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

Executive Director & Acting President: George Weinstein

Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors, George Weinstein, Clay Ramsey, Marty Aftewicz

Conference Director: George Weinstein

Membership VP: Yvonne Green

First VP & Programs VP: Jill Evans

Operations VP: Kim Conrey

Marketing VP: Patrick Scullin

Public Relations VP: Phil Fasone

Contests, Awards, Scholarships VP: Clay Ramsey

Treasurer: Jerry Weiner

Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein

eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Upcoming Events

October 10, 2020 Online
1:30-4:30 p.m.
Workshop: Danielle Kiowski on story development for fiction and creative nonfiction

October 17, 2020 Online
1:30-4:00 p.m.
1st Guest Speaker – Christopher Swann (The origins of a novel)
2nd Guest Speaker – Member Minute Talks
In This Issue

Click on the title to go to the page

The President's Column ................................................................. 4
Workshop: Danielle Kiowski on story development for fiction and creative nonfiction ............................................. 5
October Speakers–Online .............................................................. 6
September Speaker's Recording Links ............................................ 7
From September Meeting ............................................................. 7
Atlanta Writers Conference, November 2020 ............................... 8
Oct. AWC Member Launches & Accolades ..................................... 9
Is the Struggle Worth It? ............................................................... 12
Submissions Open for the 2020 WNBA Writing Contest .............. 13
Wenlock Olympian Society Flash Fiction Competition 2020/2021 .......................................................... 14
Reading Works Second Annual Short Short Story Contest ......... 15
2020 CRAFT Flash Fiction Contest ............................................... 16
Show Your Stuff Online ............................................................... 17
Editor Directory ........................................................................... 18
Virtual Writing Dates .................................................................... 19
A Writer's Guide to Fair Use and Permissions + Sample Permissions Letter ......................................................... 20
Want a Publishing Credit? ............................................................ 21
Join Our Member Success Webpage ............................................. 22
Critique Groups .......................................................................... 23
Membership Renewal .................................................................... 25
Membership Benefits .................................................................. 26
Membership Form ........................................................................ 27

“The road to hell is paved with adverbs.”
— Stephen King.
The President's Column

A Solution for Online Meeting Fatigue

For our September monthly meeting, we had 20 fewer participants than usual. True, it was Rosh Hashanah, but I don’t believe our usual attendee population is a quarter Jewish, so there must be another explanation. Perhaps the low attendance was due to the lovely weather that day. However, I suspect that people are getting fatigued with online meetings in general. Most of us have to do them for work, for our kids' schooling, and to stay in touch with family and friends, so it's little wonder that folks have grown weary of yet another online session.

We used to have 120-150 people attend our in-person meetings, where they were forced to get dressed, fight metro Atlanta traffic, and interact with people face-to-face, but they were willing to do it. Now, you don't have to do any of those things—including getting dressed!—but many fewer people are participating.

It’s a shame because the September meeting was particularly good. Debut middle grade author Chris Negron gave a terrific presentation about how he used rejection to create a better book that’s now receiving rave reviews and perennial bestseller Karen White offered an entertaining talk about how she and two author friends have broken the collaborative mold, with all three of them working on the same book so seamlessly that their editor can’t tell who has written which chapter. If you missed these talks, please check the table of contents of this edition of the eQuill for the page containing the link to the meeting so you can enjoy it.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no other practical options for holding our meetings, of course. We want to continue to educate you about the craft and business of writing. To give you additional value, I will start opening the meeting room at 1:00 p.m. Eastern for an all-things-writing Q&A with anyone who wants to sign in early. The meeting will still begin at 1:30, but this will give you a chance to ask me and any other AWC board members on hand anything you want to about the world of writing, from questions about craft topics (e.g., dialog, settings, parts of speech) to advice about the business side of being an author (e.g., traditional/hybrid/self-publishing, book proposals, finding agents and publishers).

This will be a little like improv--different every time, probably a little quirky, and hopefully useful and fun. I might not always have the answers, but I promise to follow up with resources if I can’t come up with a satisfying response on the spot.

Over our 106-year history, we’ve helped many thousands of people grow as writers. Lifelong friendships and even love has sprung up among our members—me included—and such relationships were made possible because, first, they enjoyed being part of the Atlanta Writers Club. It’s vital for our ongoing success that you feel engaged by our offerings and continue to learn and develop your talents. I hope this Q&A idea will give you another reason to be enthusiastic about our meetings and the AWC in general.

