POET OF LOCH NESS won the Bancroft Prize in literature, The Florida First Coast Writing Award, and in 2006 Brian was named Author of the Year in the debut fiction category by the Georgia Writers Association. Read more.

Marisa A. Corvisiero • Agent in Residence
Marisa is an attorney, a literary agent and consultant practicing in New York City and representing authors, publishers, agents, illustrators and agents from around the world. She formerly was associated with L. Perkins Agency, but as of March 2012 will open her own agency, the Corvisiero Literary Agency. Read more.

C. Hope Clark • Business of Writing
Hope is the founder of FundsFor Writers.com as well as the writer of The Carolina Slade Mystery Series published by Bell Bridge Books, slated for release in February of 2012. Read more.

Catherine R. Guss • Inspiration
Catherine is a published composer and author of inspirational, non-fiction, and children’s books with more than 20 pieces of literature in print. Read more.

Ron Houchin • Poetry
Ron is a distinguished retired public school teacher and poet from the Appalachian region of southern Ohio. His poetry has been featured in over 200 venues. Read more.

Jimmy Carl Harris • Short Stories
Jimmy hails from Birmingham, Alabama, where he has published two novels and been awarded four Hackney Literary Awards. Read more.

Full conference tuition is $445. Those opting to stay at Epworth-By-The-Sea, where the Workshop sessions are being held, will receive a $50 discount on their tuition, bringing it to $395. Those choosing a weekend only option will pay a daily rate of $125 per day.

For registration or additional information: http://southeasternwriters.com/
A

POETRY

Palette

2012 National Poetry Month (April)
Sixth Annual Exhibit

Open Theme

What To Do:

1. Submit one ready-to-hang* original poem with artwork by March 19, to Nancy McDaniel, Georgia Perimeter College LTC, 2101 Womack Road, Bldg N-LRC 5200, Dunwoody 30338.

2. Email 25-word bio to nancy.mcDaniel@gpc.edu by March 5.

~Exhibit will hang in the gallery through the month of April~

*Reading & Reception April 5, 1-3 pm*

*All frames must be wired as shown in photo.

For Additional Info:
Nancy nancy.mcDaniel@gpc.edu (770-274-5243)
Gelia gdolcima@gpc.edu (770-274-5246)
ELIGIBILITY:
1. The AWC Spring Writing Contest is open to: All current, paid club members. (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Ginny Bailey.) Submissions must be original, unpublished, and un-awarded work.

DEADLINE:
May 2, 2012. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:
Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at July 21, 2012 meeting.)

FIRST PLACE $50 CASH PRIZE
SECOND PLACE $30 CASH PRIZE
THIRD PLACE $20 CASH PRIZE

CONTEST CATEGORIES:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memoir</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject; adult or YA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Poetry</td>
<td>32 lines</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash Drama</td>
<td>8-10 pages</td>
<td>Single space individual characters’ dialogue; double space between speakers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Manuscript Format. Failure to adhere to the following format will result in disqualification.

- DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
- Only Word files (.doc) will be accepted. (Files with .docx may not be viewable by judges, therefore we recommend saving and sending the file as a .doc)
- Font: 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman
- Margins: 1 inch
- Line spacing: double – yes, even for poetry. [HOWEVER, see specific spacing for Flash Drama.]
- White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images)
- Page size & layout: 8-1/2 x 11; Portrait
- First page: Title and Category should appear in the upper left corner
- Subsequent pages: Title - upper left corner; Page number - upper right corner

SUBMISSION RULES

Failure to adhere to any of the guidelines will lead to disqualification.

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to nedra.roberts@gmail.com.

The entry and SSF must be sent as attached Word documents (.doc).

IMPORTANT: Name the documents by title, i.e. Title.doc and SSF-Title.doc
Example: if the title is Moon Fire, the document should be named Moon Fire.doc and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.doc.

Standard Submission Form (SSF):

Prepare and submit an SSF for each entry that includes the following information:

Author’s Name
Spring 2012 Writing Contest, cont.

Contest Category
Title of Entry
Word Count (Line Count for poetry)
Named the document: SSF-Title.doc

You may enter all 4 categories, by sending separate email entries.
PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

When sending the attached Word documents, your EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:
Subject Line: AWC Spring Contest
Your name, phone number, category, title
Example:

Dear Nedra,

I have attached [Title] for the [Category] and the corresponding SSF.

