April 18th meeting, 1:30
Georgia Perimeter College
2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338
Bldg. NC, Room 110 Auditorium

Member Minute - AWC Board
1st Speaker - Gregg Loomis
2nd Speaker - Zoe Fishman Shacham
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 in March**

1st  Writers Digest discount deadline  
2nd  Queen of Hearts book signings  
4th  Handler Workshop  
9th  Visual Voices annual exhibit  
11th  Evening with Stewart Woods  
16th  Evening with Lisa Scottoline  
18th  AWC monthly meeting  
23rd  Georgia Playwrights deadline  
24th  Evening with Steve Berry

**New Books**

*The Iron Angle* by David Fulmer

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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383  
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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Etc.—25
Writers High Retreat, Steve Berry, Evening with Lisa Scottoline, Evening with Stewart Woods

AWC Administrative Matters—30
It's been nearly a year since the Atlanta Writers Club celebrated 100 years of nurturing and supporting writers of all kinds. Among our ranks are writers of fiction and non-fiction, stage plays and screenplays, poetry and picture books. I’m writing this from The Smith House in Dahlonega, the night before the Dahlonega Literary Festival begins. This house was built in 1899, and was still relatively new when the club was formed in 1914. One of the things I love about writing is that inspiration can be found anywhere and everywhere. My room is in the carriage house, and I imagine how many people have stayed in this room just since it was turned into a hotel, and all of the stories they could tell. Now there is a Starbuck's next door, a university in the backyard, and just a few miles away is a highway that runs all the way to downtown Atlanta. I would love to have seen this house when it was new and the carriage house actually stored a carriage. With just a couple of minutes worth of research, I learned that the house was built on a gold mine, and found a picture of what it looked like in the 1920's. At the March meeting, William Rawlings gave us some pointers on doing research, and taught us that there really are stories everywhere. Pick up any newspaper and find a hundred details that could spark a story idea for fiction, or actual events that are stranger still. Writer's block? Forget it. There are unlimited story possibilities all around you. All you have to do is quiet your mind and take it all in.

The April meeting will mark our 101st birthday and we’ll host two great speakers, Gregg Loomis and Zoe Fishman Shacham. But first I’ll introduce our current AWC board; those people working quietly behind the scenes, serving our members and making sure the club continues to thrive in it’s second century. I’ll also introduce our new President Elect, who will take over as President when my term ends in May. It’s hard to believe how quickly the past two years have flown by!

At the March meeting, in case you weren’t there, we announced an increase in club membership dues. Beginning April 15th, the regular membership dues will increase from $40 to $50, a family membership will go from $60 to $75, and a student membership will go from $30 to $40. This will be the first increase in dues since 2007, and will support our new writing contest with higher cash prizes, as well as some technology improvements that will simplify conference registration, and membership renewals. So if you have a renewal coming up soon, take advantage of the opportunity to extend your membership at the existing rate.

I hope you’re planning to attend the free two-hour AWC writing work shop at the Dunwoody Library on Saturday, April 4th, led by Jessica Handler. We’ll get started promptly at 1:00, so get there early. And remember, we’re not allowed to sell books at that venue, so if you want to pick up one of Jessica's books, which I highly recommend, visit her website at http://www.jessicahandler.com. I have heard wonderful things about Jessica's workshops, so you won't want to miss it!

Warm Regards,
Val
Monthly Meetings

April 2015 Speaker Profiles

April 2015 Speaker Profiles

Member Minute – Valerie Connors
Introduction of the AWC Board and President Elect

Speaker #1 - Gregg Loomis

**Topic:** How to Find an Agent/Publisher and Why Foreign Rights Are Like finding Money in the Street

**Bio:** Gregg Loomis is a lawyer specializing in commercial litigation. He is a former racecar driver both in and out of the United States and a licensed commercial pilot. He has traveled extensively in Europe and the Caribbean.

He is the author of Voodoo Fury, The Julian Secret, The Pegasus Secret, and The Gates of Hades and has published articles in FLYING and Scuba Diving magazines. Gregg has written several short stories and was a nominee for Writer of the Year-Fiction by the Georgia Writers Association.

Loomis has over half a million copies of his books in print. They have been translated into multiple foreign languages.

