January 17th meeting, 1:30
Georgia Perimeter College
2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338
Bldg. NC, Room 110 Auditorium

Member Minute - Julia McDermott
1st Speaker - Brad Taylor
2nd Speaker - Peter Bowerman
...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.

**Officers**
- **President:** Valerie Connors
- **Officers Emeritus:**
  - George Weinstein
  - Clay Ramsey
  - Marty Aftewicz
- **Conference Director:** George Weinstein
- **Asst. Conference Dir.:** Georgia Lee
- **Membership VP:** Roger Johns
- **Programs Co-VP:** Valerie Connors & Georgia Lee
- **Social Media VP:** Kenneth Hamner
- **VP of Marketing & PR:** Holly McClure
- **Secretary:** Bill Black
- **Treasurer:** Michael Brown
- **Operations VP:** Jennifer Wiggins
- **Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP:** Nedra Roberts
- **Social Events VP:** Soniah Kamal
- **Volunteers:**
  - Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein
  - Photographers: Andre Santillana
  - Videographer: Jonathan Knott
  - Critique Groups: Ron Aiken
  - eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

**Events This Month**
- 7th Fulmer Fiction Shop
- 14th Pullen Workshop
- 17th AWC monthly meeting

**New Books**
- ✦ Angela Durden—*Twinkle*
- ✦ Kerry Denny—*Jagannath*
- ✦ Monica Halka—*Transient Luminous Events*

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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Happy New Year! I love New Year’s Day, first because it’s my wedding anniversary, but also because it’s a chance to make a fresh start, like having a stack of brand new spiral notebooks full of clean pages on the first day of school. It’s a time to make New Year’s resolutions, and sometimes we even keep them. For me, as I’m sure for most of you, life tends to dictate my schedule. So instead of resolutions about how I plan to spend my time, I try to decide what my goals are for the year and then focus on making those things a priority.

In May of this year, my two-year term as AWC President will come to an end. And though it will be with great sadness that I step down from the position that I have so loved having, I like to think that I’ll have a lot more time to spend writing in the second part of 2015. Meanwhile, the AWC Board is actively seeking a new President. If you are interested, or would like to recommend a candidate, please let me know, or contact anyone on the AWC Board. Our email addresses can be found on the AWC website via this link:

http://atlantawritersclub.org/contact/board_members.shtml

At our December Board meeting, we confirmed two new board members. Michael Brown is our new AWC Treasurer, and Holly McClure is our new VP of Marketing & PR. Mike is a published author and long-time member of the AWC, who always volunteers to help George with our conferences. Holly is an author and a literary agent, with years of experience in the publishing industry. We are delighted to add these two talented individuals to the board! The board also voted in favor of allowing me to continue serving in the role VP of Programming when I finish my term as President.

Speaking of programs, we have some exciting things on the AWC horizon for 2015. George Weinstein, Georgia Lee and I have been hard at work securing speakers for this year. In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we’ll have some extra workshops that will be free to AWC members.

The first 2015 workshop will be held on Saturday, April 4th from 1:00 to 4:00, and will be led by special guest, Jessica Handler. We’ll have confirmation of the location soon. The workshop is called **Looking Back, Moving Forward**.

“A well-written memoir about grief or loss demonstrates that the writer has moved forward enough to look back. But how does a writer’s “back” shape his or her “forward?” If we intend to write well about our loss, ‘looking back’ on positive and negative experiences involves more than just capturing slippery memory on the page. Looking back creates forward motion in the story. Participants will discuss examples from classic memoir, and generate new material from writing prompts generated in the workshop.”

Jessica is the author of *Braving the Fire: A Guide to Writing About Grief and Loss* and *Invisible Sisters: A Memoir*. Workshop location will follow in the next newsletter, so save the date! If you don’t own Jessica’s books, be sure to pick up your copy. For more information visit her website at: [www.jessicahandler.com](http://www.jessicahandler.com).

