Mark your calendar

3rd  Ivy Hall—Kate Sweeney
10th  Ivy Hall—Terra McVoy
15th  Minerva Rising deadline
19th  AWC Monthly Meeting
19th  AWC Centennial Celebration
26th  Hite & Renea Workshop
25/26th  Expand Your Reach—Writing Conference
30th  AWC Spring Writing Contest deadline

April 19th  afternoon speakers

**Member Minute—Rona Simmons (Novelist) Topic:** How to Jump in the Deep End of the Writing Pool Without a Life Preserver at 60+

**Speaker—Karen White (Novelist) Topic:** A Tail From the Trenches: Surviving and Flourishing in the World of Publishing

April 19th Meeting at 1:30PM
Perimeter North College—Dunwoody campus
2101 Womack Rd
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Bldg NC, Rm 1100, Auditorium
...founded in 1914

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

Inside this Edition

Silent Voices ........................................... 3
Latest on Centennial Celebration ........... 4
New Atl. Writers Conference .................. 5
Books in the Garden ............................... 8
Spring Writing Contest ......................... 9
March Meeting Photos ......................... 12
April Meeting Speakers ....................... 13
Buzz Bernard—EPIC eBook award ........ 14
Ivy Hall Series ..................................... 15
Townsend Prize for Fiction .................. 16
Local Author Day ................................. 17
Minerva Rising .................................... 17
Pocket Wife Deal ................................... 18
Soulsearcher release ............................. 19
Hite & Winchester Workshop ............... 20
Volunteer at Harrison High School ...... 22
Aesthetica Creative Writing Comp. ...... 23
Expand Your Reach—Conference .......... 24
Peripatetic Writing Workshop ............. 25
Future Guests ...................................... 26
Critique Groups ................................... 27
Membership Info .................................. 28
Membership Form ................................. 29
This month the Atlanta Writers Club celebrates one hundred years of nurturing and supporting writers. In April of 1914, Mrs. Lollie Belle Wylie and Mrs. Kate Ross Peters met at the Carnegie Library in Atlanta to form the Atlanta Writers Club. Their charter was as follows:

“...to assist and encourage the newer writers; to unite for mutual benefit; to encourage and promote creative and educational activities of and for writers, lecturers, artists and composers; to train members to write and to develop their aesthetic talents; to create open forums for discussions on topics of importance to both the literary worker and the layman interested in the advancement of the arts; and to promote the advancement of literary art in the Southern states and a more intimate acquaintance among the people of our own section with the work of established southern writers.”

Over the years we’ve seen our membership dwindle to less than forty, and soar to the current level of more than seven hundred. We have changed meeting locations many times and modified our program format. But after a century of existence, the Atlanta Writers Club has remained true to the vision of its founding members.

In recent years, we have partnered with other organizations, like the Decatur Book Festival and Georgia Perimeter College. And thanks to the hard work of Officer Emeritus, George Weinstein, we have our own writer’s conference twice a year. All these things work together to provide more and better opportunities for our members to find their paths to literary representation and publication, and help our published authors to promote their books.

On April 19th, we’ll gather at the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center to celebrate our 100th birthday. We’ll premier our centennial video, listen to our keynote speaker, Augusten Burroughs, and talk about our organization’s rich and storied past. We’ll eat, drink, and be merry. And there’s a relatively good chance we’ll do some dancing too! If you don’t have your tickets yet, just click on this link: gjweinstein@yahoo.com and let George know you’d like to attend.

There are lots of other exciting events on the horizon this year as well. The May Atlanta Writers Conference is coming up on 5/9 & 5/10, and spots are still available for pitch and critique sessions. For more information about all the conference activities, go to www.atlantawritersconference.com. In June, we’ll have our centennial picnic at Holcomb Bridge Park where we met last year for the first time, in the spacious pavilion. Chef Extraordinaire Marty Aftewicz will be stationed at the grille once again this year, preparing the wonderful food we’ve enjoyed at our AWC picnics in the past. We’re making plans for a very special workshop in July, and the Decatur Book Festival will take place over Labor Day Weekend. Watch for an email with details on how you can participate this year as a DBF author or event volunteer. In November, we’ll have another conference, and in between, we will make every effort to provide you with the best possible speakers at our monthly meetings and keep you apprised of all the local literary events that may be of interest.

