Atlanta Writers Club - founded 1914, we are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

September 17 - AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at Georgia State University-Dunwoody Perimeter College for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

1st Speaker - Kimberly Belle: Tips to Perk Up Your Prose

2nd Guest Speaker - Kim Brock: Blending Genres
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Register now for the Fall Writers Conference.

**AWC officers**

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**Our Next Meeting**

**September 17** - AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at Georgia State University-Dunwoody Perimeter College for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

1st Speaker - Kimberly Belle: Tips to Perk Up Your Prose

2nd Guest Speaker - Kim Brock: Blending Genres

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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.
Fall’s Fire

Fall is the time when so many of us are busy, busy. While nature goes to sleep, the human calendar ramps up. No more lazy days of summer vacations. I used to think that back-to-school would free up time for me. Nope. Afternoons and weekends went up in the smoke while shuttling kids to and from activities and participating as a parent to support them. Before we knew it, the holidays were upon us.

Thankfully, my children are grown and those days are behind me. Now I can look forward to fall calendar items like the Decatur Book Festival and our November Atlanta Writers Conference.

And, I can take advantage of the crisp sense of urgency September brings to my writing. This is the perfect time to focus on specific goals with long fiction or non-fiction. Or, to work on the short stories or essays.

I love genealogy! On Ancestry.com it’s tempting to login and get lost following the hints – a process YouTube educator Connie Knox calls “raking the leaves.” Ancestry.com’s hint icon is a leaf.

“What fire can you ignite in yourself? You know, the one that only writing can extinguish.”

I’m forever lured into taking the same approach with writing, meandering around with a bit of research here, a smidge of outlining there, or a burst of writing when the inspiration strikes. Connie’s advice is to start with a research question and doggedly pursue it.

Whether a plotter or pantser, we can all benefit from this. Plotters can ask, “What’s my ending?” Pantser can ask, “What is a prompt or idea I can write on?” or simply, “What is my character’s motivation in this chapter?” Then let everything else fall away while we write to answer that question.

I’m typically a plotter, and my main thing is historical fiction, but this fall I’m inspired to work on my short stories. In an old eQuill article, I said that writing short works is like “igniting a flash fire and then trying to put it out.” Recently I watched a session with author and writing educator James Scott Bell. His take on short stories is that they should be about one shattering moment, an event that forever affects the character. Things will never be the same. When I put fingers to the keyboard, I’m trying to answer that question by asking all the follow-on ones. What is the fallout? What led to that moment? Did everything change for every character or just the main character?

Are you a plotter or pantser? Are you writing long works or short ones? Whether you have hours to devote to writing or thirty minutes during lunch, what singular question can you put a laser focus on and write the answer for?

This fall, can you also ask yourself, where is my urgency? What fire can you ignite in yourself? You know, the one that only writing can extinguish.

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.
September 17 AWC In-person Meeting

September 17, 2022, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Eastern

In-person at Georgia State University-Dunwoody Perimeter College, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building NC auditorium and café

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

12:45-1:30 p.m. Pre-Meeting Network & Nosh in the café: Get to know your fellow writers and their projects while enjoying snacks and beverages.
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Kimberly Belle: Tips to Perk Up Your Prose
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Booksigning with Kimberly Belle in the café
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Kim Brock: Blending Genres
4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Booksigning with Kim Brock in the café

**KIMBERLY BELLE** is the USA Today and internationally bestselling author of eight novels, including the forthcoming *The Personal Assistant* (out 11.29), *The Marriage Lie*, a Goodreads Choice Awards semifinalist for Best Mystery & Thriller, and the #1 co-authored Audible Original, *Young Rich Widows*. Her books have been published in some 20+ languages and have been optioned for film and television. A proud graduate of Agnes Scott College, Belle divides her time between Atlanta and Amsterdam.

On September 17th, she will discuss writing tips that will perk up your prose.

(Photograph Credit: Sara Hanna Photography)

**KIMBERLY BROCK** is the bestselling author of *The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare* and her award-winning debut, *The River Witch*.

*The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare* spent three weeks on The Southern Independent Booksellers Bestseller List.

