February 16, 2013 Speakers at AWC meeting

Amanda Kyle Williams will talk about, “Sex, Booze and the Flawed Detective: Making your characters real.”

Anna DeStefano will talk about how to edit your self-published novel, and how to find a good freelance editor.

The upcoming meeting will be at this location:
Georgia Perimeter College,
Building NB
Second Floor
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
I once heard a novelist begin an address about his fiction writing with the admission that he “told lies for a living.” Now as a person who was raised to be truthful, to believe truth-telling was a virtue, I admit I was startled by this confession. Our country was founded by men like Washington, who could not fib about his illicit cherry tree destruction, and saved by a man named Honest Abe, whose personal morality was as straight as the rails he split in his youth. Politicians are now known for their mendacity, and you can argue that these stories of our fabled leaders were simple hagiography to establish the myth of a nation. But these are the values we continue to elevate and aspire to emulate. Albeit with a small measure of inescapable hypocrisy, we still want to think of ourselves as generally honest people on our best days. Regardless of our ethical missteps as individuals and as a society, our national heritage is still profoundly influenced by the Puritans who landed on these rocky shores and brought with them a commitment to religious and philosophical truth. The VERITAS on Harvard’s seal and the LUX ET VERITAS on Yale’s stand as perennial reminders of this early devotion to truth in our first universities. It was both the goal to which all study was directed and the ideal basis on which every life was to be built. In principle we continue to support honesty and believe it is an admirable trait.

So, to hear this novelist and college professor admit to telling lies, not as a private shame, but as a public activity, a professional obligation even, I have to say I was surprised. Now I don’t know this writer as a close friend, but I have no reason to believe he has some kind of moral defect. He seems perfectly normal and appears to exhibit the characteristics of a respected member of society. He is probably honest most of the time with his wife and children, with his colleagues and with strangers. But when he writes, when he spins his stories and tells his tales, by his own admission he tells lies. And it was that declaration that he seemed to utter with pride that prompted me to reconsider this entire enterprise.

I am not setting myself up as some kind of moral paragon or ethical policeman. I am not arguing from a position of superiority about the decline of our generation or calling us back to strict honesty in our business and personal lives. I am not decrying the lies we tell ourselves and each other, often with sophisticated rationales. That would be the subject for a moralistic tract, and that is not what this is. Instead, this one little line describing what this one single writer did to provide for himself and his family, presumably with the blessing of the community of writers and scholars in which he lived and worked, started me thinking about the concept of truth and what it means for a writer, who in every other way can be a perfectly upstanding citizen.

Well then, what is truth? Or I could wade in deeper and ask, What is Truth? It was the famous question of Pontius Pilate, the first-century Judean Prefect who condemned Jesus. And it was this question that not only revealed this ancient man’s own struggle for clarity, but defined a fundamental aspect of the philosophical quest for centuries. Philosophers used to be “lovers of wisdom,” assiduously sorting appearance from reality, truth from error, in an effort to see clearly and live genuinely. But Truth as a concept, a single, humanly conceivable, internally consistent, culturally independent, objective ideal, was a casualty of the twentieth century. On this side of the modern and post-modern movements, we don’t talk about Truth without irony or significant qualification. It goes beyond mere relativism – what’s true for you might not be true for me – we wonder now if there is such a thing as a monolithic Truth. We think cultures and power structures create meaning that is not always transferable to other cultural contexts. We think language does not always accurately...

(Continued on page 4)
represent an actuality that is commonly experienced. We think of self-referential systems that may or may not have a relationship with realities external to them. As a result, we think the idea of Truth to be quaint, naïve and even misleading, no longer transcendent, uniform or unchanging. Ask a philosopher, a professor of comparative religions, a psychologist, and a mathematician about their conception of what is true and you will more than likely receive very different answers.

Without turning this into an abstruse academic paper, I am drawn to this question for the writer and for our purposes I want to focus on the fiction writer. For the journalist and non-fiction writer we want her written claims to correspond to accepted fact. We want to see footnotes and sources and be assured that she is writing words that were really spoken and about events that really occurred. This in itself is problematic, but it is nothing compared to the challenge of the fiction writer. What is truth for him? How do we judge the truth of fairy tales and murder mysteries and poems and action adventures? Are works of fiction just lies creative people tell us to entertain and distract from the burdens of life? And if so, is this justifiable?

