Atlanta Writers Club
eQuill
October 2017
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 October:
21st AWC monthly meeting
30th Stuart Woods - book talk and signing

Fall Writers Conference
November 3, 4

“In the library, one often finds people close their mouths and open their minds!”

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
October 21st meeting

Roger Johns – Member Spotlight
Dana Ridenour – 1st Guest Speaker
Daren Wang – 2nd Guest Speaker

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I didn’t grow up with a burning desire to write a book as so many of my fellow AWC members did. There were plenty of great authors and how could I possibly measure up? What did I have to say that hadn’t been said already, and if I did come up with something interesting, who besides my friends and family would care enough to read it let alone pay for it?

But I did catch the writing bug when I found a story I needed to tell, and I attended writing seminars and workshops such as the editing workshop the club offered just this past Saturday, to learn the craft. However, there was one thing I had to master on my own. I had to find my voice as a writer and to achieve that I had to learn to trust my instincts, not measure myself against standards set by literary giants. Overcome what I thought it meant to be a writer—match Shakespeare’s witty wordplay; the intellectual depth of James Baldwin’s *Go Tell It On The Mountain*, Toni Morrison’s lyrical voice, the poetry of ZZ Packer.

Early on, something Faulkner said about Hemingway’s style stuck with me: “He (Hemingway) has never been known to use a word that might cause the reader to check with a dictionary to see if it is properly used.” I enjoyed reading Hemingway, but Faulkner’s negative assessment, plus my outsized expectations, lead me to write clumsy sentences. “Motorbikes swarmed like wasps on wheels, jacked on steroids, their riders beneath a gallimaufry of helmets, aggressively maneuvering through the modern Roman version of Ben Hur’s chariot race,” to describe the chaotic Roman traffic.

When my critique group read this, they stumbled, then tripped over gallimaufry. Some looked up the meaning, others guessed from the context, but I’d yanked them out of the story. When asked why I’d used a word none of them—all educated professionals—were familiar with, I replied I’d read it in a New York Times Magazine article, liked the way it sounded, and looked for a place to plop it. In fact, I was trying to be a writer.

After having written hundreds-of-thousands of words, I’ve come to learn in commercial fiction, that there are three types of words; those we know, those we should know, and those no one knows, like gallimaufry. Forget type three, and be highly selective when using type two.

So in the battle of literary giants, to my way of thinking, Hemingway had the last, winning words. “Does he (Faulkner) think big emotions come from big words (and overly complicated sentences)? There are older and simpler and better words and those are the ones I use.”

Me, too.

Thanks, Mr. Hemingway for helping me find my voice.
**Roger Johns** is a former corporate lawyer and retired college professor with law degrees from Louisiana State University and Boston University. During his nearly two decades as a professor, he served on the editorial staffs of several academic publications and won numerous awards and recognitions for his teaching and his scholarly writing. Roger was born and raised in Louisiana. He and his wife Julie now live in Georgia. *Dark River rising* is his first novel.

Roger is a member of the Atlanta Writers Club, Georgia Romance Writers, Romance Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, and Sisters In Crime.

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**Dana Ridenour**, a former FBI agent, was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science in Police Administration in 1989. After college, Dana attended Chase Law School where she earned a Juris Doctor in 1992.

Dana entered on duty as a special agent with the FBI in November of 1995 and retired April 6, 2016 with over 20 years on the job. Dana was assigned to four different FBI Field Divisions and had the opportunity to work a wide variety of cases to include multi-faceted narcotics investigations, domestic sex trafficking of minors, and violent crime. Over the years, Dana was a proud member of the FBI’s Evidence Response Team where she and her team traveled to New York City in response to the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. The highlight of Dana’s career came in 2003 when she attended and passed the FBI’s prestigious undercover school, thus allowing her to work as an undercover FBI agent, and opened the door for Dana to work a series of long-term, deep-cover cases focusing on domestic terrorism. Dana had the rare experience of working a long-term undercover investigation with her husband also a retired FBI agent. Dana was the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award presented by the United States Attorney’s Office for her work on a gang-related human trafficking investigation involving a fourteen-year-old victim.