I sincerely hope to see all of you at the Centennial Celebration enjoying this once in a lifetime event. Moreover, I want you to know that I appreciate your membership in the Atlanta Writers Club, value your friendship, and wish you all the best possible success in your writing endeavors.

Warm Centennial 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

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.

"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.

You also will get to socialize with numerous local authors and friends of the AWC, including Bobbie Christmas, Hollis Gillespie, Lauretta Hannon, TerraElanMcVoy, Nicki Salcedo, Jedwin Smith, Daren Wang, Philip Rafshoon, Georgia Lee, Bill Covington, Anna Schachner and others!

To order tickets, contact George Weinstein at giweinstein@yahoo.com and provide the following:
1. the number of tickets being ordered
2. the member's first and last name
3. the member's preferred e-mail address
4. If two tickets are being ordered, the name of the person accompanying the member

Advance tickets are $50 per person for members and their guests. If seats are still available on April 19, members and their guests can purchase tickets for $75 at the door.

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—$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 ticket price is $75 per person.
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.”

- Rebecca Albertalli (http://www.beckyalbertalli.com/)

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, Foreword Literary
Emily S. Keyes, Foreword Literary
Holly McClure, Sullivan Maxx Literary Agency
Bree Ogden, D4EO Literary Agency
Nicole Sohl, Macmillan Entertainment
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.
SPECIALTY ORNAMENTALS

presents "Books in the Garden" May 3, 2014

Mark your calendars! Come browse our spring selection from 10 am to 2 pm and meet five local authors who will be discussing and signing their recently published books in our garden.

3650 Colham Ferry Rd., Watkinsville, GA 30677. 706-310-0143. www.specialtyornamentals.com

The Quiet Room

An evocative story of one woman’s struggle to overcome her past and discover her true self. The Quiet Room follows the steps and missteps of Liese Stephens, daughter of an evangelical preacher and his ailing, passionless wife. Thrust by default into the responsibilities of adulthood while still a child, Liese is unprepared for the world outside her home and stumbles in relationships with men. This deeply moving tale will wrap itself around the hearts and minds of readers who, like its heroine, still search for themselves.

Rona Simmons

In Her Keeping

In her Keeping is a novel about a woman who wants to be a mother, and a tiger cub that needs one. When Sylvia Holt’s marriage falls apart, she moves to the mountains of North Carolina to heal and rebuild her life. Her desire to reconnect with the world leads Sylvia to volunteer at a nearby tiger sanctuary. When offered the chance to help nurture the cub back to health, Sylvia finds a new purpose for her life, but also finds herself in a battle with those who would threaten it. In the process, she discovers that motherhood can take many forms, and love can be found in the most unexpected places.

Valerie Connors

Becoming Jessie Belle

Have you ever wondered about your ancestry? Who were those people who made you? Award-winning author Linda Hughes brings you a novel of mystery, love, and self-discovery that conjures up answers to those questions. Join Jessie Belle Church on her ancestry quest as the young newscaster is thrust into the past, transforming her life today and altering the course of her future forever. Ponder the possibilities for the ancient stories that are buried in your bones.

Linda Hughes

Atlanta’s Real Women

Atlanta’s Real Women is a non-fiction book by a group of feisty, fired up, and occasionally frazzled women from all ages and stages of life. Rather than whine about their problems like we so often see on TV, their mission is to help every woman move on to overcome barriers to living out her most authentic life. Find your journey to peace, joy, and purpose in theirs. It’s never too late to live happily ever after!

Kathryn Gray-White

Underwater

Suspense novel Underwater is the story of Candace Morgan, CEO of an Atlanta women’s shapewear company about to launch a new swimsuit line. Haunted by a wrong turn in her past, Candace succumbs to her slacker brother’s plea that she invest in a luxury Buckhead home that he promises to update and sell for a profit. But when he gets his hands on her money, he lies about where it’s going, and the house sits unfinished. Then the market plunges, and the family’s demons rise to the surface...

Julia McDermott
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.)

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>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>
<tr>
<td>Wild Card</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>In honor of our Centennial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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]
Regarding the posting of winning entries...

