Atlanta Writers Club - founded in 1914
We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

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

Events this month

12 Bennett Coles’ Quarterly Online Presentation with Q&A: Story Structure
15 AWC Meeting with Amy Deuchler and Trudy Nan Boyce for members and first-time guests at GSU-Dunwoody, Bldg. NC auditorium

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 Carpool:
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.

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

The Atlanta Writers Club
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One of the many reasons to join the Atlanta Writers Club and go to the Atlanta Writers Conference is to meet others who are on the same journey as you. Many of them could be further along that path and will be fonts of valuable information and advice. Unless you have just begun, you will be further along than some others, and you can provide the same service for them (i.e., pay it forward). If you’re just starting out, one day you will be able to answer others’ questions, and I hope you’ll remember when you knew nothing and benefited from your colleagues’ compassion.

As a whole, writers are eager to share the knowledge they’ve amassed and offer advice. But you have to ask—otherwise, they won’t know you’re seeking answers.

Here is a sampling of the questions I recommend asking fellow writers who have already trod the path that still lies ahead of you:

1. **Can you recommend any editors?**

Even renowned writers have editors who make their work better by pointing out blind spots, challenging the writer to achieve more in a given scene, tightening prose, and so on. If you remember the novels of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and/or Thomas Wolfe, thank their editor, Maxwell Perkins. An editor can help you make a mediocre book better or a good book great. Referrals to good editors are to be prized and passed along.

2. **How did you find your publisher, or What was your self-publishing process?**

With the traditionally published, this can lead to discussions about where they found their agent (which is step #1) or learned about their publisher that accepted unagented submissions. With the self-published, you can learn about best practices to follow and pitfalls to avoid. In either case, you will discover resources (e.g., websites, books, and other writers) you probably didn’t know about and that could change your life.

3. **What social media do you use to help with writing and/or promoting, and why?**

There seems to be a ceaseless migration from one platform to another as the Powers That Be anoint one as “hot” and others as “ passé.” With a plethora of options, you need advice about how different writers engage their audience and/or other writers or publishing industry professionals and what strategies seem to be most effective.

4. **How do you get customer reviews on Amazon and Goodreads?**

Garnering lots of 5- and 4-star reviews will make the difference between a book finding and growing an

(Continued on page 5)
audience versus lingering in the limbo of an Amazon ranking in the millions. Ask writers with books for sale how they get purchasers to post reviews—or why such attempts haven’t worked as desired. I routinely see authors begging their social media followers for reviews, so this is an area where many writers struggle.

5. What (or Who) are you reading?
Ask this especially of writers who work in your genre. I’m perpetually amazed when I meet writers who don’t read. Reading is the best way to learn the craft. Recently published books show you how high the publisher has set the bar for quality in a given genre. When writers tell you they don’t read, I recommend treating any advice you receive with some skepticism. There’s an implicit arrogance in that attitude. If you hear “I don’t have time to read,” that too is a warning sign. Follow up on that answer by asking, “What TV shows and movies do you like?” I’ll bet you get a laundry list. As much as I enjoy watching movies to learn more about dialog and plotting, nothing replaces seeing the words the author chose and how these were strung together to evoke an emotion, convey action, provide information, or reveal character. When you do get recommendations, give those a try. Find authors whose quality you’d love to emulate and, every time you sit down to read their books, think to yourself, “Pay attention. Class is in session.”

As you talk to other writers, many more questions will occur to you, of course. Also pay attention to the questions being asked of you by those who are not as far along. Some of those questions might not have occurred to you before and will provide excellent sources of conversation when you meet your fellow hikers on the literary trail.

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).
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
  
  ♦ **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

• 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](mailto:George@AtlantaWritersClub.org) — and thank you for your desire to help your fellow writers!
**JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS**

by VP of Public Relations Phil Fasone

January 11
Author Event with Brad Taylor

January 18
AWC Meeting

Brad Taylor with Books for Heroes founder George Scott

Brad Taylor book signing

Welcome by AWC President George Weinstein

Pre-Meeting Mixer

Best-selling author Lynn Cullen

Best-selling author Joshilyn Jackson

Joshilyn and Lynn in conversation

Book signing with our speakers
Bennett R. Coles is an award-winning author with Harper Collins and Titan Publishing Group (UK) and he's always looking for opportunities to help newer authors navigate the intricacies of book publishing so they don't make the same mistakes he made early on in his writing career.

