Quill

JUL 2021

ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

July 10 – Summer Workshop for Members, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

Freelance Editor & Author Grace Wynter on the Art and Craft of Editing

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.

JULY 2021

THE ATLANTA Writers CLUB Est. 1914

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FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

AWC officers

President:
Jill Evans

Executive Director :
George Weinstein

Officers Emeritus:
Valerie Connors
George Weinstein
Clay Ramsey
Marty Aftewicz

Conference Director:
George Weinstein

Membership VP:
Yvonne Green

Programs VP:
Beth Hermes

Operations VP:
Kim Conrey

Marketing VP:
Patrick Scullin

Public Relations VP:
Della Curtis

Contests VP:
Kathy Nichols

Townsend Prize Director:
Clay Ramsey

Treasurer:
Jerry Weiner

Historian/By-Laws:
George Weinstein

eQuill Publisher:
Gene Bowen

Upcoming Event

July 10 – Summer Workshop for Members,

1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

Freelance Editor & Author Grace Wynter on

the Art and Craft of Editing

A Message from the President

The Voice

> "The Atlanta Writers Club is focused on the craft and business of writing, but we're also a community of encouragement."

Last year as spring passed into summer and temperatures rose, unfortunately so did COVID-19 cases. It felt more like going into winter and impending cabin fever. A perfect time to read the classics, and a perfect time to write. But, I floundered around for shows to binge watch. What I needed was some time well wasted. I've watched gardening channels on YouTube for years. These supplemented the need to pass time, but what I craved was pure entertainment.

You know those reaction videos in the YouTube feed you definitely don't click on. Of course, I do. Who wouldn't want to see retired CIA Chief of Disguise Jonna Mendez reacting to movie spy scenes? Then I found The Chateau Diaries and Renovation East. Season 2 of Dead to Me on Netflix and the original version of The Baker and the Beauty on Prime also performed distractionary magic.

Did you do lockdown learning, or a guilty-pleasure binge fest?

My 81-year-old mother–for whom I'd been loading books onto the Kindle in rapid succession–suddenly ceased asking for the next read. No more questions about the Brads. I went weeks without, "Does Brad Taylor have a new book out?" or "I've read the latest Brad Thor, right?" I figured out why when I went over one day and heard the TV. My mother never watched TV during the day. It was on the Hallmark Channel, and she was smiling.

In the evenings, if there's no baseball game, she watches the competition shows, and it took me being at her house to see The Voice for the first time. I'd had enough of Simon Cowell cutting poor souls to the core with his insults on American Idol, and embarrassing off-key auditions don't make me laugh. So, I didn't even pay attention to another singing show. But, I did more than one double take after hearing contestants on The Voice. Real talent; showcased and nurtured.

I started watching the latest season, and heard the bell of analogy when the judges would say things like, "Your voice is so unique. I love your tone," and "You took a song we all love and made it your own." This is no subtle comparison, I know, but it made me think again about literary tone. I don't need permission to have my writing voice. You don't. But, it sure is nice to see the living embodiment of encouragement. I went back to my writing feeling freer and emboldened. Who says fiction can't be rich with history and snark at the same time? Not me, now.

The Atlanta Writers Club is focused on the craft and business of writing, but we're also a community of encouragement. Last year, Jonathan Haupt from the Pat Conroy Literary Center spoke about the importance of writing mentors. Chris Negron talked about finding your team, even through rejection. This year Namina Forna shared her fire and determination, and Scott Thomas Outlar showed us the beauty in poetry. These especially resonated with me. Who was your favorite over the last year? I am inspired each month by our speakers and prodded on by my critique partners who I found through the club. I hope you feel the same and find more of yourself–more of your voice–through your serious endeavors, your guilty pleasures, and with us.

AWC President Jill Evans is a computer nerd by trade, website designer, photographer and writer. Her work in progress is a novel that combines her love of art, intrigue and history. You can follow her on Instagram at @jillevanswriter and find out more at www.jillevans.com.

July 10th Workshop for Members only

On July 10th—one week earlier than usual—we'll host our summer online workshop. A link to the online meeting room will be sent via email a few days before the meeting.

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

July 10, 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 George Weinstein

1:30-1:35 AWC announcements and upcoming events

1:35-4:00 Grace Wynter: Editing

GRACE WYNTER is an editor, a writer, and a huge fan of shenanigans. Her blogs (and a few of her shenanigans) have been featured on CNN.com and the Huffington Post. She is a regular contributor to Writer Unboxed where she shares wisdom about the craft and commerce of telling stories. Grace has an MBA in marketing from Georgia State University, an editing certificate from the University of Chicago, and she is a part of Sourcebooks' 2021 Editorial Training Program. In addition to her self-published clients, she has edited for Macmillan/Tor and written for Quarto Publishing. Her debut novel, *Free Falling*, was a Georgia Romance Writers' Maggie Award finalist. You can connect with her at The Writer's Station and on her author website, GGWynter.com.

Her previous clients include bestselling authors and Georgia Romance Writer Maggie Award finalists and winners, and many of her clients have successfully self-published or received full manuscript requests from agents and editors. For numerous years, she has been a pre-conference editor for the Atlanta Writers Conference, helping participants make their work better for submissions to publisher acquisition editors and literary agents.

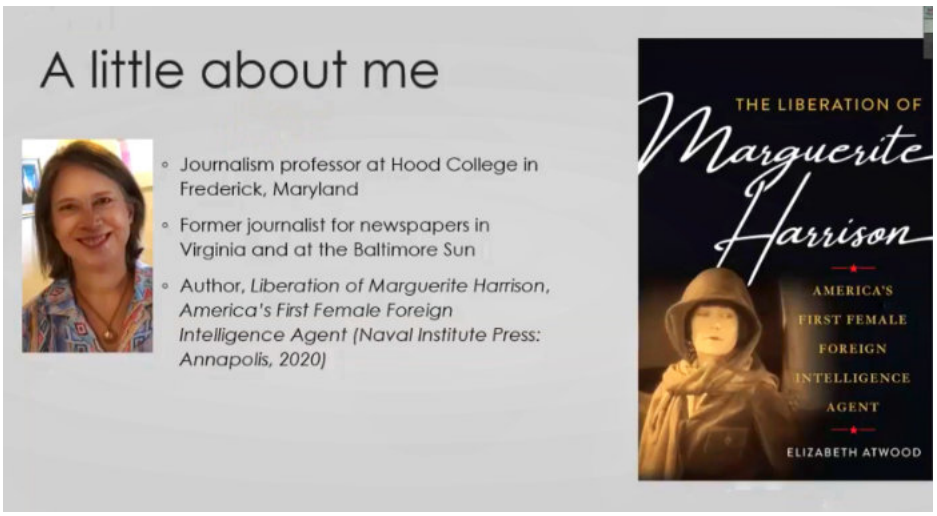
On July 10th, Grace will discuss the art and craft of editing.

