February 19 – AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at GSU-Dunwoody for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

1st Guest Speaker - Wanda Morris: Writing Thriller Fiction

2nd Guest Speaker - Sanjena Sathian: Writing Literary Fiction (in Conversation with Anjali Enjeti)
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*(in Conversation with Anjali Enjeti)*

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**Writing Contest Deadline March 20th**

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**AWC officers**

President: Jill Evans

Executive Director: George Weinstein

Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors
                     George Weinstein
                     Clay Ramsey
                     Marty Aftewicz
                     Ron Aiken
                     Mike Brown

Conference Director: George Weinstein

Membership VP: Yvonne Green

Programs VP: *Vacant—Help Wanted*

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

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**Stay Connected to AWC**

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**COVER**

I enjoy selecting the cover images for the newsletters. This year I’ve decide to give them a common theme: “Hidden Faces.” You’ll have to judge the person by their “cover.” I hope you find all 12 interesting.

As always, should a title or author be legible it is not intended as an endorsement by the AWC, its officers, or its members.

Gene Bowen, eQuill Publisher.
**ARE YOU READY FOR 2022 TO BE YOUR BEST WRITING YEAR EVER?**

When you look out to a beautiful writing horizon, what do you see? It could be anything from deepening your craft, completing a work, or acquiring representation. Publication or book signings. You may want to write a family story and gift it to your loved ones as family history. Are you well on your way, or do you still need to pack your mental suitcase for the journey?

All these goals are achievable and needn’t be tales of horror or fantasy. When I worked in the IT world, the saying was always, “what gets measured, gets done.”

Creatively we lean against timelines and metrics. We want characters to bloom and stories to flow and unfold. But we all recognize one of the most foundational metrics of writing, the dreaded word count. Have you participated in NaNoWriMo? It’s the Phi Slama Jama of writing, a monthlong word sling-fest that for some is the perfect jump start to getting the butt in the seat and the fingers cranking. If you haven’t done NaNoWriMo or another writing challenge, I bet you’ve still experienced that tiny word counter searing its way into your consciousness from the bottom of the screen, stagnating, creeping or flying.

In 2018, I listened to a terrific episode of Jonathan Goldstein’s podcast Heavyweight. His guest Soraya had abandoned a huge research project but wanted to pick it back up. Listen for the great story, but you’ll also hear Jonathan in your head forevermore saying, “You gotta boom, boom, boom, bang it out.”

We know that our writing goals don’t start and end at word count. They take on the depth and breadth of our humanity: to connect, to move and challenge. For others to latch on, we have to take the incremental steps—just as we monitor word count—to get our work out into the world.

The Bookends YouTube Channel recently did an episode on goal setting. Check it out. Lots of practical advice for planning and measuring your upcoming year in writing.

And if you’re reading this, then you’re already part of a community of encouragement. We aren’t naysayers. Nor are we dreaming into the clouds without providing education and the tools to get you there. Here are a few offerings from the Atlanta Writers Club that may coincide with your goals.

If you want to write short works of fiction, non-fiction or poetry, or you’re between longer pieces, be sure to enter our Annual Writing Contest.

If you want get your work in front of agents and editors, sign up for the Atlanta Writers Conference.

If you want to improve your craft, be inspired, and learn about the business of writing, join us every third Saturday for our monthly meeting. And don’t forget to join a critique group.

If you want to learn more about story, learn the self-publishing business, and network with other independent, entrepreneurial authors, sign up for our inaugural Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference.

I recently took stock, and when I spoke with one of our members, I voiced my ridiculously big goals out loud. Scary, but fun. Send me an email and let me know what yours are, and I hope to see you at one of our club events taking those steps with me to make them happen.

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.
In addition to hosting this live in-person meeting, we will also record it and post the link in the next month’s issue of *The eQuill* newsletter.

**February 19, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Eastern**  
**In-person at Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C auditorium**

We are requiring all attendees to provide proof of full vaccination (a scan or photo of your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or the actual paper record) or proof of a negative COVID test that was issued a maximum of 3 days before the meeting. When you check in at our registration table, you’ll need to present this information to our volunteers. No exceptions will be allowed. If you arrive at the meeting without this proof, you will not be admitted. Masking will be optional but is strongly encouraged.