On Wednesday, **February 12 at 7 p.m. Eastern**, Ben will provide a live, online presentation, the first of a quarterly series, which is free for current AWC members:

“Story Structure”

Story structure is a subtle, sometimes obscure element of writing. But it’s the framework upon which everything else depends – characters, plot, tone, ideas, narrative style. Many an otherwise-excellent tale has been weakened by a misplaced beginning, a confused ending, or the dreaded “saggy middle” when reader interest drifts away. Join award-winning author, editor and publisher Ben Coles for a presentation and discussion about story structure: learn how plan your story from the very start to maximize dramatic impact; learn when your story should start and when it should end; and learn how to tie all your complex plans for plot and character development into a cohesive whole that moves inexorably toward an amazing conclusion.

Ben’s presentation will last approximately 40 minutes, after which he will answer participants’ questions.

A week before his talk, we will provide a Zoom link for participants to enter the online learning environment on February 12.

This opportunity is open to the first 25 current Atlanta Writers Club members who RSVP to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org. If you need to join or renew so you can participate, please go to https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/.
Location:
Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus
2101 Womack Rd, Building N-C
Dunwoody, GA 30338 (cafe & auditorium)

Nosh & Networking for members and visitors in Building N-C
cafe: 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. Speaker: Amy Deuchler ("Get Heard: Benefits of and Strategies for Breaking into Audiobooks")

Amy is a Chicago-based audiobook narrator who has narrated over 25 audiobooks in multiple genres. Her voice is warm, intuitive and clever, and has been described by listeners as "a very smooth voice" and "a delightful tone for the first-person perspective." She also is an actor specializing in e-learning and radio and TV commercials. Amy is professionally trained in both fiction and nonfiction narration and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre from Marquette University and a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is a proud member of the Audio Publishers Association (APA).

On February 15th, Amy will give a primer about the importance of audiobooks in the literary landscape and the ways in which authors can turn their print/electronic books into audiobooks.

Website: [https://www.amydeuchler.com/](https://www.amydeuchler.com/)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/AmyDeuchlerNarrator/](https://www.facebook.com/AmyDeuchlerNarrator/)

2:45-3:00 p.m. Break
3:00-4:00 p.m. Speaker: Trudy Van Boyce ("Build Your Story Like a Criminal Investigator")

Trudy Nan Boyce received her Ph.D. in community counseling before becoming a police officer for the City of Atlanta. During her more-than-thirty-year career she served as a beat cop, homicide detective, senior hostage negotiator, and lieutenant. Boyce retired from the police department in 2008 and still lives in Atlanta.

In 2017 Boyce won the Georgia Author of the Year award and the Pinkley Prize for her debut novel, Out of the Blues.

From Publishers Weekly: “Boyce’s captivating third novel The Policeman’s Daughter featuring Atlanta PD officer Sarah “Salt” Alt (after 2017’s Old Bones) is a prequel about how Salt became a detective and introduces a cast of multidimensional characters that bring a gritty neighborhood to life.

On February 15th, Trudy will talk about how to approach your writing--be it fiction, memoir, or creative nonfiction--following the logic and inductive and deductive reasoning of a criminal investigator.

Website: http://www.trudynanboyce.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TrudyNanBoyce/

4:00 p.m. Book signing in cafe for Trudy Nan Boyce

30-Minute Insights for Writers: Why Plot Twists Are So Effective

Why do we fall for surprise endings? It turns out that our capacity to be easily fooled in books and movies is made possible by a handful of predictable mental shortcuts. In the link below, National Public Radio’s Shankar Vedantam talks with Vera Tobin, one of the world’s first cognitive scientists to study plot twists. She says storytellers have been exploiting narrative twists and turns for millennia — and that studying these sleights of hand can give us a better understanding of the contours of the mind.

https://www.npr.org/transcripts/789441553
Do you have a recent book publication you want to tell AWC meeting attendees about? Do you have two or more books you’d like to tout?

