COMING IN THE FEBRUARY 20 AWC MEETING

BONUS OPEN FORUM: all-things-writing Q&A with AWC Executive Director & Acting President George Weinstein

NAMINA FORNA: Rethinking the Strong Female Heroine

CELEBRATING TERRY KAY: A Panel Discussion with Lauretta Hannon, Rona Simmons, Philip Lee Williams, and Renea Winchester
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February 20th agenda

1. **BONUS OPEN FORUM**: all-things-writing Q&A with AWC Executive Director & Acting President George Weinstein

2. **NAMINA FORNA**: Rethinking the Strong Female Heroine

3. **CELEBRATING TERRY KAY**: A Panel Discussion with Lauretta Hannon, Rona Simmons, Philip Lee Williams, and Renea Winches

Libreria Acqua Alta, which literally means “library of high water”, is one of the many businesses in Venice that floods during acqua alta. As a countermeasure, the bookshop keeps books in bathtubs, boats and a gondola wherever there are chances of water getting in. When the canal rises and the store floods with water, the books stay dry, thanks to their special storage spaces.

Stay Connected to AWC
For many of us who work from home while raising a family, it’s difficult to find time to write. Have you ever had a few blissfully unencumbered hours, perfect for stringing some words together, but find that when you sit down you have no idea how to proceed? Maybe you stare at a blank page, your creativity tank seemingly empty, or contemplate a half-completed scene, clueless about what should come next.

In the preceding days full of commitments and responsibilities, perhaps you’d daydreamed a new essay, poem, or chapter and figured out exactly what you’d write if only you had a little time for yourself. Now, here you are, ready to be creative, but your muse has gone AWOL. What do you do?

Sometimes, I admit defeat and switch my focus to editing. This is something I can do even when I’m not feeling inventive because I’m much more comfortable finding ways to make my writing better than putting new words onto the page. It’s safe—the hard work has been done by an earlier version of myself who apparently was much more imaginative and productive than the current me is. I find myself envying him even as I improve his efforts: at least he dared to create something from nothing, whereas the present me isn’t feeling bold or original.

Another thing I do is go back to my outline to remind myself where I wanted to go with this part of my story. When I started writing novels more than twenty years ago, I was a pure pantser, sitting down with no roadmap for where I was going and no idea who I’d meet along the way. That led to numerous dead ends, characters who didn’t grow or change, and subpar storylines. I also experienced many days when I felt uninspired or unmotivated. As a result, I became a plotter, outlining three acts, the major plot points, and character development arcs, while giving myself permission to deviate should I conjure great alternatives along the way. Tinkering with my outline is another favorite way of using my precious writing time for something other than writing.

Most often, though, I force myself to write something—anything—in hopes of breaking the logjam that’s keeping inspiration at bay. This approach has yielded mixed results, historically. While I’ve been writing nonsense, a high-quality story idea has occasionally taken shape and resulted in an ingenious twist or a satisfying finale. In other instances, nothing usable emerges, and then I wish I’d spent that time doing something practical such as editing or outlining.

That’s the thing about creativity: making art is hard, and there are some days when it either refuses to be made or won’t take shape in a way that pleases us. This is tolerable, though, because there are other days when we find ourselves “in the zone”: ideas flow freely, the right words come to us just as we need them, and we write something of lasting value. Those are the moments when we join hands with the timeless authors who inspired us to write in the first place. Despite the cliché, it is indeed a process, and you must trust it. Just as you can’t hurry love, you can’t force art. Let it happen in its own good time and savor when you find yourself communing with the immortals who struggled more than they succeeded, even though they made it look so easy.

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).
February 20th Speakers

February 20, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern – 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.

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

1:45-2:45 p.m. Namina Forna: Rethinking the Strong Female Heroine

On February 20th, Namina will discuss ways of rethinking strong female heroines.

