The 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.

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George Weinstein
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Gene Bowen

Events this month
31-01 AJC Decatur Book Festival with AWC Track Panels and Booths 101-103
07 David Fulmer Workshop for AWC members only
21 AWC Meeting for members and first-time guests

https://www.facebook.com/Atlanta-Writers-Club-218575894874539
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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Becoming a More Careful Reader Will Make You a Better Writer

Writing well is like doing magic. To take an assortment of the made-up, abstract symbols we call the alphabet and arrange them in just the right way so that the reader will learn something true or feel a genuine, deep-down emotion? This truly borders on sorcery.

Yet this is the goal of everything we write: to teach and/or evoke emotional responses. So how do you accomplish this magic trick? Study accomplished magicians. Go to school on their work.

When you’re reading an author whose writing you admire, be alert for those moments when—presto!—you learn or feel something. Realize the magician has just done their trick. Then backtrack and figure out how they achieved it. What combination of those words taught you or triggered an emotion? How far back in the text did they lay the groundwork for this, and why did it work so well that your brain actually changed as a result?

Learn these tricks and put your own spin on them with your unique style to make them your own.

Fair warning: this will change the reading experience for you. Never again will you just lose yourself in a book, because you will always be on alert for the magic tricks. Forget speed-reading, too; there’s no way to scan text while deconstructing it.

However, learning from the true magicians of the writing craft will inevitably make you a better writer. If you’re writing nonfiction intended to instruct or improve your readers’ lives, pay attention to how the pros did this for/to you. If you’re writing memoir or fiction, study how authors evoke setting, create characters with identifiable personalities and problems, and string together scenes of action, dialog, and observations that induce emotions of any kind, from joy to anguish, anger to fear.

As a result of becoming a more deliberate reader, you will not only turn yourself into a better writer but you also will understand instructions and follow directions with more skill, your recall will improve, and you will be able to proofread and edit your work more effectively.

Not a shabby set of bonuses for simply reading with more care and intention!

George Weinstein is the AWC President, Atlanta Writers Conference Director, and author of five novels. His sixth, the suspense-thriller Watch What You Say, will be published in November 2019 (www.GeorgeWeinstein.com).
In Memoriam

On August 4, 2019, the world lost a kind and loving soul and a great mother, wife, author, athlete, and friend: Bethany Rutledge. The Atlanta Writers Club mourns this vibrant woman’s sudden passing and sends our love to her husband John and baby twin boys, Ethan and Alex.
IN MEMORIAM

On Wednesday, August 7, 2019, AWC member Charles James (“Jim”) Seltzer passed away.

A memorial service was held on August 16. Jim’s family requested donations to Folds of Honor. Indicate “in memoriam for Charles James Seltzer” and donate online at Foldsofhonor.org or checks may be sent to: Folds of Honor, Dept 13, Tulsa, OK 74182.
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
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](mailto:George@AtlantaWritersClub.org) — and thank you for your desire to help your fellow writers!
SEPTEMBER 7 WORKSHOP
(AWC Members Only)
1:30-4:30 p.m.
David Fulmer recaps his winter/spring presentations and concludes with a discussion of dialogue and putting all the pieces together.

SEPTEMBER 21
12:45-4:00 p.m.
1st Guest Speaker – Dana Ridenour
(Writing The Series Character)
2nd Guest Speaker – Tony Grooms
(Topic: Writing about Setting)

OCTOBER 5 WORKSHOP
(AWC Members Only)
1:30-4:30 p.m.
Man Martin: Beginnings and Story Structure/Plotting

OCTOBER 19
12:45-4:00 p.m.
1st Guest Speaker – Michael Ludden (Know What You’re Writing About)
2nd Guest Speaker – Steve McCondichie (Publishing)

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

NOVEMBER 16
12:45-4:00 p.m.
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
12:45-4:00 p.m.
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
Fulmer Workshop

September 7 Workshop (AWC members only)
Georgia State University: Perimeter College – Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C auditorium from 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Free to all AWC members (to join/renew: https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/)

David Fulmer will recap his winter/spring presentations and conclude with a discussion of dialogue, putting all the pieces together, and lots of Q&A:

- Speaking Up
- The Essential Importance of Dialogue
- What They Say and How They Say It
- Real and Unreal
- You Don’t Say
- The Big Picture
- All the Pieces into One
- The Pen as a Sword
- Free for All

Fulmer has written and published a dozen novels and one novella since 2001, along with several short stories. As a journalist, he has written about music and other subjects for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Southline, Atlanta Magazine, and many others.