During the meeting, we will hold our writing contest challenge, where a writing prompt will be given to AWC members when they check in. If they want to participate in the challenge, they will receive an index card and will use the prompt in their response of 50 words or less. The judges will select the winner, who will receive an additional year of AWC membership and a digital copy of our anthology *Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia*. The winning entry will be read at the end of the meeting.

**12:45-1:30 Pre-Meeting Network & Nosh in the Bldg. N-C café:** Get to know your fellow writers and their projects while enjoying snacks and beverages.  
**1:30-1:45 AWC announcements and upcoming events**

**1:45-2:45 Wanda Morris: Writing Thriller Fiction**

*Wanda M. Morris* is a corporate attorney who has worked in the legal departments for several Fortune 100 companies. An accomplished presenter and leader, Morris has previously served as President of the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel and is the founder of its Women’s Initiative, an empowerment program for female in-house lawyers. An alumna of the Yale Writers Workshop and Robert McKee’s Story Seminar, she is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and Crime Writers of Color. Morris is married, the mother of three, and lives in Atlanta, Georgia. *All Her Little Secrets* is her debut novel.  

Learn more at [wandamorriswrites.com](http://wandamorriswrites.com) or follow Morris on social media:  
Instagram: [@wandamowrites](http://wandamowrites)  
Twitter: [@WandaMo14](http://WandaMo14)

On February 19, Wanda will discuss the art and craft of writing thrillers.

**3:00-3:45 Sanjena Sathian: Writing Literary Fiction (in Conversation with Anjali Enjeti)**

*Sanjena Sathian* is the author of *Gold Diggers* (Penguin Press, April 2021), which was named a Top 10 Best Book of 2021 by the Washington Post, longlisted for the Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize and India’s Tata Literature First Novel Prize, chosen as an Amazon Best of 2021 pick, a Good Morning America Buzz pick, and more. She is working on the television adaptation with Mindy Kaling’s production company, Kaling International.


She’s a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, from which she received a Michener-Copernicus Fellowship, and where she was supported by the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans.

On February 19, Sanjena will be in conversation with November 2021 AWC speaker Anjali Enjeti to discuss writing literary fiction.
January 15 Meeting Photos & Links

LINK TO JANUARY MEETING RECORDING  PASSWORD: qTDFEUE7

Will Leitch

Chris Joyner
### ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC 2022 Writing Contest is open to: All current, paid club members. To join the AWC or renew your membership, please use this link: [link]. If you have a question about when your AWC membership expires, please contact the Membership VP, Yvonne Green, at yvonnegreen1000@gmail.com.
2. Submissions must be original, unpublished, and previously un-awarded work.
3. Entrants may submit only one piece to only one category per contest year.

### DEADLINE:

Midnight, March 20, 2022. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

### AWARDS:

Each award carries a $300 cash prize and a plaque. Winners will be announced at our club meeting on April 16, 2022.

### CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- **Terry Kay Prize for Fiction** (Max, 3000 words)
- **Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction** (Max, 3000 words)
- **Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry** (Max, 90 lines)

### CONTEST GUIDELINES:

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

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

**PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### SUBMISSION RULES:

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

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to tiffanyrjansen@gmail.com.

The SSF must include the following information:
- Author’s Name
- Prize Category
- Title of Entry
- Word Count (Line Count for poetry)

**Name your SSF document using the following template: SSF-YourTitle.docx**

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

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

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

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

- Subject Line: AWC 2022 Writing Contest
- Your name, phone number, prize category, title
- Example:
  - Dear Tiffany,
  - I have attached [Title] for the [Prize Category] and the corresponding SSF.
  - Thank you,
  - [Your name]
  - [Your phone number]
Member Book Launches & Accolades

AWC

Executive Director George Weinstein will present the 90-minute free class “Your First Book: Start It, Finish It, Sell It” at the Norcross Branch Library on Saturday, February 12 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Discover the crucial difference between editing and rewriting. Determine your publishing goals and make a plan to achieve them. Whether you want to write a book but don't know how to get started or you have completed your final draft but aren't sure how to get it published, this workshop will provide answers and inspiration. To register for this free session, click here:

