March 19th meeting 1:30pm at
Georgia State University—
Dunwoody Campus
2101 Womack Road,
Atlanta GA 30338
Building NC auditorium

Featuring
Anju Gattani - Spring Workshop

Julius Thompson - Member Minute
Raymond Atkins - 1st Speaker
Marilyn Atlas - 2nd Speaker

Newsletter for the Atlanta Writers Club
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

**Membership VP:**
George Weinstein

**Programs VP:**
Valerie Connors

**VP of Community Outreach**
Georgia Lee

**Operations VP:**
Jennifer Wiggins

**Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP:**
Nedra Roberts

**Social Media VP:**
Gene Bowen

**Secretary:**
Bill Black

**Treasurer:**
Valerie Connors

**Historian/By-Laws:**
George Weinstein

**Photographers:**
Andre Santillana

**eQuill Publisher:**
Gene Bowen

---

**Events in March**

- 5 Spring Workshop w/Anju Gattani
- 5 Linda Case book signing
- 18 Katie Hart Smith book signing
- 19 AWC monthly meeting

---

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

President’s Message
February photos
March Speakers
Future Events
AWC Workshop with Anju Gattani
AWC Writing Contest
AWC Panels at Decatur Book Festival
AWC Spring Conference
Author Spotlight—Linda Case
Author Spotlight—Katie Hart Smith
Second Annual Great Atlanta Write
Visual Voices
Masters Review Anthology
Exit 271 Literary Journal
Opportunities
Critique groups
Membership form

March Speakers

Julius Thompson - Member Minute
Raymond Atkins - 1st Speaker
Marilyn Atlas - 2nd Speaker

Articles are now hyperlinked. Click on the name to jump to that page. Then click on that page heading to return to Table of Contents.
Why should a writer be a reader? The answer seems self-evident yet it doesn’t make the response any less challenging. I think all writers evolve from readers but, over time, our priorities change. Writing is a time consuming activity requiring rigorous attention to detail. It’s hard work. And, for any writer, a concentrated block of time is a precious commodity. Using that time to crank out a few new pages usually takes priority over reading what someone else has written. I plead guilty to that charge.

Most people read for pleasure in their spare time. And even though reading is often pleasurable to me, I have another motive. I believe reading makes me a better writer. As such, it’s part of my job description. But I’ve found that, since becoming a writer, I read differently. The positive difference is that I look for techniques the author uses that appeal to me and might help me be a better writer. The negative difference is that I can’t resist the urge to critique the book as I go along and all but line edit the darn thing. That takes some of the pleasure out but I suppose it’s ingrained in my writer’s DNA at this point.

My wife reads two or three books a week, a figure I might reach in a good month. So, as I hinted, I’m not exactly a voracious reader. However, sometimes I find that novel, non-fiction book, or short story that touches me in a special way. And afterward, I’ve rediscovered something that every writer lusts for: inspiration. The engine of motivation is fueled by inspiration, and that is why I read.

“Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.”

— Napoléon Bonaparte

The bond between reader and writer is inseparable; one can’t exist without the other. As writers, we owe a debt of gratitude to people who read our works. They certainly rule our world.

Mike Brown
President
Monthly Meetings

February Photos by GEORGE WEINSTEIN

1 Libby Ware
2 & 3 Carolyn Curry
4 & 5 Cherry Weiner
March Guest Speakers

Member Minute - Julius Thompson

Julius Thompson’s journey to compose a trilogy began in 1995. The fifteen year fictional journey of character Andy Michael Pilgrim from Brooklyn, to Philadelphia and finally Atlanta is now complete. In this pilgrimage, readers experience places that are filled with hopes, dreams, challenges and fears that make us human.

The novels that make up the trilogy are A Brownstone in Brooklyn which was published in 2001, Philly Style and Philly Profile in 2007 and Ghost of Atlanta in 2011. Julius Thompson received the Georgia Author of the Year nomination for Philly Style and Philly Profile, from the Georgia Writers Association, in 2007 and for Ghost of Atlanta in 2011.

1st speaker – Raymond Atkins

Raymond L. Atkins resides in Rome, Georgia, where he is an instructor of English at Georgia Northwestern Technical College. He lives on the banks of the Etowah River in an old house with a patient wife and a fat dog. His hobbies include people-watching, reading, and watching movies that have no hope of ever achieving credibility. His first novel, The Front Porch Prophet, was published by Medallion Press in 2008 and was awarded the Georgia Author of the Year Award for First Novel. His second novel, Sorrow Wood, was published by Medallion Press in 2009. His third novel, Camp Redemption, was released by Mercer University Press in 2013 and was awarded the Ferrol Sams Award for Fiction and the 2014 Georgia Author of the Year Award for Fiction. His fourth novel, Sweetwater Blues, is a Townsend Prize nominee. South of the Etowah, his first creative non-fiction book, will be released by Mercer University Press in March of 2016. Learn more about him at www.raymondlatkins.com.