In 2001, Fulmer’s first novel, Chasing the Devil’s Tail, which introduced Creole detective Valentin St. Cyr, was released by Poisoned Pen Press. Two of Fulmer’s novels won national literary awards: Chasing the Devil’s Tail won the Shamus Award (2002) and Rampart Street won the Benjamin Franklin Award (2007). His novel The Blue Door was nominated for the 2009 Shamus Award for Best Novel. Crescent City Books began new releases of the entire Valentin St. Cyr series, beginning with Chasing the Devil's Tail. The seventh and final novel in the series, The Day Ends at Dawn, was released in March 2019.
The Atlanta Writers Club

Georgia State University: Perimeter College – Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C

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.

Dana Ridenour: “Writing the Series Character”

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

Dana entered on duty as a special agent with the FBI on November 11, 1995 and retired April 6, 2016. During her career, Dana was assigned to four different FBI Field Divisions and had the opportunity to work a wide variety of cases to include multi-faceted narcotics investigations, domestic sex trafficking of minors, and violent crime. She was also a member of the FBI’s Evidence Response Team where she and her team traveled to New York City in response to the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. In 2003 Dana attended and passed the FBI’s prestigious undercover school, thus allowing her to work as an undercover FBI agent. Dana spent most of her career as an FBI undercover operative infiltrating various criminal organizations including domestic terrorism extremists in the Animal Liberation Front.

Dana’s first novel, Behind the Mask, is fiction but based on her personal experiences working as an undercover agent. Behind the Mask won numerous literary awards and was named one of the Best Indie Books of 2016. Dana released her second award-winning novel, Beyond the Cabin, on August 1, 2017. Beyond the Cabin received the 2018 Royal Palm Literary Award for Best Thriller or Suspense Novel. Dana’s third book, Below the Radar, was released on August 13, 2019. Her three novels are currently in development for television.

On Saturday, September 21, Dana will discuss the special elements you need to consider when creating and continuing the saga of a series character.
Website: https://danaridenour.net/index.html
Facebook Author Page: https://www.facebook.com/danaridenourwriterpage
Twitter: https://twitter.com/@ridenour_dana

2:45-3:00 p.m.
Book-signing in the Building N-C café for Dana Ridenour.

3:00-4:00 p.m.
Anthony Grooms: “The Ubiquitous Character: Some Things I’ve Learned about Writing Setting”

Writing in MELUS, a critical journal of multi-ethnic literature, Professor Diptiranjan Pattanaik said that Anthony Grooms’s collection of short stories, Trouble No More, demonstrates “the insider’s profound knowledge of the history and struggles of African Americans, while consistently managing to circumscribe a breadth of understanding with a tender story-telling art.”

Tender story telling art has been a prevailing characteristic of Grooms’s stories and poems as he focuses on African American social struggles of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement.

Tony Grooms grew up in rural Virginia. His education at the College of William and Mary and George Mason University led him to a teaching career in Georgia, where since 1995, he has taught creative writing and literature at Kennesaw State University, and directs its M. A. in Professional Writing Program. He is the author of Ice Poems, Trouble No More: Stories, Bombingham, and The Vain Conversation, among other works. His stories and poems have been published in Callaloo, African American Review, Crab Orchard Review, and other literary journals and anthologies both in the US and abroad.

