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**March 21 – AWC Meeting with Valerie Fraser Luesse**
Discussing writing for magazines and 12 AWC members talking about their books, writing journeys, and lessons learned, for members and first-time guests at GSU-Dunwoody, Bldg. NC auditorium.

**March 21 – Deadline for annual AWC writing contest.**

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:

**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.

Tiffany Jansen will provide transportation to meetings/workshops for anyone in Johns Creek/Alpharetta. To arrange a pickup, please contact Tiffany at tiffanyrjansen@gmail.com.

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[https://www.facebook.com/Atlanta-Writers-Club-218575894874539](https://www.facebook.com/Atlanta-Writers-Club-218575894874539)

[http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub](http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub)
MARCH 2020 EQUILL

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From the contract with my publisher to agreements with home contractors, I’m immersed in legalese. I confess to not understanding as much as I should, but I’ve learned to parse most of the jargon. Perhaps I radiate some aura of knowledge and authority as a result because, at least twice a month, I receive an email from a writing colleague with a request to review a contract they’ve received from a publisher or literary agent.

I’m always deeply flattered but also quite hesitant to offer an opinion, because I’m not a lawyer. In reply, I usually recommend a nonprofit group called Georgia Lawyers for the Arts (GLA) that does pro bono work and provides referrals to lawyers who have experience with entertainment law. There are similar organizations in most states.

If pressed, however, I’ll fall back into service (read: “pleaser”) mode and agree to have a look. Caveat emptor.

After you get past the whosoevers and wheretofors, these contracts come down to clauses that fall into two categories: “what you’ll receive” and “what you must give up or have to do in return.”

The “what you’ll receive” clauses are usually near the top, probably put there so authors will get caught up in heady thoughts of success and wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, reach for their pen, and flip to the signature line at the bottom. Compared with the “what you must give up or have to do in return” clauses, the promises to you typically are not lengthy nor numerous.

In a traditional publishing contract, you may be promised an advance of $X and/or a percentage of each book sold (once you have earned out your advance, if you received one) based on whether it’s a printed book (hardback vs. paperback), ebook, or audiobook, with different figures—or entirely different contracts with different publishers—for international book sales. Few things are standard in literary contracts, and these dollar amounts for advances and royalty percentages vary widely. Some friends of mine have received fortunes even before their book has been shipped to stores while others don’t see any money unless their book is purchased (and then not returned within a few months), in which case they might make a buck a book.

With a self-publishing contract, where you have hired a firm to prepare and electronically upload and/or print your book but the rights to the book remain yours alone, the profits from every book sold should be yours entirely as well. Beware of clauses that specify the price of your book or the percentage of each sale you will receive, unless it’s 100%.

For a hybrid publishing contract, where the author and publisher both have skin in the game, a publisher is doing more work than mere packaging, uploading, and printer management, so they will specify the split

(Continued on page 5)
of profits on each book sold. There isn’t an advance given in a hybrid situation, because the author is paying some part of the product development costs.

If you’re getting less than 100% of the profits from each book sold, this is the first “what you must give up or have to do in return” item you will want to note. Sneakily, though, this figure is usually not specified—it’s implied by telling you how much you’re going to get, letting you decipher the difference between that amount and the selling price.

The other things you must give up or must do in return are specified in great detail. I always recommend writers spend more time focused on this part of their contract than the advance and royalty section.

As the creator of the publishing contract, the publisher will probably have any number of things they’re asking you to give up or do to earn your coin (in addition to having labored to write a great book). Some examples I’ve seen in one pernicious contract alone, include:
- Making the author procure the ISBNs and file the copyright for their book
- Taking away the author’s right to make any changes to the submitted manuscript or even to review and approve the publisher’s edits
- Insisting on marketing and promotion activities to be determined at a later date and at the publisher’s sole discretion.
- Failing to offer free promotional copies to the author or copies at a discounted price that the author can sell at book signings.
- Not specifying regularly scheduled sales reports so authors already making royalties will know what sales those are based on.

One reason why many authors want to have a literary agent represent them is because you want someone competent on your side who can catch such gotchas. A note about representation contracts with literary agents: in one of the few cases of an accepted industry standard, they usually take 15% of the advances and/or royalties paid to the author by the publisher. The money comes to them, they take their cut, and they send the remaining 85% to the author. You should never pay an agent to read your work, edit it, pitch it to publishers, or for anything else. Agents only make money if you make money—therein lies their incentive to represent you to publishers.

