...founded in 1914

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

Events in July:

15 Michael Buchanan Workshop on Screenwriting

22 Lauretta Hannon Memoir Master Workshop

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No regular AWC meeting in July.

Please join us at the

Michael Buchanan Workshop
July 15, 2017
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center
10 College Street
Norcross, GA 30071

(More info on p.8.)
June 15th

Summer Workshop
MICHAEL BUCHANAN: HOW TO WRITE A SCREENPLAY
– Norcross Cultural Arts Center

In This Issue

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Typos? I neevr miss a typo. Well, sometimes. All right—much too often. In fact, typos are the bane of my writing life. They’ll send an otherwise brilliant query letter straight to the round file. But reading a newspaper, a novel, my friends’ manuscripts? Neither misspellings, words lost or left behind after a failed cut-and-paste, nor punctuation errors escape my critical, discerning eyes. They jump off the page, nasty little speedbumps pulling me out of the story. But in my writings? The damnable slipups hide in plain sight. So why is it harder for me to catch my own typos than those in the latest bestseller?

Well, it turns out I’m not alone, and there’s a scientific explanation for this phenomenon. According to psychologist Tom Stafford, it’s because the brain generalizes simple tasks, like turning letters into words and words into sentences, preferring instead to focus on higher-level tasks, such as word choice and arrangement.

Further, Stafford says that when you’re writing, you’re trying to convey something to your readers. Your brain knows what you want to say, so you read it that way, even when it isn’t one hundred percent correct.

Now that I’ve learned I’m not unique, can I give myself a pass? No, of course not. The question is, how do I minimize those annoying little trolls? I can’t afford a copy editor every time I put print to paper. Lori Soard, a favorite blogger and romance writer, suggests:

- Proofread from a hard copy rather than the computer screen.
- Use grammar and spell checker (not foolproof, but still).
- Find your favorite word and see how many times you can find a more dramatic or more suitable substitute.
- Take a break; give your brain a chance to recalibrate.
- Read aloud.

Now that I’ve tried all that, let me see how well the new grammar and spell checker I bought wroks . . .

Ron
Monthly Meetings

Picnic Photos

by Perry Powell
Barbara Connor, a longtime member of the AWC, has moved to a new retirement center in Deland, Florida.

Before moving to Georgia ten years ago, Barbara was a features correspondent writing a weekly column at the Ocala Star-Banner. She also wrote articles for various publications around the state, published three short stories and several poems.

Shortly after moving to Georgia, Barbara joined a critique group that met in a candy store off the square in Lawrenceville. Later, she joined the AWC and started the Fiction Crafters critique group that held two meetings a month for several years in her apartment building.

Her mentorship with that group resulted in three members having their debut novels published. Barbara has faithfully served as a volunteer for the AWC Conferences, the Decatur Book Festival, and other club events for many years. She also regularly attended the monthly meetings, where she took a front row seat beside her friend Mary Anna Bryan.

The AWC will miss Barbara’s loyalty and service, but most of all, her friendship. Please join me in wishing the best for Barbara in her new home.

Mike Brown

Between newsletters there’s FaceBook.
Monthly Meetings

Future Guests & Events

2017

July 15, 2017
Summer Workshop
MICHAEL BUCHANAN:
HOW TO WRITE A SCREENPLAY
– Norcross Cultural Arts Center

August 19, 2017
Ilene Benator – Member Spotlight
Doug Dahlgren – 1st Guest Speaker
Jana Sasser – 2nd Guest Speaker

September 16, 2017
Colleen Oakley - 1st Speaker
Rob Jenkins - 2nd Speaker

October 21, 2017
Roger Johns - Member Minute
Dana Ridennour – 1st Guest
Daren Wang – 2nd Guest
MICHAEL BUCHANAN WORKSHOP ON WRITING A SCREENPLAY

A free workshop for anyone interested in how to write for the movies or television. Sponsored by the Atlanta Writers Club and the Gwinnett County Public Library

July 15, 2017
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center
10 College Street
Norcross, GA 30071

Author/screenwriter Michael Buchanan will discuss the ingredients of a screenplay that works. Learn the structure of a film and watch examples of scenes that drive a story to its finale. The group will also learn what not to do in a story, including novels.

Michael Buchanan is the creator of The Fat Boy Chronicles, an award-winning feature seen by millions around the world on Netflix, at REDBOX, at Walmart and used in schools nationwide; Last Bullet and Boxes, award-winning shorts; Spiral Bound, a feature-length documentary about the impact of the arts on education; and Nature Matters, a feature documentary about the importance of nature in our lives, specifically the present nature-deficit generation who suffer the consequences of a life lived indoors.
How long have you been a member of the AWC and how did you discover us?
I believe I have been a member for four years and I discovered the club accidentally while looking for writers conferences that I could go to, to learn how to improve my manuscripts and find a way into the publication gig.