We’ve declared March our “Member Minute Month”—the second speaker slot during the March 21 meeting will be filled not with one author but a dozen, all of them AWC members!

This event will take place from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on March 21 in the Bldg.NC auditorium on the GSU-Dunwoody campus (our usual meeting spot).

Each author can speak for up to five minutes about their writing journey and their book(s). You can make this a pure sales pitch, offer an educational talk, or however else you want to introduce attendees to you and your work. Following the final presentation, we’ll have a book signing in the Bldg. NC café for all dozen authors.

This opportunity is open to the first twelve current Atlanta Writers Club members who RSVP to AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org. If you need to join or renew so you can participate, please go to https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/.

Please note that all authors will be responsible for handling their own book sales. Due to the communal nature of the café, we cannot guarantee that all authors will have separate tables for their book sales and signings; authors might have to share table space. Also, due to wireless signal issues and the lack of a GSU Wi-Fi password available to campus visitors, you should be prepared to accept means of payment other than credit/debit cards.
March 7, 10:15 a.m.
Dahlonega Baptist Church, 234 Hawkins St, Dahlonega, GA 30533

In a first-of-a-kind event, the Dahlonega Literary Festival will host the launch for **AWC Member Rona Simmons**’s latest book, *The Other Veterans of World War II: Stories from Behind the Front Lines*

Rona says the dramatic stories of World War II soldiers have been the stuff of memoirs, novels, documentaries, and feature films. Yet the men and women who served in less visible roles, never engaging in physical combat, have received scant attention. Her extensive research provides a more complete picture of the war, bringing long-overdue appreciation for those whose everyday tasks, unexpected acts of sacrifice, and faith and humor contributed mightily to the outcome of World War II. This is a timely release as 2020 represents the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Painstakingly researched and compellingly told, *The Other Veterans of World War II* is a fine addition to the World War II bookshelf. – Winston Groom, author of *Forrest Gump, 1942, The Aviators*, and *The Allies*

The event is free and open to the public.
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 per-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
CONT.

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.

FREE ADVANCE SCREENING PASSES

The AWC has received 80 tickets for an advance screening of the Harrison Ford remake of The Call of the Wild on Thursday, February 13 at Regal Perimeter Pointe (1155 Mount Vernon Hwy, Atlanta, GA 30338). Current AWC members are invited to claim up to 2 tickets by contacting AWC President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org. If you need to join or renew so you can participate, please go to https://atlantawritersclub.org/regular-membership/.

Adapted from the beloved literary classic, Twentieth Century Fox's THE CALL OF THE WILD vividly brings to the screen the story of Buck, a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life is turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the exotic wilds of the Canadian Yukon during the Gold Rush of the 1890s. As the newest rookie on a mail delivery dog sled team--and later its leader--Buck experiences the adventure of a lifetime, ultimately finding his true place in the world and becoming his own master.
AWC Member Linda Wise McNay’s children's book, *The Adventures of PhilAnThropy* was chosen as the book used in the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals *Philanthropy in the Classroom* project:

https://youtu.be/gPASZQULcIY

AWC member Rona Simmons’ nonfiction title, *The Other Veterans of World War II*, was accepted for publication by the Kent State University Press and will be released in April 2020: www.ronasimmons.com and www.kentstateuniversitypress.com

AWC Officer Emeritus and VP of Contests, Awards, & Scholarships Clay Ramsey’s article “Mud Month” was published in the February 2020 issue of *The Writer*. 
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/)
Wine & Words is a monthly author meet and greet in Dahlonega, GA., and we are looking for more writers in 2020. It celebrates interesting authors of all genres. The monthly event started out because founder Mab Morris could not drive to author or book events farther south, including Atlanta. She discovered that other regional authors had similar problems. The lack of bookstore also became a feature, till Bear Book Market that opened in October. Before then, Wine & Words was the only place readers could find books for sale in Dahlonega.

