Atlanta Writers Club - founded in 1914

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

Officers
President: George Weinstein
Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors
Valerie Connors
George Weinstein
Clay Ramsey
Marty Aftewicz
Conference Director: George Weinstein
Membership VP: Yvonne Green
Programs VP: Valerie Connors
Operations VP: Jill Cox-Cordova
Marketing VP: Patrick Scullin
Public Relations VP: Phil Fasone
Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP: Clay Ramsey
Secretary: Bill Black
Treasurer: Jerry Weiner
Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

July EVENTS

9-13 ThrillerFest XIV
20 Jill Anderson (AWC members-only) workshop
(no regular AWC meeting)
27 Nury Crawford workshop

MONEY TALKS
Mine always says:
"Wanna go to the bookstore today?"

BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS THERE’S FACEBOOK

https://www.facebook.com/Atlanta-Writers-Club-218575894874539
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub

The Atlanta Writers Club
JULY 20: AWC MEMBERS-ONLY WORKSHOP:
Creating/improving Your Author Website
Yet another reason to join the Atlanta Writers Club: we offer periodic workshops for members only. On July 20th, Jill Anderson of Jill Lynn Design will present a three-hour workshop about creating/improving your author website.

The GSU-Dunwoody campus is closed until August, so this will be held at:
Alpharetta Branch Library, 10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta, GA 30009 in the downstairs auditorium
(The Atlanta Writers Club monthly meetings, free for first-timer visitors, will resume on August 17 the at GSU-Dunwoody campus, 2101 Womack Rd., Building N-C.)
The AWC surveyed our mailing list at the beginning of the year about their writing goals for 2019. Sixty-three percent stated an intention to join, start, or participate more frequently in a critique group to help them improve their manuscripts. Did you know we currently have eighteen critique groups either online or spread around the metro Atlanta area? These are listed on pages 7 and 8 in this issue of the eQuill, and, contrary to some individuals’ perceptions, the vast majority are accepting new participants. With nearly a thousand AWC members, I know we can support many more groups.

If you were among those two-thirds of survey respondents, consider this a reminder to join an existing critique group or start one of your own in a location and a time convenient to you (or online, if you prefer) and focused as narrowly or broadly as you want.

I’ve run a critique group for fifteen years, and I participate in a few organized by others even though much of the time I don’t have a work-in-progress ready for critique. Still, I show up because I enjoy reading other writers’ manuscripts, I find satisfaction in helping them make their work even better, and I always spot a technique or style that I can apply to improve my own writing. As with everything I do, engaging in critique sessions is an act of enlightened self-interest: I help others, but I benefit, too.

Some writers know they’ll profit from others’ comments but don’t feel qualified to offer opinions about their fellow writers’ work. If this speaks to you, please reconsider your viewpoint. You know from your experiences reading that sometimes a sentence doesn’t make sense or a characterization doesn’t ring true or you spot a typo or note where a word was left out. These are all instances where you could contribute a valuable critique to a writer who needs your help.

How do you start your own critique group? Pick a location (physical or online), determine when and how often you plan to meet, and decide what genre(s) you want the group to focus on (or accept all or most forms of writing). We’ll help you advertise your new group by including it on our website (https://atlantawritersclub.org/writing-critique-clubs/) and in every issue of our newsletter. All we ask in return is for you to keep your AWC membership current and to encourage your participants to be AWC members, too.

Improve your work, help others do the same, and make lifelong friends. Any one of these is a terrific reason to launch your own critique group or join an existing one, but you’ll receive all three benefits. If you’re ready to join an existing critique group, look at the listings in this issue. If you’re ready to start your own, please write to me at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org.

George Weinstein is the AWC President, Atlanta Writers Conference Director, and author of five novels; his sixth one will be published in November 2019 (www.GeorgeWeinstein.com)
HOW TO GET INVOLVED

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AT EVERY LEVEL AND IN EVERY CAPACITY

• Apprentices for each Board position:

  ♦ President – help us organize and run our events, help interact with the public at events to tell potential members about the AWC, and recruit the next generation of members

  ♦ Programs – help us identify, recruit, and shepherd meeting and workshop speakers, to give our members continued access to the best lessons about the craft and business of writing

  ♦ Treasurer – help us establish budgets and stay up to date on our accounting and nonprofit tax filings

  ♦ Marketing & PR – help us get the word out about upcoming AWC activities via social media, other online organs, print, and at physical locations, and find opportunities for our published members to establish and grow their fan base

  ♦ Memberships – help us reach out to new and renewing members to thank them, help connect members writing in the same genre, follow up with non-renewing members so we can improve our services, and interact with potential members through social media and in the community.

