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

GAIL EVANS (Georgia Tech professor, author, and former CNN executive): Writing about women’s issues

BERNETTE SHERMAN (multi-genre author, game creator, and nonprofit founder): Writing about family history

Atlanta Writers Club - founded 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.
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AWC officers

Executive Director & Acting President: George Weinstein

Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors George Weinstein Clay Ramsey Marty Aftewicz

Conference Director: George Weinstein

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Treasurer: Jerry Weiner

Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein

eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

March 20th agenda

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

GAIL EVANS topic: Writing about women’s issues

BERNETTE SHERMAN topic: Writing about family history

THE PHOTO USED on the cover of this edition is not considered an endorsement of the book or author.
A Message From the President

Reflections

One year ago, with cases of COVID-19 surging, Georgia State University closed their campuses, and the Atlanta Writers Club (AWC) was forced to cancel our meeting at the last minute. It was the first time we’d had to do that since a freak Saturday snowstorm about a dozen years before.

After March of 2020, though, the AWC hasn’t missed a beat. In fact, we’ve hosted more meetings, workshops, and seminars than ever before—all online, of course. We managed to do two virtual Atlanta Writers Conferences and are in the runup to our third on May 7-9. Thanks to our former president and current VP of Programs, Awards, & Scholarships, Clay Ramsey, we’ve hosted a weekly writing contest, helped to award a virtual Townsend Prize for Fiction, and produced a remarkable anthology memorializing the pandemic titled Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia. This compendium contains outstanding contributions from well-known Georgians, including Terry Kay’s last published work, as well as the first published writings of several AWC authors.

Many of us, including me, predicted that the coronavirus would run its course in a few months, so we encouraged writers to make the best use of their quarantine by focusing on writing and reading, to be mindfully productive before life “got back to normal.” A year into this plague, some of us have problems focusing on doing anything creative, and I know others who are too distracted by media to finish reading even one book, let alone the bedside stack they’d looked forward to.

Some of us have lost loved ones and friends in the past year—from COVID or otherwise—and others have battled the virus personally and might still be feeling its effects. I know so many people who have seen their lives turn upside down, or they have made the decision to do the overturning themselves. I’m a veteran of both experiences.

COVID was the least of my life changes. Pre-pandemic, I was going through a divorce, one of my best friends—longtime AWC member and VP of Operations Kim Conrey—was divorcing her husband, and we fell in love. Last February, my ex-wife committed suicide. Thank God I had Kim, who made it her mission to get me through that terrible time. Last summer, I sold my house and moved in with her, her two girls, and their three cats. After my Westie tried to eat their eldest kitty, I gave away my dogs to my former wife’s niece. Then I contracted COVID and infected Kim, but we both recovered fully and have suffered no long-term problems. I would say without exaggeration that 2020 was the most tumultuous year of my nearly fifty-five—it’d make a helluva manuscript.

This year, Kim and I will marry. The engagement ring I gave her came from my maternal grandmother, whose first fiancé had it custom-made but then died during the Spanish flu epidemic before they could marry. With faith, we’ll be able to provide a happy ending for that hundred-year-old ring and celebrate our union with friends. With hope, we both intend to finish the books we’re writing this year. With love, we’re looking ahead to a bright future together.

The AWC has changed my life in every positive way possible, even during this tragic time. Over the past twelve months, I hope it has provided you with inspiration, encouragement, and entertainment at the very least, if not your own love connection.

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). He considers himself the luckiest man alive.
In addition to hosting a live online meeting, we will also record it and post the link in the next month’s issue of The eQuill newsletter.

March 20, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern – Online (please add yourself to our mailing list to receive the email with the online meeting [link: ]

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. Gail Evans (Georgia Tech professor, author, and former CNN executive): Writing about women’s issues

Gail Evans is the best-selling author of Play Like A Man, Win Like A Woman, an informative business guide to the secrets men know about success that women need to learn. The book was listed for several months on the New York Times, Business Week, and Wall Street Journal’s bestseller lists. Play Like A Man, Win Like A Woman has been translated into 18 languages and has been a bestseller around the world. She has appeared in recent years on outlets such as, NBC’s The Today Show, USA Today, the Larry King Live Show, and the New York Times to name a few. Her follow-up book, She Wins, You Win was published in 2003.

