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
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

August
EVENTS

8 AlphaCon
17 AWC monthly meeting
31-1 AJC Decatur Book Fest

A Royal Air Force pilot getting a haircut and reading Greenmantle by John Buchan. There are so many interesting things about this photo, the colors, the apparent calmness of these two gents during wartime, the young pilot smoking a pipe and also the fact that he’s reading a book set in the First World War, during the Second World War.

The pilot’s name was Francis Mellersh and he was twice awarded Britain’s Distinguished Flying Cross and was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

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

The Atlanta Writers Club
August 17 AWC Meeting
(free for first-time guests)

GSU-Dunwoody Perimeter Campus
2101 Womack Rd., Dunwoody 30338
Building NC

12:45-1:30 pm – Nosh & Networking
Mixer in Café
1:30-1:45 pm – AWC Announcements
and Upcoming Events
1:45-2:45 pm – 1st Guest Speaker:
Deborah LeBlanc
2:45-3:00 pm – Break and Book
Signing for Deborah LeBlanc
3:00-4:00 pm – 2nd Guest Speakers:
Lois Reitzes & John Lemley

4 President’s Column
5 How to Get Involved
7 AWC Calendar
8 August 17th Meeting Agenda
10 AlphaCon
11 Atlanta Sci-Fi Film Fest
12 Free Tickets
13 Black Warrior Review
14 Decatur Book Fest
15 Want a Publishing Credit?
16 How to Self-Publish
17 Hindsight is 20-20
19 If You Speak and No One Hears You
21 The Art of Not Imagining Everyone Naked
22 AWC Member Accolades
24 AWC Members August Events
26 Promote You Book Launch or Signing
27 Sign & Sell Book Opp
28 October 25-26 Atlanta Writers Conference
31 Promote Your Latest
32 How AI will Disrupt Authors & Publishing
33 Critique Groups
35 AWC Membership Renewal Notices
36 AWC Membership Benefits
37 Membership Form
“What You Need to Do Is….”

Since I became AWC president the first time, back in 2004, numerous conversations have started this way, as members offer suggestions about something we should try. In second place is “I could’ve given a better talk/workshop than….”

Fifteen years ago, during my first term as president, I was desperately trying to revive the nonagenarian AWC. I found myself implementing nearly each suggestion tossed at me and putting on stage everyone who asserted their superior expertise—with varying degrees of success, as you might guess.

It’s natural for leaders to receive such input. Everybody sees ways the organization can improve. These suggestions are a mark of how much they care about its continued prosperity.

What I’m learning to do now, though, is ask the individual with the suggestion to lead the effort being proposed. We’re lucky to have lots of space in the NC building on the GSU-Dunwoody Perimeter Campus. Plenty of room to try some things, either before or after meetings. There’s a corporate writing group that uses a portion of the auditorium before each meeting to talk about how to get freelance writing gigs, among other things. Ample space exists in that 175-seat room, or in the café where we hold our nosh and network mixers, for other groups to share insights about what they’re trying to achieve.

Do we need to talk about all manner of website details that weren’t covered in the July workshop? Yes! Marketing, search engine optimization, meta tags, page set ups, email sign-up forms, giveaways, social media tie-ins, and on and on. So much to share and learn. And, according to the feedback surveys numerous July attendees submitted, we have many people who could teach others how to do these things.

So, step up! If you want to lead a group to discuss a specific area of the craft or business of writing and help others on their journey, please contact me at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org with your proposal – we’ll promote it, devote space for you either before or after meetings (your choice), and send people your way. You’ll have a chance to learn from others who join in while you help those in need. And if you have a need but not the expertise, I’ll put out a call for those with the experience and desire to help.

Paying it forward by helping your fellow writers is the philosophy and practice that has made the Atlanta Writers Club one of the largest and most active writing communities in the country. Next time you have a brainstorm about what we need to do to make the AWC even better, please let me know. I’m counting on your help to continue to improve this remarkable organization.