Dana’s first novel, *Behind The Mask*, is based on her personal experiences as an undercover agent, and it won several literary awards including the Hal Bernard Award of excellence for best novel and the Edna Sampson Award of Excellence, both presented by the Southeastern Writers Association. The novel also took top honors in the 2016 Royal Dragonfly Writers Awards, winning not only the Grand Prize, but also first place in the Fiction-Novel category, and first place in the First Time Author (Fiction) category. Kirkus Reviews awarded *Behind The Mask* the coveted Kirkus star and named the book one of the best indie books of 2016. *Behind The Mask* won first place in its category at the Chanticleer International Book Awards. The book was awarded the Silver Medal at the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award for Best New Voice in Fiction. *Behind The Mask* was the First Place Winner for Best Action/Adventure Book at the Next Generation Indie Book Awards.
Daren Wang, born in Buffalo, New York, is the founding Executive Director of AJC Decatur Book Festival, now in its twelfth year.

As a public radio producer, he produced or hosted several series including *The Spoken Word, Porches: The South and Her Writers, Circle of Friends, Between the Lines, ArtVoice, and Atlanta Forum.*

His writing has appeared in *Paste Magazine, Five Points Magazine, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, AJC Travel, The Saporta Report,* and others. He published the short-lived audio magazine *Verb:An Audioquarterly.*

In *The Hidden Light of Northern Fires,* Daren’s first novel, he attempts to answer a question that has vexed him since childhood; why in 1861 did his hometown of Town Line, New York vote to secede from the Union. Charles Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain* and winner of the 1997 National Book Award, calls *The Hidden Light of Northern Fires,* “… a distinctive clear-eyed perspective on a fresh corner of the Civil War.”

In 1971, Daren’s parents bought the Willis property, and made the family home in the converted barn and rented out the main house—the same property where his protagonist Mary Willis warded off Confederate guerrillas and spies, a vengeful slave owner, and her brother to help a fugitive slave cross to freedom.

A graduate of Cornell University, Daren and his wife Eva live in Decatur.
Monthly Meetings

Future Guests & Events

2017

October 21, 2017
Roger Johns - Member Minute
Dana Ridenour – 1st Guest
Daren Wang – 2nd Guest

November 18th
Linda Sands - Member Minute
Bobbie Christmas - 1st Guest Speaker

Writing can be a solitary endeavor. Therefore, to deepen our sense of community with other writers, prior to our October 21st meeting, AWC will again host an informal gathering in the Building NC cafeteria from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. You’ll have a chance to share stories, to talk, to read aloud, form critique groups, and offer each other encouragement. More than 50 members came together before the September meeting where they shared some of their writings and discussed issues they faced in the crazy world of publishing.

Light refreshments will be provided. I hope to see you there..

Ron
Monthly Meetings

September Photos by Ron Aiken

Top Left - Gloria Barnes
Top Right - Attendees
Bottom Left - Colleen Oakley
Bottom Right - Rob Jenkins
Register now to attend the November 3-4, 2017 Atlanta Writers Conference, at the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel.

http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/

Whether you are...
- In search of an agent or publisher
- Working on a manuscript and seeking feedback
- A first-time writer who wants to increase your knowledge about the craft and the publishing business
- Already published and seeking more contacts and information
...this is your opportunity to take the next big step toward your writing goals.

Want to get published?

The November 3-4, 2017 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you access to a group of 12 editors and agents seeking manuscripts for every major fiction genre and nonfiction topic. Two dozen of our members have signed with agents or editors they met at our Conferences, and a number of those have scored major book deals. You could be next. Even if your work is not ready to submit, you'll benefit from the many educational sessions on the craft and business of writing.

Agents and editors at the Conference will:
- Critique a manuscript sample you submit in advance and possibly ask to see more to consider it for representation/acquisition
- Critique your query letter to improve it for the Conference pitches and future use
- Respond to your pitch and possibly ask to see your manuscript to consider it for representation/acquisition
- Provide hours of Q&A
- Select the best manuscript samples and pitches for our award ceremony--maybe they'll call your name!