Currently, Gregg practices law in his native Atlanta, where he lives with his wife Suzanne, also a lawyer, and their golden retriever, Harry. Between court dates, Gregg works on his next novel.

His first novel, Voodoo Fury, came out in 1991 from Berkeley.

Speaker #2 - Zoe Fishman Shacham

**Topic:** The Writer’s Toolbox: Tone, Voice & Dialogue

**Bio:** Zoe Fishman is the critically acclaimed author of Driving Lessons (Morrow, April ‘14), Saving Ruth (Morrow, May ’12) and Balancing Acts (Harper, March ’10). Her books have been translated into German, Italian, Dutch and Polish. She’s the recipient of myriad awards, including Target’s Breakout and Emerging Author Picks, a NY Post Pick, a Mom’s Choice Award and a Barnes & Noble Hot Read, as well as named her high school’s first ever Distinguished Alumni of the Arts.

Interviews and profiles of her have been featured on NBC’s “Atlanta & Co.” and FGTV, as well as in Publisher’s Weekly, Mobile Bay Magazine, The Atlanta Jewish Times and The Huffington Post. Her articles have been published in Time Out and on FoxNews.com, among others.

Zoe worked in the New York publishing industry for thirteen years in the editorial department of Random House, the rights department of Simon & Schuster and later, as an agent for two boutique literary firms before moving to Atlanta in August of 2011 with her family. She is currently at work on her next novel, which will be published in 2016, as well as teaching at The Callanwalde Fine Arts Center.
Monthly Meetings

March Meeting Photos by Andre Santillana

1 - Fran Stewart presents the Member Minute...

2 - ...and then demonstrates the many uses of her Scottish arisaidh.

3 - Nedra Roberts, AWC VP of Contests & Awards, answers questions after presenting her Member Minute talk about the frustration and fun of crafting a stage play.

4 - William Rawlings talks about doing research, and writing non-fiction.

April 4th - Writing Workshop with Jessica Handler. This special event is free and open to the public. 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 Mullens

June 20th
Annual picnic at Holcomb Bridge Park
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]
Aesthetica Creative Writing Award 2015: Call for Entries

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is open for submissions. Now in its eighth year, the award is an internationally renowned prize presented by Aesthetica Magazine and judged by industry experts including Arifa Akbar, literary editor of The Independent. Prizes include £500 and publication in an anthology of new writing, giving you the chance to showcase your work to a wider, international audience.

Prizes include:
• £500 Poetry winner
• £500 Short Fiction winner
• Publication in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual
• One year subscription to Granta
• Selection of books courtesy of Bloodaxe and Vintage
• Complimentary copy of the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual

There are two categories for entry: Short Fiction (maximum length 2,000 words each) and Poetry (maximum length 40 lines each).

Deadline for submissions is 31 August 2015. Entry is £15 plus VAT (approximately $22.42)

To enter, visit www.aestheticaMagazine.com/creativewriting

Flying South 2015 Writing Contest

Hello, Atlanta Writers Club, from your friends at Winston-Salem Writers!

We’re now requesting submissions for the 2015 issue of our literary journal, Flying South.

FLYING SOUTH 2015 WRITING CONTEST
Deadline: May 31
Award: $100 / $25 / Print and online publication (each genre)
Fee: $15

Our theme for the second annual issue of Flying South is "Words Become Pictures." We’re looking for smart, illustrative writing that uses the blank page as a palette for fresh and original written art. Flying South is produced by Winston-Salem Writers, one of the South’s largest and most active organizations serving local writers.

Categories are Poetry (up to 3), Flash Fiction (750 words maximum), Short Story (5,000 words maximum), Creative Nonfiction/Memoir/Essay (3,500 words maximum), and Novel Opening (first 500 words only). Complete submission guidelines are available at www.flyingsouth.submittable.com.
Do you want the chance to earn a contract directly with a publishing editor or with a literary agent who will represent you to publishers? Do you want 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/

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

Jessica Handler Workshop

Free Workshop for AWC Members
April 4th, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00
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:

Braving the Fire
A Guide to Writing About Grief and Loss

Invisible Sisters
Jessica Handler
ECS GRANTS – Professional Grant Writing Workshops
South Cobb Recreation Center – 875 Six Flags Dr. Austell, GA 30168
Saturday May 2, 2015 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

What are some of the key reasons why individuals and organizations are struggling to win grant funds?
Answer: The organization or individual does not understand the grant writing process and how to put together a winning grant proposal.

