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.

December 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

Guest Speaker - STEVEN JAMES: Dusting Off Your Memories—How to Tap into Your Life to Elevate the Stories You Tell
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We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

AWC Officers

President: Jill Evans
Executive Director: George Weinstein
Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors, George Weinstein, Clay Ramsey, Marty Aftewicz, Ron Aiken, Mike Brown
Conference Director: George Weinstein
Membership VP: Yvonne Green
Programs VP: OPEN - Volunteer Wanted
Operations VP: Kim Conrey
Marketing VP: Patrick Scullin
Contests VP: Kathy Nichols
Townsend Prize Director: Clay Ramsey
Treasurer: Jerry Weiner
Historian/By-Laws: George Weinstein
eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Here’s Our Next Meeting

December 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

Guest Speaker - STEVEN JAMES: Dusting Off Your Memories—How to Tap into Your Life to Elevate the Stories You Tell

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. (Except this month)

Gene Bowen, eQuill Publisher.

Stay Connected to AWC

Atlanta Writers Club
Gratitude for the Long Haul

In 2013 I bought a non-fiction book that changed the course of my writing. *The Titled Americans* by Elizabeth Kehoe is the non-fiction story of the Jerome sisters: Leonie, Jennie and Clara, the daughters of wealthy New York businessman Leonard Jerome. All three married into the British aristocracy, very much in the Downton Abbey model. The American bride brings the big dowry and the British groom provides the landed estates and titles.

The book follows the daughters as they grow into adulthood, marry and have families of their own. Jennie’s eldest child was Winston Churchill, but of all the people portrayed in the book, the one that stopped me in my tracks was Clare, the only girl of the cousins.

Clare's adventures so wholly captured my imagination that I dropped a manuscript I was 30,000 words into and began researching her story. Writing one of her adventures as historical fiction has been my obsession ever since.

“The people I have met through the Atlanta Writers Club have inspired me to keep at it.”

Though I had to put it away several times due to life's busyness, I always came back to Clare.

When I left the IT world in 2002, writing served a need for creativity, one long shelved by a career in computer technology. It flexed a muscle that had gone to atrophy for thirteen years. I learned how to write by conjuring contemporary fiction. But the nerd in me went latent in exchange.

Researching Clare kicked my geekiness back into overdrive. I found myself digging into archival databases, submitting freedom of information requests, building genealogical family trees and networks, and doing reverse genealogy to find family descendants who might have information. I even created spreadsheets to cross-reference and resolve conflicts. From the mountain of material I was able to bring to life the story I wanted to tell, one of intrigue, conviction, recklessness, and loyalty to family and country.

In this season of gratitude, I'm thankful, not simply for writing in an abstract way, but for all the ways it fulfills me. It lets me be nerdy and creative, and has brought me into a community of people who understand all the ways the itch gets scratched by getting words down on the page. The people I have met through the Atlanta Writers Club have inspired me to keep at it. I had to drop my writing and club involvement for a few years, again due to life's busyness, but the pull was ever present, and when my children grew, I jumped back in with you.

Thank you for all you gave and continue to give to me. May your writing and your writing friends be as great a gift to you.

Happy Holidays!

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](http://www.jillevans.com).
STEVEN JAMES IS THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF SEVENTEEN NOVELS. His books have been praised by Library Journal, the Associated Press, the New York Journal of Books, and Booklist, and garnered starred reviews from both Publishers Weekly and Library Journal. He has served as a contributing editor to Writer’s Digest Magazine and is the author of the groundbreaking book Story Trumps Structure as well as the guidebook used by thousands of novelists, Troubleshooting Your Novel, both from Writer’s Digest Books. Publishers Weekly calls him “[a] master storyteller at the peak of his game.” When he’s not working on his next novel, Steven teaches Novel Writing Intensive retreats across the country with New York Times bestselling author Robert Dugoni. In addition to his writing and speaking, Steven also hosts the weekly podcast “The Story Blender” on which he has interviewed more than one hundred of the top storytellers and writers in the world.

On December 17th, Steven will make an in-person presentation to the AWC for the first time, based on his new writing book, The Art of the Tale:

It’s been said that “all fiction is autobiography.” That might not be entirely true, but all of us, no matter what genre we write (and whether that’s fiction or nonfiction) can elevate our stories by scouring through our memories and finding pivotal moments that can inform and deepen the stories we tell. This workshop will teach you how to foster poignant memories, search for connections, develop your characters, and write yourself out of the spotlight.
With apologies, our videographer wasn’t available for the November 19 meeting.