Don’t take my word for any of this, though. You really should get a professional to review the agreement. Looking at these contracts on your own can cross your eyes and make you feel crazy. Watch out, though—as Chico Marx warned us in A Night at the Opera, (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6u8AgUXPpLM) “There ain’t no Sanity Claus(e).”

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).
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 — and thank you for your desire to help your fellow writers!
Pre-meeting mixer

Meeting announcements by AWC President George Weinstein

Speaker introduction by Programs VP Jill Evans

Presentation by speaker Amy Deuchler

Presentation by Trudy Nan Boyce

Book signing by Trudy Nan Boyce
February 15th Speaker Amy Deuchler’s Slides & Handout:

10 TIPS ON WRITING FOR AUDIO:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zu_yiSPHKnQxrplTLv-Cek96gKoG4Byd/view?usp=sharing

GET HEARD: Benefits of and Strategies for Breaking into Audiobooks:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jZy8RuSl5awHVpCDRsV7AEavZFa06gl/view?usp=sharing
Location:
Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus
2101 Womack Rd, Building N-C
Dunwoody, GA 30338 (café & 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: Valerie Fraser Luesse
("Finding Stories Everywhere--Writing for Magazines")
Valerie Fraser Luesse is an award-winning magazine writer best known for her feature stories and essays in Southern Living, where she is currently a senior travel editor. She is also the author of three novels: Missing Isaac, Almost Home, and, in 2020, The Key to Everything. Her work has been anthologized in the audio collection Southern Voices and in A Glimpse of Heaven, an essay collection featuring works by C. S. Lewis, Randy Alcorn, John Wesley, and others. As a freelance writer and editor, she was the lead writer for Southern Living 50 Years: A Celebration of People, Places, and Culture. Specializing in stories about unique pockets of Southern culture, Luesse has published major pieces on the Gulf Coast, the Mississippi Delta, Louisiana's Acadian Prairie, and the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Her editorial section on Hurricane Katrina recovery in Mississippi and Louisiana won the 2009 Writer of the Year award from the Southeast Tourism Society. Luesse earned her bachelor's degree in English at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, and her master's degree in English at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She grew up in Harpersville, Alabama, a rural community in Shelby County, and now lives in Birmingham.

On March 21st, Valerie will discuss how to write for, find, and submit to magazines for fun and profit.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/valerie.luesse

2:45-3:00 p.m. Break with book signing in café for Valerie Fraser Luesse
3:00-4:00 p.m. March Member Minutes
(12 AWC Members Present Their Books and Writing Lessons)

Our scheduled speakers are as follows:
- Brad Hayes
- Caroline Cole
- Chuck Storla
- Esther York
- Jacqueline Holness
- Libby Ware & Charlene Ball
- Mary Mueller
- Michel Fraix
- Michelle Tompkins
- Patrick Scullin
- Ross Glover
- Susanne Fincher

4:00 p.m. Book signing in cafe for the 12 AWC Members

Critique Partner Wanted

My name is Michael Phillips, and I joined the Atlanta Writers Club in January of 2019. I write by the idea and I'm not a slave to genre. That said, I stick mainly to SF and speculative fiction in the adult market. I have written both novels and short stories. All of my writing has an LGBTQ-friendly element, and many of the main characters are in that category. The style is commercial, but in some cases may be considered more literary and thus upmarket.

My preferred critique partner would be someone with a sharp eye for story and voice, who would mainly look at overall story content, structure, readability, and enjoyment. I do not tend to need copyediting.

My preferred contact information is: michael@greyowlgraphics.com, 828-278-2028.
DEADLINE: MARCH 21ST

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/.)

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/
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.

**AWC member Sharon Marchisello,** author of two mysteries and a nonfiction personal finance book, will be signing at Posman Books at Ponce City Market (675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30308) on Sunday, **March 22, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Her latest mystery, *Secrets of the Galapagos* (Sunbury Press, 12/19), is a psychological thriller set on board a cruise ship. It involves the disappearance of a wildlife researcher who has uncovered a secret about an endangered giant tortoise that threatens the local tourist industry.