Tony is a Fulbright Fellow, a Yaddo Fellow, a Hurston-Wright Foundation Legacy Award finalist, an Arts Administration Fellow from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the recipient of two Lillian Smith Awards for Fiction. Both Trouble No More and Bombingham were selected as All Georgia Reads books. Adopted for study in colleges, Bombingham was the 2013 common book selection for Washington, D. C.
The Vain Conversation, a novel, was published by Story River Books (USC Press) in February 2018. Author Ron Rash said of the novel, that it “vividly evokes the horrors of American racism, but Anthony Grooms never denies the humanity of his characters, whether black or white, young or old. His novel achieves what only the best literature can give us: it refuses too-easy consolations or too-easy condemnations. When we finish the last page, the book is not finished with us. It will haunt us.”

Tony lives in Atlanta with his wife and son.

On Saturday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m., Tony, as the author of several setting-emphasized novels, will discuss techniques for developing settings whether used as “place,” symbol, or background—advice that is applicable to memoir and narrative nonfiction as well as novels.


4:00-4:15 p.m.
Book-signing in the Building N-C café for Anthony Grooms.

If you are traveling from or through any of these areas to our meetings, please note the members below who would love to carpool with you:

**Athens**
Pat McAlexander - patmcalex@gmail.com

**Buford or Gainesville**
Evelyn Asher - evelynasher@charter.net

**Snellville side of Gwinnett/Walton County**
Marlene Buchanan - mrat30052@aol.com
Dining with successful writers provides AWC members with a great opportunity to ask questions about the craft and business and network with fellow members.

Daniela Petrova grew up behind the Iron Curtain in Sofia, Bulgaria. After the fall of Communism, she moved to New York where she worked as a cleaning lady and a nanny while studying English at the YMCA.

She earned a BA in Philosophy from Columbia University and an MA in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness from New York University.

She is a recipient of an Artist Fellowship in Writing from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Her stories, poems and essays have appeared in many publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Salon, and Marie Claire.

She lives and writes in New York City. Her Daughter’s Mother is her first novel.

Each AWC member who attends will be responsible for paying for your meal AND purchasing a copy of Daniela’s novel from the bookseller who will be at the dinner. No exceptions will be allowed—the authors and bookseller are honoring us with their valuable free time, and we in turn must honor them with our support.

OUR DINNER SPOT FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE IN LAWRENCEVILLE, GA.

We want everybody to have a chance to speak with our guests, so we’re limiting attendance to the first ten current AWC members who RSVP to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org. Due to the limited seating, we can't allow anybody to bring guests unless they too are current members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you require a driver, that individual is welcome to eat at one of the non-reserved tables, but we need to save the seats at our event for AWC members. The restaurant location will be included in the acknowledgement George sends you when he confirms your seat.

Note that dinner will conclude at 6:30 p.m. so we can get Daniela to her 7:00 speaking engagement at Liberty Books, 176 W. Crogan St., Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Her talk is free and open to the public, with no RSVP needed. All are welcome to attend, even if you don't/can't go to the dinner.
**Book Selling & Signing Opportunity & Workshop**

The Alpharetta Library has spots available for four Atlanta Writers Club authors at their Barks in the Park event on **Saturday, September 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The library will provide you with a table and two chairs on their covered patio 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](mailto:George@AtlantaWritersClub.org).

George will confirm your membership and connect you with Alpharetta Library personnel who will ask you to complete some forms for their records and collect information for their program and social media campaign.

For those who just want to attend with or without pooches, the event is free and open to the public with no RSVP required.

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**Free Workshop from Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators**

Join the Gwinnett County Public Library for this workshop dedicated to aspiring authors/writers, illustrators (new or aspiring), and new authors/writers. Gain insight from international author and speaker, Rhonda Knight, and established panelists (three authors and an illustrator). Enjoy a Q&A with the panelists, interactive activities, and plenty of fun. Share your first page of writing or an illustration.

This workshop is free and open to the public.