Gail’s career is vast, beginning in government and culminating as the Executive Vice President of CNN. Evans began working with CNN at its inception in 1980 and was promoted to Executive Vice President for CNN in 1996. In September 2000, Evans was named to Executive Vice President of Domestic Networks for the CNN Newsgroup. She was responsible for program and talent development of all domestic networks overseeing national and international talk shows and the Network Guest Bookings Department, which schedules about 25,000 guests each year. She served as a member of the CNN Executive Committee and was chairperson of the CNN programming task force. In addition, Evans developed some of CNN’s most popular programs. Gail retired from CNN in the summer of 2001.

She is a member of the Board of Visitors at the Georgia State University School of Law and the Kennesaw State Univ. Foundation. Gail is currently a Visiting Professor at the School of Management at Georgia Tech teaching a course on Gender, Race and Ethnicity in Organizational Behavior.

Additionally Gail is a member of the board of the Society for Women’s Health Research, the Radio Television News Directors Foundation, the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, The Society for Women’s Business Research and the Atlanta Girls School. She also has been elected to membership in the Committee 200, The International Women’s Forum and the Council on Foreign Relations. In 1995, she was named to the YWCA’s Academy of Women Achievers and is a compass award recipient of the Women’s Leadership Exchange. Evans is also a founding board member of Greenstone Media, creator of the first FM radio network of talk geared to the female audience.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Bennington College in Vermont. She is the mother of three and the grandmother of seven and resides in Atlanta, Georgia.
On February 20th, Gail Evans will discuss how to write about women’s issues.

3:00-4:00 Bernette Sherman (multi-genre author, game creator, and nonprofit founder): Writing about family history

Bernette Sherman is a multi-genre writer, game creator, and the founder of Mount Hope Media, LLC. Since she began writing and publishing in 2016. Her books include science fiction, fantasy, poetry, self-help, and inspiration. Her first historical novel, The Story of Ervin Jones, about her great-great-great grandfather, will be published in February 2020 and her play Four Wives and a Will (working title) is currently in development.

Bernette enjoys telling stories and being unboxed in her creativity and in her life. She is a member of Broadleaf Writer’s Association, Atlanta Writers Club, Working Title Playwrights, Alternate Roots, and the Women’s Speakers Association.

Bernette resides in the metro Atlanta area with her family. You can learn more about Bernette and find her books at BernetteSherman.com. Follow Bernette on IG @IAMBernette and on Facebook @IAMBernetteSherman.

On March 20, Bernette will discuss the process of writing her historical novel, The Story of Ervin Jones, what led her to write it, how she found the information, and helpful advice about researching history in general, family history, and using the information in a novel.

“To write something you have to risk making a fool of yourself.”

Anne Rice

FreedomWithWriting.com
February Meeting Photos & Link

**LINK**

**FEB 20 MEETING RECORDING & PASSWORD: PIT2u9VV**

- **NAMINA FORNA**
- **PHILIP**
- **RENEA**
- **GEORGE**
- **RONA**

Atlanta Writers Club
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]
AWC member Kristine Anderson, author of Crooked Truth, a historical novel set in South Georgia in 1948, will be speaking at the Women Alone Together Book Series on Thurs, April 8th at 6 pm. Her novel has received the Ferrol Sams Fiction Award and was recently nominated for the Willie Morris 2021 Southern Fiction Award. The event is free, but all attendees must register on the Women Alone Together website.

Women Alone Together is a nonprofit founded by writer Carolyn Curry for the well-being of women who are alone.

AWC member R. Lynn Barnett did a Facebook Live presentation for Forsyth News in January about her book, My Mother Has Alzheimer’s and My Dog has Tapeworms: A Caregiver’s Tale as part of their Virtual Health Expo January 2021:

AWC member Ashley Cobb Post’s novel Don’t Judge a Book... will be released on March 16. As a fiery Sicilian woman, Francesca Stefani was tenacious in business but submissive in love. Her world was full of inconsistencies; however, life would soon become vicious. She wasn’t without enemies caused by past indiscretions. The events of the past few months hadn’t been ideal. Still, she considered the sophisticated, tall, dark, and handsome Charlestonian, Damien Sommers, who answered her personal ad wearing a mask. Maybe her compulsion to forgive his errors and obsessive devotion to him provoked Damien to a dark side. Fate would hopefully not leave her in despair to die alone. She prayed that her friend and former lover, the alluring Morehouse-educated surgeon, Dr. Kenny Underwood, could be her savior. Whose secret would make Francesca pay the ultimate sacrifice? The book can be preordered here:
Ashley Cobb Post has lived in Charleston, South Carolina for over twenty years. She inherited her love of books from her mother, a public educator. Ashley writes romance and women’s fiction stories concentrating on interracial relationships inspired from raising her multiracial son. She enjoys spending time with her rescue dog, supporting the arts, and Low Country Not for Profit organizations.