George Weinstein is the AWC President, Atlanta Writers Conference Director, and author of five novels. His sixth 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
• 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!
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
Location:
Georgia State University: Perimeter College – Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building NC

Nosh & Networking for members and visitors in Building N-C café: 12:45-1:30 p.m.
Meeting for members and visitors in Building N-C auditorium: 1:30-4:00 p.m.

1:30-1:45 p.m.
Club Business, Upcoming Events, and Announcements

1:45-2:45 p.m.
Deborah LeBlanc, guest speaker #1: Write what you know…or not

Deborah LeBlanc is an award-winning, best-selling author and business owner from Lafayette, Louisiana. She is also a licensed death scene investigator, has been a paranormal investigator for over twenty years, and is currently the house clairsendium for the upcoming paranormal investigation television show, Through the Veil.

She served four years as president of the Horror Writers Association, eight years as president of the Writers’ Guild of Acadiana, and two years as president of Mystery Writers of America’s Southwest Chapter. In 2007, Deborah founded Literacy Inc. a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting illiteracy in America’s teens. Deborah also takes her passion for literacy and a powerful ability to motivate to high schools around the country.

Deborah will discuss the value and perils of writing only what you know, the importance of research, and the benefits of imagination and making things up.

Website: https://deborahleblanc.com
Facebook Author Page: https://www.facebook.com/deborahleblancauthor/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/deborahleblanc

2:45-3:00 p.m.
Book-signing in the Building N-C café for Deborah LeBlanc.
CONT.

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Lois Reitzes & John Lemley, guest speakers #2: Music in literature & literature in music

The distinctive voice of Lois Reitzes has been heard over the airwaves of 90.1FM WABE since 1979. From 1982 to 2015, Lois hosted the weekday morning program “Second Cup Concert,” which can now be heard on the WABE Classics HD channel. Since January 2015, Lois has hosted “City Lights with Lois Reitzes,” a ground-breaking weekday arts and culture program with a specific mission of elevating Atlanta’s arts scene. Twitter: https://twitter.com/LoisReitzes

Atlanta-based host and producer, John Lemley, has been a mainstay of Atlanta’s media scene for well over two decades. For 18 of those years, John hosted and produced a number of news and arts programs for Atlanta’s NPR station, WABE. John currently serves as an investigative reporter and occasional newscast anchor for Nancy Grace’s new Sirius XM satellite radio program, “Crime Stories,” for which he investigates and reports on open and unsolved cases in the headlines.

A man of many passions, John is also fulfilling a life-long history buff’s dream by writing a column called “A Sprig of Moss,” focusing on Gwinnett County, Georgia’s historic cemeteries for Our Town Gwinnett magazine. He’s also the anchor for an online TV news roundtable program based out of Peachtree Corners called “Momentum” that addresses topics impacting the greater metro-Atlanta area.

Facebook Fan Page: https://www.facebook.com/johnlemleyfanpage/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/JohnLemley

Combined, Lois and John have about 60 years of experience celebrating the arts in Atlanta, including literature and music, and they will talk about how words and compositions have influenced each other over the centuries—and inspire you about how you can do the same in your writing.

Carpools Requested for August 17 Meeting

Evelyn Asher wants to carpool with writers from Gainesville or Buford who are going to. You can reach her to coordinate this at evelynasher@charter.net.

Marlene Buchanan wants to carpool with writers from the Snellville side of Gwinnett/Walton County. You can reach her to coordinate this at mrat30052@aol.com or 770-972-5595.
Welcome one and all to Alpharetta Library’s first all day Cosplay Convention! We are celebrating the art of cosplay and invite you to join us for this free event. Come meet local artists, get hands on in our workshops, participate in panels, compete in our cosplay contest and more!