3:00-4:00 Celebrating Terry Kay: A Panel Discussion with Lauretta Hannon, Rona Simmons, Philip Lee Williams, and Renea Winchester

In December, we lost longtime author, educator, mentor, and friend of the Atlanta Writers Club, Terry Kay. On February 20th, local authors who were good friends of Terry will tell stories and share memories about the late, great man.

Lauretta Hannon is a writer, humorist, and educator. Her latest book is her memoir The Cracker Queen: A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life.

Rona Simmons is the author of several novels but has recently embarked on a career as a nonfiction author. Her new book, The Other Veterans of World War II, was released by Kent State University Press in 2020.

Philip Lee Williams is a novelist, poet, and essayist noted for his explorations of the natural world, intense human relationships, and aging. His 13th novel and 20th book, Far Beyond the Gates, was published in 2020 by Mercer University Press.

Renea Winchester is the author of two nonfiction books set in Atlanta Georgia where she lived for 17 years. Outbound Train, her first novel, was published in 2020 by Firefly Southern Fiction.

Namina Forna is a young adult novelist based in Los Angeles and the author of the upcoming epic fantasy YA novel The Gilded Ones. Originally from Sierra Leone, West Africa, she moved to the US when she was nine and has been traveling back and forth ever since. Namina has an MFA in film and TV production from USC School of Cinematic Arts and a BA from Spelman College. She works as a screenwriter in LA and loves telling stories with fierce female leads.

North American rights for The Gilded Ones were preempted by Penguin Random House / Delacorte Press in a significant six-figure deal just days after submission, and the book has sold in numerous territories since. Due to the coronavirus epidemic, however, its publication has been pushed to 2021.

The Gilded Ones now debuts February 9, 2021 in the US and February 4, 2021 in the UK.

Namina Forna + Lauretta, Rona, Phillip, & Renea
January Meeting Photos & Link

JAN 16 MEETING RECORDING & PASSWORD: aBenQ6P9

Critique Panel

Ron Rash’s List of References:
Short Stories:
"The Student" – Anton Chekhov
"Everyday Use" – Alice Walker
"Good Country People" – Flannery O’Connor
The Norton Anthology of Short Stories

Novels:
Cal – Bernard McLaverty
Winter's Bone – Daniel Woodrell

Second Speaker
RON RASH
ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC 2021 Writing Contest is open to: All current, paid club members. Please check your membership status before submitting your entry if you are unsure of your renewal date by contacting the Membership VP, Yvonne Green. If you need to join the AWC or renew your membership so you will be eligible to enter, please use our online form and payment portal: HERE.

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

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

DEADLINE:

Midnight, March 20, 2021. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

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 17, 2021.

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)

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Manuscript Format. Failure to adhere to the following format will result in disqualification.

▶ DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
▶ Only Word files (.docx) will be accepted.
▶ Font: 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman
▶ Margins: 1 inch
▶ Line spacing: double – yes, even for poetry.
▶ White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images)
▶ Page size & layout: 8-1/2 x 11; Portrait
▶ First page: Title and Prize Category should appear in the upper left corner
PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**SUBMISSION RULES:**

Failure to adhere to any of the submission guidelines will lead to disqualification.

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to Contest Apprentice Tiffany R. Jansen.

There is no template for the SSF; you create the document yourself (see below) and send it as a separate attachment. The entry and SSF both must be sent as attached Word documents (.docx). The SSF is used for identification purposes by Clay Ramsey only. Judges never know the identity of any author; they see only the blind entry document.

**IMPORTANT:** Name the document files by title, i.e. Title.docx and SSF-Title.docx

Example: if the entry title is Moon Fire, the document file should be named Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be sent to the judges) and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be seen only by Clay Ramsey).

**Standard Submission Form (SSF):**

The SSF must include the following information:

1. Author’s Name
2. Prize Category
3. Title of Entry
4. Word Count (Line Count for poetry)
5. Named the document: SSF-Title.docx

Attach the entry document and your SSF document to an email addressed to Contest Apprentice Tiffany R. Jansen. Your EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:

Subject Line: AWC 2021 Writing Contest

Your name, phone number, prize category, title

Example:

Dear Tiffany,

I have attached [Title] for the [Prize Category] and the corresponding SSF.