Her debut was an Amazon bestseller featured by both national and international book clubs and included in multiple reading lists. Praised by RT Reviews and Huffington Post as a “solemn journey of redemption, enlightenment and love,” and evocative of “the stories of Flannery O’Connor and Carson McCullers,” Kimberly’s debut novel was honored with the prestigious Georgia Author of the Year Award in 2013, by the Georgia Writer’s Association.
A former actor and special needs educator, Kimberly received her bachelor’s degree from the University of West Georgia in 1996. In 2014, Kimberly founded Tinderbox Writer’s Workshop, a transformative creative experience for women in the arts. Kimberly has served as a guest lecturer for many regional and national groups, including The Women’s Fiction Writer’s annual conference and The Pat Conroy Literary Center. She lives near Atlanta with her husband and three children.

On September 17th, she will discuss the craft of blending genres in your writing. Mixing genres is a lot like making a good gumbo. In this talk about writing a novel that includes elements from multiple genres, Kimberly Brock will discuss tips for a satisfying genre-blending story, including a strong base, a sense of balance, and the secret ingredient in all her stories.
We regret that our videographer was unavailable to record this event.

Photos by Patrick Scullin

Network & Nosh Mixer

AWC Volunteers

Dr. Daniel Black Talk and Signing

Carolyn and Bill Curry
Our 27th Atlanta Writers Conference will be held in-person (with an option to participate virtually) at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel on November 4-5, 2022 with agent/editor critique and pitch meetings, a two-hour workshop with first-page critiques, two Q&A panels, emailed pre-conference edits, a Friday night mixer with music, 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.

Want to get published?

The November 4-5, 2022 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you in-person/virtual meetings with literary agents and acquisitions editors—with an option to participate virtually 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, and short story collections.

• 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 bring 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, 50% 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 first-page critiques by Alex Finlay, author of the 2021 breakout hit Every Last Fear and two free bonus talks by Alex beforehand.

• Free bonus educational talks by award-winning authors Samantha Jaye Allen and Anthony Grooms.

• Friday-night mixer with musical entertainment by pianist/singer and AWC member Mike Shaw and his accompanist.

• Award ceremony, where each of the agents and editors will select participants for Best Manuscript Sample and Best Pitch, with certificates to be given to the awardees—or sent after the conference for those not in attendance.
Nearly 45 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 and TV 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, 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 November 4-5, 2022 Atlanta Writers Conference, click here to start
In **AWC member McKinley Aspen**’s novel *Praesidium*, Kathryn Bek gets the chance of a lifetime: a job offer right out of college, and in New York City, where adventure lies around every corner. Believing she is recruited for her marketing prowess, she is excited by the prospect of her new job in the intelligence sector, but all is not what it seems. Before long, Kathryn and her new team are thrown into a world of mystery, murder, and magic. As the team rushes around the world, untangling the web of lies, she finds that her past may be the key to protecting her, and the world’s, future. Will she be able to confront her fuzzy past to unlock the secrets within herself? Can her team rise to the challenge and stop the Paolucci Crime Family before they unleash havoc upon the group? Who will endure, the Kathryn of the past, or that of the future? *Praesidium* can simply be described as: Good people with made skills working to bring hope to a dark world.

McKinley Aspen is a writer who lives in the United States. In addition to the normal family shenanigans, McKinley has a busy schedule as “Chief Dog Walker” to Otis the puppy dog. A graduate of both University of Chicago and Elmhurst University, McKinley enjoys exploring the world through family road trips, meals featuring Portillo’s Beef with mozz, and St. Louis Cardinals baseball. *Praesidium* (Book One in the *Shadows in the Wind* trilogy) is now available, and the best way to not miss any of the news is to subscribe to her newsletter **HERE**.

McKinley is giving away copies of the ebook version of *Praesidium*. To receive an ebook download code, please contact her at **EMAIL**.

