Newsletter for the Atlanta Writers Club

December 2015

EQUILL

December 19th meeting 1:30pm at
Georgia Perimeter College
2101 Womack Road,
Atlanta GA 30338
Building NC auditorium

Featuring
Special Guest - Billy Collins
Followed by Holiday Social Greeting
...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: Michael Brown

Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors
George Weinstein
Clay Ramsey
Marty Aftewicz

Conference Director: George Weinstein

Asst. Conference Dir.: Georgia Lee

Membership VP: open

Programs Co-VP: Valerie Connors & Georgia Lee

VP of Marketing & PR: Holly McClure

Secretary: Bill Black

Treasurer: Valerie Connors

Operations VP: Jennifer Wiggins

Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP: Nedra Roberts

Social Media V.P.: Gene Bowen

Volunteers: Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein

Photographers: Andre Santillana

eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Events in December

5 Multi-Author Event

19 Special Guest Speaker—Billy Collins

Holiday Social Gathering

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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Letter From the President

Scrolling Along by Michael K. Brown

In the words of country music legend Hank Snow, “I’m moving on.” Eleven years ago Judy and I settled into our empty nest in Loganville and now we’re relocating a few miles away. It will be our fifth house in the 46 years we’ve been married. We have mixed feelings about the move but we’re in the autumn of our lives and need to eliminate one flight of stairs.

In preparing for the move, I’m reminded of George Carlin’s hilarious routine about people’s compulsion of keeping up with their “stuff.” And we’ve accumulated a lot of stuff over the years. Some of it has been hoarded away since our last move and we’re finally letting go with sentimental reluctance, like deleting a favorite passage in a manuscript because it simply doesn’t move the story along.

A house adopts a certain personality after you’ve lived in it awhile. We’re leaving a house that fits our lifestyle and has the comfortable feel of a favorite sweatshirt. I have many fond memories of this place, especially the serenity of two wooded acres and a creek behind the house. But what I’ll remember most is that this is where I became a writer. While living here I joined the Atlanta Writers Club as well as my first critique group which included Barbara Connor and Mary Anna Bryan. As I write this, I’m sitting at the desk in the basement where I have spent many hours laboring over a novel or short story that begged to be written yet refused to submit without a fight. Of course, I know I can write anywhere but it will take a while to make friends with a new set of walls.

Much of the inspiration for my writing comes from music, nature, or the simple ironies of life. I take a walk every day and that’s my “me time.” Often, my best thoughts come when least expected, unforced and random like a shooting star from my subconscious. However, the real chemistry comes when I can sit down at a keyboard and somehow meld it all together in a way that makes sense to me. For that, I need a “go to” place; not just a house but a home, as the cliché goes.

We’re leaving this house in good shape for the family that have bought it. I hope they enjoy it as much as we have. At the same time, I’m looking forward to getting into our new home. Actually, it’s not new age-wise but it’s new to us. And from there, we will start a new chapter in the story of our lives. Isn’t that what life is—one long story? I think so. For now, I’m content to find another cozy spot where I can keep the pages turning.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a great start on a new year.
Monthly Meetings

November Photos by ANDRE SANTILLANA

1. AWC Board members George Weinstein, Marty Aftewicz, Jennifer Wiggins, and Nedra Roberts man the sign-in stations.
2. Member Minute speaker Tim Link
3. 1st Speaker, Erika Marks, talks about her writing journey.
4. 2nd Speaker, Man Martin, discusses the psychological motivation of characters.
5. Tim sells some books.
6. Man and Erika, a fun couple.
Monthly Meetings

December Guest Speaker

Billy Collins


Billy Collins is an American phenomenon.

No poet since Robert Frost has managed to combine high critical acclaim with such broad popular appeal. His work has appeared in a variety of periodicals including *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *The American Scholar*, he is a Guggenheim fellow and a New York Public Library “Literary Lion.”

His last three collections of poems have broken sales records for poetry. His readings are usually standing room only, and his audience – enhanced tremendously by his appearances on National Public Radio – includes people of all backgrounds and age groups. The poems themselves best explain this phenomenon. The typical Collins poem opens on a clear and hospitable note but soon takes an unexpected turn; poems that begin in irony may end in a moment of lyric surprise. No wonder Collins sees his poetry as “a form of travel writing” and considers humor “a door into the serious.” It is a door that many thousands of readers have opened with amazement and delight.

