February 21st meeting, 1:30
Georgia Perimeter College
2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338
Bldg. NC, Room 110 Auditorium

Member Minute - Kerry Denney
1st Speaker - Tony Grooms
2nd Speaker - Claire Cook
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.

**Events This Month**

7th        Kerry Denney book launch  
10th       A Night of Romance & Chocolate Tasting  
14th       Grant Writing Contest deadline  
16th       Nicki Salcedo workshop  
16-19th    Alliance, Meet the Writers Week  
17th       Roswell Noonday Nosh Book Club  
21st       AWC monthly meeting

**New Books**

*French Toast*—Evans  
*Tony the Kneebreaker*—Gruber  
*The Devil's Due*—Freeman  
*JAGANNATH*—Denney

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 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

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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383  
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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February 21st

Kerry Denney

Tony Grooms

Claire Cook
Silent Voices – February 2015
By Valerie Joan Connors, AWC President

If I’m counting correctly, this is my 21st eQuill article since becoming the AWC President in May of 2013. Sometimes I wait too long to get started on the piece, and find myself approaching my deadline in a panic without a topic to discuss! This is one of those times. So, I decided to just start writing and see what happens. After all, getting started is really the hardest part, isn’t it?

February naturally brings to mind Valentine’s Day, which now that I’m older, I think of as something Hallmark dreamed up in order to force people to buy cards for their significant other. But February is known for lots of other things too. For example, Irish novelist and poet James Joyce was born in February, as were Charles Dickens, Sinclair Lewis, and American artist and illustrator, Norman Rockwell. February 14th is also remembered for the St. Valentine’s Day massacre in Chicago in 1929, when seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al “Scarface” Capone’s mobsters posing as policemen. Bugs Moran himself was running late, and lucky for him. Not the nicest Valentine’s Day memory, I’ll grant you that. And in 1991, “Silence of the Lambs” was released on Valentine’s Day. I think there’s a parallel in there somewhere, but it’s vague and more than a little disturbing, so I’m going to just let it go.

I’ll consider February a complete success, if I don’t have to drive to work on ice and snow, or sit in traffic for seven hours while all of Atlanta tries to go home at the same time. My favorite thing about February is that it’s followed immediately by March, which means winter is over. In theory, that is.

Spring will bring many wonderful things, like literary festivals and dogwood blooms. We’ll have sunshine and some warm days, before the Georgia humidity kicks in. I want to call your attention to one very special spring event that will take place on April 4th. Last month I promised I’d give you the details as soon as the venue was nailed down and it has been, so I will.

On Saturday, April 4th from 1:00 to 4:00, we’ll hold a workshop at the Dunwoody Library, led by special guest and memoirist, Jessica Handler. The workshop is called Looking Back, Moving Forward. Jessica is a wonderful teacher, and this promises to be a great workshop!

Important Note: The Dunwoody Library does not allow us to sell books on their premises. So if you don’t have Jessica’s books, and want your very own, signed copies, be sure to pick them up in advance. She can sign them for you at the workshop, but we can’t sell them to you there.


Now see how that happened? I just started putting down words, one after the other, and before you know it there are more than five hundred of them all lined up in rows. Don’t let anything stand between you and your words. Get them down on paper, and watch them multiply. Eventually you’ll have a whole manuscript, and who knows, maybe a whole series, then a memoir to chronicle your literary successes! But just like with the lottery, you can’t win if you don’t play.

Hope to see you on the 21st at our monthly meeting. Happy writing!

Warm Regards,
Val
Member Minute – Kerry Denney

**Topic:** Reaching and Engaging Your Target Audience -- and Selling More Books

**Bio:** Colleagues and readers alike have dubbed Kerry Alan Denney The Reality Bender. The multiple award-winning author of the post-apocalyptic sci-fi/horror thriller JAGANNATH (Permuted Press February 3, 2015 - e-book ISBN 978-1618684134, trade paperback ISBN 978-1618684127) and the paranormal thriller SOULSNATCHER (Lazy Day Publishing April 29, 2014 - ISBN 978-1499251777) as well as six more novels and numerous short stories, Kerry blends elements of the supernatural, paranormal, sci-fi, fantasy, and horror in his work: speculative fiction at its wildest and craziest. 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.

1st Speaker – Tony Grooms

**Topic:** Researching for Fiction Writing

**Bio:** Anthony Grooms grew up in rural Virginia. His education at the College of William and Mary and George Mason University led him to a teaching career in Georgia, where since 1995, he has taught creative writing and literature at Kennesaw State University. He is the author of Ice Poems, Trouble No More: Stories and Bombingham, a novel. His stories and poems have been published in Callaloo, African American Review, Crab Orchard Review, and other literary journals and anthologies. Writing in MELUS, a critical journal of multi-ethnic literature, Professor Diptiranjan Pattanaik said that Trouble No More demonstrates “the insider’s profound knowledge of the history and struggles of African Americans, while consistently managing to circumscribe a breadth of understanding with a tender story-telling art.” Reviewing Bombingham for the Washington Post, critic Jabari Asim wrote, "In its insistence that 'the world is a tumultuous place and every soul in it suffers,' this powerful, resonant novel offers no consolations. Grooms offers consolation, however, in allowing us to be present at the emergence of a brave and promising talent.”

Grooms is a Fulbright Fellow, a Hurston-Wright Foundation Legacy Award finalist, an Arts Administration Fellow from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the recipient of two Lillian Smith Awards from the Southern Regional Council. Both Trouble No More and Bombingham were selected as All Georgia Reads books. Adopted for study in colleges, Bombingham was the 2013 common book selection for Washington, D.C. Currently, Grooms is finishing a novel about Black Americans in Sweden.

