July 16th Workshop
1:00 - 4:00PM
The Garden Plaza
230 Collins Industrial Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
770-236-8333

Newsletter for the Atlanta Writers Club
...founded in 1914

We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

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President:
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Andre Santillana
eQuill Publisher:
Gene Bowen

Events in July

7th Patricia Holt Workshop
14th Katie Hart Smith Book Launch
16th Lauretta Hannon Workshop
23rd Cascadia Event with Buzz Bernard
23rd Zona Rosa Workshop

AWC Summer Workshop

Saturday, July 16
1:00PM – 4:00PM
The Garden Plaza
230 Collins Industrial Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

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

No speakers.

AWC Summer Workshop

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Some of my fiction is set in the ’60s and I’m now working on a novel set in the ’50s. I find these time periods interesting and they become an integral part of the setting. However, I have never thought of these novels as historical fiction. After all, I was living during these years and I’m not a piece of history yet. But The Historical Novel Society defines historical fiction as works "written at least fifty years after the events described."

I have often considered if the culture of the times affect a person’s moral compass. Do the actions and motivations of people reflect the times they live in, or is human nature inherently immune to outside forces? In my opinion, both conditions are true. People do reflect the society around them and we have seen that time and again in history. The current clash between eastern and western cultures is a perfect example. But I believe there is an overriding sense of right and wrong in most humans. That is one reason why I write about the past — to show the courage it takes to go against the restrictions of convention. The Atticus Finch we see in *Go Set a Watchman* is a man shackled by the prejudices of the day. On the other hand, the Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a perfect example of a courageous character who resists the prevailing bigotry of the time. Maybe Harper Lee came to the realization that heroic figures are more interesting than those who get lost in the detritus of collective mentality.

William Faulkner famously said, "The past is not dead. It's not even past." I think he meant that the past is always with us, always a part of our being. For me, that’s a good enough reason to write about it.

Even though the past can be instructive, some memories are painful. Then it might be best to be like Stephen Colbert, who said, “There's an old saying about those who forget history. I don't remember it, but it's good.”

Have a great Independence Day. It’s a wonderful reminder of our past.

Mike Brown
President
New AWC Board Members

Recently the AWC elected two new Board members. Please welcome Yvonne Green and Ron Aiken to the team.

YVONNE GREEN – V.P. MEMBERSHIP

In grade school, Yvonne Green wrote stories for her friends. In high school, she wrote articles on local beauty contestants for a community newspaper. Professionally, she published in peer-reviewed scientific journals before retiring. Now, Yvonne is having fun rediscovering her own voice and writing women’s fiction.

RON AIKEN – TREASURER

Ron Aiken is a retired member of the New York and Florida state bar associations. An Atlanta Writers Club member since 2007, his first novel, “Death Has Its Benefits” was a Kirkus Reviews recommended new release, the reviewer concluding, “Told in short, snappy chapters with sharp, wiseass dialogue ... [the story] builds into a thrilling ride to hell.” Currently, Ron serves on a local arts board, teaches chess to elementary school kids, and in his spare time takes flute lessons. He lives in McDonough with his wife, Herma and their three cats.
Monthly Meetings

June Picnic Photos by Perry Powell

1 The crowd begins to arrive
2 Thanks to Marty and Jane for preparing the food
3 Fill up those plates!
4 A great time for writers to meet.
5 The weather was nice and cool
6 Kathy & Ed Nichols won $100 in the raffle.
Monthly Meetings
The Atlanta Writers Club Presents

Remembering Pat Conroy

A panel discussion about the life and writing of author Pat Conroy.

Free and open to the public.
September 17, 2016, 1:30PM
Georgia State University, GPC Dunwoody Campus
Building NC, Auditorium
2101 Womack Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Moderator - John Pruitt

JOHN PRUITT retired from his anchor chair at WSB at the end of 2010 after a career spanning 46 years of covering news in Georgia. In 2014, he marked his 50th year in television journalism.

Panelists - “The Boys”

TERRY KAY, a 2006 inductee into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, is the author of 17 published works.

DANIEL SKLAR’s plays have been performed in New York’s Ensemble Studio Theatre, Atlanta’s Alliance Theatre, and the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven.