1:00PM         ARTISTS ALLEY
1:00PM         GAMING
1:00PM         MY OTHER ME: A FILM ABOUT COSPLAYERS
3:00PM         OPEN WORKSHOP
3:00PM         COSPLAY IN FILM PANEL
3:00PM         INTRO TO PROP MAKING: CONCEPT TO COMPLETION
4:30PM         DIVERSITY IN COSPLAY PANEL
4:30PM         CLOSET COSPLAY 101
6:00PM         COSPLAY CONTEST

Alpharetta Library—10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta, GA 30009— 404-613-6735

Citizens needing reasonable accommodations due to disability, including communications in an alternate format, please contact your Fulton County Library System location, in-person, or by telephone (TTY 711).
The Multicultural Sci-fi Organization (MCSFO) markets and promotes science fiction intellectual property. They discuss and educate in the medium of science fiction and technology, with a unique focus from an international perspective. They are committed to supporting and encouraging rich storytelling, filled with infinite possibilities that challenge us and question our perception of the future. MCSFO fulfills this goal by producing The Annual Atlanta Sci-fi Film Festival the Kids with S.T.E.A.M. Sci-fi Film Festival, and sci-fi IP Brand Activations like HBO’s Westworld among other titles.

THE SCI-FI WRITERS SCOPE
ESSAY COMPETITIONS
OPEN TO ALL WRITERS

For the 2nd year, MCSFO’s Atlanta Sci-fi Film Festival (September 20-22, 2019) is bringing back the Sci-fi Writers Scope! This year, they are celebrating the reissue of Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower and Parable of the Talents with two Essay Competitions. Winners will be announced during the Women in Sci-fi panel on September 22nd, along with excerpts of their essay.

Complete details, including instructions for uploading your essay about Talents or both books by September 1st, are here:

**Free Tickets for AWC Members to DeKalb Library Foundation Event**

The DeKalb Library Foundation provides support to DeKalb County Public Library (DCPL), including support of the PRIMETIME Preschool initiative.

PRIMETIME Preschool introduces children ages 3-4 and their families to literature through storytelling techniques and playtime led by trained facilitators. Program sessions are 90 minutes long once a week in the evening for six weeks. The Library offers the sessions at four library locations in DeKalb- Covington, Flat Shoals, RedanTrotti, and Wesley Chapel. Each session includes a nutritious meal, books, reading activities and play.

In 2018, DCPL was awarded a $50,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the implementation of this program, and the DeKalb Library Foundation is raising the matching funds. The Atlanta Writers Club’s donation last year helped the Foundation raise the first half of matched funds for this initiative, and our support this year will help the Foundation to finalize the funding match.

In thanks for our assistance, the DeKalb Library Foundation provided the AWC with four tickets to their annual event, *A Novel Affair: Tapas + Trivia on Thursday, September 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Decatur Marriott.*

The AWC is making these four tickets available to our members, because your dues give us the ability to sponsor these important efforts in our community. The tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum of two tickets available to any member. To claim one or two tickets, please send an email to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org and tell him how many tickets you want.
Established in 1974 by graduate students in the MFA Program in Creative Writing, Black Warrior Review (BWR) is named for the river that borders the campus of The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. BWR publishes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, comics, and art twice a year. Contributors include Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winners alongside emerging writers. Work appearing in BWR has been reprinted in the Pushcart Prize series, Best American Short Stories, Best American Poetry, PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize, New Stories from the South, and other anthologies.

2019 BWR WRITING CONTEST

Prizes:
$1500 & publication in BWR 46.2, their Winter/Spring 2019 issue in Nonfiction, Fiction, and Poetry.
$800 & publication in BWR 46.2, their Winter/Spring 2019 issue in the Flash Category.
Two runners-up in each genre receive monetary compensation and acknowledgment in BWR 46.2. They may consider any submission for general publication.

DEADLINE: September 1st, 2019

Fiction and Nonfiction: Submit up to 7,000 words.
Poetry: Submit a packet of up to 3 poems.
Flash: Submit a packet of up to 3 flash pieces. This can be in any genre, as long as the author considers it “flash.”
Only previously unpublished work accepted.
Winners will be announced in October.

For complete information, including judges’ profiles, submission instructions, and eligibility rules, go to https://bwr.ua.edu/contest-2019/
Thanks to your rapid response, we have filled all slots for volunteers and for book signings in our booth. We hope you’ll drop by and say hello to your fellow members at Booths 101-103 at E. Ponce De Leon Ave and Clairmont Ave., near the Old Courthouse on the Square.