Thank you,

[Your name]
[Your phone number]
No Entry Fee
The competition is open to anyone with an interest in science fiction, fantasy, or horror.
Participants must be at least 13 years old to enter.
The competition runs every year from February 5th to May 5th.
Winners are announced annually on June 5th.
TZPP holds the competition as one way of recruiting qualified authors to work with for full-length books.
Many of the winning writers, especially those in the Top 5 get offers to work with TZPP on future works.
5,000 to 20,000 words.
All winners will receive publication in their Annual Anthology, and three free copies of the anthology they are featured in, as well as, cash prizes totaling $1,500.

1st Place $400
2nd Place $350
3rd Place $300
4th Place $250
5th Place $200

To enter and for more information: http://zharmae.com/
# Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Time/ Loc.</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 7-9 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Rebecca Ewing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebeccaewing@earthlink.net">rebeccaewing@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11 a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Near capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td>nc <a href="mailto:Fletcher50@gmail.com">Fletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyj@mac.com">rickyj@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Children's and YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 10 a.m. – 12:15 Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyj@mac.com">rickyj@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction groups</td>
<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 p.m. @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ron Aiken</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron@hraiken.com">ron@hraiken.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Sat, 10 a.m.-12:30 @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyj@mac.com">rickyj@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ ChocLate, Clairmont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrg@hotmai.com">hrg@hotmai.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm 3100.</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tue, 3:00pm, Perimeter Mall area</td>
<td>Richard Perreault</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rperreaultmp@mac.com">rperreaultmp@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
<td>Novel &amp; short story</td>
<td>Every other Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 @ Applewood Towers.</td>
<td>Barbara Connor</td>
<td>678-226-1483</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member’s home</td>
<td>Ken Schmanski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kschmanski@yahoo.com">kschmanski@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 -8:45 p.m. member’s home</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>770-552-5887</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres women’s</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Jemille Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemille@bellsouth.net">jemille@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @Roswell Library.</td>
<td>Lynn Wesch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lewesch@me.com">lewesch@me.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Terre Spencer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:terres@me.com">terres@me.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Spalding</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liannesmon@yahoo.com">liannesmon@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

**Regular** membership dues are $40 per year per person.

**Students** can join for $30 per year.

**Family members** of active AWC members can join for $20 per year.

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. Here are a just a few membership benefits:

- **Monthly meetings.** On the third Saturday of each month, approximately 100 of our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers from varied areas of the literary world. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.
- **Workshops.** Your membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops, and some are free with membership. Watch for announcements for upcoming workshops.
- **Critique Groups.** We now have approximately twenty (20) different critique groups available to members. Scattered about the Atlanta metro area, these critique groups meet regularly to work with each other to read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.
- **Dinner with Authors.** I routinely attend many author book signings so I wondered how I could spend just a few minutes with some of these authors to ask them an impromptu question, or just learn more of their successful habits. In the past several months, our members have had that experience, with authors Nathan McCall, Jedwin Smith, Carol O’Dell, James O. Born and others. We are currently working to schedule others, and there is no admission fee to these special dinners. Members are only required to pay for their own consumption at the restaurant. The Atlanta Writers Club pays for the author and their guests.

I could continue with additional benefits, but alas, this is only a newsletter. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings. Or pay on line at our website, using PayPal at [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Clay Ramsey at clay@atlantawritersclub.org.
Renewal through 12/31/12—please provide your name and any changes to your contact information

New Member through 12/31/12—please complete the information below

Family Member— please complete the information below

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

Please register your last name accurately—this is how your AWC membership will be filed

If you are a family member, who is the Primary Member? ___________________________

Primary Phone: _______________________ Secondary Phone: _______________________ 

Email: _________________________________ 

Secondary Email: _______________________

Website: _______________________________ (if you want this listed on the AWC website)

LinkedIn Profile: ________________________ (if you want AWC to link to you)

Facebook Name: _________________________ (if you want AWC to friend you)

Ways you want to contribute to the Atlanta Writers Club (e.g., volunteering at meetings or events):
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

AWC Membership Dues

$40 Membership through 12/31/2012  $___________

Add any family member for $20 each  $___________
(Please supply family members’ contact information using a separate form)

$30 Student Membership through 12/31/2012  $___________

Tax Deductible Donation in the amount of  $___________

Total $___________

Please mail with checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

Mail to: Kim Ciamarra • Atlanta Writers Club • 10285 Rillridge Court • Alpharetta, GA 30022

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Please keep this portion as your receipt.

