June 18 meeting
12:00—3:00
AWC Picnic
Holcomb Bridge Park
4300 Holcomb Bridge Rd.
Norcross, GA 30092
770-417-2200
...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

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**Events in June**

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<td>Decatur Writers Studio Workshop</td>
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<td>Finding You Creative Core</td>
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<td>11-12</td>
<td>Valerie Connors’ Book Launch</td>
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<td>Brad Thor Lecture</td>
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<td>17-21</td>
<td>Southeastern Writers Workshop</td>
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**June 18th**

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http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
June Speakers

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No speakers.
Come to the picnic.

No speakers.
Come to the picnic.
It was a treat to hear Phillip DePoy speak at our last meeting. A playwright, novelist, poet, performer, and artistic director, he is a man of many talents. As a speaker, he is casually articulate, humorous, and simply engaging. Phillip spoke about the similarities and differences between writing fiction and drama. But the core of his message for me was his passion for writing and the things that inspire him. One thing he suggested was to set a daily goal of number of pages or word count. And when he said daily goal, he meant just that. In an amazing testament to that commitment, he has written every day since 1965. Phillip spoke at an AWC meeting five years ago and made that same statement. I've never forgotten it.

Very few people have the discipline to write every day. I certainly don’t. In fact, I don’t even advocate it. But I believe in the basic concept and give it a good shot on most days. Ironically, even before listening to Phillip, I began aiming for a daily word count. My goal might be modest, even laughable, to some writers but it has given me a boost. Sometimes, by sticking with it a little longer to hit the goal, a light of clarity appears out of nowhere.

As a balance to the task of getting words on a page, consider the approach of former U.S. Poet Laureate, Billy Collins. Last December, Billy spoke to the AWC and his poems convey powerful messages in few words. He spoke about the importance of using the “right” words. One of the highest compliments a literary novelist can receive is that his or her writing is poetic.

Despite the apparent differences in approach by Phillip DePoy and Billy Collins, the results speak for themselves. Based upon a large body of successful work, it’s obvious that Phillip DePoy uses a lot of the “right” words. And the impressive volume of Billy Collins’ poetry is validation of his dedication to the craft of writing. So, it seems pretty simple to me. All we have to do is be a combination of Phillip DePoy and Billy Collins.

Now, I'll get back to the novel I'm writing. I haven't reached my daily word count goal.

Mike Brown
President
Monthly Meetings

May Photos by Perry Powell

1 Writing Contest Winners (See page 8)
   (L-R) Sandra Hood, Pamela Wright, Teresa Peipins

2 Connie McKee

3 Phillip DePoy

4 Mari Ann Stefanelli

5 Arthur Murphy wins a signed book of poems by Billy Collins

6 Sampling Marty’s Picnic Goodies
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
Monthly Meetings

Future Guests & Events

2016

June 18th
AWC Annual Picnic – No Speakers

July 16th
Workshop – Lauretta Hannon

August 20th
Emily Carpenter (Member Minute)
Haywood Smith (1st Speaker)
Susan Sands (2nd Speaker)

September 17th
The September 17th meeting will include a roundtable discussion of Pat Conroy’s life and writings. Veteran TV news anchor John Pruitt will moderate a discussion among some of Pat’s close friends: Terry Kay, Daniel Sklar, Cliff Graubart, and Bernie Schein.
Make plans now to attend this special event.

September 24th
2-Hour Workshop on Science Fiction Humor – Mickey Dubrow

October 15th
Mary Anna Bryan (Member Minute)
Kimberly Brock (1st Speaker)
Stacy Allen (2nd Speaker)
Winners

Congratulations to the winners and finalists of the 2016 Writing Contest. The winners were presented engraved plaques at the monthly meeting on May 21.