Pi Day Writing Contest

Member Jim Spence contributed the following idea for a Club contest in honor of International Pi Day (March 14th or 3/14):

The challenge is to compose a paragraph of 32 words on the topic of your choice where the word lengths correspond to each digit of pi up to the first “0”:

3.1415926535897932384626433832795

Thus, the first word would be three letters, the second word would be one letter, the third would be four letters, and so on. You decide the topic and where to insert all punctuation.

Jim provided the following example:

How I love a hardy breakfast in winter. Savor the bacon, buttered croissant, sausage, blueberry jam on hot biscuits! Soon enough, I'm portly. Must not eat starches, fat or protein. Breakfast, adieu.

The judges will select the winner based on adherence to the word-length rule, originality/inventiveness, and the coherence of the overall paragraph. The deadline for submissions is February 28. The winner will be announced on March 14th, of course!

Atlanta Writers Club members are invited to send their submission with "Pi Day Contest" in the subject line to Kathy Nichols, our VP of Contests, at knichols75@gmail.com. The winner will receive a one-year extension to their membership and an ebook of our 2020 anthology, Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia. Past contest winners are asked not to submit again, to maximize opportunities for other AWC members.

To join the AWC or renew your membership so you can participate, please use the link here for online and mail-in options: LINK
Now Open for Registration

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF SUCCESS

The Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference (ASPC) is dedicated to serving self-published authors and the independent publishing market, but it also offers writing craft and book marketing topics that will appeal to all authors. Our inaugural conference on Saturday, April 23, 2022, will showcase a full day of speakers and networking for all those who attend. You can participate in-person or virtually.

No matter whether you’re curious about the self-publishing market, want to learn the writing craft and marketing tips from accomplished guests, or you want to discover how to grow your independent author business, everyone will have something to learn at ASPC.

Join us for a jam-packed day of networking as well as business and craft presentations from professionals in the industry.

For the April 23, 2022 ASPC at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, in-person participants will receive full access to the conference for $129 for all Atlanta Writers Club members including:

- Eight Presentations
- Coffee & Conversations
- Genre Tables Evening Networking Event
- Access to the Networking Room with our speakers and other attendees (open all day for building your author community and talking with professionals)

The virtual option offers access to all eight presentations. The presentations will not be recorded.

The Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference is presented exclusively for members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you are not a current member or your membership will lapse prior to April 24, 2022, you can join/renew as part of your Conference registration—you do not need to do this as a two-step process.

Scheduled Presentations:

1. Wired For Story: What Your Reader’s Brain Really Craves, and How to Deliver It
2. How to Know When to Click Publish & Getting Started
3. Using the Pixar Method to Hook Your Reader
4. The Art of Selling at Events
5. Your High Concept: Taking Your Book’s Theme from Start to Finish
6. Finding the Courage to Shamelessly Market Your Book
7. Trouble-Shooting Your Self-Published Business
8. Author Panel (for any unanswered questions attendees may have)

For all the ASPC details and the registration link, click here:

Now Open for Registration
Our 26th Atlanta Writers Conference will be held in-person (with an option to participate virtually) at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel on May 6-7, 2022 with agent/editor critique and pitch meetings, a two-hour workshop on working with book publishing professionals at every stage of the publication process, two Q&A panels, emailed pre-conference edits, the return of our fabled mixer, and two days of educational talks!

Whether you are...
• In search of an agent or a publisher
• Working on a manuscript and in need of feedback
• Seeking to learn more about the writing craft and/or publishing business
• Building your network of industry professionals and writing colleagues
...this is your opportunity to take the next big step toward your writing goals.

For the safety of all concerned, every participant, guest agent and editor, and volunteer must present proof of a negative COVID test (no older than 72 hours) or proof of full vaccination (the actual CDC COVID card or a photo/photocopy of it) upon entering the conference section of the hotel. Thought masking will be optional, we encourage all individuals to wear a mask while engaging in the in-person conference activities.

