December 15, 2012

**Rebecca Burns:** "Bring the Past to Life: Seven Tips for Writers" --- a journalist and author of three books of history (and at work on her fourth), she'll offer tips for discovering the details that bring the past to life, as well as techniques for immersing yourself in history during the writing process.

**Lee Gimenez:** "Marketing for Writers" --- a practical guide to help you increase book sales, promote your work, and find a publisher for your manuscript.

The upcoming 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.

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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
According to some New Age proponents, fringe scientists, dabblers in occultic practice, aging hippies, assorted prognosticators, some classes of survivalists and most prominently those who stubbornly cling to a misunderstanding of an astronomical calculation of an ancient pre-Columbian Mesoamerican people, you have about three weeks left to live. Twenty-one days from now, on December 21, 2012, a major cycle of the Mayan Long Count Calendar will come to an end. Those who worry about these things see that as an irrefutable sign of global cataclysm and planetary apocalypse. By now you have been bombarded with articles, books, documentaries, blog posts, news reports and movies about this event. While most Mayan scholars argue that the end of this calendar cycle did not signal the end of time or our world to the seers who created it centuries ago, they do admit that it is nevertheless a moment of change and should be one of celebration as we enter a new phase of human history. Of course this qualification does not stop the endless speculation, (probably) unwarranted fear and rampant commercialization of this unique moment in this ancient time-keeping system. There have certainly been those on the margin of mainstream society who have used it as an excuse to indulge their metaphysical conjectures or anti-establishment agendas. But even some reputable astrophysicists have advanced disturbing possibilities that apart from the astrological abstractions there might actually be a coincidence of massive solar flares and an unusual planetary alignment that might indeed cause a geomagnetic reversal of Earth’s polarity. That, or we might get sucked into a nearby black hole, or collide with any of a number of celestial bodies that would make our continued existence unlikely.

To be honest, it’s hard to separate the nonsense from the possible. Apocalyptic cults have existed for millennia, warning of imminent conflagrations and cataclysms and coming Messiahs and New Worlds just waiting to be ushered in after the Old one has been consumed. No religious tradition or political institution has been entirely free of those wild-eyed visionaries who promise a coming End of this world and a glorious Beginning of something better. The image of the bearded man in a robe holding a sign on a street corner that says, “Repent, for the end is near!” has become almost a laughable cartoon, but what he represents has been with us for thousands of years. Because of the arrangement of certain stars or the occurrence of certain political events or the emergence of certain omens anticipated by revered texts, people have done such radical things as sell their possessions, move to remote regions, burrow into holes in the ground, stockpile weapons and supplies, even kill themselves and their families all because of the anticipation of an environmental, thermonuclear, socioeconomic, biochemical or cosmic meltdown. Whether it’s the Essenes of ancient Qumran, or the survivalists who planned to ride out the Y2K disaster in fully stocked underground shelters, there have always been those who looked to the End of Time.

Now I am no mystic, prophet, or preacher of doom. I have no back-stage pass to the inner workings of the universe, no key to the precise chronology of the unfolding of time and space and human history, no Nostradaman credentials. I’m just wondering, as a writer, what I would write if I knew I only had three more weeks on this planet. Of course in a world-consuming holocaust no one would be left to read anything I
might have time to scribble down nor would such documents remain to be read, but just indulge me this exercise. Would I write letters to loved ones? A philosophical manifesto encompassing everything I believe is true and good, every idea I hold dear? Would I write a novella (a novel might be a stretch, even with the unparalleled motivation provoked by such a looming deadline) in which I pour heart and soul into the closest I can come to a “heartbreaking work of staggering genius?” Would I try to write poems that attempt to capture the joy and beauty and ache of my life? Would I craft short stories that crystallize important, telling memories? Of course the form is almost immaterial; it is those thoughts, those intellectual and spiritual treasures that I am on the verge of losing that I must cull through at lightning speed to select the most precious, the most worthy of preservation. What to save? What to write in limited time? It is the “Sophie’s Choice” for writers. If you had three weeks (and according to some, we do), what insights, experiences, ideas, memories, images, reflections, truths, delusions, fears, or loves would you choose to commit to paper? What one story would you tell?

