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

Member Minute - Fran Stewart
1st Speaker - Nedra Roberts
2nd Speaker - William Rawlings
...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 in March
7th Buzz Bernard book signing
10th Roswell Reads Immigration Stories
11th Poetry reading at Callanwolde
13th Roswell Reads workshop
14th Roswell Reads Literary Luncheon
16th Salcedo Workshop
18th Pullen Workshop
21st AWC meeting
28th Harlan Coben talk/signing

New Books
The Pocket Wife—Susan Crawford
Blizzard—Buzz Bernard
Postcards from Wonderland—Rona Simmons

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
In This Issue

Letter from the President—4
   Silent Voices
Monthly Meetings—5
   March Speakers, February photos
Contests—8
   May AWC Writing Contest
AWC Conference 11
   May Conference
Workshops—13
   Jessica Handler, Nicki Salcedo, MJ Pullen, Roswell Reads
AWC Authors Book Signings, etal 17
   Susan Crawford, Buzz Bernard, Rona Simmons,
AWC Author Spotlight—19
   Soniah Kamal
AWC Author Submission & Other Opps—20
   Visual Voices
Etc. 22
   Writers High Retreat, business opportunity, Steve Berry, Roswell Reads, Harlan Coben
AWC Administrative Matters—29
Silent Voices – March 2015
By Valerie Joan Connors, AWC President

Before I moved to the South I imagined the climate was much like it was portrayed in A Streetcar Named Desire, hot, humid and sticky. My first visits to Georgia were during the summer, and did nothing to dispel my inaccurate perception. I never thought that the weather in The South would include snow and ice, nor did I imagine that the mere idea of snow would bring the city to its knees.

Having been born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I remember snow. Real snow. The kind that piles up so much during the night that when the snowplows go down the street, the cars parked at the curb would get buried. When I was a child, I walked six blocks or so to school, and while it wasn’t “uphill both ways,” it was often below zero outside. I walked on top of the snowdrifts on the side of the road, and every few steps or so, my leg would poke through and I’d have to try and pull it back out without leaving my boot behind. The schools were never closed because of winter weather unless temperatures dropped to more than thirty degrees below zero, or more than three feet of snow fell in one night. My mother would bundle me up in a snowsuit like the kid in the movie, A Christmas Story, who cried, “I can't move my arms!” In my grade school, there were coat hooks in the hallway with a shelf above for mittens and hats. The rubber boots we had pulled over our shoes would be lined up on the floor, and as the snow stuck on the bottom of them melted, the floor would get covered with tiny puddles.

I remember spending evenings at the ice rink that served as a baseball field in the summertime. It had a clubhouse where you could get a cup of hot chocolate and thaw out your feet on the radiator that heated the small building. The snow was piled up all around the edges of the ice rink, and the floodlights made everything sparkle. There was an outdoor speaker system that piped music, and the only song I remember hearing was “Snoopy vs. The Red Baron” by the Royal Guardsmen. It seems like that song was always playing. Maybe it’s just that I really liked the song. And Snoopy.

When my family moved to Oregon in 1967, my parents were thrilled to get out of the cold weather. In the winter of 1968 right before my aunt and uncle from Michigan came to visit, an inch of snow fell, and we laughed hysterically at the headline that read: “Snow Blankets the Emerald Empire.” Then we stopped laughing when three feet of snow had accumulated and all the flat-roofed school buildings started collapsing. Schools were closed for a full week, which was fine by me, but no one could get to the grocery store unless they had a four-wheel drive. In the midst of all that, my aunt and uncle arrived and had to leave their car only part way into our driveway. My parents had sold their snow shovel for a nickel at the garage sale they held before we moved, thinking surely they’d never need it again. We had also tossed the snow boots. So imagine us outside with plastic bread bags over our tennis shoes, trying to clear the driveway with a garden shovel.

Last year when it snowed, I spent seven hours trying to get home from work, only to end up back at my office. Most everyone who was here at the time has a similar story, some much scarier than mine. This time around, I wasn’t taking any chances. I went in late a couple of mornings and left early one afternoon. With all the schools closed, and lots of folks deciding to just stay home, my long commutes were completely uneventful. I’m grateful for that!

With the arrival of March, I like to think that spring is on the way, and there will be no more weather surprises. I look forward to the steamy weather that will surely arrive before long.

Warm Winter Regards,
Val
Monthly Meetings
March 2015 Speaker Profiles

**Member Minute** - Fran Stewart

**Topic:** This Writer's Dream

**Bio:** Fran Stewart enjoyed writing “From the Tip of My Pen,” a monthly column for the AWC E-Quill, for six wonderful years. She was blessed with a whole bevy of great teachers as she grew up in an Air Force family (going to four different schools 9th through 12th grades), and she uses many of the lessons she learned from them to polish her cozy mysteries.