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Dave Swan’s new short story, *Algorithms and Lies*, was published by The Fictional Café and inspired by Dave’s use of Authors AI. Mick Sanford, an old-school crime writer, is bedeviled by a new breed of editor, a bot named Max with boundless artificial intelligence. Mick tries to bluster and bluff his way to publication, but he ends up as the villain in a story he never meant to write, a tale that in times past could have been scripted in 2001: A Space Odyssey - or in The Twilight Zone. (Note: The Authors IA bot is NOT like the one in the story.)
AWC VP of Operation Kim Conrey’s debut sci-fi romance *Stealing Ares* will be published on September 29. In the 25th century, the caldera under Yellowstone National Park erupts and spreads ashen death across the Earth, which can no longer supply the struggling colony on Mars. Worse, the HMS Ares, the grandest starship of all time, goes dormant when Mars needs her most. The Red Planet is ripe for revolution, but Harlow Hanson, a thief who struggled most of her life to speak, becomes the only one capable of saying the words that wake the sleeping ship and save the broken colony. Meanwhile, resentments rise as Prince Jack Windsor—recently widowed and using the Ares to escape his grief—doggedly works to get the ship online and refuses to sell it for parts to fund the colonists’ welfare. When Harlow sneaks on board to plunder it, the ship springs to life and begins communicating with her. The prince realizes the woman stealing from him is the key he’s been searching for. Just as Jack begins to open his heart and offer Harlow a shot at redemption, she’s forced to betray him. Against all odds, he fights to believe in her while the fate of two planets hangs in the balance.

**Purchase Link**

Kim Conrey is the author of the sci-fi romance *Stealing Ares*. When she's not working on the next book in the *Ares Ascending* series, you can find her trail running or cosplaying as a Box Hero Wonder Woman in Atlanta's Dragon Con Parade. She also writes about living with the misunderstood condition of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Her stories and essays have been published in regional and local press as well. In addition, she collaborates on the *Wild Women Who Write Take Flight* podcast. On October 16, 3-6 p.m. at Red Hare Brewing Co. in Marietta, Kim and her husband, AWC Executive Director George Weinstein, whose new book is debuting this fall, will have a joint book launch you’re invited to. [Click here for details.](#)

In **AWC member Adeline Marie Howell**’s new novel *Consequences of Secrets!*, Julia Temperance Brewer has grown up in the small southern town, where she raised her daughter. Now that she's older, Tempy is looking for something she hasn't had with anyone in a long time: connection. She feels lost and alone; with no one to turn to for help, she must make her own way for the first time in her life. Tempy doesn't know where she is going or what waits for her when she gets there. In this most frightening time of her life, however, what she winds up finding is beyond anything she could have dreamed possible. When her husband forced her to leave her childhood home, Tempy thought he had taken all hope away from her. But now it seems like she may find the life she always dreamed was waiting for her; just when it looks as though her life is crashing around her, she finds more happiness than she ever knew existed or imagined was possible. Tempy is learning that secrets can have consequences—some of them can come back to bite, and others can lead to the most beautiful time of your life. This novel follows the continuing life and trials of an older woman whose life changes beyond her recognition, leading to a change that she could never have imagined.

**Purchase Link**

Adeline Marie Howell was born in Phenix City, Alabama. She enjoys writing realistic fiction. *Consequences of Secrets!* is her second novel.
Can you tell your memoir in six words? Well, Larry Smith of Smith Magazine thought it was possible, and so do the Retro Writers of Atlanta.

The Retro Writers are a critique group who concentrate on short story writing. It has been in existence since September 2020. Around a year ago a member suggested that the writers submit their own life stories in six words. Since then, the bi-monthly group starts each meeting by reading their new mini-memoirs.

In 2006 Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser asked readers of Smith Magazine to write their memoirs in six words. The literary legend that Hemingway was challenged to author a short story in six words was the inspiration. The legend says Hemingway’s response was “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.” Since that time, Smith has created a Six-Word Memoir book series. The idea is taught in elementary schools and used in boardrooms across the country. Smith presented an enjoyable TED Talk on the subject in 2015.

Here are a few of the Retro Writers personal choices:

Susan Andrelchik- Aches, pains, birthdays. What’s the alternative?
Nathan Huebner- Wait! What the hell just happened?
Cynthia Jones- I am pressing play on me.
Donna Lange- All gave some, some gave all.
Frank Molesky- Death to people who kill lions.
Nona Ward- Forgive yesterday, embrace today, respect tomorrow.
Kalen Williamson- Rather be mesmerized than dead bored.
Pamela Zendt- In last third of life: hustle.
Opportunity to Sell Your Books at the West Virginia Book Festival—without Having to Be There

AWC member and Southern fantasy author Ben Meeks will be heading to the West Virginia Book Festival on October 21-22 and has extra space available at his author booth. If you would like to have your work of any fiction or nonfiction genre represented at the WVBF, he has a few spots available. The spaces are each two feet wide, four feet tall (using three shelves he’ll provide), and eighteen inches deep.