George Weinstein is the AWC Acting President and Executive Director and the author of six novels, including the suspense-thriller Watch What You Say, which was published in November 2019 (www.GeorgeWeinstein.com).
Join Danielle Kiowski for a Story Development Workshop on October 10th from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern that will give you the tools you need to create a story that works.

We’ll start at a global level with an overview of story arcs and narrative drive. You’ll learn the ingredients of a gripping story that will hook your readers and keep them turning pages until the very end. Then, we’ll zoom in and dig into the nuts and bolts of scenes to discover what makes readers stick around for “just one more chapter.”

You’ll leave with a toolkit of fundamental principles that you can use to create your readers’ next favorite story.

Bio:
Danielle Kiowski is a Story Grid Certified Editor, fantasy author, and all-around story nerd. As the founder of Writers by Night, she is dedicated to empowering ambitious professionals to fulfill their dreams of becoming authors.

Watch your email inbox for the invitation and online Webex link!
Christopher Swann & Five-Minute Member Talks

On October 17th, we’ll host our next online meeting. A link to the online meeting room will be sent via email a few days before the meeting.

A recording link for this meeting will be posted in the next month’s issue of The eQuill.

October 17, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Eastern – Online
1:00-1:30 Bonus open forum: all-things-writing
Q&A with AWC Executive Director & Acting President George Weinstein
1:30-1:45 AWC Announcements about upcoming events
1:45-3:00 Christopher Swann (“The Origin of a Novel”)

Christopher Swann is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. He earned a B.A. in English from Washington and Lee University, an M.A. in English and creative writing from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Ph.D. in creative writing from Georgia State University. He lives with his wife and two sons in Atlanta, where he is the English department chair at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School. Shadow of the Lions, published in 2017 by Algonquin, was his debut novel. His latest novel, published by Crooked Lane Books, is Never Turn Back, a gripping thriller about family, vengeance, and atonement.

On October 17th, Chris will discuss the origin of a novel: Novels are curious things—Henry James referred to them as shaggy beasts, although Christopher like Randall Jarrell’s definition: “A novel is a prose narrative of some length that has something wrong with it.” Unlike a typical short story, novels can be expansive and messy, and the origin of a particular novel might make for an intriguing story all on its own. Where do novels come from? How do writers determine what their novels will be about? Or can they even do that? After publishing his debut novel, Christopher tackled a second, Never Turn Back, and the story of its journey from idea to book involves Shakespeare, a Canadian professor’s online lectures, Pat Conroy, and a late-night stranger at Swann’s door.

3:00-4:00 Five-Minute Member Talks (rescheduled from March 2020)

Susanne Fincher, Michel Fraix, Ross Glover, Brad Hayes, Jacqueline Holness, Patrick Scullin, Chuck Storla, Michelle Tompkins, Libby Ware & Charlene Ball, & Esther York
From September Meeting

September Speaker’s Recording Links

**LINK TO CHRIS NEGRON’S SLIDESHOW:**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AeN7B2n7SjCkNl0g305jRhKHTVv1oz-f/view?usp=sharing

**LINK TO SEPTEMBER 19TH MEETING RECORDING:**
https://atlantawritersclub.my.webex.com/recording/playback/abd87420a5b74c9f815edf0e26e291ea

Password: 6eMtDD9M

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**Who I am**

Chris Negron

- Long-time member of the Atlanta Writers Club
- Started writing journey at Roswell Critique Group thanks to George Weinstein
- Dan Unmasked released by HarperCollins on July 28, 2020
  - Heartfelt middle grade fiction packed with baseball and comic book action
- The Last Super Chef to be published by HarperCollins on July 6, 2021
  - "Willy Wonka meets Gordon Ramsay"

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**Karen White**

*The Forgotten Room*

KAREN WHITE
BEATRIZ WILLIAMS
LAUREN WILLIG
OUR 22ND ATLANTA WRITERS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6-8, 2020
- Friday-Saturday in-person agent/editor meetings at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel
- Emailed pre-conference edits
- Our new Sunday doubleheader workshops online

Due to COVID-19, we can't provide the usual large-group experiences of sitting elbow-to-elbow in a ballroom for days of educational activities or swapping stories and sometimes drinks at a crowded mixer.

However, we can provide in-person, safe and socially distanced meetings on November 6-7 with 16 literary agents and acquisition editors at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel for manuscript sample critiques, query letter critiques, and pitches.