2nd Speaker – Claire Cook

**CLAIRE COOK** wrote her first novel in her minivan at 45. At 50, she walked the red carpet at the Hollywood premiere of the movie adaptation of Must Love Dogs, starring Diane Lane and John Cusack. She is now the USA Today bestselling author of 13 books, both traditionally and self-published, and a sought after reinvention speaker.

Claire has reinvented herself once again by turning Must Love Dogs into a series, as well as writing her first nonfiction book, Never Too Late: Your Roadmap to Reinvention (without getting lost along the way), in which she shares everything she's learned on her own writing journey that might help you in yours.

Find out more about Claire and read excerpts of her books at www.ClaireCook.com.

**Her topic will be:** Reinventing Your Writing Career to Survive and Thrive in These Swiftly Changing Times.
Monthly Meetings

January Meeting Photos by Andre Santillana

1. Current and future board members welcome folks to the meeting
2. Julia McDermott talks about her “accidental submission.”
3. George Scott interviews guest speaker, Brad Taylor
4. Peter Bowerman teaches us how to be “Well Fed Writers!”
5. And books were sold in great numbers...
February
Member Minute - Kerry Denney
1st Speaker - Tony Grooms
2nd Speaker - Claire Cook

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

April 4th - Writing Workshop with Jessica Handler
This special event is free for AWC members.
Location is Dunwoody Library.

April
Member Minute - Valerie Connors, President
1st Speaker - Gregg Loomis
2nd Speaker - Zoe Schacham

May
Member Minute - Susan Crawford
1st Speaker - Jack McDevitt
2nd Speaker - Thomas Mullen
Contests

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 monetary 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: 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 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, 90lines)
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.
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]
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 editors and agents 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 editors or agents 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 designed a conference for you:

On Friday May 8 and Saturday, May 9, 2015, the Atlanta Writers Club will present its twelfth 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 guests 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 will have four editors and six agents in attendance: on Friday, May 8, we’ll feature an Editors Q&A Panel to give you their viewpoints and on Saturday the 9th we will have an Agents Q&A Panel to focus on their experiences and advice. In addition, you can 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, May 8 from attorney and literary agent Paul Levine, who will present “Contracts 101 and Legal Issues for Authors” with examples and extensive Q&A. This workshop is for writers at all levels, from those just starting out to authors with books who want to better understand publishing contracts, copyrights, and liabilities. Paul Levine also is one of the agents participating in the manuscript critiques, pitches, and Q&A panel.

With the Editors Q&A panel, Query Letter Critique, and the two-hour Workshop, it’s definitely worth taking a half-day off on Friday, May 8 so you can experience all of these educational and developmental opportunities!

On Saturday, May 9, while the morning critiques are held, award-winning author SR Johannes will give two 75-minute presentations, and that afternoon while the pitch sessions are held, bestseller Catherine McCall will do two 75-minute presentations. Paul’s 45-minute talks on Friday and the 75-minute presentations on Saturday are free to those who register for any of the paid 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 providers Marie Marquardt and Rebecca Albertalli each were awarded a certificate and you can see how it helped to change their lives!
Those who have succeeded as a result of the conference aren’t the only ones who are grateful for the experience. Conference guest Heather Alexander, Associate Editor for Dial Books, raved, “The Atlanta Writers Conference is a great place for writers to meet editors and agents, and learn some of the ins and outs of the publishing industry. What a great networking and learning opportunity!”

**The editors and agents participating in the May 8-9, 2015 Atlanta Writers Conference are:**

Emily Murdock Baker, Penguin Books [NOTE - This editor had to withdraw due to schedule conflict; a replacement now is being sought]

Rachel Ekstrom, Irene Goodman Literary Agency

Stephanie Fretwell-Hill, Peachtree Publishers

Paul Levine, Paul S. Levine Literary Agency

Jody Kahn, Brandt & Hochman Literary Agents

April Osborn, St. Martin’s Press

Michelle Richter, Fuse Literary

Quressa Robinson, Thomas Dunne Books

Andy Ross, Andy Ross Literary Agency

Bridget Smith, Dunham Literary Inc.

**Complete details about the Conference are on our Atlanta Writers Conference website:** [http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/](http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/)

**If you still have any questions after reviewing the Conference website,** please contact Atlanta Writers Conference Director George Weinstein at awconference@gmail.com.
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.

About Jessica Handler:
Jessica Handler is the oldest of three sisters. By the time she was 32 years old, she was the only one living. Her sister Susie died of leukemia when she was eight and Jessica was ten. Their sister Sarah died of a rare blood disorder called Kostmann’s Syndrome, effectively the opposite of leukemia, when she was 27 and Jessica was 32. Their father was a Civil Rights attorney in Atlanta in the 1960s, and one of the questions each family member lived with was how to help others when they couldn’t save their own family.

This story was the basis of Jessica’s memoir, Invisible Sisters. Named the “Best Memoir of 2009” by Atlanta Magazine and “one of eight great southern books” by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Invisible Sisters is now listed as one of the “25 Books All Georgians Should Read” by the Georgia Center for the Book.

When touring to promote Invisible Sisters, Jessica met readers who told her about who and what they grieved. They told her how they had started writing about their losses and how writing had helped them come to terms with the people they had become. Jessica wrote her next book, Braving the Fire, after she started teaching workshops about the challenges and rewards in writing about grief and loss. For Braving the Fire, Jessica contributed her own experience of writing a memoir, but went beyond to interview other memoirists about writing about grief and loss. She also talked with journalists about ethics, and with doctors and health practitioners about self-care when grieving.

Jessica earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Queens University of Charlotte (N.C.) and a B.S. in communication from Emerson College in Boston. Her essays and features have appeared on NPR, in Tin House, Drunken Boat, Full Grown People, Brevity, Newsweek, The Washington Post, and More Magazine.