Sol Stein, in his masterful *Stein on Writing* (1995), suggests a helpful exercise for the writer who is struggling to find her voice, her unique literary contribution to the world. He asks you to imagine yourself on a rooftop, with a large crowd on the street below (p. 210). You are allowed to shout one last sentence to the mass of people below you, one final statement that the world will forever remember you by. What would you say? Stein then spends the next page-and-a-half encouraging the perplexed writer to strengthen this sentence to make it unique and even outrageous. Would the crowd cheer? What if your closest loved one vehemently disagreed? What would your enemy say? What if you had to whisper it? By the end of Stein’s exercise, as you sift through versions and select the strongest, most original one, the confounded writer should have a theme that is uniquely yours. It is a marvelous way to identify what is really important to you as a person and what can (and perhaps should) inform your writing.

All apocalyptic ideation aside, I probably don’t need to remind you that time is short. 2012 will soon be at an end, another year gone. Whether you take the mystical day of the 21st as a self-imposed deadline to focus your thoughts, or choose to imagine yourself on a rooftop addressing the world with your singular voice, either way I hope you take some time this month to envision your work of a lifetime, that book or poem or story that you would want to define your years on this planet. Ideally this should not prompt an existential angst as much as it should concentrate your thoughts on what is most expressive of who you are and how you want to be remembered. And then write it down. Don’t let another year pass without sharing your inimitable contribution with the world. Life is uncertain. What if this next project was your last? What would you want it to be? And why are you not writing it now?

May your holidays be filled with joy and satisfaction and rest. We’ll hope to see you during these weeks of celebration, and if not, we’ll see you in the New Year (unless those Mayans had it right all along).
Announcements

AWC Officer Emeritus George Weinstein
Signing *Hardscrabble Road* on December 1 and 2

Roswell, GA

George Weinstein will be signing his historical novel, *Hardscrabble Road*, on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at The Chandlery, 950 Canton Street in Roswell, and on Sunday, December 2 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Greenwood's on Green Street, 1087 Green Street in Roswell.

AWC Member Myron Kaufman Signing *Finding Ida*

Saturday, December 8

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Eagle Eye Book Shop

2076 N. Decatur Road

Decatur, GA


AWC Member Kerry Denney's Short Story

"A Clatter of Hooves" Anthologized

Kerry Denney's "A Clatter of Hooves" has been published in Silver Boomer Books' 2012 anthology *A Quilt of Holidays* and now is available from the publisher or Barnes & Noble.

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.
Critique Changes and Additions

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE: Thursday, December 6th at 6:00 pm is the start time for the Organizational Meeting for the new Atlanta Writer’s Club critique group in the Kennesaw area.

This is a “Fiction Only” group. It is VERY Important that interested writers attend the organizational meeting. This group is for serious writers who are willing to commit to a weekly writing word count, critiquing, studying craft and supporting the writers in the group.

If you plan to attend the Organizational Meeting please RSVP to Linda Joyce Clements by email and note: AWC Kennesaw in the subject line.

Starting January 10th 2013, the critique group will meet every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the back room at Cuppy’s Coffee: 1600 Kennesaw Due West Road NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152.

For further information, please contact Linda Joyce Clements at lj_clements@yahoo.com.

Steve Drage Booksigning

AWC Member Steve Drage announces a booksigning for his novel Mud Lane at Peerless Bookstore (8465 Holcomb Bridge Road Alpharetta, GA 30022) on December 7, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

Mud Lane is the first book in the Mud Lane series. It is a comedy about England in the 1960s, seen through the eyes of a child.

