...founded in 1914

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

Officers
President: Ron Aiken
Officers Emeritus: Michael Brown, Valerie Connors, George Weinstein, Clay Ramsey, Marty Aftewicz
Conference Director: George Weinstein
Membership VP: Yvonne Green
Programs VP: Valerie Connors
Operations VP: Jennifer Wiggins
Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP: Clay Ramsey
Social Media VP: Gene Bowen
Secretary: Bill Black
Treasurer: Ron Aiken
Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

April EVENTS

4th Jessica Handler Event
8th The Living Room Series
13th Fundraiser for Homeless Families
21st Monthly AWC Meeting
27th Rick Bragg Event
28th All About Kids Expo

Between newsletters there’s FaceBook.

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

Patricia Holt - Member Spotlight
Nick Chiles - 1st Guest Speakers
Melisa Taylor – 2nd Guest Speaker

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Letter From the President

The Atlanta Writers Club is a nonprofit social organization whose purpose is to promote and sponsor creative educational activities for writers and stimulate the advancement of literary art throughout the region.

In meeting its objectives, the Atlanta Writers Club has had the good fortune to have a dedicated group of members to support its meetings, events, and workshops without whom the club would not be able to fulfill its charter.

Therefore, to acknowledge members’ contributions, the Club will reinstitute its “Member of the Year” program in 2018.

Partnered with AIR (Artists In Residence) Serenbe, the nonprofit artist residency program of the Serenbe Institute that invests in artists of all disciplines, the Club will sponsor the member who best exemplifies the AWC’s charter with a Weekend Residency that includes:

- Three-night residency in a Rural Studio cottage.
- Personal discounts at Hills & Hamlets Bookshop, Blue Eyed Daisy Coffee Shop, and Farmhouse Bar
- Bicycle to use around Serenbe
- Complimentary tickets to AIR Serenbe’s big November annual event with its clients, artists, advisors, partners, and sponsors

Overview of Focus Fellowships—AIR Serenbe supports artists of every discipline through their Focus Fellowship award residencies, who are nominated annually by our National Advisory Council—esteemed peers and experts in their fields. Focus Fellowships provide the opportunity for individuals, foundations, corporations, government grant-makers, and other organizations to invest directly in artists and their influence on building a healthy, productive, and creative society. Funders have the chance to name the fellowship and to work closely with AIR Serenbe to determine what kind of artists (discipline, demographic, subject, theme, etc.) the award will serve.

The process for selecting “Member of the Year” will be as follows:

- The Club’s nominating committee (made up of AWC board and non-board members) will select three-to-five AWC members (not to include board members) for consideration.
- Nominees will be judged using weighted criteria to include but not limited to volunteerism, promotion of the AWC, community service, and literary success.
- Air Serenbe’s professional staff will select the member who best exemplifies the Atlanta Writers Club’s mission.

To our members, thank you for all your support.
Patricia Martin Holt’s debut non-fiction book, Committee of One: Making a Difference, One Life at a Time, is a story of survival, heroism, courage, and determination. Her writing has received several awards, including the bronze medal for Living Now Awards in the Independent Publishers Association national competition, and the 2013 Georgia Author of the Year award.

Marriage to Lee Holt in 1982 required a move from the United States to Amman, Jordan where Patricia learned the culture, traditions, and lives of the Arab people. Upon her return to the States, Patricia began telling stories about her experiences in Jordan to local groups and write feature articles for a South Texas newspaper and Corpus Christi Magazine.

These stories became the manuscript for Committee of One, that won prizes in state and national writing competitions and motivated Patricia to seek a publisher. Now, with its publication, the story of Leila Wahbeh has changed the lives of thousands of refugees and can inspire anyone, anywhere, who wishes to make a difference.

Patricia is collecting stories from refugees for her next non-fiction book in the series.

Patricia has spoken before civic groups, churches, and state and national conferences; has presented workshops and seminars to both businesses and non-profit organizations, and has received leadership awards from in the United States and internationally.

Over the course of his 32-year career, Nick Chiles has distinguished himself as one of the nation’s foremost chroniclers of African-American life, culture and celebrity—both as a bestselling author and an award-winning journalist. He is the author or co-author of 14 books, including three New York Times bestsellers he wrote with R&B icon Bobby Brown, civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton and gospel legend Kirk Franklin. He is the co-author with Atlanta attorney Robbin Shipp of the book Justice While Black: Helping African-American Families Navigate and Survive the Criminal Justice System, a finalist for a 2015 NAACP Image Award.

