...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
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George Weinstein
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Gene Bowen

Upcoming Events
4&5th AWC Writers Conference
5th Andy Price - Free Comic Book Day
5th Drew Geraci - Free Comic Book Day
19th Monthly AWC Meeting

Between newsletters there’s FaceBook.

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/10000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
May 19 meeting

Alayne Smith - Member Spotlight
Lola Schaefer - 1st Guest Speakers
Melanie Sumner - 2nd Guest Speaker

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Cover Photo: Becky Albertalli.
Story on page 16
Letter From the President
Whose story is it anyway?

That was the issue raised at the AWC’s April meeting, and each speaker had their take on the question.

Patricia Martin Holt spent several years in Amman, Jordan, learned the culture and traditions of the Arabian people, and their stories of refugee life inspired her to write feature articles about their experiences for newspapers and magazines. Later, these accounts formed the basis for her manuscript, Committee of One, the story of Leila Wahbeh, who worked to change the lives of thousands of refugees. Today, Patricia volunteers at local nonprofit organizations that help displaced persons adapt in their new country.

Before Nick Chiles became an agent, he co-authored books with celebrities Bobby Brown, Rev. Al Sharpton, Kirk Franklin and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick. “My challenge was not to tell their stories chronologically, not to vilify or praise them, but to find the thing, the event that drove these men ... made them into who they became.” A black man writing about the lives of other black men.

As an agent, one of his clients is a white female author who has written a novel featuring a black protagonist. When asked if the white author-black black protagonist posed a problem placing the book, he said, “It’s affecting my ability to sell the book.”

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, a professor at UGA, is the co-author of Creating Multicultural Learning Communities Through Theatre and Arts-Based Research in Education and judges Anthropology & Humanism’s annual ethnographic poetry competition. Eschewing the adage write-what-you-know, she encourages students to stretch their boundaries, explore other worlds and cultures. She recounted an experience at a poetry event where she read a piece written using broken English meant to acknowledge the strength of a Chinese woman. Later, she was confronted by a woman who found the poem and its presentation demeaning. Melisa was saddened but unbowed; she vowed to continue exploring other people and cultures in her poetry.

The presentations and the Q&As brought to mind the controversy surrounding the making of the Malcolm X bio-pic in the early 90s. The director Norman Jewison (The Hurricane, A Soldier's Story, In the Heat of the Night—all featuring strong black protagonist) was contracted by Warner Brothers to make the film.

When Spike Lee learned Jewison was to make the Malcolm movie, he announced to the world, “I have a big problem with Norman Jewison directing The Autobiography of Malcolm X, it disturbs me deeply, gravely. With a film of this magnitude, I wouldn’t trust
a white to direct ... they don`t know what it means to be a black person in this country. I don`t care how many books they read, or if they grew up with a black nanny, or what friends they had.”

Playwright August Wilson made the same argument over who should direct Fences: “I declined a white director not on the basis of race but of culture. White directors are not qualified for the job. The job requires someone who shares the specifics of the culture of black Americans. Let’s make a rule: Blacks don’t direct Italian films. Italians don’t direct Jewish films. Jews don’t direct black-American films.”

Jewison agreed somewhat, expressing frustration doing the Malcolm X project, saying, “The man’s [Malcolm X] an enigma to me. I just haven’t licked it.”

Whose story is it anyway?


Twenty-five years later, not much has changed. An AWC member, a “78-year-old white woman who lived in Alabama pre-, during, and post-civil rights period, writing my memories,” asked Mr. Chiles what the risks and advisability of writing about people of different races and racial issues in this political climate were and whether there’s a market for her story?

“I’ve heard convincing arguments on both sides. White editors are scared and black editors are somewhat dismissive. So, it creates a very small pool of editors left over who would consider it.”

What does this tell an author?

Write the story you’re passionate about, but it seems if you want a chance at commercial success, stay in your lane.
Monthly Meetings

May Speakers

Alayne Smith grew up in Alabama, lived in Tripoli, Libya and Denver, Colorado, and settled in Atlanta, Georgia. She received a B.A. degree from the University of Montevallo and masters and education specialist degrees in Instructional Technology at the University of Georgia.
She taught in Gwinnett County and worked as a media specialist in a Gwinnett middle school for eleven years. In 1989, she moved to the high school level where she initiated a broadcast journalism and video production program. Her students aired a daily morning news show that covered hard news and sports. Advanced students produced a monthly video magazine with feature stories of interest to teens. Her students interviewed and shot footage all over the Atlanta area. As a result, two of her students were awarded an Emmy in 1999. Alayne served as a CNN Student Bureau advisor for three years.
Alayne began working at the county level in 2004. She trained media specialists and teachers in video production and broadcast journalism for five years.