I look forward to another great year with the Atlanta Writers Club, and wish you great success in all your writing endeavors. Make this your year to finish that manuscript, find an agent or publisher, or write that next book. You can do it!

Warm Regards,
Val
Member Minute – Julia McDermott

**Topic:** The accidental submission: how a self-published author gets a book deal to rerelease her novel by a major west coast publisher.

**Bio:** Julia McDermott was born in Dallas, Texas; grew up in Atlanta, Georgia; and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in Economics. She also studied French and spent her junior year in the south of France. Her Suspense novel *UNDERWATER*, first released independently in August 2013, was picked up by Thomas & Mercer, the MysteryThriller/Suspense imprint of Amazon Publishing in Seattle. It was re-released on November 25, 2014 in print, Kindle and audio versions. The publisher is also at work on the book’s German translation, for a spring 2015 release in Germany. Julia has been a member of the AWC and one of its critique groups, The Writers Circle, since fall 2008.

1st Speaker – Brad Taylor

**Topic:** George Scott, Bookseller Extraordinaire, will interview Brad on the AWC stage.

**Bio:** Brad was born on Okinawa, Japan, but grew up on 40-acres in rural Texas. Graduating from the University of Texas, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry. Brad served for more than 21 years, retiring as a Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel. During that time he held numerous Infantry and Special Forces positions, including eight years in 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment – Delta where he commanded multiple troops and a squadron. He has conducted operations in support of US national interests in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other classified locations.

2nd Speaker – Peter Bowerman

**Topic:** Love to Write, But Hate to Starve? Exploring the Lucrative Field of “Commercial” Freelancing.

What if you could make $60-$100+ an hour writing, and give yourself the time and space to pursue your “passion writing”? In today’s downsized business world, companies of all sizes pay freelancers such rates to handle many of their writing tasks. Join Peter Bowerman, veteran “commercial” writer (with clients such as BellSouth, IBM, UPS, Mercedes-Benz, American Express and Coca-Cola), and author of the multiple-award-winning “Well-Fed Writer” titles on the subject, as you learn what commercial writing is, why the field makes sense now, how to build a portfolio, where the work is, what to charge, how good you have to be, and more. A GOOD writing income is closer than you think!

**Bio:** Peter Bowerman, a veteran commercial freelancer and business coach, is the self-published author of the three award-winning “Well-Fed Writer” titles on lucrative commercial freelancing – writing for companies, and for hourly rates of $50-125 or more. ([www.wellfedwriter.com](http://www.wellfedwriter.com)). The 2010 compilation of both original editions of TFW (2000 and 2005) was a winner of four industry awards.
Monthly Meetings

December Meeting Photos by Andre Santillana

1 - George Weinstein signs books after his Member Minute talk.
2 - Kimberly Brock signs books after “Spinning Gold.”
3 - Some of the regular crew: Mary Anna Bryan, Rona Simmons, Barbara Connor and Michael Brown.
4 - Ron Aiken organizes new critique groups.
5 - Looks like we had plenty of holiday treats!
6 - Our official AWC Cookie Runner!
Monthly Meetings

Meeting Photos from Lee Gimenez

1-George Weinstein
2-Valerie Connors
3-Kimberly Brock
4-Kimberly Brock
5-George, Valerie & John
6-Kim /w Georgia Lee
January
Member Minute - Julia McDermott
1st Speaker - Brad Taylor
2nd Speaker - Peter Bowerman

February
Member Minute - Kerry Denney
1st Speaker - TBD
2nd Speaker - Claire Cook

March
Member Minute - TBD
1st Speaker  Philip Lee Williams
2nd Speaker - William Rawlings

April 4th - Writing Workshop with Jessica Handler
This special event is free for AWC members. Details to follow when location is confirmed.
AWC Announces a New Annual Writing Contest!