We're also offering our usual pre-conference edits (with a new freelancer added) via email to get your work in shape a month before the manuscript critique sample submissions are due.

On Sunday, November 8, we're offering an online workshop doubleheader with two international best-selling authors discussing topics applicable for all writers: British writer Peter James (with 20 million copies of his Superintendent Roy Grace series in print) will discuss "Crafting a Page-turner," and ThrillerFest Executive Director Kimberley (KJ) Howe will return to present a new topic: "Market Like a Boss." We can all crowd in together virtually for four hours of education and entertainment!

The agents and editors will be selecting Best Manuscript Samples and Best Pitches after their meetings. Though we can't pack in for our usual award ceremony or pose with the agents or editors presenting the awards (as conference success story Mayonn Paasewe-Valchev is shown posing in 2018 with her future agent Sara Megibow) participants will receive their certificates by mail after the conference.

In addition, to increase the value of the event, we'll be recording hour-long talks by knowledgeable authors this fall and will send the links for these along with personalized conference schedules and instructions at least a week before the conference.

If you're not a current member or you let your membership lapse but want to participate, you can pay the $50 membership dues as part of the conference registration process--you can do it all in one step on the conference registration website.

Please read all the conference webpages before you register, so you can make the best decisions about what you want to do and which meetings you want to secure. Here's a good place to start:

https://atlantawritersconference.com/the-conference/
AWC member **Buzz Bernard**’s WWII novel *When Heroes Flew* is a 2020 Military Writers Society of America Gold Medal winner.

A novel of extraordinary bravery, inspired by the true story of one of the most harrowing air raids ever flown. Fans of *Beneath A Scarlet Sky, The Nightingale,* and *Unbroken* will enjoy this unforgettable tale of duty, honor, and compassion. For B-24 bomber pilot Al Lycoming, the mission was history in the making. For Women’s Airforce Service Pilot Vivian Wright, it was a chance to put her skills to the ultimate test...and share in the burden of combat. Together, the two fly towards dark skies filled with enemy flak and fighters...and into the pages of history. With perspectives from American and German pilots alike, *When Heroes Flew* masterfully weaves together one of the most dangerous and incredible aerial operations of World War Two with a riveting tale of bravery, suspense, and self-sacrifice.


AWC member **David Davis**’ novel, *The Mistakes* was just published by Koehler Books. The science fiction humor book is relevant to current social and environmental problems and relates to senior citizens through young adults concerned about intolerance of “the other.” The book is now available in hard cover, soft cover, and ebooks on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and through most book stores.

In the book, when Hal Southerland, a socially isolated computer contracts manager nearing retirement at a federal agency in Atlanta, spots a curious anomaly on an astronomy website, he realizes aliens are coming. A slip of the tongue before it becomes public knowledge results in Hal being chosen by the aliens to serve in a very special role: king of the planet. The catch is that Earth is on the verge of environmental disaster, and this very special role has a very special task: to choose which four billion humans will be “Disappeared” to preserve the oxygen essential for both human and alien survival. What follows is a series of missteps on the path toward creating a world where the aliens and humans can live together in peace. Will Hal and his alien “liaison” Angie (who looks a lot like Marilyn Monroe) find a way for humans and aliens to live side by side? Or will the mistakes continue in this clash of civilizations?

David has lived in Roswell, GA for more than 16 years. He earned a BS degree in physics, a BA in drama and history, an MA in theatre, and a PhD in communication. This is his first novel, but he has published poetry, magazine features, and scholarly articles. He has had seventeen plays produced, including productions in New York and Hollywood.

[https://www.amazon.com/Mistakes-David-Davis/dp/1646631617/](https://www.amazon.com/Mistakes-David-Davis/dp/1646631617/)
In AWC member April Dilbeck’s mystery novel *A Sacred Thing*, the brazen theft of an African shaman’s mask ignite a dangerous chain of events that leads from the jungles of the Congo to the elite world of New York art dealers and collectors. When Gayle Brickman, a Palm Beach dealer, discovers the mask in an exclusive Manhattan gallery, she immediately recognizes its considerable value. Her plans to buy it are ended when the eccentric owner changes his mind about selling it. His shocking murder hours after their meeting draws Gayle into an unfamiliar world inhabited by drug dealers, killers and New York homicide detectives Sal Patrillo and Charlie McCluskey. In time, an attraction forms between Gayle and Patrillo, and they begin working together to find the killer, placing Gayle in mortal danger.