- You'll also enjoy:
  - A workshop on contracts and legal issues for writers, back by popular demand
  - Presentations on writing craft, editing, and finding a supportive writing community
  - Networking with presenters and participants.

We've filled the two-day conference with great experiences:

Friday, November 3:
* Query letter critique panels that pair one editor and one agent who will help you get your query in shape for the Saturday pitches
* Workshop on contracts and legal issues for writers by 35-year veteran lawyer and
Conference, cont.

literary agent Paul Levine, with two hours of detailed information, lessons learned, and extensive Q&A. For years, participants have asked that Paul return to give this workshop again--we heard you!

- Free talks by Paul Levine on the process of turning your book into a movie and turning self-published work into a traditionally published book
- Q&A panel with our six guest editors
- Social mixer with all twelve editors and agents

Saturday, November 4:
- One-on-one manuscript critique sessions with your choice of editors and agents
- Pitch sessions with your choice of editors and agents
- Q&A panel with our six guest agents
- Free talks on editing, networking, and story craft
- Award ceremony

Registration is now open!

For full details about Conference activities:
http://atlantawritersconference.com/the-conference

For pricing options:
http://atlantawritersconference.com/the-cost

Learn about our guest editors and agents:
http://atlantawritersconference.com/the-editors-and-agents

After you've read all the Conference details on the website--including the deadlines and refund policy--use the registration tab to secure your place at the Fall 2017 Atlanta Writers Conference.

As past Conference participants will tell you, the spots fill up fast, so don't delay.

The Atlanta Writers Conference is presented exclusively for members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you are not a current member or your membership will lapse prior to November 5, 2017, you can join/renew as part of your Conference registration--you don't need to do this as a two-step process.

We hope you'll be able to join us! Please click through the Conference website pages for all the details: http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/
 Writers: Don’t Include These 11 Things In Your Query Letter

With the Atlanta Writers Conference fast approaching, these tips might help participants sharpen their query letters.

Writers: Don’t Include These 11 Things In Your Query Letter

**The book’s ending.** A good query letter book blurb reads less like a synopsis and more like the book’s back cover teaser copy. Leave your reader hanging—and wanting to read more!

**The age at which you started writing.** Most writers get to the same place the same way—by falling in love with words/stories at some point. Unless your story of becoming a writer has a particularly surprising genesis, it’s probably not worth mentioning.

**How many years you’ve been writing.** How long you’ve been interested in writing is generally not relevant in a query—even if you’re unpublished. Better to focus on the specifics of how you’ve studied your craft. Example: “I’ve attended eight writing workshops and fifteen conferences in five years.”

**The fact that you worked with a freelance editor.** If you paid someone to edit your book, literary agents may be left wondering how much of the book is yours and how much is your editor’s.

**Online review quotes from casual readers.** Rather than share quotes from reviewers who aren’t pros, focus on numbers instead: “My self-published book has 500 ratings of four stars or above on Goodreads.”

**Prior disappointments.** Had a bad experience with a literary agent you worked with? Did self-publishing not fulfill your dreams? Things happen—but your query should focus on the positive aspects of your learning experiences. Save the nitty-gritty details for follow-up conversations.

**TMI in a personal bio.** Don’t overshare in your author bio.

**Themes and concerns.** Some writers will “interpret” their book for literary agents—as if agents need a book’s themes pointed out. Piling on statements about themes and concerns (“my book is about the different ways people deal with tragedy depending on...”)
Writers: Don’t Include These 11 Things In Your Query Letter

their family relationships”) wastes precious space in your query letter. Instead of stating the obvious, trust that your themes and concerns will shine through via your characters and plot.

**Apologies and excuses.** When a writer says, “Even though this is my first book and I have never been published, I am very dedicated to my craft,” it reads like an apology. Skip it. Literary agents know that every writer has to start somewhere. And they love finding exciting new voices!

**Horn-tooting.** Steer clear of writing anything about your own book that sounds like a reviewer would have written it: “It’s a page-turner that will keep you guessing and make you fall in love.”

**Poorly made comparisons to other books.** Sometimes, comparing your book to another title can help clarify your niche. But we find that many writers use book comparisons that don’t quite work.

