Mark your calendar

15    Monthly meeting of AWC
20    Visual Voices
22    Forsyth Writes Together
28-30 Springmingle
30-02 Heart to Heart

AWC Centennial Celebration
coming April 19th, 2014

March 15th speakers

Member Minute - Terry Dodd
Topic: Lessons Learned From One Man's Spiritual Writing

First Speaker - Megan Sexton
Topic: Seeing Double: On Being an Editor who Writes and a Writer who Edits

Second Speaker - Sally Kilpatrick
Topic: Twitter 101: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Twitter But Were Afraid to Ask

Meeting in Bldg NC, Auditorium, Perimeter North Campus
...founded in 1914

We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
**Silent Voices, by Valerie Connors, President**

Though hard to believe, given our recent back-to-back snowstorms, spring is really just around the corner. On an afternoon walk several days ago I saw a bright, yellow daffodil in my neighbor’s yard, usually a very encouraging sign. Although I’ve been told it occasionally snows in April here in Atlanta, we’ll certainly hope that doesn’t happen this year!

On April 19th we’ll celebrate the Atlanta Writers Club’s 100th birthday at the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center. As you approach the gallery from the expansive and conveniently located parking lot, you’ll enjoy piano music provided by AWC member Mel Coe. We’re hoping for mild weather and a light spring breeze to welcome you to this once in a lifetime event, where you’ll have the opportunity to mingle with local authors, AWC members, and our very special guest, Augusten Burroughs.

Last Saturday, George Weinstein, Clay Ramsey, Mel Coe and I did a final walk-through with the gallery’s event coordinator, the caterer, and the DJ who is also handling the AV setup. We decided on the placement of the stage for our guest speakers and the projection screens where we’ll debut the AWC Centennial Video made just for the occasion. Dennis Dean, who will be handling our catering, showed us how he envisioned the placement of tables and chairs, and we agreed on the location where the buffet will be set up. We talked about the food, drinks and table linens, and checked out the kitchen and food prep area. Our DJ, Andre Peterson (indoor music) and keyboard player, Mel Coe (outdoor music) both asked us if there were any special songs we wanted to add to their play lists. We also checked out the locations of electrical outlets, and discussed whether or not we had a color preference for the up lighting for the video screens.

It was my fourth visit to the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center, and probably the last one until the actual event. Clay and I checked out the venue last spring for the first time, before the renovations started. Then in early August of last year, George, Clay and I visited ACAC again while the building was in the midst of the reconstruction process. In January we went back once more, the three of us along with Marty Aftewicz, to meet the new event coordinator and see how beautiful the gallery looks now that its facelift is complete. With last weekend’s final visit before the event, we ironed out the last of the details.

There aren’t many writers clubs in existence that have survived for one hundred consecutive years the way the Atlanta Writers Club has. We have the opportunity to participate in a very special event in our local history, so please don’t miss it! Ticket information, including the extended Early-bird pricing period, is detailed in the following pages.

After two years of planning, revising, editing and polishing, the AWC Centennial Celebration is ready for release on April 19th. It promises to be a magical evening. I hope you’ll join me.

Kind Regards,
Val
AWC Centennial Celebration

April 19, 2014  6:00 to 9:00 PM

Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center
535 Means Street N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318

***Early-Bird Pricing Extended Through March 15th***

Please come and celebrate our 100th birthday with special guest speaker, bestselling memoirist and novelist Augusten Burroughs, acclaimed author of *Running with Scissors*, *Dry*, and more.

You also will get to socialize with numerous local authors and friends of the AWC, including Bobbie Christmas, Hollis Gillespie, Lauretta Hannon, Terra ElanMcVoy, Nicki Salcedo, Jedwin Smith, Darren Wang, Georgia Lee, and others!

"Unflinchingly, Augusten Burroughs gouges himself (literally and figuratively), bleeds, gets it on paper--often without a neat resolution or the genre's obligatory epiphany--and then makes you laugh. Now that's genius." —The New York Times Book Review

"One of the most compelling and screamingly funny voices of the new century belongs to Augusten Burroughs....[He] is blessed with an offbeat perspective and a viciously uncensored wit...." —USA Today

Join us for an evening of heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks, with music, memories, and an extraordinary guest speaker.

To order tickets, contact George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com and provide the following:

- the number of tickets being ordered
- the member's first and last name
- the member's preferred e-mail address

If two or more tickets are being ordered, the name of the person(s) accompanying the member

*Early-Bird ticket price, $30 per person through February 28, 2014 March 15, 2014

Beginning March 16, tickets will be $50 per person for members and their guests, and if seats are still available on April 19, members and their guests can purchase tickets for $75 at the door.

