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.

September 7 – AWC Member-only Webinar with Ben Coles: “Crafting Your Elevator Pitch,” 7:00-8:00 pm Eastern (RSVP p.5)

September 18 – AWC Monthly Meeting for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern
1st Guest Speaker - Jim Hamilton - Writing a Novel from a Script and Using Work Experience as Research
2nd Guest Speaker - Ray Dan Parker - Speed-Dating to Get to Know Your Characters
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

September 7 – AWC Member-only Webinar with Ben Coles: “Crafting Your Elevator Pitch,” 7:00-8:00 pm Eastern

September 18 – AWC Monthly Meeting for Members and First-Time Guests,
1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

1st Guest Speaker - Jim Hamilton - Writing a Novel from a Script and Using Work Experience as Research

2nd Guest Speaker - Ray Dan Parker - Speed-Dating to Get to Know Your Characters

THE BOUQUINISTES are the literary gatekeepers of Paris. They have survived four centuries of censorship, economic crises, and political unrest. They endure wind, heat, frost, noise, floods, and air pollution and tolerate idle tourists and stingy customers. They claim that their bookstalls along the quays of the Seine make up the biggest open-air bookstore in the world.

The Seine by Elaine Sciolino
August is birthday month in my family. Not my birthday, but everyone else's it seems. The earliest of the month was my Aunt Nancy's, on the 5th, so I've been thinking a lot about her. She spent much of her retirement researching and collecting information on our relatives. After she passed away several years ago, all of her research came to me.

Up until then, with my computer background, I thought about genealogy as mostly the gathering of facts. Birth dates, wedding dates, death dates. The stuff you get from census records and such. I think this is a product of having begun my foray into genealogy exclusively at a keyboard. My aunt’s research included that, but also a lot of woods tromping, family interviewing, courthouse digging, and ephemera gathering.

This resulted in tubs of genealogy gold. There aren’t just binders of family group sheets. There’re photographs, newspaper clippings, love letters and a box of cassette tapes. And, the cassette tapes themselves tell a story. Of a medium no longer used, and a time back in the 1970s, perhaps around a laminate-topped kitchen table, with a window unit for air conditioning, ashtray full of Winston Salem cigarette butts, and cups of Eight-O'Clock coffee. Listening to those tapes gives me a glimpse into one time period, and holding them another.

Early on, working on my novel, I wanted to chase down every fact. But in historical fiction, the worlds of storytelling and research have to collide. In the best way. Several years ago when I went to the Historical Novel Society Conference, one of the speakers encouraged us to write between the gaps of the historical record. Take license with those gaps. Because of this, I’ve thought a lot about how facts, objects, and imagination become stories, whether it’s family lore or novels.

Stories are the sentences we string together with the facts and fictions we choose. The magical building blocks for me now are the raw data, the ephemera I can get my hands on, and lies, hopefully well told. For my novel, based on sculptor Clare Sheridan, I chased down and acquired Clare’s real passport from 1920, but also dreamt up what fragrance she might wear. I decided on Tabac Blonde, a perfume by Caron that was first made in 1919. I love cobbling together these bits of a life lived. They fuel the narrative imagination. These days I’m more than okay with fact and fiction shaking up. I’m living there with them like Three's Company, with gusto.

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.
RSVP for Free Online Quarterly Presentation for AWC Members on September 7

Bennett R. Coles is an award-winning author with Harper Collins and Titan Publishing Group (UK) and he's always looking for opportunities to help newer authors navigate the intricacies of book publishing so they don't make the same mistakes he made early on in his writing career.

On Tuesday, September 7 at 7 p.m. Eastern, Ben will provide a live, online presentation, the third of a quarterly series, which is free for current AWC members. His latest topic is

“Crafting Your Elevator Pitch”

Books are big. They're complex. They're rich and nuanced, and they have multiple layers. How, an author rightfully asks, can I possibly summarize mine in a few sentences? That’s the challenge of “the elevator pitch,” where you can express the essence of your book in the time it takes to ride an elevator. Agents and publishers are busy folks, and if you get the chance to pitch your book—in an elevator or elsewhere—you need to be able to do it fast. But there's another, deeper reason for mastering the elevator pitch: being able to summarize a book in a few sentences forces you as the author to find the soul of your book, to understand and express what it's really trying to say. If you can know this, your writing will be more focused, more compelling, and more powerful.

Ben's presentation will last approximately 50 minutes, after which he will answer participants’ questions.

A week before his talk, we will provide a Zoom link for participants to enter the online learning environment on September 7.