A published writer of feature articles related to antiques, April Dilbeck is also a long time collector of African artifacts. She currently resides with her husband in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia where she writes and tends a modest courtyard garden. She also spends an inordinate amount of time feeding the local birds and one greedy, but adorable, chipmunk.

https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Thing-April-Dilbeck-ebook/dp/B08GJZF1C1/

AWC member Christopher Swann delivers *Never Turn Back*, a gripping thriller about family, vengeance, and atonement. Ethan Faulkner is a precocious child with a brilliant but troublesome sister, a war vet for a father, and a weary mother trying to manage their family. One night a young woman rings their doorbell, desperate to hide from two men who are pursuing her, when one of the two barges in after her. The struggle leaves both of Ethan's parents dead.

Years later, Ethan has a successful teaching career and a budding relationship with a coworker. But he hasn’t quite followed through on his promise to his dying father—to take care of his sister. Susannah is not an easy person to keep tabs on, is a handful even when the tabs are kept, and quite frankly, Ethan wants her to suffer for preventing him from getting to his dad before he died all those years ago. It was a long time ago and Ethan tries to put all of it behind him. But that's easier said than done. When news of a brutal murder breaks with evidence pointing to Ethan as the prime suspect, all the painful memories of his past come rushing to meet him. Lyrically conveyed with emotion and nuance, *Never Turn Back* is a powerful story about family, vengeance, and how some actions echo through the years with irreparable consequences.

Christopher Swann is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. He earned a B.A. in English from Washington and Lee University, an M.A. in English and creative writing from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Ph.D. in creative writing from Georgia State University. He is the English department chair at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School. *Shadow of the Lions*, published in 2017 by Algonquin, was his debut novel.
WC member Lynn Bryant has released a new audiobook. Overflowing with both reality and introspection, *Peeling Myself a Soul* boldly investigates what it means to be an African American female today while encompassing the best that contemporary poetry has to offer.

Weighty issues such as race relations and domestic abuse are also explored and are marked with the same emotional resonance that is the defining characteristic of the author's poetry. Each piece is a wholly unique work indicative of the author's style; poetry that possesses a captivating feel, while remaining inherently accessible to all. Available on Amazon, iTunes, and Audible.com.

Lynn is offering free autographed, personalized copies of the hardback version to the first 10 people on the AWC mailing list who email Lynn at snika3t4@gmail.com with a proof of purchase of the audiobook (e.g., screenshot of completed order), mailing address, and any specifications about the personalized statement she should add along with her autograph.

https://www.amazon.com/Peeling-Myself-a-Soul/dp/B08JWNH4LB/
On some days, I find myself writing “in flow”—relating to a concept articulated by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, one of the co-founders of positive psychology. Most of us call it “going into the zone.” He says it’s “a state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter; the experience is so enjoyable that people will continue to do it even at great cost, for the sheer sake of doing it.”

Now that’s a glorious place to be.

However, I can find myself struggling. Sometimes it’s about the tension between my two creative “selves”—the human who mines delicate emotions and the analyst who refines text. Other times, it’s about a story seeking release and form, and I’m left wrestling with words, often late into the night. It’s frustrating not to know where the story is going, especially when I end up in blind alleys.

For some reason, I’m drawn to the symbolism of Jacob wrestling with a man (some would say an angel) until dawn (Genesis 32: 22-32). When the opponent realizes he cannot overpower Jacob, he wounds him by touching a socket and wrenching his hip. Jacob agrees to let him go only if the man blesses him.

The creative process can feel like a long night of wounding and humbling and transformation. But something comes out of it for most writers. It’s the moment we feel our humanness to the core and will out those moments in words. And that process reminds me every time: If given the obstacle-turned-opportunity to wrestle with words, we have received a blessing.

It is on us to keep striving, like Michelangelo, to coolly see the figure in the marble and then toil to free it. And we take our chance to become the artist-and-artisan.

Most find the experience worth it.

Bio: Catherine Hamrick is the copywriter for Berry College and previously held editorial positions at Southern Progress Corporation and Meredith Corporation. She writes creative nonfiction and poetry, which she posts on the blog Random Storyteller. Her poems have appeared in The Blue Mountain Review and storySouth.

https://randomstoryteller.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/chamrickwriter/
@chamrickwriter
The Women's National Book Association (WNBA) announced that the 2020 WNBA Writing Contest is open for submission. The contest runs September 1 – December 1, 2020. In addition to the fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry categories, the contest features a new category: flash prose. The addition of the flash prose category gives writers who enjoy writing very short pieces (750 words or less) the choice to write fiction or creative nonfiction.