*To qualify for early-bird pricing, you must be a current member of the Atlanta Writers Club, with dues paid at least through April 19, 2014. If purchasing two (or more tickets), your guest does NOT need to be a club member to participate in this event. For simplicity, if your membership will expire on or before April 19, 2014--or you are not yet a member of the club but wish to join--$40 in dues will be added to your total, providing membership for 365 days from your renewal/joining date.

For non-members who wish to attend the centennial celebration, the cost is $50 per ticket until the end of Early-Bird pricing, after which the ticket price for non-members will be $75 apiece.
Photos from February Meeting

Member Minute speaker Jennie Helderman talks about translating work to other languages

Novelist, Anju Gattani talks about marketing

AWC members shopping for books at the break

"Journalist, Catherine Fox offers suggestions about reviewing art"
March Speakers

Member Minute – Terry Dodd

**Topic:** Lessons Learned from One Man’s Spiritual Writing

**Bio:** Terry Dodd has a B.A. in Geology from Florida State University, and has had a forty-year career as an advertising executive and entrepreneur. He has been the author of a bi-monthly Christian newsletter for twelve years, and is the author of ten books, including seven Christian novels and three non-fiction Christian narratives.

First Speaker: Megan Sexton

**Topic:** Seeing Double: On Being an Editor who Writes and a Writer who Edits

**Bio:** Megan Sexton’s first collection of poems, *Swift Hour,* received the Adrienne Bond Award for Poetry and is forthcoming from Mercer University Press in April 2014. Her chapbook, *Insects & Mystics,* was awarded the Redbone Press Prize. She is the co-editor of *Five Points: A Journal of Literature & Art* and teaches in the Department of English at Georgia State University.

Second Speaker: Sally Kilpatrick

**Topic:** Twitter 101: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Twitter But Were Afraid to Ask

**Bio:** Sally Kilpatrick has been known to spend too much time on Twitter, mainly because she’s excited about living in a place where she can get Internet without having to stand on one leg by the washer while leaning out the backdoor and to the right. (Not that she’s ever done that before) A native West Tennessean, she writes Southern fiction heavily influenced by the farm and small town where she grew up. Thanks to her family, especially her husband of 16 years, she very much believes in Happily Ever Afters. She currently resides in Marietta, GA with her hometown hero and two children.
Membership Renewal—What to Expect

The AWC has an automated system for tracking memberships and alerting members when it's time to renew. You will receive an e-mail from the system (awcmembership@principalds.com) one month before your membership expiration date. If you haven't renewed within two weeks of expiration, you will receive another e-mail and a final e-mail one week from expiration if you haven't yet renewed. If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired. It is a good e-mail practice to check your spam/junk folder to see if any legitimate e-mail has been misfiled there, possibly including the email you'll receive from awcmembership@principalds.com prior to the expiration of your membership.

AWC Member Parul Kapur Hinzen’s short story, “The Wounds of Sun Time,” appears in the current issue of COLUMBIA magazine. Parul received her MFA from Columbia University. The story is adapted from her novel-in-progress, set in India of the 1950s and ‘60s.

http://magazine.columbia.edu/features/winter-2013-14/fiction-wounds-sun-time
Lauretta Hannon presents:

The Seven Questions That Will Revolutionize Your Writing
Saturday, April 19, 2014
1-4pm
Marietta Museum of History

Imagine sitting next to the writing guru as she gives you exactly what you need and nothing else. In this seminar we'll go straight to the heart of the matter and explore the most critical lessons and solutions for your writing project.

The Seven Questions address each aspect of the writing and publishing process: the mindset required; the work itself; environmental considerations; the spiritual dimension; the business of publishing and finding a literary agent; the importance of marketing; and how to craft a practical plan to move your book forward.

Based on Lauretta's more than 20 years as an author and teacher, the seminar reveals the strategies essential to your success. Expect to be energized and inspired by this lively, thought-provoking experience. Bring questions, and leave with renewed resolve, creativity, and clarity.

This seminar is suitable for writers working in any genre and at any level. Attendees will receive a workbook, resource packet, and list of recommended readings. Once the seminar has concluded, we'll head next door to Hemingway's for a libation and continued discussion.

Registration and details at sevenquestions.brownpapertickets.com.
Thoughts on the Playwright’s Experience

The playwright, like the novelist, is a storyteller—but without the time or space a novel can offer to spin out the telling. Moreover, the playwright doesn’t have the option of using narration or description the way the novelist does. In a play, dialogue has to do most of the heavy lifting. Even stage directions can’t tell the meat of the story. The audience isn’t going to read stage directions; they’re going to hear the characters speak and watch them contend with their lives. So the playwright must be prepared to listen to voices as well as picture the world she enters.