Festival Schedule:

**Saturaday, August 31**

Children’s Parade
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

**Author Sessions & DBF Street Fair**
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, September 1**

Children’s Parade
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Author Sessions & DBF Street Fair**
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

The Atlanta Writers Club is a valued sponsor of this festival. Numerous members comprise the panelists and moderators on the AWC Track of author sessions.

You will find the full schedule of sessions here: [https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/schedule/](https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/schedule/)

Author profiles are here: [https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/presenters/](https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/presenters/)

For directions, guidance about parking, and much more, click here: [https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/attend-the-festival/](https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/attend-the-festival/)
S U B M I T A N A R T I C L E T O T H E A W C eQ U I L L !

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!
A SHORT COURSE IN HOW TO SELF-PUBLISH

By AWC Member Pat Bowen

Read fiction, nonfiction, every genre, every chance you get. Major in English in college. Get a copywriting job. Revel in your peers telling you what a good wordsmith you are. Get on with your life.

Time goes by. You write ad copy, contracts, training materials, marketing brochures, sales aids, speeches, along with doing whatever it says you do on your business card.

More time goes by. Your kids are grown. You are grown. How hard can it be to make stuff up? You try your hand at fiction. You write short stories. You win some contests. You start writing a novel. You keep a notepad by your bed to capture fleeting nocturnal ideas. You sit in on classes and webinars. You go to conferences. Your email box is bulging with advice and offers of help. You show the novel to other writers. A lot of other writers. Some know more than you do. Some don’t.

Your book might be ready. You are driven. Agents are elusive. You decide to self-publish. You endlessly tinker with the novel until you hire an editor, a proofer, a formatter, a cover designer. You sign up for a URL, for web hosting, for a website builder. You try to master web design, Amazon KDP Publishing, Goodreads, Google Analytics, book links, hyperlinks, cover thumbnails, MailChimp. You almost forget how to write. You upload the novel online, then sit back. It was all worth it. Smile.

You notify your contacts at Facebook, Twitter, your local newspaper, library, and book club. You beg your contacts to follow you. They don’t know what follow means. You check online every day and agonize over how many books you’ve sold, or not. You have to do more, more, to sell more, more. You start writing a sequel.

Pat Bowen had an international corporate career, and now she’s applying her knowledge of the mind and the world to writing fiction. She recently self-published a novel, The Cure, and a collection of short stories titles Unintended Consequences. She lives in Woodstock with two cats in the yard.

Website: www.PatriciaBowen.com
Facebook: https://facebook.com/WoodsgalWrites/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/WoodsgalWrites
I was recently asked to address what, if anything, I would do differently in my writing life. It’s an interesting question. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have both The Pocket Wife and The Other Widow “out there” with major publishers, wending their way through European bookstores and popping up, to my delight, around the country in airports and other unexpected places. I feel as if I scratched the magic ticket, found the rainbow’s end, and kissed a frog into a prince, all in one fell swoop!

Still, there are things I would do differently.

- **I would have made the writing process more of a priority earlier**: I’ve been writing all my life. I wrote through adolescence, two marriages, three children, and countless jobs. I wrote in restaurants and hotels and offices, on trains and rooftops, beaches and other people’s houses. I wrote on napkins and bank receipts and, more than once, my hand, but I knew nothing about the business of writing. It wasn’t until my children left home that I joined a critique group and the Atlanta Writers Club and learned that even if several agents turned down my manuscript, I could still find one who wouldn’t. (I also learned Kathryn Stockett had a huge collection of rejection slips for The Help, which she was kind enough to bring to her talk to show the audience.) I got feedback and comradery from my critique group and made friends who understand if I call them late at night to whine about a character who isn’t cooperating or to read them parts of a book contract, or to ask them to look over an article before I send it in. I would have joined these groups and found these people earlier. Also, and equally important, I would have fit writing into my daily schedule instead of edging out of bed to write at midnight.