She writes the *Biscuit Mckee Mystery Series*, starring Biscuit the librarian and Marmalade the library cat. The 7th book in that series, *GRAY AS ASHES*, was released last October. Her new *ScotShop Mystery Series* (Berkley Press, March 2015) begins with *A WEE MURDER IN MY SHOP*, starring Peggy Winn, a modern-day Vermonter, and Dirk, a 14th-century Scottish ghost.

---

**1st Speaker** - Nedra Roberts

**Topic:** Frustration and Fun in Crafting a Stage Play

**Bio:** Nedra Pezold Roberts has been writing all of her life, and a good portion of that time she's spent advising student writers and editing their work. She has published two textbooks (one on teaching drama, one on preparing for the English Advanced Placement exams), written six plays, a novel entitled ZOOM, and is working on a second novel in that series, DOUBLE EXPOSURE.

Another full-length play, Wash, Dry, Fold, was a finalist with a staged reading in Dayton Playhouse's 2014 FutureFest, a finalist in Kitchen Dog Theatre's 2014 New Works Festival, a finalist in the 2014 Greenhouse Project Play Development Series at Strange Sun Theatre Company in NYC, and will receive a reading by Nora's Playhouse in May 2015. W,D,F has also just been named a semi-finalist in the American Association of Community Theatre's 2015 NewPlayFest with winners to be announced this spring.

Nedra is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and serves on the board of the Atlanta Writers Club. She is currently working on a film version of her play THE VANISHING POINT.

---

**2nd Speaker** - William Rawlings

**Topic:** “How to Write Interesting and Successful Non-Fiction.”

**Bio:** Rawlings was born, raised and still lives on the family farm in Sandersville, Georgia, where he is the son, grandson, nephew and brother to physicians who have served the area for more than a century. He was educated at Emory University in Oxford and Atlanta, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society. He earned his Doctorate in Medicine and a Master's Degree in Epidemiology at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Writing is an interest that developed relatively late. “If you’d asked me a decade or so ago if I’d ever consider writing as something I would enjoy, I would have laughed and replied, ‘No way!’” Rawlings says. “But sometimes you have a story that just needs to be told, and so I hammered out my first book. To my great surprise, it was quite successful, and now writing occupies much of my free time.”

Working first in the genre of “Southern suspense,” his first five novels have been commercially successful, earning great reviews and interest from Hollywood. More recently he has turned to writing non-fiction, and is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines.

Rawlings's next book is on the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s, tentatively titled *The Second Coming of the Invisible Empire*. The Klan was, for a brief moment in time, one of the most powerful social and political organizations in the United States, boasting as many as five million members. “It's a fascinating study in sociology,” Rawlings says, “and the Klan's self-destructive decline was also as rapid as its rise to power.” Mercer University Press will publish the new book in late 2015 or early 2016.
Monthly Meetings

February Meeting Photos by Andre Santillana

1 - Kerry Denney talks about engaging our target audience and selling more books
2 - Tony Grooms teaches us about doing research for fiction writing.
3 - Claire Cook draws a lucky winner for her book giveaway!
4 - Tony Grooms and Claire Cook pass the baton with a smile at the break between speakers.
5 - The audience loved Claire Cook!
6 - Kerry Denney’s critique group friends, Richard Bowman, Lynda Fitzgerald and Ken Schmanski offer their support during his presentation.
March 21st
Member Minute - Fran Stewart
1st Speaker - Nedra Roberts
2nd Speaker - William Rawlings

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

April 18th
Member Minute - Valerie Connors, President
1st Speaker - Gregg Loomis
2nd Speaker - Zoe Schacham

May 15th
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, 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.
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]
May 2015 AWC

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:

Allison Malecha, Editorial Assistant at Grove Atlantic
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.
Free Workshop for AWC Members
April 4th, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00
Dunwoody Library
5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Presented by Jessica Handler

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.

Visit her website:
Workshops

Nicki Salcedo Workshop

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:
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
M.J. (Manda) Pullen is reprising her popular Author Platform Basics workshop with an expanded version on Saturday morning, April 18. Suitable for authors pursuing both traditional and self-publishing, this workshop will teach writers how to create and maintain a viable, thriving platform that will appeal to both readers and agents/editors.

This 3-hour workshop is designed for writers of all genres (including non-fiction), especially those with limited social media experience.

Space will be limited to allow for discussion and personal attention.