There’s a saying I like that’s attributed to Lillian Hellman: “When the lights come up on stage, they come up on trouble. Otherwise, you don’t have a play.” That maxim has become a mini-mantra for me because it keeps me focused on my characters and their story. I’m old-fashioned enough to still love the intimacy between stage and audience a theatre can create in telling a good story. For me, that challenge never loses its attraction.

Athold Fugard once told a group of my students that the real challenge of playwriting is to figure out what to tell and when to tell it. Sounds simple—until you try it. Characters often have their own ideas about timing and can take over the direction of the story. More than once I’ve had an absolutely brilliant structure all laid out until my characters started asserting themselves, elbowing their way downstage into the spotlight when I’d planned for them to wait a bit longer in the wings. But then, I never really get to know my characters until we’ve arm-wrestled through the script. They all seemed so malleable when I first met them in an image or a fragment of conversation.

August Wilson described an image that stuck in his head—a big man, muscular and strong, standing alone outside a house, holding a newborn baby in his powerful arms. Wilson kept wondering who that man was, what his story was. The man turned out to be Troy Maxon in Fences. But Wilson didn’t know it was Troy when the image first came to him. He discovered Troy and Rose and the others as he listened to them conversing in his head, telling him their story.

For the playwright who is interested in character and story, who invites audiences to mull over what they see and hear, the journey from finished script to professional production can belong and discouraging.

A fellow playwright once remarked to me, “There’s a reason they call it ‘breaking into’ the theatre world. It’s because you have to BREAK IN; the doors aren’t open very wide.” That observation, unfortunately, is easily born out by the number of professional theatres that announce on their website variations of what has become a cliche: “We accept scripts only from literary agents and theatre professionals with whom we have an existing professional relationship.” An equally challenging search, by the way, is to find an agent who represents playwrights. The ranks are very thin.

But there is good news to be had.

While traditional book resources are still valuable, such as Dramatists Sourcebook, the Internet has made finding playwriting contests and amenable theatres so much easier for us playwrights. I suggest NYC Playwrights as a great site to start off with. You can subscribe to their mailing list for free, and the site includes other helpful tabs such as one for play formatting guidelines. Subscribe and they will fire lots of opportunities right to your mailbox. The URL is http://nycp.blogspot.com/.

There are a number of other sites you can also check out, such as:

Dramatists Guild (http://www.dramatistsguild.com/resourcedirectory/)
Emerging Playwright (http://emergingplaywright.com/)
En Avant Playwrights (http://enavantplaywrights.yuku.com/)
Playwrighting Opportunities (http://www.playwritingopportunities.com/)
the Playwrights’ Center (http://www.pwcenter.org/opportunities.php)
the venerable Burry Man Writers Center (http://www.burryman.com/submissions.html)
Forsyth Writes Together!

The Forsyth County Public Library is excited to offer Forsyth WritesTogether at the Post Road Library on Saturday, March 22. They're looking for local Forsyth County authors who might be interested in participating. The final list of local authors will be set by March 7, so if you're interested, don't delay. Since this will be the first Forsyth Writes Together event, they're looking to start rather small, with about 15-18 authors total.

The outline for the day is as follows:
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – David Darracott, “Write Your Novel Now”
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Local Authors Open House
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – BookLogix presentation, “Book Marketing Basics”
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Chris Negron, “Traditional Publishing 101”

They prefer that all of the participating local authors to be Forsyth County residents. Authors may be self-published or traditionally published and their works may be available in print, online, or both.

Contact Laura Bradley, Program Manager,
Forsyth County Public Library. bradleyl@forsythpl.org (678) 513-9364

Minerva Rising Literary Journal is seeking short stories, essays, poetry, creative non-fiction, original prints, graphics arts and photographs for our next issued themed Food. Please visit our website for submission guidelines:

http://minervarising.com/submissions/

Deadline: April 15, 2014

Award: Small stipend and contributor copy

Fee: $15
Novel Synopsis

Ex-Special Forces operative turned private-eye J.T. Ryan is hired by the FBI to help them thwart a menacing threat to the global economy. Counterfeit currency is turning up in large quantities and is indistinguishable from the real thing. The federal agency has only one lead. Before being killed in Rome, an FBI agent found a name, Sigma. With not much else to go on, Ryan goes to Italy. There he begins to uncover the operation of a secret cabal of industrialists. The shadowy group, known as the Alliance, is bent on dominating the world's currency markets. It appears they are using new, high-tech forging equipment called Sigma. Their plan is to destabilize the U.S. Dollar and the Euro and replace it with their own currency. Barely surviving several attempts on his life as he sifts through a harrowing maze of deception and death, Ryan follows the leads from Rome to Mexico City and then to Moscow. As he uncovers the final layer of the conspiracy, he realizes the shocking truth: the real power behind the Alliance is in Washington D.C. Can he blow the lid off the conspiracy before the global economy collapses?