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.

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They’re old hat.)
4. Employ the vernacular.
5. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
6. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
7. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
8. Contractions aren’t necessary.
9. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
10. One should never generalize.
Photos from March Meeting

Member Minute speaker Terry Dodd discusses spiritual writing

Terry Dodd displays his juggling talent

Megan Sexton talks about submitting to a literary

Sally Kilpatrick teaches us how to use Twitter as a promotional tool
April Speakers

Member Minute - Rona Simmons

**Topic:** How to jump in the deep end of the writing pool without a life preserver at 60+

**Bio:** Rona Simmons was born on the other side of the country in Santa Monica, California. She's the daughter of a WWII fighter pilot and later career military officer and moved with her family from state to state and country to country, living in 25 different places by the time she graduated from high school. So she's still astonished that she's spent the last twenty years as a resident of Forsyth County.

Three years ago, she launched her second career using the writing, analysis, and research skills she'd acquired during her thirty-year career in corporate America. Since then she has written several articles for magazines, a novel, and a collection of short stories and was the ghostwriter for the biography of a prominent Atlanta businessman.

Rona's latest novel, The Quiet Room, was published by Deeds Publishing, an Atlanta-based publishing company.

Speaker—Karen White

**Topic:** A Tale From the Trenches: Surviving and Flourishing in the World of Publishing for Fourteen Years

**Bio:** After playing hooky one day in the seventh grade to read *Gone With the Wind*, Karen White knew she wanted to be a writer—or become Scarlett O'Hara. In spite of these aspirations, Karen pursued a degree in business and graduated *cum laude* with a BS in Management from Tulane University. Ten years later, after leaving the business world, she fulfilled her dream of becoming a writer and wrote her first book, *In the Shadow of the Moon* was published in August, 2000. This book was nominated for the prestigious RITA award in 2001 in two separate categories. Her books have since been nominated for numerous national contests including three more RITAs, has twice been a finalist for the SIBA (Southeastern Booksellers Alliance) Fiction Book of the Year, and has twice won the National Readers’ Choice Award for *Learning to Breathe* and *On Folly Beach*.

Karen currently writes what she refers to as ‘grit lit’—southern women’s fiction—and has also expanded her horizons into writing a bestselling mystery series set in Charleston, South Carolina. Her sixteenth novel and first hardcover, *The Time Between*, was published in June 2013 by New American Library, a division of Penguin Publishing Group.
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 and Southeastern Writers Association vice president, Buzz Bernard, has won the 2014 EPIC (Electronic Publishing Industry Coalition) eBook Award in the suspense/thriller category for his novel PLAGUE.

PLAGUE, a Kindle best seller, is an “all-too-believable nightmare tale” of bioterrorism set in Atlanta, Georgia.

Buzz is currently at work on his fourth novel, BLIZZARD.
The Ivy Hall Writers Series

- Kate Sweeney
  6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  Thursday, April 3rd
  Ivy Hall
  179 Ponce de Leon Ave.
  Atlanta, GA 30308

Kate Sweeney will discuss her book, “American Afterlife.” (University of Georgia Press.) While pursuing her MFA at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Sweeney interviewed obituary writers, funeral directors and ordinary Americans involved with death and memorialization. The result is the popular nonfiction book, in which Sweeney reports unsavory details alongside the poignancy of grief and sorrow. According to Kirkus Reviews, “the author delivers informative history on the murky business of death.” “Sweeney lives in Atlanta, where she writes and creates public radio stories that appear regularly on Atlanta’s NPR station, WABE 90.1 FM. She has won three Edward R. Murrow awards and a number of Associated Press awards. Her writing has appeared in Oxford American, Utne Reader, Atlanta Magazine and New South, among others. She is curator of the popular bimonthly non-fiction reading series True Story. Creative Loafing Atlanta named Kate an “author to watch” in 2012. She has taught Free and open to the public. A book sale and signing will follow.