  ♦ Operations – help us recruit and follow up with volunteers for our meetings and workshops, book festivals, and other events

  ♦ Websites – help us keep our online presence up to date and inviting

  ♦ Contests, Awards & Scholarships – help us recruit and work with judges, follow up with member submissions, produce awards, and work with Georgia State University to select the annual scholarship recipient

  ♦ Atlanta Writers Conference Director – help us identify future agents, editors, and speakers and prepare materials needed during the two days of each conference
IN INVOLVED, CONT.

• Check-in help for members, greeters for first-time guests, and mixer-organizers for each meeting and periodic workshop

• Critique group leaders all over metro Atlanta to form and welcome AWC members who want to improve their writing and help others do the same

• Decatur Book Festival booth attendees to recruit potential new members and AWC Track management to ensure panel discussions start and end on time and run smoothly

• Twice-yearly conference timekeepers and registration assistants to help us keep our agent/editor meetings with participants on time and running smoothly and to check in arriving participants and get them oriented with their activity schedule and the venue layout

• GSU interface for auditorium and A/V reservations to make sure our meetings start on time and run smoothly

• BookFest Gwinnett book festival committee – if you enjoyed BookFest Gwinnett and want us to do it again, we need volunteers to help us recruit speakers, find a venue, pursue funding, sign up vendors, and manage the onsite volunteers who will do timekeeping and the welcome desks

If you are interested in any of these opportunities to assist the Atlanta Writers Club, or have questions before you commit, please contact AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org — and thank you for your desire to help your fellow writers!
## AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

### Critique Groups

(Changes in red)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
<th>Meeting Time/Location</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Online #1</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #2</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; non-Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>D.Nicole Steele</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dnicoleteste@gmail.com">dnicoleteste@gmail.com</a></td>
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</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><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 6:00PM at Mandarin Garden restaurant</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td>nc <a href="mailto:Fletcher50@gmail.com">Fletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacula/Lawrenceville</td>
<td>Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Saturday, 11 AM to 1 PM, TradeWind Coffee Co./Dacula</td>
<td>Ivelisse Rodriguez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rodrigivelisse@gmail.com">rodrigivelisse@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<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>
</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>
</tbody>
</table>
## AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

(changes in red)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
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<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>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Jane Shirley <a href="mailto:basketcasecafe@gmail.com">basketcasecafe@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:30 - 9:00PM @ Scooter’s Coffee</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>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Speculative fiction (novel length or short stories), regular fiction short stories, and any kind of nonfiction</td>
<td>First and third Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m on the porch of Slope’s BBQ</td>
<td>Sarah Minnear <a href="mailto:sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com">sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; Non-fiction</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 2:30-4:30PM in member’s home</td>
<td>Bill Ottinger <a href="mailto:osrtrain@att.net">osrtrain@att.net</a></td>
<td>Open as of July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna/ Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesdays from 6-8PM @coffee shop</td>
<td>Liz Helenek <a href="mailto:lizbizz7@bellsouth.net">lizbizz7@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<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 <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>Meet at member’s house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon</td>
<td>Lynda Fitzgerald <a href="mailto:lyndafitz@yahoo.com">lyndafitz@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Highlands</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. @ member’s house</td>
<td>Cindy Tolbert <a href="mailto:cynthiatolbert@comcast.net">cynthiatolbert@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</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 President George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org
AWC MEMBERS-ONLY WORKSHOP ON JULY 20:
CREATING/IMPROVING YOUR AUTHOR WEBSITE

(Atlanta Writers Club Monthly Meetings on Hiatus Until August 17. GSU-Dunwoody campus closed until August)

This workshop will be at: Alpharetta Branch Library, 10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta, GA 30009 (downstairs auditorium)

JULY 20, 1:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

Jill Anderson of Jill Lynn Design will present a three-hour workshop exclusively for current members of the Atlanta Writers Club about creating or improving your author website.

