April 16 – AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at GSU-Dunwoody for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

**Joshilyn Jackson and Lydia Netzer** - Game On: How to Use Roleplaying to Electrify Your Story (2-hour workshop with Q&A)
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Last chance to register for the April 23 Self-Publishing Conference

**AWC officers**

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Treasurer: Jerry Weiner

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**Upcoming Events**

**April 16 – AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at GSU-Dunwoody for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern**

**Joshilyn Jackson and Lydia Netzer** - Game On: How to Use Roleplaying to Electrify Your Story (2-hour workshop with Q&A)

**April 23 - Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference**, Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel with Zoom option

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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.
The Storms of Spring

Last week, I hauled the blueberry bush containers into the garage for protection. The branches were covered with tender buds and flowers, tricked into emergence by the inconceivably warm February temperatures. They needed cover from that last callous winter freeze. A small reminder that seasonal change is beautiful, but just as likely volatile.

For me, writing is that same dichotomy, a green-spring escape from volatile reality.

But the act of writing is suspension, like listening to a good and proper storm; pelting rain, distant thunder and lightning that stays in its place behind the clouds. Even when reality is fractured, or the thing being written about is the fracture.

I live in Coweta County, and this time last year an EF4 tornado came through Newnan, killing one person, damaging numerous homes, and taking out many of the old and beloved trees. Spring's volatility turned violent and heartbreaking. The blue tarps went up, the community rallied, and this year – hopefully post-pandemic – Newnan will thrive again.

I see the pictures coming out of Ukraine and wonder if places like Mariupol will ever recover. For now, their citizens can only hold onto a city in the mind, a previous landscape of stability now smothered by rubble and fear.

In January, I reached out to Atlanta-based Ukrainian poet Ilya Kaminsky. Though he couldn't be with us this year, he will join us in 2023. His book Deaf Republic received the following acclaim:

Finalist for the National Book Award • Finalist for the PEN/Jean Stein Award • Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award • Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize • Winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award • Winner of the National Jewish Book Award • Finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award • Finalist for the T. S. Eliot Prize • Finalist for the Forward Prize for Best Collection

He is actively providing resources for refugees, writing war poetry on his Twitter account, and providing updates and poetry translations from his friends from within his war-torn homeland.

Ilya Kaminsky is living proof that writing and poetry matter in our fractured world.

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.
April 16 Atlanta Writers Club In-Person Meeting for AWC Members and First-Time Guests

April 16, 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

PLEASE NOTE: At the speakers’ request, we will not record this meeting—you will need to attend in-person to experience it.

12:45-1:30 p.m. 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 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans

1:45-4:00 p.m. Joshilyn Jackson and Lydia Netzer - Game On: How to Use Roleplaying to Electrify Your Story (2-hour workshop with Q&A)

Joshilyn Jackson is the NY Times and USA Today bestselling author of ten novels and a novella. Her most recent thriller, MOTHER MAY I, won the Patricia Winn Award for Southern Fiction. As a volunteer and board member for Reforming Arts, a small non-profit that partners with Georgia State University to bring liberal arts education into women’s prisons, she spent six pre-pandemic years teaching theatre-driven creative writing workshops.

Lydia Netzer’s bestselling novels been short-listed for the LA Book Prize, a Target Book Club Pick, and a NY Times Notable Book. She uses classic role-playing games and elements of game theory and modalities to teach fiction and literature across a wide spectrum: kids at a secular K-12 homeschool coop, college students at Old Dominion University, and adults at The Muse Writing Center in Norfolk, VA.

4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Booksigning with Joshilyn Jackson and Lydia Netzer in the Building N-C Café

Game On: How to Use Roleplaying to Electrify Your Story

Joshilyn Jackson & Lydia Netzer lead an interactive creative writing workshop that draws on role-playing games and improvisational theatre to create foundational material that can be crafted into poetry, essays, and fiction. By exploring techniques that collaborative story-based gamers and improv actors have long used to construct narrative, workshop attendees will learn to create a dynamic world that responds to character actions and decision trees, use foil characters to light up the motivations and thematic relevance of their main characters, control storytelling pace to provide character growth arcs while keeping the action intense and immediate, and round out a scene with elements of backstory and foreshadowing while maintaining a focus on the present action and boosting narrative drive.
March 5th Online Workshop Photos & Links