- Terra McVoy
  6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  Thursday, April 10th
  Ivy Hall
  179 Ponce de Leon Ave.
  Atlanta, GA 30308

Terra Elan McVoy has held a variety of jobs centered around reading and writing, from managing an independent children’s bookstore, to serving as Program Director for the AJC Decatur Book Festival, teaching writing classes, and even answering fan mail for Captain Underpants. Terra lives and works in the Atlanta neighborhood where her novels “After the Kiss,” “Being Friends with Boys” and “Pure” are set. She is also the author of “The Summer of Firsts and Lasts” and “Criminal,” which she will discuss at Ivy Hall, along with “In Deep,” which debuts in July. Free and open to the public. A book sale and signing will follow by Little Shop of Stories.
Ivy Hall cont.

- Pearl Cleage  
  6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
  Friday, May 9th  
  SCAD Atlanta  
  Event Space 4C  
  1600 Peachtree St.  
  Atlanta, GA 30357

Atlanta writer Pearl Cleage will read and discuss "Things I Never Told My Daughter: Lies, Lessons and Love Affairs," published in 2013. The book, a compilation of journal entries, addresses the author's years as a civil rights activist, feminist and author. Her works include 13 award winning plays, numerous bestselling novels, columns, articles and essays for publications, including Essence, Ebony, Vibe, and The Atlanta Journal Constitution. Her first novel, “What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day," was an Oprah Book Club pick, on the New York Times bestseller list for nine weeks. She is Playwright in Residence at the Alliance Theatre, and her plays have been produced in theaters nationwide. A book sale and signing will follow by Charis Books and More.

Register here  
https://giving.gpc.edu/townsend

Local book lovers and literary figures come together to celebrate the Townsend Prize for Fiction, Georgia's oldest and most prestigious literary award. The evening will feature remarks from former editor of Atlanta magazine, Lee Walburn, and a keynote address from the 2011 National Book Award winner, Jesmyn Ward. Guests are welcome to tour the Atlanta Botanical Garden starting at 5:00 p.m. The 2014 Townsend Prize finalists will sign books beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, a dessert bar, and a cash bar. The awards ceremony will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event, including entrance to the Garden, are $25 per person and $280 per table of 10. For more information, visit http://depts.gpc.edu/townsend.
Local Author Day at the Five Forks Branch

(Lawrenceville, Ga., May 17, 2014)--Gwinnett County has no shortage of literary talent and the Gwinnett County Public Library will recognize these writers this Spring during Local Author Day at the Five Forks Branch. Meet new authors, read undiscovered debut novels, learn about the journey from blank page to published book and everything in between from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Local Author Day is a great opportunity to meet local authors who will be selling and signing copies of their books while discussing their journeys. James Newman, Mike Brown and Robert Hardin are three of the ten authors selected to participate in the afternoon long event. Many genres will be represented including romance, historical fiction, thrillers, mystery, inspirational and more.

The Five Forks branch is located at 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road Lawrenceville, GA 30044. For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs, events and services, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org, call 770.978.5154 or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter and Google+.

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
Deal Announcement: *Pocket Wife* by Susan Crawford

This announcement was posted on the blog, Bent on Books, from the Jenny Bent Agency, regarding AWC member Susan Crawford, who secured agent representation through the Atlanta Writers Conference. Congratulations Susan!

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Deal Announcement: *Pocket Wife* by Susan Crawford

I'm so thrilled to announce a two-book deal for debut author Susan Crawford, an author I met at the Atlanta Writers Conference. I find I sign more authors from my queries in-box than I do from conferences, so it's exciting for me when I find someone as awesomely talented as Susan is at a conference. Susan and I worked very hard on editing this novel, a thriller about a bipolar woman who isn't sure whether or not she murdered her next door neighbor, and it was extremely gratifying that so many publishers showed so much enthusiasm for her book.

This is the announcement which ran here in Publishers Weekly:

*Carrie Feron* at William Morrow took North American rights, for mid-six figures, to *Susan Crawford*'s debut novel, *The Pocket Wife*. Agent *Jenny Bent*, who has an eponymous shingle, represented Crawford, overseeing a seven-round, seven-bidder auction for the work. Bent said the novel is a "stylish thriller in the tradition of *The Silent Wife* and *Turn of Mind*." In the novel, Crawford follows a woman, Dana Catrell, whose neighbor is violently murdered. The last person to see the victim, Catrell is experiencing mania brought on by bipolar disorder; unable to remember the fateful day, Catrell must race to clear her name, and stay sane, as she becomes the chief suspect. Crawford teaches creative writing in Atlanta and has won, four times, the Atlanta Writers Club Award.