International Thriller Writers features The Sigma Conspiracy:

http://www.thebigthrill.org/2014/02/the-sigma-conspiracy-by-lee-gimenez/
Hello to Each of You! Coming soon to your area! We hope you will join us for our 1st Annual Writer's Retreat on Amelia Island.

Heart to Heart Publishing Inc.'s First Annual Writer's Retreat on Florida's Amelia Island is officially open for reservations! Created for both aspiring writers and published authors, this is the ideal trip for writing and publishing inspiration as well as rest and relaxation!

We have a super line-up of speakers and workshops. Included in your registration is a poetry workshop on the beach with Susan J. Mitchell. Also, you will have the option to join Artist Donna Brooks for an unforgettable sand art experience. Wonderful door-prizes! New discoveries! Fellowship with other writers! Don’t miss this wonderful chance to submerge yourself in the craft of writing and the publishing business.

Retreat will be held March 30-April 2, 2014 with 'Meet & Greet’ Sunday at 6pm. Workshops will be Monday morning and afternoon and Tuesday morning and afternoon. Event hosted by Hampton Inn & Suites Historic Harbor!

Ask about our sign-up specials!

For more information visit our website: www.hearttoheartretreat.com

Sign-up on our website or call the office to pay by credit card or check. Call or email us with any questions.

****May we request a favor? **** Please share our event link listed above with your social media.

Sincere Thanks, with Gratitude,

Rachelle Siebert, Marketing Director & your Heart to Heart Team

Linda J. Hawkins – Heart to Heart Publishing, Inc.

528 Mud Creek Road * Morgantown, KY 42261 * Phone: 270-526-5589 * Toll Free: 888-526-5589 * Fax: 270-526-7489 * www.hearttoheartpublishinginc.com * www.lindajhawkins.com
Ann Hite and Renea Winchester
Host Spring Writing Workshop
April 26, 2014

Is this the year you vowed to finish your manuscript? Do you have a manuscript that consists of parts, pieces, paragraphs and ponderings? Are you hungry for a place to write, yearning for just a few hours of inspiration and direction? Join Atlanta's award-winning authors Ann Hite and Renea Winchester. Under their encouragement, participants will learn how to create memorable characters and use nature to create a sense of place. Bring your manuscript, creative ideas, and a hunger to learn. This is a working conference. Our goal is to encourage, enlighten, and energize all participants.

**Date: Saturday, April 26, 2014 10:00 am till 3:00 pm**

(Early Bird Registration: January 1-March 1, 2014) Price: $60.00
(Procrastinator Registration: March 2, April 20, 2014 Price $75.00
(Last-minute Registration fee at the door) $85.00
Register at [www.makeyourmarkpublishing.com](http://www.makeyourmarkpublishing.com)

**Lunch is INCLUDED in the workshop. Please note: if weather allows, most of the workshop will be held outside. A short two-minute walk is required to reach the outside classroom. The venue is pet friendly and not suitable for those with pet allergies.**

In addition to the workshop, individual critique sessions are also available for workshop participants. Sessions are available during lunch and are reasonably priced. See [website](http://www.makeyourmarkpublishing.com) for details.

**Ann Hite** is no stranger to the writing workshop. She teaches classes with a focus on tapping into an author’s creativity, breathing life into characters, and bringing setting alive. Her debut novel, *Ghost On Black Mountain*, not only became a Townsend Prize Finalist but won Georgia Author of the Year in 2012. Her personal essays and short stories have been published in numerous national anthologies. The *Storycatcher*, her second Black Mountain novel, was released by Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster in September 2013. *Lowcountry Spirit*, an eBook novella, is available from Pocket Star, also an imprint of Simon & Schuster. Ann is an admitted book junkie with a library of over a thousand books. She takes her own writing advice seriously: read, read, read. She lives in Smyrna, Georgia with her husband and daughter, where she allows her Appalachian characters to dictate their stories.