Chiles served as a newspaper reporter, magazine writer, and magazine and website editor-in-chief during his years in journalism, winning nearly 20 major awards—including a 1992 Pulitzer Prize as part of a New York Newsday team. He has also spent considerable time teaching writing to young people, currently serving as a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

A year ago, Chiles joined a New York-based agency as a literary agent, adding to a career in which he has worked in virtually every realm connected to the written word. Chiles is a graduate of Yale University and lives in Atlanta.


Winner of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Fulbright, Beckman foundation, and Resplandor, her work appears in many literary and scholarly journals including Georgia Review, American Poetry Review, and Mom Egg. She posts events and updates at her blog http://teachersactup.com.
Monthly Meetings
Pre-meeting Mixer

The pre-meeting mixer will be from 12:30 to 1:30, and again will feature a one-sentence contest.

Jennifer Davenport-Medders won the one-sentence contest and received a gift card from A Cappella Books.

The curly-haired boy stood at the edge of the tracks, feet pointed south but chin turned west, his eyes holding the dreamy determination of Bob Dylan, ready to shake up the world should he decide that was his fate.

For the April contest, you are to write a story of not more than fifty words with a writing prompt to be provided at the April 21st mixer on a 3-by-5 index card with your name on the back of the card. The winner will receive a gift card from a local independent bookseller.

Thanks to all who took up the March challenge.
Monthly Meetings
Future Guests & Events 2018

April 21<sup>st</sup>
Patricia Holt – Member Spotlight
Nick Chiles – 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker
Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor - 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker

May 19<sup>th</sup>
Alayne Smith - Member Spotlight
Lola Schaefer - 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker
Melanie Summer - 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker

Photos of Sandra Johnson from Nonfiction Proposal Workshop taken by Ron Aiken
Monthly Meetings
March Photos by Ron Aiken

David Fulmer & Sansanee Sermprungsuk
Monthly Meetings

March Photos by Ron Aiken

Mike Brown

Kim Wiley
Register now to attend the May 4-5, 2018 Atlanta Writers Conference, at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel.

http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/

Whether you are...

- In search of an agent or a publisher
- Working on a manuscript and in need of feedback
- Seeking to learn more about the writing craft and/or publishing business
- Working on a screenplay
- Trying to build your network of industry contacts

...this is your opportunity to take the next big step toward your writing goals.

Want to get published?

The May 4-5, 2018 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you access to a group of 12 editors and agents seeking manuscripts for every major fiction genre and nonfiction topic, as well as graphic novels and poetry and short-story collections. More than 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. We'll even help you learn how to turn your book into a screenplay.

**Agents and editors at the May 4-5, 2018 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 new workshop on turning your book into a screenplay, presented by Emmy-nominated screenwriter, producer, and educator Patricia Meyer
* Presentations on the craft and business of writing from local best-selling authors
* Networking with presenters and participants
* Prize giveaways for free manuscript and query letters critiques, pitches, and more
Conference, cont.

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

Friday, May 4:
* Query letter critique panels that pair one editor and one agent who will help you get your query in shape for the Saturday pitches
* Screenwriting workshop by Emmy-nominated writer, producer, and educator Patricia Meyer, to give you the tools to turn your book into a screenplay
* Free talks by Patricia Meyer on creating three-dimensional characters and the art of rewriting
* Q&A panel with our six guest editors
* Social mixer with all twelve editors and agents and our workshop presenter

Saturday, May 5:
* 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 by best-selling local authors Emily Carpenter and Buzz Bernard on writing craft, working with publicists, lessons learned about traditional publishing with large, mid-size, and small presses, and the tools you'll need to be a successful author in the current environment
* Award ceremony and prize giveaways

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 May 4-5, 2018 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 May
Conference, *cont.*

6, 2018, you can join/renew as part of your Conference registration--you do not need to do this as a two-step process.

We hope you'll be able to join us! Start here and then click through the Conference website pages for all the details: [http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/](http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/)
Ah, the query letter. Even the words can send a chill up our collective writerly spine. We take classes, sit through workshops, meet one on one with agents, and we still aren’t sure how to write the perfect query letter. Forget perfect. We still don’t know which words will get our work the attention it deserves. We know the basics. We’ve been told to include a little about the agent or the agency, something about the book that will draw the agent in, and a little about the author’s background, at least in the writing arena. This is a pretty safe framework.

