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
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Secretary: Bill Black
Treasurer: Jerry Weiner
Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Events this month

January 11 – Brad Taylor’s talk about his writing process, free and open to public, at GSU-Dunwoody, Bldg. NB cafeteria

January 18 – AWC Meeting with Lynn Cullen and Joshilyn Jackson for members and first-time guests at GSU-Dunwoody, Bldg. NC auditorium

Antonio La Cava, a retired school teacher, transformed his 3-wheeler into a tiny mobile library to spread the joy of books to children in the remote places of Italy. Every week, he announces his arrival in the village squares with the sound of an organ. The children eagerly wait for him and then congregate on steps to browse the books. Does it really get any better than that?

BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS THERE’S FACEBOOK
https://www.facebook.com/Atlanta-Writers-Club-218575894874539
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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Since I joined the Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) in 2001 and volunteered for various roles starting in ’02, I discovered a surprising benefit of becoming active in such an organization: it literally changes your life.

Every one of my best friends—and nearly all my good friends and acquaintances—are people I’ve met through the AWC. These are the people I socialize with, the ones I contact in good times and bad, the ones who play every significant role in my life. And I wouldn’t know any of them if not for our mutual love of writing and reading and our desire to find a likeminded tribe. Now they comprise my entire support system.

My publisher is a former AWC member I befriended when he used to attend our Atlanta Writers Conferences as an author with a manuscript he was pitching. If I hadn’t launched the conference and engaged with participants, I might not have a publisher today.

The most important people in my life are among those in my critique group. They joined the group to get feedback on their work but they stayed active in part because of the friendships we’ve developed. Some of us have become integral to each other’s wellbeing and happiness. That’s quite a transition from the time they joined the group as strangers, and quite a bargain: a bit of courage and effort on their part has given them—and enabled them to give—support on every level.

The importance of support for writers is a neglected topic, but it’s critical to our ability to persevere during low points and thrive when the breaks finally go our way. Some of us feel that we require permission to write or we seek advice about how to carve out the time to do so. Others need encouragement to keep revising and querying and trying our luck at conferences and then revising some more. Sharing accommodations and pooling resources can help us attend those conferences, take more classes, and perhaps forego lucrative opportunities in favor of writing. When we do have a book for sale, support comes from sharing news of it, showing up to our book talks and signings, and adding to our sales tally (which sometimes helps us avoid a shutout when no strangers are buying).

These benefits only accrue, though, when we actively engage with other people in the organization. We can’t sit silently at a mixer or in the meeting room and hope someone talks to us. We can’t go to a conference and wait to be engaged by our seatmates. We can’t do nothing to support our fellow members but expect others to buy our books, post reviews, and talk up our events. We must take the first step, be the first to say hello, have the courage to connect with those we don’t yet know…but who might become the most important people in our lives.

We get by with a whole lotta help from our friends. I’m so thankful for, and grateful to, my support system. I encourage you to participate in our 2020 events and volunteer when you can. You’ll change your life in wonderful, surprising ways.

George Weinstein is the AWC President, Atlanta Writers Conference Director, and author of six novels, including the suspense-thriller *Watch What You Say*, which was published in November 2019 ([www.GeorgeWeinstein.com](http://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
  - Operations – help us recruit and follow up with volunteers for our meetings and workshops, book festivals, and other events
  - 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

- Emcee and timekeeper for Member Minute pre-meeting presentations

- Decatur Book Festival booth attendees to recruit potential new members

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!
### WGC EVENT CALENDAR

All events at GSU-Dunwoody auditorium unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JANUARY 11</strong></td>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>GSU-Dunwoody, Bldg. NB cafeteria</td>
<td>Brad Taylor discusses his writing process, free and open to public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JANUARY 14</strong></td>
<td>5:00-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Peachtree Corners</td>
<td>Dinner with Authors event featuring J.T. Ellison and Kimberly Belle</td>
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</table>
| **JANUARY 18, 2020** | 12:45-4:00 p.m. |                                   | 1st Guest Speaker – Lynn Cullen  
                      |                             | 2nd Guest Speaker - Joshilyn Jackson |

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

**Members Offering Carpools:**
David Caprita will provide transportation to meetings for any members located in the Fayetteville/Peachtree City area. To arrange to carpool with David, contact him at dcaprita@gmail.com or 310-962-4690.
DECEMBER MEETING PHOTOS
by VP of Public Relations Phil Fasone

December 7 Holiday Book Signing Party at Johns Creek Books & Gifts:

December 8 Holiday Book Signing Party at Read It Again Books:

AWC President George Weinstein

Guest Speaker: Literary Agent Caroline George
CAROLINE GEORGE
Associate Agent at Cyle Young Literary Elite
caroline@cyleyoung.com

PITCH, PLEASE:
AN AGENT’S GUIDE TO PITCHES AND QUERIES

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS:
How does an author-agent relationship work?
What are the differences between a pitch and query?
Elevator pitch, premise, and hook—what are they, and why are they needed?