**AWC member Ivan Scott,** will be signing copies of his debut novel, *Redhead in a Blue Convertible,* at Posman Books at Ponce City Market (675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30308) on Saturday, **March 28, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** In this romantic comedy/thriller, Scott introduces you to British Doctor Sarah Farnsworth, whose life spirals out of control. When it looks like she will be lost forever, she meets Atlanta icon Billy Caldwell, who has 24 hours to get all his affairs in order and needs her help. But why does he need to leave Buckhead and what’s the big hurry? “This is definitely a hidden gem that is well-written and inspiring.” Energy Rae, Rae’s Reading Lounge

If you’re planning to attend, please RSVP to ivanscottbooks@gmail.com.
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.
• 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).
• Workshop on troubleshooting your manuscript by Steven James, national bestselling author and Master Class instructor at ThrillerFest.

(Continued on page 14)
• 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 and nonfiction author Patricia (Pat) Martin Holt will speak at the Carter Center on Monday, March 9, at 7 p.m. Her new book *Empower a Refugee, Peace of Thread and the Backyard Humanity Movement*, tells the stories of resettled refugees living in Clarkston, Georgia and the nonprofit organization that teaches the women to sew and sell one-of-a-kind handbags. Peace of Thread items will be available for purchase, as will Holt's book.

AWC Operations VP Kim Conrey's essay “Messiah” has been published in the latest issue of *The New Southern Fugitives* ezine (https://newsouthernfugitives.com/) "Messiah" is a poignant look back at a Deep South, charismatic upbringing and how a child managed to find her own spiritual identity. Kim Conrey was born and raised in rural Georgia where, decades later, she’s still reconciling the ghosts of Deep South, charismatic beliefs with a modern world. Her work has been published in *The Bitter Southerner*, Awakened Voices Literary Magazine, eQuill: A Publication of the Atlanta Writers Club, Atlanta Parent, and others. She lives in Marietta, Georgia with her two daughters. You may follow her on Twitter (twitter.com/kimconrey), Instagram (instagram.com/kimconrey), and Facebook (facebook.com/kim.conrey). Her website is Wild Women Who Write (https://condilnic.wixsite.com/wildwomenwhowrite).
Items needed:

1. Microphone
2. Pop-Filter
3. Isolation booth
4. Recording software
5. Headphones
6. Post-Production Tools

Make sure that your microphone is not placed near your loud computer fan or other fans or noise making devices, and also make sure your HVAC is not running as the microphone will pick all of these up and you really don't want that.

1. Choosing a microphone
This would be the ideal choice for beginners who still want great sound quality without breaking the bank: Blue Yeti USB Mic

Any USB microphone will be suitable though, as they're all made for this application.

If you wish to buy a traditional/non-USB microphone then you will also need to purchase an XLR cable and a USB audio interface (this one being the most inexpensive) so that you can connect your microphone to your computer and convert the analog signal that the microphone outputs into a digital signal that your computer can record and playback and edit, etc.

A USB microphone is like having a USB Audio Interface built in to your microphone so you do not need to purchase an interface to record onto your computer with a USB Microphone.

2. Pop-Filter
This will soften the hard air pushed out from your mouth on "P" and "T" and "Th" sounds so that it doesn't make the microphone clip or sound harsh and painful to listen to.

Microphone Pop Filter For Blue Yeti and Any Other Microphone

3. Mini-Isolation Booth
This uses special foam to eliminate the echo of the room, enhance the clarity of the voice, and to make it sound like it was recorded in a more professional environment.

Here's how to build a DIY one for under $30 or ones that are ready to purchase in different styles, depending on your preference:

TroyStudio Portable Sound Recording Vocal Booth

Pyle Sound Isolation Recording Shield

4. Recording Software
If you have a Mac then you can use the free and included GarageBand software. If you're on a PC you can download free software called Audacity. If you want something a little more sophisticated there are a lot of not free options, Adobe Audition being the most popular (available for a $20.99/month subscription), but the learning curve will be a bit steeper.

5. Headphones
You want to make sure you're listening to the recording through headphones so you are aware of any sounds that are being picked up by the microphone that you do not want to have in your recording. This could include breath-
ing sounds, saliva slapping all around your mouth (eating an apple before recording is said to help with this as the pectin in the apple’s skin will coat your mouth), or environmental sounds.