This opportunity is open to the first 25 current Atlanta Writers Club members who RSVP to AWC President Jill Evans at jill@jillevans.com. If you need to join or renew so you can participate, please go to [link]
On September 18th, we’ll host our next meeting. Georgia State University is still deciding whether to allow outside groups such as the AWC to use its facilities, due to rising concerns about the Delta variant of COVID-19. We will notify everyone on our email list no later than September 14 about whether our meeting will be in-person at the GSU-Dunwoody campus or online. If the latter, the link to the online meeting room will be sent via email twice before the meeting.

If the meeting is held online, a recording link for this meeting will be posted in the next month’s issue of The eQuill.

September 18, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern (please add yourself to our mailing list to receive the email about the location status of the meeting: LINK

1:00-1:30 Bonus open forum: all-things-writing Q&A with AWC Executive Director George Weinstein

1:30-1:45 AWC announcements and upcoming events

1:45-3:00 Jim Hamilton - Writing a Novel from a Script and Using Work Experience as Research

3:00-4:00 Ray Dan Parker - Speed-Dating to Get to Know Your Characters

JIM HAMILTON is a field faculty member of North Carolina’s Cooperative Extension service. For the last ten years, he’s focused on the conservation of ginseng and forest farming of medicinal herbs. He holds a PhD in Forestry from NC State and is an adjunct professor at Appalachian State University in Boone. While he’s written the requisite number of academic articles for unreadable journals to warrant his credentials, his first fiction novel, a coming of age story set under the backdrop of the ginseng trade, was published in late 2019.

The Last Entry is painted in the woodland tones of western North Carolina’s rural mountains—a cultural crossroads of post-modern Appalachia where old-time traditions clash with a rapidly-changing world. Jim weaves his expertise of natural history into a story and characters which reflect the region’s burgeoning diversity, its struggles with poverty, and a black-market economy still tied to its land and forests.

On September 18th, Jim will discuss the process of writing a novel from a screenplay and how to use work experience as research.

As a student at the University of Georgia, RAY DAN PARKER studied literature and history. His earliest influences came from such nineteenth and early twentieth century authors as James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, and George Eliot. He is also an avid reader of such science fiction legends as Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Kurt Vonnegut, as well as contemporary authors John Grisham, Michael Connelly, and John Sandford.

Following a long career in consulting, Mr. Parker began his fiction career with the publication of Unfinished Business, a murder mystery set in 1968 rural Florida. His second novel, Fly Away – The Metamorphosis of Dina Savage, takes place more recently in the Atlanta area, followed by a third in the Tom Williams series, Pronounced Ponce – The Midtown Murders.

Mr. Parker is married and lives in Atlanta, where he spends his free time writing, reading, and teaching. He also enjoys community service projects and works as a youth leader at his church.

On September 18th, Ray Dan will discuss the unconventional technique he uses to get to know his characters.
LINK TO AUGUST 21st RECORDING: [LINK]  
PASSWORD: 4Nr59NEK

VIANA SINISCALCHI

MY MEMIOR
- Instagram: Themarkusobums  
- Amazon

MARKUS BURNS
November 5-6, 2021 Atlanta Writers Conference

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!

COVID-19 Protocol

For all attendees, volunteers, and guest agents, editors, and speakers to gain admission, we will require proof of full vaccination (actual or photo of CDC COVID-19 Card) or a negative COVID test completed within 72 hours prior to the conference, and everyone will be required to wear a mask while in the conference section of the hotel.

We will offer an option of calls from the participating literary agents and acquisitions editors for those unable to travel or unable to meet these public health criteria.

Register today before you miss your chance!

Here is a summary of the activities:

- 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.
- Free to everyone who purchases at least two paid activities are the following bonuses:
  o Friday, November 5 mixer with the agents, editors, and your fellow participants, with singer-pianist and AWC member Mike Shaw providing the entertainment.
  o 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.
  o 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."
  o Award ceremony and giveaway drawings to close out 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.

- 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.
Learn more about the conference activities here: link

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

Read the all the agent and editor profiles here: link

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!
Member Book Launches & Accolades

AWC member Quaye Reed, author of *Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County*, will discuss the journey of transforming a newspaper column into a published book for the Dekalb History Center’s Lunch and Learn series. This will be held at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse on the 2nd floor from 12:00 - 1:00 pm on August 31. Attendance is free to attend and participants are encouraged to bring their lunch.

On Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m., AWC members Tim Westover, author of *The Winter Sisters*, and Alayne Smith, author of *This Is Ellen Jones Reporting*, will be interviewed by Kolinda Scialabba, Emmy Award-winning writer/producer with GCPSTV, about their new books.

This will be a literary discussion of Tim’s *The Winter Sisters*, a spell-binding Southern historical novel tinged with folklore, medicine, and miracles, and Alayne’s new novel, *This Is Ellen Jones Reporting*, a YA novel following a young woman’s quest to become a broadcast journalist in the turbulent ’60s. Both Tim and Alayne will be signing books after the discussion.