In 1960s rural England, a group of children find themselves in a race against time to take part in a traditional annual village celebration. Before long their comedic exploits immerse them in a web of lies, greed, blackmail and kidnapping as they compete with another group of children. Along the way we are treated to some hilarious and often catastrophic aspects of family life.
Speaker Profiles for December 15, Anjali Enjeti, co-VP of Programs

A graduate of Georgia State University’s Masters program in Communication, Rebecca Burns is an author and journalist who focuses on Southern history and the intersection of race, religion, and politics. She was editor-in-chief of Atlanta magazine for seven years and also oversaw Atlanta magazine’s ancillary titles, including the successful launch of Georgia College Guide. In March 2010 she was named director of digital strategy for the magazine's parent company, Emmis Publishing, and works with the editors and publishers of the company’s family of magazines on a range of projects including websites, apps, and digital editions (such as for the iPad).

Her first book, Rage in the Gate City: The Story of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, was a 2007 Georgia Author of the Year finalist. In Spring 2008, she was selected for the PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program for Atlanta Public Schools. The University of Georgia Press released a second edition in 2009.

Rebecca’s latest book, Burial for a King, an account of the 1968 Atlanta funeral for Martin Luther King Jr., was published by Scribner in January 2011, and recounts one of the most pivotal weeks in modern U.S. history.

Rebecca also wrote the Atlanta title in the West Side Publishing Yesterday & Today book series, which was released in August 2010. She is presently at work on another book for UGA Press. With the working title Second Burning of Atlanta, the book will cover the Great Fire of 1917.

Rebecca is currently deputy editor of Atlanta magazine. She is a frequent speaker at civic and community events. She is an adjunct professor in journalism at Emory University and has previously taught at the University of Georgia. She lives in Atlanta with her husband, the designer and illustrator James Burns. They have a college-age daughter.

Lee Gimenez (www.leegimenez.com) is the bestselling author of seven books and over fifty short stories. His latest novel, DEATH ON ZANATH, was published by Double Dragon Press in 2012. This novel became a bestselling book at Amazon and at Fictionwise, the Barnes & Noble Company. Three of his previous novels, THE NANOTECH MURDERS, VIRTUAL THOUGHT-STREAM and AZUL 7, also became bestsellers on Fictionwise. His novel TERRALUS 4, published in 2011, was produced into an Audiobook. THE TOMORROW SOLUTION is his collection of short stories. His next novel, BLACKSNOW ZERO, is due out February 2013.

His books are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Fictionwise, Books-A-Million, Books In Motion, Apple, Mobipocket, Amazon UK (England), Flipkart (India), Amazon CA (Canada), Booku (Australia), IBS (Italy), Amazon JP (Japan) and many other retailers.

Lee is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA), and is a Featured Author on their website. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia Tech University and a Masters degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. After college, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army. During his business career in marketing, he worked for three Fortune 500 companies, Verizon, Tech Data and M&M Mars. For more information about him, visit his website at: www.leegimenez.com. You can also find him on Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, LinkedIn and Goodreads. Lee lives with his wife in the Atlanta, Georgia area.
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AWC Renewal Notice

AWC memberships expire at the end of every year and require renewal on an annual basis.

If you joined the AWC or renewed your membership after Labor Day, you are considered a paid, active member through the end of 2013. If not, then your membership will expire on December 31, 2012.

If you wish to continue your affiliation with us, we would encourage you to renew either online at www.atlantawritersclub.org (Membership tab) or at any AWC event. $40 for a year of great speakers, contests, workshops, agent conferences, critique groups, literary events and access to the best writers around is the best bargain in town.

Don’t let your membership lapse. Sign up today.

Lynda D. Sanford is looking for a ghostwriter to write a non-fiction account of a family tragedy that became a victims’ rights movement to change international law. If you are interested in discussing this project with Lynda, please contact her directly at 404-264-1613.
Photos from November Meeting

Mary Grace Schaap

George Weinstein

Dr. Daniel Black

Mary Glickman
AWC Book Fair

Did you know the older man who sat next to you at the last AWC meeting has written a series of murder mysteries set in ancient Rome and the woman across the aisle was the author of Victorian romances? How about that lady with the colorful scarf who smiled when you walked past her in the hall between programs? Any guess that she writes stunning poetry? Think you could pick out the thriller writer from the crowd of members? The steampunk author? The self-help guru?