As part of the continuing celebration of its centennial, the Atlanta Writers Club announces a major revamping of its long-established writing competition for members. The club’s professionally juried biannual contest will now become a prestigious annual event with a significant money prize. In honor of three special friends who have supported and inspired our members, the contest will award the following prizes each year: the Terry Kay Prize for Fiction, the Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction, and the Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry. Beginning in February, information on contest rules and deadline will appear in the club’s eQuills, and on our website at atlantawritersclub.org.

ELIGIBILITY:
1. The AWC 2015 Writing Contest is open to: \textit{All current, paid club members}. Please check your membership status before submitting your entry. (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Roger Johns at rogerjohns22@hotmail.com.)
2. Submissions must be \textit{original, unpublished, and un-awarded work}. Entrants may submit to only one category per contest.

DEADLINE:
Midnight, May 18, 2015. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

AWARDS:
Each award carries a $200 cash prize. Winners will be announced at our meeting on September 19, 2015.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:
Terry Kay Prize for Fiction (Maximum, 3000 words)

Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction (Maximum, 3000 words)

Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry (Maximum, 90 lines)
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 (.docx) will be accepted.
- Font: 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman
- Margins: 1 inch
- Line spacing: double – yes, even for poetry.
- White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images)
- Page size & layout: 8-1/2 x 11; Portrait
- First page: Title and Prize Category should appear in the upper left corner
- Subsequent pages: Title - upper left corner; Page number - upper right corner

PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

SUBMISSION RULES:

Failure to adhere to any of the submission guidelines will lead to disqualification.

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to nedra.roberts@gmail.com.

There is no template for the SSF; you create the document yourself (see below) and send it as a separate attachment. The entry and SSF **both** must be sent as attached Word documents (.docx). The SSF is used for identification purposes by Nedra Roberts only. Judges never know the identity of any author; they see only the blind entry document.

**IMPORTANT:** Name the documents by title, i.e. Title.docx and SSF-Title.docx

Example: if the title is Moon Fire, the document should be named Moon Fire.docx and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.docx.
Contests

**Standard Submission Form (SSF):**

Prepare and submit an SSF that includes the following information:

- Author’s Name
- Prize Category
- Title of Entry
- Word Count (Line Count for poetry)
- Named the document: SSF-Title.docx

When you send the attached Word documents, your EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:

- Subject Line: AWC 2015 Writing Contest
- Your name, phone number, prize category, title

Example:

Dear Nedra,

I have attached [Title] for the [Prize Category] and the corresponding SSF.

Thank you,

[Your name]

[Your phone number]
Fulmer’s Fiction Shop

David Fulmer has only two spots remaining for the **Fiction Shop** that begins January 7th. The eight-week class for fiction and non-fiction writers meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 in the Reading Room at Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur, with the final session on February 25th. AWC members receive a special price of $225. Details at: [http://davidfulmer.com/ShopPage2.html](http://davidfulmer.com/ShopPage2.html).

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**The Great Atlanta Write-In**

February 21, 2015

10am-1-pm

$25 per person

Wouldn’t it be nice to have a place to go for writing inspiration and practice? Where you could enjoy the company of kindred spirits and have time for focused writing on your specific project?

The Great Atlanta Write-In is your place.

Here’s how it goes. After introductions, Lauretta gives an evocative writing prompt. Everyone writes for 15 minutes, and then she presents a second prompt, and we repeat the process. Then, those who want to read aloud their work can do so via Three-Minute Shares. Lauretta strictly enforces the time limit in order to maintain the momentum.

Then we take a 15-minute break to socialize or purchase comestibles in the gift shop. But we really get down to business in the final session with 90 minutes of focused writing on whatever you need to write: novel, poem, short story, nonfiction, manifesto, memoir, treatise, Dear John letter, anything! This time is designed to strengthen your writing discipline and support you as you show up to the page.