“As soon as I became the WNBA’s Writing Contest chair,” says Andrea Auten. “I knew that adding a flash category was necessary. Flash prose presents a fantastic challenge because writers need to convey every element of a story using very few words. Each word truly does matter. And it’s fun to write!”

The contest is open to everyone. While established writers are encouraged to enter, the contest provides new writers and writers from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to not only express their voices and viewpoints but also to have them be heard on a national platform. Winners will receive a $250 cash prize and be published on the WNBA’s website, in its Bookwoman Newsletter, and in an anthology along with past contest winners.

“While we do not require entrants to write about a specific theme, right now is a special moment in history, and I'd love to see writers, especially new writers, embrace the current social climate,” says Natalie Obando-Desai, WNBA president. “We’re in the midst of change. We’re in the midst of a global pandemic. We’ve seen protestors and activists take to the streets fighting for social justice. We’re celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. I’m excited to see if and how writers tackle these big issues.”

All entries must be submitted online through Submittable. Entry fees are $20 for nonmembers and $15 for WNBA members. Complete submission guidelines can be found on the WNBA’s writing contest page: https://wnba-books.org/contest/

**About the Women’s National Book Association (WNBA):** The Women’s National Book Association is a professional organization dedicated to promoting books and literacy and to supporting women in the book world. Formed in 1917 by a group of female booksellers in New York City who were not allowed to join the all-male booksellers’ organizations, the WNBA continues to advocate for equality and representation in the book world. The WNBA welcomes members of all genders and professions.
providing access to sport and the arts since 1850

In collaboration with Much Wenlock and District U3A ‘Writers on the Edge’

- Prizes: £150, £50 and £25 plus a Gold, Silver or Bronze Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS) medal
- Deadline for entries: 31 October 2020
- Length of story: max 1,000 words
- We are looking for flair and creativity on any one of the following themes:
  
  *Five Rings*
  *Winning*
  *Gold is Only a Colour*

- All genres of stories are welcome (excluding Children’s and Young Adult Fiction)
- Entry Fee: £5 (£8 for 2 entries, £12 for three entries)

Sharon Bolton, Sunday Times best-selling author, will judge and identify the medal winners. Winning stories will be published on the WOS website. First prize to be read at a WOS social evening in March 2021.

The competition is UK based but International entries are welcome.

To enter, please go to: [http://www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk/creative/](http://www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk/creative/)
Reading Works is a nonprofit, community-based literacy program that provides free tutoring to teens and adults in reading, writing and speaking English. They are located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The contest is a fundraiser to support their programs.

The challenge is to write a story using no more than 100 words that relates in some way to one of these topics:

- water
- 1940s
- bowling
- ants.

Reading Works is offering seven cash prizes:

- Best of Contest ($100)
- Best of Category ($50)
- Best Youth Story (author is 14 or younger) ($50)
- People’s Choice ($50).

Submission dates are from October 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021. The entry fee is $10 per story. For contest rules, the submission link, and payment portal, please go to their website: https://www.reading-works.org/store/p30/Short_Short_Story_Submission.html.
Welcome to our annual flash fiction contest for unpublished stories up to 1,000 words! Guest judge Leesa Cross-Smith will select three winning stories and each winning writer will be awarded $1,000, publication, a bundle of the Rose Metal Press Field Guides, and more. We have an editors’ choice round, too! For guidelines and submission instructions, go to https://www.craftliterary.com/craft-flash-fiction-contest/

Bogle vineyards invites writers to submit original ghost story for chance to have script become short phantom wine film; winner earns $1,000 prize

Clarksburg, California - Phantom Wines has announced it is now accepting original ghost stories as part of the PHANTOM WINES GHOST STORY CONTEST that will award a single winner a $1,000 prize and have their work turned into a short film for the wine brand.

*The Phantom* story originates in Scotland as an apparition known as the “Bogle” that once stalked the hillsides of Glasgow. As ancestors of the Bogle family made their way to California, it is believed the Phantom followed. Accounts by employees throughout the years reveal the Phantom may still preside over the vineyards, ensuring the family remains true to its craft.

