April 15 - 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 #1 - Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris: Poetry – A Reading and Craft Discussion

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Click here to Register for the Atl Self-Pub Conference.

Speakers at Our Next Meeting

April 15 - 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 #1 - Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris: Poetry – A Reading and Craft Discussion

Guest Speaker #2 - Jillian Medoff: Finding the Balance – The Long View on Life, Work, and Writing

Cover Art

The cover theme for 2023 is “Famous Authors.” The images are computer generated drawings (AI), so it may be slightly more difficult to recognize than a photo. Can you guess who the author is this month? If not, you’ll find the answer somewhere in this edition of eQuill. Good luck. Neither the authors on the cover nor their books are intended as an endorsement by the AWC, its officers, or its members.

Gene Bowen, eQuill Publisher.

Stay Connected to AWC

AWC officers

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Executive Director: George Weinstein
Officers Emeritus: Valerie Connors

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Clay Ramsey
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eQuill Publisher: Gene Bowen

Atlanta Writers Club
A Message from the President

Swimming in the Whole Pool

Recently one of my critique partners read a new short story of mine and gave me a challenge. “I would like to see this as a novel. There’s so much tension here, and I want to know more.”

Whoa! “I’m in the middle of researching a novel AND a non-fiction project. Plus, I have an idea for another short story.” I couldn’t imagine adding a year’s worth of work on another novel to the mix. Plus, plus, the short stories are contemporary, and my longer work is historical. Hard pass.

Or, maybe not.

Conventional wisdom says that authors should stay in their lane, whether that’s defined as genre or time period. Agents and editors know what to sell, and readers know what they’re getting in the next book. Pen names can be used by authors who write mysteries under one and women’s fiction under another, or adult fiction under one and children’s under another. On the other hand, our Executive Director, George Weinstein, writes beautifully in multiple genres.

My typical test of whether I want to pursue a writing project is if the idea sticks with me. If I put it to the side, but think of it while I’m driving or lying down to sleep. If the universe puts something related in front of me like a news item. Or, if I’m researching, and the information is flowing in.

The completed novel I’m currently pitching came about because I was reading a biography that mentioned an event, and I became utterly obsessed. It took a long time to research and write but was worth every minute. And, I abandoned a novel I was 30,000 words into to start it. So I suppose I’m not immune to being side-tracked.

I keep files and folders for shuffling ideas in and out of the mental hopper, so now this new story cum novel goes into one. Ask me in a few months if it has dropped in and is currently in progress.

More importantly, I’d like to know what you think about authors who write in multiple genres and formats. Do you have your favorites you’ll read anything by? Or do you like to read multiple authors within a genre because that’s what appeals to you most? Do pen names work for you or confuse you?

Drop me a line on my [website](http://www.jillevans.com) and let me know!

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](https://www.instagram.com/jillevanswriter) and find out more at [www.jillevans.com](http://www.jillevans.com).
AWC Townsend Prize for Fiction Update

Tickets Now on Sale

AWC Townsend Prize for Fiction Award Ceremony: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Location:
Atlanta Woman’s Club Wimbish House
1150 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Parking is located adjacent to and across the street from Wimbish House.

Keynote Speaker: Melissa Fay Greene

Tickets are $60 apiece and include appetizers, drinks, a buffet dinner, and dessert. Doors open at 6 p.m., with drinks and passed appetizers. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The award ceremony will commence at about 8 p.m. Cocktail attire or business dress code is recommended. To purchase Award Ceremony tickets, CLICK HERE.

Refund Policy
Please note that $20 per ticket will be withheld for any refunds requested on or before March 13, 2023. Due to commitments made to the caterer by that cut-off date, no refunds can be given after that time.

Sponsorships for AWC Townsend Prize for Fiction Award Ceremony
- Patron Level: $2,500 for 4 award ceremony tickets, a large program listing, two promotional emails sent by the AWC, and an AWC website sponsors page listing
- Sponsor Level: $1,000 for three award ceremony tickets, a medium program listing, one promotional email sent by the AWC, and an AWC website sponsors page listing
- Booster Level: $500 for two award ceremony tickets, a small program listing, and an AWC website sponsors page listing
- Donor Level: $250 for one award ceremony ticket, a smaller program listing, and an AWC website sponsors page listing

To sponsor the award ceremony at any of these levels, please contact AWC Townsend Prize Director Clay Ramsey.