If you are interested, here is what Ben will need from you: 20-30 copies of your book(s), the pricing for each book title, 50 or so copies of promotional materials such as bookmarks (optional), and a brief written pitch about your works, including 1-2 similar authors, to enable Ben to promote your book(s) to potential buyers. For example, “People who like R.A. Salvatore would also like my Southern fantasy trilogy, The Keeper Chronicles, where shapeshifters created by the Earth Mother from the world’s most vicious predators defend humanity from demons and monsters.”

The cost to you is $50 to rent table space in Ben’s booth (paid in advance by cash, check, or credit/debit card) plus 5% of each sale to cover Ben’s expenses. After Ben returns on October 23, he will contact you about providing you with payment for any of your books he sold and returning all unsold copies and leftover promotional materials to you.

If you’re interested or have questions, please contact him at HIS EMAIL.
Meet the Author: A talk with Professor Polly J. Price
Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m., Norcross


Meet the Author: A talk with Jeffrey Breslow
Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m., Virtual


Meet the Author: A talk with New York Times bestselling author William Kent Krueger
Monday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m., Virtual

Join GCPL in conversation with award-winning author William Kent Krueger, as he discusses his new novel, *Fox Creek*, which is part of the Cork O'Connor Mystery Series.

Authors & Dessert in Duluth with Michael Gagnon and Matt Hild
Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m., Duluth

Join GCPL in conversation with the authors of the book, *Gwinnett County, Georgia, and the Transformation of the American South, 1818-2018*. Books will be available for sale and signing.

DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS:
WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
September 20 A Novel Idea Event

CELEBRATE THE RELEASE
OF HER NEW BOOK
S U D D E N  D E A T H

CAROLYN NEWTON CURRY

Tuesday, September 20th
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Alpharetta Library
10 Park Plaza
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Carolyn Newton Curry is an award-winning author, historian, and founder of the nonprofit Women Alone Together®. She is the author of Suffer and Grow Strong: The Life of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas 1834–1907 which won Curry a Georgia Author of the Year Award from the Georgia Writers Association.

Carolyn will be interviewed by her husband and football legend BILL CURRY

Books available for purchase and signing at the event
Upcoming Georgia Writers Museum Events

Writing Children's Books

Aug. 20
10am - 3pm
$15 / Session
$50 / All Day
Four sessions include writing picture books through middle grades, publishing, marketing, and having fun!

Writing Narrative Non-Fiction

Sept. 12 - Oct. 17
7pm / Zoom
$300 / 6 weeks
Jim Auchmutey, former AJC journalist, leads weekly sessions on different aspects of nonfiction writing: scene and atmosphere, creating memorable characters, conflict and complication, theme and meaning, voice and style.

Cookbook Writing

Oct. 1
11am - 1pm
$45
Susan Puckett, former AJC Food Editor, will help you find and tell authentic, meaningful stories through the lens of food. A perfect workshop for those who want to pass down family recipes and stories.

www.georgiawritersmuseum.org
Eatonton, GA (75 min. east of Atlanta)
How Are Books Adapted for the Screen

Sangeeta Mehta – guest post on JaneFriedman.com

Today’s guest post is a Q&A by Sangeeta Mehta (@sangeeta_editor), a former acquiring editor of children’s books at Little, Brown and Simon & Schuster, who runs her own editorial services company.

Over the last couple of years, it’s been tough not to notice the increase in dramatic rights deals in the book industry. A quick search on Publishers Marketplace reveals a new film or television deal almost every week. Publishers Weekly’s “page-to-screen” news feed is equally active, and The Hollywood Reporter recently ran a piece on “How the Publishing World Is Muscling in on Hollywood Deals.”

These deals don’t appear to be limited to a particular genre or category. Streaming services and film producers are expressing an interest in a wide range of book properties—fiction and nonfiction for both adult and children’s audiences. And from the outset, it looks as though they are inviting authors—bestselling and debut—to take part in the adaptation process, at least to an extent.

During a PEN America event I attended a few months ago, Your Option on Options, one of the speakers noted that the rise in streaming companies, coupled with the pandemic, has made today a golden age for IP content. Curious to find out if this is true, I reached out to Allison Hunter of Trellis Literary Management and Jennifer Weltz of Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, both of whom represent authors whose work has been or is being adapted for the screen. As with all my literary agent Q&As, neither knew the other’s identity until after they provided their answers to my questions below.