Honors for Jessica’s writing include residencies at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Sciences, a 2010 Emerging Writer Fellowship from The Writers Center in Bethesda, Maryland, the 2009 Peter Taylor Nonfiction Fellowship at the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, and special mention for a 2008 Pushcart Prize.

Jessica lives in Atlanta, but frequently travels to teach workshops and give readings. She is tech-savvy—tweeting @jessicahandler and ready to Skype with book groups, bloggers and journalists. Learn more at JessicaHandler.com.

Join author Nicki Salcedo at the Center for Love and Light for a creative writing workshop called “Chapter One: Creative Writing.” The cost of this class is $10 and can be paid at the door.

To register in advance by go here:
February Chapter One: Creative Writing with Nicki Salcedo
Monday February 16 from 6-8pm
March Chapter One: Creative Writing with Nicki Salcedo
Monday March 16 from 6-8pm

Writers of all levels welcome!
Writing can help you achieve your personal and professional goals. Writing can be healing. Whether you want to write a novel or start a blog, writing allows you to find your voice and tell your story. If you have a work in progress or if you have never written one word, join Nicki for this two hour long session where you will learn how to start chapter one of your new writing life.

- Decide what to write
- Determine your audience
- Set short term and long term writing goals
- Get started with writing exercises

Nicki Salcedo is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in English and Creative Writing. She was born in Jamaica and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a two-time recipient of the Maggie Award of Excellence and a Golden Heart Finalist. Her debut novel is ALL BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

She lives in Atlanta with her four children, husband, and a cat. Nicki also writes a weekly column called Intersections on www.Decaturish.com. She thinks everyone should write and loves connecting with readers.

For more information go to: www.nickisalcedo.com To contact Nicki please email her at: authornickisalcedo@gmail.com

Love & Light
1145 Zonolite Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
Workshops

Tinderbox Writers Workshop's Winter Series is about to get underway and seats are filling up fast! First session starts Jan 28th, 11 - 1pm. Want to shake off the winter blah and get creative? Follow the link below for ALL THE GOOD STUFF. Hope you'll join us!

http://www.tinderboxwritersworkshop.com/

“I founded TINDERBOX WRITERS WORKSHOP out of my own experiences, to teach not only writing as a craft (although I believe story is where I’ve found my truest artistic voice and is a major part of how I teach), but to help others discover the most powerful tools I know for fostering well-being, discovering your voice, bringing healing and inspiring true joy by nurturing your creative self!

Tinderbox is a declaration, a prayer, an intention and a guide to inspire others to connect through their stories and learn to live from their Creative Core.

to live from their Tinderbox, the divine spark to create!

Join me. Join us.
Because we all have a journey to take, a truth to speak and a story to tell!”

~Kimberly

testimonials

"Great teachers use their talents and heart to help students hone and develop their craft, and Kimberly Brock is all about sharing her gifts and grace. Time with her is uplifting and rewarding -- as she truly believes in other writers, and champions them to success. It is a pleasure to read her staggeringly good stories, but the real treat is getting to hear her speak and lead from the heart."
~ Paige Crutcher, Southern Correspondent for Publishers Weekly

"Here's the thing about Kimberly Brock, she understands language, expression, the art of stringing together words and sentences that not only pull in the reader, but keep them there. And she does this with a very southern, warm, lovely and welcoming vibe. I admire not only her contagious wit and sense of humor but also the thoughtful craft of her writing, which is lyrically beautiful."
~ Cynthia Lott, author of THE FEATHERS (River Run Bookstore, Inc. August 2014)

"When you first meet Kimberly, you are struck by how approachable she is. Many authors keep you at a distance, lock their secrets close up tight, afraid to share what they have learned with anyone. Kimberly has a nurturing heart and an encouraging spirit. I promise you will connect with her in a way that will leave you energized and inspired. Her workshops should be required for anyone considering a writing career."
~ Renea Winchester, author FARMING FRIENDS & FRIED BOLOGNA SANDWICHES (Mercer University Press, September, 2014)

"Kimberly Brock has a gentle nature that is not only evident in her writing but in her way with people. She is gracious and friendly and has always been a tremendous supporter of all writers. Her insight and friendship have been instrumental in the success of writing."
~ Pam Mantovani, author of COWBOY ON HER DOORSTEP (Belle Books, July 2014)

"Kimberly Brock has a powerful writing voice that not only rocks the South, but fiction in general. Her ability to listen to writers and respond with helpful answers is a sought after trait."
~ Ann Hite, author of the award winning GHOST ON BLACK MOUNTAIN (Gallery Books, September 2011)

"I could recommend Kimberly Brock based on the success of The River Witch and a sparkling Georgia Author of the Year Award. I recommend attending a workshop or doing a one-on-one consult with her for
Workshops

Tinderbox Winter Series Workshop

reasons that go beyond grammar, punctuation and story line. Kimberly is capable of critique and coaching. She is a skilled instructor and listener. Best of all, she is genuinely invested in helping others create success."

~ Alyse Urice, founder of LITERACY & HOPE

"Sometimes you don't know what you don't know until Kim Brock tells you."

~ Nicki Salcedo, author of ALL BEAUTIFUL THINGS (Bell Bridge Books, January 2014)

"Kimberly Brock's got a magic in her that she generously sprinkles like fairy dust upon any writer who needs astute, loving guidance from a kindred spirit. In her presence you'll remember you've had it in you all along to do this thing—to write this book, to spill your heart on the page. Since we can't carry her petite, dynamo self in our laptop cases to keep us company while we're writing at Starbucks, the next best thing is to attend one of her workshops. You'll come away with bounteous new skills and a revitalized, focused creative vision."