The genres we have offered readers and wine drinkers have been Suspense, Supernatural Mystery, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Historical Romance, Horror, Horror Comedy, Young Adult (Accent does carry sodas), and Americana. The authors are traditionally, indie, or self-published authors.

We’ve had some fun this past year. Ben Meeks, JD Jordan, and Mab Morris had a friendly competition of “most work done” before Ben & JD’s event, celebrated in May. There was an Easter Egg hunts for books and wine swag with Trisha Slay. The Halloween event involved a costume party and featured Peter Salomon and Jeff Strand. At Christmas we celebrated with a secret book exchange. The December event also marked the official partnership with Bear Book Market—who will be selling Wine & Words authors’ books at the Dahlonega Literary Festival.

We started the event at a winery because the owners of Accent were friends and, as mentioned, there was at the time no bookstore. Barring the annual Dahlonega Literary Festival, there were no other nearby writing events. Beyond a growing crowd of regulars, the advantage quickly became that we sold books to people who came for wine and were thrilled to discover books and authors they could talk with after their tasting.

While there’s no structure to the events, the ability to talk to readers over a glass of wine (or soda), has become a highlight of the event. It’s relaxed. Readers can come early and bring food, and they do not have to stay the whole two hours—though they certainly can and often do!

The event is on the 3rd Sunday of the month, from 4-6pm. February-April are fully booked, but May could use another Fantasy or Science Fiction writer, and the rest of the year is open. We hope you join the Wine & Words family.

Check out the Wine & Words Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Wine-Words-535033687006327/
Contact Maria Morris through Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/maria.b.morris.5
Or e-mail: maria@mabmorris.com

Recommendations and Reviews:

“It’s like a mingle or a mixer. Very low key. Safe space to just get to know people. I can’t wait to come back just for fun!”—Lindsey Brackett

“Had a fantastic time on Saturday 3/8/19 at the first Wine & Words event. Really enjoyed the open, casual, friendly atmosphere ... and even sold a few books to readers who were just there for the wine and discovered my novel by accident. Excited for the next event!”—Trisha Slay
THE AUTHOR
Kim Michele Richardson is a bestselling author who lives in Kentucky. She’s an advocate for the prevention of child and domestic abuse and the author of the bestselling memoir *The unbreakable Child*, a book critic for the *New York Journal of Books*, and the founder of Shy Rabbit, a writer’s residency scholarship. Her novels include *Liar’s Bench*, *God Pretty in the Tobacco Field* and *The Sisters of Glass Ferry*.

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.

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

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.
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!
Writer’s Workshop: "Your First Book: Start It, Finish It, Sell It."
Saturday February 1 at 1:00 pm
Gwinnett Library, 361 Main Street, Suwanee, GA 30024
Learn strategies to find time to write, motivate yourself to keep going, overcome obstacles, and finish a draft from AWC President George Weinstein. He is the author of numerous novels in diverse genres. Discover the crucial difference between editing and rewriting. Determine your publishing goals and make a plan to achieve them. Whether you want to write a book but don't know how to get started or you have completed your final draft but aren't sure how to get it published, this workshop will provide answers and inspiration.

Meet the Award-Winning Poet: Jericho Brown
February 2 at 3:00 pm, Gwinnett Library, 361 Main Street, Suwanee, GA 30024

Meet the Author: Peter Lee
February 23 at 3:00 p.m.
Gwinnett Library, 361 Main Street, Suwanee, GA 30024
Spectacular Bid: The Last Superhorse of the Twentieth Century chronicles the career of a horse who was sold as a yearling for $37,000 to a family from Maryland, trained by a small-time trainer, and ridden by a 19-year-old who two years earlier had never ridden a horse. He won 26 of 30 races and went undefeated as a 4-year-old, earning the #10 ranking in The Blood-Horse's list of the Top 100 Thoroughbreds of the 20th century. Autographed books for sale.