The AWC has more writing talent per capita than just about any other group around. Many of our 750 members have seen their work published, and those who haven’t, aspire to. To provide our published authors with the opportunity to share their books with the other members of the AWC and inspire our not-yet-published members to complete their projects and join the ranks of the published, we have decided to host the first AWC Book Fair.

Everyone is invited to join us, members and non-members alike, published and hopeful, but there are two requirements for selling your books: you must be a paid, current member of the Atlanta Writers Club, and you must have published at least one book. It doesn’t matter if you are self- or traditionally published; both are welcome to offer their books for purchase, and both need to sign up to participate. The only difference is those traditionally published can order their books through George Scott at Peerless Bookstore and those self-published must make arrangements on their own to order the number of books they require. When you sign up to participate, please let me know which category describes your publication history. The deadline for application is December 31, 2012. You MUST apply by this date to give George the time to order and receive your traditionally published books. All the transactions for both types of books will be handled by George.

For the trad-pubbed authors, please send me this information at clay@atlantawritersclub.org:

+ Name
+ Title(s) of book(s)
+ ISBN number(s)
+ Publishing company name(s)
+ Contact information

For the self-pubbed, please also send me your name, contact information, and the title(s) of your books for our records.

The plan is to start at **10 a.m.** on the day of the February monthly meeting: **February 16, 2013.** We’ll have something to nibble on and sip, and plenty of really good books written by really good AWC writers.

So in addition to the flowers and candy, give your sweetie an IOU for books on Valentine’s Day and pick up an armful of the best the AWC has to offer at this special event.
Fall 2012 Writing Contest Winners

Short Story
1. April Dilbeck for "Kifwebe"
2. Barbara Brockway for "Reindeer Games"
3. Julie List for "Arresting Looks"

Poetry
1. Jennifer Dracos-Tice for "How to Love Her"
2. Brian Jory for "The Crossing"
3. Gelia Dolcimascolo for "Land Disturbance"

Article
1. Ken Schmanski for "Analog Connection in a Digital World"
2. Sandra Fry for "Downsizing? Tips and Tricks for Selling Your Books Online"
3. April Dilbeck for "The Miao of China"

Wild Card
1. Richard Perreault for "The 60-Year Dash"
2. Chris Negron for "Don't Let Go"
3. Julie List for "Flat Rate Package"
Looking for Non-Fiction Authors

The Georgia Editor of The History Press in Charleston, SC, is currently searching for non-fiction authors who may be interested in writing books on various aspects of Georgia history. Since their start in 2004, The History Press has published more than a thousand titles of local and regional history and culture written by local authors. They offer a full-service, traditional publishing experience, from project inception and editorial assistance through design and printing to publicity and sales. To explore their services and record further their website is www.historypress.net.

If you are interested in discussing potential projects with a representative, please contact Editor Chad Rhoad at 843-577-5971 ext. 159 or chad.rhoad@historypress.net.

Call for Biographer

Lawyer, farmer, former owner of three professional teams, investor and golfer John Wilcox would like to make arrangements with an AWC author to write his biography. If you are interested in such a project, please contact him directly at jwmullet@yahoo.com to discuss his expectations and the details of the contract.

Procedure for Joining AWC Critique Groups:

1. All requests from AWC members to join a critique group are to be forwarded to ron@hraiken.com. Ron Aiken currently serves as the Critique Group Coordinator for the AWC.
2. Members should include in their request:
   a. Their location
   b. Availability
   c. Genre
   d. Writing sample (first chapter, short story, poetry)
3. Based upon information provided by members in their email request and available openings, the Coordinator will attempt to place members. Coordinator will periodically poll critique groups for status updates.
4. Coordinator will forward member’s information to appropriate critique group leader. Genre is taken into account, but members generally will be placed first come-first served.
5. Coordinator will compile and maintain member “wait list.”
6. Coordinator will attempt to form new critique groups from the wait list.
Call for New AWC Treasurer

At the end of the year Kimberly Ciamarra will complete her term on the Board and will step down from her position as AWC Treasurer. She has done an admirable job in this role and resigns her official responsibilities with my sincere appreciation and the gratitude of the entire Board and membership. Fortunately she will still be a valued member of the Club, but her absence on the Board will be felt.