**When In Doubt, Seek Professional Query Writing Assistance**

While it’s okay to ask your friends to critique your story or poems, you might want to seek more qualified, professional assistance for writing a query. There are so many nuances of etiquette and subtle strategies employed in an effective query letter that well-meaning critiques of “I liked it!” from your friends might not get you the results you want.

*This article has been reprinted with the permission of Writer’s Relief.*
Member Q & A: Dana Ridenour

You had a very interesting career before becoming a novelist. Please tell us a little about yourself and your professional background.

I entered on duty with the FBI in November of 1995 and retired on April 6, 2016. During my twenty years on the job I was assigned to four different FBI Field Divisions and had the opportunity to work a wide variety of cases to include multi-faceted narcotics investigations, domestic sex trafficking of minors, and violent crime. Over the years, I was a proud member of the FBI’s Evidence Response Team where I traveled with my team to New York City in response to the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. I would have to say the highlight of my career came in 2003 when I attended and passed the FBI’s prestigious undercover school, thus allowing me to work as an undercover FBI agent. This undercover certification opened the door for me to work a series of long term, deep cover cases focusing on domestic terrorism. I had the rare experience of working a long-term undercover investigation with my husband, who was also an undercover FBI agent. I use all these amazing experiences to form the storylines and characters in my novels.

When did you know you wanted to be a writer, and what was it that made you sit down to start your first novel?

I’ve always been an avid reader, but I spent years in a profession where I wrote mundane reports. I never had time to write for fun because I was always behind on paperwork. While I was working undercover I kept journals. Because our targets were known to ransack places to check for law enforcement personnel, I kept these journals hidden in the ceiling panels of my undercover apartment. At the conclusion of my last long term undercover mission, I reviewed all my journals. As I read through the journals, I realized that I had the material for an exciting FBI undercover series.

The thriller/suspense genre is very popular. What was it that drew you to the thriller genre as an author, and why do you think so many people are drawn to it as readers?

Like so many people, I enjoy a good thriller. I get excited when an author has me sitting on the edge of my seat waiting to see what happens next. My books fall into the thriller/suspense genre because both novels are based loosely on real cases, real characters, and real experiences I had as an FBI agent. I spent nearly half of my career as an FBI agent working undercover. I spent several years infiltrating domestic terrorism cells, many like the ones portrayed in the novels. These experiences, coupled with my imagination, make the novels a natural fit for the thriller category. I think people enjoy thrillers because we like suspense and action. I remember reading Silence of the Lambs and I got up and checked the locks on my doors and windows. I hope people enjoy my books because, in addition to the thriller aspect, I try to give a more realistic portrayal of the FBI.
Your protagonist, Lexie Montgomery, appears in both of your novels, *Behind the Mask*, and *Beyond the Cabin*. What’s next for this character? Will she live on in future novels?

I’m working on the third Lexie Montgomery novel now. At the end of *Beyond The Cabin*, Lexie goes off to heal, both physically and mentally, and contemplate her future as an agent. Rest assured, Lexie will be around for a few more novels. There is a chance that you may see Lexie on the small screen. The books are in development for television. I’ve partnered with a phenomenal screenwriter, Michael Lucker. We developed the idea based on my books and co-wrote the script for the series.

**Do you work from an outline, or just see where the story takes you?**

Most of the time, I allow the characters to dictate the story while I write. I will do a very basic outline with my three parts, but nothing in depth. I will sometimes use a storyboard so I can visualize where my plot will go but I like for my characters to whisper in my ear. I have learned to trust my characters.

**From idea to launch events, what is your favorite part of the writing process?**

I love launch parties! To me there is nothing more exhilarating than seeing people pick up and flip through my book for the first time. I absolutely love seeing their excitement and there is nothing better than a long line at the signing table. I think some authors are more introverted and don’t like talking to people. I’m kind of the opposite. I love book signings and I love talking to people and answering questions about my books and my FBI career.

**Tell us about your process. Do you write every day? Do you try to achieve a daily word count?**

When I’m in full writing mode, I try to write six days a week. I take one day off to completely free my brain and hang out with my husband. I don’t pay any attention to word count. In fact, I never look at the word count until I get close to the end of my first draft. Having to contend with a daily word count would put too much pressure on me. I write until I’m done every day. Some days I might write for two hours and other days I may write eight hours. If I get rolling on a section, I write until I’m done. My wonderful husband recognizes when the ideas are flowing and he sends an endless supply of coffee my way.