~ Kieran Kramer, author of SWEET TALK ME (St. Martin's Paperbacks, March 2014) and YOU'RE SO FINE (St. Martin's Paperbacks, December 2014)

"The first time I met Kimberly at a book event, we hit it off, both as friends, and as writers sharing our experiences and goals. I would recommend her conferences without hesitation to anyone moving forward in their writing journey!"

~ Susan Sands, freelance writer and author of the blog, SWEET HOME ALPHARETTA

"Kimberly Brock gets the elusive art of story crafting. And she doesn't hide it from others. Quite the opposite. She generously shares her gifts of character depth, story threading, arcs and dark moments. She knows how to create stories that cause readers to lose themselves and abandon everyday responsibilities. I'm a better writer for having read Kim's work, a better author for studying it."

~ Christy K. Truitt, award winning author of JUSTICE FOR ALL (Dunham Books, September 2013) and author of the popular blog, THE WRITE PURPOSE

"Dynamic and personable, award-winning author Kimberly Brock has the ability to enthrall an audience of two or two hundred through the use of self-deprecating humor and applicable advice. I have had the pleasure of watching her speak at an author panel and also around a restaurant table, and she captivated me during both instances. You won't be disappointed!"

~ Jolina Petersheim, bestselling and award-winning author of THE MIDWIFE (Tyndale House Publishing, May 2014) and THE OUTCAST (Tyndale House Publishing, June 2013)

"Anyone who can write characters with such complexity and depth, evoke land so lush you can smell it, and architect a novel world you'll want to live in, is worth listening to and learning from on the art and craft of writing. Kimberly Brock is one such person: a talented artist and engaging teacher, Kimberly is a writer to watch and enjoy."

~ Tomi L. Wiley, poetry & short fiction editor at SWEATPANTS & COFFEE, author at www.tomilwiley.com
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.

Upcoming Book Launch Events:

Facebook Online JAGANNATH Book Launch Party Saturday February 7 from 3 to 6 p.m. EST with lots of e-book and Amazon Gift Card giveaway contests. For details on how to join the fun, go to Kerry’s Facebook fan page at
Articles

Coming Soon to a Theater (or Screen) Near You!

By Rona Simmons

With my new novel due out in March, I vowed to try unchartered promotional waters—experimenting with new or at least new to me, channels. One of these was a book trailer. And now, I’m happy to share my experience with those who might be considering the same. Below are the "who, what, where, when, and how", plus a handful of other suggestions. So, don your beret and take a seat in the director's chair.

What is a trailer?

But, wait a minute. I read just yesterday that unless you’re an author you’ve likely never watched one. An unnerving thought. Is the trailer trap just another author selling to author venue? Perhaps.

For those who don’t know, a book trailer is a short video about a book. It’s similar to a movie trailer, but not something you view after seeing the movie or reading the book. Though you could. It’s designed to attract interest and promote a book or movie.

Trailers have been around for awhile and are improving in sophistication and imagination each year.

Example: Follow this link for an innovative approach using animation. After playing the video, go ahead, admit it, you’re interested and you’ve never heard of the author or the book. Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki by Haruki Murakami. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPQnYYvnBZA

As in the above example, trailers can be animated or live action videos, taped interviews or author readings, scrolling text or slide shows, or combinations of the above.

Why create a trailer?

Because it’s fun. It had better be as the verdict is out on whether trailers sell books. But, purportedly, they add buzz to your campaign and if done well might drive interest in your title. The inverse is true too—done poorly they can backfire.

What’s involved?

With at least a decent knowledge of computers and an above average sense of design, creating a trailer can be relatively easy. With the right software, it takes only minutes. Of course, they claim you can write a book in a month with NANOWRIMO. Or maybe not.

While a professionally made trailer might cost thousands, you might hire a student versed in videos for next to nothing, or as I did, do it yourself. Here are my suggestions if you go the DIY route.

1) Watch a lot of trailers. Let me repeat, watch a lot of trailers. You’ll be inspired and better able to design your own trailer.

2) Avoid just putting your back cover copy to music. Create a storyboard for your video, something as simple as a handwritten list of scenes. Approach your story from a different angle altogether, but in keeping with the book.

   Example: Chuck Wendig, a hilarious and irreverent author I’ve followed online, created a wickedly interesting teaser for Blackbirds and Mockingbird using only text and a voice-over. Viewable at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcR1B-48lK4

3) Find the right software. Though video creation software can be pricy, several programs are free, and one or two might have come preloaded on your computer. You are likely to use these along with PowerPoint and Photoshop or Lightroom. Check out Microsoft Movie Maker, Animoto, Photoshow, or Prezi, to name a few.

4) Experiment with "free" programs before deciding to ratchet up to programs with more capabilities. As in photography—in the right hands, a old Brownie can take as good a shot as an expensive, state-of-the-art, digital camera.

   Example: You can stick to testimonials. See the simple video for Stieg Larsson’s The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJ_D0MOF6Dw

Coming Soon to a Theater (or Screen) Near You!
5) Read tips on creating trailers.
   Keep it short. Under two minutes. Think TV ads, most of which run for 30 seconds.
   Keep it simple. Don't include subplots or plot twists
   Use panning an zooming and flipping and fading and spinning and ... in moderation
   Make the first few seconds count. Remember agonizing over the opening sentences of your book?
   Present the title and your name early. Today's viewers have short attention spans
   Consider pacing. Vary the time each scene is presented and the speed of transition between scenes
   Choose graphics and font consistent with your book's genre and "look and feel"
   Use your own photos and videos or those in the public domain and royalty free
   End with your cover, a call-to-action, or a link to your website or where to buy the book

6) Get a second (and third) opinion
   It's easy to be mesmerized by that shiny new object. My sister, an artist and award winning video creator,
   described my first draft as amateurish and cheesy. Thank god for a writer's thick skin!