Meeting Photos by Patrick Scullin and Ed Kalski

Pre-Meeting Mixer

AWC Treasurer Jerry Weiner & New Member Welcome

AWC Guest Speaker C. Matthew Smith

AWC Guest Speaker John Pruitt
AWC Annual Writing Contest
Now Open for Submissions

ELIGIBILITY:
1. The AWC 2023 Writing Contest is open to: All current (through May 31, 2023), paid club members. Please check your membership status before submitting your entry. To join the AWC or renew your membership, please use this link. If you have a question about when your AWC membership expires, please contact the Membership VP, Yvonne Green.
2. Submissions must be original, unpublished, and previously un-awarded work.
3. Entrants may submit only one piece to only one category per contest year.

DEADLINE:
Midnight, March 20, 2023. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

AWARDS:
Each award carries a $300 cash prize and a plaque. Winners will be announced at our club meeting on May 20, 2023.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:
Terry Kay Prize for Fiction (Maximum, 3000 words)
Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction (Maximum, 3000 words)
Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry (Maximum, 90 lines)

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

PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to Contest Apprentice Tiffany R. Jansen.
The SSF must include the following information:
Author’s Name
Prize Category
Title of Entry
Word Count (Line Count for poetry)

**Name your SSF document using the following template: SSF-YourTitle.docx
There is no template for the SSF itself; you create the document as instructed above and send it as a separate attachment. The entry and SSF must both be sent as attached Word documents (.docx). The SSF is used for identification purposes by Tiffany Jansen only. Judges never know the identity of any author; they see only the blind entry document.
IMPORTANT: Name the document files by title, i.e., YourTitle.docx and SSF-YourTitle.docx
Example: if the entry title is Moon Fire, the document file should be named Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be sent to the judges) and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be seen only by Tiffany Jansen).
The Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference (ASPC) is dedicated to serving self-published authors and the independent publishing market. Sponsored by the Atlanta Writers Club (AWC), our conferences provide professional speakers and networking for all who attend.

No matter whether you're curious about the self-publishing market or you want to learn how to grow your independent author business, everyone will have something to learn at ASPC.

Location:
WESTIN ATLANA AIRPORT HOTEL
4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337

This year, we'll be providing Launch Track sessions for those new to self-publishing or who have recently started their indie authorship. Booster Track sessions cater to authors who feel as though they have the basics in hand and are looking for more advanced strategies to add to their publication and marketing processes.

8:00 AM
Coffee & Conversations takes place in the Networking Room and gives attendees a chance to get to know the people they will be learning with (and from) throughout the day.

8:45 AM
A formal welcome is given in the Networking Room by conference director Tenesha L. Curtis.

9:00 AM
First Sessions take place in the Launch and Booster rooms.
- The first Launch session is "Self-Publishing 101" facilitated by Tamika Newhouse.
- The first Booster session is "Printing Money" facilitated by Dave Sheets.

10:00 AM
Break Time gives everyone a chance to chat, grab a snack, visit the restroom, stretch, etc.

10:30 AM
Second Sessions take place in the Launch and Booster rooms.
- The second Launch session is "How to Work with an Editor," facilitated by Cody Sisco.
- The second Booster session is "Earning Beyond Royalties" facilitated by Bob McGough.

11:30 AM
Lunch Break is time for picking up food deliveries from the lobby or driving to one of the nearby venues for a quick bite to eat. This time can also be spend building further rapport with fellow writers.
1:00 PM
Third Sessions take place in the Launch and Booster rooms.
The third Launch session is "Social Media Basics," facilitated by K. G. Fletcher.
The third Booster session is "Profitable Newsletter Management."

2:00 PM
Break Time gives everyone a chance to chat, grab a snack, visit the restroom, stretch, etc.

2:30 PM
Fourth Sessions take place in the Launch and Booster rooms.
The fourth Launch session is "Intro to Cover Design," facilitated by Bobby Nash.
The fourth Booster session is "The Six-Figure Authorship," facilitated by David A. Simpson.

3:30 PM
Break Time gives everyone a chance to chat, grab a snack, visit the restroom, stretch, etc.

4:00 PM
Author Panel takes place in the Networking Room and gives all attendees a chance to ask questions of all the presenters who spoke at the conference.

5:00-7:00 PM
Genre Tables are a chance for authors writing in similar genres to connect. This would also be the time to buy any books and get info from vendors there wasn't time for earlier.