**Renea Winchester** leads workshops that instruct authors how to create memorable characters through dialogue and how words establish a sense of place. She has partnered with independent booksellers and libraries across the south where she teaches emerging authors how to market their books. Her debut book *In the Garden with Billy: Lessons About Life, Love & Tomatoes*, is a true-life tale of her experiences under the tutelage of a country farmer. A finalist for the Georgia Author of the Year and the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance book of the year award, her work has appeared in numerous magazines. Winner of the Plattner Award and the Appalachian Heritage Award, she has been a featured guest on many radio stations including Georgia Public Radio 90.1 FM. In 2011, the Atlanta Pen Women named her Author of the Year. Mercer University Press will release her latest title: *Farming, Friends, and Fried Bologna Sandwiches* in 2014.
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN TO VISIT GWINNETT

(GWINNETT COUNTY, Ga., March 25, 2014) -- Georgia Gwinnett College’s Department of Student Involvement and the Student Center, in partnership with Gwinnett County Public Library system present Samuel G. Freedman, an award-winning New York Times bestselling author, Columbia University professor, and New York Times columnist. He will discuss his books: “Breaking the Line: The Season in Black College Football that Transformed the Game and Changed the Course of Civil Rights”, National Book Award finalist “Small Victories”, Pulitzer Prize finalist “The Inheritance, How Three families and America Moved from Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond” and his other books at 2 p.m., on March 25 at the Georgia Gwinnett College campus.

Freedman is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. He writes the column, “On Religion,” for the New York Times and has contributed to several other publications, including The New Yorker, Rolling Stone and USA Today.

His newest book “Breaking the Line” shares the story of the historic battle for the 1967 black college football championship. In the novel, Freedman writes about two African-American coaches, Eddie Robinson of Grambling State University and Jake Gaither of Florida A&M University, and two African-American quarterbacks, James Harris and Ken Riley. These four individuals helped integrate the South’s segregated colleges. They also redefined the roles of NFL quarterback, head coach and franchise general manager.

The event, free and open to the public. It will be held in the LVIS Room in the Student Center. Ample free parking is available at Housing 3000 Building on Lonnie Havel Boulevard in Lawrenceville, Ga. For more information about this event contact us at getinvolved@ggc.edu. Details can also be found on the library’s website, www.gwinnettpl.org, or by calling 770.978.5154. Follow Gwinnett Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+ to learn more about library events and services.
Visual Voices

2014 National Poetry Month (April)
Eighth Annual Exhibit

Open Theme

What To Do:

1. Submit one ready-to-hang* original poem with artwork (max 24” x 24”) by March 20, to Nancy McDaniel, Georgia Perimeter College LTC, 2101 Womack Road, Bldg N-LRC 3200, Dunwoody 30338.

2. Email 50-word (max) bio to nancy.mcDaniel@gpc.edu by Feb 28.

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

Poetry Workshop, Reading & Reception

Thursday, April 10, 12-3 pm*

*All frames must be wired as shown in photo.

For Additional Info:
Nancy: nancy.mcDaniel@gpc.edu (770-274-5243)
Gelia: gelia.dolcimascolo@gpc.edu (770-274-5246)
Lizzy: elizabethfox12@gmail.com
AWC 2014 SPRING WRITING CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY:
1. The AWC 2014 Spring Writing Contest is open to: All current, paid club members. (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Ginny Bailey.)
2. Submissions must be original, unpublished, and un-awarded work.

DEADLINE:
April 30, 2014. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:
Three award levels in each category. (Awarded at May 17, 2014 club meeting.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FIRST PLACE</th>
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CONTEST CATEGORIES:

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<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Fiction</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>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wild Card    | 2000 words| In honor of our Centennial 

Celebration the Wild Card prompt is “98, 99, 100!” This prompt must appear somewhere in your story.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

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

♦ DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
♦ Only Word files (.doc) will be accepted. (Files with .docx may not be viewable by judges, therefore we recommend saving and sending the file as a .doc. You can do this by clicking on the “save as type” drop-down menu in the box at the bottom of your “save” screen. The .doc choice is the third one down.)
♦ 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)
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 both 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)

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 2014 Spring Contest
Your name, phone number, category, title

Example:

Dear Nedra,
I have attached [Title] for the [Category] and the corresponding SSF.
Thank you,
[Your name]
[Your phone number]
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) had a lengthy consultation with the director of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts to discuss the publication and copyright issues that would arise from such postings. Nedra learned that by posting the winning entries on our web page we would be, 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 can then become 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 not want to deal with material that has already been published.

What we can offer, however, is this. 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.

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**Member Speaking Opportunity - Volunteer**

On February 4th, I spoke to the Creative Writing class at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, as the first in a series of guest speakers. I talked about the Atlanta Writers Club, and my publishing experience. The instructor has expressed an interest in finding members of the Atlanta Writers Club, or others in the local writing and publishing community, who are willing to address her class of 29 students on a topic of your choosing.

The students were simply wonderful! They were well prepared with questions, extremely bright and engaging, and made me feel very welcome in their classroom. It was a marvelous experience, and I hope you’ll consider participating in this program.

They're interested in hearing from a wide variety of speakers, including published authors, journalists, and publishing professionals, and they would like to have a different speaker each week though the end of May. The class meets Monday through Friday, between 9:00 and 10:00 in the morning, so the day of the week is flexible, and it's just an hour or two of your time, depending on your distance from the school.

