March 16, 2013 Speakers at AWC meeting

First Speaker—George Scott,  
"What Self- and Independently Published Authors Need to Know about Dealing with Bookstores."

Second Speaker—Ann Hood,  
"How to Write Through the Land of Sorrow."

Third Speaker—Andi Buchanan,  
"Writing What You Don't Know."

The upcoming meeting will be at the usual location:  
Georgia Perimeter College,  
Bldg. NC, Room 1100 Auditorium

March/2013
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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Photographers: Jill Evans & Rona Simmons
Videographer: Jonathan Knott
Critique Groups: Ron Aiken
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
For the ancient Romans, March was the first month of the year. Centuries before the Julian and Gregorian reforms to the civic calendar, January came to occupy that initial position, but March remained a special month. It was the first month of spring, the host of life re-emerging from winter slumber, a celebration of new birth. But all was not blossoms and sunshine and fertility. The Romans called the month Martius, from Mars, the god of war, and they considered it to be the beginning of the season of military campaigns. It seems a strange concept to us now, an odd association of fecundity and martial aggression, but it was perfectly logical to a culture that defined itself by expansion; the life of the civilization depended on its growth in territory as the renewal of Nature depended on the annual increase of flora and fauna. By March, the ground had thawed and the temperatures had returned to a Mediterranean warmth. The conditions were ideal for armored legions to troop off to distant regions to subjugate foreign peoples, fill the national treasuries, and extend the boundaries of empire. In the Roman view of the world, it was we, the civilized, cultured, Latin-speaking, favored-by-the-gods rulers of the world vs. Everyone Else. These Others were called barbari, an onomatopoeic word to imitate their unintelligible languages. They were babblers of foreign tongues, deserving only of conquest and absorption into the empire.

Of course, by the fifth century A.D. the barbarians had overrun the Center of the World and by 476 A.D. the twelve-hundred-year-old civilization was over, shifting the center of power east to Byzantium. But at the peak of their territorial gains under Emperor Trajan in the early second century, they encompassed 120 million people and controlled over 2.5 million square miles of land that stretched from Britain to North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula to Babylon. March was an inauspicious month for Julius Caesar, murdered in the Senate on the Ides in 44 B.C., but there was no doubt that March was indeed a very generous month to a growing empire. Whatever you may think of the political program of empire building, whether in ancient societies or our own, the reality is that the influence of the Romans grew because they conquered and they conquered because they strapped on helmets and shin greaves and swords and they fought. They honored Mars.

The spirit of Mars was not confined to the Romans and war has been a preoccupation of societies and the topic of stories for centuries. From the Iliad to The Things They Carried, storytellers have told the tales of conquest and defeat, of death and survival, of suffering and glory that seem to spring vividly from the chaos of battle. All good stories have an element of conflict, a clash of wills, a series of obstacles, a worthy adversary. War supplies all these components and raises them to a level of international drama and significant historical import.

Consequently, there have been some truly great writers who have written about war. Gilgamesh has some fight scenes, but I wouldn’t call it a war book. Homer was perhaps the first to preserve the conflict between nations, in spite of what academics might say who continue to debate the oral history of his tales and his authorial role in their preservation. No matter. Homer was the first when he told the story of the Trojan War. The Romans had their chroniclers, as did every other nation through the ages whose young men marched off to fight. Four centuries before the Norman Conquest, there was Beowulf, who took up the sword to fight Grendel, Grendel’s mother and the dragon. There were the Arthurian legends and the entire chivalric literature of the Middle Ages, the tales of conquering heroes who fought for honor and loyalty to their liege. The stories of knights like Sir Gawain

(Continued on page 4)
and Lancelot and Perceval and the mythologies that grew up around them continue to inspire with their courage and noble quests. Every generation has had their military heroes and the accounts of their exploits. Even the most pacifist and mild-mannered among us must still admit to their influence on our literary heritage and our world.

But I don’t want to focus just on those authors who wrote explicitly about infantries, weapons, ground won, ground lost, and unspeakable horror. I want to talk about writing as battle. Every time we pick up a pen or power up our laptop to shed light on the human story, to clarify some truth that defines our reality, we are fighting a battle against ignorance and the intellectual barbarians of our world. With every accurate representation of how the natural world works, and the conditions of our past, and the accumulated wisdom of the ages, we struggle against an ignorance of science and history and the best of human learning. With every original thought and brilliant expression, we stand against clichés and second-hand platitudes. Every time we craft a logical, coherent, compelling statement, we oppose shallow reasoning and thin argument, logical fallacies and errors in judgment. When we communicate in words and effectively use language, we do a small part in slowing the onslaught of images over literature. When we elevate the level of our conversation and writing to one of sophistication and significance, we work against the reduction of public discourse to the lowest common elements.