“Phantom pays homage to sightings of apparitions here at our Clarksburg winery, but we want to extend the experience to our fans to see who can come up with an original ghost story for this year’s vintage,” said Jody Bogle, Director of Public Relations. “We are thrilled to give creative wine fans and paranormal enthusiasts a chance to showcase their writing abilities and potentially see their work come to life in a video produced by award-winning filmmakers.”

Writers 21 years of age and older are invited to submit their short stories (max 5,000 words) to PhantomGhostStories.com before the deadline on October 15, 2020. A qualified panel of judges from Bogle Vineyards, acclaimed writers and professional filmmakers will choose a winner from the entries received by that date. *The chosen script will be announced on Halloween - Saturday, October 31.*

Complete rules, judging parameters and details can be found at https://phantomwine.com/ghoststories/.

The award-winning production company, Franklin Pictures, will produce the short film that will then be shown on social media, the Phantom website, and submitted to film festivals across the country.
Show Your Stuff Online

BOOK-READING VIDEO

Step 1: Make a video (SIXTY SECONDS MAX!) of you reading a sample of your work. Videos can be created with a phone, tablet, or computer.

Step 2: Upload your video to https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tI8vb7OdP-3PVTJKBq72XefyDXoz50gX. This may take a few minutes.

Step 3: Once uploaded, send an email to Patrick Scullin at awc.member.services@gmail.com with "AWC VIDEO" in the subject line. Let him know you have uploaded your video and include info about where your book can be purchased. Include the title and author name.

Step 4: Relax.

CREATIVE SPACE PHOTO

Step 1: Take a picture of where you write. Don't clean it up, show us the natural environment where you make the magic. You can be in the shot, or not.

Step 2: Send the picture to Patrick Scullin at awc.member.services@gmail.com with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.

Step 3: Keep watching the Atlanta Writers Club Facebook page and Instagram page and when you are featured, share it with the world.

Step 4: Learn to live with fame.

If you haven't liked our social media pages yet, they are as follows:

https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaWritersClub/
https://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
https://www.instagram.com/atlantawritersclub/
The AWC maintains this directory in an effort to assist AWC members with editor options for consideration; however, the AWC does not endorse the individuals in this directory and is not liable for any member’s experiences with these editors.

If you are an AWC member, offer editing services and want to add your information to this directory, please send an email to AWC Executive Director and Acting President George Weinstein at George@AtlantaWritersClub.org with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your email address
3. Your website, if available
4. The fiction genres and/or nonfiction topics you have experience editing
5. A brief statement detailing your editing experience of 75 words or less

For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages)—some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01–$.05/word)—and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

**BOBBIE CHRISTMAS**
Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability
Bobbie@zebraeditor.com
https://www.zebraeditor.com/

Fiction: Mainstream, science fiction, paranormal, romance, action adventure, fantasy, suspense/thriller, mystery, young adult, biographical novel, historical fiction, and more. Nonfiction: Memoir, biography, autobiography, self-help, travelogue, essays, and more.

When you hire me, you hire a professional with more than 50 years of experience. After 27 years of editing and writing newspapers, magazines, and corporate communications, I founded Zebra Communications in 1992 to specialize in editing fiction and nonfiction. You and your manuscript will be treated with kindness yet honesty. I’ve edited books for seven publishing houses, so I know what publishers and readers want. My services and pricing are listed on my website.

**KIM CONREY**
kimconrey@yahoo.com
https://condilnic.wixsite.com/wildwomenwhowrite/about-us

Available for editing: essays, nonfiction, and fiction

I’m a published author (please see website for links to my published works) with over 12 years of experience in editing. I’ve completed the Editorial Freelancers Association course on Copy Editing and studied English Literature at Kennesaw State University. References available upon request. Let’s talk about your editing needs.
KAY HUNT
kayhunt1@gmail.com

Available for editing: Adventure, women’s fiction, fantasy, historical fiction

As the former owner and sole proprietor of a graphics and print production business, I have a keen eye for detail, consistency and accuracy. As an avid reader, I am very comfortable with many types of fiction and non-fiction.

I also have excellent communication skills to help clarify questions and expectations.

DAVE SWAN
davesswan@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/dsswan/

Nonfiction topics: Politics, defense, foreign affairs, crime and legal issues, education, taxes, music, film, humor, relationships, and writing about writing.

My experience: As a journalist and all-around communicator, I've edited news and information on a wide range of issues for audiences all over the world. One of my specialties is presenting complex subjects in plain, hard-hitting language. I can help you shape your story from the beginning or proofread your final draft. My goal is to make YOUR voice as powerful and compelling as it can be.