   **What to do with your trailer?**

   Now you're ready to launch your video. And, I fear, much like launching your book, there's a lot involved.
   At a minimum, as I'm still charting these waters, here are a few suggestions as to where to put your video.
   - On your website, a must, but don't expect to see a lot of clicks
   - On YouTube (via your own, free channel) and vimeo
   - On all your social media: LinkedIn, Google+, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc. etc
   - On your PC or tablet or phone. Play it on a loop at book fairs and signings. Play it over and over again
     on a crowded train or bus—okay, just checking to see if you're still with me!
   - Include a link in your author newsletter
   - Email it to friends and family and everyone on your email list
   - Blog about it
   - Add a link to it in your email signature
   - Post it on your Amazon and Goodreads author pages
   - Submit it to literary sites
   - Write an article about it. (Check!)

   **So you think you're done?**

   Well, almost. There's one more thing you should do. What's that? Watch my trailer, of course! Check it
   out here:
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQBxj_gdb7w.
   Tell me what you think and send me a link to yours when you're done.

   # # #

Rona Simmons is an AWC member and author of two novels published by Deeds Publishing, *The Quiet Room* and *Postcards from Wonderland* to be released in March 2015.

To find out more, email Rona at rona_simmons@bellsouth.net or visit any of the following sites:

- [www.ronasimmons.com](http://www.ronasimmons.com)
- twitter: @rona_simmons
- [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQBxj_gdb7w)
You need a nest.
That's the most important lesson I've learned this year about being a good writer, or a creative of any sort.

Up until this year, I thought I was an expert at nests. I am an introvert disguised as an extrovert and I want nothing so much as to curl up in a soft, safe place and reflect on the world around me and inside of me. I am an expert at settling and tucking and generally hunkering. I like this about myself. It is a sign of a content soul, in my opinion. And it has served me well. I was able to write a very nice little novel and see it published, face critics, build a platform and social media presence, arrange many appearances and speaking engagements, and remain relatively unscathed by the experience, all from my nest.

And then, I fell.

For me, I'd been one of the lucky ones who had somehow reached my forties with a sense of supreme security still intact, from which came a glorious nest that gave me the freedom to write without fear. Read that again. I had no fear. None. I mean, I had general fears like how something might happen to my children or I might become a widow before my time or my parents might die or I could get breast cancer or we could lose everything and have to move into a double-wide behind my parents' house. That sort of thing.

But those were distant possibilities. I wasn't really afraid in the present. I thought I'd already pulled through some pretty dodgy situations and I was sort of in the clear in my midlife. I'd fallen out of my first nest really early. I'd survived being born a preemie, the twin who lived. I'd survived alcoholism in my grandmother's family. I'd survived abusive relationships. I'd survived an extensive spinal fusion. I'd had plenty of experience compared to Suzie Q. I had lots of true grit. I brought all of that to the page with an assurance in my breast that I was safe, high up off the dangerous ground I'd already covered, up in the clear, fluffed and feathered and ready to sharpen another quill and set to work on my next tale.

What no one ever told me was that birds instinctively know how to build nests because they're going to need more than one to get through this life. People, too. Writers, especially.

Have you been there? Is it just me?

Do you know that place, that feeling that you can write about anything because you're happy to let your imagination take you there? Any journey is one you're willing to take, whether it's one of extreme joy or challenge or misery? You're willing and full of enthusiasm - not naivety. Naivety is sometimes what others will call this but it's really something else. It's your nest. You know that no matter how far you may fly, you can circle back. Nests, it turns out, are really a state of mind.

If you won't or can't take the journey that your writing demands, it's not because you're naïve. We write about all sorts of things we have no real experience with because we long to understand them, not because we are experts on the topic. No, if you won't take the journey, it's because you're nestless.

So, there I sat on the ground. My life had taken a devastating blow and when I peered up at the damage and I was no longer certain the little wad of sticks I'd stuck together would hold my weight. I was without shelter, without comfort, without a home. And without all of those things, it happened that I could no longer follow the stories where they needed to go. I sat on the ground a long time.
On the ground, you learn there are plenty of folks who are just as happy to be there and you might try it out for yourself for a while. You’ll stop writing. You’ll wonder why you ever did to begin with and maybe decide it was really all a lot of trouble for nothing. But eventually, I promise you, you’ll miss the better view. Writers are just like that.

I read something this week and I wish I’d save the source. It was a piece of narrative from a new novel. It caught my attention because the character compared herself to a baby bird that has been knocked from the nest. Ah-ha! She gets it, I thought! And she did. She went on to say how she was returned to her nest by some benevolent hand but the experience wasn’t what she expected. Back in the nest, she was the odd bird. The other birds knew she’d been out because she smelled wrong. The character believed she smelled wrong. She was suddenly uncertain of herself.

Being knocked out of your nest will make you an odd bird even if you can get yourself back home. You won’t be the same and neither will your nest. The truth is, you might smell wrong. Your nest may smell wrong. It may not even hold the weight of you anymore. As a young writer, I’d always believed being an odd bird, an eccentric or a loner, was a requirement for literary greatness. You had to be weird to have anything original to say. I guess that could be true to some extent, but as weird as I felt, I also felt muted by self-doubt.

Nests, like stories, it seems, are made of courage.

Building a nest takes time. It’s a little familiar, actually. Stick by stick, rather than bird by bird. A little piece of ribbon here, a twist tie for good measure, maybe a bit of fishing line. Eventually, this new nest I’m creating will hold me and all the stories that will dare me to follow from my safe perch. Soon, I’ll have a safe place to roost again, a high place with a good view of things, where I can ponder and question and start to take stock of myself and my surroundings with a clear perspective.