(To renew or join the AWC, use membership form on the final page of this issue of the eQuill or submit your form and payment online at https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/)

Get Your Website Done: 12 Actionable Steps for Writers
If you’ve been meaning to revamp your website for a while—but haven’t gotten very far—you aren’t alone. Ready to finally check it off the list? Actionable steps are the way forward. In this workshop, Jill will go over how to approach your website like you would a client project and the 12 steps necessary to get it done. She’ll also take a deep dive into many of the steps so you can leave the workshop armed with everything you need to get your website done.

Jill is that rare breed of designer and developer who partners with talented designers, writers, and creatives on their websites, and their client’s sites. Jill is passionate about crafting beautiful and innovative websites focused on clear positioning and positive user experiences. As a freelancer for over 16 years, she loves typography, code, and WordPress.

http://facebook.com/JillLynnDesign
http://twitter.com/JillLynnDesign
https://www.linkedin.com/in/jilllynndesign
http://pinterest.com/JillLynnDesign
JULY 20 WORKSHOP  
(AWC MEMBERS ONLY) Alpharetta Branch Library, 10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta, GA 30009  
Jill Anderson: Creating/improving Your Author Website  

AUGUST 17  
1st Guest Speaker – Deborah LeBlanc (Write what you know... or not)  
2nd Guest Speakers – Lois Reitzes & John Lemley (Music in literature & literature in music)  

SEPTEMBER 7 WORKSHOP  
AWC MEMBERS ONLY  
David Fulmer recaps his winter/spring presentations and concludes with a discussion of dialogue and putting all the pieces together  

SEPTEMBER 21  
1st Guest Speaker – Dana Ridenour (Writing The Series Character)  
2nd Guest Speaker – Tony Grooms (Topic: TBD)  

OCTOBER 5 WORKSHOP  
(AWC Members Only)  
Man Martin: Beginnings and Story Structure/Plotting  

OCTOBER 19  
1st Guest Speaker – Steve McCondichie (Publishing)  
2nd Guest Speaker – Michael Ludden (Know What You’re Writing About)  

OCTOBER 25-26  
Atlanta Writers Conference, Westen Atlanta Airport Hotel, 4736 Best Rd., Atlanta, GA 30337  

NOVEMBER 16  
1st Guest Speaker – William Walsh (The Craft of Writing Fiction)  
2nd Guest Speakers – Director José Acosta, Screenwriter Charlotte Stauffer, and Actor Keith Brooks (From Screenplay to Shooting Script to Film)  

DECEMBER 21  
Alpharetta Branch Library, 10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta, GA 30009  
Guest Speaker – Caroline George, Associate Agent for Cyle Young Literary Elite (2 talks with a break in between)  
- Pitch, Please: An Agent’s Guide to Pitches & Queries  
- Building Platform to Strengthen Your Pitch  

All events at GSU-Dunwoody auditorium unless otherwise noted
George Weinstein Introducing Tayari Jones & Daniel Black

Norcross Mayor Craig Newton

Kenny Leon & John Lemley

L M Davis
Afolabi Ashiru

Aruni Kashyap

Georgia McBride

Kenny Leon & John Lemley
The Atlanta Writers Club is an annual sponsor of the Decatur Book Festival (https://www.decaturbookfestival.com/), which will take place this year on August 31-September 1. We'll have three tents there, two for educating the public about the AWC and recruiting potential new AWC members and the third as an authors’ booth where our members can sell and sign their books. Our tents will be in front of the Old Decatur Courthouse, at the intersection of Clairemont and East Ponce de Leon Avenue—the same place we’ve been for numerous years.

AWC Education and Recruitment Volunteers Needed!

We need your help to keep our organization strong by telling DBF attendees about the AWC and recruiting potential new members. We have openings on August 31 and September 1 in the following hour-long timeslots:

**August 31:** 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m.

**September 1:** Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m.

Duties as a volunteer include answering questions about the AWC, handing out brochures to interested writers, and collecting their names and email addresses for our mailing list. It’s fun and it helps us grow!

To volunteer, please contact Operations VP Jill Cox-Cordova at jill.coxcordova@gmail.com

AWC Authors’ Booth Instructions

If you also want to sell your book in our authors’ booth for an hour, you must volunteer for an hour prior to this in our recruitment tent. For example, if you want to sell your books on August 31 at 11 a.m., you will need to volunteer for the 10 a.m. timeslot as well.