LINK TO MARCH 5 SELF-PUBLISHING WORKSHOP RECORDING: LINK  Password: yWaJM6nN

LINK TO THE ACCOMPANYING WORKBOOK: LINK

J. M. Tompkins

Maddy Glenn

Nathan James
The meeting recording is still being edited and will be uploaded at a later date.
March 26th Workshop Photos & Links

LINK TO MARCH 26 WORKSHOP RECORDING & HANDOUT:
Recording link
Access Passcode: 2WHim!7w

LINK TO THE ACCOMPANYING HANDOUT
**AWC MEMBER MIKE COBB** has published the novel, *Dead Beckoning*. On a rain-soaked Friday in 1895, a single gunshot pierced the early morning air. A prominent Atlanta businessman lay writhing on a downtown sidewalk. He was a proud husband and father. An ambitious man, he worked hard to support his family against what seemed insurmountable odds. He would die within a few hours. Was it from his own hand? Or was he murdered? And if so, by whom? And why? A loyal police captain sets out to solve the case. But his efforts are thwarted by corrupt detectives, a complicit commissioner, attempts to lead him astray, and a sting gone bad. This is a fictionalized accounting of a true story, told in a literary style. Strong, idiosyncratic characters, a compelling sense of place, and a dramatic cliffhanger drive the plot to an unexpected end. These themes are overlaid upon a richness of historical detail.

*Purchase here*

Mike Cobb’s body of literary work includes both fiction and nonfiction, short form and long form, as well as articles and blogs. While he is comfortable playing across a broad range of topics, much of his focus is on true crime, crime fiction, historical fiction, and psychological thrillers. Rigorous research is foundational to his writing. He gets that honestly, having spent much of his professional career as a scientist. Mike splits his time between Atlanta and Blue Ridge, Georgia.

**AWC MEMBER KATE CRAWFORD** was invited by HarperCollins acquisitions editor Haley Swanson at the November 2020 Atlanta Writers Conference to submit an essay to the anthology she was editing, *Sex and the Single Woman*, an update on Helen Gurley Brown’s 1960s cult classic. Kirkus Reviews highlighted Kate’s work: “Among the most outstanding pieces are Kate Crawford’s ‘Second Coming,’ in which the author, who was 15 when *Sex and the Single Girl* was released, examines how she is trying to rediscover herself, declaring that she is ‘resuscitating my sexy sixties campaign.’”
AWC MEMBER KATHY DES JARDINS has written her first novel, *Mama Tried*, published by The Wild Rose Press. Disc jockey Joy Faye Savoy plays country songs written about women like her mother, the comely, exasperating Quida Raye Perkins. When Joy treats her audience to good-natured gripes about her big-haired and bossy mother, who's known to hitch rides in semi-trucks, she is shocked to find herself syndicated...with one catch—she must keep poking fun at feisty Quida Raye. Joy makes the best of small-town stardom despite big-time baggage, a load not lightened by hunky co-workers or her overbearing best friend until true love strikes. Meanwhile, Joy finally hears in those old melodies what she and her mother have had in common all along—yesterday, with its shared memories of happiness and tragedy. And they know all the words by heart.

Purcha...
April 23, 2022 Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference:
Still Accepting Registrations

JOIN MORE THAN 100 FELLOW WRITERS IN 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 $79 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.

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:

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

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

Now Open for Registration
Register Now!

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.

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.

• Pitches 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!
Almost 94 and Still Writing...Because It’s My Medicine

By AWC Member Ed Gruber

I’m getting a lot of remarks these days, such as, “I don’t believe your age.” And “What’s your secret?” Kind of flattering, since this old author will soon be 94.

My usual responses? “I’m one lucky old man.” And, “I don’t believe my age either.”

In retrospect though, it’s more than luck that’s taken me this far with decent health and memory, although I occasionally find myself standing in the middle of the kitchen wondering why I’m standing in the middle of the kitchen. Or, mentally cruising through the entire alphabet trying to recall the name of a person or a place or title of an old movie. I did some checking and found that for me there were no signs of dementia, and these little failings are simply the inevitable price I’m paying for living this long life.