Terry Kay Prize for Fiction
♦ Winner: Sandra Hood for *Listening Under Water*
♦ Finalists: Mary Beecroft for *From 205 South Mill Lane*
♦ Lee Gimenez for *The Perfect Candidate*

Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction
♦ Winner: Pamela Wright for *My Soul to Keep*
♦ Finalists: Elene Catrakilis for *No Ordinary Place*
♦ Marty Aftewicz for *Sweetness*

Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry
♦ Winner: Teresa Peipins for *Sending Out Roots*
♦ Finalists: Arthur Murphy for *Love Beyond Mathematics*
♦ William Hines for *Modern Poetry*
AWC WRITERS CONFERENCE RECAP

Thanks to George Weinstein for another terrific Writers Conference

Our 14th Atlanta Writers Conference welcomed 166 participants, including writers from across U.S., as well as 10 literary agents and acquisition editors who critiqued manuscript samples, responded to pitches, paired up to make query letters more impactful, and provided insightful responses during two Q&A panels. In parallel with the agent and editor activities, educational sessions focused on self-editing, injecting romance into any story, hybrid publishing, writing and marketing children’s books, and more. Our Friday mixer was attended by nearly 80 writers, and at the Saturday award ceremony that capped the conference, best manuscript submission and best pitch awards were given to more than 20 of our participants. Many thanks to the Atlanta Writers Club volunteers who make this conference possible!

Some comments received from participants included the following:

“I had an absolutely wonderful time and really appreciate meeting all of the writers, agents, editors and others in attendance. I learned so much from that experience.”

“Thank you for all the time and effort you obviously put into making the Atlanta Writers Conference a success. I found the opportunity to visit with an editor and to network with fellow writers very valuable.”

“Thank you so much! I enjoyed it immensely and really got some good feedback and a path forward.”

“It was a fantastic conference and I'm awed by your organizational skills and the array of people that you coordinated [with] to give us the benefit of their feedback and expertise! I am beyond grateful to you. It was an amazing combination of people and personalities that you put together to help us. Thank you so much for an invaluable learning experience and for giving me the opportunity to get my foot into a few doors. I know it's still a long hard road ahead, but I am so motivated, and it has everything to do with the production you put on! Thank you!”

Our guest agents and editors enjoyed themselves, too, and appreciated the helpful volunteers and talented writers they met:

"The Atlanta Writers Conference was one of the most well organized conferences I've attended. The staff was professional and friendly and
the attendees were enthusiastic, passionate, and receptive. It was truly an enjoyable experience--both productive and fun--and I am thrilled to have been a part of it."
- Caitlin Dareff, Assistant Editor, St. Martin's Press

"The writers were kind, appreciative, and clearly cared about what the faculty brought to the table. I'd recommend this conference to those on the industry side, as well as writers who are serious about getting published!"
- Sarah LaPolla, Literary Agent, Bradford Literary Agency

"I so enjoyed attending the Atlanta Writers Conference. Not only was it the most well organized and professionally run conference I've attended, but I felt the level of talent was very high. The hands on time the editors/agents spend with each submission, query letter, and pitch was an especially valuable part of this conference."
- Jennifer Fisher, Assistant Editor for The Berkley Group

The 15th Atlanta Writers Conference is in the planning stages and will be announced by e-mail and in the eQuill newsletter by July.
The AWC Summer Workshop will be held:
Saturday, July 16
1:00PM – 4:00PM
The Garden Plaza
230 Collins Industrial Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
(770) 236-8333

The workshop is free. All members and guests are invited. The 3 hour workshop, conducted by Lauretta Hannon, will address the spiritual nature of writing. Make plans to attend now and reserve your seat with Clay Ramsey:  chramse@gmail.com

**Every Soul Tells a Story**
- how to engage the spiritual nature of writing to move from frustrated longings into dream-fulfilling growth

"Creative work is soul work, and soul work is always creative," says Author Vinita Hampton Wright. This seminar will identify the spiritual aspects of writing and offer practical ways to integrate them into your writing life. Through exercises and anecdotes from her own spiritual journey as a writer, Lauretta's seminar will help you connect to what might be missing in your creative development.

Note: This seminar addresses spirituality in the most universal sense and does not espouse any sort of religious beliefs.