And then, I’ll write.

Have you found yourself without a writing nest? How did you overcome it?

Kimberly Brock is the award-winning author of the #1 Amazon bestseller, THE RIVER WITCH (Bell Bridge Books, 2012). A former actor and special needs educator, Kimberly is the recipient of the Georgia Author of the Year 2013 Award. A literary work reminiscent of celebrated southern author Carson McCullers, THE RIVER WITCH has been chosen by two national book clubs. Kimberly’s writing has appeared in anthologies, blogs and magazines, including Writer Unboxed and Psychology Today. Kimberly served as the Blog Network Coordinator for She Reads, a national online book club from 2012 to 2014, actively spearheading several women’s literacy efforts. She lectures and leads workshops on the inherent power in telling our stories and is founder of Tinderbox Writer’s Workshop. She is also owner of Kimberly Brock Pilates. She lives in the foothills of north Atlanta with her husband and three children, where she is at work on her next novel. Visit her website at kimberlybrockbooks.com for more information and to find her blog. You can also find her Author page on Facebook at Kimberly Brock, or tweet her @kimberlydbrock.

Kimberly loves to hear from her readers, so feel free to leave comments on her blog post at: http://writersinthestormblog.com/2015/01/on-writing-being-nestless/
B. W. Evans—*French Toast*

**B.W. Evans** is a man of determination and strength who has worn many hats, but one he has never taken off is that of a writer. As a writer he knows the importance of words—their meanings and the way they should elicit the correct emotions. As a salesman, also he knows the importance of precise and explicit communication.

B.W. Evans’ determination and strength of will is well known by his undying persistence, even when the universe gives doubt and resistance. His strength is fully demonstrated by his unyielding persistence to continue onward to achieve those wants and desires to find and achieve what he believes is right and worth the journey to prove all is possible.

In individual poems of free verse, FRENCH TOAST tells of the intimate story of a man coming to terms with his perception of the love he has felt and given. Is it real, or just a fantasy grown from a prayer and desire of a young man’s yearning? We the reader are drawn into the story, as well as becoming a willing companion with the main character on his journey of understanding and discovery.
AWC Author Spotlight

Ed Gruber—*Tony the Kneebreaker*

**FIRST NOVEL PUBLISHED FOR 86-YEAR OLD AWC MEMBER**
Fiction novella based on family experiences with the Mafia on New York’s Hudson River docks

Ed Gruber, Bronx-born author, now a Woodstock resident, had his first novel—*Tony The Kneebreaker*, recently brought to print by Deeds Publishing, a company familiar to many Atlanta Writers Club members.

“I’ve been writing novels for the past 10 years,” said the author, “and can paper a wall or two with literary agent rejects. But Bob Babcock, CEO at Deeds—who I met at an AWC meeting, read my story and in just over a month my book was published. It’s exciting for this senior citizen to be published for the first time, and I look forward to the next one, and the next one, and the next one. As Yogi Berra said, ‘It ain’t over till it’s over.’”

The novella, *Tony The Kneebreaker*, fictionalizes chilling incidents experienced by Gruber’s father and uncles operating a banana trucking company out of the New York/New Jersey Port of Authority in the fifties and sixties, where they had daily dealings with “The Boys.” Said one of his uncles, “We pay them to protect us against them.”

“The stories I heard at the dinner table and family get-togethers were bizarre, if not terrifying at times,” said Gruber, a former U.S. Navy Combat Correspondent and New York, Detroit, and Toronto advertising agency veteran. “Not to mention some of my own strange experiences with ‘The Boys’ in my teens, and later in the business world.

Publisher Babcock added, “Aside from the ‘thriller’ aspect of the story and the dangerous interactions between business owners and the Mafia, I was struck the way Ed captured the day-to-day jargon of New York Italians and Jews.”

*Tony The Kneebreaker* is available on Amazon.com, Barns and Noble, Apple iBook and Kindle. The Barns and Noble link is [http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/tony-the-kneebreaker-ed-gruber/1120666261?ean=2940150580527](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/tony-the-kneebreaker-ed-gruber/1120666261?ean=2940150580527). Ed can be reached at edgwriting@yahoo.com

*Tony the Kneebreaker*, an ex-pug, is one of “The Boys.” His unique and brutal talent? Changing the minds of business owners who miss or resist shakedown payments. Just a few taps with his scarred Louisville Slugger bat do the job. Tony is very good at what he does.
AWC Author Spotlight

Ed Gruber

When not knocking on doors and on people, he represents “The Boys” on the volatile Hudson River docks where they do much of their cold-blooded business. There, Tony is taken in by the Lowenstein brothers, owners of JIF Banana Trucking - for many years under The Boys’ “protection.”

“We pay them to protect us against them,” gripes one of the victimized brothers.

After twenty years of beating up on disgruntled customers and welchers, Tony finds God and conscience, and wants out. He swears to “never say nuthin.” But “The Boys” are reluctant – Tony has seen, done and knows too much.

For old times sake - and their own greedy good, they offer Tony a perverse plan which would assure his silence, but also put the Lowensteins at risk to be blackmailed into shady trucking activities.

Tony goes to the brothers. “You know The Boys good as anybody. You gotta help.” Along with Rosie, their smart, secretive and sensual secretary, they come up with their own plan.

But nothing goes right.

About the Author

Growing up on the streets of New York City, Ed Gruber became a U.S. Navy Journalist writing and producing radio programs and films for the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Command Public Information Office. As a Military Combat Correspondent, Ed served on board aircraft carriers, destroyers, a submarine, a sea rescue LST, and with Marine Corps infantrymen on combat night patrols during the Korean War.