Date: ___________________________ Name: ___________________________ has donated $___________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.
This amount is not associated with any services provided in exchange or related to this contribution.
New Atlanta Writers Conference

- Do you want the chance to earn a contract with a literary agent, leading to the publication of your book?
- Do you want an agent to tell you what you’re doing wrong and doing right in your manuscript?
- Would you like to discuss your writing project with an agent to see if there’s any interest in the marketplace?

If you answer, “Yes,” to any or all of these questions, then the Atlanta Writers Club has a conference designed for you:

On Saturday, May 5, 2012 the Atlanta Writers Club will present its sixth Atlanta Writers Conference. The goal of this conference is to give you access to six top literary agents (never any repeats from previous conferences—always an all-new lineup!) who will respond to your pitches, critique the work you submit in advance, and educate you about the current environment of the publishing industry and the changing roles of agents and their clients. You could be offered a contract based on the materials you’ve submitted: several AWC members have signed with conference agents or continue to work with them preparing their books for representation. You might be asked to send additional pages or an entire manuscript for their review. You certainly will know more about how your work is perceived by industry professionals, and you’ll gain valuable experience interacting one-on-one with them.

You also will have fun, learn more about the publishing business, and get a chance to chat informally with these agents and your peers. In addition to one-on-one time with agents to receive a critique and pitch your project, we offer a two-hour workshop delivered by Conference guest speakers Jeff Herman (author of the famed Jeff Herman’s Guide to Book Editors, Publishers & Literary Agents) and Deborah Herman (agent and spiritual author), both of whom also will give four hour-long presentations during the critique and pitch sessions.

To kick things off, on Friday, May 4 in the evening, we’ll host a social event that we’re compelling the agents to attend as part of their Conference obligations. There is no charge for this mixer, which provides another chance for you to network with your peers and hear war stories and advice from the publishing trenches. Complete details about the Conference follow:
The conference on May 5 will consist of four parts and you may participate in one, two, three, or all of these events:

1. One-on-one critique sessions where the agents share their evaluations with those who have submitted 20 pages of work in advance
2. Pitch sessions so you can verbally present your project to an agent
3. Panel discussion on the publishing industry with Q&A

Workshop with Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman

1. THE CRITIQUE:
If you want a critique of your project on May 5, you will submit the following at least one (1) month in advance: (a) the first 20 manuscript pages of either your novel or nonfiction work, (b) a 1-paragraph summary of your book, and (c) a 1-paragraph biography that focuses on your writing experience and marketability (i.e., your “platform”).

On May 5, you will have about 15 minutes for a one-on-one exchange with the agent about your work. The agent also will give you a written critique, which could consist of an overall review of the project (what worked and what didn't), the quality of the writing, character and story development, and marketability. The agent will not copy-edit your work (they shouldn’t have to; always make sure your work is free of grammatical errors before you submit it), but they will provide you a written summary of their comments. During the critique session, the agent may choose to request more pages or the entire manuscript from you, perhaps leading to a contract for representation to work toward an eventual publishing deal.

2. THE PITCH:
During the afternoon of May 5, you will have the opportunity to discuss your project for about 10 minutes with an agent of your choosing: give a basic synopsis of your book, talk about your writing and what you want for your future, and be prepared to ask the agent questions. This will be a verbal exchange, but in advance you will submit a 1-paragraph summary of your book and a 1-paragraph biography that focuses on your writing experience and marketability. If the agent is interested, you will be asked to send a query, a number of pages, or even the whole manuscript for consideration.
If you also want a critique (see above), pitching will give you the chance to introduce a second agent to your work. Do not choose the same individual for critiquing and pitching. It’s much smarter to double your chances.

3. THE PANEL:
A candid, freewheeling, hour-long discussion with all six agents commenting on the changing role of the agent and the author, the current state of the publishing industry, advice about working with agents and publishers, and expectations about marketing one’s work. Also get your questions answered about everything from queries and contracts to publicity and social media.

4. THE WORKSHOP:
This is a two-hour workshop on Saturday, May 5 (4:30-6:30 p.m.) by Atlanta Writers Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman. The Jeff Herman Literary Agency has sold over 600 titles to publishers and is one of the most dynamic and innovative agencies in the business. Jeff's own books include *Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Editors, Publishers & Literary Agents* (more than 400,000 copies sold), and *Write the Perfect Book Proposal: 10 Proposals That Sold & Why!* (co-authored with Deborah Levine Herman). These are universally considered to be among the best tools available for writers. Deborah Herman is a foremost expert on spiritual writing and publishing. A twenty-year veteran literary agent, Deborah also wrote the book *Spiritual Writing from Inspiration to Publication* in the year 2000, helping to spur the mind/body nonfiction genre. The Hermans’ agency website is [www.jeffherman.com](http://www.jeffherman.com).