Want to get published?

Most of our guest agents and editors will be traveling to Georgia, while a couple might participate in all activities via Zoom. The May 6-7, 2022 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you in-person/virtual meetings with literary agents and acquisitions editors—with an option to participate virtually yourself if you are unable to travel to Atlanta due to COVID or another reason—along with a host of other in-person activities:

• Access to 17 acquisitions editors and literary agents seeking every major fiction genre and nonfiction topic, as well as graphic novels, picture books, movie screenplays, and TV scripts.

• Critiques of manuscript samples by the editors and agents, with work submitted a month in advance.

• Pitchses to the editors and agents with query letters you will submit ahead of time for their review.

• Query letter critique by a pair of editors/agents to improve your pitch (at past conferences, 70% or more of Best Pitch awards by an agent or editor went to those who participated in the Query Letter Critique).

• Pre-conference edit of your manuscript submission via email months before the conference by a freelance editor of your choice (at past conferences, 60% or more of all awards—for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitch—went to writers who participated in the Pre-Conference Edit).

• Two-hour workshop with acquisitions editor and former literary agent Jenny Chen on “Working with Book Publishing Professionals at Every Stage of the Process” and two free bonus talks beforehand.

• Free bonus educational talks by award-winning author Nicki Salcedo and Amazon bestseller (and Atlanta Writers Conference success story) Emily Carpenter.

• Friday-night mixer for those who are not COVID risk averse
• Award ceremony, where each of the agents and editors—virtual and in-person—will select participants for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitches, with certificates to be given to the awardees—or sent after the conference for those not in attendance.

More than 40 of our members have signed with agents or editors they met at our Conferences, and a number of those have scored major book deals (and one, so far, has hit the bigtime with a movie deal). You could be next!

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

The Atlanta Writers Conference is presented exclusively for members of the Atlanta Writers Club. If you are not a current member or your membership will lapse prior to May 8, 2022, you can join/renew as part of your Conference registration—you do not need to do this as a two-step process.

To read all the details for the May 6-7, 2022 Atlanta Writers Conference, click here

Register Now!
IS IT TIME TO TAKE YOUR WRITING CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL BY ATTENDING A WRITERS' CONFERENCE?

The answer is a definite yes. No matter where you are in your career as a writer, attending a conference will benefit you. In this post, NY Book Editors will explain all of the reasons why you should get yourself to the next conference.

Let’s explore the top nine reasons why you should register for a conference:

1. GET SERIOUS ABOUT WRITING

2. LEARN FROM OTHER WRITERS

3. LEARN FROM EDITORS

4. LEARN FROM LITERARY AGENTS

5. PITCH YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO LITERARY AGENTS & PUBLISHERS

6. SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

7. NETWORK WITH FELLOW WRITERS

8. BREAK UP THE MONOTONY

9. TAX WRITE OFF

For the complete blogpost, click here:
by AWC Member Pam Zendt

IT WAS A TUESDAY EVENING and the student chit-chat before my Fiction 1 class began was typical. I asked the young lady sitting next to me:

“What type of writing do you do?”

“Steampunk fiction.” Just saying the words—big emphasis on PUNK—brightened her expression. Behind my KN95, my face lit up, too.

Just what I’m looking for. I wrote ‘stmpnk fic’ in my new notebook for later research, as we turned to our professor’s opening remarks. This should be a great journey.

It was August 2021 at Kennesaw State University where I had been accepted into the master’s degree writing program through the 62 and Older program. Just an hour earlier, my husband had snapped a picture of me for the back-to-school memories. Sky-blue dress, gray backpack, mask looped on wrist. The program allows individuals 62 and older tuition-free entry into most degree programs at state universities provided they meet regular admission qualifications. Admission policies and degree programs vary from school to school. Most classes are in-person at KSU, but it varies at other places.

One semester in, I have six credit hours toward the 36 hours I’ll need for the MFA degree, which at KSU is called Professional Writing, emphasis on Creative Writing. One of my goals is that sheepskin document at the end, but

I’m also planning to work alongside my AWC critique group friends as I tick off my writing goals over these coming semesters. There’s no hurry. Right now, I’m perusing study-abroad options. Montepulciano, Italy for Maymester has caught my eye. It sounds like a perfect place to experience more “steampunk” moments, but in a different language. Should be an adventure.