With the announcement of this vacancy on the leadership team, we wish to offer a call for applications for this position.

The duties of the Treasurer are listed in the AWC By-laws and include:

+ Collecting and depositing all monies collected as dues, donations, payments and sales
+ Working with the VP of Membership to maintain an updated membership list
+ Checking the accuracy of monthly bank statements
+ Paying all bills and authorized expenses
+ Preparing annual budgets and quarterly reports for Board discussion and approval
+ Maintaining good relations with the supporting financial institutions
+ Keeping records available for audits
+ Monitoring the AWC PayPal account for payments
+ File annual tax returns

Any candidate for this position must be able to keep meticulous records and have an aptitude for managing the financial transactions of an association of our size. The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and the Treasurer should be aware of the IRS requirements to maintain our status as a non-profit. It is not necessary that the Treasurer be a CPA, but such training would certainly be an advantage. The Board is an interconnected group of volunteer leaders and the Treasurer, in addition to his or her recordkeeping and financial management, would also be required to cooperate with the others as an active participant in the work and community of the AWC. As with every role on the Board, this is a non-paid position.

If you have been wondering about how to get more involved with the AWC and use those accounting skills you may have acquired along the way to becoming a world famous novelist, then this might be just the right opportunity for you. If you are interested in submitting an application or speaking further with me about our expectations of the next Treasurer, please email me at clay@atlantawritersclub.org. We’ll look forward to hearing from all qualified, interested members and filling this position before the end of the year.
Writing Contest Scams

Writing Contests: Which Ones to Enter or Avoid
By AWC VP of Contests, Awards and Scholarships Nedra Roberts

An entry fee is not always an indicator of legitimacy. Reliable “Scams” Indicator—such red flags as:

♦ “Everyone wins”
♦ The contest claims the rights to your entry, or
♦ The prize is publication, then you are asked to buy the anthology.

These flags signal an attempt to get content for free.

Question to ask—What is the fundamental purpose of this contest? To reward literary merit, or to garner free content?

Warning Sites and articles to check:

♦ Pred-ed.com (the Predators and Editors website)
♦ Writer Beware
♦ “Contest and Award Fakes” at sfwa.org (the Science Fiction Writers of America)
♦ “Contest Entry Fee: To Pay or Not to Pay” at dramaquill.wordpress.com
♦ Moira Allen’s “Writing Contests: When Winners Are Losers” at writing-world.com lists 6 scam-busting websites
♦ Mark Nichol’s “25 Writing Competitions You Should Enter” at dailywritingtips.com
Discussion Board & Member Web Page

The AWC is a community of writers, but too often we function like a loose collection of individuals who happen to show up at the same place every month and leave a couple of hours later without having made any significant connections with others. We might smile and nod, but do not fully take advantage of the remarkable resources that exist among our members. In our ongoing efforts to foster community and assist you in forging a network of writers who can encourage and advance your career, we have two new features on our website that we are thrilled to announce:

1. The first is a Discussion Board. Have a question you want answered about an area of research, publishing, cover design, or a hundred other issues that confront a writer? Want to get in touch with a more experienced author to discuss some pressing matter of writing craft or business? This new feature will provide you with a forum you can easily use to talk with other members. This is a free service for AWC members, but requires you to sign up and choose a password to maintain maximum security for you. To get started go to http://atlantawritersclub.org/forum/ and register your name and password. Or you can go to the homepage and from the top menu, click on Members Only link at far right. It’s just that simple.

2. The second is an opportunity to set up a Member Webpage. If you choose to participate in this service, you will be able to set up a personal page that is featured on our website. As part of the activation of your page, you will have the chance to indicate what genre you write in and what special skills you might have. These tags can be used by others to locate and contact you. Have a need for someone with editorial experience, or someone who is a published crime writer? Then this new feature was designed for you. With a click of your mouse you can sort through every member who has chosen to post a page and find just the right people who can address your very specific needs. We have selected 30 categories of genres/skills that you can use to distinguish yourself and your work. Once you sign up you’ll be listed on a Member Page Directory master page, which is easy to decipher and easy to search.