When I was in college I worked my way through a book that was probably the first real text of literary criticism I had encountered. It was the classic study by Erich Auerbach entitled *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature* (1946). It is a brilliant analysis of the entire scope of literature in the West using the categories of style, myth, history, rhetoric, and literary theory. And while I don’t remember all the details of his densely argued line of reasoning, I do remember the impression I had of the work and the entry it allowed me into the conversation about great literature. It was a pivotal moment for me, and one that has shaped my own understanding of literature.

The word *mimesis* is variously translated and has shifted in technical meaning over the centuries, but its original sense is one of imitation. To the Greeks, the creation of the poets was one of imitation of nature. To Plato, if I write the word *mountain* I am imitating or representing the vast structure of soil and rock that pushes up from the surface of the earth. This geological feature is, in turn, representing the Form of *Mountain* that exists only as an Idea and is only accessible by the thought of the philosopher. The poet, therefore, is two stages of copy or imitation from the original and at least to Plato was thereby suspect. As a result of this two-fold distance from Truth, the poets were banished from his ideal Republic. And so began the tradition of fictional “lies” – not that untruths were intentionally represented in creative work to deceive, but that they were unavoidable in the process of word crafting and story telling.

What then is truth for the fiction writer? Ishmael in *Moby Dick* is a fictional character that was created in the imagination of Herman Melville. The author may have had someone from his childhood in mind, maybe a combination of several, as he wrote Ishmael’s story. Maybe he had known someone through his work at the New York Harbor Authority who contributed traits to his conception of Ahab. But it was a work of fiction and these men were essentially “lies,” in that they were not pure, strict representations of actual flesh-and-blood men. They were made-up, invented. And yet we can imagine them; we can see them in our mind’s eye as they chase the beast across the briny deep in the *Pequod*. The story is believable. It teaches us about life and death and obsession and fate and the lure of the sea and the struggle of men – illuminating truths in our reality through the vehicle of fiction.
We can thus talk about the truth in the story and the truth of the story. Ishmael is true in the story. He exists on the page, thinking and acting and planning and speaking. He is true in the way that Jane Eyre is true or James Bond is true. They are true in the fictional world created by the author. The story assumes a level of truth as it remains internally consistent and appropriate for the genre. An iPhone owned by Sherlock Holmes would not be true to the story as originally conceived by Doyle. Yet it might be true in some sort of sci-fi reimagining of the Holmes legacy. This is the truth in the story: do these characters and their actions make sense in the universe designed by the writer, and is it comparable to other similar stories? From that internal truth, there might be correspondences to our world and what we know about the truth of our lived reality. We might learn from Dickens about the emotional emptiness of the miserly Scrooge and the liberation found in generosity, the truth of these conditions not at all diminished by the fact that they come to us through the medium of fiction.

This then is one of the great gifts of stories. They can be about entirely imaginary characters – Batman and Frodo Baggins and Huckleberry Finn and Hamlet – and yet take on a truth of their own and even assume a truth to us outside of the pages in which we know them. They can teach us, inspire us, challenge us, and move us. Their truth points to realities that resonate in the deepest parts of our minds and hearts. And with this the “lie” of their artistic fabrication becomes as true as anything else in our “real world.” As we read and immerse ourselves in fictional worlds, how many lives do we live? How many perspectives do we gain? How many experiences do we have and truths do we learn? The possibilities are seemingly endless. G. K. Chesterton once wrote, “Literature is a luxury; fiction is a necessity.” (Defendant, 1901). Among other reasons why this is true, one is that fiction allows us a true window into the mysteries of life, asking questions of the universe, clarifying what we might not see otherwise, creating worlds to bring ours into better focus. So, my fellow writer-friends, write your novels and short stories and poems and screenplays. Some might consider them creative “lies,” but you can be assured that as they are born of a true artistic impulse they speak of a truth beyond the story.

Pete Wingard plans to start a critique group that focuses exclusively on short stories (fewer than 3,500 words). If you are an AWC member who lives in the Avondale Estates/Decatur vicinity and have found yourself on waiting lists for other groups in the area, this might be a perfect opportunity for you. The group is scheduled to meet the first Saturday of the month at Java Monkey at 8 a.m. and every month thereafter, unless interest prompts them to meet more frequently.