I must admit, except for some losses of people I love, it’s been a pretty good life. I got through growing up on the streets of New York back in the thirties and forties, survived my battle experiences in Korea as a Navy Combat Correspondent, had an exceptional career making a good living writing for Blue Ribbon clients in the wacky world of advertising for about sixty years, had two novels published while in my eighties, and am still getting complimentary comments on my writings.

So, if it was more than luck, what was it? Do I have secrets to my longevity? You bet I do. And without asking for your Health Insurance I.D., Medicare card, or a co-pay, I’m going to happily share them with you all—my fellow AWC members.

First, I keep my body active with whatever athletics or exercises I enjoy. And I do mean enjoy. It would be silly working up a sweat doing something that gives me no pleasure. For me it’s golfing; three days a week with my brother and a few buddies. I don’t take the game seriously enough to throw clubs after bad shots—and I’ve had a few of those, but I’m so happy to be out there at my age with a good score being a bonus. Moving our bodies doesn’t just promote physical health, it’s vital for maintaining and improving brain health, too. More on that later.

Second, I live a life of moderation. With a feel for commonsense balance. I’m not talking about setting rigid rules because sometimes excesses give off rare pleasures. For instance, if I over-indulge with a too-hearty six-course dinner with more than a couple glasses of mellow merlot, I balance that out by maybe missing a lunch or two the next few days. A simple example, but I hope you get what I mean.

Third, I love and am loved. Over these many years, I have been so fortunate in this regard. Unfortunately (or otherwise), I’m outlasting many who loved me and whom I loved; the inevitable price of getting to age 93. But these kinds of relationships have helped make life worth living. And they make my writing more relatable and passionate. French philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said it best: “Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete them and joins them by what is deepest in themselves.”

Finally, I keep my mind active and creative. Which I do with my writing—almost every day. For me, it’s the best aging prevention medicine in the world. If I were not working on a novel, a short story, a query, a letter or text to a friend or loved one, or some paragraphs for Facebook, it’d feel like I’d stopped breathing. I’m sure any physician would tell you that mental activity is just as important as physical activity and should not be neglected. As we get older, we are at a higher risk for cognitive impairments such as memory loss, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, and more. Keeping the brain fit impacts overall health and helps increase longevity while warding off cognitive decline. If I stopped writing today, I don’t think I’d make it to 94 and hear even more people tell me they don’t believe my age.

So, there they are. My secrets. Following them might help you, too, live to a ripe old age turning out novels, poems, essays and plays, with all those beautiful and meaningful words coming from your heart, your soul, and your imagination. And especially from all those life experiences you’d have missed if you never made it to a ripe old age.

Maybe I’ll even stick around a while longer, to see what you’ve written.

If you want to contact me with questions, [my email address].

Atlanta Writers Club
I wish to thank China’s leader, Premier Xi Jinping, for teaching me to enjoy Bridgerton. You would think that ruthless dictators are typically too busy suppressing the masses to enhance one girl’s appreciation for Regency romance, so it’s especially sweet that he did.

Bridgerton is a show based on a romance series written by Julia Quinn. Its premise, inspired by rumors that Queen Charlotte had Black ancestry, is that Mad King George married a Black woman. The king being incapacitated, Queen Charlotte rules over a colorblind society in which all races have equal status and opportunity. I hated the premise because it wasn’t true. The Regency aristocracy was glaringly white and deeply racist, so the romance series struck me as... dishonest!

However, feeling drained after one too many vampire movies, I decided to give Bridgerton a spin. It has a pretty Instagram sensibility, like a three-tiered wedding cake sprinkled with M&Ms, though its political correctness can be grating, such as when a lady brings her pregnant ward to a London slum to scare her into a loveless marriage, and the ward responds that she would be proud to live amongst those honorable working people. Yeah, right. Given the choice between chasing rats out of my hovel or having the servants bring me tea, I’d choose the rats any time rather than forsake True Love. What? You’re saying I’d also have to give up my satin gowns? Wait a minute....

