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

Featuring
Valerie Joan Connors (Member Minute)
Joshilyn Jackson—1st Speaker
Victoria Wilcox—2nd Speaker
...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
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 April
3 Amber Brock Appearance
9 Mudsill Memoirs Workshop
9 Rome Writers Forum
16 AWC Monthly Meeting
21-23 JordanCon Fantasy Literature Convention
28 Emily Carpenter Debut Novel Launch

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/10000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
In This Issue

April Speakers

Valerie Joan Connors (Member Minute)
Joshilyn Jackson—1st Speaker
Victoria Wilcox—2nd Speaker

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AWC Spring Conference
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Author Spotlight— Emily Carpenter
Author Spotlight— Alan Wells
Author Spotlight— John Havick
Author Spotlight— Nedra Roberts
Great Atlanta Write-In
Visual Voices
Events Hosted by Gwinnett Library
Exit 271 Literary Journal
Rome Area Writers Forum
JordanCon
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Critique groups
Membership form
Recently, I watched a wonderful television documentary about Lou Gehrig, the great New York Yankee baseball player. Gehrig was a unique person, very shy and modest, yet naturally strong and a talented athlete. A teammate of Babe Ruth, he was the polar opposite of the legendary Bambino yet almost his equal as a hitter and all-around player. As a long time baseball fan, I knew a lot about Lou Gehrig; his impressive batting statistics, his long-held record for consecutive games played, and, of course, his early death from ALS, now known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Gehrig’s life is truly mythic and the documentary reminded me that truth can sometimes be more compelling than fiction. His famous *Luckiest man on the face of this earth* speech consists of 278 words, lasted two minutes, and was given spontaneously only at the urging of fans and officials. A novelist could never have written it as well. Sport stories are notoriously overwrought with hyperbole, but what struck me about this documentary was the simple, yet beautiful, way in which it was written and produced. It got me to thinking about the talent it takes to write good non-fiction.

When I was young, I sailed the Pacific Ocean with Thor Heyerdahl on the *Kon-Tiki*. Many Years later, I joined Stephen Ambrose and the *Band of Brothers* as they parachuted behind the German lines on D-Day. I’ve gone *Into Thin Air* on Mount Everest with Jon Krakauer and later followed him *Into the Wild* of the Alaskan backcountry. These are all books of great adventure which would be interesting if told in a straight-forward, chronological, style. But, in the hands of a skillful writer, the stories become dramatically compelling. This is especially true given the fact that the reader knows the basic storyline with no surprising twists and turns of plot development.

History can be pretty dry, even dull, when presented as a series of dates, notable events, and famous people. However, at the AWC meeting in February, we were privileged to have Carolyn Curry as a guest speaker. Carolyn presented her historical biography of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas in a way that made it as interesting as any novel. She had done exhaustive research on her subject but made it clear that the main challenge was to write the book in the same way that a historical novelist might. There are many good non-fiction writers today, none more notable than Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough. And, on an entirely different level, one of my all-time favorite writers is Henry David Thoreau. His books are more like long essays but they touch me in a profound way that I rarely find elsewhere.

I bring this up because, as a fiction writer, I sometimes forget that many opportunities exist in the non-fiction realm. Maybe you have, too.

Lou Gehrig died at the age of thirty-four, but the amazing story of his life will always be with us. That’s what writers do.

Mike Brown
President
Monthly Meetings

March Photos by Andre Santillana

1 Marty Aftewicz promotes the picnic
2 Julius Thompson
3 Raymond Atkins
4 Lots of new faces
5 L-R: Perry Powell, Ken Schmanski, Barbara Barth, Lee Giminez, Clay Ramsey, Georgia Lee
Valerie Joan Connors—Member Minute


She was born in Upper Michigan, grew up in Eugene, Oregon, and moved to Atlanta in 1996. Her novels focus on women’s issues, both historical and contemporary, and are set in the many places Valerie has called home. She is a Past President of the Atlanta Writers Club, and continues to serve on the board as an Officer Emerita, VP of Programming, and Treasurer. Her well-rounded education began at the University of Oregon, continued at San Diego State, and concluded with a B.S. in Finance from Portland State University. During business hours, Valerie is the CFO of an engineering firm. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and two dogs, and is working on her next novel.