If you are interested in participating, please contact him at pfwingard@gmail.com.

AWC-Kennesaw area Critique Group is a fiction-only group that meets every Thursday from 6:00-8:00 pm at 1600 Kennesaw Due West Rd NW # 20 Kennesaw, GA 30152. Contact: Linda Joyce Clements at lj_clements@yahoo.com

The group is currently full.
Speaker Profiles for February 16, Soniah Kamal & Anjali Enjeti, Co-VPs of Programming

Amanda Kyle Williams has contributed to short story collections, written small press novels and worked as a freelance writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. **The Stranger You Seek** is Amanda’s first mainstream crime novel and the first in the Keye Street series. Bantam also published Book Two, **Stranger In The Room** (August 21, 2012), and will publish Book Three in the series, **Don’t Talk To Strangers** (August 2013). She is currently hard at work on the 3rd Keye Street Thriller, **Don’t Talk To Strangers**. Working as a process server and with PI and courier firms in Atlanta was wonderful preparation for developing the Keye Street character. In order to lend authenticity to her Keye Street series, Amanda took courses in criminal profiling and practical homicide investigation, and frequently consults with professionals in law enforcement, bond enforcement, criminal profiling and forensics. Amanda is passionate about animals and has been active in the humane community for many years. She is one of the founding directors at **Lifeline Animal Project**, a nonprofit, no-kill animal welfare organization. Amanda is also a supporter of **The Fugees Family**. Amanda Kyle Williams lives in Decatur, Georgia, which produces unending fodder for her fiction. The title of her talk is, “Sex, Booze and the Flawed Detective: Making your characters real.”

Past President of Georgia Romance Writers (GRW), Anna DeStefano is also a Senior Tech Writer with a GA Tech honors degree and 10 years of experience working in Corporate IT. Her novels have garnered numerous awards, including twice winning the RT Reviewers' Choice Award, the Holt Medallion, the Golden Heart, the Maggie Award for Excellence, and finalling in awards such as the National Readers' Choice and Book Seller's Best Awards. She’s the author of over 16 novels since 2004 in four different genres, with nearly half a million copies of her books in print in over 5 different languages.

Her interactive workshops and keynotes on the writing process regularly attract standing room-only crowds. She's presented to over 60 groups and conferences, and also teaches half-day and one-day seminars to smaller groups interested in a more intensive, interactive experience.

She's an acquiring editor for Entangled Publishing's Dead Sexy suspense line, and takes on a select number of freelance clients, coaching authors to create the very best books they can from their individual visions.

Anna will talk about how to edit your self-published novel, and how to find a good freelance editor.
Want to learn from insiders in the children's book industry? You'll find them at...

**Springmingle**

Feb. 22-24, 2013
Atlanta Marriott Century Center

Presented by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Southern Breeze Region

Learn how to improve your work and **increase your chances of getting published.**

**Meet editors, art directors, and agents** who are looking for new talent.

Connect with a **friendly, supportive group** of authors and illustrators.

The conference faculty includes:

- Nikki Grimes, author and recipient of the Coretta Scott King Book Award
- Dianne Hess, executive editor with Scholastic Press
- Chad Beckerman, creative director at Abrams
- Jill Corcoran, agent at the Herman Agency
- Katherine Jacobs, editor at Roaring Brook Press
- Carmen Agra Deedy, award-winning author
- and more authors and illustrators, ready to help you raise the level of your work

**Looking for feedback? Get it at Springmingle 2013.**

*Formal critiques:* $40. Manuscripts must be submitted by Jan. 14. Portfolio reviews must be pre-paid but illustrations need not be sent in advance.

*Informal critiques with other attendees:* Free

*First Pages / First Looks:* Submit the first page of your manuscript, or an opening illustration, and it could be chosen for a free review by a panel of the conference faculty.

**In addition to the main conference, SCBWI is offering two, one-day programs on Feb. 22:**

**Writer's intensive.** Study the craft of writing in verse, from picture books to novels, with author Nikki Grimes. Cost: $65. Register for just this one-day program, or combine with Springmingle for a full weekend of learning and networking.

**Illustrators’ Day.** Learn more about the art and business of illustration, and have your portfolio reviewed by experts. Cost: $65. Register for just this one-day program, or combine with Springmingle and take $10 off registration.