- **I would have mastered social media**: When my first book was coming out, my agent told me to get on Twitter and tweet up a storm. “Right!” I said, frantically trying to figure it out. Finally, in desperation, I asked a visiting neighbor to help, and it took him about three and a half seconds to make me tweetable. The many online author/reading groups and scintillating e-versations are not my forte. I do have a web page and I am on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, but I had a lot of catching up to do and I’m still not as adept as I could be. Analytics, Marketing, Giveaways – these are all terms to know.

- **The two-book deal**: I’m still not sure about this. There are pros and cons. Though I am certainly not complaining (see first paragraph), there is much to be said for having time to sort out your second book, and the deadline for mine was the same week The Pocket Wife hit the shelves. Between the wayward tweets and rewrites on The Other Widow, I had very little time for promoting and thoroughly enjoying the release of my first book.
Hindsight is 20-20, cont.

- **Organization**: I’ve mentioned this before. I am not very organized. I like to attribute this to my creative brain, but, honestly, it’s just a skill that never properly fused with my psyche. In spite of, or possibly because of this, I’ve always been adaptable and inventive, so I’ve always made deadlines, baked room-mother heart-shaped cakes, chauffeured several children and a dog, juggled two and three jobs to work around my daughters’ school schedules, and managed to get dinners on the table. Still, organization is an important skill. I realize this now more than ever. I make lists, turn off the phones when I have to – to the exasperation of family members – and try to stay away from current events. Social media, though helpful in some ways, can be a major time suck, particularly for people like me who cannot, with a few adroit moves, have lovely pictures of myself and all my author friends posted supportively on every social media outlet. If I don’t stick to a schedule, I find myself tangled in minutiae until late in the day.

Writers are all different and writers are all the same. Building on this Eckhart Tolle sentiment: Each of us has something to say and an overwhelming desire to say it, to write or type it, to have our words sing out into the universe. At the same time, we’re all unique, our songs vary and our pitches fluctuate. Find your voice. Find your story. Hold on tight.

Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/SusanCrawfordAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/SusanCrawfordAuthor/)
Twitter: [http://twitter.com/crawfordsusanh](http://twitter.com/crawfordsusanh)
IF YOU SPEAK AND NO ONE HEARS YOU…

By AWC Member Merrill J. Davies

Since I published my first novel in 2012, I have had many opportunities to speak about my books along with other writers. Many writers are unable to make themselves heard when they read or talk about their writing. No matter how creative or interesting the poem or story may have been, I hear people say, “I couldn’t understand what he/she was saying.” Neither could I. Sometimes it was because they could not use a microphone properly. Other times they could not project their voice or looked down at their manuscript the whole time. I always feel badly when this happens, so I would like to suggest a few ways to make it more likely that a reading or speaking opportunity will move your writing career forward.

Having been a member of Toastmasters for nearly twenty years, my first suggestion would be to find a Toastmasters club where there will be a supportive group of fellow strugglers to encourage and give constructive feedback on a regular basis.

If you are unable to join Toastmasters, I would suggest the following:

- Practice a reading enough that you will be able to look at your audience as you read.
- If you will be using a microphone, arrive early and practice with it.
- Practice enunciating words clearly, making sure to pronounce the endings.
- Practice the speech or reading for a friend or family member and get suggestions.
- If your voice is soft, practice projecting your voice to the back of the room where you will speak and getting feedback from someone.

Remember, no matter how good your writing, you will miss customers if you can’t speak or read and be heard.

Merrill J. Davies is a retired high school English teacher living in Rome, Georgia. She has published four novels and a collection of devotional poetry. She enjoys all kinds of writing, as well as assisting others with their writing efforts. She is currently working on a fifth novel. You can learn about her books on the social media links below.
**IF YOU SPEAK AND NO ONE HEARS YOU... CONT.**

Merrill J. Davies, Writer, Facebook Page: [http://on.fb.me/1HHkUXf](http://on.fb.me/1HHkUXf)


Website: [http://www.merrilldavies.com/](http://www.merrilldavies.com/)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/MERRILLDAVIES](https://twitter.com/MERRILLDAVIES)

Amazon Author Page [http://amazon.com/author/merrilljdavies](http://amazon.com/author/merrilljdavies)

Email: Merrill@merrilldavies.com

---

**Carpools Requested for August 17 Meeting**

Evelyn Asher wants to carpool with writers from Gainesville or Buford who are going to. You can reach her to coordinate this at evelynasher@charter.net.