*Ellen and the Three Predictions* is her first novel and is published by Cactus Moon Publishing, Tempe, Arizona, and was a semi-finalist at the William Faulkner - William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition in 2016.
Alayne is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, the Atlanta Writers Club, and the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology.

Lola M. Schaefer is the author of more than 280 books for children including picture books, easy readers, and school/library books. Awards include: The Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book, The Children’s Choice Book Award, the Zena Sutherland Picture Book Award, and many state book awards. When Lola is not at home researching her next book or writing, you might find her offering a keynote or breakout session at a conference, or working side-by-side with student writers. To learn more, visit: www.lolaschaefer.com

Melanie Sumner is a prize-winning author, and teaches at Kennesaw State University. She is the author of the novels, *How to Write a Novel*, *The Ghost of Milagro Creek*, and *The School of Beauty and Charm*, as well as a collection of short stories, *Polite Society*. Her stories and essays have appeared in many magazines including *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, and *Seventeen*.
Melanie is the recipient of the Whiting Award, a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, and fellowships to Yaddo and The Fine Arts Work Center. Her books have won awards such as The New Mexico Best Novel and the Maria Thomas Best Novel by a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. Editions of *How to Write a Novel* will be published in Germany, Italy, and Israel. She earned her MFA at Boston University and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
The pre-meeting mixer at the May meeting will be from 12:30 to 1:30, and again will feature a mini-story contest. Nick Chiles, our first guest speaker, was kind enough to judge the April contestants, and he chose Mike March’s entry.

Tears came to my eyes as my cat, Josie, raised her paws and caressed my cheek for the last time as the veterinarian entered the room.

Nick also noted Jill Cox-Cordova’s entry.

Stricken with fibromyalgia, Carol found touch—a handshake, a hug, a pat on the back—insufferable, but when her dog, Lady, tapped her thigh with her paws, she found comfort, healing for the first time in memory.

For the May contest, you are to write a story of not more than 50 words based on the prompt “bossa nova” 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 April challenge.
Monthly Meetings
Future Guests & Events 2018

May 19th
- Alayne Smith - Member Spotlight
- Lola Schaefer - 1st Speaker
- Melanie Sumner - 2nd Speaker

June 16th
- AWC Picnic

July
- Workshop

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12 the only 1/2 writing rules you’ll ever need

1. If you write every day, you get better at writing every day.
2. If it's boring to you, it's boring to your reader.
3. Get a writing routine, and stick with it.
4. Poetry does NOT have to rhyme. Poetry does not NOT have to rhyme.
5. Resist stereotypes, in real life and in your writing.
6. Writers read. Writers read a lot. Writers read all the time.
7. Make lists of your favorite words and books and places and things.
8. There doesn’t always have to be a moral to the story.
11. Don’t settle on just one style. Try something new!
12. Learn to tell both sides of the story.
12 1/2. Stop looking at this poster. Write something!
Great audience today!

Patricia Martin Holt

Nick Chiles

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor
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 \textbf{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: \url{http://atlantawritersconference.com/about/}
AWC Writing Contest Winners

Winners of the 2018 AWC Writing Contest were announced at the April 21st club meeting, and each award recipient received a $300 cash prize, a plaque, and publication in The Blue Mountain Review. Congratulations to Erika, Karla, and Elizabeth.

2018 AWC Writing Contest Winners

Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction

Winner: Erika D. Passantino, “Meysje”
Finalists: Patrick Scullin, “The Cut”
Jennifer Davenport-Medders, “Cat Souls and Empty Hotel Rooms”

Terry Kay Prize for Fiction

Winner: Karla Jennings, “Dear Mrs. Bosch”
Finalists: Elizabeth G. Crosby, “Crossing Over”
Sheila Savage, “The Other Side”

Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry

Winner: Elizabeth Buttimer, “The Far Crossing”
Finalists: Megan Benoit Ratcliff, “This Tender, Sprouting Age”
Rosanne Barnett, “The Power of One”

2018 AWC Writing Contest Judge’s Comments

Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction: Erika D. Passantino, “Meysje”

“I have no idea how to pronounce this word, but I can say the author captivated me from the first paragraph to the very last, which broke my heart. The writing is downright poetic. The message is one that, sadly enough, resonates worldwide. I found myself reading and rereading this story over and over, finding it not only virtually flawless but also finding myself guilty of wishing I could write with such clarity of thought and word. This was a story composed so brilliantly that I have no doubt this person is destined for great literary renown-- and I say this with a conviction that is absolute. This author makes me jealous regarding my own writing limitations.”