CLIFF GRAUBART is the owner of the Old New York Book Shop in Atlanta. His short stories have appeared in numerous publications.

BERNIE SCHEIN is a published author and educator. A teacher for 33 years, he served as principal of three different schools.

According to Terry Kay, Pat Conroy’s “presence was more responsible for bringing attention to Atlanta writers in the 1970s and 1980s than anything, or anyone….I followed his rise to fame with interest and pride, but I preferred him as one of The Boys.” Join us for a freewheeling, wide-ranging discussion among some of the writers who knew Pat best.
Monthly Meetings

Future Guests & Events

2016

**July 16**th
Workshop – Lauretta Hannon

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

**September 17**th
No Member Minute
Remembering Pat Conroy - Panel Discussion (1st Speaker)
Georgia Writers Association – Information Session (2nd Speaker)

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

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

**November 19**th
Ron Aiken (Member Minute)
Jim Auchmutey (1st Speaker)
Daniel Black (2nd Speaker)
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, November 4 and Saturday, November 5, 2016, the Atlanta Writers Club will present its next Atlanta Writers Conference (https://atlantawritersconference.com/about/) at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel. The goal of this conference is to give you access to twelve top publishing editors and literary agents—two more than usual and never any repeats from previous conferences—and to educate you with a workshop and talks by experienced industry professionals. The editors and agents will critique the manuscript sample, query, and synopsis, or nonfiction book proposal you submit in advance; respond to your pitch; 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.

After every conference some AWC members sign with conference guest agents and editors and realize their dreams of publication (see testimonials at https://atlantawritersconference.com/testimonials/). At the conference, 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 six editors and six agents in attendance: on Friday, November 4, we'll feature an Editors Q&A Panel to give you their viewpoints and on Saturday the 5th we'll have an Agents Q&A Panel to focus on their experiences and advice. In addition, you can register for up to two critiques and/or two pitches independent of any other activities, and we offer a conference package deal with an $80 savings if you want to participate in two manuscript critiques, two pitches, and every other activity on both days.

Moreover, we are featuring a special two-hour workshop on Friday, November 4 from Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee, a Senior Marketing Associate at HarperCollins Publishers who works with the Harper Perennial and Harper Paperbacks imprints. After starting as a marketing intern in 2009, she joined the Harper group as an assistant, and has been with the paperback team since 2013. Along with developing frontlist and backlist campaigns for books each season, she actively tweets, blogs, instagramps, and snaps as Harper Perennial’s “Olive.” On November 4 at 4:00 p.m., Kathryn will present the two-hour workshop “Creating Marketing Campaigns for Authors,” where she will review in depth what strategies and elements you should consider for your marketing platform at the various levels during your writing career. Kathryn will detail the
roles of social media and advertising in discovering and connecting with readers and share case studies on successful campaigns for a variety of books and authors, discussing the amount of work involved, the audiences reached, and lessons learned. Before her workshop, Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee will present two 45-minute seminars as well: "From Frontlist to Backlist: The Publication Process and Lifespan of a Book" and "Managing Your Expectations for a Book Launch: Costly and Cost-effective Publicity Options."

On Friday evening, we'll have a private mixer with all twelve editors and agents and Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee 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, November 4 so you can experience all these educational and developmental opportunities!**

**On Saturday, November 5**, while the morning critiques are held, we will feature international best-selling author of *The Pocket Wife* and *The Other Widow*, Susan Crawford. Susan was signed by an agent she met during a 2012 Atlanta Writers Conference. She will provide two 75-minute talks: “Adapting Your Manuscript to the Publishing Process” and “Balancing Escapism and Realism in Your Book.”

That afternoon while the pitch sessions are held, Anju Gattani, international fiction author of *Duty and Desire*, freelance journalist, blogger, and former columnist and news reporter. Anju has been published in leading publications in the US, Singapore, Hong Kong, and India in fiction, feature, cover stories, news, interviews, and more. She will do 75-minute presentations on “Creating Credible Characters & Breathing Voice” and “The ‘Busi’ in Publishing – a Business!”

Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee's 45-minute seminars on Friday and the four 75-minute talks by Susan Crawford and Anju Gattani 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 will 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 pitch. 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."
THE CONFERENCE

The conference on November 4-5, 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, November 5, where editors and/or agents share their evaluation and discuss your project for about 15 minutes with those who have submitted in advance the first 19 pages of manuscript plus a query letter and 1-page synopsis, or a 21-page non-fiction book proposal. You can register for up to two of these sessions.