This is a great opportunity to influence and inspire the next generation of writers. It’s a relaxed environment, and a small group, so there will be plenty of opportunity for lively discussion.

I've offered to help facilitate this program for the instructor, so if you are interested in participating, please email me at valerie1105@comcast.net and provide your proposed topic and preferred date. I’ll pass the information along to the school for final selection and scheduling.

Thank you for supporting this effort.

Valerie Connors
AWC President
Presenting a New Atlanta Writers Conference for May 9-10, 2014: AWC Brings the Top Literary Professionals to You

TESTIMONIAL:

“The November 2013 Atlanta Writers Conference was my first time attending a conference, and I could not have been happier with my experience. The event was incredibly well-organized, with a diverse and talented group of writers in attendance, along with an amazing lineup of visiting agents, editors, and guest speakers. I attended the Friday night mixer, the Saturday morning agent/editor Q&A session, an informational session about blogging, a manuscript critique with one agent, and a pitch session with another agent. As a writer hoping to achieve publication, I found all of these activities to be incredibly interesting, helpful, and relevant to my goals.

“While at the mixer, I had the opportunity to chat with several agents, including the amazing Brooks Sherman of FinePrint Literary Management. Though Brooks was closed to unsolicited queries, he invited me to submit a query and the first few pages of my YA Contemporary manuscript. The next day, I received an incredibly helpful manuscript critique from one agent, and had a successful pitch session with another. Both of these agents requested my full manuscript.

“I revised my manuscript based on the thoughtful critique I received at the conference, and I sent out my requested full manuscripts and queries a week later. Two days later, Brooks and another agent I met at the conference mixer responded, requesting my full manuscript. Brooks followed up two days after that, offering representation. During the following week, I received three additional offers of representation, including one from another incredible agent I met at the conference. Ultimately, I was thrilled to accept Brooks' offer of representation. Brooks then went on to sell my book in a pre-empt to Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins four days after I signed with him, which was less than a month after I attended this amazing conference.

“Suffice it to say that I recommend this conference wholeheartedly to writers seeking to make connections with agents and editors, network with other writers, and learn more about the publishing industry.”


Do you want the chance to earn a contract directly with a publishing editor or with a literary agent who will represent you to publishers? Do you want an editor or 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 editor or 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 9-10, 2014 the Atlanta Writers Club will present its tenth Atlanta Writers Conference. The goal of this conference is to give you access to ten top publishing editors and 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 editors and agents will respond to your pitch; critique the manuscript sample, query, and synopsis you submit in advance; critique your query letter during a Friday practice session so you can
improve your work for Saturday; and educate you about the current environment of the publishing industry and the changing roles of editors, 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 and realize their dream of publication (see testimonials at http://atlantawritersconference.com/testimonials/). 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 editors, agents, and your peers. We’re offering a new activity this time, since we now have five editors and five agents in attendance: on Friday, May 9, we’ll feature an Editors Q&A Panel to give you their viewpoints and on Saturday the 10th we will have an Agents Q&A Panel to focus on their experiences and advice. In addition, we are going to allow you to register for two critiques and two pitches from the start, as part of a conference package deal.

Moreover, we are featuring a special two-hour Workshop on Friday the 9th to help you develop a plan to publicize your book—the best time to start planning is before you have one in print—with Kathie Bennett, professional publicist and founder and president of Magic Time Literary Agency, which handles publicity for Pat Conroy’s wife Cassandra King, Mary Alice Monroe, Terry Kay, and many others. Kathie also will do two 45-minute seminars, on public speaking and platform development. With the Editors Q&A panel, Query Letter Critique, and extended Workshop, it’s definitely worth taking a half-day of vacation on Friday the 9th so you can experience all of these educational and developmental opportunities!

On Saturday, May 10, while the morning critiques are held, award-winning author of three novels Man Martin will give two 75-minute presentations, and that afternoon while the pitch sessions are held, Young Adult author and Writer’s Digest Books contributor Ricki Schultz, will do two 75-minute presentations. Kathie’s 45-minute talks and Man and Ricki’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 feature an award ceremony, where each editor and agent will present a certificate to participants for the best manuscript sample submitted for critique and for the best query letter pitched. Testimonial provider Becky Albertalli was awarded certificates in both categories and you can see how they helped to change her life!
The editors and agents are:

Heather Alexander, Dial Books
Regina Brooks, Serendipity Literary Agency
Connor Goldsmith, Lowenstein Associates
Emily S. Keyes, Foreword Literary
Holly McClure, Sullivan Maxx Literary Agency
Bree Ogden, D4EO Literary Agency
Michelle Richter, St. Martin's Press
Blair Thornburgh, Quirk Books
Margaux Weisman, William Morrow
Jessica Williams, HarperCollins Publishers

Complete details about the Atlanta Writers Conference are on this website: http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact George Weinstein, Conference Director for the Atlanta Writers Club: awconference@gmail.com. You must use the online registration link at http://atlantawritersconference.com/ to register, so please do not send George an e-mail with your registration requests.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MAP OF THIEVES, A Novel
by Michael Karpovage

What if Clive Cussler joined forces with Tony Hillerman to tell the epic story of the greatest Cherokee Indian treasure lost to history? It would be Map of Thieves.