I think constant polemic is tiresome and people who are consumed with a single ideological position and want to bring every conversation around to a defense of their idée fixe are intolerable. But there is a time to stand for the ancient philosophical categories of “the good, true and beautiful,” of art and creativity and imagination against the forces that demand drab uniformity and the suppression of individuality. I am not promoting any one political, social, or religious position. Unfortunately there are barbarians of all classes and groups. However you vote, whatever your education or pay grade, you can still stand for independent thought and genuine culture, for books and ideas and an education that expands the mind and spirit. My intention is not to turn you into academic pit bulls who exist to engage in the scholarly combat of the Academy or make you feel inadequate if you are not tenured faculty or a famous public intellectual. The struggle includes all of us. And while I admit that my natural tendency is to avoid conflict when I can, I still want to encourage you in this martial month to renew your courage to fight the good fight, persevere, and keep writing and thinking and expressing yourself in spite of the forces arrayed against you. The voices of the barbarians are legion: “Why would you want to spend so much time writing? Nobody reads anymore.” “You earn a degree to get a job. Nothing more.” “I know what I know. Don’t confuse me with a lot of facts.” “Why would you waste your money on books or squander your time reading them?” “Stop your dreaming and do something practical.” Those are some of the slings and arrows thrown at writers. The question is: do you curl up and give in, or do you decide to keep on fighting? This month I hope you choose the latter.

(Continued from page 3)
Speaker Profiles for March 16,
Soniah Kamal & Anjali Enjeti, Co-VPs of Programming

**Ann Hood** is the author of the bestselling novels *SOMETIME OFF THE COAST OF MAINE*, *THE RED THREAD* and *THE KNITTING CIRCLE* as well as the memoir *COMFORT: A JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF*, which was a New York Times Editor’s Choice and chosen as one of the top ten non-fiction books of 2008 by Entertainment Weekly.

She has won two Pushcart Prizes as well as Best American Spiritual Writing, Food Writing, and Travel Writing awards. A regular contributor to the New York Times, Hood’s short stories and essays have appeared in many publications, including Ploughshares, Tin House, Traveler, Bon Appetit, O, More, The Paris Review, and others.

The title of her talk is “How to Write Through the Land of Sorrow.”

**Andrea J. Buchanan** is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose latest book is the multimedia young adult novel *Gift*, published by Open Road Integrated Media.

Her other work includes the internationally bestselling *The Daring Book For Girls* and seven other books. Before becoming a writer, Andi trained as a pianist, earning a bachelor of music degree in piano performance from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a master's from the San Francisco Conservatory. Her last recital was at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. She lives with her family in Philadelphia.

Andrea’s topic is “Writing What You Don't Know.”
Scenes from AWC Book Fair
Scenes from February Meeting
VISUAL VOICES
2013

2013 National Poetry Month (April)
Seventh Annual Exhibit

Open Theme

What To Do:

1. Submit one ready-to-hang* original poem with artwork by March 22 to Nancy McDaniel, Georgia Perimeter College LTC 2101 Womack Road, Bldg N-LRC 3200, Dunwoody 30338.

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

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

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

*All frames must be wired as shown in photo.

For Additional Info:
Nancy nancy.mcdaniel@gpc.edu (770-274-5243)
Gelia gdolcima@gpc.edu (770-274-5246)
Beth beth.horton@gpc.edu
Altered Book Workshops and Contest

-- Starting in March from Gwinnett County Public Library and the Hudgens!

Lawrenceville, GA – March 2013

Gwinnett County Public Library invites area artists to turn their old books into a work of art. Participants may submit an “Altered Book” entry to any of the county’s fifteen branches throughout the month of April.

Free workshops to introduce altered book art techniques will be jointly sponsored by the library and the Hudgens, to be held at the Hudgens on Saturday, March 9th. Two sessions will be offered, one for youth, (grades 6 through 12), from 10 am to 12 pm and one for adults, (ages 18 and up), from 1 pm to 3 pm. To reserve a seat in the workshop, please email info@thehudgens.org to RSVP by March 6th.