Learn how to write effective proposals and win thousands in grant funds for your school, church, non profit etc. 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.

The one – day workshop includes: Development of the grant proposal
• Project evaluation
• Budget development
• How to develop fundable ideas
• Who is getting the money and from where?
• Funding sources from private foundations to federal, state and local governments
• Grant writing resources and tips
• Grant management
• Foundation and government grants

$200 includes tuition, materials, lunch and certificate of completion
Group discounts of four or more to receive $50.00 off of their admission.
Early bird discount is $25 off of admission up until April 27, 2015.

*Contact Meeting Planner Ms. Smith at (slscommunications@att.net) or 678-509-5156.

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.” – Anatole France

If there is one grant writing training session for you to attend – this is an excellent small investment of your time and funds. This one – day grant writing workshop will take you from beginner to advanced grant writer. Space is limited and since this class fills up quickly, it is on a first – come, first served basis. You will need to bring your own pen and notebook.
Thank You!
Gwinnett Library Kid Lit Workshop

Best-selling kid lit authors, Vicky Alvear Shecter and Laurel Snyder Speak at Writers Workshop in May

Writers...Do you know who your audience is? Join best-selling kid lit authors, Vicky Alvear Shecter and Laurel Snyder as they share the differences between YA and Middle Grade stories!

May 2nd - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Gwinnett County Public Library
1001 Lawrenceville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Gwinnett County Public Library, in partnership with The Southern Breeze region of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, present a FREE writer's workshop featuring keynote speakers Laurel Snyder and Vicky Alvear Shecter. The workshop will be held on Saturday May 2nd from 1- 3pm at the library's Five Forks Branch (add address)

Writers may bring the first page from their own MG or YA work and authors will provide brief critique as time allows.

It's FREE!
Queen of Hearts Antiques Hosts a Book Event for "Drop Everything and Read Month"
April 2, 2015 - Marietta, Alpharetta & Buford

Mark your calendars! Come join us as we host book signings, talks, and giveaways by local Georgia authors from 4:00pm to 8:00pm

**Appearing in Alpharetta • 670 N Main St Alpharetta, GA • (678) 297-7571**

- Postcards from Wonderland by Rona Simmons
- The Caretaker by George Weinstein
- Luck Be a Chicken by Jameson Gregg
- Second Place Sister by Sue Homer

**Appearing in Buford • 4125 GA Hwy 20, Buford, GA 30518 • (678) 714-0643**

- Hidden Comers of My Heart by Dr. Terry Segal
- Fat Boy Chronicles by Mike Buchanan
- Seely's Shoes by Gail Heller

**Appearing in Marietta • 2745 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, GA 30066 • (678) 453-0600**

- Somewhere a River by Michael K. Brown
- What We Talk About by Kathryn Gray White
- Becoming Jesse Belle by Linda Hughes
- Underwater by Julia McDermott

- Shadow of a Smile by Valerie Connors
- Monsters Three by Rosalind Bunn & Kathleen Howard
David Fulmer

David Fulmer has released *The Iron Angel*, the fifth novel in the acclaimed Storyville series that has recently been optioned for television. The book is available in trade paperback and on Kindle, Nook, and other e platforms. Information at http://davidfulmer.com/TIApage.html

Nedra Roberts

AWC board member, Nedra Roberts, just learned that her play- *WASH, DRY, FOLD*, has made the cut from semifinalist to finalist in the AACT 2015 New Play Fest competition. Winners (7) will be formally announced in June.

Buzz Bernard

Long-time AWC member and vice president of the Southeastern Writers Association, Buzz Bernard, won his second "Eppie." *SUPERCELL* is the winner of the 2015 EPIC eBook Award, Suspense/Thriller category. Buzz's novel *PLAGUE* won in the same category last year.
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.
Opportunity for Georgia Playwrights

The deadline for the 2016 Essential Theatre Playwriting Award competition is April 23, 2015. Now in its sixteenth year, it is the only contest exclusively dedicated to the work of Georgia playwrights.

The winning play will receive both a full production and a $600 cash prize.