Conference tuition is $195 for SCBWI members, $225 for non-members, or $205 for students. Register by Jan. 14 to receive a $5 discount. **Advance registration is required and spaces are limited for some activities.**

Not a member of SCBWI? Join for just $85 (annual renewal is $70). You'll gain access to important industry updates, be eligible for contests and awards, and receive a bi-monthly magazine filled with useful information. And you'll be part of an amazing international organization for writers and illustrators of children's books, with 22,000 members worldwide.

For more information and to register, visit [https://southern-breeze.net/](https://southern-breeze.net/)
Writing Workshops with Young Adult Author

Terra Elan McVoy

(author of Pure, After the Kiss, The Summer of Firsts and Lasts, and Being Friends with Boys)

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There’s no way around these two things that I’m aware of, no shortcut.”
—Stephen King, On Writing

Get feedback on your own work (20 pages max) from a multi-published author, and sharpen your skills by responding to others!

WORKSHOP FOR TEENS:
Mondays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25
4:30-6:00 pm; Cost: $275. Ages 12-16

WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS:
Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 6:00-7:45 pm; Cost: $300.

Both workshops will be held at Little Shop of Stories in Decatur, GA. Sessions will be discussion-based, focusing on response to work submitted by each participant, as well as writing exercises that will focus on a particular aspect of writing improvement.

Email terramcvoy@gmail.com to sign up!
Typing Services

Want to spend more time with the creative side of writing and less on something mechanical and time-consuming like typing? Consider using the expert services of Janice Lullo at J.L. Typing Services.

She will type your Resumes, Thesis Papers, Manuscripts/Books, Term Papers, Legal Documents, Transcription, & Proofreading in a timely way for an affordable cost.

Manuscripts/Books – Under 100 Pages – $1.50 Per Page and Over 100 Pages $1.25 Per Page, Transcription – $1.50 Per Page, Proofreading – $1.25 Per Page

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 expired 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.
AWC Contest  Spring 2013

ELIGIBILITY:
1. The AWC Spring 2013 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:
March 30, 2013. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:
Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at May 18, 2013 meeting.)

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

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

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<td>Memoir</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any level, any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>32 lines</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Card</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day: a 4-leaf clover and a note anchored under a bottle of Irish whiskey. Tell me the story.</td>
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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

(Continued on page 11)
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.

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
Contest Category
Title of Entry
Word Count (Line Count for poetry)
(Continued from page 11)

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 2013 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]

Many of our members have asked if we could post our winning contest entries on the club website. Alas, the answer is no. Nedra Roberts (club VP for awards, contests, and scholarships) recently had a lengthy consultation with Lisa Moore, the director of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, to discuss the publication and copyright issues that would arise from such postings. Lisa assures us that by posting the winning entries on our web page we are, in effect, publishing them; even posting the winning entries on a password-protected section of the website, with access available to members only, would still constitute publication. Such publication then becomes a problem for members who might want to enter their work in another contest designed for unpublished material. A more serious issue arises should a publisher become interested in the work but, of course, not want to deal with material that has already been published.

What we can offer, however, is a clumsy but possibly effective work-around. If you are interested in reading a particular winning entry, you can email Nedra at nedra@nedrapezoldroberts.com, and she will forward your request to the specific winner.
THE 2013 NICKELODEON WRITER’S SCRIPT REVIEW
In partnership with SCAD aTVfest

The Nickelodeon Writer’s Script Review is a one day, by invitation only event designed to prepare applicants for submission to the Nickelodeon Writing Program.

Writing for television is a rewarding and creative outlet and a lucrative career path that enables writers to continually develop and fine-tune their written skills.

Script Review applicants are asked to submit a spec script based on ANY ½- hour comedic television series currently in production and on-air on primetime network or cable by 5pm on Friday, February 1, 2013.

Spec scripts will be reviewed by Nickelodeon Executive, Karen Kirkland and up to five candidates will be selected to participate in one-on-one script reviews at the 1st Annual SCAD aTVfest on Friday, February 15, 2013.

Selected candidates will have one-on-one time with Karen Kirkland, will receive feedback on their specs during the Script Review, and in addition will then be required to submit to the 2013/2014 Nickelodeon Writing Program.

Click here to download more info from www.atvfest.com
WHO? Brandon Sanderson and Harriett McDougal

WHAT? **A Memory of Light** $34.99. We will also have copies of the extremely limited leather bound edition available for sale at the signing--$299.00--first come, first served.