In our authors’ booth, we will provide a chair, a tent, and a table for your book sales. We can accommodate three authors during these hour-long time periods:

**August 31:** 11 a.m., Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m.

**September 1:** 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m.

You will be responsible for bringing your books to sell and handling all aspects of any transactions. The AWC will not receive a cut; what you earn, you keep. You may bring posters, giveaways, and other materials, but table space is limited, so please be respectful of your fellow authors. The slots for selling your books are only one hour long; please be ready to pack up and leave in time for the next group to start at the top of the hour. Finally, please understand that if you miss your volunteer shift, you will not be allowed to sell your book in the hour afterwards. No exceptions.

Please determine the hour you want to volunteer and subsequent hour when you want to sell your books and contact Operations VP Jill Cox-Cordova at jill.coxcordova@gmail.com with your request.
Submit an Article to the AWC eQuill!

What makes the AWC such a successful networking resource for our members is our willingness to assist others. Many of our members have stories and lessons to share from their writing journeys. Put those experiences in an article and submit them for consideration in an upcoming issue of the eQuill. Not only will you be helping your fellow members learn from your triumphs and mistakes, but you also will get a publishing credit.

A caution: this is NOT a chance to tout your book(s) and say, “Buy this!” We’re not offering billboard space here. Rather, this is an opportunity for you to help other writers avoid pitfalls and apply successful strategies that pertain to the craft and business of writing. Naturally, you will cite examples from your work. That’s a fine way to let people know you have books for sale; we’ll also include a brief bio with links, a headshot and book cover(s) at the end of your article. The point is to be respectful of your readers, who want knowledge—not product placement.

If you submit, expect to get a reply with edits and comments and be willing to rewrite accordingly. Abide by the word counts given below; one reason publishers and contests reject work is that the writer can’t/won’t follow the rules. While we want to publish articles by as many of our members as possible, we also need these pieces to be uniformly high-quality and beneficial so the 6,200+ recipients will look forward to reading them month after month.

Can you submit multiple articles over time? Absolutely! We’d love to have regular contributors.

If you want to submit an article for consideration, please email the following to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org:

1. Your article, with a catchy/provocative/thought-provoking title, that addresses your personal lessons about aspects of the craft and/or business of writing, in 300 words or less (can be in a Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

2. A profile of you and your book(s) in 50 words or less, as well as your website and social media links (can be in the same Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

3. Your headshot and book cover image(s) in JPG or PNG format, the higher the resolution, the better

We look forward to learning from you!
Twenty-five years ago, when I seriously began to write, they arrived in anemic white envelopes, addressed in my handwriting, and double-dog-dared me to split them open. I always did after hours of building up courage. Back then because I was just learning my craft, the rejections were short: Not right for us, thanks for considering blah, blah literary magazine, wish you the best finding a place for it. They left me weak and unable to write for days, sometimes weeks. Of course, I always went back to it. I spent ten years writing a novel, revised it after 60 rejections, and never found a traditional publisher. Some people, so they say, never learn.

Now rejections come via email. Stories I spent months writing, editing, submitting to a critique group, get rejected dozens of times. Okay, a few made it to very small literary magazines, but not the big kahunas, the ones that can affirm you as a writer and have places in their titles: New England, New York, and Paris, for instance. A few are encouraging: We enjoyed reading this, send us more of your work, you are really talented. Well, if it’s that good, I can’t help but think, why didn’t you publish it? I wait a few months, send them more work, and it doesn’t make the cut.

Regardless of how this might sound, I’m not a crybaby. Okay, maybe sometimes. Mostly, I’m stubborn and somewhat egotistical, so I write on (no pun intended). The short of it is I like to write. Never mind that my readers are few (The novel that took me ten-plus years to write and self-publish only sold 500 copies) and the rejections keep coming, I save them on a spreadsheet, listen to helpful critiques, but continue to believe. I’m a writer and that’s what matters the most.

Portia Tewogbade is the author of two novels, During a Dry Season and Red Was the Midnight, as well as published short stories. She is the recipient of the Atlanta Writers Club’s 2015 Terry Kay Prize for Fiction and other awards. Website: https://portiawerbade.wixsite.com/portiawrites
Technology is wonderful. Technology is awful.