Thank you,

[Your name]

[Your phone number]
Member Book Launches & Accolades

**AWC** member *Artemis Skye McNeil’s* Her Wilde Heart Beats

Strong (highlighted at the LA festival of books) is an inspirational literary piece, anthology, and journal that combines the author’s insight as she “collaborates” with her longtime favorite, Oscar Wilde. Housed in its pages are up-building, powerful affirmations along with thought provoking maxims, and paradigms on life as: “Use your strengths to offset your weaknesses” and “Hope is a rebellion”-which spark thought provoking discussions with women’s groups and in classroom settings. This multi-layered book also includes romance and tongue in cheek humor catering to every mood and whim of the reader. Her unique collection of work includes full themed interactive journals packed with additional quotes for goal setting, dreaming, and accomplishing. Her books are available on Amazon, B&N, Book Depository, Target. Signed copies can be purchased from her [website](#) and Amazon.

Artemis Skye McNeil is a Greek-American author, motivational speaker, writer, curator, and poet. She is a powerful writer of relevant editorial issues for our day as well as heart provoking poetry and has been featured in various online magazines and anthologies. She advocates that all voices have a fair chance to be heard and mentors women of various ages and backgrounds with principled skills needed to build self-respect and better quality of life. She has founded The Happiness Habit: Making daily decisions our future selves can be empowered by and thank us for. She currently lives in Atlanta with her husband and budgie Seinfeld McNugget and is working on her fourth book *Heavy Mettle: Words to rock your soul*.

**AWC** member *Estelle Ford-Williamson’s* novel Rising Fawn launched in January. In this book, Claire makes her living telling others how to manage their lives and careers, but loses most of her identity through credit card hijacking and a fraudulent loan that create conflict with her irate husband. He kicks her out of their comfortable north Atlanta home; Claire has no option but to flee to the northwest Georgia mountains. She claims a now-deserted trailer on the Alabama side of Lookout Mountain. A journey into family roots—Irish and Italian immigrants working coal and iron furnaces in the South’s bid to industrialize after the Civil War—turns up very surprising stories about Claire’s birth, shaking Claire’s sense of herself even more. She struggles for her true identity in the wildness of mountain ledges and waterfalls.

Estelle Ford-Williamson is a novelist and memoirist whose most recent book, set in Rising Fawn, GA, has won awards from the Sandhills Writers Conference and the Atlanta Writers Conference. Her previous books were *Abbeville Farewell: A Novel of Early Atlanta and North Georgia*, and *Seed of South Sudan: Memoir of a Lost Boy Refugee*, which was co-written with Majok Marier. She has received Poets and Writers Inc. grants for readings and workshops in Atlanta and New York, and has presented memoir workshops through the Pat Conroy Literary Center in Beaufort, SC, as well as for the Lou Walker Senior Center in DeKalb County, GA. A short story drawn from Rising Fawn was a finalist for the Short Story America Festival in 2017. Born in Chattanooga, TN, Ford-Williamson graduated from Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN and worked as a reporter for UPI in Atlanta, where she later worked as a management trainer and career specialist before writing her first novel. She moved to the Beaufort, SC area in 2016. Her [website](#).
AWC member R. Lynn Barnett was recently interviewed by Amy Lyle about her books. The interview appears in *My Forsyth magazine*, Volume X, Issue 3., p.20.

AWC member Bob Cairns has launched a website designed to encourage grandparents to write stories for their grandkids: [website](#). The website includes writing tips and original “Stories by Grumps” himself as well as a link to Bob’s Page Turners book reviews.

AWC member Pat Holt was profiled for her book *Empower a Refugee, Peace of Thread and the Backyard Humanity Movement* in a feature article in the Gwinnett Daily Post in December and a [Suwanee Magazine article](#) in January. On February 16th, she will be interviewed on Lois Reitzes’s “City Lights” show on [WABE 90.1FM](#).
Atlanta Writers Conference – May 7-9, 2021

“This is your opportunity to take the next big step toward your writing goals.”

