

# eQuill



January 2016

**January 16th meeting 1:30pm at  
Georgia State University—  
Dunwoody Campus  
2101 Womack Road,  
Atlanta GA 30338  
Building NC auditorium**

## **Featuring**

Mimi Schroeder—Member Minute  
Ann Hite—First Speaker  
Mike Buchanan—Second Speaker

**Newsletter for the Atlanta Writers Club**



...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.

## Events in January

16 January AWC meeting

Mimi Schroeder—Member Minute

Ann Hite—First Speaker

Mike Buchanan—Second Speaker

### *Officers*

**President:**

Michael Brown

**Officers Emeritus:**

Valerie Connors

George Weinstein

Clay Ramsey

Marty Aftewicz

**Conference Director:**

George Weinstein

**Membership VP:**

George Weinstein (acting)

**Programs VP:**

Valerie Connors

**VP of Community Outreach**

Georgia Lee

**Operations VP:**

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Nedra Roberts

**Social Media VP:**

Gene Bowen

**Secretary:**

Bill Black

**Treasurer:**

Valerie Connors

**Volunteers:****Historian/By-Laws:**

George Weinstein

**Photographers:**

Andre Santillana

**eQuill Publisher:**

Gene Bowen

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383>

<http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub>

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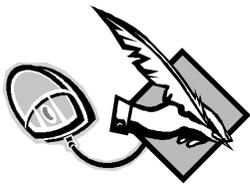
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## *Letter From the President*

### Scrolling Along by Michael K. Brown



The power of words. That is what we witnessed as Billy Collins read several of his poems at the AWC meeting on December 19. Even though the auditorium was almost full, it was as if Collins were speaking personally to each listener. Some poems were humorous, some bathed in poignant nostalgia, and each elicited a warm response from the audience. With few words of a short poem, the master poet was able to evoke an almost palpable wakening of emotions among those in the room.

“Words; they are the thread that binds us writers together. “

After the meeting, I was inspired. I wanted to be like Billy Collins. Once home, I read my autographed copy of *Aimless Love* and devoured each poem like it was a feast of words. Yes, a poet, that’s the highest calling for a writer, I thought. So that’s what I would be. Then, as Collins says in his poem “The Trouble with Poetry,” “I would “sit in the dark and wait for a little flame to appear at the tip of my pen.”

But soon the euphoria of discovery began to wane and I reassessed my ambitions. I am a novelist, a short story writer, and, occasionally, a poet. It’s not the medium that tugs at me, but rather the urge to connect with the reader and have him or her feel that intimacy. Words; they are the thread that binds us writers together.

There are thousands of words at our disposal but they have all been used countless times over the years. So how can familiar words be used in unique and interesting ways? As observed by Mark Twain, “The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.” Beyond that, writing might be thought of as the art of connecting the “right words” in an equally “right way.” And that, I think, is the genius of Billy Collins.

As a new year dawns it is natural to think of resetting our priorities. And even in the gloomy winter weather it is possible to feel a freshness of spirit. But, no, I won’t be transformed into Billy Collins this year and I doubt you will either. Instead, we’ll be preparing that special feast of words for our readers, searching for the secret ingredients of right words. And the deft touch to blend them in just the right way.

*Best wishes for good health and a plate full of wondrous words in 2016.*



# Monthly Meetings

## December Photos by ANDRE SANTILLANA



1

1 Our special guest, Billy Collins,  
U.S. Poet Laureate  
2001-2003

2. The audience is rapt as Billy  
Collins reads his poems

3. Fans line up to buy Billy Collins'  
books

4 Billy Collins signs his books.

5 Billy poses with the AWC Officers



2



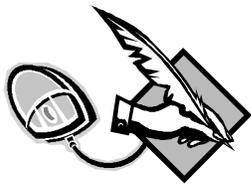
3



4



5



# Monthly Meetings

## January Guest Speakers



### Member Minute – Mimi Schroeder

Mimi Schroeder, APR, has always loved books. She finally found what she wanted to do with her life when she started working as a bookseller, and then jumped to bookstore PR, to book reviewer, to publicity manager for Peachtree Publishers, to independent book publicist. For the last nine years, she has operated her own book PR company, Max Communications, here in Atlanta. She works with authors, both traditionally and self-published, here and abroad, in genres as diverse as children's, historical fiction, business, and photo art books. Her topic will be "The Role of the Book Publicist."