Reseaching once meant going to the library, mastering the Dewey Decimal System, and searching books for the facts you need to write.

Now you just Google it. All the knowledge of the world is analyzed, and technology finds you the needle in the haystack.

And then the real game begins. Resisting seductive temptress technology.

It’s easy to succumb to your curiosity, encouraged by every writer’s curse—procrastination.

For your novel, you need the date of The Pittsburgh Homestead Steel Strike. Google it, BANG, July 1-6, 1892. Now you can get back to your writing.

WAIT, this story looks interesting. Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie goes abroad tasking Henry Clay Frick to negotiate with the union seeking a wage hike. Frick counters with a 22% pay cut. They refuse. He counters with a smidge more. No deal. Frick fires the workers.

They’re pissed, they protest. Frick calls in an army of 300 heavily armed Pinkerton agents against 5,000 angry strikers and locals with weapons and a cannon! A bloody 12-hour battle rages. The Pinkertons surrender.

Final score: three dead Pinkertons, seven dead workers, with hundreds injured on both sides. It was the most bitterly fought dispute in the history of U.S. labor.

Fascinating. Now, back to your novel...

WAIT, Andrew Carnegie looks interesting. Let’s learn a bit more about the richest man in the world... railroads, steel, the Bessemer process, philanthropy, Carnegie Hall, libraries, Ben Franklin, lightning rods, bifocals, Freemasonry, pyramids, Egyptians, The Bangles...

Six hours later, you’re reading about the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly with a 3-4” wingspan that flies fast close to the ground!!!

You wonder how you can work a Zebra Swallowtail into your novel about a laid-off steelworker in 1986.

Doesn’t matter. You’re tired. You turn off your computer, another exhaustive day writing. Maybe tomorrow you’ll write without the internet.

Patrick (aka PD) Scullin created some famous ad campaigns, started a successful advertising agency, and sold it after 21 years to write. Early in his career, he worked as an advance man for a traveling circus, which inspired his upcoming debut novel, Sawdust: Love is wilder than a circus. Learn more at https://pdscullin.com/
Long-time AWC member Lisa Watson's essay, *What We Wear* has been published in the summer issue of the online literary magazine Shark Reef.

"It is the story of my epiphany on the disconnect that my mother's family had with her and who she was and how it impacted her life," says Watson.

Lisa lives and writes in Cobb County where she is a video production teacher, and has recently started a part-time practice in the holistic healing practice of biofield therapy. She is currently working on her memoir about her experiences as a 23-year veteran of the high school classroom and is currently bouncing around ideas for a book on how to live a more fulfilling, authentic life by learning how to deal with emotional blocks, particularly fear.

**SHARK REEF**

*A Literary Magazine*

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**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE**

If you would like to announce a publishing credit, agent representation, the acquisition of your manuscript by a publisher, a new self-published title, or any other achievement, please email the details with your publicity photo/headshot/selfie and book cover (if applicable) to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org.
If you are a current Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) member who has a book launch or signing event scheduled in the next month or two, let us help you promote it!

This is yet another benefit of AWC membership. Social media has made it easy to get the word out about your book events, but having your posts seen and shared is another matter entirely. Our newsletter reaches more than 6,400 inboxes, with an average open rate of about 25%, so put this network to work.

Contact AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org with these details:

1. Category of event (e.g., book launch, signing, talk, reading)
2. Date, time, and location of the event
3. Any other event details (agenda, RSVP requirement, public/private, etc.)
4. Say something about your book(s) and yourself
5. Your publicity photo/headshot/selfie
6. Book cover image (JPG or PNG file)

DEADLINE: 20th of the month for inclusion in the following month’s eQuill, which will be sent to subscribers on the 1st or 2nd.

Here’s an example of how your information will look (along with some shameless self-promotion):

Book Signing for AWC Member Mab Morris and AWC President George Weinstein

July 21 at 4 p.m.
“Wine & Words” Event
Accent Cellars
215 Auraria Rd.
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Mab Morris is a Georgia native and lover of non-western anthropology who writes shamanistic, intellectual fantasy novels. Her works Fate of the Red Queen and The Bone Reader are now available. Her fantasy Seek the Monster will be available in 2019.