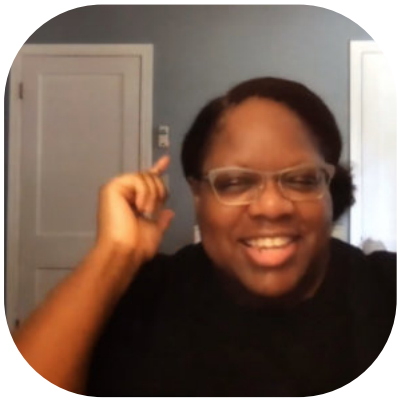
June 19 Meeting Photos & Link

LINKS TO JUNE 19 MEETING RECORDING: https://atlantawritersclub.my.webex.com/atlantawritersclub.my/ldr.php?RCID=4938f02295c043a5a0fc05f9c6987176

PASSWORD: pUPuM6PB

LIZ ATWOOD





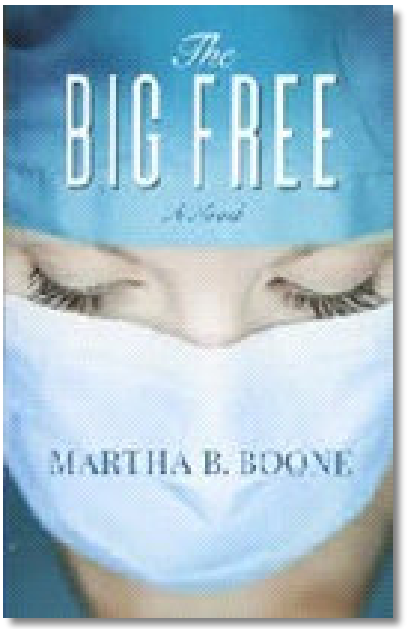
KEISHA BUSH

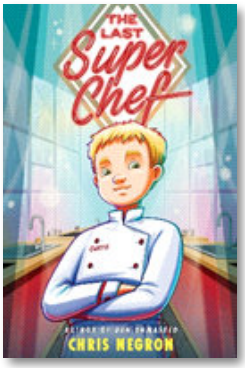
Member Book Launches & Accolades

AWC MEMBER MIKE SHAW'S second book this year has been released. In his novel *The Musician*, Tom Cliffe is who many young people in the 1960s want to be: not just a lover of music, a player of music. But more than an interest, more than a passion, music and a commitment to becoming an accomplished player and recognized for it will become the driving force in Tom's life. He will give up everything, all the accommodations of the conventional life he was brought up in and educated for. Even when he is nearly destitute, even through years of itinerancy on the road, despite self-interested booking agents and uncommitted fellow musicians, even for the woman he loves, he cannot, will not, abandon Music. The Musician captures the character and circumstance of life as shared by musicians everywhere, from immersion in their craft, to the joy of playing music well, and with others who play it as well or better, to the frustrations associated with committing a lifetime to such an unstructured and unrewarded career. Buy on Amazon:

Mike Shaw is an Atlanta-based writer and musician. A singer-pianist, he began touring in the late 1960s, performing in nightclubs and on concert stages, solo and with jazz combos, ultimately settling in New Orleans. As a writer, he counts more than 12,000 published articles, from investigative pieces adopted by 60 Minutes and ABC 20/20 to ghostwritten articles, white papers, and blogs for corporate clients. He has founded and presided over three Atlanta-based marketing agencies. In addition to co-authoring Understanding Economic Equilibrium, published May 2021 by Business Expert Press, Mike has also scheduled a May 2021 debut for his first novel, The Musician, published by Blue Room Books. Read about Mike's novel and music-related blogs .

Mary Anne Walser interviews AWC MEMBER DR. MARTHA BOONE about her novel *The Big Free*. It is a coming-of-age story rich with medical drama, with tales of Charity Hospital in New Orleans and the French Quarter. It is a wild romp through the first six months of surgical internship. The protagonist is a naïve Charleston girl who comes to *The Big Free* to learn surgery. This fun interview includes behind the scenes stories of Dr. Boone's experiences in New Orleans, the humor and tragedy in inner city hospital work and the joy of meaningful work. Find this interview on YouTube:





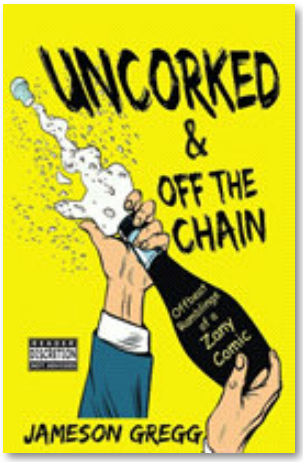
Family and food take center stage in AWC MEMBER CHRIS NEGRON's second novel, *The Last Super Chef*—another heartfelt middle grade story from HarperCollins perfect for kids of all ages, but especially 8 to 12. For as long as he can remember, Curtis Pith has been obsessed with becoming a chef like Lucas Taylor, host of Super Chef. And Curtis has a secret: Taylor is actually his long-absent father. So when Taylor announces a kids-only season of Super Chef, Curtis finally sees his chance to meet his dad. But after Curtis wins a spot in the competition and arrives in New York to film the show, nothing goes as smoothly as he expected. It's all riding on the last challenge. If Curtis cooks his heart out like he knows he can, he just might go home with the top prize—and the truth. The launch event for Chris's book is sponsored by FoxTale Book Shoppe and will be held virtually on July 6th at 7 pm over Zoom. To register for free, click here and to buy the book, use this link

Chris Negron started his writing journey by joining an AWC critique group. His debut novel, Dan Unmasked (2020) recently received the honor of Finalist in the Young Adult category of the 57th Annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards by the Georgia Writers Association. The Last Super Chef (July 6, 2021) is his second middle grade novel from HarperCollins, and it has already been named a Kids Indie Next pick for July/August by the American Booksellers Association. Chris's books are usually about his favorite things: comic books, baseball, and competitive cooking shows, to name a few of them. To find out more news, including upcoming events, visit him at his website.