Then I heard that Premier Xi has ordered China’s official media to portray him as on the same level as Mao Zedong, and a thunderbolt struck me; history is malleable! After all, it’s not up to Xi to decide if he’s at the same bloody level as Mao Zedong, any more than it’s up to me to decide if I’m the equivalent of Mark Twain, Tolstoy, and Shakespeare all rolled into one irresistible package. It’s for historians to decide, and they prefer facts.

That’s what grabbed me; historians might prefer facts, but most of us do not spend much time determining fact from fiction, such as agonizing over historical details like which dictator’s got the greatest mojo. This means that history is easily enhanced (contaminated?) with mythology and tall tales, and most of us would hardly notice the difference, especially in a nation where so much of the population has gone fact-optional. Xi made me realize that history is not only pliable, but that manipulating it can be a powerful tool.

This led to the obvious question: What’s in it for me?

Thus came my revelation that writers manipulate history all the time. As a fiction writer, I know how to mess around with the hall of mirrors called Reality (it’s fun!) but only now do I appreciate the power inherent in rewriting history.

Quinn’s romance series is actually a work of alternative history. Alternative history is usually confined to the genres of historical science fiction and historical fantasy. Essential to a novel of alternative history is a “what if?” element in which the world as we know it is fundamentally changed by adding a non-historical component. For instance, in the rather amazing fantasy epic Dr. Norrell and Mr. Strange, the historical “what if?” element is “What if magic could have been used in the fight against Napoleon?” One historical science fiction novel (the difference between science fiction and fantasy is pretty superficial) is The Guns of the South, in which Afrikaner white supremacists travel back in time to give the Confederacy automatic weapons, so the Confederates end up winning the war. The book’s most hilarious leap of imagination is that the victorious, brutal slaveowner Robert E. Lee decides to... free the slaves! Yeah, and bats fly out of my butt at tea time.

In Bridgerton’s case, the “what if?” element is a Black Queen Charlotte who transforms race relations two centuries ago. Imagine, if that were true, what the world would be like today. It didn’t happen, but “what if?”

That begs the question; What if the romance genre is actually a fantasy subgenre? They do have similarities—for instance, both are traditionally women's genres, and therefore easily dismissed. Upon closer examination, their differences fade away like identical twin dukes, one of whom goes dashing about
in a highwayman’s cape, while the other flutters about in a magician’s cloak.

I should have known that Romance is essentially a fantasy genre. After all, none of my boyfriends ever shaved his chest, much less swept me up in the throes of passion and carried me to the boudoir (I am kind of a hefty girl). Just like SF and fantasy, romance novels can offer alternative histories that have the power to affect generations. A case in point is Jane Austin, who wrote about the Regency period in which she came of age, but who gaslit us by omitting the wretched state many people endured under England’s Bloody Code, nor does she mention the sexual abuse freely indulged in by society’s well-born untouchables, something that an anonymous Victorian gentleman later fondly recalled in My Secret Life. Austin gave us a false history of gracious people with good manners, and we gobbled it up.

In some ways, Bridgerton is a traditional historical romance in that it focuses on the lavish lives of the One Percent; its actors are mostly eye candy swanning about with all of their teeth in their mouths.

However, in answering the most important question—What’s in it for me?—Bridgerton showed me what might have been, which influences my grasp of what might could be, which, in turn, influences how I see the present and approach the future.

Chairman Xi’s inadvertent echoing of Bridgerton’s knockdown of historical fact enlightened me as to how a reimagined history’s reverberations in whatever genre can affect the perspective of future generations, hopefully for the better. We could all benefit from that.

As for Premier Xi Jinping, I have no idea how his series will pan out.

Karla Jennings is a playwright and novelist who received a full manuscript request from a killer agent last July and is still holding her breath for a reply.
Authors A.I. is home to Marlowe, a powerful manuscript assessment tool for fiction authors that provides an in-depth analysis of your novel in about 5 minutes of uploading it to their secure server. Marlowe will analyze your novel’s plot, pacing, story beats, character traits, subject matter, dialogue and narrative structure, and readability. Marlowe catches, clichés, repetitive phrases, overuse of adjectives and adverbs, offensive words, misspellings, etc. and provides stylistic and subject matter "comp titles"--all presented in an illustrated 32-page, full-color report with actionable insights based on Marlowe's growing database of bestsellers across fiction genres.

For sample reports from Marlowe's analysis of bestsellers, click here.