**Saturday, September 21 at 1:00 pm**

Five Forks Branch
2780 Five Forks Trickum Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

For questions, please contact [events@gwinnettpl.org](mailto:events@gwinnettpl.org) or call 770-978-5154.
The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival is seeking submissions of original Fiction, Short Fiction, Poetry, and One-Act plays for their 2019-2020 Writing Contest. This contest is open to U.S. and international submissions. Prizes awarded for the winning submission, as well as for the top finalists in each category. For complete guidelines and submission details, please see their website: http://tennesseewilliams.net/contests/

Saints and Sinners, their LGBTQ Literary Festival, also has a Fiction Contest. For complete guidelines and submission details, please see their website: http://sasfest.org/#contest

NSA Georgia is the leading source in Georgia for community, education and entrepreneurial business knowledge needed to be successful in the speaking profession.
You can attend your first meeting free. NSA Georgia offers speakers and programs to build your speaking career.
https://www.nsageorgia.org/
FALL COURSE: CRAFTING COMPELLING FICTION

Smyrna Public Library Lifetime Learning Academy

Smyrna Public Library is launching its own adult continuing education academy with a four-week course in creative writing. The $75 class fee includes 12 hours of instruction by a critically acclaimed novelist, handouts for notes and writing exercises, and refreshments.

Seating is limited to 20 participants. Register at the Smyrna Community Center front desk or online at http://apm.activecommunities.com/smyrnacityrec/activity_search/20374.

COURSE: Crafting Compelling Fiction
Instructor: Novelist, Amber Brock
Location: Smyrna Library, 100 Village Green Circle, Smyrna GA 30080
Class Fee: $75
Dates: September 14, September 21, October 5, October 12, 2019

Session One: Character
Saturday, September 14, 2019, 1:30-4:30pm
Every element of compelling fiction begins with character, so creating characters that leap off the page is a natural starting point. Learn how to craft three-dimensional protagonists and antagonists that will produce compelling conflict to keep your story moving.

Session Two: Setting the Scene
Saturday, September 21, 2019, 1:30-4:30pm
Setting is critical to placing your reader in the world of your story but establishing setting without overwriting can be a challenge. This session will help you create vibrant settings and give research tips for finding the details that make settings come to life.

Session Three: Plot and Story
Saturday, October 5, 2019, 1:30-4:30pm
This session will cover how to map out a plot that will keep your characters moving, as well as discussing how to adjust when things go off course. We will also cover various methods for getting words on the page and overcoming writer’s block.

Session Four: The Art of Editing
Saturday, October 12, 2019, 1:30-4:30pm
Yes, editing truly is an art! This is the step that elevates a story from good to great. Learn techniques and discover resources for polishing and refining your fiction.

Instructor Biography:

AMBER BROCK is the author of Lady Be Good (2018), an historical fiction novel which follows on the heels of her critically-acclaimed, debut novel, A Fine Imitation (2016). Brock is a history aficionado, taking every opportunity to travel abroad and take in history and art museums. She teaches British literature and creative writing at the Atlanta Girls’ School.
Festival Schedule:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
Author Sessions & DBF Street Fair
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Author Sessions & DBF Street Fair
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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.

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:

AUGUST 31
12:30pm
Atlanta Writers Club Contemporary Fiction
Decatur City Hall presented by City of Decatur
Moderator: Martha Boone
Authors: Beth Duke, Marilyn Baron, Mary Becker

3:00pm
Atlanta Writers Club Historical Fiction
Decatur City Hall presented by City of Decatur
Moderator: Katie Hart Smith
Authors: Alayne Smith, Anne Lovett

4:15pm
Atlanta Writers Club Thrillers
Marriott Conference Center Auditorium
Moderator: Emily Carpenter
Authors: Joe Rendace, John Sheffield

SEPTEMBER 1
12:00pm
Atlanta Writers Club Nonfiction
Decatur City Hall presented by City of Decatur
Moderator: Jill Cox-Cordova
Authors: Jonathan Ingram, Patricia Martin Holt, Sharon Marchisello

1:15pm
Atlanta Writers Club Memoir
Marriott Conference Center Auditorium
Moderator: Julia McDermott
Authors: Bernard Lee Jr., Connie Tuttle, Dantella Watts, Robin Conte

3:45pm
Atlanta Writers Club Inspirational Writing
Marriott Conference Center Auditorium
Moderator: Mike (T.M.) Brown
Authors: April Love-Fordham, Iyabo Ojikutu, Merrill Davies

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

For directions, guidance about parking, and much more, click here: https://decaturbookfestival.com/festival/attend-the-festival/
WANT A PUBLISHING CREDIT?