After discovering a lost Civil War hat from a famous Union general who was shot in the back during the Battle of Atlanta, Freemason military historian Lieutenant Colonel Jude Tununda is shocked to learn a secret waybill may be hidden inside the hat’s liner. Before he can inspect it, the hat and two priceless Nazi artifacts disappear from the West Point Museum in a brazen daytime theft. Jake and his stunning girlfriend, private investigator Rae Hart, head to Savannah to question their main suspect, an aging World War II vet. They soon find themselves targeted for assassination. Enter U.S. Congressman Tom Black of Atlanta, one of the dirtiest, most corrupt politicians ever to steal an election. He’s also the great grandson of the sniper whose shot killed the Union general.

In Map of Thieves, a mystery thriller set in the deep South, author Michael Karpovage takes readers on an ingenious treasure hunt from the beautiful squares of Savannah, to Historic Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, to the rolling hills of north Georgia. The core of the plot centers around the legendary Cherokee Tunnel—a gold vault that dates back to 1838 and the Trail of Tears. Inside the tunnel is Hernando de Soto’s stolen Spanish mining map. Pitting a disgusting politician against his own elderly father’s lifelong dream, or trying to catch a prolific master thief, or even the bond between Masonic brothers, Karpovage runs several parallel plots until they collide in the end with deadly results.

"Betrayal, suspense, and historical fact, brilliantly mixed with present day fiction, make Map of Thieves an intriguing read that is extremely hard to put down."—Paula Howard, librarian, reviewer.

About the author: Michael Karpovage is a native of western New York and a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology. He has worked in the graphic design and marketing field for over twenty years as an award-winning art director and map illustrator. He lives in Roswell, Georgia. Map of Thieves is a stand alone sequel to Crown of Serpents (2009) and the second novel in Karpovage’s series The Tununda Mysteries.

On sale now in trade paperback ($17.99) and eBook ($7.99) at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and independent sellers. Contact author Michael Karpovage at 678-642-0196 or michael@karpovagecreative.com for interviews or inquiriies. ISBN-10: 0985653213 • ISBN-13: 978-0985653217 • Facebook.com/mapofthieves

Chapters 1-3 FREE at www.MapofThieves.com

Karpovage Creative
5055 Magnolia Walk • Roswell, GA 30075 • 678.642.0196 • www.karpovagecreative.com
Want to learn from insiders in the children's book industry? You’ll find them at Springmingle.

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.

March 28-30, 2014 at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center

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

Springmingle is the annual regional conference for Southern Breeze (Alabama, Georgia, and the Florida panhandle), with workshops and sessions with agents, authors, and editors to help writers and illustrators learn the skills they need to get published.

The conference faculty includes:
- Lucy Ruth Cummins
- Art Director Simon & Schuster
- Cheryl Willis Hudson
- Creative Director Just Us Books
- Ruth Sanderson
- Author/Illustrator
- Cheryl Klein
- Editor, Arthur Levine Books
- Ammi-Joan Paquette
- Agent, Ein Murphy Literary Agency
- Jo Kittenger
- Award-Winning Author

Looking for Feedback?
Get it at Springmingle 2014.

Formal critiques: $40. Manuscripts must be submitted by February 23. Portfolio reviews must be pre-paid but illustrations need not be sent in advance.

Informal critiques with attendees: Free Image/Eight: Submit the first eight lines of your manuscript, or an opening illustration, and it could be chosen for a free review by a panel of conference faculty.

Agent One-on-One: $45. Personal consultations with Ammi-Joan Paquette. Bring your queries, first pages, some recent blogs/tweets, royalty statements, or rejection letters, and get advice from one of the best!

In addition to the main conference, SCBWI offers two, one-day programs on March 28:

Writer’s Intensive. Learn methods for analyzing your own plot and identifying its strengths and weaknesses with editor Cheryl Klein. Member 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. Member Cost: $65. Register for just this one-day program, or combine with Springmingle.

Conference tuition is $195 for SCBWI members, $225 for non-members, or $205 for students. Advance registration is required and spaces are limited for some activities.