AWC MEMBER JAMESON GREGG's *Uncorked & Off the Chain: Offbeat Ramblings of a Zany Comic* delivers humor and satire with chops and attitude in zany cutting-edge opinion, observational humor, and tales from the wild side. No topic is off limits, from sports, gambling, and edgy tales, to marriage, dogs, and mass consumption of cocktails. Short and snappy free-standing essays for those readers looking for a quick belly laugh. "...hilarious." —Kirkus Reviews

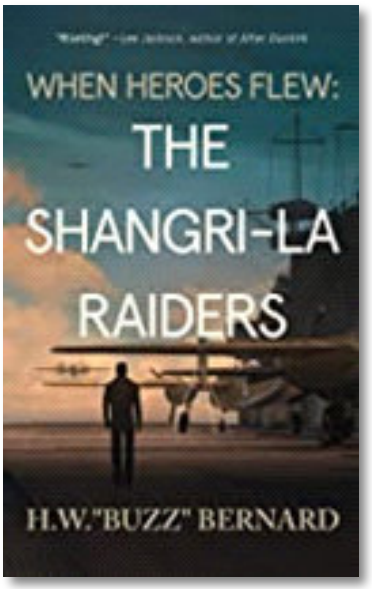
Amazon

Jameson Gregg, a lawyer for the first half of his career, came to his senses, hung up his wingtips, and got busy writing humor. His first book, Luck Be A Chicken: a comic novel, won for him 2015 Georgia Author of the Year.

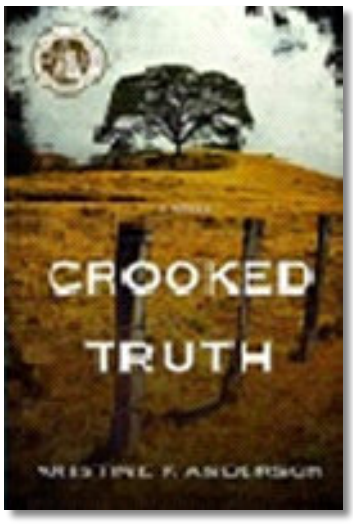


When Heroes Flew: The Shangri-La Raiders, AWC MEMBER BUZZ BERNARD's seventh novel, will be released on July 13. It's been a year and a half since he was able to take part in an "in person" signing, so he has a major launch event set for his new novel on Sunday, July 18, 2-4 p.m. at the Country Club of Roswell (2400 Club Springs Drive). As usual, he'll present a brief slideshow about the book--plus a look back at When Heroes Flew which came out last year but got lost in the COVID mess. He'll follow his presentation with book signings and chit-chat. All are invited, so come on out and enjoy a Sunday afternoon. If you'd like to purchase books, Buzz asks that you bring cash or check, since he's not equipped to handle credit cards.

The Shangri-La Raiders is set against the true story of Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle's legendary bombing raid on Japan in 1942. The novel follows an American aircrew through its secretive training, the harrowing raid, and finally a desperate journey through enemy-occupied China to Chungking—the seat of the country's wartime government—and freedom. The crew, along with an American missionaries' daughter whom they've rescued, must evade the Japanese occupiers every step of the way. And amidst all the horror and turmoil of war, a romance blossoms between the rescued woman and the crew's pilot. *When Heroes Flew: The Shangri-La Raiders* is a captivating tale of bravery, determination, and an unlikely love that will leave you hooked until the very end.



AWC MEMBER KRISTINE ANDERSON is doing an online book talk on July 28th at 7 pm Eastern at E.Shaver's Booksellers in historic Savannah, GA. The talk is free, but participants are asked to register by calling 912-234-7257 to receive the online link.



Our fall Atlanta Writers Conference will be held on November 5-6, 2021 and will be in-person at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel. This will be our 25th conference! We will offer an option of calls from the participating literary agents and acquisitions editors for those unable to travel, and we will follow all CDC COVID-19 guidelines as of early November for indoor events. Register today before you miss your chance!

Here is a summary of the activities:

- On Saturday, November 6, our guest agents and editors will do critiques of the manuscript sample you submit a month before the conference and will respond to your pitches, and on Friday, November 5, they will do query letter critiques to help you make your best pitch possible.
- Entertainment attorney and literary agent Paul Levine, Esq. will present a new workshop--"How Authors Go from Fingers on Keyboards to Dollars in Their Bank Accounts" on Friday, November 5 and will answer your questions about copyrights, contracts, and other legal issues.
- Our Q&A panels are back, with our guest editors answering your questions on November 5 and our guest agents responding to you on November 6. These are free when selecting the All-Activities Package deal.
- This summer, to help you submit your best work to the agents and acquisitions editors, our freelancers will help you get your query letter, synopsis, and manuscript sample--for fiction and memoir--or your query letter and nonfiction book proposal in shape with a pre-conference edit. This activity is free when selecting the All-Activities Package deal.
- Free to everyone who purchases at least two paid activities are the following bonuses:
  - Friday, November 5 mixer with the agents, editors, and your fellow participants, with singer-pianist and AWC member Mike Shaw providing the entertainment.
  - Two mini-seminars on Friday the 5th by Paul Levine, Esq. on the legal aspects of turning books into movies and how to get out of a bad publishing contract.
  - Four talks on Saturday the 6th: book cover designer and former filmmaker Lynne Hansen on "How to Work with a Book Cover Artist to Get the Cover You Deserve" and "How NOT to Make a Movie in 30 Days" and four-time Bram Stoker Award-nominated author Jeff Strand doing a two-part "Surviving the Writing Life."
  - Award ceremony and giveaway drawings to closeout the conference on November 6, with each agent and editor presenting certificates for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitch along with drawings beforehand to win future conference activities, lifetime AWC membership, and more.