There is no pressure, no critiques, and no egos run amok. Just free-form creativity guaranteed to energize and inspire. The Great Atlanta Write-In is like a workout class for writers—or a literary B-12 shot. Okay, we’re getting carried away here. But as you can tell, the experience will be fun and upbeat and above all—productive.
Workshops

After the event, writers are invited to join us next door at Hemingway's for a libation and casual discussion.

For more details and to register:

writein.brownpapertickets.com

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Lauretta Hannon is a bestselling author, syndicated advice columnist, keynote speaker, and commentator on National Public Radio's All Things Considered. She has taught and encouraged writers for more than twenty years. As a writer she has captured more than 100 national awards.

Her memoir, The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life, became a bestseller only three weeks after its release in April 2009. In 2010 the Georgia Center for the Book named her work one of the Top Twenty-Five Books All Georgians Should Read. Lauretta has completed six writing residencies at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. Her advice column reaches more than 500,000 households via 23 newspapers across Metro Atlanta. She is at work on her next book.

This event is part of Lauretta’s Down Home Writing School (DHWS) and is suitable for writers working at any level.
2-in-1 Writers' Workshops: Self-Publishing +
Author Platform

After a successful first-run in November, author and AWC Member M.J. Pullen will be hosting another Self-Publishing workshop on January 24, 2015 at the Smyrna Community Center, followed the same day by a shorter, related Author Platform workshop. Both are appropriate for writers of all levels and genres. The self-publishing workshop is for writers considering self-publishing or wanting to know more about their publishing options; the author platform is for ALL writers (traditional, indie or both) who are at the beginning of developing their online presence.

Two workshops. One day. One happy author.

“Although I'm still working on my first novel I found Manda's workshop on self-publishing, and really the information about several publishing alternatives, very helpful. It took the mystery and stress out about what comes next, after your novel is finished.” ~Frederick W., Self-Publishing Workshop, November 2014

Part 1: Self-Publishing: Perks, Pitfalls and Process (see description below) Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For: Writers of all levels and genres (fiction and non-fiction) who are considering self-publishing or weighing their publishing options Cost: $80*

Part 2: Starting out Right: Building your Author Platform Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For: Traditional and self-publishing authors who want to understand the basics of author platforms, mistakes to avoid, and how to connect with your audience before and after publication. Cost: $40*

Combined Package - Self-Publishing AND Author Platform - $105* (save more than 10% on both)**

Early Bird Discount: First 10 registrants for the Combined Workshop save an additional $10 -- just $95 for both workshops. Amazing deal!*Plus Eventbrite fees

Learn more and register: https://2-in-1-writers.eventbrite.com
Taking Apart Stories—And Putting Them Back Together

by Rona Simmons

(Originally published on Amy Sue Nathan’s blog, Women's Fiction Writers at http://womensfictionwriters.wordpress.com)

I take things apart. I always have. Once, I took a clock apart to see how it worked and later, a vacuum cleaner to fix what was broken. I failed on both accounts, but my drive to see the inner workings of objects persisted. Today, I apply it to the world of writing. I want to understand how the magic happens: how an author hooks a reader on the very first page.

So, with a pliers in one hand and a screwdriver in the other, I selected five works of general or women’s fiction from the top of the 2013 New York Times bestseller list. I bypassed cover art, book blurbs, and introductory quotes, to focus on the authors’ own words, ones that would snare a reader from the start and keep them reading for the next several hundred pages.

My small sample included what I’ll call a “beach read”, a “hot topic” book on drug addiction, a “page-lingerer” chock full of lush writing and internal musings, a tale “based on true events”, and a story that explores relationships and secrets.

I read only the first sentences and paragraphs—up to 150 words, skipping prologues just as some readers might.