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!
A STORY ONLY YOU CAN TELL

By AWC Operations VP Kim Conrey

After publishing an essay titled “Smile, Damn It” in The Bitter Southerner I told a friend, “I can’t believe anyone wants to hear that nonsense.” It wasn’t that I believed I wrote nonsense: I was proud of the story. The problem is we have a tendency to devalue our experiences. They feel ordinary because we feel ordinary. Imagine my shock when it received over 3,000 “likes” on Facebook alone. The outpouring of response had me staring at the screen, stunned. Yet I struggle with vulnerability the likes of which the readers of “Smile, Damn it” wouldn’t guess. Writing nonfiction, or even fiction, can feel like the equivalent of walking around naked. So why do we expose ourselves this way?

As I tell my daughter when she’s nervous about social gatherings, “Maybe there’s someone there that needs you.”

After writing about miscarriage and stillbirth—something I’ve struggled through, twice—I cringed at the idea of reading it at critique group. I knew I’d feel exposed and worried it would make others uncomfortable. Synchronously, the day before our group, I ran into a woman at a playground and the conversation turned to pregnancy loss. She started talking about her grief and didn’t stop, for over an hour.

Proof, dear writer, that somewhere, someone needs you. Our stories may be about us, but they aren’t necessarily for us. Somewhere, a reader waits, alone, grieved, or misunderstood. We humans are wounded beings with a tendency to hide lest someone hurts us all over again. Ironically, the power to heal lies in the courage to expose what’s most wounded, and paradoxically, most beautiful in ourselves. Someone needs to hear the story that hides behind our pride and fear of exposure—the story only you can tell.

Kim Conrey’s work has been published in The Bitter Southerner, Atlanta Parent, The Secret Place, Awakened Voices, and others.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/kim.conrey
Twitter: https://twitter.com/kimconrey
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kimconrey/
I am fortunate with two books in print. Because my publisher is no longer interested in handling fiction I was once again on the frustrating and ego-busting journey of making submissions, this time for my newest novel—The Greatest Handball Game Ever—about The Bronx, circa 1948. Again, sending out swarms of queries and receiving swarms of short and not-so-sweet cliché rejections. Except one!

A Chicago publisher asked for the manuscript. I couldn’t wait to send it.

Meanwhile, I did due diligence, finding an article about the publisher written by an AWC member, whom I contacted. Needless to say, I was disappointed to hear, “They never followed through on promises.” So I contacted four authors listed on the company website who, surprisingly, were unanimous in their praise. What a dilemma. But my antenna was up.

Then the next message. “We want to publish your story. When’s a good time to call?”

ANYTIME YOU WANT!

The call ended with, “Sending contract.”

A very official document affirmed a generous 50/50 split on royalties. That’s where the benevolence ended.

They wanted to accept the manuscript “as is,” with no further editing. I could not accept this.

They wanted me to register for a U.S. copyright, normally a publisher’s duty.

I had to agree to marketing/promotion activities determined at their “sole discretion.” They could order a 50-state book tour; if I reneged, I’d be in breach of contract.

No mention of book copies for signings.

They expected articles from me for a literary magazine they published, with no compensation forthcoming.

I sent them my concerns.

Their next (and last) e-mail was indifferently final: “Since you refused to sign we are no longer interested.”

No negotiating. No dialogue. Their way or the highway.

My issues might not be yours, but they were enough for me to challenge. Another publisher might have negotiated. This one didn’t, and I’m thankful I didn’t grab the first who showed interest, no matter how eager I am to see my book on Barnes & Noble’s shelves.

Thankful too, that I’ve learned the discipline of treating the publishing of my books and the entire experience as a business, because that’s what publishers do.

Got to go. Time for more submissions.