### First Speaker – Ann Hite

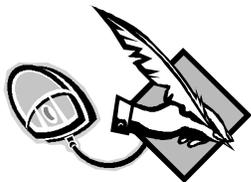
*Where the Souls Go* is **Ann Hite's** third novel set in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Readers who loved *Ghost on Black Mountain*, Hite's first novel, will find many of the characters familiar. This book follows three generations of the Pritchard family, not only telling the story of how Hobbs Pritchard became the villain of Black Mountain, but highlighting women's struggles in Appalachia, beginning in the Depression Era and ending in the mid-sixties. Ann Hite's debut novel, *Ghost of Black Mountain*, became a Townsend Award Finalist and won Georgia Author of the Year in 2013. She is an active board member of the Georgia Writers Association. Ms. Hite lives in Marietta, Georgia.



### Second Speaker – Mike Buchanan

Michael Buchanan's latest co-authored novel, *The Fat Boy Chronicles*, was released in 2010. The book won the *National Parenting Publication's Gold Award*, and *Mom's Choice Award of Excellence*. Buchanan and his writing partner Diane Lang won the *New York Champions of Character Award* for Literature in 2013. Schools around the nation use the novel in their anti-bullying and childhood obesity efforts.

Buchanan and Lang are guest speakers at schools nationwide as well as state, national and international conferences where they discuss the issues of bullying, childhood obesity and the issues' connection to academics. The pair offers writing and screenwriting workshops for middle/high school students. The sequel to *The Fat Boy Chronicles* is underway. Buchanan's other produced scripts are shorts *Last Bullet* and *Boxes* with the feature narrative *Bait and Tackle* in development. Buchanan is also the lead writer of *Spiral Bound*, a feature-length documentary about the importance of the arts.



# Monthly Meetings

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## Future Guests & Events

**2016**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mimi Schroeder (Member Minute)

Ann Hite

Mike Buchanan

**February 20<sup>th</sup>**

Libby Ware (Member Minute)

Carolyn Curry

Cherry Weiner

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Spring Writing Workshop - Anju Gattani

Word Building (1:00pm- 4:00pm)

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Julius Thompson (Member Minute)

Raymond Atkins

Marilyn Atlas

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Valerie Joan Connors (Member Minute)

Haywood Smith

Joshilyn Jackson

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**

Constance McKee (Member Minute)

Phillip DePoy

Amanda Kyle Williams

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**

AWC Annual Picnic – No Speakers

**July 16**

Workshop—Loretta Hannon



# Conference

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## **Presenting the 14<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Writers Conference on May 6-7: AWC Continues to Bring the Top Literary Professionals to You**

- ◆ 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 an editor or agent 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 an editor or agent 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 a conference designed for you:

On Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7, 2016, the Atlanta Writers Club will present its next Atlanta Writers Conference (<http://www.cvent.com/d/wfq97y>) at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel. The goal of this conference is to give you access to ten top publishing editors and literary agents--never any repeats from previous conferences--and to educate you with a workshop and talks by experienced industry professionals. The editors and agents will respond to your pitch; critique the manuscript sample, query, and synopsis, or nonfiction book proposal, 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 the link above). 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 five editors and five agents in attendance: on Friday, May 6, we'll feature an Editors Q&A Panel to give you their viewpoints and on Saturday the 7th we'll have an Agents Q&A Panel to focus on their experiences and advice. In addition, you can register for up to two critiques and/or two pitches independent of any other activities, and we offer a conference package deal with an \$80 savings if you want to participate in two manuscript critiques, two pitches, and every other activity on both days.

Moreover, we are featuring a special two-hour Workshop on Friday, May 6 from Angela James, Editorial Director of Carina Press, Harlequin's digital-first fiction imprint. Angela has enjoyed over a decade of experience in her field, including successfully launching, building and serving as editorial lead for two digital-first presses, Samhain Publishing and, since 2009, Harlequin's Carina Press.



## Conference

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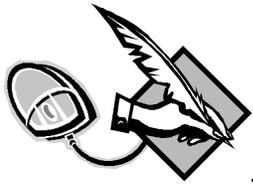
She was profiled in *Fast Company* magazine as a digital pioneer in the romance publishing industry and is the creator of the popular self-editing online workshop for authors, "Before You Hit Send." In 2013, Angela was named New York Romance Writers of America's Golden Apple Editor of the Year. On May 6, Angela will present "**Self-Editing 101**" -- concrete ideas, tips, tricks, and lessons for polishing and self-editing your manuscript, along with examples and assignments to help you get the most out of your workshop experience. This workshop is for writers at all levels, from those just starting out to authors with multiple publications who want to become more efficient and effective editors of their work. Before her workshop, Angela James will present two 45-minute seminars as well: understanding the role of an editor and finding your pacing sweet spot.