Learn more about the conference activities here

Read the agent and editor profiles here

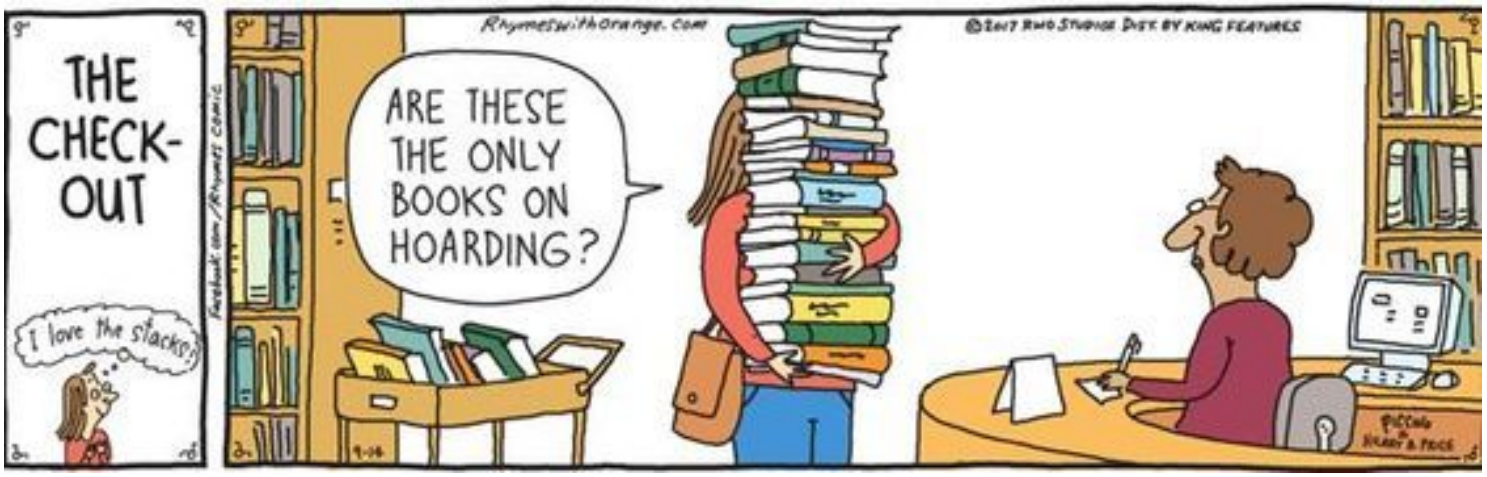
AGENT & EDITOR AVAILABILITY

The following guests who still have openings for manuscript sample critiques and/or pitches:

- Richard Brown, Director, University of South Carolina Press
- Rebecca Gyllenhaal, Assistant Editor, Quirk Books
- Georgia Hughes, Editorial Director, New World Library
- Andrew Ibis, Publisher & Editorial Director, C&R Press and Steel Toe Books
- Sydney Jeon, Assistant Editor, Flatiron Books
- Em Lysaght, Agent, Ladderbird Literary Agency
- Larissa Melo Pienkowski, Agent, Jill Grinberg Literary Management
- Leah Pierre, Agent, Ladderbird Literary Agency

And use the other website tabs for information about pricing, deadlines, the refund policy, and more before you register.

If you haven't registered, don't delay any longer!



Twitter: Not for Dummies
By Dave Swan

If you're on Twitter, you probably know @atlwritersclub is a great source of information. If you're not on Twitter or haven't checked us out, this article will explain what we do and how the app can help you as an author.

Twitter is important to our social media strategy. We use our account to publicize meetings, workshops, the Atlanta Writers Conference, and other programs. We invite you to share your thoughts on writing, readings from your work, and views of your creative space. We pass along tips from agents and publications (like Writer's Digest), and last but not least, we offer writing advice and inspiration from our peers. (My favorite is by Elmore Leonard: "I try to leave out the parts that people skip.")

Twitter can be a key element of the "platform" that authors establish (and agents expect them to have) to promote books. There are tons of Twitter "marketers" that promise to blast your ads to huge audiences, but every writer and agent I've talked to says they don't work.

What you can do on Twitter is introduce yourself to readers, build a following, connect with other authors, and generally lay the groundwork for your book launch. It's not enough to tweet: you need to engage. Follow, RT (retweet), and reply often, using lots of hashtags. Be yourself but remember that your brand as an author is paramount. Think of every tweet as a pitch. Don't fall down a political rabbit hole.

Lastly, working with a limit of 280 characters will teach you to hone your message and find just the right words. As one of my journalism professors said long before Twitter was invented, "Short is not easy." And please follow us right away @atlwritersclub.

AWC Members Editor Directory

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., $.01-$.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.

Kay Hunt
kayhunt1@gmail.com

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
alliancebookediting@gmail.com
https://www.alliancebookediting.com/

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
chris@chrisnegron.com
https://chrisnegron.com/

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.

Dawn Richerson
dawn@yourextraordinarybook.com
https://www.yourextraordinarybook.com

Nonfiction Genres: lifestyle, health, business, nonprofit, personal growth, self-help, memoir
Fiction Genres: mainstream, historical fiction, young adult

Providing editing & publishing services to authors since 2012. I specialize in developmental editing, strengthening the bones of your manuscript through content structure, depth, and clarity for a polished, professional manuscript ready to pitch or publish. Free video consult plus two full rounds of editing with detailed comments for a flat fee. Per-word rate available for shorter projects.

Stephanie Siegel
siegel@consultant.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/eagleeyesiegel

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.