Bio:

After growing up on the streets of New York City, Ed Gruber became a U.S. Navy Journalist writing and producing radio programs and films for the Pacific Fleet Command Public Information Office. As an official Navy Combat Correspondent, Ed served on board aircraft carriers, destroyers and a submarine, and with Marine Corps infantrymen on combat night patrols in Korea, earning three battle stars. After his distinguished military service he had a long and prolific career serving world-class clients as a writer and creative director at international advertising agencies in New York, Detroit and Toronto, and as a freelance writer and marketing consultant. Ed wrote newspaper, magazine and outdoor ads, radio and television commercials, executive speeches, and created motivational corporate films that he produced in Hollywood and Toronto studios. He is a widower, currently playing golf and writing his novels in Woodstock, Georgia. He can be reached at edgwriting2@yahoo.com.
WRITING IN THE THIRD HALF OF LIFE

by AWC Member Anne Lovett

One of my bookish friends, when asked if he was going to a “second half of life” lecture, shook his head. “What I need is a lecture for the third half of life.” If you’re at the age when you pore over the obit page instead of sliding it underneath the kitty bowl, I have a few words for you.

I started late. Life sidetracked me and in midlife I came back to my early passion without a writing degree, writing job, or connections in the industry. But I took classes, read craft books, persevered and networked. I gained publications in literary magazines, newspapers, and other outlets for freelancers. I actually got paid for some of them.

I went to conferences, pitched my work, learned how to query. Requests for manuscripts came. Close, but no cigar. I’m still pitching occasionally, but the pitch is in a lower key, because I’m indie now.

Here are a few caveats I’d like to pass on to anyone who wants to write at a time of life when your kids think you ought to be rocking and knitting (yikes!):

You want to tell your life story. Unless you’re a household name or have done something remarkable, there will be no line of customers. Instead, sign up for a memoir class and write for your family. If you do it well enough, your kids will adore you.

You want to write mature love stories or gritty war stories based on your experience. You’ll have readers, but they won’t be around forever and they are prone to losing their eyesight. Publish indie, if you can, and keep making younger friends. They will soon be ready for you.

You’re retired from a field where you’ve been king or queen of the roost and abhor any criticism. This attitude is death to a writer. You need an evil writing group that will point out your areas for improvement.

You’ll need to play the social media game. Oh, you can skip it, but then how will you get discovered? Not in today’s newspapers.

The best genre to have a chance at traditional publication is mystery and suspense (thank you, Dame Agatha). The worst is literary fiction, as editors want new, edgy voices, and a very great number of lit-fic readers are young.

A few years back, I met a writer “in the third half” who became disgusted with the mysteries she was buying. She complained to her husband that she could write a better one herself. He challenged her to do so. And—her manuscript was picked up by a small Florida publisher on her first submission. She wrote two more mysteries in the series before she succumbed to illness, but she had a great time while it lasted. Her tales brought pleasure to many readers.

Go for it. And if you’re young—don’t wait as long as I did!

Anne Lovett, educated at Emory University and Georgia Tech, has published literary short stories, essays, journalism, and poetry. Her novels are Rubies from Burma, named among Kirkus Reviews’ best 100 indie books of 2017, Saving Miss Lillian, finalist for the Maggie Award of Excellence, and just released, The River Nymph.

Website: www.annelovett.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/annelovettwrites
Twitter: www.twitter.com/annelovett312
Corporate Writing: Clients not Projects

Would you like to turn your writing skills into a sustaining and sustainable career? That’s the focus of the AWC’s Corporate Writers Group. We meet prior to the start of each monthly AWC meeting on the Georgia State University Dunwoody campus to work on our writing skills and learn about various techniques for building our careers as writers for businesses and other organizations.

We frequently bring in experts to address the group and other attending AWC members. August’s meeting was highlighted by a presentation by Danielle Hairston, a successful corporate writer and consultant on using LinkedIn to secure work. Danielle’s spirited and thorough presentation to an enthusiastic audience covered everything from how to create your LinkedIn profile to the many ways LinkedIn allows you to promote your skills and network with prospective clients.

AWC’s Debra Bryant and Mike Shaw oversee the Corporate Writers program, working one-on-one with group members to improve their writing and identify and pitch prospective clients.

Danielle Hairston explained why LinkedIn is an excellent tool for writers and how to use it to build a writing career.