Jedwin Smith
**AWC Writing Contest Winners**

**2018 AWC Writing Contest Judge’s Comments**

Terry Kay Prize for Fiction: **Karla Jennings**, “Dear Mrs. Bosch”

“When a writer really takes a chance on outre material, the result can be disastrous or delightful - in this case, a truly bizarre concept comes off beautifully. I was captivated by the surreal imagery and goofily formal diction of the correspondents well before I tumbled onto the identity of Hieronymus. Zany, perverse, at times scatological, the story had me chuckling from the opening lines, and in its own humble way made me see my own world, which after all, is also Bosch’s, in a slightly different way.”

---

Man Martin

**2018 AWC Writing Contest Judge’s Comments**

Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry: **Elizabeth Buttimer**, “The Far Crossing”

“‘The Far Crossing’ reached so deeply into my own longing for a quiet place, a tender solitude, one blissful corner of the world to realize this life is meant to be lived fully within and outwardly that I read your piece daily to enjoy it. Poetry is an escape, a trapdoor to the way we always want our heart to be held safe - and you have given me, and all those who read it - a sliver of paradise that cannot be matched.”

---

Clifford Brooks
The new movie *Love, Simon*, starring Nick Robinson, was adapted from AWC member Becky Albertalli’s novel *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. To celebrate Becky’s success, the AWC arranged a book signing for Becky before and after the 7:05 p.m. showing of *Love, Simon* at the Aurora Cineplex in Roswell on Saturday, March 31. The event was well attended, and Becky did a Q&A during the end credits and discussed her writing journey.

**Why Roswell author Becky Albertalli loves ‘Simon’**

By Bo Emerson - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
April 14, 2018

Now that she’s written a best-selling novel about the travails of a gay adolescent boy, Roswell author Becky Albertalli must deal with the inevitable fallout, namely, the fact that she’s not a gay adolescent boy.

Her 2015 young adult hit, “Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda,” was just made into a movie set in Atlanta, “Love, Simon,” featuring heartthrob Nick Robinson.

Both book and movie tread a tricky line between rom-com confection and significant social commentary, and are praised for handling the topic with a light touch.

But the questions that concern Albertalli the most come from those who think she’s telling a story that shouldn’t belong to her.

“Some people think that I shouldn’t have touched it; some people are glad that I did,” said Albertalli, 35, during a recent interview at Alon’s restaurant in Dunwoody. “It has generally landed well with the community that I wrote about, but that doesn’t mean landing universally well.”

The issue comes down to “ownership” of stories, she added in a follow-up text. “If I were to approach this now, I’m not sure I’d take on a story that’s so closely tied to the coming-out process.”

While Albertalli takes questions about ownership seriously, when she started writing the story of Simon Spier, she didn’t worry how anyone would react because she didn’t think anyone would see it. “I didn’t think it would be published,” she said. “It’s the kind of freedom that I haven’t had since — that I miss desperately.”
As a student at Riverwood High School in Sandy Springs (thinly disguised as “Creekwood” in the book), she wanted to be either an author or an actress, but she put those ambitions on the back burner. “I didn’t think it was a realistic career option for me.”

Graduating with a doctorate in clinical psychology from George Washington University, the Atlanta native became a psychologist at a D.C. school for students with language-based learning disabilities.

But after her first child was born, Albertalli took some time to pore through the journals that she’d kept for years, and wrote about characters who intrigued her. Shortly after she moved back to Atlanta in 2013, she had a book deal.

Her inspirations were John Hughes movies like “The Breakfast Club” and rom-coms from her own adolescence, such as “Never Been Kissed.”

Writing about Simon, a nerd who struggles to find love, wasn’t such a reach, she added. “All my books are me ... I was always going to be the person crushing on somebody who was interested in somebody else.”

There are some differences between being a teen in 1998 and being a teen now, she concedes, including the pervasive influence of social media. (Simon hasn’t come out to his friends or family, and the story turns on his secret being revealed in a fictional Tumblr account called creeksecrets.)

But Albertalli finds many similarities, and in fact makes Simon a fan of the music she used to listen to, including Elliott Smith and Tegan and Sara. She heard from some critics of Simon’s musical taste that his playlist is stereotyped, but that she picked the wrong stereotype. (Tegan and Sara are loved by gay women.)