Marlene Buchanan wants to carpool with writers from the Snellville side of Gwinnett/Walton County. You can reach her to coordinate this at mrat30052@aol.com or 770-972-5595.

---

**NEW CRITIQUE GROUP FORMING**

Online #3 Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction

Ivelisse Rodriguez

rodrigivelisse@gmail.com

Open
CRITIQUE GROUPS—OR THE ART OF NOT IMAGINING EVERYONE NAKED

By AWC Member Kathy Nichols

When a writing friend suggested I attend one of the AWC’s critique groups, I was beyond intimidated. What if people challenged my writing with questions like:

- “Do you really need this paragraph?”
- “Would your character actually say this?”
- “Is Linked In one word?”

And people did ask these exact questions after I read my latest excerpt—one I considered close to perfection—to my critique group. I should be crushed, right? Or at least annoyed by the failure of my fellow writers to recognize my genius. Instead, I’m so energized I have to remind myself it’s late: time to close my laptop, talk to my husband, pet my dogs, and tackle revisions tomorrow.

I wasn’t always exhilarated by the idea of exposing myself to critical feedback. Reading my work to anyone other than my two rescue dogs terrified me. A third of the way into my first attempted novel, I realized canine criticism is limited. If I wanted to improve, I would have to take a risk. For me, that risk was joining a critique group.

With the encouragement of a writer friend, I started observing one of the AWC groups. The members were kind but honest, so I took the plunge. The first few times I shared, my hands shook so hard I had to place my pages on the table. I spat out my words machine-gun style, pausing only to catch my shaky breath.

If my extreme reaction sounds like a serious case of glossophobia (the paralyzing fear of speaking in public), it’s not, and my over thirty years of teaching high school proves it. I’m fine spewing lines from Shakespeare or Faulkner or Plath. Reading my own work is different. It’s that familiar dream of standing naked in front of an audience, only writers are baring souls, not bodies. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry—it doesn’t matter. We can’t separate ourselves from our stories.

We want readers to like, no love, our stories. We want to hear reactions like “Great tension,” “Realistic dialogue,” “Excellent pacing”—also group comments from my latest excerpt, which is even closer to perfection thanks to my group.

Maybe even more important than inspiring love, we want our stories to matter. When someone not only listens, but also offers ways to make our stories better, we know our writing matters.
Victoria Wilcox's *The Saga of Doc Holliday* Trilogy to Be Rereleased

Victoria Wilcox has announced that rights to her award-winning historical fiction trilogy, *The Saga of Doc Holliday*, have been acquired by acclaimed Western publisher TwoDot Books, in a three-book deal for rerelease in September 2019.

TwoDot Books, named for an iconic Montana cattle brand, is a division of international publisher Globe Pequot Press/Roman & Littlefield specializing in stories of the American West. The entire trilogy will be available in both trade paper and audiobook online and at major booksellers across the country, with new titles evocative of Doc's adventurous life: *Southern Son* (previously *Inheritance*), *Dance with the Devil* (previously *Gone West*), and *Dead Man’s Hand* (previously *The Last Decision*).

TwoDot has also signed Wilcox's follow-up nonfiction *The World of Doc Holliday: History & Historic Images*, for release in September 2020.