Playwrights must be current Georgia residents, and the plays must be previously unproduced. There are no restrictions as to style, length or subject matter, although we do prefer plays that would run an hour or more in performance.

Plays can be e-mailed to pmhardy@aol.com, in pdf or Word Document format. Please include name, address and e-mail information IN THE SCRIPT. If you prefer, hard copies can be mailed to:

The Essential Theatre
1414 Foxhall Lane #10
Atlanta, GA 30316.

The winner of the 2015 Award, Joshua Mikel's LILLIAN LIKES IT, will be produced in this year’s Essential Theatre Play Festival, running in July and August.

Pilcrow and Dagger Literary Magazine

Pilcrow & Dagger is an international literary magazine. Launched in January 2015, submissions have come from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Canada, and the US. They accept fiction, fantasy, horror, humor, young adult, creative non-fiction, science fiction, essays, and poetry. They will also accept original photographs and artwork. Be sure to check the submission guidelines and themes at www.pilcrowdagger.com/submissions.

Their goal is to be a forum for authors, previously published or just starting out, to promote their work. To date, numerous authors from around the globe have had their short stories, essays and poems published. And two authors were chosen to have their work recorded and presented in the style of an old-time radio program via Podcast. They can be heard at www.pilcrowdagger.com/podcasts.

Pilcrow& Dagger also publishes interviews with authors who have chosen to self- or indie-publish their work. This is to help guide and encourage new authors in the process as well as support the hard work that goes into writing and publishing. The premier interview was with Amanda Harms, author of the Middle Grades book Bewildered. The April issue will host an interview with Liz Schulte, author of the Guardian Series, Easy Bake Coven Series, and the Jinn Series.

The website, www.pilcrowdagger.com, is home to their blog which provides writing help and tips for writers. Editor A. Marie Silver has written a Forensic and Fiction series that highlights the correct vocabulary and investigative techniques of crime scene investigators which crime and thriller writers will find most helpful. Editor LeeAnn Rhoden has written series on weapons, characterization, and essays. On Sunday, they take a break from teaching and have great fun with the Sunday News complete with satirical editorials, a snarky advice columnist, eyebrow-raising classified ads, puzzles and much more. You can sign up for the newsletter and get the most up-to-date information.

Pilcrow & Dagger also makes marketing space available for authors with a cover reveal or book launch, editors, artists, publishers, publicists, or anyone needing to get their skills and work noticed. A Media Packet is available at www.pilcrowdagger.com/about/advertising. With a growing global market this is an excellent and affordable platform.

Pilcrow & Dagger magazine is available in print or digital form in annual subscriptions or by individual issues at www.pilcrowdagger.com/subscriptions. Don’t miss out, get yours today. You can check out the premier issue for free as well as the March issue sneak peek at www.pilcrowdagger.com/issues.
Take control of your writing career, hone your craft and fuel your creative fire at Writer’s Digest Annual Conference, brought to you by the editors of the industry’s most trusted source for writing advice and insight for more than 90 years—Writer’s Digest.

With more than 50 Agents and Editors participating in the Pitch Slam and dozens of insightful Sessions led by industry experts and successful writers, Writer’s Digest Annual Conference is an unprecedented opportunity to advance your career and improve your practice.

LEARN FROM EXPERTS
Connect with many of publishing’s most respected and knowledgeable writers, agents and editors including bestselling authors Jonathan Maberry, Hallie Ephron, Jacquelyn Mitchard, G.P Ching and M.J. Rose.

Pick the program track that’s right for you. Mix-and-match sessions from the four core program areas: Getting Published, Platform & Promotion, Craft and two brand-new tracks: Genre Studies and The Business of Being an Author.

PITCH YOUR WORK
Bypass the waiting game of sending out query after query and hoping you hear back. At the Pitch Slam, you’ll pitch your work one-on-one to agents and editors searching for new talent and great books. With more than fifty agents and editors slated to participate, the Pitch Slam is a pulse-pounding ride and a very real opportunity. You’ll pitch to each agent for 90 seconds and then receive 90 seconds of instant, invaluable feedback and maybe a request to hear more.

GROW YOUR NETWORK
Writers, meet your people! Establish real connections with your fellow writers and industry
insiders. From informal get-togethers to stimulating workshop discussions, community is built into every aspect of this event.