Billy Collins has published ten collections of poetry, including *Questions About Angels*, *The Art of Drowning*, *Sailing Alone Around the Room: New & Selected Poems*, *Nine Horses*, *The Trouble With Poetry and Other Poems*, *Ballistics*, *Horoscopes for the Dead* and *Picnic, Lightning*. A collection of his haiku, *She Was Just Seventeen*, was published by Modern Haiku Press in fall 2006. He has also published two chapbooks, *Video Poems* and *Pokerface*. 
Monthly Meetings

December Speaker & Gathering


The following TED talk Billy Collins did in 2012 is a great introduction to the man and his work: https://www.ted.com/talks/billy_collins_everyday_moments_caught_in_time?language=en

For further insight, visit:
http://barclayagency.com/collins.html

After the presentation by Mr. Collins, he will be available in the cafeteria to sign books.

We will have drinks and refreshments available. Bring some goodies to share for our annual holiday social.
Monthly Meetings
Future Guests & Events

December 19th
Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate
3rd Annual AWC Holiday Gathering

2016

January 16th
Mimi Schroeder (Member Minute)
Ann Hite
Mike Buchanan

February 20th
Libby Ware (Member Minute)
Carolyn Curry
Cherry Weiner

March 5th
Spring Writing Workshop - Anju Gattani
Word Building (1:00pm- 4:00pm)

March 19th
Julius Thompson (Member Minute)
Raymond Atkins
Marilyn Atlas

April 16th
Valerie Joan Connors (Member Minute)
Haywood Smith
Joshilyn Jackson

May 21st
Constance McKee (Member Minute)
Phillip DePoy
Amanda Kyle Williams

June 18th
AWC Annual Picnic – No Speakers
The 13th Atlanta Writers Conference was held on November 6-7, 2015 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. Over 160 AWC members attended at least one activity and many participated in all six--query letter critique, manuscript critique, pitch, editor Q&A panel, agent Q&A panel, and workshop--along with the social mixer and award ceremony. At the conclusion of the Conference, the guest agents and editors presented over 20 certificates for best manuscript submission and best pitch. Conference attendees offered numerous compliments about the event, including the following:

"I had to drop you a quick note to thank you for all the work and preparation that made the Atlanta Writer's Conference such a joy to attend. It was my first ever conference, and evidently I chose the right one! Every other attendee I asked was having just as much fun as I was, and compared the AWC favorably to much lesser conferences they had previously attended."

"Thank you for an amazing conference! Everything from start to finish was excellent. I so appreciate all your hard work and that of everyone involved. There was so much camaraderie, encouragement, and always more to learn."

"Thanks for again putting on a terrific Agent/Publisher event for the Atlanta Writers Club. It was well-organized, featured first rate talent and everything went as smoothly as a baby's beard."

The participants weren't the only ones to enjoy and appreciate the experience. Here is a sampling of the guest agents and editors' testimonials about the Atlanta Writers Conference. Note how often they compliment the talent and professionalism of the AWC members with whom they met:

“I was blown away by the talent and professionalism of the writers, who were not only gracious in the face of detailed critiques, but delightful and passionate people I was thrilled to meet.”
Conference Recap

2015 AWC Fall Writers Conference

“The Atlanta Writers Conference is one of the best of its kind. It was a great weekend, very well run, with wonderful people and talented authors. I enjoyed the experience of working one-on-one with participants, and I highly recommend it for anyone who wants to be a writer or wants to learn about the publishing industry. It is a great opportunity to be part of a warm, supportive community of people who love the written word.”

“I had a delightful time at this conference. Not only was the conference seamlessly run, but the writers were as talented as they were gracious and professional.”

“The Atlanta Writers Conference was a wonderful experience. It was a great opportunity to meet with a variety of talented writers and industry professionals, and overall I was very impressed with the writing quality and atmosphere of enthusiasm.”

“The attendee questions during the Q&A were so thoughtful, and demonstrated a higher level of publishing knowledge than I've come to expect.”

“The spirit of writing thrives at the Atlanta Writers Conference. The enthusiasm of the writers in attendance and the support they offer one another was inspiring to see. The Atlanta Writers Conference does not disappoint.”