There’s always the perfumed stationary, the bottle of Merlot, the hieroglyphic-looking font, the box of chocolates, or illustrations up and down the margins, but what knocks one agent’s socks off could leave the next one cold. The box of chocolates that might absolutely make an agent’s week could send another into anaphylactic shock (the ones with nuts, anyway). The bottle of Merlot is great unless it lands on the desk of a recovering alcoholic, and the fancy font, though lovely, might be an unwelcome interruption for an agent with stacks of unread queries.

In my possibly jaded opinion, when it comes to query letters, the reason for all the worry, indecision, and pulling out of hair is that we all have different tastes and agents are no exception. Unless you know her/him really well, I’d say forego quirky and opt for down-to-earth. This is not to be confused with boring. Be as creative and imaginative as you like. You do want your work – and your query letter is its introduction – to make an impression.

It’s always nice if you can start out with something flattering about the agent or her/his agency: My friend, Jane Doe, has said such wonderful things about you . . . or I heard you speak at the last AWC Conference and I was impressed with what you said. Even something along the lines of liking what you read about her online and thinking she might be a good fit for your book will work. Make it short unless you have an actual connection: My husband risked his life saving your dog from drowning, for example, warrants more than a few words, and if one of their clients has referred you, mention that: Stephen suggested I query you when we went kayaking with the King family last month.

The meat of the letter is about your manuscript. Try to grab the agent right away. Forget the setting, etc., unless that’s an integral part of the story, as in: My book, LOVING RICHARD, is a series of flashbacks that opens with the death of Richard III during the War of the Roses. You should mention the “hook” and possibly the main character’s struggle: Dorothy is lost when she’s hit by a flying house and devastated
On Query Letter, *cont.*

By Susan Crawford

*when, days later, she’s swept off by a marauding group of monkeys.* Draw the agent in as deeply as you can in a few lines, but don’t give away the book’s ending.

The last paragraph is where *you* come in. Mention any publication that featured your work: *My first published poem was in a small literary magazine called THE SPECTRUM,* which is true, actually. Never mind it was put out by my high school. Any past achievements or awards can be namedropped at this point. (I always mentioned winning the AWC poetry and short story contests, so it’s good to enter them if you possibly can.) Don’t overwhelm the agent with your ... self ... but don’t be too modest either. If she sees that your writing has been singled out and recognized in the past, it’s helpful.

I am drawn to agents who ask for sample pages right up front. It’s always made more sense to me. This way you don’t have to agonize as much over your query letter because, although the agent will surely read it, your first pages will let her see what kind of fiction writer you are, who populates your book, your voice, and hopefully your hook.

Again, this is all subjective. Read enough about the agent you query to know what she’s looking for, but keep in mind that *you* are looking too. You want an agent who “gets” the way you write, your characters, maybe even your particular take on the world. Publishing is a tough and fiercely competitive, profit-driven business, so put on your thickest skin, grab the version of your manuscript you love the most, and think of your query letter as a vehicle to get your baby into the most exclusive and sought-after preschool in the state. Persevere. If the agent(s) you query aren’t interested, try again. I suggest not sending a huge number out at once because if you get consistently negative reactions (or, worse, no reaction at all) you might want to reassess your letter before you send it out again.

Keep writing, keep querying. It’s a process and rejection is part of it. Remember, agents are looking for that next great book and it just might be yours!

*Susan Crawford is an Atlanta Writers Club member and the author of "The Pocket Wife”, and "The Other Widow”, both published by Harper Collins.*
7 Biggest Mistakes Writers Make On Social Media

Whether you’re new to writing or a seasoned author, you should be developing a following on one or more social media platforms. Aspiring writers need to grow their audience and establish their online presence. Self-published authors can use social media to boost the promotion for their book launches. And nowadays even authors who’ve landed huge contracts with traditional publishers are expected to do social networking with gusto.

Yet writers are not always skilled in the finer points of social networking. Here are examples of what NOT to do:

The Seven Worst Mistakes Writers Make On Social Media

1. Relentless Selling

Constantly screaming “Buy! Buy! Buy!” is NOT the most effective way to make a sale. The hard sell will make people tune out or unfriend you.