At 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, they will provide the two-hour workshop **PROMOTING YOUR WORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE.** This interactive seminar focuses on how you can take an active role in promoting your work before and after publication, utilizing the Internet, and includes the pros and cons of self-publishing. This is not a technical class per se. The goal of the class is for you to leave with new confidence about making the best use of the Internet to market your book(s).

**BONUS:**
Our Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman will give four separate talks of 60-75 minutes apiece while the critiques and pitches are occurring during the morning and afternoon, respectively, on May 5, to educate and entertain Conference attendees. Their topics include: Write the Perfect Book Proposal from Idea to Deal, Write the Perfect Query Letter,
Insider Tricks to Getting an Agent & How to Get an Editor without Having an Agent, and Spiritual Writing from Inspiration to Publication. These discussions are free for anyone participating in the critique, pitch, panel, or workshop.

**THE LOCATION**

Westin Atlanta Airport  
4736 Best Road  
Atlanta, GA 30337  
404-762-7676  
www.westin.com

A free shuttle runs between the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and the hotel every 20 minutes, so you can take MARTA to the airport and hop the free shuttle to the hotel, which saves you money and the hassle of driving, and provides an environmentally friendly option. If you do choose to drive, plenty of parking exists in the hotel lot. Note: the hotel charges a parking fee.

On the evening of Friday, May 4, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., we invite you to gather at the Westin lounge area for informal conversations with the agents and to network with your peers. As a condition of participation in the Conference, the agents are being asked to attend this mixer, so you WILL see them there, and Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman will attend as well! If you choose to stay at the Westin on Friday night so you’ll be fresh and well rested the next day, we’ve negotiated an Atlanta Writers Conference discount ($89/night+tax) for a block of rooms.

**HOUR-BY-HOUR CONFERENCE DETAILS**

*Note: all activities take place at the Westin Atlanta Airport*

**Friday, May 4**

8:00-11:00 p.m. Free social event in the Westin lounge area for club members. No RSVP necessary. Even if you cannot participate in the Conference on May 5, we invite you to join us on the evening of the 4th for casual chats about books and the people who write them, sell them, publish them, and buy them. As part of their conference obligations, the agents are compelled to participate, and Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman will be there as well.
Saturday, May 5

8:00-9:00 a.m. Check in at the College Park Ballroom on the second floor of the Westin Atlanta Airport conference area.

9:00-10:00 a.m. Panel and Q&A with all six agents.

10:00-10:15 a.m. Set up Boardrooms 1-6 for Critique Sessions.

10:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. One-on-one meetings for about 15 minutes each between the agents and those who submitted their work for critique. Meanwhile, Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman give two talks with Q&A in the College Park Ballroom.

1:00-2:00 p.m. Break (go to lunch at Palio’s restaurant at the Westin, retreat to the lounge, practice your pitch with friends).

2:05-4:30 p.m. Participants pitch an agent one-on-one for about ten minutes each, while Jeff and Deborah Herman give two talks with Q&A in the College Park Ballroom.

4:30-6:30 p.m. Conference guest speakers Jeff and Deborah Herman present their workshop PROMOTING YOUR WORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE, with extensive Q&A.

THE AGENTS

The agents below have provided their backgrounds and what genres they are seeking to acquire. Besides reading this information, you also should review their websites, do an Internet search for interviews with them and/or what other agents and authors have written about them, and make sure you’re a good fit for their tastes and attitudes.