So many big congratulations to Susan!
Soulsnatcher by Kerry Alan Denney


Soulsnatcher Synopsis:

Children with extraordinary psychic powers are being used as pawns in a deadly supernatural war. Jasmine “Jazz” Tandy and her nine-year-old son Chaz, who can heal people with his touch, are fleeing from a ruthless organization that kidnaps these children. Kaylee Daley can manipulate plant life. Mara Fleming can see into the future. Their only hope for salvation is a covert group called the Guardians, who protect the children from the organization’s merciless hunters.

Dr. Larssen Sössnacher—called Soulsnatcher by the remarkable children he abducts and exploits—believes Chaz is the miraculous prodigy who will grant him the immortality he craves... and he’ll stop at nothing to get him.

Guardian and martial arts and weapons expert Cody Jackson rescues Jazz and Chaz from Soulsnatcher’s hunters and takes them to Homestead, a safe haven where the children learn to use their powers to help others. But Soulsnatcher’s hunters raid Homestead and battle the Guardians in a deadly surreal showdown—with the souls of all the children as the ultimate prize.

Soulsnatcher is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Goodreads

Lynda Fitzgerald, author of If Truth Be Told and the Live series, says, “Soulsnatcher transcends genre, delving into the basic human desire to protect those who are persecuted. An edge-of-the-seat read I could not put down. Highly recommended.”

About the author:

Colleagues and readers alike have branded Kerry Alan Denney as The Reality Bender. A multiple award-winning author, Kerry has written seven novels and published short stories of fantastic fiction incorporating genre-blending elements of the supernatural, paranormal, sci-fi, fantasy, and horror. With joy, malicious glee, and a touch of madness, he writes reality-bending thrillers—even when the voices don’t compel him to. His protagonists are his children, and he loves them as dearly as he despises his antagonists... even when he has to kill them.

Kerry lives in the Stone Mountain area with his seven-year-old Golden Retriever Holly Jolly, a professional therapy dog, where they participate in the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) program with local libraries. He is always happy to hear from fans, friends, writers, and prospective agents and publishers, and personally responds to all inquiries. Follow him on Twitter and Facebook and get LinkedIn. For more information, please visit his website at http://www.kerrydenney.com.

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.

Register at www.makeyourmarkpublishing.com
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
Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition 2014: Call for Entries

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Call for Entries is now open, presenting a fantastic opportunity for writers amongst the Atlanta Writers Club to showcase recent works to a wider audience.

Previous winners and finalists from the Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition have gone on to achieve recognition around the world, having been selected from over 3,000 entries to be published the anthology. Last year, poetry winner and award-winning novelist Sylvia Adams was selected for her piece *Hands A Choice*, and Jennifer Roe championed the Short Fiction category with *Roses are Red*.

Prizes include publication in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual, a compelling anthology of new writing loved by audiences internationally including literary students and fellow writers, a selection of inspirational books from our competition partners and £500 prize money.

**Twitter:**

The @AestheticaMag Creative Writing Competition Call for Entries! Submit your #poetry #shortfiction Win publication! tinyurl.com/ckktess

**Facebook/ Website/ E-newsletter:**

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition has launched its Call for Entries, presenting a fantastic opportunity for established and emerging writers to showcase their poetry and short fiction to an international audience.

Previous winners and finalists from the Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition have gone on to achieve recognition around the world, having been selected from over 3,000 entries to be published the anthology. Last year, poetry winner and award-winning novelist Sylvia Adams was selected for her piece *Hands A Choice*, and Jennifer Roe championed the Short Fiction category with *Roses are Red*.

Prizes include publication in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual, a compelling anthology of new writing loved by audiences internationally including literary students and fellow writers, a selection of inspirational books from our competition partners and £500 prize money.

Visit [www.aestheticamagazine.com/creativewriting](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/creativewriting) for more information and to register your entry today. Entry is £10 and the deadline to submit your work is 31 August 2014. One entry permits the submission of two works into any one category.