Joshilyn Jackson - 1st Speaker

New York Times Bestselling novelist Joshilyn Jackson is the author of six novels: *Someone Else’s Love Story*, *Gods in Alabama*, *Between, Georgia*, *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*, *Backseat Saints*, and *A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty*. Her books have been translated into a dozen languages, won SIBA’s novel of the year, three times been a #1 Book Sense Pick, twice won Georgia Author of the Year, and three times been shortlisted for the Townsend prize. Her new novel, *The Opposite of Everyone* was launched in February 16th.

A former actor, Jackson reads the audio versions of her novels; her work in this field has been nominated for the Audie Award, was selected by *AudioFile* Magazine for their best of the year list, has made the 2012 Audible All-Star list for highest listener ranks/reviews, and garnered three Listen Up Awards from Publisher’s Weekly. In 2012 Jackson began reading the audio versions of books written by other novelists, beginning with *Shine Shine Shine* by Lydia Netzer.

She lives in Decatur, Georgia with her husband, Scott, their two children, and herd of cats and dogs.

Victoria Wilcox – 2nd Speaker

Victoria Wilcox is founding director of Georgia’s Holliday-Dorsey-Fife House Museum, the antebellum home of the family of Doc Holliday. Her work with the house led to eighteen years of original research and inspired her historical novel trilogy, *Southern Son: The Saga of Doc Holliday*. Book one, *Inheritance*, was released by Knox Robinson in May 2013, and for it Victoria was awarded Georgia Author of the Year for Best First Novel. Book two, *Gone West*, followed in May 2014 and received another award from the Georgia Writers Association. *The Last Decision* was released in May 2015. Wilcox lives in Peachtree City, Ga. She was also honored as the Best Historical Western Novelist for 2016 by *True West* magazine, the premiere magazine about the history and lifestyle of the Old West.
2016

**April 16th**
Valerie Joan Connors (Member Minute)
Joshilyn Jackson—1st Speaker
Victoria Wilcox—2nd Speaker

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

**June 18th**
AWC Annual Picnic – No Speakers

**July 16**
Workshop—Lauretta Hannon
Monthly Meetings

SATURDAY
JUNE
18

Holcomb Bridge Park
Noon - 3 PM

This is NOT your Mother's Picnic! We will serve great food, not your typical hamburgers and hot dogs for us. Our panel of culinary experts are already testing samples and approving the menu. We promise you will be surprised and pleased.

RSVP with number of attendees to:
Marty@atlantawritersclub.org

Holcomb Bridge Park, 4300 Holcomb Bridge Rd., Norcross, GA 30092

FREE! to all AWC members and family.

ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB
ANNUAL PICNIC

You are welcome to bring an appetizer, dessert or snack. AWC will supply the main course and all the setup. Please remember, this will be June in Atlanta, so heat-sensitive items are discouraged.

Here’s some of our options so far (we are still experimenting in our lab):

- Oven Roasted BBQ Herb-Chicken Wings
- Mini-Pizza Muffins
- Chicken Francais on a stick
- Teriyaki Veggie-Balls (still in experimental stage)
- Sloppy Toms (Sloppy Joes with Ground Turkey)
- Ham, Turkey, and Veggie Sliders
- and more surprises
Workshop

Write Your Life Story
A Memoir Writing Workshop

Saturday, April 9th
1 to 3 pm

2780 Five Forks Trickum Rd.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Join Georgia Gwinnett
College professors Linda
Hughes and Kathryn
Gray-White at GCPL’s
Five Forks branch!

Free and open to the public.
Reservations recommended; email events@gwinnetpl.org

Join us for four of the best days of your writing life!
41st Southeastern Writers Workshop ~ June 17-21
Epworth-by-Sea ~ St. Simons Island, GA
http://southeasternwriters.org/Writers_Workshop.php

Our Faculty includes:
Agent-in-Residence: Jeanie Loiacono, CEO and President of the Loiacono Literary Agency
Publisher: Bob Babcock, Founder and CEO of Deeds Publishing
Keynote Speaker: Janet Sheppard Kelleher, author of the best-selling Big C, little ta-ta

Novel Writing with Shamus Award Winner David Fulmer
Nonfiction Writing with Jedwin Smith, a 2-time Pulitzer nominee
Plus...
Young Adult Fiction: Michele Roper (a.k.a Gillian Summers)
Screenwriting: Michael Lucker
Commercial Writing: Peter Bowerman (a.k.a. The Well-Fed Writer)
Marketing: My Write Platform

Other Features:
FREE Manuscript Critiques!
Contests with CASH prizes!
Scholarships Available! purple@southeasternwriters.org for details
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
AWC Spring Conference

Presenting the 14th 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.