Why don’t we start by defining what a book-to-screen option is. Is it correct to say that this is an agreement whereby a producer is granted the rights to adapt an author’s book for television or film? Is there a standard fee, term, or renewal process for options, or do these vary widely in the same way that book advances vary?

How does an option differ from a shopping agreement, and what is more common today?

Allison Hunter: Yes, an option is an exclusive right to shop the book to producers, studios, directors, writers, and actors to see if anyone is interested in turning the book into a movie, TV show or limited series. Pre-pandemic, options were usually for a 12-month period, but now we’re seeing more 18- and 24-month options, as it’s taking longer to get projects made. Option fees do vary widely, from the very low (a few thousand dollars) to the high (hundreds of thousands).

A shopping agreement similarly asks for exclusivity but doesn’t offer any payment in exchange. It’s a way to test the waters to see if there is any interest in the property without a financial commitment. Shopping agreements are generally for a shorter time period than option agreements (often six months), because there is no money offered. They are becoming more and more common, especially when it’s not a competitive situation.

Jennifer Weltz: Yes, that is correct, and there are no standard fees, terms, or renewal processes for options. These vary even more than book advances. But I would say that terms usually aren’t shorter than three or six months and aren’t longer than 24 months; they can be 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 18 months. It’s more important to ask: How new is the book? How desired is the book? And if a producer wants to have it for a long period of time, how is the author getting compensated for that exclusive time with the book?

A shopping agreement has become more and more popular with producers because this involves no or little money. Also, the producer is already attached to the project, which gives them the safety of knowing you can’t cut them out of the deal. If you’re doing a shopping agreement, I would encourage you to do it for as short a period of time as possible. It’s basically saying that the producer has limited time to make the magic happen, and if not, you both part ways.

To read the entire post, please click here
Decatur Book Festival Lineup

The 2022 event will feature a ticketed Keynote from acclaimed author Pete Souza on Friday, September 30 at 8:00 p.m (tickets available starting Aug. 29th). Pete Souza was the Chief Official White House Photographer for the tenure of the presidency of Barack Obama. At the keynote event, he'll discuss his latest book, The West Wing and Beyond: What I Saw Inside the Presidency.

The rest of the 2022 Decatur Book Festival is a free, non-ticketed, all-day event on October 1st at First Baptist Church of Decatur. Nearby, the Atlanta Writers Club will have a tent and will be recruiting potential members. The event will highlight selected authors with new publications featured in sixteen sessions presented in three tracks: adult fiction, adult non-fiction, and children & youth. Click the button below to read all about this year's sessions.

READ ABOUT THE 2022 SESSIONS
Florida WritersCon 2022

250+ Expected Attendees
9 Amazing presenters
6 Agent and Publishers
3 Days of networking, fun, improving your craft
1 Amazing event

Space is limited; register on the website to reserve your spot!

October 28–30th, 2022
Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

www.floridawriters.org/florida-writerscon
Charlotte Lit Annual Lit South Writers Contest

Open September 1 – November 1
Current and past residents from North Carolina and its border states — Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia — are invited to enter their work in three categories: poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Guidelines are below, and at Charlotte Lit’s Submittable site after September 1.

All winners and honorable mentions will be published in the Spring 2023 issue of Litmosphere: Journal of Charlotte Lit and receive prizes starting at $1,500 for first place. The 2022 winners are listed here.

CATEGORIES & PRIZES

Categories:
• Poetry: 1-3 poems, up to five pages
• Fiction: up to 4000 words
• Nonfiction: up to 4000 words

Prizes in Each Category:
• 1st: $1,500
• 2nd: $500
• 3rd: $250
• Honorable Mentions: $50
...plus publication in the Spring 2023 issue of Litmosphere: Journal of Charlotte Lit

For complete details and submission instructions, click here.
Moonlight & Magnolias - 2022 Press Release

For immediate release.

Georgia Romance Writers Set to Host their Annual Writing Conference Moonlight & Magnolias in October

ATLANTA, October 20, 2022 - The Georgia Romance Writers (GRW), a non-profit, professional writing organization based in Atlanta, GA, will host their annual 4-day conference, Moonlight & Magnolias, on October 20th to the 23rd. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW - Peachtree City, with early bird registration rates available until July 15, 2022, and general registration open until October.