Pam is a writer, artist and avid cyclist. Cadence, a bicycling word that suggests energy and steadiness, is her word for 2022. She lives in Sandy Springs with her husband, world’s best biking partner.
For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages)--some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01-$0.05/word)--and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

The AWC maintains this directory in an effort to assist AWC members with editor options for consideration; however, the AWC does not endorse the individuals in this directory and is not liable for any member’s experiences with these editors.

Bobbie Christmas
Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability
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
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
"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.
Proofreader/Submission Assistant Needed

Author Evan Guilford-Blake has had four books of fiction, some 100 stories and articles, and about 30 plays published. Since the pandemic began, he finished drafts of two novels and a short story collection but finds it extremely difficult to prepare and make submissions due to failing eyesight.

He is looking for a paid assistant to help him from their own computer as well as sometimes his at his home in Stone Mountain (where he lives with his wife and two friendly dogs). Qualified candidates should be traditionally published authors with experience submitting their work online.

Evan proposes to pay $40/hour, plus $10 per day to cover transportation costs. The hours are flexible. Rarely would there be less than ten hours of work in any week, but some weeks there would be none. The duties include proofreading Evan’s works of literary fiction (no line-editing), finding and reviewing appropriate submission opportunities, preparing submissions (including cover letters) and sending them out by email or via online forms, and nominal record-keeping. The assistant would need to work both from his/her computer using e-copies Evan would send and sometimes from his computer.

He and his wife are fully vaccinated and wear masks when they are around others. They expect the assistant to be and do as well.

Evan would be glad to discuss the details of this position and answer any questions. Please contact him by email using an oversize font (the larger the better) to set up a call at a prearranged time: evantgb1@gmail.com
Meet the Expert: Professor Scott C. Williamson
The Moral and Religious Thoughts of Frederick Douglass
Thursday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m.  Virtual

Williamson, who wrote the introduction for the recently released edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, will discuss Douglass and the impact his book has had on America.

Meet the Authors: James Taylor, Ph.D. and Wandy Taylor, Ed.D.
The Imperfect Storm: Racism & a Pandemic Collide in America - How It Impacted Public Education and How to Fix It
Saturday, February 5 at 1:00 p.m.
Lilburn Library Branch (48174 Church Street, Lilburn)

Join the authors to explore how systemic racism in public education has prevented many black and brown children from achieving their full potential, and how to successfully bridge the culture gap between teachers and students in culturally diverse classrooms. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Meet the Author: Alex Robson
Thursday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m.
Suwanee Library Branch (361 Main Street, Suwanee)

Learn about one man's journey to understand the meaning of freedom with author and Gwinnett County Assistant Principal, Alex Robson in conversation with Emmy winner Kolinda Scialabba. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Your First Book: Start It, Finish It, Sell It Writers Workshop
Saturday, February 12 at 1:00 p.m.
Norcross Library Branch (5735 Buford Highway, Norcross)

Learn strategies to find time to write, motivate yourself to keep going, and finish your book. George Weinstein, Atlanta Writers Club Executive Director and author of six novels, will lead the workshop.
ATL Reads Virtual Book Club: *The Personal Librarian*
Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.  Virtual

For the month of February, we will discuss the historical fiction novel, *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

Free and open to all. Read the book and chat with us.

Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 p.m.
Suwanee Library Branch (361 Main Street, Suwanee)

Join GCPL for our Sundays in Suwanee series as historian Dr. D L Henderson discusses the history of Atlanta’s segregated Oakland Cemetery.

Discover more programs at WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
FEBRUARY 1, 2022, 7:00 P.M. AT VINTAGE PIZZERIA, Dunwoody
THE THEME IS HUMOR!!