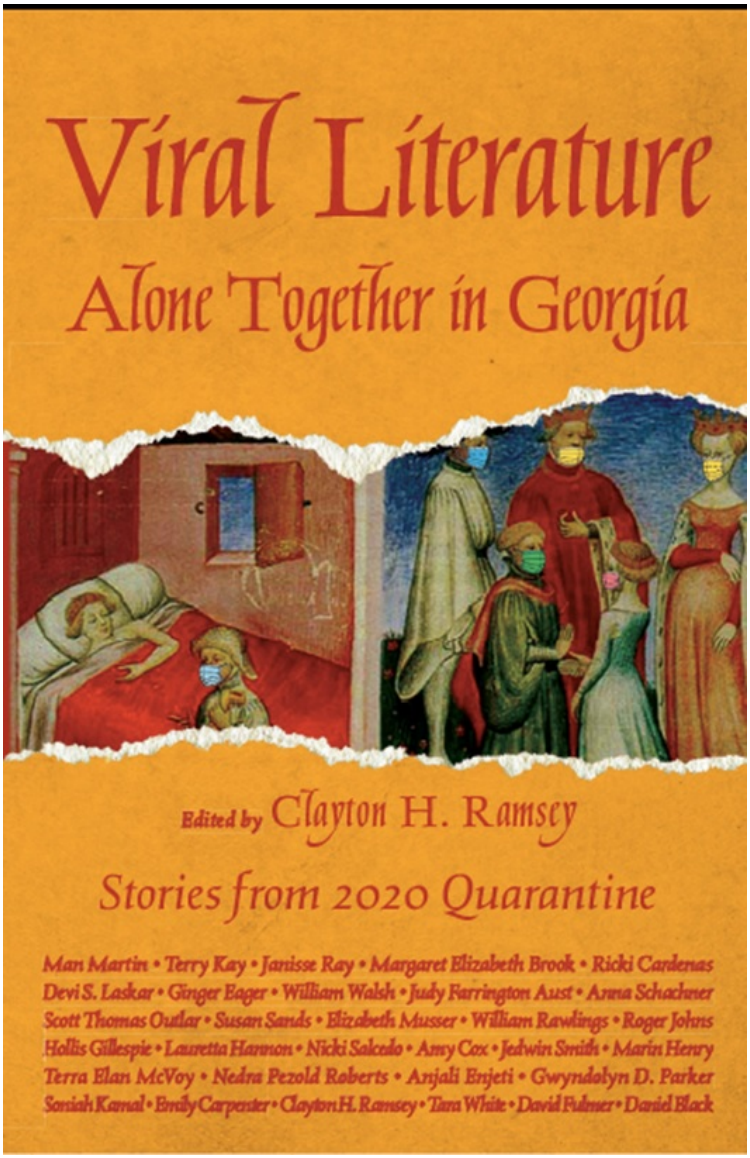
Dave Swan
davesswan@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/dsswan/
Nonfiction topics: Politics, defense, foreign affairs, crime and legal issues, education, taxes, music, film, humor, relationships, and writing about writing.

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.

If you are and 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

Alone Together in Georgia



"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.

& Other Tips for an Author Website
By Chuck Storla

The internet is the lens through which the world sees you. Your goal is to make sure what they see is not as boring as you actually are. Potential readers, agents, editors, and your high school sweetheart might find your website. Even if you can't get a book deal, you want to impress the one who dumped you two days before prom. That alone is worth the effort.

In the following, I will not address SEO, URLs, https vs. http, etc. I provide that list merely to show I am the expert and you're not. Rather than a dive into the boring bits, I will barely dip below the surface. I am writing this for free and will only put in so much effort. To be honest, it is also because my mind works better when handling simple things. Since you are reading this, I suspect yours does as well.

Your Internet Identity - Better to be an Unpublished Author or Convicted Felon?

Send in a query, and a college intern will pull it from the slush pile and skim one paragraph. The intern will fail to catch your clever reference to another novel, because that book was published prior to 2018. If, by some quirk of fate, an agent reads your letter, they might search Google for your name. You want them to see links to your website, articles published, and memberships in prestigious organizations—real or not. The first listing should not be a bad-hair-day mug shot. You should not be penalized—a second time—because you once encountered a judge with absolutely no sense of humor.

It is up to you to fill the internet with enough real—or near-enough-real—material to bury all the less flattering aspects of your misspent youth. Even if said misspent youth spanned multiple decades and has not yet come to its inevitable conclusion. That conclusion comes when you transition from a free spirit with no medical insurance to a curmudgeon living a life filled with regret and soft food.

Why Do You Need an Author's Website?

I will enumerate a few uses for a website. I do this because a list gives the impression there was some thought behind it.

1) Convince family members you are an actual artist. Long before your first book, point relatives to yourauthorname.com and make them proud or envious as appropriate.

2) Measure your progress. In between checking email for rejection letters, spend hours hitting "refresh" on your site's hit counter. It won't have changed in the last sixty seconds, but hope springs eternal.

3) Add a website to your business cards. You purchased a box of 1000 and you have 986 remaining after handing one to every family member you could corner at the last reunion.

4) Convince an agent you exist. There's no chance they'll think much of your stock WordPress theme, but that same hope springs eternal as evidenced by the word "eternal."

Why Write a Blog?

You've been told you need a blog. It might or might not be true that you need a blog, but—trust me on this—the world does not. There are over 600 million blogs in the world and most are pushing a book. How many of those blogs did you read today? Expect your blog to get the same reception. Still, everyone says you need one. I'll make up a few reasons why.

1. Your blog is the one place you can submit writing without fear of rejection. When your neighborhood newsletter won't print your stuff, you can still speak to the world through a blog. Just don't expect the world to care.
2. John Steinbeck said, "Your audience is one single reader." A blog means you're there.
3. When someone searches for your name, a blog provides more hits. That could be what you need to push your "People of Walmart" picture to the second page of search results.
4. A blog is a comfortable place to share your innermost thoughts and fears—safe in the knowledge no one will ever read them and no one cares what you fear. Hopefully, your greatest fear is not living a life in obscurity because a blog will do nothing to help there.

Email–Spamming for Fun and Fortune

It is essential you have an email address and use it irresponsibly to bombard people with pleas to buy your book. But not all email addresses are created equal. Here is the definitive hierarchy from the worst to the not-as-worst domains:

- AOL.com - If your email address ends in AOL.com, then close this document and walk away from your Commodore 64. Go back to the Smith Corona in the corner.
- Hotmail.com – Should only be used to write letters to the editor at Penthouse.
- Yahoo.com - Used by recovering aol.com users.
- Your-isp.com - Grandparents' default email domain is their internet service provider. If your target audience is a subset of AARP members, then this works.
- Gmail.com - Google's email is a neutral choice and makes it easier for the NSA's tracking.
- Your-domain.com - Using a custom domain helps you appear professional. Assuming it is not awesomefrickingwriter.com. When I checked, it was available for purchase, but don't be that guy/gal.

Once you have selected a host for email, you need to choose a username—the portion before the "@." Common practice is to use firstname-lastname@. This assumes your name is not John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt as there are others who claim that's their name too.

You should avoid any cute nickname, callsign or handle. Do not keep your original email if it is similar to "spiceGirlz4evr," "ChunkyLover53," or "sexxymawmaw."