In AWC member Jason Freeman’s new novel, Under the Sun, Jeff Lockler is a happily married banker, with an incredibly bright, sound future. When one night tragedy strikes, and Jeff’s future, faith and life are put to an incredible test. Almost giving up, something amazing happens, and Jeff is tested with something he will never forget. Under the Sun is a heartwarming story that captures the human spirit and what it can accomplish and shows nothing can be taken for granted.

Jason M. Freeman, author of Under the Sun, is a 40-year-old, first-time author, and a husband and proud father of the two best kids anyone could hope for. He grew up in Forsyth County, GA and lived here all his life with the exception of the two years he was in college. He loves to write obviously, LOL, and his other hobbies include fishing, coaching his son in football and baseball, and bowling. He also is a diehard Georgia Tech fan, GO JACKETS!!!! Under the Sun is available for purchase here:

AWC member Kathy Nichols’s novel The Sometime Sister is available for preorder NOW and ONLY at LINK. If you purchase your book prior to the publication date of April 22, 2021, you may use the promo code: PREORDER2021 to receive a 15% discount.

Betrayed by her sister Stella, Grace Burnette struggles to put her life back together. News of Stella’s death in Ecuador propels her into dangerous territory. Accompanied by the mysterious man her mother hired to protect her, Grace discovers there is a fine line between justice and revenge. The decisions she faces have the power to bring forgiveness and redemption or despair and destruction.

About herself, Kathy states, “I've been in love with stories for as long as I can remember. Before I could
write, I created my own bedtime stories. Once I started writing, I couldn’t stop. I have written for television and radio and have been published online in ALAN reviews, *Equill: Atlanta Writers Club Online Magazine*, and in *Shout Them from the Mountaintops: Georgia Poems and Stories.*” [Her website](#)

**AWC member Donald Reichardt's** novel, *The Third Gate to Hell*, just released by Waldorf Publishing, is based on a true story. Suave, intelligent, small-town Kansas boy Will Martin becomes entangled in doomed Ponzi schemes and investment frauds. The credo “Too much ain’t enough…” has its hooks in him. Can he be redeemed? Or will an addiction to riches plunge him down a path toward self-destruction? The book is a cautionary tale about greed.

Donald Reichardt taught English and wrote for newspapers, then launched a career as public relations and advertising executive for AT&T and BellSouth. He left corporate life to consult and return to writing, turning out dozens of by-lined articles for *The Atlanta Business Chronicle*, the American City Business Journals and several magazines. In the past decade, he co-authored the Grace Gleason Files crime thrillers and authored a book of short fiction, *Corporate Lies.* [His website](#)
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/editor meetings 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 15 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).

- 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 best-selling 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.**

You’ll find all the details for the May 7-9, 2021 Atlanta Writers Conference, [here](#)

Should you have questions, contact Atlanta Writers Conference Director and AWC Executive Director & Acting President George Weinstein.
Some of you may recognize my name from an email reminding you to renew your AWC membership. The message asks for input for those unsure about rejoining. Many expressed how important the AWC Writers Conference is to them and how frustrated they are that CoVid keeps us from face-to-face encounters.

I absolutely agree. Nothing beats meeting agents or editors in person for query or manuscript critiques, but I discovered voice-to-voice contact has a power of its own.

At my last in-person conference, I attended a branding workshop by suspense writer Jenny Milchman. After the session, I bought her novel thriller Wicked River, entered a drawing for a critique from her, and won.

Jenny could have emailed her comments, but she chose to set up a phone conference. She was warm, funny, and encouraging. Her response motivated me to keep writing and continue querying. It contributed to the April 22 release of my debut novel, The Sometime Sister.

Her generosity hasn’t stopped. When I emailed her to share the news about my book, she offered to feature me in her monthly newsletter and steered me toward supportive online author groups.

We all miss the good old days of mixing and mingling with people who share our passion for writing. But personal contact doesn’t have to be in-person contact.

Phone calls can create an atmosphere of familiarity with less stress. You don’t have to worry if your outfit is too casual or if your tie is straight. You can throw all your energy into telling your story. As for video calls, you can practice engaging facial expressions ahead of time. And it’s easier to sit on your shaking hands or find a focal point just above the agent’s head to ease the strain of direct eye contact.

I’ve had consistently positive experiences at past AWC conferences. Agents and editors offered constructive criticism and helpful advice. But my phone conference with Jenny established a stronger connection than any of those meetings. It created ripples of good fortune in my writing life.

This year’s spring conference could do the same for you.
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.