Since this necessitates the expertise and time of our Webmaster to set up and maintain, participation in this feature requires a fee. The initial setup cost is $199, payable by PayPal to our Webmaster. For this fee you will have your own webpage on our website and full access to the searchable capability of the site. The fee would include delivery of the initial setup package; you would complete a brief questionnaire at sign-up that would give us the information we need to configure your page. If you need it, some tech support is built into the price. Beyond this, if you need any other help with your page after setup, there is a cost of $25 for a 20-minute tech consultation, although we don’t expect this will be necessary. The initial cost will keep your page active on our site for one year. After a year, if you choose to continue your participation in this service, there will be a $40 renewal fee. That’s it.

Now we know this might sound expensive to you. It’s not. With what we are offering, the cost is minimal. I can assure you that all of your fee will go to bringing this feature
online and maintaining our entire site. You might also think we already have this feature on our website. As you probably already know, any member can have a personal website listed on the AWC site. What makes this new feature unique is that with it you can now search for other members with very specific skills quickly and easily, while having a visible web presence among AWC members with your own custom URL. Periodically your page will also be submitted to Google for posting on the web. Instead of a list of hundreds of personal sites, you now have the chance to actually access member pages through a search engine without having to scroll one-by-one through pages in different formats and wade through text page after page in the hope of finding the resources you need. Sure you can pay someone to set up and maintain a personal site for you, but in so doing you can easily be lost in the vast sea of webpages on the Internet. This is focused and sortable. This feature, coupled with the discussion forum, will significantly change the way we interact with each other and create a level of communication between our members that we have not yet achieved in any systematic, organized way. At least that’s our hope.

If you are interested in setting up a Member Page, go to http://atlantawritersclub.org/pages/ and hit the “Setup/Pay Online” tab on the left side of the page. Or you can click on the Membership tab and scroll down to AWC Member Pages. There is a common format, but there are also customizable features that can be updated instantly and at any time through a simple custom interface. Since we will use two entirely different platforms, the Member Page access will require a different password from the Discussion Forum, but this is a minor issue to keep these services secure and protected. In a few moments you can be live and positioned to advance your career with the enormous resources of the AWC behind you.

I hope these changes will meet a serious need among our members. Both features are only open to active, paid members of the Atlanta Writers Club and as such are a significant addition to the benefits that already accrue to you when you join the AWC. May these additional privileges of membership move you even closer to achieving your dreams as a writer. Let’s advance together.
November 2-3, 2012 Atlanta Writers Conference Summary
by George Weinstein, Conference Director & Officer Emeritus

The seventh Atlanta Writers Conference on November 2-3, 2012 featured more activities than ever before—including a practice pitch panel and an awards ceremony—and was attended by the most participants ever, 128 in all, including nearly 40 new members and the most agents the Conference has hosted (eight, up from six).

One of the most popular events remained the Agent Q&A Panel, with almost 100 participants in attendance and all eight agents discussing current issues in publishing and responding to audience questions. Three local speakers—Jessica Handler, Bob Babcock, and Joshua Corin—entertained and educated attendees while the agents worked one-on-one with participants in critique and pitch sessions.

The finale on Saturday, November 3 was the first-ever Atlanta Writers Conference awards ceremony, where each agent selected their favorite manuscript sample for critique and the best pitch they heard. The following are the winners selected by each of the eight agents:

**Jenny Bent, The Bent Agency**
Best manuscript submission: Susan Crawford
Best pitch: Love Hudson

**Kristin Miller-Vincent, D4EO Literary Agency**
Best manuscript submission: Marie Marquardt
Best pitch (tie): Winfield Murray and Chris Negron

**Jill Marr, Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency**
Best manuscript submission: Kiera Stein
Best pitch: Ramona Creel