For forty years the Moonlight & Magnolias Writing Conference has maintained a tradition of supporting and developing writers of all levels. The conference Keynote Speaker is New York Times bestselling author Lora Leigh, with bestselling special guest speakers Andrew Grey and Dahlia Rose. Deb Dixon, leading authority on Goals, Motivation & Conflict, is set to host an all day workshop. Attendees can expect workshop tracks for beginner, intermediate and advanced (bestselling) writers, editor and agent pitching appointments, as well as a vendor’s room with offerings from authors, branded merchandise and other fun surprises. Registration includes a ticket to the Saturday night’s Maggie Award Dinner.

Moonlight & Magnolias also has events for romance readers, including the Reader Luncheon on Saturday, October 22 followed by a book signing where attendees can meet their favorite romance authors. Tickets for the luncheon can be purchased separately for those not attending the conference. The book signing is free and open to the public.

"Georgia Romance Writers' Moonlight and Magnolias is the best writing conference out there,” said Brenda Lowder, GRW President. “The events, workshops, and speakers are always fantastic. Authors I've met at M&M have become my lifelong writing friends. The atmosphere is incredibly friendly, supportive, and just plain fun. This conference is not to be missed!"

To learn more about Moonlight & Magnolias and to register to attend the conference visit https://www.garomancewriters.org/moonlight-and-magnolias. For questions about the conference, contact Robin Hillyer-Miles at mmconferencechair@gmail.com.

About Georgia Romance Writers
Georgia Romance Writers is a non-profit organization made up of approximately 150 serious, professional writers, nearly one-third of whom are multi-published in book length fiction. Our organization is dedicated to bringing quality women’s fiction to the market. GRW's mission is to promote high quality romance writing; to disseminate information regarding all aspects of the romance genre; and to give support and encouragement to members. Visit our website to learn more about Georgia Romance Writers.

###

Media Contact
Lauren Connolly
GRW Director of Communications
EMAIL
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](mailto:)
[Website](http://)

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**
[Email](mailto:)

Available for editing: Adventure, women’s fiction, fantasy, historical fiction

I have over 20 years in print production and graphics, proofreading annual reports, business brochures and related materials, catalogs, and advertising copy. I have six years of freelance experience proofreading/copy editing website pages and blogs for service industry businesses. Additionally, as a freelancer, I have copy-edited two novels as well as made some structural edits.

**JANIE MILLS**
[Email](mailto:)
[Website](http://)

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

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

**CHRIS NEGRON**
[Email](mailto:)
[Website](http://)

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](mailto:)
[Website](http://)

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 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.

**A.E. WILLIAMS**
[EMAIL](#)
[WEBSITE](#)

Genres I edit: fantasy, sci-fi, horror, thriller, screenplays, comic book scripts, memoir, and various nonfiction topics

Bio: My name is A.E. Williams. I run an editorial firm, A.E. Williams Editorial. My clients are oftentimes independent authors for which I perform copyediting, developmental editing, and line editing. I am also a freelance copyeditor with Hachette Book Group. If interested in working with me, please email a 1,000-word sample and I will complete it for free. In my response I will provide your edited sample, testimonials, rates, resume, and a list of recent projects.