Author Platform Basics
Saturday, April 18th, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Smyrna Community Center, Meeting Room #4
200 Village Green Circle
Smyrna, GA 30080
Cost: $55

To register: https://author-platform-april2015.eventbrite.com
Writers at all levels are invited to this free 2-hour writing workshop to learn ways to make your personal memoir resonate with you and yours and readers everywhere. Jessica Handler, memoirist and author of *Invisible Sisters* and *Braving the Fire*, will help you tell your story and learn how to capture your reader’s heart and imagination.

The Writing Workshop is part of the Roswell Reads Community Programs. For information, go to [www.RoswellReads.com](http://www.RoswellReads.com).

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

**10 a.m.**

**ROSWELL ADULT RECREATION CENTER -**

**830 GRIMES BRIDGE ROAD, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

No charge for workshop. To register call 770-640-3075
She closes her eyes and tries to remember the last thing she said to Celia. She thinks it was “I don’t ever want to see you again.”

The Pocket Wife

“Readers will be left guessing until the very end.”
—Lori Roy, Edgar Award-winning author of Bent Road

“Engrossing, thrilling, and page-turning all the way through.”
—Chevy Stevens, New York Times bestselling author

“Haunting, gripping, and lyrical.”
—Deborah Crombie, New York Times bestselling author

A story of marriage, madness, and murder.
Start Reading Now

Susancrawfordnovelist.com

On Sale March 17th
978-0-06-236285-8 | $25.99

Susan Crawford
Novelist
**Blizzard**—Buzz Bernard

**BLIZZARD WARNING!**

Please join best-selling, award-winning author Buzz Bernard for the launch of his fourth novel, BLIZZARD, on March 7th, 3 p. m., at the Country Club of Roswell. Everyone laughs at what Southerners call a “snowstorm.” A half-inch of the white stuff, and Atlanta panics. No one’s laughing this time.

For Atlanta executive J. C. Riggins, the epic storm is only one of the killers he’ll have to face as he undertakes a desperate journey.

The event will be hosted by Buzz Bernard with books supplied by BOOKS For Less and George Scott. The Country Club of Roswell is located at 2500 Club Springs Drive in Roswell. Snacks and beverages—coffee (if winter hasn’t relented) and ice tea (if spring has sprung)—will be provided.

---

**Postcards from Wonderland**—Rona Simmons

Rona Simmons - *Postcards from Wonderland*

Deeds Publishing announces the release of Postcards from Wonderland by Rona Simmons on March 1, 2015.

With the release of this novel, Simmons cements her interest in historical fiction set in the first half of the twentieth century. Whether writing of the Depression, Prohibition, or the two world wars, Simmons examines the impact of these turbulent times on the lives of everyday people, particularly women and their hopes and desires, successes and failures, loves and losses. Some come through unscathed others survive but are deeply wounded.

“Stunning!” ~ Kimberly Brock, Georgia Author of the Year 2013

“Definitely one for my keeper shelf.” ~ Karen White, New York Times Bestselling Author
AWC Board Member, Soniah Kamal’s novel *An Isolated Incident* was shortlisted for the French Embassy Fiction Prize!

Launched in 2014, the Prize aims to promote excellence in fiction written in English by Pakistani writers. It strives to highlight the creative talents of Pakistani fiction writers and honors, each year, some of the best works in this genre. The Prize also seeks to promote Pakistani fiction writers in France.

To read more, visit:

Visual Voices Annual Exhibit

Visual Voices
2015 National Poetry Month (April)
Ninth Annual Exhibit

What To Do:
1. Submit 1-2 ready-to-hang* original poems with artwork (max 24” x 24”) by March 26 to Nancy McDaniel, Georgia Perimeter College LTC, 2101 Womack Road, Bldg N-LRC 3200, Dunwoody 30338.
2. Email 50-word (max) bio to nancy.mcdaniel@gpc.edu by March 5.

Sixties Theme or Follow your heart!

Exhibit will hang in the gallery through the month of April.
Reading & Reception Thursday, April 9, 12-2 pm

For Additional Info:
Nancy: nancy.mcdaniel@gpc.edu
(770-274-5243)

*All frames must be wired as shown below.
On the Lighter Side

**Lesser-Known Editing and Proofreading Marks**
- zzzz delete—no one cares
- ☹️ mixed metaphor, eh?
- ♂♀ insert 4-letter word for emphasis
- 🎨 remove permanently from your lexicon
- 💃 too long
- 🌟 too silly
- 🙅 You wish
- 🕵️‍♂️ pls revisit your politics
- 🛠️ pls cut the crap
- 🚫 pls paraphrase—obviously stolen from Web
- 🍟 pls don’t eat Pringles while you work