**Anita Mumm, Nelson Literary Agency**
Best manuscript submission (tie): Jane Haessler and Shelli Johannes Wells
Best pitch: Chris Negron
**Gina Panettieri, Talcott Notch Literary Services**
Best manuscript submission: Libby Ware
Best pitch: Richard Perreault

**Lara Perkins, Andrea Brown Literary Agency**
Best manuscript submission: Wendi Nunnery
Best pitch: Shelli Johannes Wells

**Jessica Sinsheimer, Sarah Jane Freymann Agency**
Best manuscript submission: Pattie Welek Hall
Best pitch: Natalie Pawleski Rogers

**Andrew Zack, The Zack Company**
Best manuscript submission: Christina Kaylor
Best pitch: Mari Ann Stefanelli Perusek
Manuscript Match Service

It can be difficult to find a fellow writer who (1) writes in your genre, (2) writes at the same skill level, (3) has a completed manuscript in need of critiquing, and (4) has the time to critique your manuscript.

The Atlanta Writers Club now offers a Manuscript Match Service to enable our members to find someone else who meets these four criteria. Any current member can participate by replying to George Weinstein at any time with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your preferred e-mail address or social media account where other members should contact you
3. Your genre (be as specific as possible: "fiction" isn't nearly as helpful in finding a match as "literary historical fiction with paranormal elements")
4. Whether the manuscript you want critiqued is completed
5. Current number of pages in your manuscript, with standard publishing formatting: double-spaced and one inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom
6. One-paragraph summary of the manuscript

George will compile these, have them posted to the website, and send them via e-mail periodically to enable those seeking someone to critique their work to connect with one another. If he sees any obvious potential match, he may personally introduce you two with an exchange of the information you provided.

Once you've identified a potential writer with whom you could swap manuscripts, we recommend starting slow: introduce yourself via e-mail/Facebook/etc. and offer to swap five pages of work for critique. This will enable each of you to see if the other person is writing at about your skill level (if this is too unequal, the writer at the higher skill level won't benefit from the swap) and if you will enjoy reading and critiquing the rest of the manuscript. It's important too that you agree on not only a deadline but also what constitutes a "critique": line editing, story and character criticism, fact-checking, etc. If you agree with the other writer that this could be a helpful match, then proceed to trade manuscripts and set a deadline by which each of you will have finished critiquing the other's work.

*If you are concerned about someone stealing your work, otherwise violating your copyrights, or criticizing your writing abilities, then please do not participate.*

**If you want to give it a try, please contact George with the above 6 items.** If you are not a current member of the Atlanta Writers Club but want to participate, then you can join online at [www.atlantawritersclub.org](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org) or at any AWC event.
Peer Review Service

Need a Review of Your Published (Self or Traditional) Book? Open to AWC Members Only

Promoting your book is hard work, as no doubt you've learned, whether from firsthand experience, from listening to AWC meeting speakers, or from participating in any number of literary events and online communities.

One of our members wants to help and is offering to coordinate the process of receiving and posting reviews of AWC members' books. If you have a completed book (recently or about to be self-published or traditionally published) and would like to have another AWC member read, review, and post their review to selected review sites, please sign up to participate in this opportunity.

What's the catch? It's free, but, you must be willing to do the same for one of your fellow AWC members and you must provide a copy of your book (ebook or physical book) at no cost to the reviewer. Look for a list of books pending reviews on the AWC website.

To participate in this opportunity, please send an email to rona_simmons@bellsouth.net. Include the following in your email:

- your name,
- your contact information,
- the title and genre of your book,
- page length, and
- your preferred review site.
Transition serves as a map to guide readers from one idea to the next. Mix and match from the following techniques.

**Order.** The structure of any piece of writing needs to have a clear order. Sometimes you will see a natural order of time (first to last – or the reverse), of space (front to back, right to left. bottom to top – or the reverse), or of importance (least to most – or the reverse). If no structural order is readily apparent, make yourself a parallel outline to establish one.

Even The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short story of a man aging backwards, has a clear structural order.