WHEN? Thursday, February 21 at 7 PM to 9 PM

WHERE? Norcross Cultural Arts Center with Eagle Eye Books

DETAILS: IMPORTANT Signing Line Protocol: In order to get the new book, "A Memory of Light" signed by Brandon at the event, it must be purchased from Eagle Eye. We will have plenty of copies available at the event and on sale at the store before the event. Brandon will personalize up to 3 books per fan. Any more than that and we ask that you wait at the back of the signing line so that others may be served in a more timely fashion. Limited Edition leatherbound copies will be available at the event only. We will not be preselling any of these copies in order to ensure that they are available to the most dedicated of fans.

Since 1990, when Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time®* burst on the world with its first book, The Eye of the World, readers have been anticipating the final scenes of this extraordinary saga, which has sold over forty million copies in over thirty languages.

When Robert Jordan died in 2007, all feared that these concluding scenes would never be written. But working from notes and partials left by Jordan, established fantasy writer Brandon Sanderson stepped in to complete the masterwork. With *The Gathering Storm* (Book 12) and *Towers of Midnight* (Book 13) behind him, both of which were #1 New York Times hardcover bestsellers, Sanderson now re-creates the vision that Robert Jordan left behind.

Edited by Jordan's widow, Harriett McDougal, who edited all of Jordan's books, *A Memory of Light* will delight, enthrall, and deeply satisfy all of Jordan's legions of readers.
First AWC Book Fair

What: First AWC Book Fair

When: February 16, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Building NB, Second Floor
        Georgia Perimeter College-Dunwoody

Who: Members and Non-members of the Atlanta Writers Club + Members of the Community

Why: To see what members of the AWC have written and published, and take advantage of the chance to purchase copies of these books

We have planned the very first AWC Book Fair for the morning of our February monthly meeting. Over 65 AWC author-members have volunteered to display and sign their books, and our friends at Peerless Bookstore in Alpharetta will sell them. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see what fellow members have written and add a few AWC titles to your personal library. Everyone is welcome, so bring some friends and some spending money, and plan to join us on February 16 for this very special event.

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.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEORGIA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOR: LOLLIE BELLE WYLIE

MACON, Ga. – This year, Lollie Belle Wylie (1858”1923) is one of three women to be recognized by the Georgia Women of Achievement. The women chosen for this annual honor are either native to the state or clearly identified with Georgia and have made extraordinary contributions within their chosen field, inspiring future generations to excel in their own talents.

Though born near Mobile, Ala., writer and musician Lollie Belle Wylie lived most of her life in Atlanta. She married her husband, Hart Wylie, when she was 19 years old, and the couple had two daughters, Augusta and Hart. Sadly, Wylie was widowed at the age of 27 and found herself tasked with supporting her two children. She turned to writing.

In 1887 she published her first book, “Legend of the Cherokee Rose and Other Poems.” The book sold well and, shortly thereafter, The Atlanta Journal offered Wylie a position as the newspaper’s society editor. She became the first salaried female newspaper reporter in the state, a position she held for three years.

In 1890, Wylie became an organizer and the first vice president of the Woman Press Club of Georgia and later was named president of the Atlanta Writers’ Club. She was involved in numerous other organizations throughout her lifetime, including the Atlanta Woman’s Club, the Woman’s Pioneer Society, Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Georgia Forestry Commission, among others.

Wylie published another book of verses, “The Arcades,” in 1916. Some of her other works include “Ashes of Love,” and “Memoirs of Judge Richard H. Clark.” She also wrote the music for the song “Georgia” in 1922, which became the state’s official song.

Throughout her literary career, Wylie remained passionately devoted to her children. When asked to name her most noteworthy achievement, she replied, “The success I have in developing the spiritual, mental, moral and physical growth of my little girls, Augusta and Hart.”

Wylie also was dedicated to mentoring young female journalists, and she made a point of honoring fellow writers, too, through tree”planting ceremonies, which she organized. In 1926, three years after her passing, the Atlanta Press Club planted a tree honoring Wylie for her contributions as a “Georgia poet, journalist, historian and clubwoman.”

Wylie and two other inspirational women will be honored during the Georgia Women of Achievement’s annual induction ceremony and luncheon, starting at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 14, 2013 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. They will join the 74 other exceptional women who have been honored by the Georgia Women of Achievement.