© 2005 Eve Corbel True Funnies

---

**10 Steps to Becoming a Better Writer**
1. Write.
2. Write MORE.
3. Write EVEN MORE.
4. Write EVEN MORE THAN THAT.
5. Write WHEN YOU DON’T WANT TO.
6. Write WHEN YOU DO.
7. Write WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.
8. Write WHEN YOU DON’T.
9. Write EVERY DAY.
10. KEEP Writing.

by Brian Clark
copyblogger

---

**A Tablet for Reading?**

**Yeah, like that’s gonna catch on.**
Join author Winston Groom as he returns to the tranquil mountain setting where he penned parts of Forrest Gump, this time as the guest of honor heading an all-star literary lineup for the debut of The Writer’s High Retreat at the High Hampton Inn highhamptoninn.com in Cashiers, North Carolina. The Writer’s High Retreat will be held April 24 - 26, 2015.

Accompanying Groom for two days of presentations, panel discussions and workshops will be a cadre of today’s top literary talent, including 2013 Georgia Author of the Year, Kimberly Brock; award-winning author, poet and founder of the acclaimed Zona Rosa creative writing workshop, Rosemary Daniell; NYT best-selling novelist, Cassandra King; and two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, author, writing coach and former journalist Jedwin Smith.

The Writer’s High Retreat Package at the Inn includes lodging, breakfast, dinner, event registration, retreat events and two Cocktails & Conversation receptions with speakers and panelists. Prices are $190 single and $225 double per night, plus taxes. In addition, attendees may arrange for a limited number of one-on-one coaching sessions with Rosemary Daniell and Jedwin Smith.

In this informal, bucolic setting, writers will also have plenty of free time to find their own writer’s high as well as learn from the panelists and speakers how to maintain it when they return to the real world.

Speakers, Panelists and Coaches for the event:

Guest of Honor: Winston Groom is a novelist and non-fiction author who has written more than 14 books and is best known for Forrest Gump, which was adapted into a film in 1994. His latest work, The Aviators, has received critical acclaim for its portrayal of three extraordinary aviators – Charles Lindbergh, Eddie Rickenbacker, and Jimmy Doolittle – and how they redefine heroism through their genius, daring, and uncommon courage.

Kimberly Brock is the award-winning author of The River Witch (Bell Bridge Books, 2012). Kimberly is also the recipient of the Georgia Author of the Year Award. Her novels include The River Witch and The Bluest Moon, which was a finalist for the 2014 Georgia Author of the Year Award.

To register for The Writer’s High Retreat, visit the www.highhamptoninn.com or call toll-free at 1.800.334.2551. Prices are $190 single and $225 double per night, plus taxes. Call 800-334-2551 for reservations. In addition, attendees may arrange for one-on-one coaching with Rosemary Daniell and Jedwin Smith for a separate fee.
RETREAT SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Welcome Reception, Panel Q & A:
Transforming Everyday Inspiration into Every Day Writing.

Saturday, April 25
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Cassandra King: Crafting Negative into Narrative: Believing in Your Writing And Yourself When No One Else Does
11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Rosemary Daniell: The Thrill of the Truth: Breaking the Taboos of Southern Silence
5:10 – 6:10 p.m.
Jedwin Smith: Just Write: Always Faithful to Your Craft
6:10 – 7:00 p.m.
Cocktails & Conversation

Sunday, April 26
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Panel Presentation: Life is Like a Box of Chocolates—and Not Always Godiva: Sustaining Your Writer’s High In the Real World
(Checkout 1 p.m.)

Year 2013 Award. Attendees will get a sneak peek at the techniques Brock uses in her new Tinderbox Writers Workshop, a salon-like workshop designed to help reconnect writers with their creative self.

Cassandra King is the New York Times best-selling author of five novels: Making Waves, The Sunday Wife, The Same Sweet Girls, Queen of Broken Hearts and Moonrise, as well as numerous short stories, essays and articles.

Rosemary Daniell has eight books and more than a dozen awards to her credit. One of the country’s finest writing coaches, she founded Zona Rosa, the creative writing workshop she leads in cities throughout the world. Her recently completed third memoir is My Beautiful Tigers: A Maverick Mother’s Journey.

Jedwin Smith is presently working on a Civil War novel and teaching writer workshops. Smith is the recipient of 57 major writing awards during his 36 years as a print journalist, including two nominations for the Pulitzer Prize. His poignant memoir, Our Brother’s Keeper, was recently republished.

To schedule a private coaching session with Rosemary, send an email to rosemary@myzonarosa.com.
To schedule a private coaching session with Jedwin, send an email to jedwin46@bellsouth.net.