Lauretta Hannon is the funniest woman in Georgia.
-Southern Living

Lauretta Hannon is the author of *The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life* (Gotham Books/Penguin) and has been a commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, where her stories have reached 25 million listeners. Her memoir became a Southern Indie Bestseller three weeks after its release and in 2010 was named one of the Top Twenty-Five Books All Georgians Should Read, according to the Georgia Center for the Book. In 2015 her memoir was adapted into a documentary titled *Raised in the South of Normal* which is currently capturing awards on the national film festival circuit.

Until recently she was a syndicated advice columnist in more than 500,000 households via 24 newspapers. (She quit that gig to pursue her real writing: her next book.) Today she is in-demand as a keynote speaker and teacher of writing and self-growth. In 2010 she became a Hambidge Fellow and has completed seven writing residencies at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. A vital part of her mission is to encourage, support, and guide other writers. Most importantly, she writes inside a 12'x12' shed in her back yard.
The Townsend Prize for Fiction, Georgia's oldest and most prestigious literary award was created in 1981 to honor James "Jim" L. Townsend, founding editor of Atlanta magazine; associate editor of the now-defunct Atlanta Journal and Constitution's Sunday magazine; columnist; writing teacher; and all-out self-described devotee of the "wonderful world of publishing." Townsend was an early mentor to some of the state's most lauded men and women of letters, including Pat Conroy, Terry Kay, William Diehl, and Anne Rivers Siddons.

The Townsend, as the prize has affectionately become known, is presented biennially to a Georgia writer who has published an outstanding work of fiction during the preceding two years. The Chattahoochee Review, the literary journal of Georgia State University's Perimeter College, and the Georgia Center for the Book are the prize's administrators, responsible for organizing book selections, judging and hosting the award's reception at which the prize's winner is announced. Each winner of the Townsend Prize for Fiction receives a check for $2,000 and a silver tray commemorating the achievement.

The Atlanta Writers Club is a primary sponsor of the Townsend Prize. Mike Brown, Valerie Connors, Clay Ramsey, Georgia Lee, and Bill Black attended the 2016 Townsend Prize awards banquet held on April 28 at the old Courthouse in Decatur as the AWC representatives.

This year's winner of the Townsend Prize is Mary Hood for her short story collection, A Clear View of the Southern Sky.

Other finalists are:

Daniel Black, The Coming
Maggie Mitchell, Pretty Is
Lynn Cullen, Twain's End
Brian Panowich, Bull Mountain
Ravi Howard, Driving the King
Andy Plattner, Offerings from a Rust Belt Jockey
Soniah Kamal, An Isolated Incident
Terry Kay, Song of the Vagabond Bird
Reetika Khanna Nijhawan, Kismetwali & Other Stories

Congratulations to Mary and all the finalists.
AWC AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Buzz Bernard’s New Book

H. W. "Buzz" Bernard's newest thriller, CASCADIA ("gut-wrenching"—NYT best-selling author Reed Farrel Coleman), is available on Amazon for pre-order. Publication date is July 11. If you'd like to hold out for a signed copy, CASCADIA's local launch event will be July 23, 2 p.m., at the Country Club of Roswell.

In the face of a massive earthquake and tsunami in the PacNW, a respected geologist must make two gut-wrenching decisions. One could cost him his reputation. The other, his life.

VALERIE CONNORS’ NEW BOOK

A Better Truth is a psychological thriller whose central character struggles to recognize the difference between reality and the paranoid imagining of her damaged mind, pushed to its breaking point.

When the frantic pace of her Washington, D.C. life becomes too much for her to bear, Willow St. Claire takes refuge in the North Georgia Mountains. She buys a bookstore, hoping to spend her days talking to customers about the latest releases, and her evenings in the quiet oasis of her mountain retreat. Alone in her cabin, two miles away from the nearest neighbor, Willow must learn to cope with the terror of her past, heal from the loss of her mother, and maintain a relationship with a teenaged daughter who refuses to leave D.C. where she lives with her father. But a knock at Willow’s kitchen door late one night, sets off a series of events that will shatter her newly found peace and tranquility, and threaten to trigger another breakdown. Willow has held tightly to her own version of the truth for over three decades, because for her, real truth is far too disturbing to acknowledge.