Professional golfer and Georgia native Hollis Stacy is the keynote speaker for the event. She was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2012. For more, visit www.georgiawomen.org
Novel Workshop 6/29

June 29 to July 3 a unique novel workshop will take place over an intense three and half days, on the beautiful Kenyon Campus in Gambier Ohio, under the guidance of Geeta Kothari, Nancy Zafris, and Georgia Author of the Year, Man Martin.

With 20 hours of workshop time, the group will be able to meet as a whole as well as in smaller units that will rotate through the trio of instructors. Unlike most novel workshops that are limited to considering a single chapter, 100 pages will be workshopped. Using an original method developed by the instructors, the workshop participants will be able to pull out structure, isolate plot, character, theme, and movement. This provides a new way to brainstorm toward revision. Introduced last year as a trial, the workshop met with great success.

Meredith Doench, one of last year’s participants, contracted her revised detective novel to an agent. Nancy Zafris used the system with Virginia Pye who, after many years of rejection quickly sold a completely revamped literary novel, River of Dust, to Unbridled Press (spring 2013).

Whether writing literary or genre fiction, the best participant for this workshop is someone who is serious and committed. Applicants should send the first 100 pages of the novel for consideration. The participant will be responsible for reading two other participants’ works.

Registration opened January 7 at www.kenyonreview.org - spaces are limited!

Premier Copy & Atlanta Book Printing

Premier Copy & Atlanta Book Printing started as a B2B digital book printer in 1995 and started working with self pubs in 2005. In addition to short-run digital book printing they also provide their authors with marketing products such as retractable banners, signs, postcards and more. They are a Mailer and fulfillment operation as well. Endorsed by award-winning novelist David Fulmer, B2B or B2C -- they always enjoy making their clients look good. Check out their website at www.atlantabookprinting.com, or contact Neil Deedy at 770/623-5160 direct.

Books for Heroes

As you may know, George Scott of Peerless Bookstore founded and directs the non-profit Books for Heroes, in which donated books are sent to servicemen and women serving in the Middle East. It is a fantastic program, and the Atlanta Writers Club is a proud supporter of George’s efforts to meet the hunger for books that our soldiers have. If you would like to donate books to this worthy cause, you can either bring them to any AWC meeting, or you can take them to Peerless Bookstore (8465 Holcomb Bridge Rd., #120, Alpharetta, GA 30022, 770-650-7323). If you do not have books to offer, but you still want to make a contribution, you can make a cash donation. For $13.50 you can send a box of books to those who protect us and are eager to read. It’s a great way to make a difference.
ODYSSEY WRITING WORKSHOP

About Odyssey

Since its founding in 1996, Odyssey has become one of the most respected workshops in the fantasy, science fiction, and horror writing community. Odyssey is for developing writers whose work is approaching publication quality and for published writers who want to improve their work. The six-week workshop combines advanced lectures, exercises, extensive writing, and in-depth feedback on student manuscripts. Top authors, editors, and agents have served as guest lecturers, including George R. R. Martin, Harlan Ellison, Jane Yolen, Terry Brooks, Robert J. Sawyer, Ben Bova, Nancy Kress, Elizabeth Hand, Jeff VanderMeer, Donald Maass, Sheila Williams, Shawna McCarthy, Carrie Vaughn, and Dan Simmons. Fifty-eight percent of Odyssey graduates go on to professional publication.

The program is held every summer on Saint Anselm College's beautiful campus in Manchester, NH. Saint Anselm is one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country, dedicated to excellence in education, and its campus provides a peaceful setting and state-of-the-art facilities for Odyssey students. College credit is available upon request.

Jeanne Cavelos, Odyssey's director and primary instructor, is a best-selling author and a former senior editor at Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing, where she won the World Fantasy Award for her work. As an editor, Cavelos gained a reputation for discovering and nurturing new writers. She provides students with detailed, concrete, constructive critiques of their work. Cavelos said, "I've worked with many different writers, and I know that each writer thinks and works differently. We limit attendance at Odyssey to sixteen, so I can become deeply familiar with the work of each student and provide assessments of strengths and weaknesses. I work individually with each student, helping each to find the best writing process for him, suggesting specific tools to target weaknesses, and charting progress over the six weeks." Her critiques average over 1,200 words, and her handwritten line edits on manuscripts are extensive.