Bernadette Baker-Baughman, Victoria Sanders & Associates LLC
(www.victoriasanders.com)

Bernadette Baker-Baughman has a MS in Professional Writing and has worked on both the editorial and marketing sides of publishing. As the Marketing Coordinator for Beyond Words Publishing/Atria Books, she headed up campaigns for two New York Times best-selling titles. In 2005 Bernadette co-founded Baker’s Mark Literary Agency where she discovered talent such as Farel Dalrymple, Faith Erin Hicks, Paul Guinan & Anina Bennett, Dan Elconin, David Axe, Carson Morton, and Zack Giallongo, among others. In 2010 Bernadette joined Victoria Sanders & Associates.
She looks for edgy, fresh, exciting, amazing, luxurious, enticing, passionate, experimental, meaningful, substantial, and freakin’ awesome literary entertainment. Bernadette is currently interested in representing commercial adult, YA, and middle grade fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels. In fiction she gravitates towards books with a wide audience access point—specifically books with cultural or contemporary touchstones (reimaginings, historical fiction, fiction based on legend or myth, fiction with fantastical elements that are part of the cultural collective imagination, Steampunk, etc). In nonfiction she is looking for image rich books, pop culture, art, quirky gift books, light sociology, and narrative nonfiction. In graphic novels she is seeking beautifully illustrated works of nonfiction, memoir, young adult or children’s fiction, high fantasy, funny character driven stories, and graphic literature. Bernadette is also willing to talk to writers who do not have art attached to their comic concept or illustrators willing to work with other authors.

**Brandi Bowles, Foundry Literary+Media** ([www.foundrymedia.com](http://www.foundrymedia.com))

Brandi Bowles joined Foundry Literary in 2010, after working as an agent at Morhaim Literary and an assistant editor at Crown/Three Rivers Press. She does mostly nonfiction, including narrative nonfiction, science, humor, music, pop culture, food, and memoir. Her expanding fiction interests include commercial women’s fiction, high-concept literary fiction, middle grade, and young adult.

**Paul Lucas, Janklow & Nesbit Associates** ([www.janklowandnesbit.com](http://www.janklowandnesbit.com))

Paul joined Janklow & Nesbit Associates in 2007 and began representing authors in 2010. He is interested in a wide variety of commercial and literary fiction, as well as specific non-fiction. In fiction, he enjoys both character- and plot-driven novels but it’s important to him for the storytelling to be clear and accessible. In genre fiction, he is looking for thrillers, spy, science fiction, and fantasy genre writing, as well as literary novels. He appreciates a literary bent, subverting genre, and darker, conflicted characters. Nothing helps a story move along than a compelling anti-hero. Finally, he loves historical fiction and war novels. For non-fiction, he is interested in representing popular science books and narrative histories.
He does not represent romance, westerns, women’s fiction, memoir, humor, self-help, children’s or picture books.

Laurie McLean, Larsen-Pomada Literary Agency (www.larsenpomada.com)

At Larsen-Pomada Literary Agents in San Francisco, Northern California’s oldest literary agency founded in 1972, Laurie represents adult genre fiction (romance, fantasy, science fiction, horror, mysteries, suspense, thrillers, etc.) as well as middle-grade and young-adult books. She looks for great writing, first and foremost, followed by memorable characters, a searing storyline, and solid world building.

For more than 20 years Laurie ran a multi-million dollar eponymous public relations agency in California's Silicon Valley. She is passionate about marketing, publicity, negotiating, editing and a host of other business-critical areas. She is also a novelist herself, so she can empathize with the author's journey to and through publication. In addition, Laurie is the dean of the new San Francisco Writers University at www.SFWritersU.com and on the management team of the San Francisco Writers Conference.

BJ Robbins, BJ Robbins Literary Agency (www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/bjrobbins)

BJ’s tastes are very eclectic and range from deeply serious to laugh-out-loud funny. In fiction she’s drawn to the more literary side, whether it be contemporary, historical, multicultural, mystery, or thriller--she’s looking for an emotional pull as well as great storytelling. She doesn't handle any straight-out genre fiction, such as romance, westerns, sci-fi, or fantasy.

On the nonfiction side she’s looking for authoritative and lively voices in history, biography, memoir, psychology, women's issues, popular science, health/medicine, and travel/adventure. She’s open to self-help but the writer needs to have expertise in the subject on a professional level. In all of these categories it's the writing that attracts her; subject matter comes second. She doesn't handle cookbooks (though she'd love a great book about food), or books on dating or religion.
Ken Sherman, Ken Sherman & Associates (www.kenshermanassociates.com)

Ken Sherman is the President of Ken Sherman and Associates, a Los Angeles-based literary agency. An agent for more than twenty years, Ken represents screen, television, and book writers, and also sells film and television rights to books as well as life rights.

A few of Ken's clients include David Guterson, author of *Snow Falling on Cedars*; Tawni O'Dell, whose first novel, *Back Roads*, became an international bestseller and Oprah Book Club selection; Starhawk, considered the best-known witch in the world; Anne Perry, the world's best-known Victorian murder mystery writer and author of 60 books; and the estates of Luis Buñuel, John Hersey, and Simon Wiesenthal.