**Who are some of your favorite authors? How have they impacted your work?**

I have so many favorite authors because I read so many different genres. As far as thriller/suspense authors, I would have to say Thomas Harris influenced me long before I became an FBI agent. My college professor gave me a copy of *Red Dragon* because he knew I wanted to become an FBI agent. After reading that book, I was obsessed with becoming an FBI agent. I also wanted to chase serial killers because of that book.

In addition to thrillers, I love southern writers and southern novels. My all time favorite author is Pat Conroy because he is the master of descriptive prose. I also love Dorothea Benton Frank, Anne Rivers Siddons, and Mary Alice Monroe because they masterfully
Member Q & A: Dana Ridenour, cont.

write eccentric southern female characters.

I think J.K. Rowling is a genius. I can read the Harry Potter series over and over. I never tire of Rowling’s imaginative characters. Then I have this other side of me who longs for sheer entertainment. That’s when I want to read Neil Gaiman. He’s brilliant! I also read my fair share of young adult books.

What is your favorite book, and why?

That’s an easy question, The Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy. We lost a great American novelist when Pat Conroy died. His lyrical prose about the Lowcountry is sheer poetry to my ears. One day I would love to be able to write a scene and describe a location like Pat Conroy. There are descriptions in The Prince of Tides where as the reader I could smell the pluff mud and feel the humidity on my skin. I can only dream of writing so well.

What do you find is the hardest thing about writing a novel?

I think marketing and promoting is the hardest part of writing a novel. I love the writing process, but having to market and promote a book instead of writing the next book almost kills me. I have found that when I launch a book, I have to completely dedicate myself to marketing and promoting and not allow myself to write during that time. I get frustrated when I don’t have enough time to write because the marketing side takes so much time.

What do you find is the easiest part?

To me writing dialogue is the easiest part of writing. I absolutely love writing dialogue. I can hear the voices of the characters in my head, so I write what they say and how they say it. Did I just admit that I hear voices in my head?

Do you read reviews?

Of course I read reviews. It’s embarrassing to admit, but when Behind The Mask was first released, I sat in front of my computer and refreshed my Amazon screen in hopes of a new review popping up. I don’t do that any longer, but I do read reviews. It’s always nice when people say wonderful things about the books, but I also try to learn from the people who might be more critical.

Which person, living or dead, would you like to meet and why?

I know you expected me to say Pat Conroy because I’m such an obsessed fan, but I did actually meet him, so my choice would be Jonathan Larson. Jonathan Larson was an amazing composer and playwright. He wrote my favorite musical, RENT. Unfortunately, Jonathan died in January of 1996 at the age of thirty-six so I never had a chance to meet him. I would love to talk to him about his inspirational works and tell him that he not only won three posthumous Tony Awards for RENT but that he also won a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for Drama for RENT.

What are you working on now?

I’m simultaneously working on the third Lexie Montgomery novel and finishing the spec script for the television series based on my novels. It can be a little confusing juggling
both projects because I’m using the same characters for both projects but different story lines.

**What else would you like to tell us?**

I often get asked whether the FBI had to approve my books. The answer to that question is yes. Both of my books had to go through a pre-publishing review process with the FBI to insure that I wasn’t disclosing any trade secrets. I was also held to a little different standard because of my affiliation with the FBI. For example, I was not allowed to use a photo of the FBI seal on the cover.

**How can people find out more about you and your books?**

Please feel free to visit my website at http://www.danaridenour.net. I regularly update my website to include all my upcoming appearances. I also have an author site on Amazon which is: http://www.amazon.com/author/danaridenour.

*Both Behind The Mask and Beyond The Cabin* are available in paperback, e-book, and audio formats from Amazon. Barnes & Noble carries both books in paperback and *Behind The Mask* is available for Nook as well as Kindle.