The opening sentences of the five novels were as different as night and day:

- The Goldfinch, Donna Tartt: “While I was still in Amsterdam, I dreamed about my mother for the first time in years.”
- The Husband’s Secret, Lianne Moriarity: “It was all because of the Berlin Wall.”
- The Orphan Train, Christina Baker Kline: “Through her bedroom wall Molly can hear her foster parents talking about her in the living room, just beyond her door.”
- The Girls of August, Anne Rivers Siddons: “The girls of August had decided, given our long hiatus and the introduction of a new person—Baby Gaillard nee LucyAnne Gaillard, to be exact—that we best meet ahead of time at my house to map out our strategy and make sure we all felt OK about Tiger Island.”
- All Fall Down, Jennifer Weiner: “Do you generally use alcohol or drugs more than once a week?”

The authors’ writing styles were equally diverse. The openings ranged from dense, descriptive exposition (49 words per sentence and a reading level of 15) to short staccato sentences filled with internal dialogue (14 words per sentence and a reading level of 6). Three were in third person and two in first.
On the other hand, the openings occurred in remarkably similar situations: a woman alone, worrying. In fact, a lot of worrying took place in those first sentences. The women faced threats of unknown origin and specificity and, presumably, would confront their demons in the pages ahead.

- The Goldfinch: A woman alone in her hotel room dreams of her dead mother. There are fearful sounds outside her hotel room. She is afraid.
- The Husband’s Secret: A woman alone at her kitchen table stares at a sealed envelope, addressed in a familiar hand. And then there’s the elephant in the room, the Berlin Wall.
- The Orphan Train: A young woman alone in her bedroom eavesdrops on her foster parents who discuss their worries and their suspicions about their foster child.
- The Girls of August: A woman will meet a group of friends after a long hiatus. She worries about the upcoming event and worries about worrying.
- All Fall Down: A woman reads about alcohol abuse and wonders if her own addiction is worse than she admits and could wreak havoc on her family and young daughter.

All five authors exposed the reader to the narrator’s inner thoughts and feelings, their “sixth sense” for lack of a better term. The Goldfinch was the best example: with “innocent” noises outside the door, the reader looks for threatening noises nearby, a bell “tolling” the hour with “a dark edge to the clangor”. I was surprised to find little discussion of the other five senses in the early passages.

Though not snared by the first sentence, after I’d read 150 words or so, I committed to read at least one of the books. Why? And, why would so many other readers invest in these stories?

The answer, I believe, is the presence of strong emotions, the sixth sense, in a tension-packed situation, the details of which are reserved for the later pages.

Will this finding change my writing?

The answer, of course, is maybe. I write my way. I write what I like to read and I hope that it has broad enough appeal to be enjoyed by others, many others–New York Times bestseller list or not. But I will seek more opportunities for my protagonists to express their fears and hopes in my own first pages.

Now, excuse me, I need to sit at my kitchen table, take something else apart, and worry.
Mercer University Press recently announced the winners of their 2014 Annual Book Awards. AWC member Mary Anna Bryan has been awarded the 2014 Ferrol Sams Award for Fiction for her submission entitled Cardinal Hill. The award comes with a book contract for publication in Spring 2016.

Judge's comment: "The writer of this novel displays a talent for description, dialogue, and interesting plot twists. Margaret [the main character] is no saint, but her stubborn determination to uncover the truth about her family history, turns Cardinal Hill into an interesting story of discovery. Margaret is smart and imaginative, with a wry sense of humor that holds our interest. Cardinal Hill is a novel that speaks authentically to a specific time and place in the South."

Congratulations Mary Anna!

AWC Member Angela Durden announces the release of her memoir, Twinkle.

One, lone double agent in the unrelenting cold war that was her family. Analyzing strengths and eccentricities of the enemy while offering herself to evil to save a weak mother and younger siblings. Twinkle is the exceptional telling of an all too common story. This book is about one girl’s unrelenting pursuit of survival, her self-sacrifice, and the need to feel God’s love.

Pulitzer-nominated author and AWC member Jedwin Smith says, “Twinkle offers a fresh perspective on the evergreen subject of childhood abuse...be warned that these are far from being “Happy Days” depictions. From the first moment I met Angela, I knew we were fellow travelers on the same white-knuckled road toward redemption.”