The event will take place at Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 W Crogan St, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.
Productivity for Writers

Appearances Are All that Matter
By AWC Member Chuck Storla

Writing is a creative pursuit. Creative pursuits produce art for art’s sake. This sounds good but doesn’t pay the rent and rarely pays the cable bill. Writing explores the boundaries of the human condition, while simultaneously elucidating, stretching, and redefining those frontiers. Writing allows sentences like the previous one to exist as if they make sense.

If this was all there was to it, writers could pursue the muse with that feeling of superiority one receives simply from being an artiste. Unfortunately, as so often happens, someone allowed a snake into the garden—no doubt because they were told they needed a critical plot point to drive the action. This snake went about whispering in the ears of the writers who write about writing. He told them authors needed to be more than creative. They needed to be productive.

I must pause here and point out that if my goal was to be productive, I would not have become a writer. I became a writer because the barrier to entry was low—practically non-existent since I could claim the title. Productivity never entered my thoughts. It was also nice being able to go to “work” in sweatpants. Of course, thanks to the pandemic, anyone can work in sweatpants once they admit their job is nonessential. Conveniently, most novelists, poets, and screenwriters fall into the nonessential category.

Returning to productivity, it seems every writer with a blog for other writers—which is most of them—believes the lie that productivity for an author is not only possible, but is a good thing. In their quest to make the world a better place, these bloggers create lists enumerating the essential steps to becoming an assembly-line wordsmith. This is supported by the common knowledge that creativity is enhanced through the application of step-by-step lists.

My response is to offer my own numbered list to teach a more valuable lesson: how a writer can appear to be productive. In terms of actual written output, the results are the same. My version gets you there with less stress and a reduced need for self-medication. ¹

1. Multitask. Experts who once proclaimed the virtues of multitasking now admit there is no such thing. I disagree. I have several novels and shorter works that I am simultaneously putting off until tomorrow. If I were to procrastinate on these separate projects individually, I’d never have time to re-watch the first ten seasons of The Walking Dead.

2. Make a schedule. Having a schedule is critical. You point family members to the schedule and say, “This is my sacred writing time. Do not bother me during these hours.” Once you’ve set boundaries, you are free to close the door to your home office, climb into the recliner, and take a nap. You can play video games as long as you wear headphones so no one in the house can hear you battling aliens.

To read the rest of the list, click here. If you don’t, you will live the rest of your life wondering what you’ve missed.

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 ChuckStorla.com. There are no pop-ups and no newsletter sign-up forms because I’m too lazy I have too much respect for your time.
For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages)—some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01-$0.05/word)—and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

- **Bobbie Christmas**
  Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability
  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: Alone Together in Georgia

Edited by Clayton H. Ramsey

Stories from 2020 Quarantine

Man Martin • Terry Kay • Janisse Ray • Margaret Elizabeth Brook • Ricki Cardenas
Dev S. Laskar • Ginger Bager • William Walsh • Judy Harrington Aust • Anna Schacher
Scott Thomas Outlar • Susam Sands • Elizabeth Musser • William Rawlings • Roger Johns
Hollis Gillespie • Lavette Hannon • Nicki Salko • Awa Cox • Juhwin Smith • Martin Henry
Terra Elan McVey • Nedra Pezold Roberts • Anjali Enjeti • Gwynedyn L. Parker
Sandie Kaval • Emily Carpenter • Clayton H. Ramsey • Tam White • David Pulver • Daniel Black

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.

Customer reviews

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

11 global ratings

5 star 100%

“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
Divas, Drinks & Dessert with B.B. Easton
Thursday, September 30, 7-9 pm

B.B. Easton—author, wife, mother of two and former school psychologist will speak about how her memoirs turned into the #1 Netflix series

Grab your girlfriends for a ladies' night out: Divas, Drinks & Desserts at the Polo Golf & Country Club with Atlanta author and former school psychologist B.B. Easton, whose journaling, turned memoir, became the hottest series on Netflix in over 30 countries. Hear B.B. speak about her writing and her books, and the Netflix show. B.B. will sign your copies and will take photos at the end of the evening. Tickets must be purchased prior to this event. Tickets and books may be purchased through Johns Creek Books and Gifts or through this Eventbrite link for tickets only. Tickets are limited. They are $15.00 each and include drinks and dessert.

Questions? Please contact Johns Creek Books & Gifts at 770-696-9999 or the event volunteer: 678-642-3369.
Meet the Author

**Southern Authors, Southern Voices**
Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 W Crogan St., Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Tim Westover & Alyane Smith in conversation with Emmy award winner, Kolinda Scialabba

Join GCPL in-person as the local authors discuss their new historical fiction books, “The Winter Sisters” and “This Is Ellen Jones Reporting”.