2. Pitch sessions on Saturday, November 5, where you will provide a query letter to an editor or agent and discuss your project for about 10 minutes. You can register for up to two of these sessions.

3. Query letter critique on Friday, November 4 by an editor and an agent other than the one(s) you’re meeting with on Saturday, so you can get advice about making it "pitch perfect" the next day for the editor(s)/agent(s) of your choice.

4. “Creating Marketing Campaigns for Authors” Workshop on Friday, November 4 with Conference guest speaker Kathryn Ratcliffe-Lee, Senior Marketing Associate at HarperCollins Publishers.

5. Panel discussion and Q&A with all six editors on Friday, November 4. Panel discussion and Q&A with all six agents on Saturday, November 5.

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

THE EDITORS & AGENTS

The editors and agents below have provided the genres they are seeking to acquire, in their own words, and often identify specific genres they are not seeking, to decrease ambiguity. For these details, go to the editors and agents page on our Conference website (https://atlantawritersconference.com/the-agents/). The following editors and agents are participating in this Conference:

Hannah Braaten, Associate Editor, St. Martin's Press at Macmillan Publishers

Gabriella Doob, Associate Editor, Ecco Books at HarperCollins Publishers

Caitie Flum, Literary Agent, Liza Dawson Associates Literary Agency

MacKenzie Fraser-Bub, Founder and Literary Agent, Fraser-Bub Literary

Sarah Guan, Assistant Editor, DAW Books at Penguin Group USA

Peter (Pete) Knapp, Literary Agent, New Leaf Literary & Media
AWC Conference

Chloe Moffett, Assistant Editor, William Morrow at HarperCollins Publishers
Natasha Simons, Associate Editor, Gallery Books at Simon & Schuster
Amy Stapp, Associate Editor, Forge and Tor Teen
Alexa Stark, Literary Agent, Trident Media Group
Julie Stevenson, Literary Agent, Lippincott Massie McQuilkin
Carlisle (Carlie) Webber, Founder and Literary Agent, CK Webber Associates

≡ REGISTRATION ≡

Please read all of the details on the registration page (https://atlantawritersconference.com/registration/) before you click the Cvent link there to register.

When you register, the Cvent conference registration webpage will show up-to-the-minute updates regarding availability for each manuscript critique and pitch session for all of these individuals. Simply read and follow the instructions on each page and complete your registration and payment within 60 minutes.

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.

≡ QUESTIONS? ≡

Complete details about all of the activities are on the Conference website:
https://atlantawritersconference.com/about/

If you still have any questions after reviewing the Conference website, please contact Atlanta Writers Conference Director George Weinstein at awconference@gmail.com.

AWC Brings Even More of the Top Literary Professionals to You
Event

DECATUR BOOK FESTIVAL

The Decatur Book Festival will be held:

Friday, September 2nd, 8:00pm - Keynote Address, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts at Emory University.

Saturday, September 3rd, 10am - 6:00pm Decatur City Square Venues

Sunday, September 4th, noon - 5:00pm Decatur City Square Venues

AWC Member Book Sales

If you are a paid, active member of the Atlanta Writers Club, ...have written published books, ...and are planning to attend the 2016 Decatur Book Festival,

Then you will have the opportunity to sell your books at the AWC tent this year.

Here’s what you need to know:
- The time periods are one hour long.
- You can sign up for only one period.
- You will share that period with one other AWC author.
- Periods will run on the hour for the entire length of the Festival, both Saturday and Sunday.
- We will try to accommodate your requests for specific periods, but they will be filled on a first come-first served basis.
- You alone will be responsible for the sales, including change, taxes, whether and how you will accept credit cards, and similar issues. The AWC will not take a percentage, nor will we be involved in the sales in any way, other than by providing you a table and a place to sit in the AWC booth.

If you are interested and meet the requirements, then what do you do? Email Clay Ramsey (clay@atlantawritersclub.org) and tell him you want to sign up to sell your books at the AWC tent at the DBF. Also tell him your first and second choices for preferred times. That’s it! He’ll let you know you’ve been scheduled and when, along with any other instructions you may need.