2nd Speaker – Marilyn Atlas

An award-winning producer and personal manager of actors and writers, Marilyn R. Atlas is equally at home in the worlds of film, television, and live theater. Among her credits as film producer are “Real Women Have Curves” for HBO, which won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, “A Certain Desire,” starring Sam Waterston, and “Echoes,” which won the Gold Award at the Texas International Film Festival. In addition to producing a variety of programming for the cable/pay TV market, Marilyn served as a production consultant on the film “Call Me.” She was also involved as a producer in the development of the MOW “Nightwalker” and “Playing for Keeps.”

Marilyn is the co-author of a relationship-based, screenwriting guide called “Dating Your Character,” about an organic approach to character creation for Stairway Press’s early 2016 catalog. She is also featured in the book “Write Now!” from Penguin/Tarcher.
Monthly Meetings

Future Guests & Events

2016

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

July 16
Workshop—Loretta Hannon
A 3-hour presentation looking into the micro and macro elements that constitute effective world building in all genres of fiction and all levels of writing. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned writer, Anju will explore how dynamic worlds lead to dynamite characters and explosive story-telling. Anju will refer to international bestselling novel 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini and the blockbuster movie 'Avatar' for the workshop.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Fiction author, international freelance journalist, blogger, and former news reporter, Anju Gattani grew up in Hong Kong under the influence of the east and west. She has also lived and been published in India, Australia, Singapore and USA in a variety of genres from fiction, feature, travel and news, to interviews and perspective pieces. Her debut novel, 'Duty and Desire, A Tale of Modern India' was published in 2011. Anju is represented by D4EO Literary Agency and writes fiction to Bridge Cultures and Break Barriers.

Website: www.anjugattani.com
ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC 2016 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, George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com.)

2. Submissions must be original, unpublished, and previously un-awarded work. Entrants may submit to only one category per contest year.

DEADLINE:

Midnight, April 9, 2016. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

AWARDS:

Each award carries a $300 cash prize. Winners will be announced at our club meeting on May 21, 2016.

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

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 entry title is Moon Fire, the document should be named Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be sent to the judges) and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be seen only by Nedra Roberts).

Standard Submission Form (SSF):
The SSF must include the following information:
Author’s Name
Prize Category
Title of Entry
Word Count (Line Count for poetry)

Named the document: SSF-Title.docx

Attach the entry document and your SSF document to an email addressed to Nedra at nedra.roberts@gmail.com. Your EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:

Subject Line: AWC 2016 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]
Opportunity

AWC PANELS at the Decatur Book Festival

The Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) is proud to announce our continued sponsorship of the AJC Decatur Book Festival (DBF). This year’s festival takes place September 2-4, 2016 (Labor Day weekend). In 10 years, the DBF has become the largest independent book festival in the country and in the top five overall.

As part of our partnership, the DBF is continuing the Atlanta Writers Club Track. This is a fantastic opportunity for Atlanta-area writers to participate in the DBF on a curated stage and showcase their books.

The AWC Track consists of moderated panels of three to 4 authors in the same genre. Each author will have a few minutes to describe his or her work, before joining in a panel discussion of questions from the moderator and audience. Each panel will last 45 minutes, followed by a book signing, with book sales conducted by a local, independent bookstore.

We are now soliciting applications from AWC members who have or will be publishing fiction and non-fiction books in 2016 that will be available in time for the festival. As in the past, the decision about which authors to accept will be made by the DBF’s management.

Note: Books must be available to the trade (bookstores) at a standard trade discount by the publisher, wholesaler, or author on a returnable basis.

Interested parties should apply by April 30, 2016 to DBF Assistant Program Director Frannie Gordon at frannie@decaturbookfestival.com with the following information:

- Author name and residence
- Book title
- Date of publication
- Publisher
- Brief description of title
- Short author bio
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.

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. 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
AWC Spring Conference

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."
AWC Spring Conference

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.

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.

1. Johnnie Bernhard, Agent, Loiacono Literary Agency

2. Caitlin Dareff, Assistant Editor, St. Martin’s Press


4. Sarah LaPolla, Agent, Bradford Literary Agency

5. Daniel Loedel, Associate Editor, Scribner
AWC Spring Conference

6. Kaela Myers, Editor, Random House

7. Sarah Smith, Agent, David Black Literary Agency

8. Miriam Weinberg, Editor, Tor/Forge

9. Cherry Weiner, Founder, Cherry Weiner Literary Agency

10. 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.
AWC AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Linda Case Interview

On Friday, March 4, 7:30 pm, Linda Case will be interviewed, LIVE, on Blog Talk Radio in New York.