“I wasn’t trying to stereotype him,” she said, “I just like Tegan and Sara ... I may be a very immature teen -like 35-year-old, but it’s not very different than my life in my own head,” she said. “They are all these different versions of me from over the years. ... Like, I’m trying to construct this voice that’s uniquely of that character, but as a part of that, I’m always drawing on something that’s very personal.”

For the subversive act of creating a likable, gay teenage protagonist, and for suggesting that his (mostly unrealized) love life is appropriate for a young adult novel, Albertalli said she’s received surprisingly little criticism from conservatives.

“One of the things that’s kind of sad or kind of infuriating is if I were a gay author writing about my own experiences — judging from my friends who have done this — I think I would have gotten a lot more pushback,” she said. “My friend Angie Thomas (author of ‘The Hate U Give,’ a YA book that concerns the Black Lives Matter movement) gets more feedback from trolls than if she were a white author.”

The young writer was welcome on the set of “Love, Simon,” which was filmed in Atlanta during the spring of 2017, and she was on hand for about three out of the six weeks of production. Yes, she had a deadline. She was supposed to be working on “Leah on the Offbeat,” about Simon’s best female pal. But she was having too much fun. “I don’t think it was my most productive writing period,” she joked.
The Different Types Of Rejection Letters And What They Mean For Writers
Rejection letters from literary agents and editors of literary journals can be discouraging for creative writers—especially impersonal, one-line responses. But writers who want to succeed at getting their work published know rejection is an unavoidable and even necessary part of the writing process. So it’s important to know how to interpret the different types of rejection letters—and then use this knowledge to improve your submissions!

A rejection from a literary agent or editor is not personal. If your work is rejected, it doesn’t automatically mean your writing isn’t good enough. It could simply be a matter of poor timing (the agency has received a glut of Westerns along with yours); the submission wasn’t appropriate (you submitted romantic poetry to a steampunk magazine); or the agent or editor simply didn’t feel passionate about your work.

However, if you find a common thread mentioned in many of the responses—too many plot problems, underdeveloped characters—it may be time to take another look at the work you’re submitting.
(Note: When choosing to make revisions based on feedback, think carefully before you edit. Follow your heart and consider the comments thoughtfully to avoid knee-jerk reactions.)

Different Types of Rejection Letters Sent To Writers

The form letter
A form letter rejection is easy to spot but doesn’t offer much in the way of information: “Dear Writer—No thanks.” Or “Dear Author—Please try again.” Some literary agents or editors will simply reply with something like, “Not for us.” A form letter, no matter what the exact phrasing, is a nice, generic way of saying “no thanks.”

The personal rejection letter
When a literary agent or editor has taken the time to include a personal comment about your submission—even if the comment is a critique—we recommend you submit future work to anyone who cared enough about your work to offer an opinion.
Send the agent or editor a thank-you note, and if/when you resubmit, reference the comments from the original rejection.

The invitation to resubmit
Some journals and literary agents always invite writers to submit again—it’s part of their form rejection letter. But others make such an offer more cautiously. Common boilerplate form letter phrases include:

- We invite you to submit more in the future.
- Do you have anything else we can consider? Please send.

Whether it’s a boilerplate response or a sincere offer, send a thank-you note and a new submission (when possible). Remember to reference the original comments in your cover/query letter.

The glowing rejection
And finally, sometimes an author receives a rejection that offers sincere appreciation of their writing, often going into detail about what makes the writing worthy. It’s still a rejection, but it’s also priceless validation of a writer’s talent. If you get one of these, it’s good as gold! (And be sure to send a new submission!)

How should writers deal with rejection letters?
First, keep in mind that agents and editors are people. They have varying likes and dislikes, and sometimes they have bad days. Again, rejection is not personal. You should let mean-spirited or impersonal rejection letters slide off your back, and cherish any comments or constructive criticisms that come your way. Many editors and agents truly want you to succeed, so pay attention to what they’re saying about your work and its place in the literary market.
Writersrelief.com
Meet the Artist: Andy Price On Free Comic Book Day

All ages welcome
Saturday, May 5 at 10:00 am
Galactic Quest, 116 East Crogan St, Lawrenceville

Free Comic Book Day is the first Saturday in May. It's a nationwide event that celebrates comic books and the local comic shops that provide them to their communities. Meet world renowned illustrator and artist Andy Price and grab a free comic book!
Meet the Artist: Drew Geraci
On Free Comic Book Day