Looking for literary inspiration? [CLICK HERE](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/creativewriting) to pick up a copy of last year’s Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Alexandra Owens, ASJA Executive Director
director@asja.org / (212) 997-0957

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR
ASJA's 43rd Annual Writers Conference
New York City, April 25-26, 2014

Nonfiction independent writers at all stages of their careers will benefit from this multi-day event, the largest and oldest conference sharply focused on the art and business of freelance writing.

ASJA2014: Expand Your Reach is the 43rd Annual Writers Conference of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, the nation's professional association of independent nonfiction writers.


More than 650 writers, editors, publishers and agents will gather in New York City to learn from the best in the business on topics like storytelling, custom content, self-publishing, promotion, negotiating, and much more.

With more than 50 sessions to choose among, attendees will hear editors from The New York Times, GQ, Slate, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, The New Republic, Crown Publishing, Boys' Life, Prevention.com and many more talk about how to get published in this new media age.

Experts will teach attendees how to promote themselves and their work, how to raise their visibility and polish their platforms via social and other media. Successful writers will share their stories in intimate Meet the Masters sessions, and networking events each day will help attendees build the connections that add strength to any career.

Special conference add-ons include a personal mentoring session, a great deal on a headshot package, and more.

Register now: Fees are lower for 2014 and early-bird registration rates end March 28, 2014. Find all the information at ASJA2014: Expand Your Reach.

ASJA2014: Expand Your Reach is sponsored by the ASJA Educational Foundation, dedicated to helping independent writers succeed. Sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities are available, see details here.
The Peripatetic Writing Workshop, Inc., will meet June 25th to July 3rd, 2014 in a villa outside of Verona, Italy. In addition to its long-standing offering of intensive, daily workshops in fiction and nonfiction, poetry workshops will be added this summer for the first time.

Verona is in the Veneto region of Italy, about 45 miles from Venice, and well-known as the area where wealthy Venetians built their sumptuous summer palaces and farms, the most famous of which were designed and built by Palladio. The city of Romeo and Juliet, Verona is between Milan and Venice and is near Bologna and the city of Padova, possibly the oldest city in northern Italy, the site of the first botanical garden in the Western world and one of the oldest universities in Europe. Each summer in June and July, Verona holds an opera festival in its massive and well-preserved Roman arena. As the Peripatetic Writing Workshop will be in Verona at that time, interested writers will be able to attend a performance.

The fiction and nonfiction workshops will be taught by Maureen Brady and Martha E. Hughes (see Faculty Page).

For the first time in addition to its regular fiction and nonfiction workshops, The Peripatetic Writing Workshop is pleased to offer a poetry workshop led by the outstanding teacher and poet, Susan Sindall. Susan has taught poetry at Poets House and The Teachers and Writers Collaborative in New York City, leads a decades-long Writer's Workshop in Kingston, N.Y., and a poetry workshop in Woodstock, scheduled for six weeks this year, extended to five months by popular demand.

All details are available on the website: www.peripateticwritingandart.org

Deadline to apply to for the workshop is May 1, 2014. There is no application fee.
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>Club</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
<th>Meetings Details</th>
<th>Critique Group Leader</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</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>Avondale Estates</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 7-9 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Rebecca Ewing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebeccaewing@earthlink.net">rebeccaewing@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11 a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td>k <a href="mailto:paulholmes@gmail.com">paulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Children's and YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues 10 a.m. - 12:15 @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction groups</td>
<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ron Aiken</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron@hraiken.com">ron@hraiken.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ ChocoLate 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>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri,1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm 3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennesaw</td>
<td>Fiction</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
<td>Novel &amp; short story</td>
<td>Every other Thursday, 10 a.m. - 12 @ Applewood Towers</td>
<td>Barbara Connor</td>
<td>(678) 226-1483 <a href="mailto:imayaya@charter.net">imayaya@charter.net</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</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>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. member's home</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>(770) 552-5887 <a href="mailto:qweinstein@yahoo.com">qweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres women’s</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Jemille Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemille@bellsouth.net">jemille@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
<td>Lynn Wesch</td>
<td><a href="mailto: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.