And what benefits have you discovered after joining the club?
Well, to my way of thinking there are really three big things you can get from the club. One is the comradery that goes along with being part of the writing community. And you will find people in the club who are at every stage of their writing career and everyone seems to be so helpful wherever they find you. The other two things that really helped me as well were the critique groups that are affiliated with the club because that was how I learned how to improve my writing, how to get things working that would be appealing to readers instead of just to me as a person sitting at home alone pounding out the words and of course there is the semi-annual Writers Conference where agents and editors come from all over the country and you sort of have a chance to peddle your wares so the Writers Club covers all the big bases for people who want to develop a writing career.

Can you talk about your Conference experience in particular?
I can. My first one was a last minute affair because I didn’t know the club even existed. I found it at the last minute, paid some money, got a standby slot, came to the conference, met with an agent which went exactly nowhere but I met a lot of other people whose experiences were really good which encouraged me. And I met George Weinstein who sheparded me into the club and helped me figure out what all the benefits of it would be so I stuck with it. I went to every conference for three more years until, at the spring 2015 conference, April Osborn, an editor with St. Martin’s Press -Minotaur Books, did a critique of my manuscript pages, and said she wanted to see the rest of it. Eventually, that turned into a decision to acquire the book for St. Martin’s.

And then what happened?
Then I stepped onto the pathway of getting it published. By the time it comes out in August, it will have been a nearly twenty-month process from the date of signing the contract until publication. During that time, we went through a series of story-level and technical edits, the title was modified, a cover was created, blurbs from established authors were solicited, a marketing and publicity plan was developed, I had a website built, and a schedule of author appearances was assembled.
What’s the name of your book and will you give us your elevator pitch?
The name of the book is *Dark River Rising*. It is set in South Louisiana, in Baton Rouge and the elevator pitch is: A local police detective and a federal DEA agent are tracking a killer; they don’t know why he’s killing but it turns out that they find themselves between him and the thing that he is after and that proves to be very costly for all involved.

Is *Dark River Rising* a standalone novel or a series?
It’s the first of what I hope is a very long-lived series involving the main character in the first book.

And can you tell us a little bit more about the main character?
Yes. She’s white, female, mid-thirties, widowed.

And what is her name?
Wallace Hartman.

Did you find it difficult portraying a complex female protagonist?
Actually I did. I got lots of good feedback from the women in my critique group. They would comment on how a female would respond in certain situations, what she’d say or do. I joined a romance writers group to finally get Wallace just right.

Do you have any other projects in mind beyond this series?
At the moment I would say I’m focused 99% on this series. I have other thoughts floating around in my head for a standalone police procedural and various short stories that are worked on in between the demands of “*Dark River Rising*” and its successor book which has yet to be titled.

If you had to start this process over again what would you do differently?
I would seek out writers clubs much earlier. I would become involved in critique groups much earlier and I would have been much more attuned to the fact that there are lots of good resources in print: books, magazines, all of which are geared toward helping you negotiate every step along the way.

And what authors are you reading now? Which authors appeal to you?
Well, I always have a lot of books open on my nightstand. At the moment I’m in
the first volume of Greg Iles’ *Natchez Burning Trilogy*; I’m reading a book of mystery short stories by Craig Johnson that all revolve around the Longmire Series characters, and I am about to pick up and start the *W* volume in Sue Grafton’s alphabet mysteries.

**In closing, can you talk about what you think it was that caught April Osborn’s eye?**

To the best of my recollection, it was the opening scene. It shows us the protagonist at the scene of a really ‘unusual’ murder. The violence of the killing immediately raises the question of who could do such a thing, but more importantly, why would they do it.

**Thanks, Roger.**

To read more about how the character Wallace Hartman came to be, visit [https://murderbooks.wordpress.com](https://murderbooks.wordpress.com).
DON'T WAIT FOR 'EM TO DIE: THE MEMOIR MASTER CLASS by Author & Huffington Post Blogger Lauretta Hannon

Saturday, July 22, 2017
11am-2pm
Marietta Museum of History
Marietta, GA
Early Bird Discount through July 18

Writing a memoir is a powerful, life-changing act, whether you ever publish it or not. This seminar addresses the issues and challenges specific to the memoir. This master class is perfect for the beginning writer and the seasoned author alike.