AVOID:
- Gimmicks.
  Literary agents look for specific information in each query and pitch, and they want confirmation the author possesses a level of professionalism. To capture a literary agent’s attention, offer your book’s information in an easy to understand format.

- Spammimg.
  Find literary agents interested in your genre and subject matter, and cater your queries to each person. Many agents will delete generic queries that appear copy-and-pasted.

- Excessive blurbs.
  When you pitch and/or query a literary agent, be sure to offer a concise premise of your book, not a full synopsis. An effective premise expresses the book’s plot, stakes, and target audience. In a pitch session, a concise premise will give you more time to discuss your book with the agent.

INCLUDE:
- Personalization. Show the agent you took time to research their interests. For example: “Hello (Insert First Name), I’m excited to present (Name of Book), a (Word Count) (Genre), which will appeal to fans of (Comparable Titles). I believe this project may interest you due to your like of (Insert Book Title, Preferences, Etc.).”

- Key information, i.e. title, genre, word count, and target audience/comparable titles.

- Concise blurb. Know the difference between an elevator pitch, premise, and hook.

- Credentials and platform, i.e. past writing experiences, education, social media numbers, and organization memberships. Answer the question: What qualifies you to write your book?
YO, THE PROTAGONIST:
DEVELOPING YOUR CHARACTER (AUTHOR) BRAND

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS:

What makes a memorable protagonist?
How would you describe yourself?
Why should people care about your message?

BRANDING . . .

• Projects *who you are* to your target audience (readers).
• Sets expectations, builds community, and fosters growth.
• Pinpoints your place in the market.

ASPECTS OF A BRAND:

• Target Audience
• Personality
• Voice
• Color Scheme
• Message/ Takeaway
• Consistency
• Unity
• Call to Action

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER:

• Books are accessories to their messages.
• Your social media isn’t about you. It’s about your followers.
• An effective author brand generates book sales.

THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB
FREE TALK, GOOD CAUSE

Hear international best-selling author Brad Taylor discuss his writing process, with proceeds from sales of his latest book to benefit the Books for Heroes charitable foundation.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 2:00-4:00p.m.
Georga State University: Perimeter College - 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338
Building NB, 2nd Floor Cafeteria

FREE EVENT, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
1:30-1:45 p.m.
Club Business, Upcoming Events, and Announcements

1:45-2:15 p.m. Speaker: Best-selling Author Lynn Cullen
(“Ch Ch Changes: Keeping Nimble While Staying True to Yourself”)

Lynn Cullen is the bestselling author of historical novels *The Sisters of Summit Avenue, Twain’s End, Mrs. Poe, Reign of Madness,* and *I Am Rembrandt’s Daughter.*

Her novel, *Mrs. Poe,* was named a Book of the Week by *People Magazine,* a Target Book Club Pick, an NPR 2013 Great Read, an Indie Next List selection. It was also a book of the month at Costco, an Oprah Book of the Week, and *Atlanta magazine* named it one of the Best Books of 2013.

*Twain’s End* was a *People Magazine* Book of the Week, a Townsend Prize finalist, an Indie Next selection, and named a Book All Georgians Should Read by the Georgia Center for the Book. Lynn’s novels have been translated into seventeen languages and she has appeared on PBS’s *American Masters.*

Lynn grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the fifth girl in a family of seven children. She learned to love history combined with traveling while visiting historic sites across the U.S. on annual family camping trips. She attended Indiana University in Bloomington and Fort Wayne, and took writing classes with Tom McHaney at Georgia State.

She wrote children’s books as her three daughters were growing up, while working in a pediatric office, and later, on the editorial staff of a psychoanalytic journal at Emory University. While her camping expeditions across the States have become fact-finding missions across
Europe, she still loves digging into the past. However, she does not miss sleeping in musty sleeping bags. Or eating canned fruit cocktail.

2:15-2:45 p.m. Speaker: Best-selling Author Joshilyn Jackson
("Ch Ch Changes: Follow Your Heart or Follow the Market?")