Angela K. Durden is a longtime member of the Atlanta Writers Club. She is the author of several books in the business and children’s categories. www.angeladurden.com [The book is available at www.Amazon.com] Angela currently is shopping one standalone crime novel (Whitfield, Nebraska), one crime novel series under development (The Case Files of Smith and Jones), and one novel series whose theme is the war between the sexes (The Dance Floor Wars).
AWC Author Spotlight

AWC member **Kerry Alan Denney** aka The Reality Bender, announces his February 3, 2015 publication of his post-apocalyptic sci-fi/horror thriller JAGANNATH, and the JAGANNATH 2015 Book Blog Tour Extravaganza!

Here’s the link to the YouTube promo video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS6TmQN-tD4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS6TmQN-tD4&feature=youtu.be)

The monster from your nightmares is HERE! It’s destroying civilization. Soon the human race will be extinct.

The year is 2037, and Corporal Kimi Jayden has one chance to rescue the lone refugee girl who is miraculously immune to Reaper absorption. Thirteen-year-old Lily walks the deserted streets of Savannah alone, ever since the Reaper absorbed her family—and tried and failed to absorb her—a year ago. An amorphous creature that has nearly wiped out civilization, growing as it feeds, the Reaper assimilates its prey’s intelligence when it consumes flesh and blood. Growing smarter with each human it absorbs, the Reaper transforms into monsters created from our darkest nightmares—and it loves tormenting its victims.

Kimi and her fellow survivors in the North Georgia Renegade Enclave believe Lily’s DNA holds the key to mankind’s survival. But the Reaper covets and abducts Lily, and Kimi must battle a ghastly horde of Reaper incarnations to preserve humanity’s last hope against extinction.

**JAGANNATH** reveals the resilience and determination of the human spirit in an action-filled tale of terror, selfless courage, and ultimate triumph and redemption.
AWC Author Spotlight

AWC Member Monica Halka announces the release of her new novel, *Transient Luminous Events*

When an intelligent young deaf man turns to burglary as an income supplement, his innate honesty entangles him in a series of seemingly unrelated events. But science tells us that all things are connected—his theft of an herb that could be an asthmatic child’s medicine, the sister’s anger, policemen at the door, buried treasure…and the weather. *Transient Luminous Events* is charged with real electrical current: Lightning storms mark important turning points in the novel, but also allude to the random, unpredictable nature of decisions and outcomes. How will the thief evade the law? In what universe will the child recover his health? Who can be trusted, who ignored?

Throughout the book, an atmosphere of magical realism endowed by quantum physics concepts—multiverses, in particular (the possibility of multiple pasts and futures branching into and out of any event)—place the reader in doubt about his or her own world. It will appeal to readers who liked “A Tale for the Time Being,” “The Ocean at the End of the Lane,” or “The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake.”

The author is a PhD physicist, who has published a series of non-fiction books on the Periodic Table of the Elements, but her interests in deaf culture, optical illusions, and quantum mechanics (particularly Everett’s Many Worlds Theory) have driven this first novel.

“You would expect, perhaps, a physicist to write a book like this—a fine-tuned Schubert sonata, ticking away like clockwork, all it needs to be, with nothing in excess, a chamber piece of quiet and insistent beauty.”

-Paul Verhaeghen, author of Omega Minor.
Springmingle '15 -- Writers' and Illustrators' Conference Registration is Now Open

Please help spread the word about this wonderful writers' and illustrators' conference to writers in your group who might be interested (a flyer is attached for your convenience).

Springmingle '15 will take place on March 13-15, 2015 in Decatur, GA, in its brand new Decatur Library venue, where attendees can enjoy the sites, shops, and restaurants of Decatur throughout the conference weekend. We have a fantastic line up this year for writers and illustrators of all levels. Every session, every speaker, every moment is designed to help writers and illustrators improve their work. Meet editors and agents from industry-leading agencies and publishing houses—and the friendliest, most supportive colleagues one could ever hope to find.