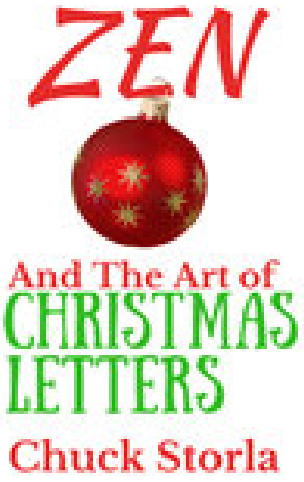
Your Headshot

Your website must include a picture of you—or a reasonable substitute—to make people rush to buy your books. If you write romance, your headshot should be alluring with a touch of slutty. For thrillers, your headshot should appear secretive with a touch of slutty. Actually, slutty applies to any genre except for children's books and non-fiction aimed at accountants. And yes, sluttiness spans genders.

In my best-selling (for me) book, *Zen and the Art of Christmas Letters*, I included a chapter entitled, "A Picture Is Worth 1000 Words but Uses a Lot More Ink." [1] Since we are talking about the internet, you might not understand the mention of ink. What is relevant is the discussion on purchasing a stock photo of an anonymous and incredibly attractive person to use in the place of your headshot. You might be a great writer, but chances are no one has said, "You should go into modeling." If they have, go with modeling. The hours are shorter and the pay is better.

The next installment in this series will help you learn the proper way to abuse social media. Until then, the publication of this article moves the embarrassing bits of my internet history further into obscurity.

Chuck Storla believes if you laugh, the world laughs with you. If you cry, they'll call you a whiner. Laugh at the world while reading his humorous book, Zen and the Art of Christmas Letters, available through Amazon. You can learn more than you want to know at my website.



[1]But this did give me an opportunity to slip in a reference so subtle you will wonder why you have a sudden desire to click on the link to order a copy.

Seeking Freelance Writers

STORY TERRACE IS SEEKING FREELANCE WRITERS TO BECOME THE PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHERS FOR CLIENTS WHO WANT THEIR STORY TOLD.

Here is an example project for which they are seeking a writer:

> The client is requesting to work with a male Black sportswriter to best relate to his story. We have many projects from all over the country but this one has a very specific writer request.

Here are the project details below:

We have a project in Shamong, NJ, and the storyteller is looking to start right away! *Please note this is a remote project with remote interviewing.

Package Bought: Custom

- Introductory Phone Call
- 1 Questionnaire
- 20-hours of remote interviewing / 8-10 sessions
- Manuscript of 40,000 words
- 1 round of revision with your writer
- Professional copy edit and proofread
- Design and layout of your book
- Design includes up to 50 photos/images
- Record and deliver audio files

*Any additional work (ex: additional in-person or phone interview hours, extra words, additional rounds of revision--anything that doesn't fit into the specs above) needs to be first cleared by your StoryTerrace editor prior to the work being completed. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Writer's rate: $10,000

About the Storyteller:

- Retired from NFL in 2018
- Let the community know that everyone has a chance
- Almost drowned
- Been through a case of having been bitten by a dog
- Studied the Islam religion
- His book is an autobiography about his experiences and his journey to the league - it's also a self-help for high school/college students who want to make it big
- Has had 12 surgeries over the years

Reason: to inspire others by sharing his struggles and journey

Writer Specifications: Black male sportswriter who can relate to client's story

To join the Story Terrace pool of freelance writers, or to apply to fill the specific biographer role above, please use this link

AJC Decatur Book Festival

Presented by EMORY UNIVERSITY

October 1-3

Decatur Book Festival: Saturday, October 2

After 15 years of hosting literary events over Labor Day Weekend, the AJC Decatur Book Festival presented by Emory University is making a permanent move to the first weekend of October. This year the book festival will host a one-day program with five author events at the First Baptist Church of Decatur on Saturday, October 2. The lineup will be announced in early July. There will not be a book festival street fair with booths this year.

Decatur Arts Festival: Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3

The Decatur Arts Festival will present more than 100 new and returning artists, from across the country and across town, on Saturday and Sunday October 2 and 3, showcasing their creations within a dozen disciplines.

Amplify Decatur Music Festival: Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2

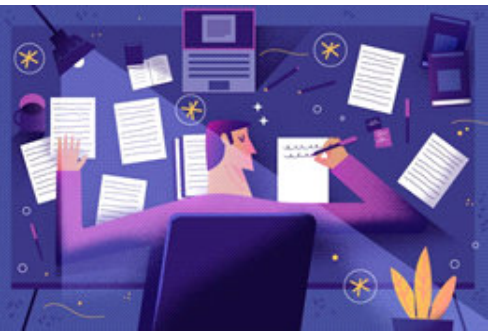
Amplify will present national, regional, and local music acts at a free outdoor concert the night of Friday, October 1, and an all-day, ticketed festival on Saturday, October 2. Amplify will announce their performers in mid-June.

The Decatur Craft Beer Festival: Saturday, October 2

The Decatur Craft Beer Festival will host live music in the Brick Store Pub beer garden with hard-to-find special beer offerings on Saturday, October 2.

15 Writing Lessons from Successful Authors (and How to Apply Them)

by Keira Bennett



Everybody is an author these days. And whether you're writing a report, filling an application form, or crafting your next must-like social media post, readers will judge you on your written eloquence.

But not all writing is done with the thumb or on your work/school computer. We're smack-bang in the middle of a creative writing boom – and fiction may never be the same again.

Front-line nurses are writing to ease their minds. Locked-down students are producing more fanfiction than ever. And frustrated dating scenesters have even created a new genre to relieve the pain of keeping to the two-metre rule: 'quarantinica' – yes, coronavirus-related erotica.

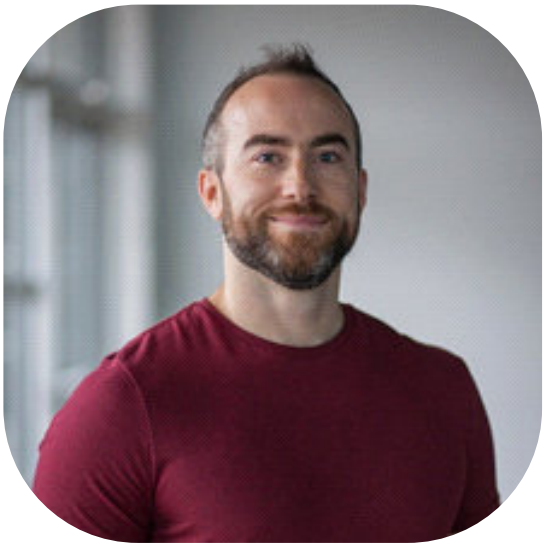
Tempting, eh? But if a boom in new writers tells us anything, it's that there's going to be a lot more bad writing out there. The under-published classes are notorious for not doing their homework. Anybody can put one word in front of another – but will you take time to learn how to write with originality, precision, and élan?