Not a member of SCBWI? Join for just $65 (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 southern-breeze.scbwi.org/
Kickstarter Game for Writers

The ultimate creative writing game for families, teachers, and writers. Come experience the feeling of creation!


What is this Game About?

In a word? Creation: its joys, thrills, and heartache. Great games are generally about a single experience, a single thrill that is so unique that it brings the gamer back over and over. For some games it's death (FPS: Halo, Call of Duty, etc.). For some games it's the discovery of a story (RPGs: Dungeons and Dragons, Myst, etc.). For Champions of Story that unique experience is creation, a new idea burgeoning and blossoming in five minutes or less, creating order from the chaos of three random words in the confines of a random genre. Fulfillment has never been so fun. Find out for yourself:
Future Guests

March:
Terry Dodd (Member Minute)
Megan Sexton (Five Points Literary Journal Co-Editor)
Sally Kilpatrick (Novelist)

April:
Karen White (Novelist)

May:
Roxie Thomas (Member Minute)
AWC Brings Back Historical Program—The Spoken Magazine

Critique group:
Alpharetta, Books for Less, Buzz Bernard group is full

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 Jennifer Wiggins 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: jennwggns@yahoo.com.
# Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Meeting Time/Location</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpharetta</strong></td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at Books for Less</td>
<td>Buzz Bernard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hwbernard@att.net">hwbernard@att.net</a></td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong></td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Therra Cathryn Gwyn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:therra@earthlink.net">therra@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong></td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 7-9 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Rebecca Ewing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebeccaewing@earthlink.net">rebeccaewing@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buckhead/Midtown</strong></td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11 a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpauiholmes@gmail.com">kpauiholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buckhead/Midtown</strong></td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hiatus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conyers</strong></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><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Monthly on Tues, 6:45</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><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
<td>Children's and YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues 10 a.m. – 12:15 @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction groups</td>
<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ron Aiken</td>
<td>ronhraiken.com</td>
<td>Wait List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ Abundant Grounds Coffee. - Clairmont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm 3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcinasco</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kennesaw</strong></td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Wednesday 6-8:30, Abundant Grounds Coffee</td>
<td>Linda Joyce Clements</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linda@linda-joyce.com">linda@linda-joyce.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrenceville</strong></td>
<td>Novel &amp; short story</td>
<td>Every other Thursday, 10 a.m. - 12 @ Applewood Towers</td>
<td>Barbara Connor</td>
<td>(678) 226-1483</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrenceville/Snellville</strong></td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member's home</td>
<td>Ken Schmanski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kschmanski@yahoo.com">kschmanski@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marietta</strong></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. member's home</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>(770) 552-5887</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Jemille Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemille@bellsouth.net">jemille@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandy Springs</strong></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:jewesch@me.com">jewesch@me.com</a></td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Regular membership dues are $40 per year per person. Students can join for $30 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $20 per year.

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Here are a just a few membership benefits:

**Monthly meetings.** On the third Saturday of each month, our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers who cover a broad range of topics and genres, and come to us from many facets of the literary world. Our speakers include published authors, literary agents, editors, playwrights and poets, just to name a few. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.

**Workshops.** Your membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops. Some are free with membership and others are provided at a discounted price. Watch for announcements about upcoming workshops.

**Twice-Yearly Writers Conferences.** This is your opportunity to spend time face to face with a literary agent or editor and have the chance to pitch your work. Conferences include agent Q & A panels, writing workshops, and a social gathering where you’ll get to meet and talk with the agents and editors in a more informal setting.

**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 read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.

**Writing Contests With Cash Prizes.** Contests are held in the spring and fall, with a wide variety of formats and topics.

**Monthly Newsletter.** Our monthly newsletter, the eQuill, provides the opportunity for our members to advertise their book launches and book signings to a wide reaching mailing list. And, it will keep you up to date with news about writing opportunities and literary events across the Southeast and beyond.

**Decatur Book Festival Participation.** The Atlanta Writers Club has a tent at the Decatur Book Festival each year, that’s staffed by member volunteers. It’s a great way to get involved in the largest book festival in the area.

Potential members are invited to attend a first meeting as our guest. After that, we’re sure you will want to become a member and take advantage of all the benefits that come with it. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings, or pay on line at our website using PayPal at [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Valerie Connors at valerie@atlantawritersclub.org.
The Atlanta Writers Club
Membership Dues valid for 365 days • Donations • Contact Information

☐ Renewal for 365 days—please provide your name and any changes to your contact information
☐ New Member for 365 days —please complete the information below
☐ Family Member for 365 days — 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 for 365 days   $___________
Add any family member for $20 each   $___________
(Please supply family members’ contact information using a separate form)

$30 Student Membership for 365 days   $___________

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.