AWC Writers Track

As a sponsor of the DBF, the AWC will host a series of panel discussions titled the AWC Track. This year’s participants are:
**Mystery**
John Sheffield
Theresa Worthy (pen name Kris Allis)
Lynn Tharp-Hesse

**Thriller**
Buzz Bernard
Ilene Benator
Julia McDermott
Valerie Connors

**Science Fiction/Fantasy**
Kerry Alan Denney
Mickey Dubrow

**General Fiction**
Emily Carpenter
Merrill Davies

**Nonfiction**
Alvin Walker
Mark Ellingsen

**Historical Fiction**
Weldon Durham
George Hirthler
Mary Anna Bryan

The times and venues for these panels will be announced later.

**AWC Hospitality Room**

The AWC will host a hospitality room for members and invited guests at the conclusion of the first full day of the Decatur Book Festival:

- **September 3, from 4:00PM - 6:00PM**
- **Decatur Writers Studio**
- **708 Church Street (The Co-Works Building)**
- **Decatur, 30030**

The spacious facility is free and open exclusively for the AWC. The AWC will provide refreshments and Georgia Lee will host the reception.

Please support the writing community and the AWC by attending the Decatur Book Festival. It is a fantastic event.
The AWC Summer Workshop will be held:
Saturday, July 16
1:00PM – 4:00PM
The Garden Plaza
230 Collins Industrial Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

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.
AWC AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
KATIE HART SMITH’S NEW BOOK

Aspirations of the Heart

Addie Engel is a small-town girl who wants nothing more than to leave her family farm, venture out in the wider world of 1913 Georgia and become a successful nurse. But the times aren't so friendly to a young woman determined to buck society’s expectations and do more than marry, have children, and keep house. If society has its way, she will never leave Hope, Georgia, nor the boy who hopes to be more than just her friend. Then, tragedy strikes, and with it comes an opportunity Addie can't refuse. Thrust into the rapidly-growing city of Atlanta, she's soon immersed in a world of powerful people intent upon their own plans and schemes, including Lester Schwinn, a conniving man hell-bent on making his mysterious cure-all tonic a household name at any cost.
AWC AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
Cascadia Event with Buzz Bernard

Come and enjoy refreshments, a chance to win brunch with Buzz and his wife, and lots and lots of books

“In Buzz Bernard’s heart pounding, gut-wrenching Cascadia something wicked this way comes. Problem is what’s coming is literally earth shattering and there’s no stopping it.” Reed Farrel Coleman, New York Times Bestselling author of *Where It Hurts*

Yes, it’s time to run—to the Atlanta launch event for Cascadia

Saturday, July 23
2 p.m.

at the Country Club of Roswell

2500 Club Springs Drive
The Tallahassee Writers Association has honored AWC member Barbara Brockway with a 3rd place win in the Young Adult Novel Excerpt category. The excerpt, from her unpublished novel, *Bentleyville*, has been published in Volume 21 of the association's Seven Hills Review.

The literary magazine can be purchased [here](#) on Amazon.

**Kindle unlimited**
The Georgia Writers Association hosted the 2016 Georgia Author of the Year Awards banquet on June 4. AWC was well represented with seventeen nominees among the 154 nominees in 14 categories. In addition, one of our favorite guests, Phillip DePoy, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Phillip delighted us with his presentation at our May meeting. Congratulations, Phillip! Well deserved.

Connie McKee won in the Science Fiction/Fantasy category for her novel, *The Girl in the Mirror*

Linda Sands won in the Detective/Mystery category for her novel, *3 Women Walk Into a Bar*

Julia McDermott was a finalist in the Memoir/Autobiography category for her memoir, *All of the Above: My Son’s Battle With Brain Cancer*

The complete list of Winners, Finalists, and Honorable Mentions:


Detective/Mystery: Winner - Linda Sands, *3 Women Walk into a Bar*  
Finalist - Cliff Yeargin

First Novel: Winner - Alexandra Curry, *The Courtesan*  
Finalist – Brian Panowch

Finalist – William W. Winn

Inspirational/Secular: Winner – David Ryback, *Secrets of a Zen Millionaire: 8 Steps to Personal Wealth with Real Estate*  
Finalist – H. James Dallas