The Writer magazine’s “runaway favorite” among voters, our twice-yearly Atlanta Writers Conference was voted the “Best Writing Conference in Georgia” – with more votes received than any other conference in the U.S. in their Feb. 2019 and 2020 issues.

Our 24th Atlanta Writers Conference will be held virtually on May 7-9, 2021 with Friday-Saturday agent/editormeetings via phone calls, emailed pre-conference edits, and an online Sunday workshop doubleheader!

Sign up if 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
Due to COVID-19, our guest agents and editors can’t travel to Georgia, so the May 7-9, 2021 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you phone meetings with literary agents and acquisitions editors along with email and online activities:

- 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, with work submitted a month in advance.

- Pitches to the editors and agents with query letters submitted in advance.

- Query letter critique by a pair of editors/agents to improve your pitch (at the October 2019 conference, more than 90% of Best Pitch awards by an agent or editor went to those who participated in the Query Letter Critique).

- Pre-conference edit of your manuscript submission via email months before the conference by a freelance editor of your choice (at our October 2019 conference, 65% of all awards—for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitch—went to writers who participated in the Pre-Conference Edit).

- Sunday online workshop doubleheader—recorded live with audience Q&A—with book buyer focus group expert Peter Hildick-Smith using insights from surveys of thousands of book buyers to critique participants’ proposed book titles, jacket copy, book covers (if available) and more in “Judging a Book by Its Title” and New York Times #1 bestselling author Lisa Gardner presenting “The Path to Bestsellerdom.”

- Free bonus educational recordings for every participant who purchases any of the activities above: due to COVID-19, large crowds are still to be avoided, so we aren’t able to offer our mixer or award ceremony or present our usual 8 hours of bonus talks during the conference. To give you more value, though, we’ll send recorded educational talks by knowledgeable authors with your conference information and personalized schedule about two weeks before the May 7-9 conference.

- Also, even though we won’t be able to hold an award ceremony, each of the 16 agents and editors will select participants for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitches, with certificates to be sent to the awardees after the conference.
More than 30 of our members have signed with agents or editors they met at our Conferences, and a number of those have scored major book deals (and one, so far, has hit the bigtime with a movie deal). You could be next!

We’re now accepting registrations. As past Conference participants will tell you, the spots fill up fast, so don’t delay!

The Atlanta Writers Conference is presented exclusively for members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you are not a current member or your membership will lapse prior to May 10, 2021, you can join/renew as part of your Conference registration—you do not need to do this as a two-step process.

To read all the details for the May 7-9, 2021 Atlanta Writers Conference, start here:

For questions, contact Atlanta Writers Conference Director and AWC Executive Director & Acting President George Weinstein.
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.

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-$0.05/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.
Email website

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.

Kay Hunt
Email

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

I have over 20 years in print production and graphics, proofreading annual reports, business brochures and related materials, catalogs, and advertising copy. I have six years of freelance experience proofreading/copy editing website pages and blogs for service industry businesses. Additionally, as a freelancer, I have copy-edited two novels as well as made some structural edits.

Janie Mills
Email website

Available for editing: query letters, science fiction, memoir, Southern fiction, YA fantasy, sports fiction, apocalyptic, detective/crime fiction, soft erotica

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-$0.05/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.
I have a master’s degree in English (Creative Writing) and have been a full-time editor for three years. I believe in understanding an author’s voice and putting in the work to get it right. I am blessed with my editing talent and am pleased to offer affordable, yet professional, editing services.

Chris Negron
Email  website

Available for query letter consults, developmental editing

Author of the middle grade novels Dan Unmasked (July 2020) and The Last Super Chef (July 2021), both from HarperCollins, available for editing novels of all genres, but with a particular focus on middle grade and contemporary fiction for adults and teens as well. Novel editing price proposed after review of sample chapter(s). Single-page query letter feedback available for $50 / query.