Call 646-727-3116. A podcast of the interview will be available on March 5 at blogtalkradio.com/authordavidclarke.

Also, Linda will sign her book, *The Fugitive's Sister.*

Katie Hart Smith will be the keynote speaker at the Kennesaw State University/Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics, and Character-16th Annual Phenomenal Women's Conference on Friday, 3/18/16.

She will be discussing her memoir, *Couch Time with Carolyn,* followed by a book signing in the KSU Bookstore.
Workshop

THE SECOND ANNUAL GREAT ATLANTA WRITE-IN

-presented by Bestselling Author Lauretta Hannon

April 9, 2016
11am-2pm
Marietta Museum of History
$25 per person

Writing prompts, live readings, and more!

Details & registration at atlantawritein.brownpapertickets.com

Wouldn't it be nice to have a place to go for writing inspiration and practice? Where you could enjoy the company of kindred spirits and have time for focused writing on your specific project?

THE GREAT ATLANTA WRITE-IN is your place.

Here's how it goes.

After introductions, Lauretta gives an evocative writing prompt. Everyone writes for 15 minutes, and then she presents a second prompt, and we repeat the process. Then, those who want to read aloud their work can do so via Three-Minute Shares. Lauretta strictly enforces the time limit in order to maintain the momentum.

Then we take a 15-minute break to socialize or purchase comestibles in the gift shop. But we REALLY get down to business in the final session with 60-90 minutes of focused writing on whatever you need to write: novel, poem, short story, nonfiction, manifesto, memoir, treatise, Dear John letter, anything! This time is designed to strengthen your writing discipline and support you as you show up to the page.

There is no pressure, no critiques, and no egos run amok. Just free-form creativity guaranteed to energize and inspire. THE GREAT ATLANTA WRITE-IN is like a workout class for writers--or a literary B-12 shot. Okay, we're getting carried away here. But as you can tell, the experience will be fun and upbeat and above all--productive.

-Each writer will receive a commemorative journal.

-Advance registration for this 3-hour class is required.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Lauretta Hannon is a bestselling author, syndicated advice columnist, keynote speaker, and commentator on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." She has taught and encouraged writers for more than twenty years. As a writer she has captured more than 100 national awards.

Her memoir, "The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life," became a bestseller only three weeks after its release in April 2009. In 2010 the Georgia Center for the Book named her work one of the Top Twenty-Five Books All Georgians Should Read. Lauretta has completed six writing residencies at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. Her advice column reaches more than 500,000 households in 25 newspapers across Metro Atlanta. She is at work on her next book.

This event is part of Lauretta's Down Home Writing School (DHWS) and is suitable for writers working at any level.
WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

"Lauretta's seminars are like a family reunion for writers of all levels. You will leave with a mentor, a map for your writing journey, and a new tribe of travelers."

"Her writing classes ignite you. They send you scrambling to the page, eager to apply her no frills, no prisoners, no-nonsense advice. She accomplishes the impossible in getting you from the excuses to the story."

"In her classes you have no worry of 'making the grade' or being judged. You'll learn what it takes to write a short story or your life's story. You'll leave with a smile on your face, some new friends, and with an experience you won't forget."

"Lauretta's workshops leave you inspired and rejuvenated, ready to grab that pen/paper/keyboard and get going. I can't wait to put my new skills to use!"

---

Lauretta Hannon  
Bestselling Author, Teacher, Syndicated Columnist, & Speaker  
thecrackerqueen.com
Submissions

Visual Voices
Tenth Annual Poetry Exhibit
First for Georgia State University Dunwoody Campus!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
OPEN THEME

Food!
Free!
POETRY!
POETRY!

Prizes!

What To Do:
1. Submit 1-2 ready-to-hang* original poems with artwork (max 24" x 24") by March 24 to Nancy McDaniel, Georgia State University, Perimeter College LTC, 2101 Womack Road, N-LRC 3200, Dunwoody, GA 30338.
2. Email 50-word (max) bio to nmcdaniel@gsu.edu by March 10.

~Exhibit will hang in the gallery throughout April, National Poetry Month~

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
* Poetry Workshop 11:30-12:30 *
* Reading & Reception 1-3 *

*All frames must be wired as shown in photo.

For Additional Info:
Nancy: nmcdaniel@gsu.edu (770-274-5243)
Publication Opportunities

The Masters Review Anthology

The Masters Review Anthology - Judge Amy Hempel $5000 awarded

$20.00 USD
Ends on 3/31/2016

Submissions are open from January 15, 2016 to March 31, 2016. This year stories will be selected by author Amy Hempel who will select ten winners from a shortlist of forty. This category is open to ALL EMERGING WRITERS. Anyone who has not yet published a novel at the time of submission.

We are looking for today's top emerging writers. Send us your best!