Social networking is all about making connections and cultivating relationships. Once rapport is established and maintained, your followers will be more likely to pay attention when you post news of your book launch.

The general rule of thumb is to minimize promotion to one out of every ten posts.

2. Posting Only Once In A Blue Moon

One of the most important rules of good social media management is to post regularly. If you disappear for an extended period of time, so will your followers, since less engagement means your posts will show up much less frequently in your followers' news streams. And if anyone who visits your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., sees that the
last time you posted was six months ago, they’ll assume you’ve abandoned the platform.

Try to post at least once daily.

3. Not Offering Value

To draw people to your social media account, you should offer them something they want. What you offer could be something concrete, such as a monthly giveaway, or something intangible, such as a behind-the-scenes glimpse into your books, your future writing plans, and even what makes you laugh, cry, and tick as a writer.

Consider:
- Posting teasers for cut scenes from your novels
- Hosting Q&As
- Posting short, slice-of-life video snippets
- Sharing workout tips, recipes, pet antics, etc.
- Contests for a free eBook or a free signed print book
- Polls to name a secondary character in your next book

4. Avoiding Conversation

Here’s the bad news for introverts: Posting once a day and then fleeing to your writing garret won’t do it. You need to Like and Share posts/tweets, and perhaps even start actual conversations in the comments. Authentic interactions help develop relationships. The more connected your followers feel to you, the more likely they’ll do whatever you ask when the time comes for the big book launch.

5. Not Posting Images

Social media posts with images get a lot more engagement than those without. Liven up whatever you’re posting by making images of your own on a site like Canva, or by using stock pics or your own personal photos.

6. Forgetting To Use Hashtags

Hashtags help you reach a larger audience with a specific interest, and they’re particularly powerful on Twitter and Instagram. Adding a targeted hashtag can bring you to the attention of potential followers interested in, say, #freeBooks, #knitting, #financialtips, or #rescuedogs. While one or two hashtags are sufficient for Twitter, you can add as many as you want on Instagram.

One Caveat: With the changes made to Facebook’s algorithms, hashtags don’t help on Facebook and may even hurt—so don’t include hashtags in your Facebook posts.
7 Social Media Mistakes, *cont.*

7. Using Click Farm Tactics To Increase Followers

There are a lot of services out there that promise to increase your social media following by thousands in just a few months. But buyer beware—many of those followers may not be targeted to your particular interests, or they could just be bots. Publishers looking at social media followings focus on engagement and interaction rather than raw numbers. Organic growth is harder but more rewarding because a greater percentage of your followers will be interested in you and your work.

A social media following won't happen overnight—but don’t be discouraged! Every platform focuses on a different audience, and it can take some time for you to effectively and efficiently find your followers. Growing a platform is a process. With time and effort, you’ll have a loyal following behind you.

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10 SIGNS YOU ARE A Grammar Nerd

1. You use standard spelling, capitalization, and punctuation when you text.
2. You have appointed yourself as “honorary proofreader” of your friends’ social media posts.
3. You know how and when to use “affect” and “effect.”
4. You feel compelled to correct poorly written public signs. It isn’t vandalism if you’re correcting it, right?
5. The thought of posting a writing error online mortifies you.
6. You have an opinion about the Oxford comma.
7. You follow Grammarly on Facebook and Twitter.
8. You’re a regular contributor to the #GrammarHashtag in social media.
9. The sound of a double negative makes you cringe.
10. You mentally edit all the books and magazines you read.
Opportunities

The University of New Orleans Press is looking for full-length fiction manuscripts, either novels or short story collections, for the fourth annual Publishing Lab Prize.

The selected author will receive a thousand dollar ($1,000) advance on royalties and a contract to publish their winning manuscript 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 until August 15.
More information, including the submittable link, can be found at: http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx

The Writers’ Workshop of Asheville (TWWOA) is currently seeking writing teachers for TWWOA to conduct one-day intensive classes in Asheville, NC on a Saturday, 10-5 (with lunch break) on most any genre (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, how to get published, etc.) for beginners or experienced writers.

TWWOA will pay $200 for local writers, and $250 for out of town writers. Opportunities are available starting early May throughout the summer or fall season.
Contact Emily Davidson, emily.writersw@gmail.com
The Triangle Association of Freelancers announces our 11th annual Freelance Writing Conference in Raleigh, NC on April 28, 2018, which promises to be our best event yet!