Ken is very open to almost any fiction or non-fiction new project. He considers them individually and tries to decide if he can potentially sell them. For fiction, he is seeking everything except children's books and religious fiction. For non-fiction, he is totally open to everything except cookbooks.

THE COST

Because some might want to take advantage of only one event, while others will do it all, we offer the following ala carte pricing:

- Critique: $135
- Pitch: $45
- Panel: $25
- Workshop: $45
- Atlanta Writers Conference package deal (all four activities): $220

You must be a 2012 Atlanta Writers Club member to register for the conference. If you would like to join the club or renew your membership so you can participate, please add $40 to your total to cover club dues; your membership will be valid all the way through the end of 2012.
REGISTRATION

Contact AWC Conference Director George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com and tell him the following:

1. Which event(s) you’re registering for:
   a. Critique
   b. Pitch
   c. Panel
   d. Workshop
   e. All 4

2. If you want the critique and/or pitch, tell him your rank-ordered preference for agents for each activity, with the most preferred at the top (list at least three, if possible). Choose different individuals for the critique and the pitch to maximize the number of professionals you introduce to your work. If your first pick has no spots remaining, George will try to assign you to your second choice. If that person’s spots also are filled, he will go to your third pick, etc. If all spots for all your agents are full, you will be put on standby for the individual you chose with the fewest on standby ahead of you. Before and during every conference at least a few spots open up as people withdraw or fail to show up, so hopefully you’ll still get the opportunity to participate. Again, the agents are:

   Bernadette Baker-Baughman, Victoria Sanders & Associates LLC
   Brandi Bowles, Foundry Literary+Media
   Paul Lucas, Janklow & Nesbit Associates
   Laurie McLean, Larsen-Pomada Literary Agency
   BJ Robbins, BJ Robbins Literary Agency
   Ken Sherman, Ken Sherman & Associates

   * If you do not want a specific agent, do not put that person on your rank-order of preferences.

   * If you want to receive a critique AND do a pitch, remember to give George your rank-ordered agent-preference list for each activity.

NOTE: So that we can accommodate the maximum number of club members,
you may only register for one critique and one pitch.

3. **Indicate if you intend to stay at the Westin Atlanta Airport on Friday, May 4.** The hotel is holding a block of rooms at the special price of $89/night+tax. George will provide reservation details so you get the conference discount price.

In summary, reply with:
- Which activity or activities you want to do
- If applicable, which agent you want for a critique and/or which one you want to pitch
- Indicate if you want to stay at the Westin on May 4

George will respond to your e-mail with the cost due, confirm which agent has been assigned to you for critique and/or pitch if applicable, and give you payment instructions. Upon receipt of your payment, he will send you formatting instructions for the materials you need to provide to him and the due date for these items, if you selected the critique and/or pitch. Also for the pitch, he'll give you some recommendations and resources for pitching an agent.

In late April, you will receive the conference schedule, with your time assignment for the critique and/or pitch if you have registered for these.

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**DEADLINES**

Spots for the critique and pitch will fill completely during the first few weeks of enrollment, so if you want to participate in those activities especially, **respond now!** The deadline to register for a critique and submit your work for evaluation is April 4. The deadline to register for a pitch is April 28, assuming spots remain unfilled. You may register and pay for the workshop and/or the hour-long panel discussion up until May 1. **After you send your request to register to George and receive his instructions, you will have two weeks to send in your payment. If you fail to do so, you will be removed from the registration list so that others can fill those spots.**

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**REFUND POLICY**

To offset Atlanta Writers Club costs incurred for providing refunds, $25 will be
withheld for any refunds given. If you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the May 5 event, you will receive a $110 refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than April 4. If you already submitted your materials for critique, you will not receive a refund but the agent’s written comments will be sent to you. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the May 5 event, you will receive a $20 refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than April 28. If you paid the workshop fee, you will receive a $20 refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than May 1. No refund will be given for the panel discussion.

Finally, if an agent has to withdraw from the conference, we will consult your rank ordering to connect you with the next pick on your list. If time permits, we’ll enlist another agent to fill that opening and we’ll confirm if that individual will suit you. If your top pick withdraws and all spots are full for the others you indicated, you will be put on standby for all of these remaining agents and be given a spot for whichever one opens first. If no openings occur, you will receive a full refund regardless of the deadlines.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com.