Over-ear headphones are ideal because they will not have as much sound bleeding and therefore greatly reduce the risk of feedback. Something basic like this will work great, but of course you can go fancier if you want to: Panasonic RP-HT161-K Headphones

6. Post-Production Tools
Once you have finished recording and are satisfied with the performance that you captured, you may notice that it still doesn’t sound quite as full and loud and clear as professionally recorded ones. This is where post-production comes in. It is more in the realm of a trained audio engineer but, if you’re simply using these tools on a single voice reading from a book and not attempting to mix down music or a film then you would do well to explore tools like:

- Compressors for evening out the dynamics of your voice, i.e. making the softer parts louder and the louder parts softer so that the listener doesn’t have to ride the volume dial,
- EQ/equalizers to get rid of unwanted frequencies, often microphones will add way more bass to the recording than our ears would naturally detect and it’s nice to be able to roll that off some,
- De-Essers, a tool for softening the harsh “s” and “sh” sounds that are inevitable when recording any type of vocal.

If you’d like professional help to get any of this done, my contact information can be found below. Rates will depend on the length and scope of your project.

If you want more details from or have questions for Matt Weiner, you can reach him at 404-234-7943 or rangerphone@gmail.com
Writers, if you like being your own boss, take note. Legislation that threatens your writing career is steamrolling across the country and you are in its path.

California's law (AB5) took effect in January, and similar bills are before other state legislatures. HB2474, known as PRO, passed the US House in mid-February and is now before the Senate.

These laws were intended to protect workers from exploitation but they are overbroad as written. They lump writers---and everyone receiving 1099s---into a 1930s worker classification (ABC) that requires people you write for to put you on their payroll as employees with benefits.

That isn't happening.

In less than two months under AB5, California writers report a train wreck. Publishers everywhere no longer accept work from California writers. Vox, for example, canceled 250 contracts the first week.

For how this issue would affect you, Google any of the following: AB5; the PRO bill; ABC test; asja.org › ASJA-Statement-on-Freelancing-Legislation; Welcome to Ms. Kavin's Neighborhood—The ABCs;

and check out these links:

http://www2.asja.org/theword/2020/01/07/why-asja-leads-the-fight-for-freelancers-rights/;

https://fightforfreelancersusa.com;

If you're concerned, contact your elected representatives.
PLAYWRIGHTS SOUTH in conjunction with the Hapeville Arts Conservatory is seeking new play submissions for an upcoming new play reading series. A play does not begin to come alive until it is read aloud. Playwrights South is providing an opportunity for playwrights to hear their work read aloud onstage. Our goal is to create a community for playwrights to gather in a nurturing environment. The play reading is free and open to the public.

Submission Details:
The following will be accepted:

- 10-Minute Plays, One-Act Plays; Full-Length Plays
- All Plays must be properly formatted in a traditional play script format. Plays that are e-mailed should be sent in PDF form.
- Plays will receive a staged reading with audience feedback at the playwright’s request.

Plays can be Mailed / Delivered / E-mailed to the following address:

Playwrights South

c/o Hapeville Arts Conservatory
Hapeville First United Methodist Church
3510 Atlanta Avenue
Hapeville, Georgia 30354

playwrightssouth@gmail.com

DEADLINE: Plays must be Mailed, E-mailed or Postmarked by March 31, 2020
Play Reading will take place April 25, 2020
Questions? Contact Andrea at 213-399-9568
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*.

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

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.

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.

www.RoswellReads.com
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!
During World War II, more than 12,000 German and Italian prisoners captured in far-off battlefields were sent to POW camps in Georgia. Authors Jason Wetzel and Dr. Kathryn Roe Coker explore the lasting impact they made. Autograph books for sale. Cash and checks only.

New York Times bestselling writer, Pat Conroy, inspired a legion of fans, but none are more loyal than the writers he nurtured. This panel, moderated by co-editor and Conroy Center executive director Jonathan Haupt, features authors Anthony Grooms, Mary Hood, and Teresa Weaver. They will discuss Conroy and their award-winning anthology in his honor, Our Prince of Scribes. A book signing will follow.

Explore Georgia's curiosities and wonders with this story, Georgia's ABC's by Dr. Chris Jespersen, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and a professor of American diplomatic history. Illustrator, Josie Toney, will join Dr. Jespersen for this Meet the Author event. Autographed books for sale.
Patti Callahan Henry is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 15 novels, including *Becoming Mrs. Lewis: The Improbable Love Story of Joy Davidman and C. S. Lewis*. She will be interviewed by Joshilyn Jackson, *NYT* bestselling author of eight novels, including her latest, *Never Have I Ever*. Complimentary wine and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library. Autographed books for sale.