Now available for pre-order at Deeds Publishing:

http://deedspublishing.goodsie.com/a-better-truth

Launch events:

Saturday, June 11th
2:00 to 4:00
Ippolito’s Restaurant
5277 Peachtree Parkway
Norcross GA 30092
RSVP: valerie1105@comcast.net

Sunday, June 12th
2:00 to 4:00
The Nest Café
58 Canton St.
Alpharetta, GA 30009
RSVP: valerie1105@comcast.net
AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

AWC Scholarship Winner - Michelle Howard

Each year, the Atlanta Writers Club presents a scholarship to a deserving Georgia Perimeter College student who demonstrates a major interest in writing. This year’s winner is Michelle Howard and the award was presented at the Townsend Prize banquet on April 28.

Michelle Howard is an English major at Perimeter College. She plans to attend Georgia State University after receiving her Associate’s Degree from Perimeter College, with the intentions of obtaining her Bachelor’s Degree in Post Secondary Education. Michelle volunteers with several organizations, such as The Joy to Life Foundation, The Order of the Eastern Star, and Life South Community Blood Centers, all in Montgomery, AL. She enjoys giving her time to her community and meeting new people. Michelle hopes to one day start a literacy program for teens and adults who have difficulties reading. She also enjoys writing poetry and short children's stories with her 6-year-old son. Michelle hopes to one day release a book of poetry. The Atlanta Writers Club scholarship will be used to help Michelle complete her studies without having the added pressure of a full-time job.

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

June 17th, 7:30p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 5575 Peachtree Parkway, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092, 770-978-5154

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.
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
New York Times Best-Selling Author Joshilyn Jackson leads the lineup for The Writer’s High Retreat™ 2016 at Brasstown Valley Resort September 9 – 11 in Young Harris, Georgia. Joining Jackson are the award-winning authors Jessica Handler, whose memoir, Invisible Sisters, was named as one of the “Twenty Five Books All Georgians Should Read”; Michael Morris, whose third novel, Man in the Blue Moon, was named a best book of 2012 by Publishers Weekly; and the poet Clifford Brooks, whose first book of poetry, The Draw of Broken Eyes & Whirling Metaphysics, was nominated for two Pushcarts and a Pulitzer in Poetry.

The retreat is in its second year and already growing in stature. In fact, the venerable Atlanta Writers Club, which plays a critical role in supporting writers through its meetings, conferences, workshops, critique groups, and other activities that bring writers together, has stepped on board as an official sponsor for this year’s retreat. AWC Officer Emeritus and Conference Director George Weinstein will also speak at the retreat, acknowledging the profound and wonderful ways the AWC has changed his life since he joined in 2000.

“I've made my most important friendships, as well as critical industry contacts, through the AWC,” Weinstein said. “I'll share that story at the retreat and hopefully inspire the attendees to reach out and meet others who will enhance their own lives, not just as writers but as people.”

The Writer’s High Retreat at Brasstown Valley Resort package includes two nights’ accommodations, all retreat presentations, workshops, and events; meals included are
North Georgia Retreat, cont

Friday and Saturday dinner buffet, lunch buffet Saturday, and breakfast buffet Saturday and Sunday. Prices also include all taxes and gratuities. From May 1 – June 30, rates are $754 for a single and $559 (per person) for a double. *Space is limited.* To register or to get more information, including the full program schedule, visit [www.thewritershighretreat.com](http://www.thewritershighretreat.com).

“Many retreat guests told me last year’s debut was ‘magical,’ and they felt energized in a way they’d never experienced before—‘the writer’s high,’” said Mari Ann Stefanelli, retreat founder. “There’s a powerful alchemy that occurs when writers come together in a gorgeous, peaceful setting and are given the time, inspiration, and support they need to breathe life into their writing.”

A perfect weekend writing retreat, the program schedule weaves built-in writing breaks between inspiring and informative presentations and workshops. The featured speakers are accomplished authors, well-versed in fiction, nonfiction/memoir, and poetry, and known for their engaging and ground-breaking presentations.

**Joshilyn Jackson:** *New York Times* best-selling novelist Joshilyn Jackson is the author of seven 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,* is a “must-read” according to the *New York Times* Book Review. Find out more [HERE](http://www.thewritershighretreat.com).