Joshilyn Jackson's newest book, Never Have I Ever, is a departure for her: a dark, deliciously addictive tale of domestic suspense. Joshilyn's books have been translated into a dozen languages, have won SIBA's Novel of the Year award, have three times been #1 Book Sense Pick, have twice won Georgia Author of the Year awards, have three times been shortlisted for the Townsend Prize for Fiction, and have been a finalist for the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction.

A former actor, Jackson reads the audio versions of both her own novels and the books of other writers; her work in this field has been nominated for the Audie Award, was selected by AudioFile Magazine for their best of the year list, won three Earphones awards, made the 2012 Audible All-Star list for highest listener ranks/reviews, and garnered three Listen Up awards from Publisher's Weekly.

She serves on the board of Reforming Arts, a nonprofit that runs education-in-prison and reentry programs. Reforming Arts fosters the development of critical and creative thinking skills, encouraging students to build livable lives both during and post-incarceration. Through this organization, Joshilyn has taught creative writing, composition, and literature inside Georgia's maximum security facility for women.

2:45-3:15 p.m. Book signing in cafe for Lynn Cullen and Joshilyn Jackson

3:15-3:45 p.m. Lynn Cullen and Joshilyn Jackson back on stage and in conversation

3:45-4:00 p.m. Audience Q&A

4:00 p.m. Book signing in cafe for Lynn Cullen and Joshilyn Jackson
May 8-9, 2020 ATLANTA WRITERS CONFERENCE

Register now to attend our 21st Atlanta Writers Conference, on May 8-9, 2020 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 May 8-9, 2020 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.

(Continued on page 14)
• 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 (more than 90% of pitch awards at the October 2019 conference went to those doing this activity).
• Pre-conference edit of your manuscript submission months before the conference by a freelance editor of your choice (65% of those winning any award at the October conference did this pre-conference edit).
• Workshop on troubleshooting your manuscript by Steven James, national bestselling author and Master Class instructor at 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 Steven James on the elements of story and creating plot twists.
  ◦ Two presentations by author of nonfiction and novels Rona Simmons about writing nonfiction and crafting marketing plans.
  ◦ Two presentations by author and award-winning former investigative reporter Steven Cooper about the myths and realities of the publishing process and researching your book like a journalist.
  ◦ Private mixer with all agents, acquisitions editors, and special guest Steven James.
  ◦ 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
We’re now accepting registrations. 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/

We hope you'll be able to join us!

After you read the website materials, if you still have questions please contact Atlanta Writers Conference Director and AWC President George Weinstein at awconference@gmail.com.

AWC MEMBER ACCOLADE

AWC VP of Operations Kim Conrey's essay "Smile, Damn It" was named as one of the top 12 readers’ favorite stories in The Bitter Southerner Folklore Project for 2019:

https://bittersoutherner.com/the-best-of-the-folklore-project-2019

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If you would like to announce a publishing credit, agent representation, the acquisition of your manuscript by a publisher, a new self-published title, or any other achievement, please email the details with your publicity photo/headshot/selfie and book cover (if applicable) to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org.
AWARDS:
Each award carries a $300 cash prize, a plaque, and publication in *The New Southern Fugitives*. Winners will be announced at our club meeting on April 18, 2020.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- Terry Kay Prize for Fiction
  (Maximum, 3000 words)

- Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction
  (Maximum, 3000 words)

- Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry
  (Maximum, 90 lines)

ELIGIBILITY:
The AWC 2020 Writing Contest is open to: **All current, paid club members.** If you’re unsure of your membership status, before submitting your entry please contact Membership VP Yvonne Green at yvonne-green1000@gmail.com. (To join AWC or renew your membership, please go to [https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/](https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/).

  Submissions must be *original, unpublished*, and previously *un-awarded work*.

  Entrants may submit only one piece to only one category per contest year.

DEADLINE:
Midnight, March 21, 2020. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

For contest guidelines and submission instructions, please go to our website: [https://atlantawritersclub.org/annual-writing-contest/](https://atlantawritersclub.org/annual-writing-contest/)
– An Invitation to AWC Members

January 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Our Dinner Guests: J.T. Ellison and Kimberly Belle

J.T. Ellison is the New York Times bestselling author of thrillers and crime fiction. Her latest novel is Good Girls Lie.

Kimberly Belle is a USA Today and Wall Street Journal bestselling author of domestic suspense. Her latest novel is Dear Wife.