Jameson Gregg - Author of Uncorked & Off the Chain and Luck Be a Chicken
Lee St. John - Author of Teacher Tattletales and Other Southern Shenanigans, She’s a Keeper! and Cockamamie Memoirs from a Hot Southern Mess
Lee Gaitan - Author of My Pineapples Went to Houston and Lite Whines and Laughter

NO RSVP needed—please attend if you’re available!
GWM Writers Retreat

2022 Writers Retreat

Thanks for the support!!!

Fri, Feb. 25
Happy Hour, Dinner, and Keynote

Keynote by George Weinstein
Two-time former President, Atlanta Writers Club

Saturday, Feb. 26

Session 1a
Writing Southern Fiction in the Modern South
Ginger Eager & Veena Rao

Session 1b
Working with an Editor
Tyra Douyon

Session 2a
Writing Crime, Mystery, Thriller, and Suspense
Roger Johns

Session 2b
Rejection & Revision
Chris Negron

Session 3a
Your First Page
Peter Selgin

Session 3b
Writing Poetry
Scott Thomas Outlar

Sunday, Feb. 27

9:00 - 10:30am

Session 4a
Researching and Writing about Historical Events for Fiction or Nonfiction
Rona Simmons

Session 4b
So You Want to Get Published...
Kristen Anderson

10:45am - 12:00pm

Session 5a
Writing and Pitching Nonfiction
Justine Cowan

Session 5b
Finding & Working with a Literary Agent
Pamela Harty

2:00 - 3:15pm

Session 6a
Getting Your Book to Become a Best-Seller
Chip Bell

Session 6b
Organizing Productive Writing Groups
TBD

If you can’t scan the QR Code click here.
“Suspect in elaborate plot to scam famous authors arrested in New York”

Federal agents arrested an Italian citizen in January and accused of him running a yearslong scam in which he is believed to have stolen valuable unpublished literary manuscripts, officials said.

The man, Filippo Bernardini, 29, was picked up at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City and charged with identity theft and wire fraud in a scheme to "fraudulently obtain hundreds of prepublication manuscripts of novels and other forthcoming books," according to an indictment secured by federal prosecutors.

Bernardini, of London, registered more than 160 websites and email addresses "to impersonate individuals involved in the publishing industry to gain surreptitious access to these materials," the indictment says.

In building the fraudulent domains to look like those of literary talent agencies, publishing houses and scouting outfits, Bernardini would come close to using well-known names but deploy strategic typos that wouldn't be easily spotted — such as using lowercase "r" and "n" where the letter "m" would be in an entity's name, according to the indictment.

While the court document doesn't name any victims, it said Bernardini fooled a Pulitzer Prize-winning author in September 2020 and scored the writer's unpublished work by "impersonating a well-known editor and publisher."

To read the full story, click here:
Cheshire Novel Prize (CNP) was created by Sara Cox (@saranaidinecox), writer and editor. Sara was awarded an MA in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University (@McrWritingSchl), has studied editing with the Chartered Institute of Editors and Proofreaders (CIEP) and is a professional member of CIEP.

Sara understands that writing can be a long and arduous road, where the slush pile and querying can seem insurmountable for even the most talented of writers.

Passionate about writing and new writers, CNP is Sara’s way of offering new underrepresented talent the chance to rise up and allow their voices to be heard and their stories told.

What’s different about CNP?

We believe that entering any novel prize or competition can be daunting.

Putting your work out there is never an easy decision. That’s why we believe EVERY writer should receive at least a paragraph of feedback as to why they were not longlisted or shortlisted. Having that feedback can really help writers to realize that not only is reading subjective, but sometimes the reasons for not being longlisted have nothing to do with the quality of the work or the ability of the writer.

The Cheshire Novel Prize is open to unagented, unpublished or unagented self-published novelists only.