Odyssey class time is split between workshopping sessions and lectures. An advanced, comprehensive curriculum covers the elements of fiction writing in depth. While feedback reveals the weaknesses in students' manuscripts, lectures teach the tools and techniques necessary to strengthen them.

The workshop runs from June 10 to July 19, 2013. Class meets for four hours in the
morning, five days a week. Students spend about eight hours more per day writing and critiquing each other's work. Prospective students, aged eighteen and up, apply from all over the world. The early action application deadline is JANUARY 31, and the regular admission deadline is APRIL 8. Tuition is $1,920, and housing is $790 for a double room in a campus apartment and $1,580 for a single room.

This year, Odyssey graduate Sara King is sponsoring the Parasite Publications Character Awards to provide financial assistance to three character-based writers wishing to attend. The Parasite Publications Character Awards, three scholarships in the amounts of $1,920 (full tuition), $500, and $300, will be awarded to the three members of the incoming class who are deemed extraordinarily strong character writers, creating powerful, emotional characters that grab the reader and don't let go.

Meet Our 2013 Writer-in-Residence
Odyssey's 2013 writer-in-residence, Nancy Holder, is an award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of adult, young adult, middle grade, and early reader work, both fiction and nonfiction. She has sold approximately 80 novels and 200 short stories, comic books, and essays in various genres. She has taught creative writing classes at the University of California at San Diego, the Maui Writers Retreat and Conference, and other conferences and colleges, and has been on the faculty of the Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing for seven years.

Other Guest Lecturers
Lecturers for the 2013 workshop include some of the best teachers in the field: award-winning authors Holly Black, Patricia Bray, Adam-Troy Castro, and Jack Ketchum; and the two-time Hugo Award-winning editor of Asimov's Science Fiction magazine, Sheila Williams.

Other Odyssey Resources and Services
The Odyssey Web site, www.odysseyworkshop.org, offers many resources for writers, including online classes, a critique service, free podcasts, writing and publishing tips, and a monthly blog. Those interested in applying to the workshop should visit the Web site, phone (603) 673-6234, or e-mail jcavelos@sff.net.
New Atlanta Writers Conference May 10-11

Presenting a New Atlanta Writers Conference for May 10-11: Where AWC Brings the Top Literary Professionals to You

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, synopsis, and query letter? 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 Friday-Saturday, May 10-11, 2013 the Atlanta Writers Club will present its eighth Atlanta Writers Conference. The goal of this conference is to give you access to eight top literary agents--never any repeats from previous conferences; always an all-new lineup--and to educate you with a workshop and talks by experienced authors. The agents will respond to your pitch, critique the manuscript sample and synopsis (a new addition!) you submit in advance, critique your query letter in an updated Friday practice session, 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: after every conference some AWC members sign 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. On Friday, May 10, we offer a cross-genre, writing-exercise-rich workshop delivered by Conference guest speaker Claire Cooke, bestselling author of MUST LOVE DOGS and eight other novels, who also will give two 75-minute interactive presentations beforehand. On Saturday, May 11, while the morning critiques are held, author, marketing guru, and billiards expert Shari Stauch will give two 75-minute presentations, and that afternoon while the pitch sessions are held, Terra Elan McVoy, author of five YA novels, former Program Director of the Decatur Book Festival, and creative writing teacher, will give two 75-minute presentations. Claire, Shari and Terra’s 75-minute presentations are free to those who participate in any of the other Conference activities. Finally, to close out the Conference on Saturday afternoon, we now will feature an award ceremony, where each agent will present a certificate to participants for the best manuscript

(Continued on page 21)
sample and synopsis submitted for critique and for the best query letter pitched.

Complete details about the Conference and registration instructions are on this website: [http://atlantawritersconference.com/](http://atlantawritersconference.com/)

The goal of this conference is to give you access to eight top literary agents.

- Jita Fumich, Folio Literary Management
- Taylor Martindale, Full Circle Literary
- Pooja Menon, Kimberly Cameron & Associates
- Angela Rinaldi, Angela Rinaldi Literary Agency
- Gordon Warnock, Andrea Hurst & Associates
- Paula Munier, Talcott Notch Literary Services
- Becky Vinter, FinePrint Literary Management
- Margaret Bail, Andrea Hurst & Associates
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.
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 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.