**Clifford Brooks:** Clifford’s first book of poetry, *The Draw of Broken Eyes & Whirling Metaphysics* has been nominated for two Pushcarts, a Pulitzer in Poetry, and Clifford has been nominated for Georgia Author of the Year. With the attention his literary career has garnered, he has since started [The Southern Collective Experience](http://www.southerncollectiveexperience.org) and was invited into [The Last Ancients](http://www.thelastancients.org). Both of these groups have given Clifford new energy and inspiration to complete his next book, *Athena Departs,* which will be released later this year.

**Jessica Handler:** Jessica’s memoir, *Invisible Sisters,* was named as one of the “Twenty Five Books All Georgians Should Read” in 2010. She wrote the acclaimed writers’ guide, *Braving the Fire: A Guide to Writing About Grief and Loss,* to accompany her workshops about the challenges and rewards in writing well about difficult subjects. Her essays and features have appeared on NPR, in *Tin House, Drunken Boat, Full Grown People, Brevity, Newsweek, The Washington Post,* and *More Magazine.* Honors for her writing include residencies at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Sciences, a 2010 Emerging Writer Fellowship from The Writers Center in Bethesda, Maryland, the 2009 Peter Taylor Nonfiction Fellowship at the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, and special mention for a 2008 Pushcart Prize. Jessica is a Visiting Lecturer in English at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.
Michael Morris: Michael’s debut novel, A Place Called Wiregrass, won the Christy Award for Best First Novel. The Washington Post compared his second novel, Slow Way Home, to the work of Harper Lee and Flannery O’Connor. It was nationally ranked as one of the top three recommended books by the American Booksellers Association and named one of the best novels of the year by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Publishers Weekly named Man in the Blue Moon a best book of 2012. It was also an Indie Next List book club selection – ranking number three on the independent bookseller association’s list of recommended reads. Michael was a finalist for the Southern Book Critics Circle Award, and his essays have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The Dallas Morning News, and the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

The Writer’s High Retreat™ is presented by the Writer’s High, LLC, a professional writing and editing service for authors, businesses, and individuals. Additional sponsors include Atlanta Writers Club, Tinderbox Writers Workshop, Sensei Project, an award-winning group of social media experts; McCurdy Life Coach, an executive coaching service, and Crane Creek Vineyards.

For more information or to register, visit The Writer’s High Retreat at www.thewritershighretreat.com or contact retreat Founder and Executive Director Mari Ann Stefanelli at mariann.stefanelli@gmail.com. AWC members receive a $25 discount (use coupon code AWCTWHR when registering).
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109 SOUTH JEFFERSON AVE
EATONTON, GA 31024

Author Kimberly Brock will draw from her popular Tinderbox workshops to teach writing as a craft as well as help others discover the most powerful tools any artisan needs to foster well-being, discovering their voice, bringing healing and inspiring true joy, freeing them to write.
Let the “Draft Queens” – M.J. Pullen and Emily Carpenter – and a small support network of fellow drafters help you start, write, and finish a draft of your novel (or narrative non-fiction book). By May 2017, your book will be ready for the next steps on the road to publication.

At $450 for the entire season, the DRAFT HOUSE accountability program includes:

- Personalized, achievable Drafting Schedule with daily and weekly word count goals, created by the Draft Queens, for your 9 month drafting term. Your word goal must be between 65,000 and 150,000 words.
- Daily check-ins to report your word count progress. (And a stern but loving accountability email from the Draft Queens if you fall short!)
- Weekly video conference group meetings to discuss word count goals, solve problems, and encourage your Draft Team
- Monthly online seminar covering common draft issues
- GRADUATES receive an in-depth, developmental critique of their completed manuscript from one of the Draft Queens. And a DRAFT HOUSE t-shirt!

**Nine months. Two bucks a day. Dream accomplished.**

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE - APPLY NOW!