Virtual Writing Dates

Missing the accountability of in-person writing practice groups? Join local writers once a week on Skype to make progress on your writing project! Each meeting will last only an hour. For the first 7 minutes, we'll take turns briefly sharing what we'll be tackling during that session. Then, for 45 minutes, we'll turn our microphones and cameras off for a shared silent writing session. In the last 7 minutes of our hour, I'll welcome us back for a check-out of reporting our progress to the group. These sessions will take place once-weekly, from 8-9 pm Eastern, on a weeknight. If interested or if you have any questions or comments, please reach out to AWC member Grace Baranowski at baranowski.grace@gmail.com.
Whenever you decide to directly quote, excerpt, or reproduce someone else’s work in your own—whether that’s a book, blog, magazine article, or something else—you have to consider, for each use, whether or not it’s necessary to seek explicit, legal permission from the work’s creator or owner.

Unfortunately, quoting or excerpting someone else’s work falls into one of the grayest areas of copyright law. There is no legal rule stipulating what quantity is OK to use without seeking permission from the owner or creator of the material. Major legal battles have been fought over this question, but there is still no black-and-white rule.

However, probably the biggest “rule” that you’ll find—if you’re searching online or asking around—is: “Ask explicit permission for everything beyond X.”

What constitutes “X” depends on whom you ask. Some people say 300 words. Some say one line. Some say 10% of the word count.

But any rules you find are based on a general institutional guideline or a person’s experience, as well as their overall comfort level with the risk involved in directly quoting and excerpting work. That’s why opinions and guidelines vary so much. Furthermore, each and every instance of quoting/excerpting the same work may have a different answer as to whether you need permission.

So there is no one rule you can apply, only principles. So I hope to provide some clarity on those principles in this post.

To read the complete blog post, please go to this webpage:
https://www.janefriedman.com/sample-permission-letter/
Want a Publishing Credit?

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 head-shot 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:

- 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)
- 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)
- Your head-shot and book cover image(s) in JPG or PNG format, the higher the resolution, the better

We look forward to learning from you!
Join Our Member Success Webpage

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
## Critique Groups

### Changes in RED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online #1</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Mike Brown</th>
<th><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></th>
<th>Wait list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online #2</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; non-Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Linh Pham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@linhphambooks.com">info@linhphambooks.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/Roswell</td>
<td>Fiction/Non-Fiction</td>
<td>Suspended</td>
<td>April Love-Fordham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loveford@gmail.com">loveford@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Suspended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park/Decatur</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm, ChocoLaté Coffee Decatur</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@taracoyt.com">contact@taracoyt.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Meeting online every other Tues.</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>suspended</td>
<td>Kerry Denney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kerryssii@bellsouth.net">kerryssii@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liburn</td>
<td>&quot;Write Here, Right Now&quot; shares writing techniques and offers constructive feedback</td>
<td>Meets monthly from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 1st or 2nd Thursday at the Gwinnett Mountain Park Library Branch</td>
<td>Ashley Melonson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amelonson@gwinnettpl.org">amelonson@gwinnettpl.org</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Genre(s)</td>
<td>Meeting Details</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(changes in red)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting online 1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</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>Open</td>
<td></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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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Speculative</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>Sarah Minnear</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springs</td>
<td>fiction</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>Wait list</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smyrna/Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Currently inactive</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</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>Mark Woodard</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></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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<tr>
<td>Suwanee</td>
<td>All-genres</td>
<td>Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ George Pierce Park Community Center</td>
<td>Lexy Petrick</td>
<td>dissolved</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. @ member’s house</td>
<td>Cindy Tolbert</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Membership Renewal

THE AWC HAS AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR TRACKING MEMBERSHIPS AND ALERTING MEMBERS WHEN IT’S TIME TO RENEW.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired.

4. 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.

Without your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club we would not be able to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings nor provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest.
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.

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.

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 www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

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.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC President George Weinstein: george@atlantawritingclub.org
Membership Form

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________

Cell Phone: __________________________ Other Phone: __________________________

Email: ______________________________ Alternate Email: __________________________

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): __________________________

Membership is for ONE YEAR

Individual [$50.00] $___________

Family [add family members for $25.00 each] $___________

Student [$10.00] $___________

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

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

Name: ____________________________ donated $ __________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

Date: ______/______/___________

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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