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
A WC 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.

On Saturday evening, we 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

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
AMBER BROCK APPEARANCE

Amber Brock, author of A Fine Imitation (Crown May 3, 2016) will speak at the Decatur Library on Tues. May 3 at 7:15 pm. Hosted by the Georgia Center for the Book and Charis Books and More.

Decatur Library 215 Sycamore St.

EMILY CARPENTER DEBUT NOVEL

BURYING THE HONEYSUCKLE GIRLS

Althea Bell is still heartbroken by her mother’s tragic, premature death—and tormented by the last, frantic words she whispered into young Althea’s ear: Wait for her. For the honeysuckle girl. She’ll find you, I think, but if she doesn’t, you find her.

Adrift ever since, Althea is now fresh out of rehab and returning to her family home in Mobile, Alabama, determined to reconnect with her estranged, ailing father. While Althea doesn’t expect him, or her politically ambitious brother, to welcome her with open arms, she’s not prepared for the chilling revelation of a grim, long-buried family secret. Fragile and desperate, Althea escapes with an old flame to uncover the truth about her lineage. Drawn deeper into her ancestors’ lives, Althea begins to unearth their disturbing history...

Gripping and visceral, this unforgettable debut delves straight into the heart of dark family secrets and into one woman’s emotional journey to save herself from a sinister inheritance.

BOOK LAUNCH:

Thursday, April 28, 2016 5-7 pm at

Britt Bass Turner Studio & Shop
37 Oak Street
Roswell, GA 30075

Kindle unlimited
Alan Wells Flash Fiction

Alan Wells’ flash fiction story *Three Count* was featured as the lead story on Flash Fiction Magazine’s home page on February 27. It’s a 3-4 minute read.

In his bio that followed the story, Alan mentioned that he is a member of the Atlanta Writers Club. Congratulations Alan.

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JOHN HAVICK PUBLICATIONS

AWC member John Havick has a Ph. D. in political science and was a university professor for more than thirty years.

He’s the author of *American Democracy in Transition: A Communications Revolution*. He has published a number of articles, including the widely read and cited *The Impact of the Internet on a Television-Based Society*.

More recently he has published a popular history: *The Ghosts of NASCAR: The Harlan Boys and the First Daytona 500* (University of Iowa Press). The book was chosen at the annual meeting of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association as the second best motorsport book published in 2013.

Nedra Roberts’ play *Wrong Number* is a contest winner and has performances scheduled in three different cities.

**Congratulations, Nedra!**

Texas Nonprofit Theatres has announced that Nedra Pezold Roberts’ play *Wrong Number* has won the 2016-17 TNT POPS! (Production Of Plays) competition. The play will have its Texas premier in the 2016-17 season at Baytown Little Theatre outside Houston.

Beginning June 21st, 12 Peers Theater in Pittsburgh will release a 4-part staged reading podcast of *Wrong Number* + interviews with Nedra, actors and director.

The website is [www.12peerstheater.org/modern-myths-podcast](http://www.12peerstheater.org/modern-myths-podcast).

Also in June, the Gallery Players in Brooklyn will produce *Wrong Number* as the culmination of this year’s 19th black-box festival. Then in November, the play will have a fully staged run by the Hudson Shakespeare Company in Manhattan at the Wow! Café Theatre in the Fourth Arts Block in the East Village (La MaMa and the New York Theatre Workshop are next door).
AWC Members are invited to meet Ace Atkins the New York Times Bestselling author of nineteen novels.
May 11th at 7:30 at the Norcross Cultural Arts Center hosted by Gwinnett Library systems Meet the Author Series
One of the best crime writers working today, Ace has been nominated for every major award in crime fiction, including the Edgar three times, twice for novels about former U.S. Army Ranger Quinn Colson. A former newspaper reporter and SEC football player, Ace also writes essays and investigative pieces for several national magazines including Outside and Garden & Gun. For more information: events@gwinnettpl.org or www.gwinnettpl.org