For complete details and to register, please go to the ASPC website.

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**New author promotional opportunity in North Fulton/Forsyth**

Do you have an event – book launch, author talk, special appearance, etc. – coming up in North Fulton or Forsyth counties? Kathy Des Jardins Cioffi will once again be writing a monthly book story for Appen Media detailing author events. The deadline to submit information for the following month is the 15th. (For example, email Kathy by Dec. 15 for January activities). Email with questions or upcoming event details.
May 5-6, 2023 Atlanta Writers Conference

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.

May 5-6, 2023
Atlanta Writers Conference
Register Now

Our 28th Atlanta Writers Conference will be held in-person (with an option to participate virtually for agent/editor meetings only) at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel on May 5-6, 2023 with agent/editor critique and pitch meetings, a two-hour workshop on writing diverse characters, two Q&A panels, emailed pre-conference edits, a Friday night mixer with music, two days of educational talks, and—for the first time—a book fair!

Location:
WESTIN ATLANTA AIRPORT HOTEL
4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337

WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

The May 5-6, 2023 Atlanta Writers Conference offers you 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 18 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, nearly 50% 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, more than 60% 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 author and actress Tonya Todd on “Crafting Diverse Characters for Inclusive Literature” and two free bonus talks by Tonya beforehand.
- A Q&A panel with all nine participating acquisitions editors and a separate Q&A panel with all nine literary agents to address all your questions about the business of writing.
- Free bonus educational talks by Lauretta Hannon—the bestselling author named the “Funniest Woman in Georgia” by Southern Living Magazine—and
award-winning television writer, actress, nationally touring comedian, and author Jorjeana Marie.

- 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 Pitches, with certificates to be given to the awardees—or sent after the conference for those not in attendance.

- And introducing our first book fair, with opportunities for participants who want to sign and sell their traditionally and self-published books on Friday, May 5.

- Nearly 50 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 through May 6, 2023, 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 5-6, 2023 Atlanta Writers Conference, click here to start.
AWC VP OF OPERATIONS KIM CONREY AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GEORGE WEINSTEIN will be speaking and signing at FoxTale Book Shoppe (105 E Main St, Woodstock, GA 30188) on Saturday, December 10 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Conrey’s debut sci-fi romance Stealing Ares was published in September, and Weinstein’s seventh novel, Return to Hardscrabble Road, was published in October.

On Saturday December 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 18 from noon to 5:00 p.m., they will be signing at Posman Bookstore in Avalon (4105 Avalon Blvd., Alpharetta, GA 30009).

George will also be signing at Posman Bookstore at Ponce City Market on December 11 (12:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and December 23 (11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). These events are free and open to the public.

AWC MEMBER FATIMA R. HENSON released her award-winning YA novel, Love in the Age of Dragons, on November 1, 2022. Love in the Age of Dragons is the gold medal winner of the 2022 Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards for Young Adult, Fantasy, and Sci-Fi.

Love in the Age of Dragons follows the story of seventeen-year-old Ayanna Grace, as she navigates a post-apocalyptic world where dragons have destroyed society. Both a print and e-book version of the book are available on Amazon, IndieBound, and Barnes and Noble.com.

Henson is doing two events this winter that are free and open to the public: Book Signing and Meet and Greet at the Evelyn G. Lowery Library at Cascade (3665 Cascade Road SW, Atlanta GA 30331) on Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 2:30pm-4:30pm.

Local Author Showcase event at the Evelyn G. Lowery Library at Cascade (3665 Cascade Road SW, Atlanta GA 30331) on Saturday, December 17, 2022. This event will feature Georgia authors for a panel discussion to answer questions about their work and their journeys as authors and autograph their books. The Showcase will include adult and children’s books.
AWC MEMBER TERRI PARLATO’S debut thriller, All the Dark Places, published by Kensington Publishing, will be released on December 27, 2022. Set during a cold, snowy winter in a small town outside of Boston, All the Dark Places is a domestic thriller featuring a woman with a traumatic past. Molly thought she had overcome her demons when she married psychologist Jay Bradley, but when she finds him brutally murdered the morning after his fortieth birthday party, her world unravels. Shockingly, Molly discovers that their best friends, who had gathered for the celebration, are the prime suspects.

A former high school English teacher, Terri has been writing fiction for many years. “After a career in education and raising three kids, I finally found time to devote myself to writing fiction and pursuing publication. I am beyond thrilled that it has happened at last, and I encourage all writers to keep going. Don’t give up on your dreams. It is never too late.”