George Weinstein is the current President of the Atlanta Writers Club and has managed its Atlanta Writers Conference for a decade. He is also the author of five novels, including historical fiction, a mystery, and women’s fiction. In November 2019, his thriller Watch What You Say will be published.
The Alpharetta Library has spots available for two Atlanta Writers Club authors in their AlphaCon Artists’ Alley on Thursday, August 8th at 1:00-6:00 p.m. The library will provide a table and chair for this event. You’ll be responsible for bringing and selling your book(s).

This is a first-come, first-served opportunity. To apply, please contact AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org.

George will confirm your membership and connect you with Alpharetta Library personnel who will ask you to complete two forms for their records and collect information for their program and social media campaign.
October 25-26, 2019
ATLANTA WRITERS CONFERENCE

Register now to attend our 20th Atlanta Writers Conference, on October 25-26, 2019 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
• Building your network of industry contacts

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

Want to get published?

The October 25-26, 2019 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you:

• Access to 16 acquisitions editors and literary agents—no repeats from previous conferences—seeking every major fiction genre and nonfiction topic, as well as graphic novels and picture books

• Critiques of manuscript samples by the editors and agents
CONFERENCE, CONT.

- Pitches to the editors and agents in the calm and privacy of meeting rooms
- Query letter critique by an editor-agent team to improve your pitch (nearly 40% of those winning pitch awards at the May conference did this activity)
- Preparatory critique of your manuscript submission months before the conference by a freelance editor of your choice (40% of those winning any award at the May conference did this "prep" critique)
- Workshop on the 3 areas of craft where writers struggle the most by Kimberley (K.J.) Howe, award-winning author and Executive Director of ThrillerFest
- Separate Q&A panels by all eight acquisitions editors and all eight literary agents to give you two perspectives of the current and future publishing industry
- Free bonus activities for every participant who purchases at least two of the activities above:
  ◦ Two talks by Kimberley Howe on networking and leveraging conferences to advance your writing career
  ◦ Two presentations by award-winning author Brian Panowich on breaking the rules of grammar in writing and how to spot and avoid those who prey on writers.
  ◦ Two presentations by author, screenwriter, and award-winning producer Paul Sinor about turning novels into screenplays—and vice versa—without sacrificing your main character, and writing about the drama of trauma.
  ◦ Private mixer with all agents, acquisitions editors, and special guest Kimberley Howe
  ◦ Giveaways drawings for valuable prizes, from lifetime membership in the Atlanta Writers Club to free activities at the next conference
  ◦ Award ceremony with each agent and editor presenting Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitch certificates
More than 30 of our members have signed with agents or editors they met at our Conferences, and a number of those have scored major book deals (and one, so far, has hit the bigtime with a movie deal). You could be next!

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

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 October 25-26, 2019 Atlanta Writers Conference.

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 October 26, 2019, 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!

For questions, contact Atlanta Writers Conference Director and AWC President George Weinstein at awconference@gmail.com
The Atlanta Writers Club has revamped its website! We're now featuring a page where AWC members can promote their latest publication:
https://atlantawritersclub.org/our-members-success/

Current Atlanta Writers Club members are invited to add/update their listing: please email your headshot, book (or other publication) cover, and website URL to AWC President George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org
AUTHOR OPPORTUNITY:

The Atlanta Writers Club’s VP of Publicity, Phil Fasone, is meeting with bookstores to make arrangements for Local Author shelves.

His first success has created a new opportunity for our authors (both traditionally and self-published):

Read It Again Bookstore in Suwanee has agreed to create a Local Authors bookshelf exclusively for us! Fiction, nonfiction, and poetry titles are all welcome.

They only have a few criteria:

1. You must be a current member of the Atlanta Writers Club.
2. The book(s) you want them to include on their shelf must be available for order through Ingram Content Group book distributor (they will order one or more copies through Ingram).
3. They will order up to a maximum of four titles per author.

To take advantage of this opportunity, please email AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org. After he confirms your membership status, he will connect you with the bookstore so you can provide them with the ISBN for up to four titles you want them to stock on their Local Author shelf.
Excerpt from Georgia prison libraries short on books and titles, AJC analysis finds by Nicholas Thieme for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Attorney Kosha Tucker looked across the particle-board table at the teen in the detention-center jumpsuit. He stared back in icy silence.