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.

**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.

**Kim Conrey**
email
website
wixsite
Available for editing: essays, memoirs and creative nonfiction, and all genres of 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**
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

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  linkedin

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  linkedin

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.
Rewind

Bringing Back
Ann Patchett, Delia Owens & Rick Bragg

MARCH 13 & 14, 2021
ALL NEW: Ann Patchett Writing Workshop
PLUS a rerun of past Roswell Reads
programs with all three authors!

Readers and Writers rejoice as Roswell Reads
brings you a wonderful weekend of virtual
Writing Workshops and Conversations
with these world-renowned authors.

All registrants can view any of the five virtual programs
from Noon on Saturday through 5 p.m. on Sunday.

These Roswell Reads programs are FREE thanks to the sponsorship
of the Friends of the Roswell Library,
and support of the Friends of the East Roswell Library,
the Fulton County Library System and the Roswell Rotary.

facebook.com/roswellreads/ RoswellReads.com

RSVP at: roswellreads2021.eventbrite.com
“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.

This diverse assembly of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction is available in both print and Kindle ebook formats from Amazon, and through orders with your local bookstore: see the store listing on Indie Bound. 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.
On September 21, 2016 Lin Manuel Miranda tweeted,

“Gmorning.
Make deposits toward someone else's happiness today.
Call a friend, ease a burden, donate time/$/space.
You’ll 😊
Promise.”

I saved his tweet in my daily affirmations file, a Word document I keep where I store advice from individuals I admire; from writers, from historical figures and business leaders. I refer back to that advice when I need inspiration, when I’m bored, when I want to add something new to the file, but also when I feel sad and sometimes lonely as I have often during this pandemic, while I am still quarantining, at home, coming up on a year now.

Recently, I ordered twenty 5.5" x 4" folded standard matte note cards and matching custom envelopes pre-printed with my address. The front of the cards is printed with my name in cursive with color images of thyme, chives, and basil, a nod to my love of gardening. I purchased them to let my family know I love them. I sent cards to my nieces and nephews and to my mother. I decided to purchase additional cards for my sisters and for my mother, each with different images of delicate flowers I thought each of them would enjoy using to pen their own notes.

Using Mr. Miranda’s advice, I hope when they receive my handwritten notes, they feel the happiness I do when I receive letters. To this day, I have in my basement a red milk crate stuffed with letters from all sorts: great-grandmothers, high school boyfriends, letters to me at summer camp. I saved them all.

I’ve realized I haven’t received letters in my mailbox in years. I hope one benefit of COVID-19 is the resurgence of letter writing between friends and family, a vital aspect of our craft.

Nikki Williams Sebastian, a St. Louis native, enjoys historical fiction that reveals the complex, rich, and remarkable histories of African-Ancestral Americans. Her mission is to unveil forgotten stories about the contributions of these individuals to the fabric of America. Nikki can be contacted at her email.
WHETHER YOU’RE WRITING A HUMOR COLUMN OR NOVEL, putting together a stand-up routine, scribbling a sitcom script or screenplay, crafting silly songs, drafting a storyboard, or writing a query letter, this conference can help. Register for ThinkingFunny21 and you’ll see and hear:

- Proven techniques for punching up scripts.
- Effective methods for writing humorous travel stories and columns.
- The steps to creating a comic world & cast that generates sustainable stories.
- How stand-up comics work up a set.
- How to deal with criticism.
- How animators generate ideas, create storyboards to communicate, and work in teams.
- What songwriters do to craft funny and memorable lyrics.
- What agents want in a query letter.
- How to pitch effectively.
- Career advice from experienced professionals.
- Time to ask questions and get personalized advice.
- All this... and more!

The daylong lineup is available at our [WEBSITE](#). Early birds with a coupon code of “30-off” get a 30% discount off the $100 cost through March 31. Questions? [Email](#).
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.

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Atlanta Writers Club
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
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**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITIQUE GROUPS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Online #1</strong> Fiction</td>
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<td><strong>Online #2</strong> Fiction &amp; non-Fiction</td>
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<td><strong>Online #3</strong> Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction</td>
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<td><strong>Online #4</strong> Indie Authors--all genres</td>
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<td><strong>Online #6</strong> Short Stories</td>
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<td><strong>Lawrenceville/ Snellville</strong> Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
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<td><strong>Liburn</strong> &quot;Write Here, Right Now&quot; shares writing techniques and offers constructive feedback</td>
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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 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.
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

□ New Membership  [Individual]  [Family]
□ Renewal  [Individual]  [Family]

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

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.