To claim your free report, go to LINK and enter AWCFREE when prompted (the price will change from $45 to $0). You will receive an email with a submission link--follow those instructions, and you will receive your Marlowe report in about 5 minutes.

To get your 15% discount on a Marlowe Subscription so you can run multiple reports on the same or different manuscripts, go to LINK and enter AWC15OFF when prompted.
For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages)--some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01-$0.05/word)--and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

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

BOBBIE CHRISTMAS

Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability

Email
Website

Fiction: Mainstream, science fiction, paranormal, romance, action adventure, fantasy, suspense/thriller, mystery, young adult, biographical novel, historical fiction, and more. Nonfiction: Memoir, biography, autobiography, self-help, travelogue, essays, and more.

When you hire me, you hire a professional with more than 50 years of experience. After 27 years of editing and writing newspapers, magazines, and corporate communications, I founded Zebra Communications in 1992 to specialize in editing fiction and nonfiction. You and your manuscript will be treated with kindness yet honesty. I've edited books for seven publishing houses, so I know what publishers and readers want. My services and pricing are listed on my website.

JANIE MILLS

Email
Website

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

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

KAY HUNT

Email
Website

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.

CHRIS NEGRON

Email
Website

Available for query letter consults, developmental editing

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

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
Email
Website

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

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

MARI ANN STEFANELLI
The Writer’s High, LLC: Take your writing to a higher level with experienced, professional editing.
Email
Website

Specialty areas: memoir and narrative nonfiction; mystery, thriller, romance, fantasy, women’s fiction, and commercial fiction; book proposals and query letters.

A former public relations professional, I’ve specialized in developmental and line editing since 2014. Editorial assessments honor your voice and vision; all communication is shared in a respectful, encouraging manner. I’m a coordinator for the Georgia chapter, Editorial Freelancers Association, and founded the Writer’s High Retreat, an inspiring weekend retreat featuring literary luminaries such as Winston Groom, Cassandra King, and Patti Callahan Henry. Read more about me and my services HERE.

DAVE SWAN
Email
Linkedin

Nonfiction topics: Politics, defense, foreign affairs, crime and legal issues, education, taxes, music, film, humor, relationships, and writing about writing.

My experience: As a journalist and all-around communicator, I've edited news and information on a wide range of issues for audiences all over the world. One of my specialties is presenting complex subjects in plain, hard-hitting language. I can help you shape your story from the beginning or proofread your final draft. My goal is to make YOUR voice as powerful and compelling as it can be.

If you are an AWC member, offer editing services, and want to add your information to this directory, please send an email to AWC Executive Director and Acting President George Weinstein with the following information:

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.
A NOVEL IDEA presents...

A NOVEL IDEA brings two-fisted entertainment to Atlanta. Coming April 26th, artists who are both authors and musical entertainers that will put on a show you won’t forget. Twice the fun and it’s free! All at the Dunwoody Vintage Pizzeria, the home of A Novel Idea.

Touring professional singer/entertainer Kelly Fletcher and performers, Janna and Stu Zonder appear in a two-act evening. These Atlanta-based talents are truly gifted. Are they authors who are musical entertainers, or are they musical entertainers who are novelists? This is your chance to enjoy the creativity of the human mind that relishes bringing us entertainment in two fantastic media.

The entertainment begins at 7 pm, but arrive early to find a seat and order from the fantastic menu Vintage offers.

This will be no ordinary author appearance. Free to the public, no ticket necessary.

See our website, or our Facebook page for more information about us and our productions.

In cooperation with:
Sundays in Suwanee Series with author Tiphanie Yanique
*Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m.*
Suwanee Library Branch (361 Main St, Suwanee)

Join national award-winning author Tiphanie Yanique as she discusses her newest book, *Monster in the Middle*, a love story that captures both the mind and heart. Books available for sale and signing.

Pizza and Poetry
*Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.*
Hamilton Mill Library Branch (3690 Braselton Highway, Dacula)

Let pizza inspire you to be a poet! Join Professor Lee Brewer Jones to discover that poetry is for everyone and enjoy a free slice of pizza to celebrate National Poetry Month.