You can also keep up with the Library events on the *Gwinnett Library System's Adult Page*. 
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Featured Authors</th>
<th>Regional Authors</th>
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<td>Jacob M. Appel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Bennett</td>
<td>Leverett Butts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Carrigan</td>
<td>Susan Crawford (*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Crespino</td>
<td>Mark Geatches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Curry</td>
<td>William N. Gilmore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Curry</td>
<td>Kenyon Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassandra King (Conroy)</td>
<td>Beth Hermes (*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Laird</td>
<td>Stan Knick</td>
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<td>Erica G. Mason</td>
<td>Meagan Lucas</td>
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<td>Dana Middleton</td>
<td>Dan Madden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Panowich</td>
<td>Latina S. McIntyre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Schachner</td>
<td>Mab Morris (*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rona Simmons (*)</td>
<td>Dennis Gentry Morton</td>
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<td>Mark Warren</td>
<td>Bob O’Kelley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen White</td>
<td>G. Andre Sealy (*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Willett</td>
<td>Alayne Smith (*)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Safari Spell</td>
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<td>Amy Willoughby-Burle</td>
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*Atlanta Writers Club Member

www.LiteraryFestival.org
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/

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**

March 29, 11 a.m. to 3 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS</th>
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<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>
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<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>Candler Park/Decatur</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, Memoir</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm, ChocoLaté Coffee Decatur</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 6:00PM at Mandarin Garden restaurant</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ncfletcher50@gmail.com">ncfletcher50@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult/YA Novels and Novellas</td>
<td>Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Rd.</td>
<td>Jonathan Grant</td>
<td>404-909-0189</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5240</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>1st Saturday 9:30AM - noon @ Member’s Home</td>
<td>Kerry Denney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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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>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Contact</td>
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<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<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>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com">wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com</a></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>Closed</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:basketcasecafe@gmail.com">basketcasecafe@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tues 6:15 - 9:00PM @ Scooter's Coffee</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com">gjweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Twice monthly, Mon,10:30AM - 12:30PM @ Roswell Library</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td>Open</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>Open (contact Sarah to submit work)</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com">sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; Non-fiction</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 2:30-4:30PM in member's home</td>
<td>Bill Ottinger</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:osrtrain@att.net">osrtrain@att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Smyrna/Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesdays from 6-8PM @ coffee shop</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lizbizz7@bellsouth.net">lizbizz7@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<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>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jbs.atpeace@gmail.com">jbs.atpeace@gmail.com</a></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>Open</td>
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<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>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lpetrick2002@yahoo.com">lpetrick2002@yahoo.com</a></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>Open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cindy@cltolbert.com">cindy@cltolbert.com</a></td>
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*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 Weinstein’s e-mail address george@atlantawritersclub.org) one month before your membership expiration date. If you haven't renewed within a week, you will receive another e-mail every seven days, with a final e-mail one week from expiration. If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired. It is a good e-mail practice to check your spam/junk folder to see if any legitimate e-mail has been misfiled there, possibly including the email you'll receive from george@atlantawritersclub.org prior to the expiration of your membership.

We appreciate your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club. Your membership dues make it possible to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings, provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest, and sponsor scholarships, literary prizes, and local writing festivals.
Regular membership dues are $50 per year per person. Students can join for $40 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $25 per year. Our Membership Form is on the last page of this newsletter.

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Here are a just a few membership benefits:

**Monthly meetings.** On the third Saturday of each month (August-May), our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers who cover a broad range of topics and genres, and come to us from many facets of the literary world. Our speakers include published authors, literary agents, editors, playwrights and poets, just to name a few. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential members are invited to attend a first meeting as our guest. After that, we’re sure you will want to become a member and take advantage of all the benefits that come with it. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings, or pay on line at our website using PayPal at [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).

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

If this is a Renewal, please update your information if necessary.

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<th>First Name: __________________________</th>
<th>Last Name: __________________________</th>
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<td>Email: _______________________________</td>
<td>Alternate Email: ____________________</td>
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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

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<td>Family</td>
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<td>Student</td>
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Make checks payable to: **Atlanta Writers Club**  
Tax Deductible Donation $__________  
Total $__________

Mail check and form to: **Atlanta Writers Club**  
C/O Jerry Weiner, Treasurer  
8080 Jett Ferry Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30350

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.  
Name: __________________________ donated $ ________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.  
Date: ______/_____/__________

No goods or services were provided in exchange for or in association with this donation. Please keep this portion of the form as your receipt.