Judging for the contest will take place in May, and select entries will be exhibited at the Hudgens Center for the Arts from June 8th through September 7th. The opening reception for the exhibit will take place on Friday, June 14th at 4 pm.

Last year the Altered Books Contest received over 40 entries, and the Gwinnett County Public Library’s partnership with the Hudgens Center for the Arts was awarded an Honorable Mention for Arts Partnership by Artworks! Gwinnett for their collaboration on the 2011 Altered Books contest and Pulp Fashion exhibit.

For more information about Altered Books, or other library programs, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org, find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Google+, and Pinterest, or call (770)-978-5154.

The DeKalb Library Foundation and Save the Libraries will host Bluegrass Evening on Saturday, March 9, 2013, from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. at the Decatur Library. Enjoy an evening of pickin’ and prose with a bluegrass concert by Dappled Grays and meet authors Joshilyn Jackson and Karen White who will sign their books. Tickets are $65 online or $75 at the door. For information visit dekalblibrary.org/foundation Benefits DeKalb County Public Library.
Writing Workshop with Author Carolyn Wall

Roswell Reads 2013
Sweeping Up Glass
by Carolyn Wall
Join author Carolyn Wall as she presents a workshop for writers:
“Characters and Settings that Tingle the Spine”.

Friday, March 15, 2013 @ 10:30 a.m.

Roswell Library
115 Norcross St.
Roswell, GA 30075
770-640-3075

Registration is required.

For more information, please call the Roswell Library at (770) 640-3075 or visit the Friends of the Roswell Library’s website: www.forl.net/roswellreads.htm.

All programs are free and open to the public.

volunteers

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.
AUTHOR’S DISCUSSION AND BOOK SIGNING

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History
A Special Library of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

African Hospitality

Notes and Impressions of a Caribbean Woman As She Travels Around the African Continent

“For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place.”
-Maya Angelou

The Auburn Avenue Research Library will host author Valrie Sanders who will discuss her latest publication, African Hospitality: Notes and Impressions of a Caribbean Woman as She Travels Around the African Continent. By taking paths less traveled in countries and regions often overlooked by western visitors, Mrs. Sanders’s sojourns become an intimate and richly detailed travelogue of one woman’s life long voyage of discovery in the land of her ancestors.

Saturday, March 16, 2013 • 4:00 p.m.
Authors’ and Writers’ Lounge • 3rd Floor
101 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303-2503
ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
For additional information call AARL at (404) 730-4001, ext. 100
www.afpls.org/aarl
Looking for Freelance Writers

*We Are Clayton* Magazine is looking for enthusiastic freelance writers to cover local stories and profile residents in Clayton County, and potentially bring in ideas for future stories.

To apply, please email a short cover letter, resume, and 2-3 writing samples to editor@weareclayton.com. No telephone calls please. Writers who reside in Clayton County are preferred, but all applicants are welcome. Writers are paid per article, per issue.

*We Are Clayton* is a community magazine dedicated to promoting only the positive aspects of Clayton County. Our publication was the first created in the “We Are” brand, which now includes *We Are DeKalb* and *We Are Henry* magazines. Please visit our website to get a better feel for our publication at www.weareclayton.com.

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Seeking Submissions

Minerva Rising Literary Journal is seeking short stories, essays, poetry, creative non-fiction, original prints, graphics arts and photographs for our next issued themed “Rebellion”. Please visit our website for submission guidelines: http://minervarising.com/submissions/

Deadline: April 8, 2013
Award: Small stipend and contributor copy
Fee: $15
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memoir</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>Any level, any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>32 lines</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

+ DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
(Continued from page 13)

- 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 on page 15)
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.
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.

Soniah Kamal Workshop

On April 13, 2013, Co-VP of Programming and AWC author Soniah Kamal will present a workshop entitled “The Essentials of Fiction.”

This class will cover plot, pacing, setting, character, and showing and telling. It will combine instruction with examples from literature, guided exercises, and informal Q & A that will answer many of the questions you may have about craft to improve the strength of your writing.

Scheduled from 12 – 3 p.m. it will be held at the Dunwoody Library (5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338; (770) 512-4640). It is free and open to everyone interested in learning the basics of storytelling and writing fiction. To secure your place in the class, you may register in person, or by email soniah_k@yahoo.com.