High Hampton Inn is a historic, family-friendly North Carolina mountain inn that has been bringing people together for generations. Located in Cashiers, NC in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, High Hampton offers golf, tennis, hiking, fly fishing, and a European spa on a 1,400-acre playground.

For additional retreat information, please contact Mari Ann Stefanelli, founder & director, The Writer’s High Retreat, at 770-570-8111 or mariann.stefanelli@gmail.com.
A Bu$ine$$ Opportunity

After more than 20 years, author escort and publicist Esther Levine is retiring and now seeks an individual to purchase her business, Book Atlanta, and continue its tradition of service to the publishing industry.

The main business of Book Atlanta is working with publishers, PR firms and authors to help promote books. Having done this work for over 20 years, Esther has developed many contacts in the publishing world and with local media, has worked with all of the major publishing houses, and has met and escorted many of the giants in the fiction, non-fiction, and celebrity world.

The goal of Book Atlanta is to provide a first-class publicity and author-escort service, to facilitate publishers, public relations firms, and authors with book and product promotion. Services include, but are not limited to:

• Escorting authors to interviews, book stores, and events.
• Airport pick-ups and drop-offs
• Logistical advice for authors/publishers, including interview recommendations, hotel recommendations, and consultation about the logistics of making a schedule work
• Sending out an Author & Celebrity Calendar 2 – 3 times a month highlighting the authors with whom Book Atlanta is working
• Calling bookstores to check on the number of books in the store and taking authors to do drop-in stock signings if feasible
• Scheduling additional interviews and appearances
• Assistance with any small personal or tour-related needs

It is important that anyone who works in this business be a people person, have organizational skills, be a good driver, and know their way around Atlanta.

If you are interested in speaking with Esther Levine about the opportunity to purchase this thriving business, please contact her at BookAtlanta@aol.com.
GWINNETT LIBRARY SYSTEM INVITES YOU TO AN EVENING WITH NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR STEVE BERRY

- Steve will discuss and sign his newest book and answer your questions about getting published in today’s market. Steve’s books have been published in 51 countries and over 19 million copies are in print!
- Join us on Friday night for complimentary wine and nibbles provided by the Friends of the Library
- Bid on terrific silent auction items
- Sign up to win the door prizes
- Free and open to the public
- Books will be available for sale and signing thanks to our friends at Eagle Eye Book Shop

Date: Friday, April 24th at 7pm
Location: Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center
10 College Street, Norcross, GA
For more information: call 770-978-5154 or visit www.gwinnettpl.org
January 12, 2015

*The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande

Selected for 10th Annual Roswell Reads

**Roswell Reads events**

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

---

**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.
Etc.

- **Book Discussions** - open to the public
  - Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at Noon, Roswell Library: Noonday Nosh Book Club
  - Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 2 p.m., Roswell Library, with Mary Apps
  - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 7 p.m. at Pastis, 928 Canton Street, with Dana Barrett
  - Saturday, March 7, 2015, at 2 p.m., Roswell Library, book discussion in Spanish led by Teresa Player, Spanish teacher at Roswell High School
  - Sunday, March 8, 2015, at 2 p.m., East Roswell Library, 2301 Holcomb Bridge Road with Debbie Weiss

In addition, as a Community Outreach Program, Roswell Reads is partnering with STAR House Foundation, a non-profit after-school tutoring and mentoring program servicing at-risk children in Roswell. Founded in 1993, STAR House is seeking, teaching and reaching our children who are in need of extra support in the schools they are already attending. Roswell Reads Literary Luncheon attendees will have an opportunity to help support this community program.

Funding for Roswell Reads is provided by the City of Roswell under the guidance of the Roswell Arts Commission and the Friends of the Roswell Library. Roswell Graphic Designer Garon Hart contributed his time to develop the new Roswell Reads logo and design the 2015 brochure, bookmark and other promotional materials.


---

**Poetry Reading: Rosemary Daniell and Anne Webster**

March 11 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join two guest poets, Rosemary Daniell and Anne Webster, as Callanwolde celebrates the art and performance of poetry with readings in the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.

Tickets are sold at the door, cash or check only. $5 General Admission, Free admission for Members.

**Details**

Date: March 11  
Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Venue: Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306  
Phone: (404) 872-5338  
Website: www.callanwolde.org

For more information call 404-872-5338 or visit www.callanwolde.org.
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.
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 members’ 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-Sponsored Critique Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpharetta</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buckhead/Midtown</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conyers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrenceville/Snellville</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marietta</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poncey-Highlands</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong></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.
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 online 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 a:  □ 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*