Each AWC member who attends will be responsible for paying for your meal AND purchasing a copy of J.T.’s Good Girls Lie and Kimberly’s Dear Wife 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 Peachtree Corners, 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 J.T. and Kimberly to their 7:00 speaking engagement at Peachtree Corners City Hall, Community Chest Room, 310 Technology Parkway, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092. Their 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.
THE AUTHOR

THE BOOK
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek showcases a first in literary novels: a bold and unique story inspired by the history of the blue-skinned people of Eastern Kentucky and the Appalachian Pack Horse Library Project. Kim Richardson’s novel is a story of hope and heartbreak, raw courage and strength, splintered with poverty and oppression.

Through Pack Horse Project librarian Cussy Mary Carter, also known as Bluet, the author conveys a powerful message about how the written word affects people: bringing comfort and joy, instilling literacy, and providing a fleeting retreat to faraway lands. The book is historical fiction at it’s best: a compelling story told with compassion for those living in extreme poverty and hardship, facing discrimination, and yet persevering.

THE EVENTS
15th Annual Roswell Reads Literary Luncheon Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 11 a.m. Roswell Adult Recreation Center 830 Grimes Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia To register go to: https://roswellreads2020.eventbrite.com

Writing Workshop: Path to Publication Friday, March 13, 2020, at 1 p.m. Roswell City Hall, Room 220 38 Hill Street, Roswell

www.RoswellReads.com

ROSWELL READS
Roswell Reads promotes the value of reading, literacy and lifelong learning through the shared community-wide experience of reading and discussing a common book.
As part of the 15-year anniversary of Roswell Reads, they are also presenting **Roswell Reads Rewind**. It is their way of “bringing back” two authors from 2019 you may have missed or wanted to see again. There is no charge for any of the following:

**East Roswell Library**
Saturday, February 15: 1 pm – Delia Owens presentation video; 2:30 pm – Rick Bragg luncheon video

**Roswell Library**
Wednesday, February 19: 1:30 – 3 pm: – Delia Owens video; 3:30-5 pm: – Delia Owens video

Friday, February 21: 10:30 – 12 am: Rick Bragg writing workshop video; 1- 2:30 pm: Rick Bragg luncheon video

Sunday, February 23: 2:30 – 4 pm: Delia Owens video; 4:30 – 6 pm: Rick Bragg luncheon video
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!
Drinks and Dessert with #1 New York Times and Edgar Award winning duo Iris and Roy Johansen
Tuesday, January 7 at 7:30 pm
Peachtree Corners City Hall, 310 Technology Parkway NW, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Investigator Kendra Michaels -- whose former blindness has left her with uniquely insightful observational skills -- must put her life on the line to catch a terrifying murderer setting his sights on some of society's most vulnerable in this electrifying new novel from the #1 New York Times and Edgar Award winning writing duo Iris and Roy Johansen. Join Iris and Roy and enjoy the silent auction and complimentary wine and desserts! Autographed books for sale.

Meet the Author: Brad Taylor
Saturday, January 11 at 7:00 pm
Gwinnett Library 5570 Spalding Drive, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Former Special Forces Officer Brad Taylor is the New York Times bestselling author of over 13 novels. His latest action-packed thriller, Hunter Killer, follows Pike Logan, Jennifer Cahill, and the Taskforce as they track Russian assassins to Brazil. Autographed books for sale.

Book talk with #1 NYT Bestselling Authors Lauren Willig, Karen White, and Beatriz Williams
Monday, January 13 at 7:30 pm
Kaufman Library Building L, Heritage Room, 3rd Floor
Visitor Parking Lot 3000, Lonnie Harvel Blvd, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Bestselling authors Karen White, Lauren Willig, and Beatriz Williams have teamed up again to write a collaborative novel linking three women from two different centuries who are connected to the ill-fated RMS Lusitania. If you loved The Forgotten Room and The Glass Ocean, you'll love All The Ways We Said Goodbye even more! Free and open to the public! For more information or to subscribe to the author event emails at events@gwinnettpl.org.

Meet the Authors- An evening with J.T. Ellison and Kimberly Belle
Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm
Peachtree Corners City Hall, Community Chest Room, 310 Technology Parkway, Peachtree Corners, GA. 30092

J.T. Ellison is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of more than 20 critically acclaimed novels, including Tear Me Apart, Lie to Me, and All the Pretty Girls. Her latest novel is Good Girls Lie. J.T. will be onstage with NYT bestselling author Kimberly Belle. Refreshments and auction items courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Autographed books for sale, silent auction and refreshments. For more information or to subscribe to the author event emails: events@gwinnettpl.org.
GCPL in partnership Southern Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators present: 
SCBWI 2020 Vision Writer’s Workshop
Saturday, Jan 25 at 1pm - 3pm
Gwinnett Library, 361 Main Street, Suwanee, GA 30024

Both teens and adults are welcome to join us as we talk about getting started writing a children's book or story. Learn how the pros work when co-writing a book. Share your work and enjoy helpful feedback. Free and open to the public. Presenter's books are available to purchase after the event.