Soniah’s work has been published in the U.S., Canada, India and Pakistan. Make plans now to take advantage of Soniah’s unique experience and insight into the art of fiction. For more see www.soniahkamal.wordpress.com.
Welcome to GKBCinc’s inaugural short story competition, where you could win £100 by penning a tantalising two thousand-word tale with crime at its heart. The competition is open to anyone and everyone over the age of 18 and we’ll be accepting submissions until 30th June 2013.

Although we want stories that feature crime, we don’t want you to be tied to the traditional crime-writing genre. While we’re more than happy to accept murder mysteries and police procedurals and any stories of that ilk, crime is just the theme for our first competition. You can write in any genre you like.

This means your story could be about a bank robbery on Jupiter in the year 2599, or it could be a tragic romance set in ancient Greece, or a rollicking Western adventure. We’re not fussy, as long as the plot centers on a crime of some kind.

After the submission deadline closes, we’ll be assessing the entries over a two-month period before sending a shortlist to competition judge Tim Weaver. Tim is a Sunday Times bestselling author published by Penguin Books. You can learn more about him and his work at timweaverbooks.com.

Winning submissions will be announced at the end of September and not only will our victorious scribe pocket £100, they’ll also have their story published on our website alongside an author interview, and theirs will be the lead story in an anthology of short stories published by GKBCinc. Two runners up will receive a cash prize and have their stories published on our website and in the anthology.

For further information and guidelines for submissions, go to: http://gkbinc.com/the-gkbinc-short-story-competition/
30 Days to Sanity Stories

Do You Have a Story?
Do you have heart-warming, insightful and powerfully moving stories about how to stay sane in this chaotic 24/7 world? A co-author of the New York Times Best-selling book series Chicken Soup for the Soul is currently seeking stories to be included in 30 Days to Sanity, an online stress/resiliency program. Now you have an opportunity to contribute to this new online program by sharing your strength, insights, knowledge and wisdom.

What makes a good 30 Days to Sanity story?
A Sanity Story is an inspirational, true story, that opens the heart and re-kindles the spirit. It is the personal account of an event, an obstacle overcome, a strategy to remain sane, or a lesson learned that helps the reader discover basic principles they can use in their own lives.

Some of the topics we will include are: Getting to Know Yourself, Your Needs and Your Dreams, Getting Your Priorities Straight, Learning to Listen to Your Heart, Discovering Your Passion, Setting Aside Time Just For You, Balancing Work and Family, Building a Soulful Community, Learning to Love Your Body, Taking a Mini-Vacation or Playcation, Setting Limits Both at Work and at Home, Putting Technology to Work for You, Making a Meaningful Contribution to the World, Growing From the Bumps in Your Life, Making Technology Free Times to Truly Connect, Creating a Space Just For You, Making Sacred Time for Your Family, Eliminating Time Wasters and Energy Suckers, Managing Technology, Banishing Your Guilt, Celebrating Your Gifts and Strengths, Expressing Appreciation to a Friend or Loved One, Asking for Help or Support, Discovering an Attitude of Gratitude, Using Life as Your Teacher, Cultivating Compassion or humorous stories about funny things you’ve done while stressed.

What we’re looking for are “teaching tales” that inspire the reader to draw their own conclusions and insights from the story itself. We are looking for real-life anecdotes that are instructive, a personal wake-up call that is enlightening. No preaching or philosophizing, no fables, just good old fashion storytelling that is based on true experiences.

If you have a great story and would like to be included in 30 Days to Sanity, please send your stories to: 30 Days to Sanity at Box 31453, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1453 (please keep copies as we are unable to return submissions). Or e-mail stories to stephanie@30daystosanity.com. The maximum word count is 1200 words. For each story selected for the program a permission fee of $100 will be offered for one-time rights. There are no limits on the number of submissions. Stories must be received no later than May 1, 2013.
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 workshoped. 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.
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.
Spots Still Open for New Atlanta Writers Conference on May 10-11

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 Cook, 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 sample and synopsis submitted for critique and for the best query letter pitched. Complete details about the Conference, remaining agent availability, and registration instructions are on this website: http://atlantawritersconference.com/
New Atlanta Writers Conference May 10-11
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
Amy Cloughley
Angela Rinaldi, Angela Rinaldi Literary Agency
Becky Vinter, FinePrint Literary Management
Paula Munier, Talcott Notch Literary Services
Margaret Ball, Andrea Hurst & Associates
Gordon Warnock, 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/](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

Like good manners, good punctuation usage is a courtesy. It tells readers what to expect and, by that, makes their reading easier.