AWC Members are invited to meet New York Times bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe and Johnathon Barrett for a Low Country Wedding Lunch
May 11th at 12:00 pm at Garden Plaza, 230 Collins Industrial Way, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

AWC Members are invited to meet the star of the new PBS Series Project Smoke Steven Raichlen
May 17th at 7:30 at the Atlanta Marriott Peachtree Corners. Hosted by Gwinnett Library systems Meet the Author Series and Eagle Eye Books. For more information email events@gwinnettpl.org or visit www.gwinnettpl.org
AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT


Tickets $10 each, will be available from the Friends website at www.friendsgcpl.org or by mailing a check to Friends of the Gwinnett Library, 1001 Lawrenceville Hwy., Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Doors do not open until 11:45 and seating is limited.

AWC Members are invited to meet #1 New York Times bestselling author Brad Thor

June 25th 7:30 pm

Location TBD Hosted by Gwinnett Library System and Books for Heroes Charitable Foundation

Brad Thor is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Code of Conduct, Act of War, Hidden Order, Black List, Full Black (one of Suspense Magazine’s best political thrillers of 2011), The Athena Project, Foreign Influence The Apostle, The Last Patriot (nominated best thriller of the year by the International Thriller Writers Association and banned in Saudi Arabia), The First Commandment, Takedown, Blowback (recognized as one of the “Top 100 Killer Thrillers of All Time” by NPR), State of the Union, Path of the Assassin, and The Lions of Lucerne.

For location email events@gwinnettpl.org.
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.

-After the event, writers are invited to join us next door at Hemingway's for a libation and casual discussion.

-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! Prizes! POETRY! POETRY!

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)
The Writers Forum

Saturday | April 9, 2016
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Registration opens at 8:00 am

WinShape Wilderness
2277 Martha Berry Hwy NW | Mt. Berry | Georgia

Featuring Authors:

Victoria Wilcox | Getting Published
Janie Dempsey Watts | Telling a Story in Writing

Registration and information:
www.RomeAreaWriters.com

Hosted by: Rome Area Writers
JordanCon Fantasy Literature Convention

About JordanCon
JordanCon is a fantasy literature convention founded in honor of the late author, Robert Jordan. Features eight tracks of simultaneous programming, a Dealers' Hall, gaming, an Art Show featuring original art by a variety of artists, and charity events benefiting the Mayo Clinic and other charities.

The programming tracks include a Brandon Sanderson track, Wheel of Time track, Fantasy track, Sci Fi track, and a Writer’s track which features many great panels and tools for writers.

JordanCon takes place this year at the Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center April 21 - 23 with Guest of Honor Catherine Asaro and artist Guest of Honor John Picacio.

Visit www.jordancon.org for more info.

Thank you!
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.
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Industry News

Below are some developments in the writing industry provided by AWC member Yvonne Green. Providing the links does not serve as an endorsement by the Atlanta Writers Club.

April is National Poetry Month (Academy of American Poets)  
https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/about-celebration_  
Show your support for poets and poetry.

For Hachette, the addition of nine imprints from Perseus will help fill out and balance its publishing program in areas like nonfiction and travel.

Supreme Court Declines to Hear Apple’s Appeal in E-Book Pricing Case (The New York Times)  

Publishers, authors, and readers may have concerns about how e-book data will be used to acquire, edit and market books.

Banned Books Week Spotlights Diversity in 2016 (Association of American Publishers)  
Banned Books Week, the annual celebration of the freedom to read, will run from September 25–October 1, 2016, and will celebrate literature written by diverse writers that have been banned or challenged.

Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing to Launch Muslim Children’s Book Imprint (Simon & Schuster)  
http://about.simonandschuster.biz/news/salaam-reads/  
Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing announced that it will launch Salaam Reads, believed to be the first imprint at a major publisher focused on Muslim characters and stories.
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 (showing Officer Emeritus George Weinstein’s e-mail address george@atlantawritersclub.org) one month before your membership expiration date. If you haven't renewed within a week, you will receive another e-mail every seven days, with a final e-mail one week from expiration. 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 george@atlantawritersclub.org prior to the expiration of your membership.

We appreciate your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club. Your membership dues make it possible to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings, provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest, and sponsor scholarships, literary prizes, and local writing festivals.
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 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]: $__________

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*