This year's conference faculty includes: Giuseppe Castellano, Art Director at Penguin Young Readers Group; Karen Grencik, Literary Agent/Co-Founder of Red Fox Literary, LLC.; Elise Howard, Editor, Algonquin Young Readers; Bill Mayer, Award-winning Illustrator; Meg Medina, Award-winning Author; and Neal Porter, Publisher, Neal Porter Books, imprint of Macmillan Children’s Book Group.

Attendees will find nearly a dozen workshop sessions, including:

101+ Reasons for Rejection: Literary agent Karen Grencik covers the most common reasons a manuscript gets rejected, and how writers can avoid that fate.

Writing La Vida Loca: Young adult author Meg Medina discusses cultural identity and writing fiction for young readers at a time when diverse children’s literature is critically needed.

Traditional Picture Books in a Digital Age: Publisher Neal Porter gives an in depth look at visual storytelling and learn how character development, story structure, and the almighty page turn still matter in a time of ever-decreasing attention spans.

Visit our website for a complete listing of workshops: https://southern-breeze.scbwi.org/events/springmingle-15/.
This conference offers a variety of sessions about the essentials of writing and illustrating for young readers. Learn the basics, or study advanced topics including how to sell and market your work.

Add more value to your Springmingle experience with these one-day optional sessions on Friday, March 13:

**The Writer’s Intensive with Author Meg Medina: Mining for Stories.** Join Meg Medina as she leads you through exercises to access your memories and find your authentic voice, story lines, and characters. Register for just this one-day program, or combine with Springmingle for a full weekend of learning and networking. Cost: $75.

**Illustrators’ Day.** Attendees will gain a deeper insight into the day-to-day inner workings of a children’s book art department. Neal Porter will share tales and tips on how to make an illustrator's work appealing and visible to gatekeepers of the daunting, and often infuriating world of children's book publishing. Guiseppe Castllano will discuss what his art department looks for in illustrators and what methods he uses to find them. The segment will also cover best practices in being a freelance illustrator. Cost: $75.

**Manuscript or portfolio critiques.** Register for formal critiques by February 8. Cost: $45. Free, informal peer critiques will also be available at the conference.

Advance registration is required and spaces are limited. Membership to SCBWI is not required. Early bird tuition is $195 for SCBWI members, $235 for non-members, or $215 for students. After March 9, registration is $275. For those from outside the Decatur area, a limited number of discounted hotel rooms are available at the Courtyard Atlanta Decatur Downtown/Emory, [http://bit.ly/1vXolHL](http://bit.ly/1vXolHL).

Not a member of SCBWI? Join for just $85. 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 the largest organization for writers and illustrators of children’s books, with 22,000 members worldwide.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. You can also find additional details at [https://southern-breeze.scbwi.org/events/springmingle-15/](https://southern-breeze.scbwi.org/events/springmingle-15/)
**WORD OF SOUTH**: A festival of literature and music featuring a unique blend of writers and musicians with authors who write about music, musicians who are also authors, authors and musicians appearing together, and everything in between. Confirmed musician/artists include Ann Patchett, the gospel group Sweet Honey in the Rock, a joint appearance of the writer Mary Gaitskill with the musician Peg Simone, plus many more writers and musicians.

**CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**: authors and musicians who appeal specifically to children ages 2 to 18 (and above!) The festival takes place in Tallahassee’s award-winning Cascades Park, which opened in 2014, on four different stages.

DATE:  Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12, 2015

TIME:   8:00am - 6:00pm

PLACE:  Cascades Park Tallahassee, FL

The Word of South Vendor committee invites you to participate in Tallahassee’s inaugural event celebrating literature and music on April 11th & 12th, 2015. This event promises excitement and interest to all who love books and music. Events will be held in the award-winning Cascades Park, which opened in 2014, on four different stages, rain or shine. Extensive marketing efforts have already begun and a preliminary list of guest authors and musicians that have committed to appear can be viewed on our website. Updates to the schedule are made regularly.