After his distinguished military service, he had a long and prolific career serving world-class clients as a writer and creative director with international advertising agencies in New York, Detroit and Toronto. He also had successful stints as a freelance Business-to-Business and Business-to-Consumer writer and marketing consultant. Ed wrote newspaper, magazine, and outdoor ads, radio and television commercials, collateral materials, executive speeches, websites, and created motivational corporate films that he produced and often directed in Hollywood and Toronto studios. He is a widower, currently residing in Woodstock Georgia.
AWC Author Spotlight

Steven F. Freeman—The Devil’s Due

While on their honeymoon, cryptologist Alton Blackwell and FBI Agent Mallory Wilson receive a desperate plea for help. Resourceful Afghani teenager Mastana Meer, once instrumental in rescuing a mutual friend from Afghanistan terrorists, finds herself coerced into a nefarious plot by her Al-Qaeda uncle.

Having escaped the clutches of her terrorist uncle, the teen is days away from leaving Kabul for a better life when Alton and Mallory lose all contact with her.

As the former soldiers race to Afghanistan to search for Mastana, they battle Al-Qaeda terrorists, a resurgent cult of evil, and a web of political intrigue in which the label of friend and foe is not easily assigned. The duo must summon all their investigatory powers and combat skills to track down and rescue their young friend before her captors’ evil design can be set in motion.

The Devil's Due is available via Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00S713SLM) and through my website (paperbacks): www.SteveFreemanWriter.com.

Author Bio:

Thriller/mystery author Steve Freeman is a former member of the US Army's Signal Corps, a twenty-seven year employee of a large American technology company, and an avid traveler who has visited five continents. The novels of The Blackwell Files draw from his firsthand knowledge of military service, the tech industry, and the diverse cultures of our world.
Blot Lit Reviews Accepting Review Queries

Blot Lit Reviews, a division of Blotterature Literary Magazine, is accepting review queries to help promote small press publishers and their writers. Please follow the guidelines below to submit for a review.

What Blot Lit Reviews is Looking For:
- Novels, Chapbooks, Novellas, Anthologies, and Collections
- Must be published by a small press
- Published within the last 12 months
- Poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction

What Blot Lit Reviews is not looking for:
- Anything that is self-published
- Academic writing

How to get your book reviewed:
- upload a brief query letter
- include synopsis of work
- provide Blot Lit Reviews with one copy of book upon acceptance

Submitter will be notified of acceptance and further information will be provided.

More information on how to submit:
http://blotterature.com/submissions/blot-lit-review-submissions/
Learn how to write effective proposals and win thousands in grant funds!

2015 Grant Writing Essay Contest is designed to attract all individuals ages 18 and up to participate in a one day workshop which is designed for educators, church groups, nonprofit organizations and writers wanting to learn how to develop winning grant proposals. Dr. Bruce Sliger is a nationally recognized grant writer and trainer with more than 25 years of grant writing experience. He has helped to obtain millions of dollars in grant funds that are given away each year by federal agencies, foundations, corporations, state and local governments and wealthy individuals. He has received the “Excellence in Teaching Award” and is known nationwide as one of the best trainers in the United States. www.grantwriting.com

**Category:** Grant Writing Essay Contest

**Instructions** - Please type a 300 word essay on How Grant Writing Addresses and Benefits the Mission of Nonprofits, Religious Organizations and Schools. Please type in the font of Times New Roman with a font size of 12 and submit via email to: slscommunications@att.net. Please double space paragraphs and title the essay. Please include in the top left hand corner your full name, email address, contact phone # and date.

**Deadline** - for all submittals is February 14,, 2015. “You are encouraged to submit entries early.”

**Prizes** - Workshop attendance prizes: 1st Place - Workshop fee of $200 waived. Free admission for the 6 hr workshop scheduled on Friday February 20, 2015 from 10am -4pm at South Cobb Recreation Center 875 Six Flags Dr. Austell, GA 30168.

25 Runner ups to receive $25 towards their admission into 1 day workshop as well on 2/20/15.

**Eligibility** - Applicants must be at least 18 years and up at the time of submission.

**How to apply** - Upload your 300 word essay to the email listed above in one of these formats doc, docx or pdf. Application fee is $10.00 and each applicant who is not selected to win, will receive this amount as their discount from the regular $200 cost leaving them with a registration fee of $190.00. This workshop has a value of $400 which is the normal cost to attend a 1 day Grant Writing workshop anywhere in the U.S. Therefore all winners and attendees are receiving a great savings for the training that will be provided.

Please email meeting planner Ms. Smith at slscommunications@att.net. All winners will be notified by Monday February 16, 2015. All essay contestants will receive lunch, materials and certificate at the workshop.
Meet the writers!

**Monday, February 16**
7:00 p.m. Emory Center for Ethics discussion
An ethical discussion presenting material from the 2014/15 winner *The C.A. Lyons Project*.
Emory Center for Ethics | 1531 Dickey Drive on the Emory Campus. Reservations not needed.

**Tuesday, February 17**
2:00 p.m. Reading
*Pocketful of Sand*
By Emily Dendinger | Directed by Lisa Adler
7:30 p.m. Reading
*An Alien in Inwood*
By Kimberly Barrantes
Directed by Suehyla El-Attar

**Wednesday, February 18**
2:00 p.m. First Annual Alumnus Reading
*Making Myth*
By Vicki Grise | Directed by Karen Robinson

**Thursday, February 19**
2:00 p.m. Reading
*Evanston: A Rare Comedy*
By Michael Yates Crowley
Directed by Veronika Duerr

5:00 p.m. Meet the Winner!
A conversation with Celise Kalke and *The C.A. Lyons Project* playwright, Tsehay Geralyn Hébert

7:30 p.m. Reading
*Ballast*
By Georgette Kelly | Directed by TBA

Visit alliancetheatre.org for more information. All events are free to attend.