If you’d like to participate in the AWC’s Corporate Writers Group, please contact Mike Shaw at shaw@shadecommunications.com and he’ll add you to his reminder list about their meetup time and location prior to AWC meetings.
Kim Conrey’s essay "A Drowning at Dog River" was published in Awakened Voices’ Literary Magazine The Nightingale in August:

https://awakeningsart.org/2019/08/15/a-drowning-at-dog-river/

Jonathan Michael Knott was one of 27 finalists in a field of 5,539 poets who submitted a humorous poem to the Winning Writers' Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest. Submissions are now being accepted through April 2020 for the next iteration of this contest:

https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free

Beverly Armento’s The Seeing Eye Girl: A Memoir of My Life with Momma has made the Long List of finalists for the 2019 Santa Fe Writers Project (SFWP) Literary Awards Program:

https://sfwp.com/2019-awards-program-long-list/

Publication Announcement for AWC 2019 Contest Winners

Earlier this year, we held our annual no-fee creative writing contest for members—with prizes in fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. The New Southern Fugitives literary ezine has partnered with AWC to publish the winners of each of these three contests in their August 28, 2019 issue (https://newsouthernfugitives.com/). Congratulations go to:

**Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry Winner**
Elizabeth Bracken, “Sestina for My Mother”

**Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction Winner**
Harry Duke, “A View from the Sidewalk”

**Terry Kay Prize for Fiction Winner**
Albert Norton, Jr, “Stink”
Books, Beverages & Bites with *New York Times* bestseller Patti Callahan Henry and Lynn Cullen

Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Peachtree Corners City Hall, 310 Technology Parkway, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Lynn Cullen is the author of *The Creation of Eve*, named among the best fiction books of 2010 by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and as an April 2010 Indie Next selection. She is also the author of numerous award-winning books for children, including the young adult novel *I Am Rembrandt’s Daughter*, which was a 2007 Barnes & Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection, and an ALA Best Book of 2008.

Patti Callahan Henry is a *New York Times* best-selling author of fourteen novels, including the historical fiction, *Becoming Mrs. Lewis - The Improbable Love Story of Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis*. Her fifteenth novel is *The Favorite Daughter*. She is a finalist in the Townsend Prize for Fiction, an Indie Next Pick, an OKRA pick, and a multiple nominee for the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) Novel of the Year.

**A HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAM**

Globe Issues Series Discussion THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO – A PARTNERSHIP TESTED

Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Gwinnett County Public Library, Lawrenceville Branch, 1001 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

The program aims to present the history and all sides of each issue in order to inform and educate the public. Tonight’s program will cover current dynamics between the US and Mexico, addressing the reasons for increased friction in the bilateral relationship. Our guest Alexander Wisnoski, III, Ph.D. joins us to discuss how both countries view the relationship today.
Meet the Author Daniela Petrova

Friday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Liberty Books, 176 W Crogan St, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Daniela Petrova will talk about her immigrant experience, the importance of libraries in her life, and her debut novel, *Her Daughter's Mother*. The book was named “Best Beach Read of 2019” by *O, The Oprah Magazine* and *The New York Post* and one of five thrillers to read this summer by *Time Magazine*! Petrova is a recipient of an Artist Fellowship in Writing from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Her short stories, poems and essays have been published in *The New York Times, The Washington Post, Salon*, and *Marie Claire*. Born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria, Petrova currently lives in New York City.

An evening with Best Selling author Kyle Mills - A Mitch Rapp - Vince Flynn series novel

Monday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Gwinnett County Public Library Peachtree Corners Branch, 5570 Spalding Drive, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Kyle is fascinated with the dark side of politics and well connected to the intelligence community. He has authored 13 books under his name and is finishing the Vince Flynn series from notes left by Flynn for the six published books. *Lethal Agent* is his current book. Books for sale and signing.
Morning Book Club Meeting
Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30 am
For our morning book club meeting in September, we will be meeting to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles! Amor is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Rules of Civility* - it's sure to be a great discussion! Be sure to grab your copy from us - we offer a 20% discount on all book club books!