**On Friday evening**, we'll have a private mixer with all ten editors and agents and Angela James that is open to all Conference participants, so you can socialize with our guests and network with each other.

With the Editors Q&A panel, Query Letter Critique, the two-hour Workshop, and evening mixer, it's definitely worth taking a half-day off on Friday, May 6 so you can experience all these educational and developmental opportunities!

**On Saturday, May 7**, while the morning critiques are held, we will feature author of contemporary romances, **M.J. Pullen**, who landed her book deal at the Atlanta Writers Conference. M.J. will provide two 75-minute talks: "*Love Raises the Stakes: How a Compelling Romance Can Make Any Story into a Page-turner*" and "*The Hybrid Author: Creating Your Path in the New Publishing World*" That afternoon while the pitch sessions are held, **Rosalind Bunn**, children's book author, will do 75-minute presentations on "*Writing a Children's Book*" and "*Marketing a Children's Book*." Angela James' 45-minute seminars on Friday and the four 75-minute talks by M.J. Pullen and Rosalind Bunn 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. Quite a number of those who went on to score book deals and representation contracts started by receiving this award!

Our guest editors and agents love the Conference as much as the participants. Previous Conference guest Todd Hunter, Editor for Atria Books, raved, *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. And the staff was so professional; ran the conference like a well-oiled machine. The Atlanta Writers Conference does not disappoint.*



# Conference

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## THE CONFERENCE

**The conference on May 6-7, 2016 consists of SIX parts** and you may participate in one, some, or all of these events:

1. One-on-one critique sessions on Saturday, May 7, where the editors and agents share their evaluations with those who have submitted in advance the first 19 pages of manuscript plus a query letter and 1-page synopsis, or a non-fiction book proposal. You can register for up to two of these sessions.
2. Pitch sessions on Saturday, May 7, where you will provide a query letter to an editor or agent and discuss your project. You can register for up to two of these sessions.
3. Query letter critique on Friday, May 6 with editors and/or agents other than the one(s) you're meeting with on Saturday, so you can get advice about making it "pitch perfect" for the editor(s)/agent(s) of your choice.
4. Workshop on Friday, May 6 with Conference guest speaker Angela James.
5. Panel discussion and Q&A with the editors on Friday, May 6.  
Panel discussion and Q&A with the agents on Saturday, May 7.

We also offer a Conference All-Activities Package, which includes two manuscript critiques, two pitches, and all of the other activities, with an \$80 discount.

## THE EDITORS & AGENTS

The editors and agents below have provided the genres they are seeking to acquire, in their own words, and often identify specific genres they are not seeking, to decrease ambiguity. For these details, go to the guest editors and agents page on our Conference website (<http://www.cvent.com/d/wfq97y>).

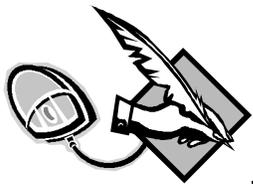
The conference registration webpage will show up-to-the-minute updates regarding availability. *When registering, if you don't see any spots available in the "Earlier Manuscript Critique" session for an agent/editor you want, scroll down to the "Later Manuscript Critique" session; the same applies to the Pitch sessions.*

Johnnie Bernhard, Agent, Loiacono Literary Agency

Caitlin Dareff, Assistant Editor, St. Martin's Press

Jennifer Fisher, Assistant Editor, The Berkley Group/Penguin Random House

Sarah LaPolla, Agent, Bradford Literary Agency



# Conference

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Daniel Loedel, Associate Editor, Scribner

Megan Reid, Associate Editor, Emily Bestler Books

Sarah Smith, Agent, David Black Literary Agency

Miriam Weinberg, Editor, Tor/Forge

Cherry Weiner, Founder, Cherry Weiner Literary Agency

Roseanne Wells, Associate Literary Agent, Jennifer DeChiara Literary Agency

**Complete details about all of the  
activities are on the new**

**Conference website:**

<http://www.cvent.com/d/wfq97y>

**If you still have any questions after  
reviewing the Conference website,**

please contact Atlanta Writers

Conference Director George Weinstein

at [awconference@gmail.com](mailto:awconference@gmail.com).