In this three-hour seminar you'll learn:

- How speaking your truth will set you free
- How to handle painful subject matter
- How to recognize the real F-word: FEAR and put it in its place
- How to deal with the opinions and reactions of family and friends
- How to revive old memories and fill in the gaps
- How to begin, organize, and frame your story
- Why authenticity matters more than anything else
- How marketing is essential to your success
- How to easily identify literary agents who are looking for memoirs

Each attendee will receive a workbook, resource packet, and recommended reading list. Once the master class has concluded, join us next door at Hemingway's for a libation and casual discussion.

Advance registration is required at memoirworkshop.brownpapertickets.com

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Lauretta Hannon is a bestselling author, Huffington Post blogger, and has been a regular commentator on National Public Radio's All Things Considered. She has taught and encouraged writers for more than twenty years. As a writer she has captured more than 100 national awards.

Her memoir, The Cracker Queen--A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life, became a bestseller only three weeks after its release in April 2009. In 2010 the Georgia Center for the Book named her work one of the Top Twenty-Five Books All Georgians Should Read. Lauretta has completed seven writing residencies at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. She has also been an advice columnist syndicated in 24 newspapers. She is at work on her next book.

This master class is part of Lauretta's Down Home Writing School (DHWS) and is suitable for writers working at any level.
Too busy to write your novel?

Enter THE DRAFT HOUSE:
September 2017 – January 2018

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 January 2018, your book will be ready for the next steps on the road to publication.

The DRAFT HOUSE accountability program includes:

- A workable outline of your book, created with Draft Queens M.J. Pullen & Emily Carpenter.
- Personalized, achievable Drafting Schedule with weekly word count goals, created with your schedule in mind.
- Weekly check-ins to report your word count progress. (And a stern but loving reminder from the Draft Queens if you fall short!)
- Monthly video conference milestones check-ins with your team to guide you through each section of your draft.
- Monthly one-on-one coaching with a Draft Queen for advice, encouragement, and tips.

GRADUATES receive an in-depth, developmental critique of their completed manuscript from one of the Draft Queens and DRAFT HOUSE swag!

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE - APPLY NOW!
Deadline September 1
$100 early-bird discount through August 15

www.draftyourbook.com
The University of New Orleans Press is excited to announce that our third annual UNO Press Publishing Lab Prize is now open.

The University of New Orleans Press is looking for full-length fiction manuscripts, either novels or short story collections, for the third annual Publishing Lab Prize. The selected author will receive a thousand dollar ($1,000) advance on royalties and a contract to publish with UNO Press. The work does not have to be regionally focused. There is no word limit. There is no limit on subjects covered. Submissions are open from April 5 - August 15.

More information, including the Submittable link, can be found at: http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx

We at Living Springs Publishers LLP are publishing a series of books called Stories Through The Ages. Each book will feature short stories written by people in different segments of the population.

We are now accepting submissions for the Baby Boomers Plus edition (anyone born 1964 or earlier) and the Generations XYZ edition (anyone born 1996 – 1965).

Submissions for the College Edition are currently closed as we are working on getting the first book in the series ready for publication. We will re-open submissions this summer. You can see information about the winners of this contest in our Blog and on our Facebook page.

There is no prompt for the contests, and stories may be about any topic. For each contest the story from the top 15 finalists will be included in a book published by Living Springs Publishers LLP. In addition first, second and third place finalists receive cash prizes of $500, $200 and $100 respectively.


Veryle Peavler – Managing Partner
Living Springs Publishers LLP
720-219-2238
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></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 7p.m</td>
<td>Susan McBrearty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjmcb816@gmail.com">sjmcb816@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>Tues, 4-6p.m. @San Francisco Coffee 1660 Dekalb Avenue</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:00 @ Mandarin Garden</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncflcther50@gmail.com">ncflcther50@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Rd.</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jandjgrant@bellsouth.net">jandjgrant@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult &amp; YA Fiction</td>
<td>Sunday, 1:00PM, monthly</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>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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Wed, 6:30 pm @ Athens Pizza, 1341 Clairmont Road</td>
<td>Ruth Gresh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</a></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</td>
<td>770-274-5246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday 9:30AM - noon @ Member’s Home</td>
<td>Kerry Denney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncey-Highlands</td>
<td>All genera</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel's Tavern email John for time</td>
<td>John Whittemore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thegridbook@gmail.com">thegridbook@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:45 - 9:00PM @ Member's Home</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giweinstein@yahoo.com">giweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon,10:30AM - 12:30Pm @ Roswell Library</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremylogan.author@gmail.com">jeremylogan.author@gmail.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 Ron Aiken at ron@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: __________________________

For additional family members, please use additional forms?

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Cell Phone: __________________________ Other Phone: __________________________
Email: __________________________ Alternate Email: __________________________

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]: $__________

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?