Certain punctuation rules are fixed. We need periods or the equivalent at the ends of sentences. Period.

Other punctuation rules are better called guidelines. The writer must discern whether the reader is better served by seeing a signal or not.

The Comma Code

1. **Use commas to set off certain introductory elements.**

   **Set off an introductory word:**
   
   Example: Yes, you were elected. (Others include: Well, No, Why, Oh)

   **2. Set off most introductory prepositional phrases:**
   
   If a single introductory prepositional phrase is short and the meaning clear, it is generally all right to omit the comma. Even so, using the comma is never wrong because any prepositional phrase at the start of a sentence is out of its normal order. The comma signals this change of order to the reader.

   Some writers insist that using the comma slows down the pace of reading. Others argue that omitting the comma actually impedes the reading process because the reader frequently rereads these sentences for clarity. In part, this decision depends upon the difficulty of the material. Are you writing a beach novel or a history?

   Example: After ten minutes, he stopped rowing.

   Normal word order: He stopped rowing after ten minutes.

   A few more prepositions: in, around, beside, since, to, during, until, with, for, except

   **3. Set off an introductory participle or participial phrase:**
   
   With participles, a comma is always necessary. Again, note that the phrase is out of order.

   Example: Covered in chocolate, the child grinned.

   Example: Interested, the girl raised her eyes.

   Note: Participles most often end in –ed or –ing, but there also exist a few irregular ones, such as “written” and “kept.”

   **4. Set off some introductory infinitives or infinitive phrases:**
As in the previous examples, this phrase also is out of its usual order in the sentence.

**Example:** To win, we must practice.

**Normal order:** We must practice to win.

**Note:** If the introductory infinitive or infinitive phrase is the subject of the sentence, do not use a comma.

**Example:** To win is our goal.

5. **Set off an introductory adverb clause:**

These clauses also are out of their normal order in the sentence.

**Example:** Because I like lettuce, I choose salad.

**Normal order:** I choose salad because I like lettuce.

Although adverb clauses (dependent/subordinate clauses) contain both a subject and a verb, they cannot stand alone as complete sentences because of the subordinating conjunctions that introduce them. (A few other subordinating conjunctions include: after, as, as if, because, before, even though, even if, if, in order that, since, so that, though, unless, until, when, where, wherever, while.)

Do not put a comma before a dependent clause that comes later in the sentence except to highlight an extreme contrast.

**Example of a comma before a dependent clause that highlights an extreme contrast:** She was smiling, even though her hand was bleeding.

**No comma:** She came with us because we asked her. He sang while I was eating lunch. We waited until she left at 5:00.

6. **Set off an absolute phrase, whether at the beginning or elsewhere in the sentence:**

An absolute phrase consists of a noun and either an adjective or a participle (which acts like an adjective.) The whole phrase modifies the whole sentence.

**Example:** Their bells joyful in the crisp air, the horses stood harnessed to the sleigh.

**Example:** The horses stood harnessed to the sleigh, their bells joyful in the crisp air. (adj)

**Example:** The horses stood harnessed to the sleigh, their bells tinkling in the crisp air. (partic)

This month’s lesson has focused on commas used to set off introductory elements, particularly those phrases and clauses that appear out of their normal order in sentences. Next month’s lesson will highlight commas used to set off non-essential information.
June 14-18, 2013
St. Simons Island, GA

Workshop Features:
Agent in Residence
Writing Short Fiction
Writing Fiction
Nonfiction for Young Writers
Beginning Novel Writing
Advanced Novel Writing
Writing Memoir
Creative Nonfiction
Finding Your Niche
Researching Your Topic
Contests
Cash Prizes
Expert Manuscript Review
Open Mic Night
Peer Networking

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Building a career as a writer requires a solid foundation...

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Registration is open NOW! Go to www.southeasternwriters.org for more information and online registration.
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)
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<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:hwbernard@att.net">hwbernard@att.net</a></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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<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>
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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, Room 3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennesaw</td>
<td>Fiction Only</td>
<td>Thursday evenings 6-8 PM at Cuppy’s Coffee, 1600 Kennesaw Drive 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 Dec 13, 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 <a href="mailto:imayaya@charter.net">imayaya@charter.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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<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 <a href="mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com">gjweinstein@yahoo.com</a></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>
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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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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.

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

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Please keep this portion as your receipt.

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