[www.draftyourbook.com](http://www.draftyourbook.com)
Workshop

Take a writing class this summer at the Decatur Writers Studio, a project of the Decatur Book Festival! Classes held at Decatur CoWorks, 807 Church St., Decatur. More information at DecaturWritersStudio.com. Multiple-week workshops include:

**Narrative Nonfiction** with Suzanne Van Atten
8-week workshop, $400
Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. beginning June 9

**So You Think You Can Write a Romance Novel...** with Sally Kilpatrick
6-week workshop, $300
Mondays, 7-9 p.m. beginning June 13

**Personal Storytelling for Writers (and You Too, Quit Hiding!)** with Shannon Turner
6-week workshop, $300
Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. beginning July 5

Plus a series of single-day intensive classes:

**How to Write a Book Proposal That Sells Without Selling Out** with Valerie Boyd
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on June 18, $100

**So You Want to Write a Cookbook**
with Cynthia Graubart
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on June 25, $100

**Building Your Characters** with Nicki Harris Salcedo
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on July 23, $100
Contest

Story Award For New Writers

Our Short Story Award gives us the opportunity to showcase the best fiction by emerging writers. $2000, publication, and agency review from The Williams Agency, GELFMAN SCHNEIDER / ICM PARTNERS, and Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, goes to the winner. Second and third runners up will earn $200 and $100 receptively, agency review, and publication on the site.

No judges, no preferences, just your best story under 6000 words. Submit before July 15. Guidelines here.

<< SUBMIT NOW >>
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 Critique Group Online

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.

Lianne Simon has led this group for several years but is ready to hand it off to someone else. If you have an interest in hosting this group, please contact michael@atlantawritersclub.org.
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<td>Atlanta/Midtown</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday 6-7:30 pm at 77 12th Street</td>
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<td>Online</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Lianne Simon <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 7pm</td>
<td>Susan McBrearty <a href="mailto:sjmcb816@gmail.com">sjmcb816@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>FULL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Therra Cathryn Gwyn <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, 4-6pm. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td>Tara Coyt <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 <a href="mailto:xpaulholmes@gmail.com">xpaulholmes@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 <a href="mailto:ncfighter50@gmail.com">ncfighter50@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 <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 <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 <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 <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 <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 <a href="mailto:hrqresh@hotmail.com">hrqresh@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 <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 Dolcimascolo 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 <a href="mailto:kerryssi@bellsouth.net">kerryssi@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown <a href="mailto:michaelbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan <a href="mailto:indasullivan3@gmail.com">indasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Waitlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncey-Highlands</td>
<td>All genera</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel’s Tavern email John fortune</td>
<td>John Whittemore <a href="mailto:thegridbook@gmail.com">thegridbook@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Starting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genera</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays The Heron House</td>
<td>Carolyn Graham <a href="mailto:Majestify.journey@gmail.com">Majestify.journey@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>3rd Sunday</td>
<td>Nathan Simone <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 <a href="mailto:josephdansley@gmail.com">josephdansley@gmail.com</a> 770-827-1255</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. at member's home</td>
<td>George Weinstein (770)552-5887 <a href="mailto:gjwstein@yahoo.com">gjwstein@yahoo.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>Jemilie Williams <a href="mailto:jemilie@bellsouth.net">jemilie@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon,10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
<td>John Sheffield <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 (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 a just a few membership benefits:

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

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

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

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

**Writing Contests With Cash Prizes.** At least one contest is held each year with a variety of formats and topics.

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

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

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

If you have additional questions, contact AWC President Michael Brown at michael@atlantawritersclub.org
Membership Form

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

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

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________
Email: _______________________________ Alternate Email: _______________________

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________
Email: _______________________________ Alternate Email: _______________________

*For additional family members, please use additional forms*

I would like to become involved with the AWC as a: □ Meeting Volunteer □ Conference Volunteer
□ Decatur Book Festival Volunteer □ Other (please specify):

AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Membership is for ONE YEAR

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

Mail check and form to: Atlanta Writers Club
C/O Valerie Connors, Treasurer
3813 Club Forest Drive
Norcross, GA 30092

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Name: ________________________________ donated $ _________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

Date: ________________________________

No goods or services were provided in exchange for or in association with this donation.

*Please keep this portion of the form as you receipt*