Finally, I’m active on social media, so please feel free to contact me anytime. Below are the links to my social media accounts:

Facebook Author Page: https://www.facebook.com/danaridenourwriterpage/

Twitter Pager:  
https://twitter.com/ridenour_dana

Instagram:  
https://www.instagram.com/undercoverauthor/

LinkedIn:  
https://www.linkedin.com/in/dana-ridenour-00936bab/.
Photo Review

AWC at the 2017 AJC Decatur Book Festival
Release Event

Release Event for New St. Cyr Mystery at Eagle Eye book Shop

Eagle Eye Bookshop will host the Atlanta release event for Eclipse Alley, the sixth mystery in David Fulmer’s acclaimed Valentin St. Cyr series, on Saturday, October 21st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.


Beginning in April, the previous five St. Cyr mysteries – Chasing the Devil’s Tail, Jass, Rampart Street, Lost River, and The Iron Angel – were released in new editions by Crescent City Books, an imprint of Boston-based Black Widow Press.

Eagle Eye Bookshop is located at 2076 North Decatur Road at the corner of Clairmont Avenue in Decatur. The store website is http://www.eagleeyebooks.com.

Lee Gimenez’s latest mystery thriller, FBI CODE RED: a J.T. Ryan Thriller, has just been published by River Ridge Press.


In the book, J.T. Ryan, a decorated war hero and one of the FBI's best investigators, is inexplicably put on the FBI's terrorist watch-list. A massive manhunt for his capture begins and Ryan is forced to flee the U.S. in order to clear his name and solve the mystery of CODE RED.

The novel is available in paperback, Kindle, iPad, and all other ebook formats at Amazon (http://bit.ly/FBICODERed) and Barnes&Noble.com.

Kindle unlimited
Event

Gwinnett Public Library

Gwinnett County Public Library Presents

Stuart Woods

Monday October 30th at 7:00 pm
Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center
10 College Street in Norcross

Meet New York Times Bestselling Author & Edgar Award Winner Stuart Woods!

When a slam-bang of a crime brings a beautiful new client into Stone Barrington’s office, little does he know his association with her will pull him into a far more serpentine mystery in the exclusive world of art.

Stuart Woods is the author of more than sixty novels. He is a native of Georgia and began his writing career in the advertising industry. Chiefs, his debut in 1981, won the Edgar Award. An avid sailor and pilot, Woods lives in Florida, Maine, and New Mexico.

Free and open to the public. A silent auction and beverage bar will be sponsored by the Friends of GCPL. Attendees who purchase books at the program will receive a preferred position in the signing line.
Jessie’s Coffee Shop is open for business. Writers - come in, take a seat, and let me pour you a cup while we chat about books, writing, and the caffeine that sustains you. I’m looking for guests for my internet radio show on KLRNRadio. Self- or traditionally published authors are both welcome in here.

Book cover art and blurbs are used for promotional purposes. (I won’t turn down an ARC copy, if you’re willing to share.)

Email me
Jrssie@KLRNRadio.com for more information.

Between newsletters there’s FaceBook.
Ageless Authors celebrates creative senior writers

Entries accepted now for unique contest

Ageless Authors, the first publishing project exclusively for writers age 65 and older, is now accepting submissions for this year’s edition of their nationwide writing contest.

Professional and amateur writers can submit short stories, essays, and poetry based on any of three topics – Military Memories; Dang I Wish I Hadn’t Done That; and Parents, For Better or Worse. To learn more or submit your work, go to agelessauthors.com/current-contests.

Cash prizes will be awarded in each category; $100 for first place, $50 for second place, and $25 for third place. Winners and other outstanding entries will also be published in the second edition of Ageless Authors Anthology. Each submission requires an entry fee of $20 and the deadline for submissions is December 15.

The first Ageless Authors anthology, with almost 52 outstanding entries, will be released this fall. The book will be available on the website, at Amazon.com and from other booksellers.

“We want to showcase the talent of older writers and artists,” says Dallas novelist and poet Ginnie Siena Bivona, one of the founders of Ageless Authors. “Now we are free to enjoy our creativity and a life full of the experiences that make good writing possible.”