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](https://www.amazon.com), and through orders with your local bookstore: see the store listing on [Indie Bound](https://www.indiebound.org). 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.
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 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**.
## Changed groups in RED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group #</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
<th>Leader/Contact Info</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online #1</td>
<td>Fiction: Short Stories &amp; Novels</td>
<td>Meets on 2nd &amp; 4th Friday of the month via Zoom, 1pm.</td>
<td>Kelley Cody-Grimm</td>
<td>EMAIL OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #2</td>
<td>Fiction only</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Linh Pham</td>
<td>EMAIL Wait list</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 Wait list</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 Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #5</td>
<td>Short Stories</td>
<td>Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm</td>
<td>Pat Bowen</td>
<td>EMAIL Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #6</td>
<td>Young Adult &amp; Middle Grade Fiction</td>
<td>Work shared by email</td>
<td>Brad Scott</td>
<td>EMAIL Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #7</td>
<td>Screenwriting (email for details)</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Friday of every month @ 7pm via ZOOM</td>
<td>Liz Irland</td>
<td>EMAIL Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #8</td>
<td>Advanced Writers in Thriller/Mystery/Suspense</td>
<td>Meet on the 2nd-4th Thursday each month at 7:00pm online (or in-person if participants are interested)</td>
<td>Bill Robbins</td>
<td>EMAIL OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #9</td>
<td>Romance</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets</td>
<td>Dana Armstrong</td>
<td>EMAIL OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #10</td>
<td>Study/Critique Group open to all level of writers and all genres</td>
<td>Click here and scroll down for details</td>
<td>April Love-Fordham</td>
<td>EMAIL Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #11</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 Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #12</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 Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #13</td>
<td>All Genres</td>
<td>Meeting online every other Tues.</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher</td>
<td>EMAIL Wait list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #14</td>
<td>Adult Fiction</td>
<td>Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm</td>
<td>Susanne Fincher</td>
<td>EMAIL OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #15</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>email WAIT LIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critique Group</td>
<td>Genre(s)</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Open/Wait List</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Online #16</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meetings are virtual via Zoom every other Monday at 10:30 am. Members exchange drafts of their work product twice monthly for critiquing. Members also engage in a virtual happy hour on Thursdays at 5 pm the weeks they don't have a regular meeting.</td>
<td>Jeremy Logan</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online/In-person Lawrenceville</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Files shared via Google &amp; meetings on second Thursday of every month from 6-7pm at Five Forks Library</td>
<td>Ashley Melanson</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta/Midtown</td>
<td>Advanced Mystery/Thriller, LGBT, Romance in the real world</td>
<td>For with finished MS, submit 2000 words+ at a time, sent in advance. Meet every other Monday 7-9pm for feedback at Ponce City Market, upstairs, in the seating area facing Ponce.</td>
<td>Stephen James</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunwoody/Sandy Springs</td>
<td>Speculative fiction (novels and short stories),</td>
<td>Meets every other Wednesday, 6:30pm. Usually at a restaurant. Zoom used if necessary.</td>
<td>Sarah Minnear &amp; Serene Taleb-Agha</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online/In-person Dunwoody, Duluth</td>
<td>Science Fiction, Space Opera, &amp; Fantasy</td>
<td>Online file sharing. In-Person before/after AWC meeting.</td>
<td>Lisa Cooper</td>
<td>Wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online/In-person Alpharetta</td>
<td>Screenplays</td>
<td>Online filesharing for 30 days (one Act and then in-person meeting near North Point Mall on first Saturday of month. 10am - 12:30pm</td>
<td>Joe Redace</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta</td>
<td>All genres</td>
<td>Meets at member’s house 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>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>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Renewal

THE AWC HAS AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR TRACKING MEMBERSHIPS AND ALERTING MEMBERS WHEN IT’S TIME TO RENEW.

1. You will receive an e-mail from the system (showing Executive Director George Weinstein’s e-mail address) one month before your membership expiration date.

2. If you haven’t renewed within a week, you will receive another e-mail every seven days, with a final e-mail one week from expiration.

3. If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired.

4. It is a good e-mail practice to check your spam/junk folder to see if any legitimate e-mail has been misfiled there, possibly including the email you’ll receive from george@atlantawritersclub.org prior to the expiration of your membership.

Without your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club we would not be able to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings nor provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest.
MONTHLY MEETINGS. On the third Saturday of each month (August-May), our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers who cover a broad range of topics and genres, and come to us from many facets of the literary world. Our speakers include published authors, literary agents, editors, playwrights and poets, just to name a few. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Benefits

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements.

Potential members are invited to attend a first meeting as our guest. After that, we’re sure you will want to become a member and take advantage of all the benefits that come with it. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings, or pay on line at our website using PayPal at www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html.

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

If you have additional questions, contact AWC Executive Director George Weinstein.
Membership Form

First Name: _____________________________ Last Name: _____________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: _____________________________
Email: ________________________________ Alternate Email: __________________________
First Name: _____________________________ Last Name: _____________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: _____________________________
Email: ________________________________ Alternate Email: __________________________

I/we would like to become involved with the AWC as: □ Meeting Volunteer □ Conference Volunteer
□ Decatur Book Festival Volunteer □ Other (please specify): ____________________________

Membership is for ONE YEAR

Individual [ $50.00 ] $________
Family [ add family members for $25.00 each ] $________
Student [ $10.00 ] $________

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

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

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

Name: ________________________________ donated $ __________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.
Date: _____/_____/___________

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