Wilcox is a nationally recognized authority on the life of the Georgia-born Western legend and was featured on the Fox Network Series *Legends & Lies: The Real West*. For details about Victoria and her books, go to [https://victoriawilcoxbooks.com/](https://victoriawilcoxbooks.com/)

Jane Fieldings Coauthors Nonfiction Book

*Is It Me, Is It My Hair, Is It My Skin Color, Is It My Eyes, or Is It You?: The Real Relationship Between African American Women and White American Women and Our Perspective*, by Brenda Person and AWC member Jane Fieldings, is sometimes a conversation between two friends as well as a serious account of real issues that exist between the two cultures. Evidence of past history that still lingers today is brought to the forefront for examination. This book is ideal for women studies, book clubs, workshops, seminars, and conferences.

[https://www.amazon.com/Hair-Skin-Color-Eyes-You-ebook/dp/B07QG8X4MD](https://www.amazon.com/Hair-Skin-Color-Eyes-You-ebook/dp/B07QG8X4MD)
Promotional Release of Adeline Marie Howell’s *The Decision of a Loving Son*

Adeline Marie Howell was born in Phenix City, Alabama. She has one daughter and two grandsons, who in the last year have been a godsend. Without all three, she does not think she would be here.

*The Decision of a Loving Son* was written as a memory told by two friends. They reminisce about the way Tempy and Taylor had met and fallen in love with each other. The book was inspired by the accidental death of a friend. He took an overdose of pain pills. To this day his death does not make sense.

The promotional release of her book is scheduled for July 18, but *The Decision of a Loving Son* is now available for purchase through Dorrance Publishing and Amazon.

Sharon Marchisello’s Short Story Published

Sharon Marchisello’s short story, "The Wrong Coffee Shop"—which was published in the September 2018 Darkhouse Books anthology, *Shhh...Murder!*—was just made into a podcast by Kings River Life:

[https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/](https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/)
AWC Member Erika Passantino’s Book Launches in August

After a career in Washington, D.C. museums, carrying out research on the sources of American modernism, Erika Dethlefs Passantino and her husband, Richard, are retired in Canton, Georgia, where she writes stories nourished by a long life and a historian’s insights.

Her nonfiction book *Coffee Hour in Flensburg: Stories of War and Peace, of Adventure and Love* will launch in August. In a richly illustrated book of more than 200 pages, Erika weaves together stories told by her parents, Carsten and Margarethe Dethlefs to create a portrait of a young German couple as they survive not just one World War together but two. Erika’s book explores the painful question of what it means to be German, describes the price paid for a life of adventure—its joys and rewards—and, most of all, celebrates the power of love in the hardest of times.

“...when the present is unbearable and the future unthinkable, the mind turns to the past and finds a resting place” (attributed to Erika’s uncle, the anarchist Stephen Naft, ca. 1940).

*Coffee Hour in Flensburg: Stories of War and Peace, of Adventure and Love* is available in print and ebook formats through Amazon.com. For more details about Erika and her book, go to: http://www.erikapassantino.com/the-book.html
Featured Author Book Talk at Decatur Book Festival

Date: August 31, 2019  Time: 4:15 pm  Location: Marriott Hotel

Details: Tara Coyt will discuss her book, "Real Talk About LGBTQIAP." She will be interviewed by Georgia Equality Executive Director Jeff Graham.

REAL TALK ABOUT LGBTQIAP is a sincere conversation about the who, what, when, how, and why of human sexuality, gender identity, and biological sex. Author Tara Y. Coyt, a heterosexual, cisgender writer takes a deep dive into each group represented by the acronym, and also explores issues like bathroom laws, conversion therapy, discrimination, and religious freedom bills/laws.

Real Talk is, "Comprehensive... explanatory... thoroughly articulated," according to BookLife/Publishers Weekly. Chevara Orrin, Founder, We Are Straight Allies said, "A powerful and important entry point for us to begin dialogue," and Eric R. Wright, PhD, Chair, Georgia State University Dept. of Sociology said, "I am impressed with the breadth and thoughtfulness of this book."