On launch day, Terri will be signing copies of her book at Johns Creek Books & Gifts, Johns Creek, Georgia, December 27, 2022, from 1-3 p.m.
LORIN OBERWEGER is a highly sought-after independent book editor and ghostwriter with almost thirty years’ experience in publishing. Her company, Free Expressions, offers intensive, deep craft workshops nationwide. She’s also known for her one-on-one story mastermind session for writers of all genres of fiction and creative nonfiction.

Lorin’s students and clients have been published by HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, Simon and Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Disney, and many other presses. They have also gained representation with some of the industry’s leading literary agents and several have had work optioned for film and television.

An award-winning author, Lorin has co-written and ghostwritten eight books, several for New York Times bestselling authors of fiction and nonfiction. Her work, commissioned by major publishers, has received glowing notices from the New York Times, Kirkus Reviews, NPR, and others. Her latest co-author credit is THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY TED TALK, written with Chris Anderson, director of TED Conferences.

With bestselling author Veronica Rossi, Lorin is the author of the New Adult books, BOOMERANG, REBOUND, and BOUNCE, published by Harper/William Morrow under the pen name Noelle August. The novels were praised by Publishers Weekly and Library Journal, among others, and BOOMERANG was chosen as a “new and notable” selection for Target Stores across the US.

In 2023, Lorin will present a quarterly webinar series with critiques, exclusively for the Atlanta Writers Club, via Zoom, open to all current members of the Atlanta Writers Club. To register for participation in this series, please email AWC Executive Director George Weinstein with your request to receive the Zoom link each quarter. A quarterly recording will be made available to all who register. If you also want to receive a manuscript sample critique from Lorin, please see the instructions further down.

**STORY 360 WITH LORIN OBERWEGER**
A Comprehensive Four-part Workshop for Creating Successful Fiction

**PART ONE: JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN**

*Maximizing Your Premise For Story Success (And Making Sure Your Protagonist Is The Right Person For The Job):*

Often writers begin with what they think is a great character or a great story idea, only to fizzle out a few chapters into the work. Why? Because a strong, sustainable narrative relies on several factors: an interesting story world; a complex character with complex relationships; goals that escalate and put the protagonist through interesting and unexpected paces; and stakes that operate on both the personal and public level.

In this generative workshop, we’ll explore the essential elements to a strong story concept and dynamic main character, which will give you plenty to work with, help you avoid—or defeat—the saggy middle, and ultimately ensure you deliver a rewarding and memorable experience to your reader.

**PART TWO: APRIL 12, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN**

*Deep Dive Into Scene Structure: Going Beyond The Basics To Create Shapely, Resonant Scenes*

Though many writers know the basics of scene structure, they fail to make their scenes do all the work they can do, taking the path of least resistance instead of challenging themselves—and their characters and stories—to greater heights.

In this generative class, we’ll dig into the foundational element of story construction, the scene, and examine ways in which every aspect of the scene can perform multiple functions, creating richer and more dynamic moments that lead to a much more satisfying work.
PART THREE: JULY 19, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN

Holding The River: On Pacing And Voice

Effective pacing, like voice, can sometimes be an “I’ll know it when I feel it” proposition, but there ARE practical considerations in creating an efficient narrative flow—while expressing the personality of one’s viewpoint character or characters.

In this generative workshop, we’ll look at the issues of when to use exposition and when to employ more observable dramatic action; what kinds of scenes demand to be slowed down and savored and what scenes can be dispensed with more quickly; when--and if--we need aftermath or sequel scenes; and how to get a handle on the overall pacing of our novels, creating a sense of escalation and stronger drive as we move toward our story’s climax. We’ll also work on deepening and sharpening narrative voice, to make the expression of your story one of its key strengths.

PART FOUR: OCTOBER 18, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. US EASTERN

The End Is The Beginning (With Bonus Emotional Query And Revision Content)

As writers, we’re often guilty of noodling around with our story openings FOREVER, but what about our endings?

In this generative workshop, we’ll talk about—and play with writing—story endings that serve as a powerful target for the rest of your narrative. We’ll ask ourselves what makes for a potent and resonant ending. Other topics covered will include how to weave all of your plot threads and plot lines together and how to decide on the order for doing so; how to decide on last images/last lines; how to bring things full circle from your opening; how to avoid disappointing the reader; and how to clarify and underscore your protagonist’s emotional journey at story’s end.