Keynote Address: Harnessing Inspiration for Publishing Success by award-winning fiction writer Megan Mayhew Bergman, offering insights on receiving and harnessing inspiration to craft your best work.

Other Topics:

Building a Better Article
Who are These People Anyway? Character Development in Short Fiction
51 Ways to Improve Your Writing
Children’s Writing 101
Slush Pile Confidential: on Landing an Agent
I’ve got Something to Say: Writing/Selling Personal Essays
A Beginner’s Guide to Writing Success
From Children’s Lit to Beginner’s Legit: Making Your Message Stick
7 Keys to Creating a Profitable On-line Brand
Introduction to Copyright

You will get the two Keynote Addresses plus a choice of 4 Other Topics

Closing Keynote: Esquire contributing editor, Mike Sager, addresses Creativity and Self-Reinvention.

Date & Time: Saturday April 28, 2018 from 9 to about 5 p.m.
Where: The McKimmon Conference & Training Center, 1101 Gorman St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27606.
Price: TAF has worked extremely hard to keep the cost affordable for all writers. Advanced Registration is $89; $75 for students with valid ID, seniors 65+ and retired/active military with ID. Walk-ins Welcome $109 at the door.
Registration includes all conference activities, morning coffee, a catered box lunch, and all beverages. We also will be giving away some Exciting Door Prizes.

Registration information Link: https://tafnc.com/writenow/
Gwinnett County Public Library Presents

Rick Bragg
Pulitzer Prize Winner

Friday, April 27th at 7:30 pm
Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center
10 College Street, Norcross, GA 30071

Rick Bragg is a journalist and writer whose most lasting legacy may be the elegantly written collection of stories about his Alabama family.

The Best Cook in the World: Tales from My Momma's Table, Bragg’s newest offering, is filled with lessons on life and cooking from a woman who’s never consulted a recipe.

Bragg won a Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 1996 recognizing his work with The New York Times.

The program is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Free samples using recipes from the book will be available. The Friends of GCPL will host a wine bar and silent auction.
Event

THE WREN'S NEST
in partnership with Literary Atlanta
invites you to the debut of
BEYOND BOOKS
A monthly literary series, profiling the stories of published & unpublished writers.

Wednesday, March 14 / Women's History Month
Angela Harrington Rice:
Resurrecting the Souls of Liberated Women

Wednesday, April 4 / Honoring the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death
Jessica Handler:
Invisible Sisters

Wednesday, May 9 / Historic Preservation Month
Daren Wang:
The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

All events are 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and are FREE to the public.
The Wren's Nest is at 1050 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd., Atlanta 30310.

Stay connected for the Beyond Books calendar for the rest of 2018: www.wrensnest.org, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Or contact Kalin Thomas, Program Director – kalin@wrensnest.org, 404-753-7735.
## 2018 Events Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Storytelling</strong></td>
<td>Every Saturday, 1pm</td>
<td>Included in Museum Admission</td>
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<td>Check our website &amp; social media to find out who's telling tales.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beyond Books</strong></td>
<td>2nd Wednesdays, 7pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>A monthly literary series that profiles the stories of published and unpublished writers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Black History Month</strong></td>
<td>Saturdays in February, 1pm</td>
<td>Included in Museum Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>True stories of famous and lesser-known African Americans in US History.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phoenix Flies</strong></td>
<td>March 17 and 21, 10am - 3pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<td>The Wren's Nest joins the Atlanta Preservation Center and over 99 historic venues across the city in celebrating historic preservation.</td>
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<td><strong>Jazz Matters Summer Concerts</strong></td>
<td>3rd Fridays, June-September, 8pm</td>
<td>$20/adults</td>
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<td>Experience the many styles of Jazz by local artists and talented youth performs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NESTflix Movie Series</strong></td>
<td>2nd Saturdays, June-September, 8pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family-friendly movies held in The Wren's Nest gardens, under the stars. Check our website &amp; social media for movie selections closer to the date.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur Book Festival</strong></td>
<td>September 1 / 2, 10am - 6:30pm; 12pm - 6pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit The Wren's Nest at the Decatur Book Festival. Check our website &amp; social media for details about the Scribes book launch!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Halloween</strong></td>
<td>Saturdays in October, 1pm</td>
<td>Included in Museum Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not-so-spooky, family-friendly storytelling.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Victorian Holiday Open House</strong></td>
<td>December 8, 10am - 3pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrate Joel Chandler Harris' 173rd birthday in Victorian fashion: holiday stories and caroling.</td>
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Event

THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE WALK INTO A BAR. IT WAS TENSE!
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Men’s Group Hosts Authors in Fundraiser for Homeless Families
Area writers pool efforts to support Family Promise of Cobb County

Marietta, Ga. - On Friday, April 13, (7 to 9 PM), the Brotherhood of St. Andrew will host a book signing event at the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, located at 1795 Johnson Ferry Road in Marietta. The event will feature four published authors from the Atlanta area. There will be short readings from selected works followed by refreshments and an opportunity to speak with the authors and purchase autographed copies.

Net proceeds from book sales will go to support Family Promise of Cobb County, a ninety-day program that provides safe and comfortable housing for homeless families, so they can remain together while seeking more permanent homes.

Among the writers will be Rona Simmons, author of World War II: The Art of Jack Smith; Peggy Spear, author of Artful Deception, Rosalind and Maggie Bunn, coauthors of Once upon a Zoo, and Ray Dan Parker, author of Unfinished Business and Fly Away.

ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE:
Part of a national organization founded in 1986, the Family Promise Network Program brings shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes through a network of local congregations. The hosting of families rotates weekly among 14 host congregations in the Network. Each host congregation provides lodging, three meals a day, and caring hospitality for up to four weeks a year. Support congregations assist the Network by providing volunteers, meals, and financial donations. Guests use the Family Promise Day Center from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., where a professional social worker provides case management services. There, guests pursue employment, care for preschool children, shower, and do laundry.

To find out more about Family Promise, visit www.familypromisecobbledcounty.org or contact Camilla Worrell, Executive Director at 678-594-3150.

ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT ANDREW: The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew is a men’s service organization engaged in the disciplines of prayer, scriptural study and service. The Brotherhood supports a variety of outreach missions, such as Family Promise, throughout the Atlanta area.
For more information, contact Suzy Bristow at 770-977-7473
MEET CHILDREN'S AUTHOR SUCHETA RAWAL AT THE
ALL ABOUT KIDS EXPO
In partnership with the Gwinnett Daily Post
All About Kids Expo, Book talk and signing

Saturday, April 28 at 11:00 am
Gwinnett County Fairgrounds
2405 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville 30045

Sucheta Rawal’s *Beato Goes To India* is a series of children’s picture books that exposes them to different countries and cultures. Through reading the Beato books, filled with vivid illustrations of destinations around the world, children learn the value of accepting one another regardless of race, culture, or nationality. A great international learning tool, the *Beato Goes To* series is appropriate for ages 4-7. Books will be available for purchase and signing.
Ongoing 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

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>Type</th>
<th>Schedule</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>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7PM at Fresh to Order at Emory Point</td>
<td>Barbara Brockway</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7PM at Fresh to Order at Emory Point</td>
<td>Barbara Brockway</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>Tues, 4-6PM @San Francisco Coffee 1660 Dekalb Avenue</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckhead/ Midtown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA Novels and Novellas</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Rd.</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult &amp; YA Fiction</td>
<td>Sunday, 1:00PM, monthly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td>Wait List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult, YA Fiction, &amp; Memoirs</td>
<td>Sunday 10AM, fortnightly</td>
<td>Ricky Jacobs</td>
<td>Wait List</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>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</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</td>
<td>Full</td>
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</table>
### AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS
*(changes in red)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Meeting Time and Place</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
<td>Wait List</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poncey/</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Jane Shirley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:basketcasecafe@gmail.com">basketcasecafe@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:30 - 9:00PM @ Scooter’s Coffee</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td><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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremylogan.author@gmail.com">jeremylogan.author@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesdays from 6-8PM @ coffee shop</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lizbizz7@bellsouth.net">lizbizz7@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna/Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Meet at the Snellville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library on 1st Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Joyce Sewell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbs.atpeace@gmail.com">jbs.atpeace@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Want to Start Your Own Critique Group?**

Current Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) members can start their own critique groups, to focus on particular genres and/or serve a specific geographic area. The AWC will advertise your group on our website and in the monthly eQuill newsletter. To get started, please contact AWC Officer Emeritus George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org
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: _______________________

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?