Book Signing at Posman Books in Ponce City Market for George Weinstein

Date: August 24, 2019  Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  Location: Posman Books in Ponce City Market (675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE C197, Atlanta, GA 30308)

AWC President George Weinstein will be talking to readers and signing his four books:

Hardscrabble Road (Southern historical novel)
Aftermath (Southern mystery)
The Five Destinies of Carlos Moreno (novel of forgotten U.S. history), and
The Caretaker (modern relationship drama)
PROMOTE YOUR BOOK LAUNCH OR NEXT SIGNING

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**

August 18 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.
Posman Books at Ponce City Market Is Seeking a Few Good Authors for Book Signings

Some AWC members have done quite well selling their books at Posman Books at Ponce City Market, and we’re helping them find more authors who are able to pitch their wares.

The manager prefers authors with outgoing personalities who can stay off their phones during the entire length of their signing—no easy feat for some—and greet, greet, greet everybody who enters the store.

Also, he will need to see a copy of your book(s) before he commits, as he’s been burned in the past by authors trying to sell books with bad printing, poor cover art, layout errors, typos, etc.

With his approval, you’ll work with him to select a book signing date and times. Typical signings are two hours in lengths. Your books will be consigned to the store for the duration of your signing, with sales split 60/40 in your favor. At the end of the signing, the manager might choose to purchase one or more titles for the store. You will then invoice him for the books you sold at 60% of the selling price, and he will pay promptly.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please write to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org, and he will introduce you to the Posman Books manager.
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
• 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
Some people say that publishing has already been disrupted, that this current state is the new model. But I don’t think the disruption has even started yet. As Jeff Bezos says, “It’s always Day One.”

In the last ten years, we’ve seen the rise of digital publishing, print on demand, and the independent author movement, as well as the growth of streaming audio and the use of internet marketing tools like Facebook and Amazon Ads to sell more books.

In this episode, I’ll talk about some of the possible disruptions to come for authors and the publishing industry due to the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the next 10 years.

Why write about AI now?

Ten years ago, when I started self-publishing, I was over-the-top excited about the potential of ebooks (see my embarrassing video here!). I could see the incredible possibilities as a creator to reach the whole world with my words.

Since starting out in 2008, I have built a multi-six-figure business as an author-entrepreneur, taking action on that feeling of optimism and learning everything I needed to know to write, publish, market, and make a living with my writing. [See my timeline here].

I started blogging and making money online in 2008 and self-published on the Kindle as soon as it became available. I started my podcast in 2009 before it was even called podcasting and jumped on Twitter around that same time.

I’ve adopted new tools over time — like Scrivener for writing and Vellum for publishing — as well as working with new partners like Ingram Spark for print and FindawayVoices for audio plus the incumbents like Amazon, Apple, and Kobo — but I haven’t really seen a significant change in my business model over the last ten years.

Then, in 2016, I talked on my podcast about Alpha Go Zero beating Lee Sodol at the game of Go and I had an aha moment similar to the one I had when I read my first ebook on the Kindle. Since then, I’ve been devouring books, audiobooks, and podcasts about AI and also attending events about AI developments, sharing thoughts in my futurist segments every Monday.

In the last six months, I’ve felt a significant acceleration — a shift from AI being a thing of the future to it becoming very much of the now. It feels like 2009 all over again in terms of the level of excitement I feel and the new tools that are emerging are both exhilarating but also terrifying for those who don’t embrace the change.

Read this entire post at:
https://www.thecreativepenn.com/2019/07/01/ai-disruption-publishing-authors/
### AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

(Changes since last month in red)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online #1</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Mike Brown</th>
<th><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></th>
<th>Wait list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online #2</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; non-Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>D.Nicole Steele</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dnicolesteele@gmail.com">dnicolesteele@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #3</td>
<td>Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Ivelisse Rodriguez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rodrigivelisse@gmail.com">rodrigivelisse@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park/Decatur</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm, ChocoLaté Coffee Decatur</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><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@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>770-274-5240</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<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</td>
<td><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</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>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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com">sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open (contact Sarah to submit work)</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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:osrtrain@att.net">osrtrain@att.net</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>
</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</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>Meet at member’s house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon</td>
<td>Lynda Fitzgerald</td>
<td><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</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cindy@cltolbert.com">cindy@cltolbert.com</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
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/](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](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.