Literary Fiction: Winner - Ravi Howard, *Driving the King: A Novel*  
Finalist - Sherry Meeks

Finalist – Julia McDermott  
Honorable Mention – Jimmy Carter  
Honorable Mention – Kit Cummings

Poetry: Winner – William Wright, *Three Heresies*  
Finalist – Beth Gylys

Romance: Winner – Karen Gillespie, *Girl Meets Class*  
Finalist – Susan Carlisle

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Winner – Constance McKee, *The Girl in the Mirror*  
Finalist - Kathryn Hinds

Short Stories: Winner - Mary Hood, *A Clear View of the Southern Sky*  
Finalist – Sara Kay Rupnik


Young Adult: Winner – Cassie Beasley, *Circus Mirandus*  
Finalist – C. M. Fleming
Ticket Discount for Smart People Play

$10 Off Tickets with promo SMARTPEOPLE10
(not valid closing weekend)


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HOPE Atlanta

HOPE Atlanta is reaching out into the Metro Atlanta community to find a few people who might want to help on an eNewsletter / a quarterly journal that will cover 1- State of Homelessness in GA, 2- Events and activities of HOPE Atlanta and 3 – Case stories and affirmations from clients, partners and public on the effectiveness of our work.

We want to position our periodical as THE source for all things related to homelessness in the Metro Atlanta region, and that will include touching on root causes like poverty and lack of affordable housing, as well as public policy, recent research, case studies, etc.

We need contributing writers and someone who can help with editing.
We can provide a lot of the source material but are happy for materials to be brought to us.
We need at least two articles for each section, quarterly, so it’s not a lot of writing - but of course, we have no money. This means we are probably looking for lots of people with good research and writing skills and a passion for serving their community.

Of course, we will add byline and would happily add a link to any contributor’s blog or webpage.
Here is our web page to learn more about us [www.hopeatlanta.org](http://www.hopeatlanta.org)

If you are interested in helping, please contact Anna Foote at: afoote@hopeatlanta.org and mention The Atlanta Writers Club.

Good Luck!

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
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* and was invited into *The Last Ancients.* 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](http://www.thewriterhigh.com), a professional writing and editing service for authors, businesses, and individuals. Additional sponsors include [Atlanta Writers Club](http://www.atlanta-writers.com), [Tinderbox Writers Workshop](http://www.tinderboxwritersworkshop.com), [Sensei Project](http://www.senseiproject.com), an award-winning group of social media experts; [McCurdy Life Coach](http://www.mccurdycoaching.com), an executive coaching service, and [Crane Creek Vineyards](http://www.crane-creek.com).

**For more information or to register**, visit [The Writer’s High Retreat](http://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).
A Zona Rosa Writing Workshop
with
Rosemary Daniell

“Rosemary is one of the greatest writing teachers I have seen at work in this country.”
Pat Conroy

“Rosemary Daniell is enormously gifted. Her work is risky in the best sense of the word. She is one of the women by whom our age will be known in times to come.”
Erica Jong

When Rosemary Daniell founded Zona Rosa, the series of writing-and-living workshops she founded over 34 years ago, she based them on the principle “accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative,” as in the words of the song by Johnny Mercer. Since then, the success this philosophy has been born out: over 160 Zona Rosans — and counting — have become published authors.

Experience the author published many times over. Experience the majesty that is Rosemary. In her words, “Learn to make writing as easy and fun as walking through clouds.”

The Heron House
July 23, 2016
10:AM to 5PM
Fee: $125

To Register Contact: heronhouse102@gmail.com

For More about Rosemary: myzonarosa.com
For Questions: Carolyn Graham:770-894-1050
Photo Credit: Johnathan Phillips
Member Patricia Martin Holt will conduct a free non-fiction workshop at Books for Less in Buford on Thursday evening, July 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. It will be interactive, so please bring a sample of your work.

Pat's book *COMMITTEE OF ONE, Making a Difference One Life at a Time*, was awarded third prize nationally by the Independent Publishers Association, and she won Georgia Author of the Year in 2013.
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 a 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
Contest

Awards For New Writers

SUBMIT NOW

The Short Story Award for New Writers is open from May 15 – July 15, 2016 and will award $2000 to the winner — the best piece of fiction by an emerging writer. Second and third place prizes will be $200 and $100, respectively, and all three stories will earn publication on the site and agency review by Amy Williams of The Williams Agency, Victoria Marini by GELFMAN SCHNEIDER / ICM PARTNERS and Laura Biagi from Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, Inc. in New York.