We’ll also look at maximizing our revision process and creating query letters that express not just the mechanics of our stories but the beating heart behind the words.

Lorin Oberweger’s Critiques:

Lorin will review 10 manuscript samples of no more than 2,500 words each (along with a manuscript summary of no more than 400 words) per quarter. To register for one of these critiques, please email AWC Executive Director George Weinstein. He will fill the first quarterly allotment of 10 and then the second quarterly allotment of 10, and so on until all 40 available spots are full, and then a waitlist will be available. Lorin will send out Calendly invitations with Zoom details for the first 10 to respond for first quarter meetings. During the second quarter, she will send Calendly invitations to the next 10, and so on. AWC members who register for this critique must submit their materials two weeks prior to the webinar for that quarter, and Lorin will meet with them the week after the webinar according to the date and time they select on the Calendly invitation.
December 01 Novel Idea Events

It’s a Family Affair: ‘Tis the Season to Be Reading!

Have the Kids Meet Real Authors and Begin Your Holiday Shopping

**STAN KONTER**

Stan “Pops” Konter recently moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in order to be close to his four grandchildren who inspired this book. Stan is a magician, woodworker, collector, gaming fan, and miniature painter.

**AIN HEATH DREW**

Ain Heath Drew is a writer and educator based in Stone Mountain, GA. Ari J.’s Kinky, Curly Crown is Ain’s first children’s book.

**SHAMAR KNIGHT-JUSTICE**

Shamar Knight-Justice is an educator and illustrator based in Atlanta, GA.

**ANDREA LANE**

Georgia author Andrea Lane was inspired to write her children’s book, Abby the Crabby Tabby: Discovers Gratitude, after discovering the power of gratitude. A percentage of the proceeds from the sales of this book will benefit a different nonprofit each month.

**THURSDAY**

December 1, 2022

5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Click Here For More Information**

**VINTAGE PIZZERIA**

5510 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd.

Dunwoody, GA 30338
December 13 Novel Ides Event

A Novel Idea
A Literary Event in Collaboration With Atlanta Writers Club

AUTHOR SHOWCASE highlights great local authors at monthly events.

‘Tis the Season for Books

MARY KAY ANDREWS

PATTI CALLAHAN HENRY

Tuesday, December 13th
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Alpharetta Library
10 Park Plaza
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Mary Kay Andrews and Patti Callahan Henry will sign books purchased at the event. Most backlist selections available!

A NOVEL IDEA Holiday Elves will be available to assist you with your Mary Kay Andrews and Patti Callahan Henry gift selections.

Click Here For More Information
Meet the Cookbook Author: Tara Teaspoon  
*Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m., Virtual*

Live talk with cookbook author Tara Teaspoon as she shares stories, cooking tips, and recipes from her new book, *Delicious Gatherings, A Cookbook For Comforting Recipes To Celebrate Together.*

Authors & Dessert in Duluth  
*Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m., Duluth Branch*

Join Gwinnett County Public Library for desserts and beverages with bestselling fiction authors Kimberly Brock, Piper Huguley, and Alayne Smith in conversation with Emmy winner Kolinda Scialabba. Books for sale and signing.

Social Equity Alliance: Unruly Women: Race, Neocolonialism, and the Hijab  
*Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m., Virtual*

An open discussion of social issues that affect our community. For December, we discuss the book *Unruly Women: Race, Neocolonialism, and the Hijab* with author Falguni A. Sheth.

DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS: WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
You have permission to download any of the photos maintained on our SmugMug account for non-commercial use only (e.g., to share images on social media). If you wish to use any image for commercial purposes (e.g., use in a book), you need permission from the photographer at the email address you’ll see at the top of each folder.

Here’s what our participants said about the conference:

“Thank you for another fabulous conference!!”

“Thank you again for the amazing weekend, it was truly game changing for my writing journey!”

“I had such a positive experience at this event and came away feeling more connected, informed, and validated as a writer. Thank you for all the work you’ve put into creating this community."

“THANK YOU! This was a terrific conference. The best one I’ve participated in. Our guests were excellent, kind, helpful. Participants were engaged and had a great time. You guys did a terrific job and you in particular run an impressively tight ship!”

Here’s what our guest agents and editors said:

“The Atlanta Writer's Conference is one of the best conferences I have participated in. The events were extremely organized and volunteers were helpful and accommodating. The work I received was well-tailored to my wishlist and interests, and the conference is set up to maximize everyone’s time and to really focus on quality, curated feedback for participants. I would definitely go back and would recommend to any of my industry colleagues!”