Meet the Children’s Author: Felicia Lee
Saturday, February 29 at 11:00 am, Gwinnett Library, 2100 Buford Highway, Buford, GA 30518
Audrey has been waiting all week for her Auntie to take her to the fair. She has fantasized about getting on roller coasters, playing exciting games, and winning toys! As Audrey prepares to leave, she quickly realizes that she is missing something that could prevent her from going to the fair! Audrey will learn the importance of putting things back where they belong.
Have you ever wanted to be a teacher, a dancer, or an engineer? The new book, I Can Be, shows you different jobs to explore. Books available for sale and signing.
The Atlanta Writers Club

FIVE WEEK WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th at 7 PM – 9 PM

Eagle Eye Book Shop, 2076 N Decatur Rd, Decatur, GA 30033

Writers! Learn how to find your own voice from bestselling author, Susan Crawford. She will guide you through creating believable and unique characters hiding in plain sight. Four two-hour workshops include lessons, writing exercises, and class discussions. One-on-one submission feedback available. Spaces are limited.

Reserve and Buy the ticket here:
https://eagleeyebooks.com/home/eventgendetails/1811

Susan is an international and bestselling author whose two psychological suspense novels, The Pocket Wife and The Other Widow, sold at auction to Morrow-Harper Collins, to Faber & Faber in the UK, and Piemme in Italy. The Pocket Wife, published separately in France, Spain, Germany, and Poland, gained international acclaim and spent eight weeks on the Canadian Bestseller list.
ONLY 105 seats available to get up close and personal with Laura DiSilverio.
Luncheon with B&N and Amazon Best-selling author.
Fun games. Drawings for prizes. Other Featured Authors bringing "Speed Dating" Fun.
Sponsors will be on hand, and we will have a bookstore.

The $35 Price includes SWAG BAG! Boxed Lunch and Beverages.

Sat, March 21, 2020
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location:
Smyrna Community Center
200 Village Green Circle Southeast
Smyrna, GA 30080

For tickets:
The Nonfiction Book Marketing Workshop is coming up soon, and we don't want you to miss out on how to Be Known, Be Heard, and Be an Influencer. Two big differences this year from past workshops is that we are holding it in April and the price is all-inclusive - meals, lodging, and the incredible workshop.

Like past workshops, you will learn from experts and seasoned authors on how to plan and organize your book marketing strategies, fill your marketing toolbox with cutting-edge ideas, take advantage of trends in social media, and, most importantly, you will have the chance to network with other authors who share your goals and ideals.

We'll be offering two tracks, one for new and one for experienced authors covering:

- A marketing plan tailored to your book and your strengths as an author
- A detailed “To Do List” leading up to the book’s publication/launch week
- Social media trends and tactics
- Tips on the best digital tools to support your marketing efforts
- An elevator speech for your book that gets results
- Best practices for building your speaking career
- Book marketing do’s and don’ts from experts and fellow bestselling authors
- Sessions on podcasting, digital ads, website best practices, and more!

[https://bkauthors.org/conference-registration/](https://bkauthors.org/conference-registration/)

When? Arrival: Monday, April 20, 2020, 4:00 pm check in
Workshop: Tuesday, April 21, to Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 8:00-5:00 pm
Where? Chauncey Hotel and Conference Center, 1 Chauncey Road, Princeton, NJ 08541

This venue is an all-inclusive location, so your lodging and meals will be included in your registration fee. (members $1299, non-members $1499)
**PROMOTE YOUR BOOK LAUNCH OR NEXT SIGNING**

If you are a current Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) member who has a book launch or signing event scheduled in the next month or two, let us help you promote it!

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

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

- 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**

![George Weinstein](image)

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>Wait*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</td>
<td>Fiction/Non-Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Monday 10:30-Noon East Roswell Library Holcomb Bridge</td>
<td>April Love-Fordham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loveford@gmail.com">loveford@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpharetta</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>
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<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 6:00PM at Mandarin Garden restaurant</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA Novels and Novellas</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Rd.</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant</td>
<td>404-909-0189</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5240</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday 9:30AM - noon @ Member's Home</td>
<td>Kerry Denney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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<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>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meet at the Snellville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library on 1st Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Joyce Sewell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbs.atpeace@gmail.com">jbs.atpeace@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>

*Wait List (contact Ivelisse to submit 10-page writing sample)
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/

**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 online at our website using PayPal at http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC President George Weinstein: george@atlantawritersclub.org
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 $__________

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.