Stephanie Siegel
Email  website

Final editing available for nonfiction (especially health for general audiences).

I read literature and am trying to write it. But most of my career was spent writing newspaper articles (12 years) or editing them (12 years). My eagle eye for details such as unanswered questions, unsupported statements, and inconsistencies made me a valued copy editor at CNN.com, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, WebMD, and the CDC.

Dave Swan
Email  website

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.

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 with the following information:

► Your name
► Your email address
► Your website, if available
► The fiction genres and/or nonfiction topics you have experience editing
► A brief statement detailing your editing experience of 75 words or less
ATLANTA AUTHORS
funded by
Friends of the Roswell and East Roswell Libraries

presents
Jamie Weisman

Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 @ 2 p.m.

A big-hearted and clear-eyed story of life’s biggest choices---
who to love and how best to love them -- We are Gathered
is a debut novel by Jamie Weisman.

Join us for an Online/Zoom presentation
of We Are Gathered

For book purchases/autographed copies
Contact Bookmiser @ 770-509-5611

You are Invited
to the wedding
of Elizabeth and Hank

But the bride and groom are beside the point.
Because, on this hot Atlanta afternoon,
the people of the hour are
the wedding’s adoring, envious, resentful, hilarious guests.

Atlanta Authors works in association with Roswell Reads

facebook.com/roswellreads/  FORL.net

RSVP: https://roswellreads2021.eventbrite.com
Since 2013, I have been regularly updating this informational chart about the key book publishing paths. It is available as a PDF download—ideal for photocopying and distributing for workshops and classrooms—plus the full text is also below.

One of the biggest questions I hear from authors today: Should I traditionally publish or self-publish?

This is an increasingly complicated question to answer because:

- There are now many varieties of traditional publishing and self-publishing, with evolving models and diverse contracts.
- You won’t find a universal, agreed-upon definition of what it means to traditionally publish or self-publish.

It’s not an either/or proposition; you can do both. Many successful authors, including myself, decide which path is best based on our goals and career level.

Thus, there is no one path or service that’s right for everyone all the time; you should take time to understand the landscape and make a decision based on long-term career goals, as well as the unique qualities of your work. Your choice should also be guided by your own personality (are you an entrepreneurial sort?) and experience as an author (do you have the slightest idea what you’re doing?).

My chart divides the field into traditional (advance-based) publishing, small presses, assisted publishing, indie or self-publishing, and social publishing.

To read this entire article, click here

Atlanta Writers Club

The Key Book Publishing Paths: 2021–2022

by Jane Friedman

2021–2022 KEY BOOK PUBLISHING PATHS • BY JANE FRIEDMAN • JANEFRIEDMAN.COM
Viral Literature

"Viral Literature does what I’d always hoped the Decatur Book Festival would do... document the wild, glorious, and diverse abundance of talent that calls this region home. Together, these pieces tell the story of this place and time, but it also demonstrates the strength of this community of writers."
~Daren Wang, Founder of the AJC Decatur Book Festival & Author of The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

The AWC's Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia, is published by SFK Press. Viral Literature is a collection of the work of 32 of the top storytellers and poets in Georgia, ranging from the accomplished--Terry Kay (with his last published work before his passing), Janisse Ray, and Daniel Black--to talented emerging writers who are being published for the first time.

Twenty authors are from the wider creative community in Georgia, and the balance are AWC members, seven of whom were winners of a special club contest earlier this year.

The COVID-19 quarantine provided the opportunity for each contributor to reflect on the theme of “Alone Together in Georgia.” Some dealt with the pandemic directly, while others did not, but all circle the shared theme and show how these writers are finding a creative, hopeful, healing response to this crisis.

The AJC Bookshelf featured our anthology [here](https://www.jcbookshelf.org/).

This diverse assembly of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction is available in both print and Kindle ebook formats from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/), and through orders with your local bookstore: see the store listing on [Indie Bound](https://www.indiebound.org/). The cost is $19.99 for the paperback and $3.99 for the electronic version.