The Atlanta Writer's Conference stand out from other writer's conferences. The critique sessions were collaborative between the authors, editors, and agents, and the pitch sessions were well-organized and low pressure.”

“The Atlanta Writers Conference is truly what all other conferences should aspire to be. As an editor, being able to really connect and chat with so many writers was such a wonderful experience. The environment was welcoming, creative, and constructive so if you ever get the chance to go, do it! You won't regret it.”

“What a high energy conference! All the writers at the Atlanta Writer’s Conference, many of whom were of great quality, came ready to pitch and learn. A lovely group of editors and agents to boot!”

“The Atlanta Writers Conference is a fantastic event run by people who are passionate about the craft and the business of writing. I met many wonderful people - from established authors to those learning the trade - as well as the other editors and agents invited to the event. The format for providing constructive critiques of manuscripts, queries, and pitches make the Atlanta
The AWC maintains this directory in an effort to assist AWC members with editor options for consideration; however, the AWC does not endorse the individuals in this directory and is not liable for any member’s experiences with these editors.

For the editors listed below, please consider selecting a few and getting a quote for how much some of them would charge to edit a sample (e.g., 20-50 pages) -- some charge by the page (e.g., $3-$5/page), others by the word (e.g., $.01-$0.05/word) -- and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

**BOBBIE CHRISTMAS**
Zebra Communications:
Excellent editing for maximum marketability

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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**

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

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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.

**JUDITH KOLBERG**

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404-226-1381

Nonfiction Genres: lifestyle, health, business, personal growth, self-help, memoir, spiritual, inspiration, and narrative non-fiction.

I am an experienced developmental editor with fifteen years of experience bringing multiple authors to publication in Specializing in developmental editing including content structure, clarity, interest, flow, segue and other writing elements that make for a fantastic reader’s experience. Perfect for writers in need of a rigorous, honest, and compassionate first-reader or for authors at any level seeking a collaborative, effective editing process designed to fit their schedule and budget. Confidential ghost-writing services available.

**JANIE MILLS**

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

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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**

Available for query letter consults, developmental editing

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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.

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, 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.
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**.
<p>| Online #1 | Fiction: Short Stories &amp; Novels | Meets on 2nd &amp; 4th Friday of the month via Zoom, 1pm. | Kelley Cody-Grimm | EMAIL |  |
| Online #2 | Fiction only | Ongoing | Linh Pham | EMAIL |  |
| Online #3 | Self Published Authors | Every 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday at 7 pm | J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins | EMAIL |  |
| Online #4 | All Genres | 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm Eastern | Gail Lash | EMAIL |  |
| Online #5 | Short Stories | Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm | Pat Bowen | EMAIL | Open |
| Online #6 | Young Adult &amp; Middle Grade Fiction | Work shared by email | Brad Scott | EMAIL | Wait List |
| Online #7 | Screenwriting (email for details) | 1st &amp; 3rd Friday of every month @ 7pm via ZOOM | Liz Irland | EMAIL | Wait List |
| 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 | Open |
| Online #9 | Romance | 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets | Dana Armstrong | EMAIL | Wait |
| Online #10 | Study/Critique Group open to all level of writers and all genres | Click here and scroll down for details | April Love-Fordham | EMAIL | Open |
| Online #11 | All genres | 1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100 | Gelia Dolcimascolo | 770-274-5240 | Open |
| Online #12 | Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir | Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Quinn Eastman | EMAIL | Open |
| Online #13 | All Genres | Meeting online every other Tues. | Nancy Fletcher | EMAIL | Wait List |
| Online #14 | Adult Fiction | Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm | Susanne Fincher | EMAIL | Wait List |
| Online #15 | Fiction | 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM | Mike Brown | email | Wait List |</p>
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<th>AWC CRITIQUE GROUPS, cont. (Changed groups in red)</th>
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<td><strong>Online/In person Lawrenceville</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Online/In person Tucker</strong></td>
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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.

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

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

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

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

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________

Email: _______________________________ Alternate Email: ___________________________

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________

Email: _______________________________ Alternate Email: ___________________________

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

Membership is for ONE YEAR

Individual [$50.00] $____________

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

Student [$10.00] $____________

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club

Tax Deductible Donation $___________

Total $____________

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

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

Name: ________________________________ donated $ _____ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

Date: _____/_______/___________

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