“I would go visit him and he would refuse to speak to me,” recalled Tucker, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia. “He would walk out of the room (and) he would say really nasty things.”

Then, Tucker remembered him mentioning an interest in skilled trades. She sent him a book.

When she saw him next, he was ebullient, she recalled, proudly displaying drawings of tools and techniques he’d reproduced.

“He knew that while he was sitting in there, I was thinking about him. And it gave him hope,” Tucker says.

~Such hope is in short supply at Georgia prisons.~

An Atlanta Journal-Constitution analysis of electronic book catalogues in 12 state prisons found wide disparities in the number and availability of reading material.

Baldwin State Prison Library, for example, offers fewer than 2,000 books for about 1,000 prisoners, about one tenth the offering of comparably sized Central State Prison in Macon.


If you have questions about book donations, contact the office of Director of Library Services Emanuel Mitchell at 478-992-5392, or email him at emanuel.mitchell@gdc.ga.gov.

Here is the mailing address for your book donations:

Georgia Department of Corrections
SOSTC
300 Patrol Road
Hardin Library
Attn: Emanuel Sinclair Mitchell, Library Director
Forsyth, GA 31029
Authors should reconsider asking the crowd about book cover design

It’s a beloved truism in publishing that the cover is the key marketing tool for a book. Even those outside of the industry know the cliché, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” But, in fact, we all make snap judgments about whether we’d enjoy books based on looks alone. It’s not so different from shopping for clothing or anything with a distinct look and feel—some things match one’s identity and others don’t.

That’s why it drives me a little nuts when authors post their covers in progress on social media groups full of other authors and ask for feedback. This tends to happen for one of two reasons. Either the author is unhappy with the cover she received from her publisher—and seeks validation or support in requesting a new design—or she’s trying to decide between multiple cover options.

Those crowdsourced opinions have an approximate value of zero in determining the best cover. Here are three reasons why:

Read the entire article here: https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/pw-select/article/80162-don-t-crowdsource-your-cover-design.html

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New Critique Group Forming

Dacula/Lawrenceville
Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction
1st and 3rd Saturday, 11 AM to 1 PM,
TradeWind Coffee Co./Dacula
Ivelisse Rodriguez, rodrigivelisse@gmail.com
Helping Writers Become Authors with Nury Crawford
Saturday, July 27 at 1:00 pm
Gwinnett Library, Suwanee Branch, 361 Main St., Suwanee 30024

Author and publisher Nury Crawford will discuss:
- The most common mistakes new writers make
- How to find a competent, affordable editor
- Three ways to get your work published
- Your writer’s rights

This workshop is free and open to the public.

For more information, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770-978-5154.
ThrillerFest is the annual conference of International Thriller Writers and the premier event of the year for thriller fans, authors, and publishing professionals. We have an outstanding array of guests, exciting and informative panels, author book signings, publishing professionals, and an Awards Banquet with cocktail parties before and after. Then there are the unique and spectacular events like the Master Class, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Pre-Conference Workshop, PitchFest, and the fabulous Grand Opening Reception. You'll mingle with your favorite authors and make lasting networking contacts. Intrigued? Excited? Learn more about the elements that make up ThrillerFest on the next page.

ITW’s Master Class, held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 as a part of the ThrillerFest XIV conference, is a hands-on, intense, full day workshop for writers of all levels. Each class, taught by one of ITW's bestselling authors, is limited to 10 students. The small class format will allow you to work on your manuscript in progress, not in generalities but in specifics. It's as close as you can get to one-on-one consultation with someone who knows what it takes to write bestsellers. The day is highly informative and helpful. You'll get insider tips to make your work stand out. Take your storytelling and writing craft to the next level!

Don't miss this chance to work with one of these outstanding presenters: Steve Berry, Grant Blackwood, David Corbett, Karen Dionne, Robert Dugoni, Steven James, Gayle Lynds, Donald Maass, Hank Phillippi Ryan, or F. Paul Wilson. Even if you've taken Master Class before, work with a different instructor this time for a completely new experience.
ConsultFest: New! One-on-one fifteen minute session with a top acquiring editor or agent to get instant feedback on your query letter or first two pages of your manuscript. The writer will be assigned a time during CraftFest or ThrillerFest. Up to two consultations may be purchased when registering for any package.