GUIDELINES:

- Previously unpublished works of fiction and narrative nonfiction only
- Up to 7000 words
- We accept simultaneous submissions as long as work is withdrawn if it is accepted elsewhere
- Multiple submissions are allowed
- Writers must not have published a novel-length work at the time of submission (authors of short story collections and self-published titles can submit)
- Standard formatting please (double-spaced, 12 pt font, pages numbered)
- $20 reading fee
- Submissions are not limited to writers in the US. All English-language submissions are welcome

TEN PUBLISHED AUTHORS WILL RECEIVE:

- $500 award
- Publication in a nationally distributed journal
- Exposure to over 50 literary agencies
- Contributor’s copy
- All writers are part of an exclusive mailing. We send our anthology to editors, writers, and literary institutions across the country

Deadline for entry is March 31, 2016. The shortlist will announce on April 15, 2016 and winners will be announced no later than May 15, 2016. The book is published in the fall.

To submit:

https://mastersreview.com/submissions/
Publication Opportunities
Exit 271 Literary Journal

Georgia Writers Association, the home of the Georgia Author of the Year Awards (GAYA), is asking for submissions for the spring issue of Exit 271: Your Georgia Writers Resource.

Exit 271: Your Georgia Writers Resource, brought to you by the Georgia Writers Association, is asking for feature articles (1000-2000 words), the Writer's Path column (approximately 800 words), short fiction, poetry, and cover art. For guidelines and to submit, go to https://georgiawriters.submittable.com/submit

All writers and artists must currently live (or in the past lived) in Georgia. Feature articles are theme related and pay $50 per article. Writer's Path column pays $25 per article. While short fiction, poetry, and cover art are on a rolling submission basis, the deadline for all submissions to be published in the spring issue is March 19.

Exit 271 is both a writer's resource magazine and a literary journal. Four times a year, we bring you a motivational kick to get you writing more, publishing more, and living the writer's life--Georgia style. Plus, with every issue, we showcase short story authors, poets, and artists who call Georgia home. Please take a look at our winter 2016 issue:
http://issuu.com/exit271georgiawritersresource/docs/winter-2016

To submit, go to https://georgiawriters.submittable.com/submit

Happy Writing!

Val Mathews
Editor-in-Chief
Exit 271: Your Georgia Writers Resource
Georgia Writers Association
http://www.georgiawriters.org

440 Bartow Avenue
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
Other Opportunities

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta/Midtown</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday 6-7:30 pm at 77 12th Street</td>
<td>Ilanit Kateb</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ilanitkateb@gmail.com">ilanitkateb@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open/new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Lianne Simon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liannesimon@yahoo.com">liannesimon@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble on North Point Parkway in Alpharetta on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m</td>
<td>Buzz Bernard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hwbernard@att.net">hwbernard@att.net</a></td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Therra Cathryn Gwyn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:therra@earthlink.net">therra@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 4-6 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Waitlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kphaulholmes@gmail.com">kphaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher59@gmail.com">ncfletcher59@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Road</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:landjgrant@bellsouth.net">landjgrant@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult &amp; YA fiction</td>
<td>Sunday, 1:30PM, monthly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult, YA fiction, &amp; memoirs</td>
<td>Sunday, 10AM, fortnightly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Waitlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Children's and YA fiction</td>
<td>Thursday, 10AM, monthly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA fiction groups</td>
<td>Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey</td>
<td>Ron Aiken</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron@hraiken.com">ron@hraiken.com</a></td>
<td>WaitList</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ ChocoLate Coffee – Clairmont/ North Decatur Road</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrgresh@hotmail.com">jrgresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Waitlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Once a month, on the Saturday of the AWC meeting at 12:30 in the Georgia Perimeter College breakroom</td>
<td>Kieran Pavlick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kieranpavlick@comcast.net">kieranpavlick@comcast.net</a>.</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascio</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member's home</td>
<td>Kerry Denney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Waitlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncey-Highlands</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel's Tavern email John fortune</td>
<td>John Whitemore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thegridbook@gmail.com">thegridbook@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Starting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>3rd Sunday</td>
<td>Nathan Simone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nathan.simone@lycon.com">nathan.simone@lycon.com</a></td>
<td>Forming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>4th Saturday of month</td>
<td>Joe Ansley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joesphdansley@gmail.com">joesphdansley@gmail.com</a> 770-827-1255</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tues 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. member's home</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>(770)552-5887 <a href="mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com">gjweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9p.m.</td>
<td>Jemmile Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemmile@bellsouth.net">jemmile@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon,10:30pm</td>
<td>John Sheffield</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.sheffield@aol.com">john.sheffield@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres women's</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9p.m.</td>
<td>John Sheffield</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.sheffield@aol.com">john.sheffield@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Renewal—What to Expect

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

Regular membership dues are $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

Administrative Matters
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*