# AWC Author Spotlight

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## Barbara Brockway Publications

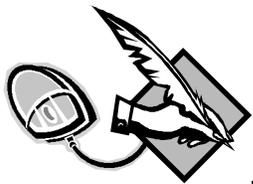


Barbara Brockway's essay, *The Christmas Birthday Conundrum*, was published by Brain, Child Magazine. She also had a short story, *The Clouds Over Molokai*, published in Grand Central Review. Below are links to both:

<http://www.brainchildmag.com/2015/12/the-christmas-birthday-conundrum/>

<http://www.grandcentralreview.com/fiction-and-poetry/#/clouds-over-molokai-by-b-e/>





# Opportunities

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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](mailto:jennifer.wiggins1@aol.com).

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## 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](mailto:liannesimon@yahoo.com), stating that you are an AWC member. She will send you an invitation.

AWC/Fiction/Online/LianneSimon/liannesimon@yahoo.com/  
Open

## Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Atlanta/Midtown	Nonfiction	1st & 3rd Wednesday 6-7:30 pm at 77 12thStreet	Ilanit Kateb	ilanitkateb@gmail.com	Open/new
Online	Fiction	Ongoing	Lianne Simon	liannesimon@yahoo.com	Open
Alpharetta	All Genres	Barnes & Noble on North Point Parkway in Alpharetta on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7p.m	Buzz Bernard	bwbernard@att.net	FULL
Avondale Estates	Nonfiction	Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds	Therra Cathryn Gwyn	therra@earthlink.net	Open
Avondale Estates	Nonfiction	Tues, 4-6p.m. @ Urban Grounds	Tara Coyt	contact@taracoyt.com	Waitlist
Buckhead/Midtown	Poetry	4th Sat @11a.m.	Karen Holmes	kpaulholmes@gmail.com	Full
Conyers	All genres	Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern	Nancy Fletcher	ncfletcher50@gmail.com	
Decatur	All genres	Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Road,Decatur	Jonathan Grant	jiandjgrant@bellsouth.net	Open
Decatur	Adult/YAfiction	Monthly on Tues,6:45	Ricky Jacobs	rickyjacobs@mac.com	Open
Decatur	Children's and YA fiction	Every other Tues 10 a.m. – 12:15 @ JavaMonkey	Ricky Jacobs	rickyjacobs@mac.com	Waitlist
Decatur	Adult/YA fiction groups	Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey	Ron Aiken	ron@hraiken.com	WaitList
Decatur	Fiction	Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ ChocoLate Coffee – Clair- mont/ North Decatur Road.	Ruth Gresh	rgresh@hotmail.com	Waitlist
Dunwoody	All genres	Once a month, on the Saturday of the AWC meeting at 12:30 in the Georgia Perimeter College breakroom	Kieran Pavlick	kieranpavlick@comcast.net.	Open
Dunwoody	All genres	1st and 3rd Fri,1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100	Gelia Dolcimascolo	770-274-5246	Open
Lawrenceville/Snellville	Novel, Short Story &Memoir	1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member's home	Ken Schmanski	kschmanski@aol.com	Full
Marietta	All genres	1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9p.m.	Linda Sullivan	lindasullivan3@gmail.com	Waitlist
Poncey-Highlands	All genera	2nd & 4th Monday Manuel's Tavern email John fortime	John Whittemore	thegridbook@gmail.com	Starting
Roswell	Poetry	3rdSunday	Nathan Simone	nathan.simone@lycon.com	Forming
Roswell	All genres	4th Saturday of month	Joe Ansley	josephdansley@gmail.com 770-827- 1255	New
Roswell	All genres	2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. member's home	George Weinstein	(770)552-5887 gjweinstein@yahoo.com	Open
Roswell	All genres women's	2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9p.m.	Jemille Williams	jemille@bellsouth.net	Open
Roswell	All genres	Twice monthly, Mon,10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.	John Sheffield	john.sheffield@aol.com	Open



# Administrative Matters

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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](mailto: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](mailto:awcmembership@principalds.com) prior to the expiration of your membership.



# Administrative Matters

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## 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>.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC President Michael Brown at [michael@atlantawritersclub.org](mailto: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]: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership is for ONE YEAR**

Student [**\$40.00**]: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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▪