**Parallel words, sentences, and paragraphs.** Aim to make them match. To the extent the effect is poetic, you will please as well as guide your reader.

“I came; I saw; I conquered.” Julius Caesar

“To err is human; to forgive, divine.” Alexander Pope

“I needed a drink, I needed a lot of life insurance, I needed a vacation, I needed a home in the country. What I had was a coat, a hat and a gun.”

Raymond Chandler, Farewell, My Lovely, 1940.

**Repetition of nouns, pronouns, and synonyms.** To keep your reader focused on the topic, vary the words you use for the main idea. For example, if you are writing about cars, use the word “car,” the pronoun “it”, and various synonyms like “automobile” or “vehicle.”

Include relative pronouns (this, these, those, that) and indefinite pronouns (all, another, everyone, few, some, none, etc.) in the mix.

**Transitional Words and Phrases.** Certain specific words – such as “also” and
“since” and “likewise” – can facilitate transition. Although not exhaustive, this list from Henri Dongieux at GPC is worth printing and keeping near the computer.

www.gpc.edu/~duniss/WritingHandouts/Transitions.pdf

**Idea Hook.** This technique picks up a thought from one paragraph and pulls it to the next. The goal is to tie, or hook, the two paragraphs together so that the reader follows the continuity of your ideas.

Examples of paragraph first lines:

Not only are vegetables healthy (previous paragraph about vegetables), but fruit is healthy too (this paragraph about fruit).

In addition to carrots (previous paragraph about carrots), apples are healthy snacks (this paragraph about apples).

A paragraph about vegetables is followed by this paragraph: These are only a few of the healthy foods on grocery shelves. Others include....

These examples of idea hooks specifically identify a thought from one paragraph and carry it forward into the next where a related, but different, thought will be developed. Idea hooks can also use inference or allusion to link paragraphs. This more subtle approach will only be effective, however, if the echo of your idea is clear to the reader.

**Remember:**

Readers are not mind-readers. Transition helps to get ideas from your mind to the paper to the reader’s mind.

You probably need more transition than you think.

Variety is the spice of life, even with transition. Mix and match.
December 15, 2012
Rebecca Burns (non-fiction)
Lee Gimenez (sci-fi on marketing your book)

January 19, 2013
Children's book author Diana Z. Shore
Rosemary Daniel (memoir)

February 16
Amanda Kyle Williams (thrillers)
Anna DeStefano (women’s fiction/romance author on editing your self-published book)

March 16
Ann Hood

April 20
Clifford Garstang
Collin Kelly/Karen Head (poetry)

May 18
Leela Corman (graphic novelist)
Christal Presley (memoir)
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<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon</td>
<td>Buzz Bernard</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
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<td>Children’s and YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 10 a.m. – 12:00 Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
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<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>
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<td>Every 4th Sunday, 1:30—2:30 @ Eagle Eye Bookstore</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
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<td>Decatur</td>
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<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ Chocolate, Clarmont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<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>
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<td>Kennesaw</td>
<td>Fiction Only</td>
<td>Thursday evenings 6-8 PM (starts 1/10/13)</td>
<td>Linda Joyce Clements</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lj_clements@yahoo.com">lj_clements@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Organization meeting Dec13, 6 PM</td>
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<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><a href="mailto:imayaya@charter.net">imayaya@charter.net</a></td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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><a href="mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com">gjweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</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>
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<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>
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<td>Jane Spalding</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liannesimon@yahoo.com">liannesimon@yahoo.com</a></td>
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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.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Clay Ramsey at clay@atlantawritersclub.org.
The Atlanta Writers Club
Membership Dues valid from today through December 2013 • Donations • Contact Information

☐ Renewal through 12/31/13—please provide your name and any changes to your contact information
☐ New Member through 12/31/13—please complete the information below
☐ Family Member through 12/31/13—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? ____________________________)

Preferred Phone: __________________ Secondary Phone: __________________
Preferred 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 12/31/2013 $_______
Add any family member for $20 each $_______
(Please supply family members’ contact information using a separate form)

$30 Student Membership through 12/31/2013 $_______

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.