Planning is already underway for the next Atlanta Writers Conference, tentatively scheduled for May 6-7, 2016. Hold those dates on your calendar and look for an announcement about the conference around New Year's Day.
DECEMBER 5
1 to 3 pm
A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL AUTHORS

Join Gwinnett County Public Library and Barnes & Noble at The Forum for a celebration of local authors featuring 14 writers from greater metro Atlanta.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Barnes & Noble at The Forum
5141 Peachtree Parkway
Norcross, GA 30092
AWC Author Spotlight

NEDRA ROBERTS PLAY

WRONG NUMBER

Nedra Pezold Roberts' play WRONG NUMBER was chosen from 200+ national and international submissions to the Hudson Shakespeare Company's NEW WORKS! Competition to have a full production in Manhattan in the theatre company's 2016 season. The competition was held to celebrate Hudson Shakespeare Company's 25th anniversary. The opening of WRONG NUMBER will be November 10th.

Also, Pittsburgh's 12 Peers Theatre will do a podcast reading of WRONG NUMBER for release on the web.

FRANKLIN COX SCREENPLAY

LULLABIES FOR LIEUTENANTS

PRESS RELEASE -- Rebel Seed Films & Entertainment has signed a Producer Agreement with Franklin Cox to secure his screenplay, “Lullabies for Lieutenants.”

The project, based on Mr. Cox’s award-winning memoir of his duty as a Marine Forward Observer in Vietnam, is planned for a high-end studio production. Laura Cross, President of Rebel Seed, will represent the project as the company explores funding opportunities beginning with the 2015 American Film Market.
SEARING FOR WRITERS OF A CERTAIN BACKGROUND

The following inquiry was sent to the AWC.

If you or a writer acquaintance fit the unique background described, please contact Mr. Glover at his email indicated below his address.

Dear Atlanta Writers,

I recently found your group and hope you might help with a writing project of my own. I’m working on a book about writers who grew up the South in the 1960s and 1970s, but whose parents came from the northern U.S—southern Yankees, if you will.

Here in North Carolina, a major example is David Sedaris; from Atlanta, I’ve identified Liza Wieland (whose Discovering America draws heavily from her teenage years) and David Cross (whom you might not consider much of a writer, but who certainly doesn’t hold back about growing up in Roswell). I’m hoping your group's collective wisdom might add to my list. If you can think of other writers who meet those criteria, from Atlanta or elsewhere in the South, I’d be deeply grateful and would of course acknowledge your help. Thanks very much!

Best regards,

Brian Glover
Teaching Associate Professor
Department of English
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858
gloverb@ecu.edu
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.

Fiction Online Critique Group

If you have difficulty in finding a critique group that meets at a convenient location and fits your schedule then you might consider the Atlanta Writers Club Fiction Online Critique Group. This group encompasses all genres of fiction writing from flash fiction to short story to novella to novels. All subject areas are welcome, although content warnings are appreciated. Group members are also encouraged to exchange information on any aspect of writing or publication, including query letters and self-publishing. In order to join, please send a request to Lianne Simon at liannesimon@yahoo.com, stating that you are an AWC member. She will send you an invitation.

AWC/Fiction/Online/LianneSimon/liannesimon@yahoo.com/Open
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club-Sponsored Critique Groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atlanta/Midtown</strong> Nonfiction</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday 6-7:30 pm at 77 12th Street</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Online</strong> Fiction Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpharetta</strong> All Genres</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble on North Point Parkway in Alpharetta on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7p.m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong> Nonfiction</td>
<td>Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong> Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 7-9 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buckhead/Midtown</strong> Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conyers</strong> All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong> All genres</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Road, Decatur</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Adult/YA fiction</td>
<td>Monthly on Tues, 6:45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Children’s and YA fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tues 10 a.m. – 12:15 @ JavaMonkey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Adult/YA fiction groups</td>
<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ ChocoLate Coffee – Clairmont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong> All genres</td>
<td>Once a month, on the Saturday of the AWC meeting at 12:30 in the Georgia Perimeter College breakroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong> All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrenceville/Snellville</strong> Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member’s home</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marietta</strong> All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Poncey-Highlands</strong> All genera</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel’s Tavern email John fortune</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> Poetry</td>
<td>3rd Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres</td>
<td>4th Saturday of month</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. member’s home</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres women’s</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
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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 $50 per year per person. Students can join for $40 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $25 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.** At least one contest is held each year with a 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 Michael Brown at michael@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: ______________________

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 [$50.00]: $ __________
Family [add family members for $25.00 each]: $ __________
Student [$40.00]: $ __________

Membership is for ONE YEAR

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club Tax Deductible Donation: $ __________
Total: $ __________

Mail check and form to: Atlanta Writers Club
C/O Valerie Connors, Treasurer
3813 Club Forest Drive
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*