Presented in partnership with Friends of the Library

Discover more at: www.gwinnettpl.org/adultservices

---

**New York Times Bestseller, John Ferling**
Monday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. (EST) Virtual

John Ferling will discuss his new book, Winning Independence: The Decisive Years of the Revolutionary War, 1778-1781

Register at GCPL Adult Services and the link will be sent to you.

Signed copies available from Eagle Eye Book Shop and shipping is free.

https://eagleeyebooks.com/
ATLReads Monthly Virtual Book Club

This is an exciting opportunity for adults who enjoy reading! The book discussion is on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- **September 21**
  *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

- **October 19**
  *Winter Sisters* by Tim Westover

- **November 16**
  *Pieces of Her* by Karin Slaughter

To join us, please click [here](#).

**Adult Writing Workshops and Programs**

**Memoir Writing Workshop Series**
Tuesdays, September 14-October 19 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Join GCPL and Gwinnett County Community Services for a 6-week memoir writing workshop series. Fran Stewart will guide you to write about your experiences and life lessons so you can entertain and inspire others. Registration recommended due to limited space. [GCPL Adult Services](#)

**Local Indie Author Day**

Each year Gwinnett County Public Library participates in the nationwide Indie Author Day program. All local authors are invited to participate. We are looking forward to celebrating the Indie Author Day in fall 2022. To participate, please print out and complete the pdf application form found on the [GCPL website](#), and mail it with a copy of your book to the following address: Gwinnett County Public Library Adult Services Department 1001 Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
2021 Festival Weekend in Decatur

**AJC Decatur Book Festival**

**Oct 2nd**

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.

**Amplify Decatur Music Festival**

**Oct 1&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.

**Decatur Arts Festival**

**Oct 2&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.

**Decatur Craft Beer Festival**

**Oct 2nd**

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.
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
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
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**.
<p>| Online #1 | Fiction: Short Stories &amp; Novels | Meets every other Friday, 1pm. | Karlee Bradbury | EMAIL | Wait list |
| Online #2 | Fiction &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Middle Grade Fiction | Work shared by email | Richard Gnann | EMAIL | Open |
| Online #8 | Screenwriting | 1st &amp; 3rd Friday of every month | Liz Irland | EMAIL | Open |
| Candler Park/Decatur | Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir | Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Quinn Eastman | EMAIL | Open |
| Conyers/online | 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 Dolcimascolo | 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 &amp; Memoir | suspended | Kerry Denney | EMAIL | |
| Liburn | &quot;Write Here, Right Now&quot; 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 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:michealkbrown22@yahoo.com">michealkbrown22@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting online 1st &amp; 3rd Tues. 6:30-8:00PM</td>
<td>Linda Sullivan</td>
<td>Wait List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindasullivan3@gmail.com">lindasullivan3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Wednesdays, every 2 weeks, 6:00-8:00PM @ Scooter’s Coffee</td>
<td>Kim Wright</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com">wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Jane Shirley</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:basketcasecafe@gmail.com">basketcasecafe@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Every Tuesday 6-8pm at Scooters in West Roswell</td>
<td>George Weinstein</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gweinstein@yahoo.com">gweinstein@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeremylogan.author@gmail.com">jeremylogan.author@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Speculative fiction</td>
<td>Online via Zoom every other Thursday at 8:00pm</td>
<td>Sarah Minnear</td>
<td>WAIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>(novel length or short stories), regular fiction short stories, and any kind of nonfiction</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com">sarah.dwyer.minnear@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; Non-fiction</td>
<td>2nd Saturday of each month, 2:30-4:30PM in member’s home.</td>
<td>Bill Ottinger</td>
<td>Open - information required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Please indicate what you are writing, any published work, and expectations.)</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:osrtrain@att.net">osrtrain@att.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna/Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Currently inactive</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lizbizz7@bellsouth.net">lizbizz7@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meet at the Snellville Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library on 1st Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Mark Woodard</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Markwoodard@gwinnettpl.org">Markwoodard@gwinnettpl.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meet at member’s house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon</td>
<td>Lynda Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lyndafitz@yahoo.com">lyndafitz@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Highlands</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. @ member’s house</td>
<td>Cindy Tolbert</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cindy@cltolbert.com">cindy@cltolbert.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE AWC HAS AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR TRACKING MEMBERSHIPS AND ALERTING MEMBERS WHEN IT'S TIME TO RENEW.

1. You will receive an e-mail from the system (showing Executive Director George Weinstein's e-mail address) 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 Executive Director 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

Individual [$50.00] $___________

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

Student [$10.00] $___________

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

Tax Deductible Donation $___________

Mail check and form to: Atlanta Writers Club

C/O Jerry Weiner, Treasurer

8080 Jett Ferry Rd.

Atlanta, GA 30350

Total $___________

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.