ATF Pre-Conference Workshop: Presented by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Add authenticity to your thrillers! The pre-conference ATF Workshop is a limited attendance event on the day before the main elements of the ThrillerFest conference. Space is limited and has previously sold out quickly. The workshop will be held at the Grand Hyatt.

Master Class: This one-day intensive writing program allows your instructor to focus on your craft and your story. Everyone is welcome, from beginning writers to well-established authors. Teachers for Master Class 2019 include top-selling members of ITW who will work with you in a small class setting. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

CraftFest: Learn the craft of thriller writing from the best in the genre! Hone your thriller writing skills on many topics to provide you with the tools needed to take your writing to the next level. Special feature: CareerFest! Now that you’ve written that sparkling manuscript, where do you go from there? You don’t want to miss it!

PitchFest: Face-to-face pitching with fifty-plus top agents and acquiring editors who are actively looking for new thriller writer clients. Don’t miss this exceptional opportunity. Purchase an admittance package that includes PitchFest.

ThrillerFest: Spotlight guests, extraordinary programming, author book signings, and camaraderie. Includes the ThrillerFest Grand Opening Reception on Thursday evening, July 11th.

Thriller Awards Banquet: John Sandford will receive his 2019 ThrillerMaster Lifetime Achievement award. 2018 Silver Bullet Award James Rollins will present the 2019 Silver Bullet Award to Harlan Coben. Margaret Marbury will receive the 2019 Thriller Legend Award. Bookstore owner Mystery Mike will receive his 2019 ThrillerFan award. All Thriller Award Winners will be announced. Fun, entertainment, and before and after cocktail parties!

Conference elements are priced flexibly to allow you more choices to fit your pocketbook and tailor your experience as you wish. When combining several events, you’ll receive a discount off individual item prices.

Looking forward to another memorable year. Come share the excitement!

Kimberley Howe
Executive Director, ThrillerFest
http://thrillerfest.com

Our mailing address is:
ITW
PO Box 311
Eureka, CA 95502-0311
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 President 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.
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. Our Membership Form is on the last page of this newsletter.

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 (August-May), 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.

**Periodic Workshops.** Your membership provides access to numerous outstanding writing workshops throughout the year, all of them free to members. We feature a 3-hour, members-only workshop each July and others in the spring and fall. Please see the AWCC Calendar page in this newsletter for upcoming workshops.

**Twice-Yearly Atlanta Writers Conference.** This is your opportunity to pitch and receive manuscript and query letter guidance from literary agents and publisher acquisitions editor. Each Atlanta Writers Conference also includes agent and editor Q & A panels, workshops on the craft and business of writing, and a reception mixer where you’ll get to meet and talk with the agents, editors, and your fellow participants in a more informal setting. Details are at https://atlantawritersconference.com/

**Critique Groups.** Please see the two-page listing in this issue of the eQuill for the different critique groups available to members, both online and spread around the metro Atlanta area. Critique group participants meet regularly to read each other’s writings and recommend improvements. Don’t see a group in your area or don’t see your genre represented? Start your own and let the AWC advertise it for you.

**Writing Contest with Cash Prizes and Publication.** Each winter/spring, we hold a writing contest for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry with cash prizes and publication in the *New Southern Fugitives* online zine.

**Opportunities to Sell Your Books.** We are constantly seeking more opportunities for you to speak to new audiences and sell your books. From creating AWC shelves at local bookstores to sponsoring an AWC Writers’ Track and providing an authors’ booth at the Decatur Book Festival, we provide year-round occasions for our members.

**Free Tickets to Author Events.** Because of our sponsorship of the Book Festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, we receive periodic offers to attend their paid events at no charge, and we share these tickets with our members via email announcements.

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.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC President George Weinstein: george@atlantawritersclub.org
The Atlanta Writers Club

First Name: _____________________________ Last Name: ________________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: _________________________________
Email: _________________________________ Alternate Email: ____________________________

I/we would like to become involved with the AWC as a:  □ Meeting Volunteer  □ Conference Volunteer
 □ Decatur Book Festival Volunteer  □ Other (please specify):

AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership is for ONE YEAR

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 Jerry Weiner, Treasurer
                      8080 Jett Ferry Rd.
                      Atlanta, GA 30350

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 your receipt.