The net royalties and revenues will be split between The National Historic Landmark Wren’s Nest and Literacy Action, Inc., representing the literary and literacy aspects of the AWC mission.

Autographed Book Donation Request

Ferst Readers of Polk County, Georgia is an organization helping to put books in the hands of children from birth to age five. Polk County has one of the highest rates for illiteracy in the state.

They are holding their seventh annual "An Afternoon with the Authors" on February 21, 2021. The past year’s events have been a major success due to the authors who have responded by donating signed books.

They would like the AWC's help by providing one or more autographed books of any kind for their silent auction.

100% of the monies raised will go toward providing books for children throughout the year. The starting bid for each item will be the cost of one year of books, or $40.00.

The mailing address is as follows:
Debbie Ross
FerstReaders Regional Program Coordinator
300 Heard Street
Rockmart, GA 30153
debbie@ferstreaders.org

If you need additional information, please go to www.ferstfoundation.org.
MAKE A READ-YOUR-BOOK 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 AWCVIDEO. This may take a few minutes.

**Step 3:** Once uploaded, send an email to Patrick Scullin 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.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WRITING SPACE

**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 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.
REGISTER NOW
JAN 11 - MAR 18

WINTER THRILLS

MASTER CLASS, THRILLER MBA, PRACTICE PITCHFEST

THRILLERFEST.COM

#WINTERTHRILLS21
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:

- 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

An eQuill opportunity
The Atlanta Writers Club recently revamped its website! We're now featuring a page where AWC members can promote their latest publication: **SEE IT HERE**

Current Atlanta Writers Club members are invited to add/update their listing: please email your head-shot, book (or other publication) cover, and website URL to AWC President **George Weinstein**
New critique groups added

<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>Conditional-applicants will be vetted</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>FULL</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 list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #4</td>
<td>Indie Authors--all genres</td>
<td>Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm</td>
<td>J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michelle@creativityuntamed.com">michelle@creativityuntamed.com</a></td>
<td>NEW! Need members!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #5</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm Eastern</td>
<td>Gail Lash</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dgail@tourismforpeace.com">dgail@tourismforpeace.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park/Decatur</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Tara Coyt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tara@coytcommunications.com">tara@coytcommunications.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 Fiction</td>
<td>Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm</td>
<td>Susanne Fincher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfincher@mindspring.com">sfincher@mindspring.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. at 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>
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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 online</td>
<td>Ashley Melonson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amelonson@gwinnettpl.or">amelonson@gwinnettpl.or</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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</table>
# AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre(s)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
<th>Email Address(s)</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com">michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Full</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting online 1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Wait List</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Wednesdays, every 2 weeks, 6:00-8:00PM @ Scooter’s Coffee</td>
<td>Kim Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com">wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Jane Shirley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:basketcasecafe@gmail.com">basketcasecafe@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gweinstein@yahoo.com">gweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremylogan.author@gmail.com">jeremylogan.author@gmail.com</a></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>Online via Zoom every other Thursday at 8:00pm</td>
<td>Sarah Minnear</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.dwyer.minear@gmail.com">sarah.dwyer.minear@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Open</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><a href="mailto:osrtrain@att.net">osrtrain@att.net</a></td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna/ Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Currently inactive</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lizbizz7@bellsouth.net">lizbizz7@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td></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><a href="mailto:Markwoodard@gwinnettpl.org">Markwoodard@gwinnettpl.org</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meet at member’s house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon</td>
<td>Lynda Fitzgerald</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lyndafitz@yahoo.com">lyndafitz@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Highlands</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. @ member’s house</td>
<td>Cindy Tolbert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cindy@cltolbert.com">cindy@cltolbert.com</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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) 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.

Membership Benefits

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 online 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.
Membership Form

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________

Email: ________________________________ Alternate Email: __________________________

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

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

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 donation. Please keep this portion of the form as your receipt.

Atlanta Writers Club