Sustainable Gardening & Landscaping with Mario Cambardella and Susan Varlamoff
*Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.*  Virtual

Join GCPL to learn helpful tips for a more sustainable and eco-friendly garden with urban agriculture architect, Mario Cambardella in conversation with author Susan Varlamoff.

Weird Science & The Last Mastodon: Creative Nonfiction and Poetry Writing Workshop
*Saturday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m.*
Duluth Library Branch (3180 Main Street, Duluth)

Join creative writing professor Christina Olson to learn specific strategies for incorporating scientific research and fact into poetry and creative nonfiction.

Meet the Author: John Searles
*Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.*  Virtual

Join GCPL and New York Times bestselling author, John Searles, as he discusses his new book, *Her Last Affair*, a page-turning thriller of love lost and found again.

Meet the Author: James Rollins - A book launch event!
*Friday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.*
Duluth Library Branch (3180 Main Street, Duluth)

Southeastern Writers Conference
June 10-14, 2022
Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, GA

For speakers, registration, and room booking details, click here
By Eric Jager

If you want to see your work on the screen, be careful what you wish for, and you may not want to hold your breath. From my first research trip to Normandy in 2001 until last year’s release of a film based on my book, two whole decades went by. And then the movie—an A-list, big-budget, superbly acted, beautifully produced Hollywood epic directed by Ridley Scott—tanked at the box office and did not get a single Academy Award nomination.

Once you sign your work over to a production company, a great many things lie beyond your control. No matter how thorough your research, how careful your writing, how successful your book with readers or even how much consulting you do for the filmmakers, Hollywood is a wheel of fortune where nothing is predictable or predestined.

Tales of dashed hopes, empty promises and stolen ideas abound in Hollywood. A producer once told me, as if remunerating authors were a mere courtesy, “Your book is about history, which is in the public domain. Anyone can turn this story into a movie.” A medieval proverb says, “He who sups with the devil needs a long spoon.” When you sup with Hollywood, your agent is your long spoon.

To read the entire article, click here

NEW CONTEST FOR PLAYWRIGHTS

The Essential Theatre Playwriting Award competition is the only one of its kind, exclusively for Georgia resident playwrights, with the winner getting both a cash prize of $750 and a full production.

The submission deadline is April 23.

For more information click here

The Essential Theatre Playwriting Award competition is partnering with Play Submissions Helper to offer the winning playwright a free year’s worth of access to all of their listed playwriting opportunities.
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

Want a Publishing Credit? SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE AWC NEWSLETTER
The Atlanta Writers Club website offers Free Promotion. 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 | Self Published Authors | Every 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday at 7 pm | J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins | EMAIL | Wait list |
| Online #4 | All Genres | 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm Eastern | Gail Lash | EMAIL | Wait list |
| Online #5 | Short Stories | Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm | Pat Bowen | EMAIL | Wait list |
| Online #6 | Young Adult &amp; Middle Grade Fiction | Work shared by email | Richard Gnann | EMAIL | Open |
| Online #7 | Screenwriting | 1st &amp; 3rd Friday of every month | Liz Irland | EMAIL | Open |
| Online #8 | Advanced Writers in Thriller/Mystery/Suspense | Meet on the 2nd-4th Thursday each month at 7:00 pm online (or in-person if participants are interested) | Bill Robbins | EMAIL | Wait list |
| Online #9 | Romance | 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets | Dana Armstrong | 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(s)</th>
<th>Meeting Times and Details</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</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>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>Marietta/East Cobb</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00PM in the East Cobb Library community room (4880 Lower Roswell Rd, in the Parkaire Landing Shopping Plaza).</td>
<td>Margaret Richlin</td>
<td>Open</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>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>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>Roswell</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meeting suspended; exchange papers via email</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Springs</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>
</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>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>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>
</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 online at our website using PayPal at www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

Regular membership dues are $50 per year per person. Students can join for $40 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $25 per year. Our Membership Form is on the last page of this newsletter.

If you have additional questions, contact AWC 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

☐ New Membership  [Individual]  [Family]
☐ Renewal  [Individual]  [Family]
If this is a Renewal, please update your information if necessary

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

Individual [$50.00] $___________

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

Student [$10.00] $___________

Tax Deductible Donation $___________

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

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

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

Date: ______/_____/___________

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