HOW 2013 Poetry Contest

Online submission deadline: April 1, 2013

HOW is pleased to announce our 2013 poetry contest judged by Ben Mirov. First place will receive $100 and will have their work posted online at HOW. Winners will be announced summer of 2013. Ben Mirov is the author of Hider Roser and Ghost Machine and an editor of PEN's poetry series. Please submit a cover letter and a maximum of three, unpublished poems to: submit (at) howjournal (dot) com. Attach the poems in a standard file type and include a brief cover letter in the body of the email. The subject line should read: HOW poetry contest submission.
The English Class You May Have Missed
by Mary Grace Schaap

Writing is an art, not a science. Even so, certain punctuation guidelines smooth the way for your reader. This courtesy to the reader is the primary reason for learning standards of usage. Punctuation that clarifies without calling attention to itself is like good manners – always appropriate.

The Comma Code

1. **Items in a series**: Pattern: _____, _____, and _____.
   
   Example: Beth, Matt, and Brad ate pizza.

   Although the second comma – called an Oxford comma or a serial comma – is often omitted in journalism to save space, modern usage guides advise using it. The second comma clarifies your intention and is never incorrect. In fact, this serial comma may be crucial, especially in the areas of science and law.

   **Example**: I leave my fortune to Tom, Dick and Harry. (Without the comma, the question arises: Does Tom get half the estate, or is it divided into thirds?)

   To vary your writing, you may occasionally want to replace the commas with “and” or “or.” In this case, use no commas at all.

   **Pattern**: _____ and _____ and _____.

   Example: Beth and Matt and Brad ate pizza. I am hoping to see Beth or Matt or Brad.

   A third occasional variation uses the semicolon.

   **Example**: Beth ate pizza; Matt ate wings; Brad ate ribs.

   Note that each independent clause could stand alone as a complete sentence and that the sentences are all related.

   **Example**: Included in the medical team are Beth Jones, the surgeon; Matt Smith, the anesthesiologist; and Brad Berry, the radiologist.

   Note how the semicolon clarifies the sentence for the reader.

2. **Coordinating conjunctions** (FANBOYS: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So)

   **Pattern**: subject + verb, and subject + verb

   **Example**: Katie ran, and Jane walked.

   Use a comma to separate two independent clauses that are joined by a coordinating conjunction. (An independent clause can stand alone as an independent sentence. It contains both a subject and a verb.) Although the
comma may be omitted in short sentences, it is never wrong to use it.

**Other patterns:** Subject + verb. Subject + verb.

Subject + verb; subject + verb.

Subject + verb; however, subject + verb.

Note that the following sentence uses no comma because there is only one subject.

**Pattern:** subject + verb and verb. Ex: Katie ran and walked.

3. **Nouns of direct address**

**Example:** Excuse me, Sir, could you tell me what time it is?

**Example:** Mr. Jones, may we go tomorrow?

4. **Contrasting and highlighting elements**

**Pattern:** x, not y.

**Example:** Heather likes Scott, not Sam.

**Example:** I asked for a piece of pie, not pizza, when I called.

**Example:** The day was overcast, almost gray.

**Example:** The woman seemed pensive, even sad, when I saw her yesterday.

We will continue with commas next month. Meanwhile, a good site for punctuation guidelines is: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/02/.
February 16
Amanda Kyle Williams (thrillers)
Anna DeStefano (women’s fiction/romance author on editing your self-published book)

March 16
Ann Hood
Andi Buchanan (non-fiction)

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

May 18
Leela Corman (graphic novelist)
Christal Presley (memoir)
### Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Day/Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon</td>
<td>Buzz Bernard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:buzzbernard@comcast.net">buzzbernard@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<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>
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<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>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td>Hiatus</td>
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<tr>
<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>
<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:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Closed to new members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<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>
<td>Open</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Every 4th Sunday, 1:30–2:30 At Eagle Eye Bookstore</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ Chocolate, Clairmont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<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>Kennesaw</td>
<td>Fiction Only</td>
<td>Thursday evenings 6-8 PM at Cuppy’s Coffee, 1600 Kennesaw Due West Rd.</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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<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>
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<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>
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<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>
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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>Open</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<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 online 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 12/31/13—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: Kathleen Gizzi • Atlanta Writers Club • 9540 Fenbrook 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.