**Who Attends Writer’s Digest Annual Conference?**

*For more than 90 years, writers have turned to Writer’s Digest magazine for friendly, encouraging and authoritative insights about how to write better and get published. Attending Writer’s Digest Annual Conference is like stepping into the magazine’s pages—attendees leave brimming with inspiration, more confident in their abilities and savvier about the inner workings of the publishing industry.*

Featuring five bestselling authors, dozens of sessions and *Writer’s Digest’s* signature Pitch Slam event, the Writer’s Digest Annual Conference gives writers the opportunity to hone their craft, learn the business and make connections that advance their careers.

*Writer’s Digest’s* reputation attracts a uniquely dedicated group of writers to the Conference. In fact, the vast majority of attendees shared that they have been writing for years. This group expects a conference experience that meets their needs and delivers relevant information in both their educational sessions and exposure to products and services that will advance their writing careers.

**Inspiration, Education and Value. The Writer’s Digest Annual Conference is all about what you – and your writing – need right now!**

The *Writer’s Digest Annual Conference* is your opportunity to grab a front-row seat to sessions with some of today’s most celebrated writers, along with an unsurpassed roster of agents, editors and experts ready to share their know-how with you.

Join Writer’s Digest this **July 31 – August 2** in **New York City** for a powerhouse educational and networking program, including:

- **Five bestselling authors**: Jonathan Maberry, Hallie Ephron, Jacquelyn Mitchard, G.P Ching and M.J. Rose
- **Five dedicated tracks** of instruction: Getting Published, Platform & Promotion, Craft, Genre Studies and The Business of Being an Author. Build the Conference experience that's right for you.
- **The Pitch Slam**, the Conference's signature event, with more than 50 agents and editors slated to be on hand scouting new talent. *Available with the Pitch Slam Basic Conference Package exclusively.*

Take advantage of this opportunity and reconnect with your writing!

No other writing conference is able to offer you the breadth of education *Writer's Digest* can for the value.

**Thanks for your support of Writer’s Digest Annual Conference!**
On the Lighter Side

BEHIND EVERY GREAT NOVELIST IS...

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

MISERABLE JOB

I MUST WRITE!

MOMENT OF SELF-DISCOVERY

I MUST WRITE TO BE LOVED!

EPISODE OF DEBAUCHERY

PATHOLOGIC AMBITION

LOYAL PET

NEGLECTED SPOUSE

PERSONAL DEMONS

YEARS OF BORING HARD WORK
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
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.
An Evening With Steve Berry

Gwinnett County Public Library

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
GWINEET LIBRARY SYSTEM INVITES YOU TO AN EVENING WITH NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR LISA SCOTTOLINE

- Lisa is the bestselling author of 22 books, with 30 million copies sold in the US alone. She will discuss and sign her newest book and answer your questions about getting published in today’s market
- Join us on Friday night for complimentary wine and nibbles provided by the Friends of the Library
- 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 Books for Less of Buford

Date: April 16 at 7 pm. Doors open at 6
Location: Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center
10 College Street, Norcross, GA
For more information: call 770-978-5154 or visit www.gwinnettpl.org
An Evening with Stewart Woods

GWINNETT LIBRARY INVITES YOU TO AN EVENING, WITH BESTSELLING AUTHOR STUART WOODS.

JOIN US BY THE ROARING FIREPLACE INSIDE THE NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING ART INSTALLATION AND LEED GOLD BRANCH OF THE GWINNETT LIBRARY SYSTEM

- Stuart is the bestselling author will discuss and sign his newest book and answer your questions about getting published in today market.
- 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 11 at 7 pm. Doors open at 6
Location: Hamilton Mill Branch (near the I85 exit)
3690 Braselton Highway, Dacula, GA 30019
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.
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Membership Renewal—What to Expect

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Critique Groups.** We now have approximately twenty (20) different critique groups available to members. Scattered about the Atlanta metro area, these critique groups meet regularly to read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.

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

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

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

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

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Valerie Connors at valerie@atlantawritersclub.org.
**Membership Form**

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

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

| First Name: __________________________ | Last Name: __________________________ |
| Cell Phone: __________________________ | Other Phone: ________________________ |
| Email: ______________________________ | Alternate Email: ____________________ |

**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*