To reserve, alliancetheatre.org | 404.733.5000 All events unless otherwise noted in the 3rd Floor Black Box Theatre.
Cookies served at the 2:00 pm events; hors d’oeuvres and cash bar before the 7:30 events.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Frommer, kfrommer@bellsouth.net

January 12, 2015
The Distance Between Us by Reyna Grande
Selected for 10th Annual Roswell Reads

ROSWELL - The Distance Between Us - a heart-wrenching and ultimately triumphant memoir about a child immigrant’s journey from Mexico to the United States - is the 2015 Roswell Reads book selection. The author, Reyna Grande, will discuss her book at the 10th annual Roswell Reads Literary Luncheon, Saturday, March 14.

Roswell Reads promotes the value of reading, literacy, and lifelong learning through the shared community-wide experience of reading and discussing a common book. The Roswell Reads committee selects the book, and, working with the Roswell Library, Friends of the Roswell and East Roswell Libraries, and the City of Roswell, develops community-wide programs, which this year will include:

♦ The Literary Luncheon.
Saturday, March 14, 2015, at 11:30 a.m., at Roswell Adult Recreation Center, 830 Grimes Bridge Road, 770-641-3950
Tickets are $20 and available online at www.RoswellReads.com or in person (no mail-ins) at the Friends of the Roswell Library Bookstore at the Roswell Library. Reserved seating is available for groups of six or more.

♦ Immigration Stories
Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 7 p.m., Roswell Library, 115 Norcross Street
StoryCorps, which records, preserves and shares stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs, comes to Roswell to share a few powerful immigration stories from their library. Daniel Horowitz Garcia, StoryCorps Atlanta Regional Manager, will moderate a panel of people who have emigrated to Roswell. Free of charge.

♦ Writing Workshop–Writing Your Story: There's More Than “Me” in Memoir
Friday, March 13, 2015, at 10 a.m., Roswell Adult Recreation Center, 830 Grimes Bridge Road (Multipurpose Room)
In this free two-hour writing workshop, memoirist and author Jessica Handler will guide participants in ways to write a personal memoir. To register, call 770-640-3075.

♦ Children's Book Program
Saturday, February 28, 2015, 2 p.m. Roswell Library, 115 Norcross Street
Vicky Jaksic and Martha Powell, Media Specialists in the Fulton County Public School System, will read My Diary From Here to There by Amada Irma Perez to children in English and Spanish, and give them the opportunity to discuss their family history and start their own diary. Free of charge.
A Night of Romance and Chocolate Tasting

**Tuesday, February 10**, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Roswell Library, 115 Norcross Street, Roswell, GA

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, a panel discussion by local romance authors, led by Roswell resident Marilyn Baron, author of Stones, a coming-of-middle age women’s fiction and other novels, www.MarilynBaron.com, will talk about Tackling Sensitive Topics in Fiction. Other panelists include:

- Linda Joyce, author of Bayou Bound of the Fleur de Lis series, www.linda-joyce.com
- Melissa Klein, author of Her Hometown Hero, part of the Magnolia Springs series, www.MelissaKleinRomance.com
- Kennedy Ryan, author of Be Mine Forever, Book 3 of the Bennett series, kennedyryanwrites.com

Writing Workshop – Writing Your Story: *There's More Than “Me” in Memoir*

**Friday, March 13**, 2015, at 10 a.m., Roswell Adult Recreation Center, 830 Grimes Bridge Road (Multipurpose Room), Roswell, GA

In this free two-hour writing workshop, memoirist and author Jessica Handler will guide participants in ways to write a personal memoir. To register, call 770-640-3075.
Harlan Coben Talk/Book Signing at Books for Less March 28th 6:30pm, 4 days after release

The #1 New York Times bestselling master of suspense delivers a shocking thriller that proves that a well-placed lie can help build a comfortable life—and a secret has the same explosive power to destroy it.
Administrative Matters

Two New Critique Groups Starting

Decatur - A Trauring - atrauring@inbox.com
Every other Thursday at ChocoLate, 2094 North Decatur Road, Decatur

Dunwoody - Kieran Pavlick  kieranpavlick@comcast.net.
Once a month, on the Saturday of the AWC meeting at 12:30 in the Georgia Perimeter College break room

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>Club</th>
<th>Genres</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hwbernard@att.net">hwbernard@att.net</a></td>
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<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:ther@earthlink.net">ther@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rebecca Ewing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebecaewing@earthlink.net">rebecaewing@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11 a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Decatur</td>
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<td>Every other Thursday at ChocoLate, 2094 North Decatur Road, Decatur</td>
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<td>Monthly on Tues, 6:45</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
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<td>Every other Tues 10 a.m. - 12:15 @ Java Monkey</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
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<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey</td>
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<td>ronhraiken.com</td>
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<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Once a month, on the Saturday of the AWC meeting at 12:30 in the Georgia Perimeter College break room</td>
<td>Kieran Pavlick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kieranpavlick@comcast.net">kieranpavlick@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. at Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm 3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon at member's home</td>
<td>Ken Schmanski</td>
<td><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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncey-Highlands</td>
<td>All genera</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday</td>
<td>John Whittemore</td>
<td><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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:josephdansley@gmail.com">josephdansley@gmail.com</a></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</td>
<td>(770) 552-5887</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Jemille Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemille@bellsouth.net">jemille@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
<td>Lynn Wesch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lewesch@me.com">lewesch@me.com</a></td>
<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. 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*