Meet the Author & Emory Professor: CAROL ANDERSON
Sunday, January 26 at 3:00 pm
Gwinnett Library 1001 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville 30046

Carol Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler professor of African American Studies at Emory University. Her latest book, One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters are Treated Equally, focuses on the aftermath of the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Autographed books for sale.

Meet Noted Georgia Historian and Author: LISA RUSSELL
Monday, January 27 at 6:30 pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse 185 E Crogan Street, Lawrenceville 30046
Parking available at 153 E Crogan Street.

In partnership with Gwinnett Historical Society GCPL presents Lisa Russell. She will talk about the forgotten history that lurks below the lakes The Army Corp of Engineers created in Georgia. Learn more about these deserted ghost towns. Autographed books for sale.
Join ASJA members March 21-28, 2020

Walk through Old Havana, sip mojitos at sunset, talk with journalists and a TV news anchor about political and global issues. Find out about a union for writers. Hear urban planners and restoration specialists tell why Havana looks as it does. Listen to Afro-Cuban activists speak out about race issues.

Attend exclusive performances of renowned musicians, visit the private studios of celebrated artists, and drink and dine at paladars (private restaurants), recently introduced as part of Raul Castro’s economic reforms. Experience Cuba.

From Havana to Cienfuegos to Trinidad...

Leave Havana, the 2.1 million population capital, behind. Ride an air-conditioned bus across the island to the colonial city of Cienfuegos... and from there, back in time 500 years to the cobbled streets of Trinidad. Both are UNESCO World Heritage cities.

Your journey will be hosted by Charles Bittner, an expert on Cuban culture and a professor of sociology at St. John’s University. Charles has made more than thirty trips to Cuba.

The cost of this March 21 – 28, 2020 weeklong tour is $3885/ $4285 per person for double/single occupancy, which includes five nights at the four-star NH Capri Hotel de Habana, two evenings at a private guesthouse in Trinidad, all ground transportation within Cuba, guided tours, seminars, lectures, entrance to Cuba’s preeminent museums and attractions, several private music concerts and dance performances, almost all your meals, including libations, and many other captivating activities and events. Airfare to Havana not included. Itinerary: https://asja.org/CubaTrip2019/itinerary, Register: https://asja.org/CubaTrip2019/registration To secure your spot, you will need to complete the registration form and pay a $1,500 deposit.

For more information, call Charles Bittner at 617-833-1435 or email him at: charles@interculturaltravel.com

Travel to Cuba is legal and authorized under a “support for the Cuban people” license.

A portion of the proceeds will help support ASJA.
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:

- Category of event (e.g., book launch, signing, talk, reading)
- Date, time, and location of the event
- Any other event details (agenda, RSVP requirement, public/private, etc.)
- Say something about your book(s) and yourself in a paragraph or two
- Your publicity photo/headshot/selfie
- 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 President George Weinstein**

December 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Open to the Public

Posman Books – Ponce City Market
675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, C197
Atlanta, GA 30308

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 six novels, including historical fiction, a mystery, and women’s fiction. In November 2019, his suspense thriller *Watch What You Say* was 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.
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
## AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

<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>Alpharetta</td>
<td>Fiction/Non-Fiction</td>
<td>Every Monday 7:00-8:30 pm, Barnes and Noble on Northpoint Parkway</td>
<td>April Love-Fordham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loveford@gmail.com">loveford@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 Dolcemasco</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>Liburn</td>
<td>&quot;Write Here, Right Now&quot; shares writing techniques and offers constructive feedback</td>
<td>Meets monthly from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 1st or 2nd Thursday at the Gwinnett Mountain Park Library Branch</td>
<td>Ashley Melonson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amelonson@gwinnettpl.org">amelonson@gwinnettpl.org</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Genre(s)</td>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Contact Info</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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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><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
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</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>Poetry</td>
<td>Wednesdays, every 2 weeks, 6:00-8:00PM @ Scooter's Coffee</td>
<td>Kim Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com">wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</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 6:15 - 9:00PM @ Scooter's Coffee</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giweinstein@yahoo.com">giweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(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>Suwanee</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ George Pierce Park Community Center</td>
<td>Lexy Petrick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lpetrick2002@yahoo.com">lpetrick2002@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 Atlanta Writers Club
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:  □ 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 $______________

Mail check and form to: Atlanta Writers Club  Total $______________
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.