For submission guidelines and contest rules, click here:
In December, James Patterson announced the 500 bookseller recipients of his $500 holiday bonus program. Of the 500 recipients, these are in Georgia:

Hannah DeCamp, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA
Sharon Davis, Book Bound Bookstore, Blairsville, GA
Judith McClellan, Horton's Books & Gifts, Carrollton, GA
Patience Allan Glick, Hills & Hamlets Bookshop, Chattahoochee, GA
Dartricia Rollins, Charis Books & More, Decatur, GA
Jason Smith, Little Shop of Stories, Decatur, GA
Bob Munson, Eagle Eye Book Shop, Decatur, GA
Shauna Cochran, Dragon's Lair Bookshop, Jefferson, GA
Katlin Kerrison, Story on the Square, McDonough, GA
Tracie Harris Fain, The Book House (GA), Mableton, GA

Elizabeth Butti, Book Exchange (GA), Marietta, GA
Annell Gerson, Bookmiser, Marietta, GA
Julia Davis, The Book Worm Bookstore, Powder Springs, GA
Annie Childress, E. Shaver, Bookseller, Savannah, GA
Cheri Sinopoli, Righton Books, St Simons Island, GA
Kim McNamara, Read It Again Books, Suwanee, GA
Dave Harris, Gottwals Books, Warner Robins, GA
Beth Hermes, FoxTale Book Shoppe, Woodstock, GA
Annie Jones, The Bookshelf (GA), Thomasville, GA
Josh Niesse, Underground Books, Carrollton, GA

Dajah Williams of the Book Worm Bookstore in Powder Springs, GA won the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Nancy Olson Bookseller Award for 2021.
Expose Yourself

MAKE A READ-YOUR-BOOK VIDEO

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

• Upload your video to AWC VIDEO This may take a few minutes.

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

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WRITING SPACE

• 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.

• Send the picture to awc.member.services@gmail.com with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.

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

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**.
## Changes in RED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online #1</th>
<th>Fiction: Short Stories &amp; Novels</th>
<th>Meets every other Friday, 1pm.</th>
<th>Karlee Bradbury</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>Wait list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online #2</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; non-Fiction</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Linh Pham</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #3</td>
<td>Self Published Authors</td>
<td>Every 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday at 7 pm</td>
<td>J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #4</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm Eastern</td>
<td>Gail Lash</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #5</td>
<td>Short Stories</td>
<td>Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm</td>
<td>Pat Bowen</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #6</td>
<td>Young Adult &amp; Middle Grade Fiction</td>
<td>Work shared by email</td>
<td>Richard Gnann</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #7</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Friday of every month</td>
<td>Liz Irland</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler Park/Decatur</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Quinn Eastman</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers/online</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Meeting online every other Tues.</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>Adult Fiction</td>
<td>Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm</td>
<td>Susanne Fincher</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
<td>Gelia Dolcimascolo</td>
<td>770-274-5240</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Creek</td>
<td>Fiction, except for erotica and horror</td>
<td>Online using emails. Once pandemic ends, may meet in person</td>
<td>Anita Lovely</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville/Snellville</td>
<td>Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir</td>
<td>suspended</td>
<td>Kerry Denney</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liburn</td>
<td>&quot;Write Here, Right Now&quot; shares writing techniques and offers constructive feedback</td>
<td>Meets monthly from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 1st or 2nd Thursday online</td>
<td>Ashley Melonson</td>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Genre(s)</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Membership Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loganville</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<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>
<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>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays @ The Heron House</td>
<td>Jane Shirley</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
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<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>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Speculative fiction (novel length or short stories), regular fiction short stories, and any kind of nonfiction</td>
<td>Online via Zoom every other Thursday at 8:00pm</td>
<td>Sarah Minnear</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fiction &amp; Non-fiction (Please indicate what you are writing, any published work, and expectations.)</td>
<td>Saturdays except when AWC meets, 2:00-4:00 PM in member's home or virtual.</td>
<td>Bill Ottinger</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna/Marietta</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Currently inactive</td>
<td>Liz Helenek</td>
<td>closed</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>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Snellville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meet at member’s house 1st Saturday of month 9:30 - noon</td>
<td>Lynda Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Open</td>
<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>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>Fiction &amp; nonfiction</td>
<td>Every Wed. 1pm @ Copper Coin (zoom, too)</td>
<td>Sheryl Parbhoo</td>
<td>Wait list</td>
<td></td>
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</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-YEARLTY 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

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] $____________

Tax Deductible Donation $____________

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

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

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

Date: ______/______/___________

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

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