Ms. Bivona, 86, started writing when she was in her early 50s. She has written a novel adapted into a Hallmark TV movie, four other books, and the script for a TV series. She offers publishing services to writers of all ages, helping them publish their life story, as well as other works. Her most prolific client is 91 years old.

Co-founder Larry Upshaw, 70, is a Dallas-based writer and marketing executive who has published a dozen books in law, medicine and business. He has also written for many national and regional publications.

“Many of the people I grew up with wanted to become musicians, writers and artists, but their parents insisted they get a job and make a living,” Upshaw says. “Now at retirement they are returning to what gave them pleasure. There is a lot of talent out there among the Baby Boomers and The Greatest Generation.”

For more information, contact Larry Upshaw info@agelessauthors.com
Opportunity

Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association

Volunteers Needed - WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

For 41 years, the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association, a non-profit arts council, has provided a unique art experience through our Arts in the Park festival series in the Downtown City Park of Blue Ridge, GA. The Arts in the Park festivals draw in excess of 19,000 attendees annually and a wide array of artists and food vendors. With over 120+ fine artists, exhibitors, and vendors booths, our visitors enjoy a variety of fine arts and fine crafts, demonstrations, food, family activities and much more during our Fall Arts in the Park festival.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association and the Arts in the Park festival series have helped to establish Blue Ridge as one of the top five Art Towns in Georgia by the Georgia Council of the Arts and most recently recognized as #6 of the top ten fine craft towns in America by American Craft Week.

Come volunteer for this year's FALL ARTS IN THE PARK festival!

Friday, October 13th (setup day),
Saturday, October 14th and
Sunday, October 15th

We are looking for the following Volunteer Positions:
- Hospitality and Information booths
- Vendor Greeters
- Assisting festival artists at their booths
- Festival setup & wrap out

Volunteers who work a minimum 2-hour shift will receive a complimentary admission for both days of the festival and an event staff shirt. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to volunteer.

If you are interested in being a part of this year's team, please contact Nichole Potzauf at blueridgearts.community@gmail.com or by phone (706-632-2144) for information and available shift positions.

The Arts in the Park festival series supports the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit arts council providing opportunities in the realm of the arts for the individual and serving as a catalyst for arts and economic development in our community.

Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association,
420 W. Main Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513,
706-632-2144  www.blueridgearts.net
Opportunities

Submissions for the Baby Boomer Plus 2017 contest are closed. We are in the process of getting the book ready for publication. Once we have all of the paperwork from the winners and finalists we will announce their names and stories.

Submissions for Baby Boomer Plus 2018 will open in the near future. If you would like to be notified when they do, please use the form on the right to sign up for the Baby Boomer Plus list.

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.

You can download it at –

Veryle Peavler – Managing Partner
Living Springs Publishers LLP
720-219-2238
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.
## AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Mike Brown</th>
<th>Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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 <a href="mailto:sjmcb816@gmail.com">sjmcb816@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</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 <a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/ Midtown</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>4th Sat @11a.m.</td>
<td>Karen Holmes <a href="mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com">kpaulholmes@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every other Tues, 6:00 @ Mandarin Garden</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher <a href="mailto:ncfltcher50@gmail.com">ncfltcher50@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 Rd.</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant <a href="mailto:jandjgrant@bellsouth.net">jandjgrant@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult &amp; YA Fiction</td>
<td>Sunday, 1:00PM, monthly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs <a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult, YA Fiction, Memoirs</td>
<td>Sunday 10am, fortnightly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs <a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</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 <a href="mailto:hrgresh@hotmail.com">hrgresh@hotmail.com</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 9:30AM - noon @ Member’s Home</td>
<td>Kerry Denney <a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Wait List</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:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan <a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</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 <a href="mailto:thegridbook@gmail.com">thegridbook@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Carolyn Graham <a href="mailto:majesty.journey@gmail.com">majesty.journey@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:45 - 9:00PM @ Member’s Home</td>
<td>George Weinstein <a href="mailto:giweinstein@yahoo.com">giweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon,10:30AM - 12:30Pm @ Roswell Library</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan <a href="mailto:jeremylogan.author@gmail.com">jeremylogan.author@gmail.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 online 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: _________________________

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]: $__________

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?