Ivory Research wants to help. We've found that success happens where passion walks hand-in-hand with hard work. So, we've gathered 15 essential writing lessons from successful authors and unpacked them, exploring how to master each tip....

To read the rest of this article, click this link

I Hate Self-Promotion

By Tim Grahl



Here's a phrase I hear from authors far too often:

"I hate doing self-promotion."

Of course you hate doing self-promotion! Anyone that isn't a narcissist or completely unaware of social graces is going to hate self-promotion.

I hate self-promotion too.

But here's what you're going to have to understand if you ever want to successfully build your author platform...

It's not about you.

Self-promotion is focused on you.

Real, successful online marketing for authors is focused on other people.

WHAT IS A TRIBE?

Seth Godin popularized the term "tribe" in his fantastic book *Tribes* (here's my summary) when it was released in 2008. According to Seth, a tribe is "a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader, and connected to an idea."

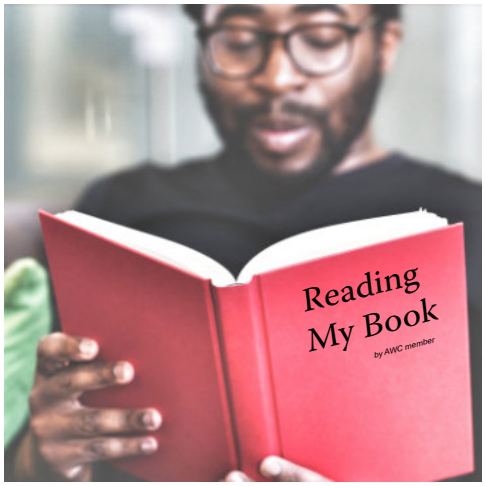
You need three things to build your author platform:

- You – the leader
- Readers – the members
- The Idea – the why

When does self-promotion happen? When an author is trying to build their platform without the "why."

To read the rest of Tim's blog, click here

MAKE A READ-YOUR-BOOK VIDEO



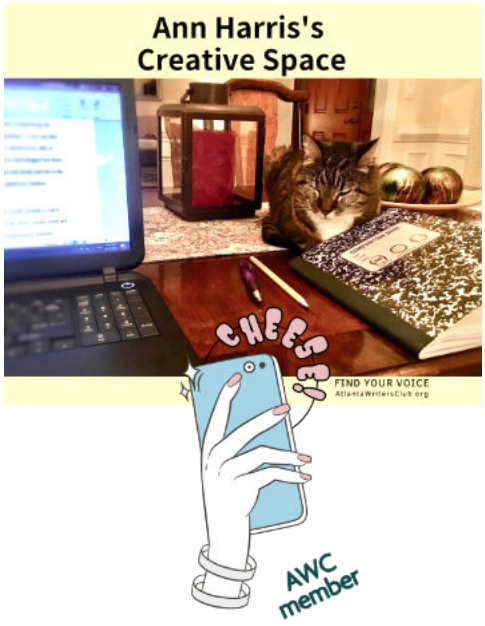
Step 1: Make a video (SIXTY SECONDS MAX!) of you reading a sample of your work. Videos can be created with a phone, tablet, or computer.

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

Want a Publishing Credit?

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE AWC NEWSLETTER

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 Executive Director George Weinstein.

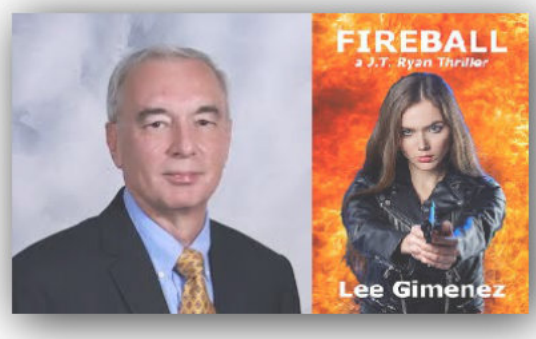
- Your article, with a catchy/provocative/thought-provoking title, that addresses your personal lessons about aspects of the craft and/or business of writing, in 300 words or less (can be in a Word doc attachment or in the body of your email)

- 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

FREE PROMOTION



Just join our member success web page

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 Executive Director George Weinstein.