OPEN: May 15 – July 15

PRIZE: $2000 and publication to the winner. $200, $100 and publication to second and third place stories, respectively. All winners receive agency review by Victoria Marini of GELFMAN SCHNEIDER / ICM PARTNERS, Laura Biagi from Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, Inc. in New York, and Amy Williams of the Amy Williams Agency.

GUIDELINES:

◆ 6000 word limit.
◆ Fiction only.
◆ No writing preferences. Just your best work.
◆ Emerging Writers Only (have not published a novel at the time of submission. You may have a book under contract. Short story collections are not considered novels and therefore you qualify. We welcome work from self-published writers.)
◆ $20 to enter.
◆ Previously unpublished work only.
◆ Multiple and simultaneous submissions are allowed, but please notify us if your story is accepted elsewhere.
◆ International submissions allowed.

To submit a story or learn more about our guidelines, click the submit button:

Click here to Submit

If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking. — Haruki Murakami
Contest

AJC Personal Journey Writing Contest

Share your Personal Journey with the AJC and win $750. The contest opens June 27.

Everyone has a story to tell. Here’s your chance to share yours with readers of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. We’re seeking first-person manuscripts from writers, both professionals and newbies, for its annual Personal Journeys Writing Contest. The winner will be published Oct. 2, 2016, in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

**Deadline is midnight July 31.** Winner will be notified by Sept. 1.

**WRITING GUIDELINES**

Contestant’s name should not appear anywhere on the manuscript.
Manuscript must be between 2,000 and 3,500 words long.
Manuscript must be original content created by the contestant.
Manuscript must be factually correct and may be vetted for authenticity.
The winning contestant must agree to be photographed and videotaped for publication in print and online.
Manuscript will be judged on originality, topic interest and storytelling skills.
The winning manuscript may be subject to editing in partnership with the author.
Only one manuscript per contestant will be accepted.
Manuscript may not have been previously published. Personal blogs are OK.
Manuscript must be typed in a Word or Word-compatible document in 12 pt. type and double-spaced.
The AJC retains copyright to the winning entry but may be reprinted with permission.
Contestant must be a Georgia resident, 18 years old or older.

Click here to Submit

Powered by Submittable
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta/Midtown</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>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>
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<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lianne Simon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liannesimon@yahoo.com">liannesimon@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble on North Point</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Susan McBrearty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjmcb816@gmail.com">sjmcb816@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>FULL</td>
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<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Therra Cathryn Gwyn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:therra@earthlink.net">therra@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avondale Estates</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>Tues, 4-6p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tara Coy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Waitlist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:30</td>
<td>@ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant</td>
<td>J <a href="mailto:andjgrant@bellsouth.net">andjgrant@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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:hrqresh@hotmail.com">hrqresh@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<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>
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<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</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
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<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:kerryssi@bellsouth.net">kerryssi@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues, 7-9p.m.</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Poncey-Highlands</td>
<td>All genera</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel's Tavern email John fortune</td>
<td>John Whittemore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thegridbook@gmail.com">thegridbook@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Starting</td>
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<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genera</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays The Heron House</td>
<td>Carolyn Graham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Majesty.journey@gmail.com">Majesty.journey@gmail.com</a></td>
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<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>
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<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>4th Saturday of month</td>
<td>Joe Ansley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:josephdansley@gmail.com">josephdansley@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>New</td>
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<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</td>
<td>(770)552-5887 <a href="mailto:gjeinstein@yahoo.com">gjeinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres women’s</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9p.m.</td>
<td>Jemilie Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jemilie@bellsouth.net">jemilie@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:John.sheffield@aol.com">John.sheffield@aol.com</a></td>
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Membership Renewal—What to Expect

The AWC has an automated system for tracking memberships and alerting members when it's time to renew. You will receive an e-mail from the system (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]: $__________

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 Ron Aiken, Treasurer
155 Glen Eagle Way
McDonough, GA 30253

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*