Please consider reserving a vendor booth as soon as possible. Complete the EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT on our website [http://www.wordofsouthfestival.com/](http://www.wordofsouthfestival.com/) and submit for approval. Thanks for joining us down South!
“I’m updating The Wizard of Oz. In this version, the Scarecrow gets a smart phone, the Lion finds courage in a bottle before going into rehab, and the Tin Man is recycled into a hybrid car with a heart for the environment.”
Procedure for Joining AWC Critique Groups:

1. All requests from AWC members to join a critique group are to be forwarded to ron@hraiken.com. Ron Aiken currently serves as the Critique Group Coordinator for the AWC.

2. Members should include in their request:
   a. Their location
   b. Availability
   c. Genre
   d. Writing sample (first chapter, short story, poetry)

3. Based upon information provided by members in their email request and available openings, the Coordinator will attempt to place members. Coordinator will periodically poll critique groups for status updates.

4. Coordinator will forward member’s information to appropriate critique group leader. Genre is taken into account, but members generally will be placed first come-first served.

5. Coordinator will compile and maintain member “wait list.”

6. Coordinator will attempt to form new critique groups from the wait list.

We depend 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: jennifer.wiggins1@aol.com.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
<th>Meeting Time/Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble on North Point Parkway in Alpharetta on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m</td>
<td>Buzz Bernard <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 <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 <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 <a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher <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 rickyl <a href="mailto:Jacobs@mac.com">Jacobs@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 rickyl <a href="mailto:Jacobs@mac.com">Jacobs@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 ronhraiken.com</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 <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 Dolcinasco 770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</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 (678) 226-1483 <a href="mailto:jmayaya@charter.net">jmayaya@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 <a href="mailto:kschmanski@aol.com">kschmanski@aol.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 <a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncey-Highlands</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel's Tavern email John for time</td>
<td>John Whittemore <a href="mailto:thegridbook@gmail.com">thegridbook@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Starting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>4th Saturday of month</td>
<td>Joe Ansley <a href="mailto:josephdansley@gmail.com">josephdansley@gmail.com</a> 770-827-1255</td>
<td>New</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 (770) 552-5887 <a href="mailto:giweinstein@yahoo.com">giweinstein@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 <a href="mailto:jemille@bellsouth.net">jemille@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
<td>Lynn Wesch <a href="mailto:jwesch@me.com">jwesch@me.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.
Membership Form

- New Membership [Individual] [Family]
- Renewal [Individual] [Family]

*If this is a Renewal, please update your information*

- First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________
- Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________
- Email: ___________________________ Alternate Email: ___________________________

Your Website (if you want it listed on the AWC website): ___________________________
Your Linked In Profile (if you want AWC to link to you): ___________________________

- First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________
- Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________
- Email: ___________________________ Alternate Email: ___________________________

Your Website (if you want it listed on the AWC website): ___________________________
Your Linked In Profile (if you want AWC to link to you): ___________________________

*For additional family members, please use additional forms*

I would like to become involved with the AWC as: □ Meeting Volunteer □ Conference Volunteer □ Decatur Book Festival Volunteer □ Other (please specify): ___________________________

AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Individual [40.00]: $________
- Family [add family members for $20.00 each]: $________
- Student [30.00]: $________

Membership is for ONE YEAR

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

Tax Deductible Donation: $________
Total: $________

Mail check and form to: Atlanta Writers Club • 7742 Spalding Drive, No. 420 • Norcross, GA 30092

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Name: ___________________________ donated $________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

Date: ___________________________

No goods or services were provided in exchange for or in association with this donation.

*Please keep this portion of the form as you receipt*