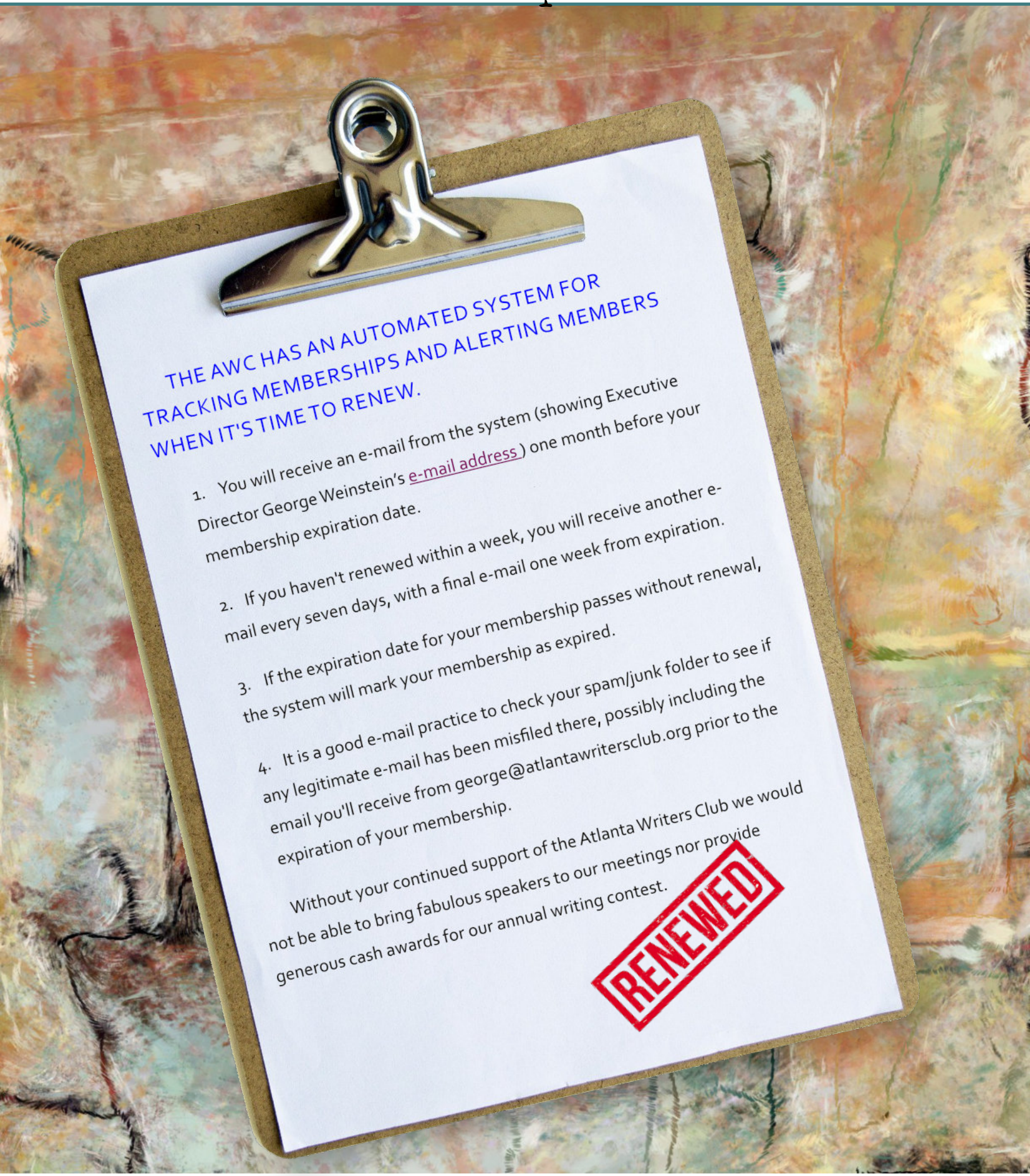
CRITIQUE GROUPS

Changes in RED

Online #1	Fiction	Ongoing	Mike Brown	EMAIL	Conditional- applicants will be vetted
Online #2	Fiction & non-Fiction	Ongoing	Linh Pham	EMAIL	FULL
Online #3	Young Adult/Middle Grade Fiction	Ongoing	Ivelisse Rodriguez	EMAIL	Wait list
Online #4	Self Published Authors	Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7 pm	J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins	EMAIL	Open
Online #5	All Genres	1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm Eastern	Gail Lash	EMAIL	Open
Online #6	Short Stories	Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm	Pat Bowen	EMAIL	Open
Online #7	Young Adult & Middle Grade Fiction	Work shared by email	Richard Gnann	EMAIL	Open
Candler Park/ Decatur	Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, & Memoir	Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Quinn Eastman	EMAIL	Open
Conyers	All Genres	Meeting online every other Tues.	Nancy Fletcher	EMAIL	Open
Decatur	Adult Fiction	Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm	Susanne Fincher	EMAIL	Full
Dunwoody	All genres	1st and 3rd Fri,1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100	Gelia Dolcimas-colo	770-274-5240	Open
Johns Creek	Fiction, except for erotica and horror	Online using emails. Once pandemic ends, may meet in person	Anita Lovely	EMAIL	FULL
Lawrenceville/ Snellville	Novel, Short Story & Memoir	suspended	Kerry Denney	EMAIL	
Liburn	"Write Here, Right Now" shares writing techniques and offers constructive feedback	Meets monthly from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 1st or 2nd Thursday online	Ashley Melonson	EMAIL	Open

AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS, cont.					
(changes in red)					
Loganville	Fiction	1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM	Mike Brown	michaelkbrown22@yahoo.com	Full
Marietta	All genres	Meeting online 1st & 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM	Linda Sullivan	lindasullivan3@gmail.com	Wait List
Roswell	Poetry	Wednesdays, every 2 weeks, 6:00-8:00PM @ Scooter's Coffee	Kim Wright	wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com	Open
Roswell	All genres	1st & 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House	Jane Shirley	basketcasecafe@gmail.com	Closed
Roswell	All genres	Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email	George Weinstein	gjweinstein@yahoo.com	Wait list
Roswell	All genres	Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email	Jeremy Logan	jeremylogan.author@gmail.com	Open
Sandy Springs	Speculative fiction (novel length or short stories), regular fiction short stories, and any kind of nonfiction	Online via Zoom every other Thursday at 8:00pm	Sarah Minnear	sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com	WAIT
Sandy Springs	Fiction & Non-fiction	2nd Saturday of each month, 2:30-4:30PM in member's home	Bill Ottinger	osrtrain@att.net	Wait list
Smyrna/ Marietta	Poetry	Currently inactive	Liz Helenek	lizbizz7@bellsouth.net	
Snellville	All genres	Meet at the Snellville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library on 1st Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.	Mark Woodard	Markwoodard@gwinnettpl.org	Open
Snellville	All genres	Meet at member's house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon	Lynda Fitzgerald	lyndafitz@yahoo.com	Open
Virginia Highlands	Fiction	Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. @ member's house	Cindy Tolbert	cindy@cltolbert.com	Open

Membership Renewal



Membership Benefits

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

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

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

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

WRITING CONTEST WITH CASH PRIZES AND PUBLICATION. Each winter/spring, we hold a writing contest for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry with cash prizes and publication in the New Southern Fugitives online zine.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL YOUR BOOKS. We are constantly seeking more opportunities for you to speak to new audiences and sell your books. From creating AWC shelves at local bookstores to sponsoring an AWC Writers' Track and providing an authors' booth at the Decatur Book Festival, we provide year-round occasions for our members.

FREE TICKETS TO AUTHOR EVENTS. Because of our sponsorship of the Book Festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, we receive periodic offers to attend their paid events at no charge, and we share these tickets with our members via email announcements.

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 Executive Director George Weinstein

Membership Form

□ 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:_____

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