For the Kids:

Storytime
*Fridays at 10:30 am*
Join us Friday mornings at 10:30 am for a drop-in storytime. We read a story or two and have a simple craft. No registration needed.

Reading with Rizzo!
*Tuesday, September 17th at 3:30 pm*
If you would like your child to read to Rizzo the Dog, please email Janet.Wingard@fultoncountyga.gov. Subject Line: Reading with Rizzo at Johns Creek books and Gifts, to register for a 15-minute reading session! Bring a book from home or choose one of ours. Rizzo is said to really enjoy Dog Man and other dog stories.
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
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
Special Registration Offer for the 4th Annual Broadleaf Writers Conference

The Broadleaf Writers Association, in partnership with the Atlanta Writers Club, is pleased to offer a special discounted rate to current AWC members for the 4th Annual Broadleaf Writers Conference! With this discount, you may register for the One-Day pass and attend both days of the conference!

The 4th Annual Broadleaf Writers Conference will be held at the Cobb Galleria, Saturday and Sunday, September 21-22, 2019 and features #1 New York Times bestsellers Angie Thomas and Becky Albertalli, NYT bestsellers Denene Millner and Nic Stone, award-winning authors and poets, literary agents and publisher reps, and two days of panels and workshops to guide you through those tricky issues of writing.

To take advantage of this special offer, AWC members can register at http://broadleafwriters.com/4th-annual-broadleaf-writers-conference/ and select the one-day pass. Please add “AWC” to the “Referred By” section in order to ensure you receive a pass for both days. Registration offers access to all panels and workshops, a pitch session with an agent or publisher rep, and the opportunity to have the 1st page of your manuscript critiqued.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please email Zachary Steele at broadleafwriters@gmail.com
AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

(Changes since last month in **red**)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Genre/Times/Location</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online #1</td>
<td>Fiction, Ongoing</td>
<td>Mike Brown, <a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Online #2</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; non-Fiction, Ongoing</td>
<td>D.Nicole Steele, <a href="mailto:dnicolesteele@gmail.com">dnicolesteele@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Online #3</td>
<td>Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction, Ongoing</td>
<td>Ivelisse Rodriguez, <a href="mailto:rodrigivelisse@gmail.com">rodrigivelisse@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candler Park/Decatur</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir, Tuesdays 3:30pm - 5:30pm, ChocoLate Decatur</td>
<td>Tara Coyt, <a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All Genres, Every other Tuesday, 6:00PM at Mandarin Garden restaurant</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher, <a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA Novels and Novellas, Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Rd.</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant, 404-909-0189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres, 1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo, 770-274-5240</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story, Memoir, 1st Saturday 9:30AM - noon at Member’s Home</td>
<td>Kerry Denney, <a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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### AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

(changes in red)

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Roswell</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Wednesdays, every 2 weeks, 6:00-8:00PM @ Scooter's Coffee</td>
<td>Kim Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
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<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Jane Shirley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:15 - 9:00PM @ Scooter's Coffee</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com">gjweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon, 10:30AM - 12:30PM @ Roswell Library</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jeremylogan.author@gmail.com">jeremylogan.author@gmail.com</a></td>
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<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>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com">sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com</a></td>
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<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>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:osrtrain@att.net">osrtrain@att.net</a></td>
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<td>Poetry</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesdays from 6-8PM @ coffee shop</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lizbizz7@bellsouth.net">lizbizz7@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<td>Snellville</td>
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<td>Meet at the Snellville Branch of the Gwinnet County Public Library on 1st Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Joyce Sewell</td>
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<td>Snellville</td>
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<td>Meet at member's house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon</td>
<td>Lynda Fitzgerald</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lyndafitz@yahoo.com">lyndafitz@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Virginia Highlands</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. @ member's house</td>
<td>Cindy Tolbert</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cindy@cltolbert.com">cindy@cltolbert.com</a></td>
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**Want to Start Your Own Critique Group?**
Current Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) members can start their own critique groups, to focus on particular genres and/or serve a specific geographic area. The AWC will advertise your group on our website and in the monthly eQuill newsletter. To get started, please contact AWC 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 Wein-stein’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
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.