All ages welcome
Saturday, May 5 at 9:30 am
Galactic Quest, 4264 Sudderth Rd NE, Buford

Meet superstar Drew Geraci. He has more than 20 years experience as a comics professional. For Marvel, he’s inked Thor, Captain America, Iron Man 3 Prelude. For Disney Publishing Worldwide, he’s produced art based on the films Amazing Spider-Man 2 and Guardians of the Galaxy. Free to all ages.

gwinnetpl.org 770-978-5154  facebook twitter instagram
As announced in *Publisher's Weekly*, AWC member and journalist Anissa Gray's debut novel, *The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls*, was bought by Amanda Bergeron at Berkley in a North American rights deal. The book, set for early 2019, follows an African-American family in Michigan who, the publisher said, are dealing with the fallout from their eldest sister and her husband being sent to prison. Michelle Brower at Aevitas Creative Management did the deal.
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>Every Saturday 1pm</td>
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<td>Check our website &amp; social media to find out who’s telling tales.</td>
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<td>Beyond Books</td>
<td>2nd Wednesdays 7pm</td>
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<td>A monthly literary series that profiles the stories of published and</td>
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<td>Black History Month</td>
<td>Saturdays in February 1pm</td>
<td>Included in Museum Admission</td>
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<td>True stories of famous and lesser-known African Americans in US History.</td>
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<td>Phoenix Flies</td>
<td>March 17 and 21 10am - 3pm</td>
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<td>The Wren’s Nest joins the Atlanta Preservation Center and over 99 historic</td>
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<td>venues across the city in celebrating historic preservation.</td>
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<td>Jazz Matters</td>
<td>3rd Fridays, June-September</td>
<td>$20/adults</td>
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<td>Summer Concerts</td>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>Experience the many styles of Jazz by local artists and talented youth</td>
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<td>NESTfix Movie Series</td>
<td>2nd Saturdays June-September</td>
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<td>8pm</td>
<td>Family-friendly movies held in The Wren’s Nest gardens, under the stars.</td>
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<td>Decatur Book Festival</td>
<td>September 1 / 2 10am - 6:30pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<td>12pm - 6pm</td>
<td>Visit The Wren’s Nest at the Decatur Book Festival. Check our website &amp;</td>
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<td>social media for details about the Scribes book launch!</td>
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<td>Halloween</td>
<td>Saturdays in October 1pm</td>
<td>Included in Museum Admission</td>
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<td>Not-so-spooky, family-friendly storytelling.</td>
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<td>Victorian Holiday Open</td>
<td>December 8 10am - 3pm</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<td>House Open</td>
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<td>Celebrate Joel Chandler Harris’ 173rd birthday in Victorian fashion: holiday</td>
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Join us for the 43rd Annual Southeastern Writers Workshop
June 8 - 12, 2018
Epworth By The Sea
St. Simons Island, Georgia

Registration is NOW OPEN for the best Writers’ Workshop in the Southeast!

Space is limited! Don’t miss your chance to spend four days and nights learning from bestselling authors, a literary agent, and a publisher.

FREE CONTESTS for attendees!
FREE MANUSCRIPT EVALUATIONS!
NEW for 2018 - FREE PROFESSIONAL HEAD SHOTS!

Shamus Award Winner Michael Wiley - Fiction
Southern Writer C.D. Mitchell - Short Fiction
Award-Winner Dana Wildsmith - Poetry & Memoirs
Award-Winner Cappy Hall Rearick - Humor & Columns
Agent-in-Residence Kristy Hunter - The Knight Agency
The Write Platform - Debra Brown - Marketing
Write Way Editing - Award-Winner Alexandra Christie - Editing
Thomas Max Publishing - Lee Clevenger - Publishing

See our website for details!
southeasterwriters.org
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</th>
<th>Meeting Time/Location</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Status</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>
<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><a href="mailto:padulafamily@gmail.com">padulafamily@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<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><a href="mailto:padulafamily@gmail.com">padulafamily@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, Memoir</td>
<td>Tues, 4-6PM @San Francisco Coffee 1660 Dekalb Avenue</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckhead/Midtown</td>
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<td>Conyers</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>404-909-0189</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<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>
<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><a href="mailto:rickyjacobs@mac.com">rickyjacobs@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</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>
<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><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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
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<td>Meeting Details</td>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Contact Email</td>
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<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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<td>Poncey/Highlands</td>
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<td>Roswell</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>Open</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>
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<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>Smyrna/Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</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>
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<tr>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</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>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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?