A Capella Bookstore will sell all ten finalists’ books onsite before and after the award ceremony:
- Daniel Black, Don’t Cry for Me
- Kimberly Brock, The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare
- Taylor Brown, Wingwalkers
- Anjali Enjeti, The Parted Earth
- Ann Hite, Haints on Black Mountain
- Thomas Mullen, Midnight Atlanta
- Lo Patrick, The Floating Girls
- Josh Russell, King of the Animals
- Sanjena Sathian, The Gold Diggers
- Tiphanie Yanique, Monster in the Middle

BACKGROUND:
In May 2021, the Atlanta Writers Club became the new steward of the Townsend Prize for Fiction. Established in 1981 in memory of Jim Townsend, founding editor of Atlanta magazine and mentor to a generation of remarkable Southern authors, the Prize was administered by The Chattahoochee Review and Georgia State University’s Perimeter College since the 1990s before it was inherited by the AWC, a sponsor of the Prize for years.

Awarded every two years, the Prize honors the best piece of literary fiction written by a Georgia author during the time since the last award. A selection committee that includes members of the Georgia literary community will consider all qualified contenders for the cash prize and silver platter by reviewing all eligible work and narrowing the list of possibilities to ten finalists, which will then be sent to three out-of-state judges for the final decision.
Here's the link to the February 18 meeting of the Atlanta Writers Club, courtesy of our videographer, Jorge Barboza:

[LINK]

Meeting photos courtesy of Patrick Scullin and Kai Smith:

[Link to Complete Set]
March 18 Meeting Video & Photos

A link to the March 18 meeting video will be shared when our videographer finishes editing it.

Meeting photos courtesy of Patrick Scullin and Kai Smith:

See them all here
April 15th Atlanta Writers Club Meeting for AWC Members and First-Time Guests

April 15, 12:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338, Building N-C auditorium and café. (If you're not on our mailing list, use the form here to add yourself so you will get any updates about this meeting.)

This meeting may be recorded; if so, the recording link will be shared in the following month's eQuill newsletter.

12:45-1:30 p.m. Nosh and Networking Mixer for members and first-time guests in the café
1:30-1:45 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans
1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris: Poetry - A Reading and Craft
2:45-3:00 p.m. Book signing for Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris in the café
3:00-4:00 p.m. Jillian Medoff: Finding the Balance: The Long View on Life, Work, and Writing
4:00-4:15 p.m. Book signing for Jillian Medoff in the café

KAMINSKY WAS BORN IN ODESA, UKRAINE in 1977, and arrived to the United States in 1993, when his family was granted asylum by the American government. He is the author of Deaf Republic (Graywolf Press) and Dancing In Odessa (Tupelo Press) and co-editor and co-translated many other books, including Ecco Anthology of International Poetry (Harper Collins), In the Hour of War: Poems from Ukraine (Arrowsmith), and Dark Elderberry Branch: Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva (Alice James Books).

His work was the finalist for The National Book Award and won The Los Angeles Times Book Award, The Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, The National Jewish Book Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, The Whiting Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award, Lannan Fellowship, Academy of American Poets' Fellowship, NEA Fellowship, Poetry magazine's Levinson Prize, and was also shortlisted for National Book Critics Circle Award, Neustadt International Literature Prize, and T.S. Eliot Prize (UK).


He collaborates frequently with painters, sculptors, musicians, choreographers, and theater artists. Odesa, Kaminsky's recent collaboration with the photographer Yelena Yamchuk, published by Gost Books, was listed by Time Magazine among The 20 Best Photo Books of 2022.

His poems have been translated into over twenty languages, and his books are published in many countries, including Turkey, Netherlands, Latvia, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Russia, Mexico, Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Iceland, India, Slovenia, France (where Kaminsky received Prix Alain Bosquet given annually by Gallimard), Italy (where his work was honored by the Bonanni Prize in L'Aquila), Germany (where his poetry was listed by the SWR television channel as German literary critics' top pick) and China (where he was awarded the Yinchuan
International Poetry Prize). In 2019, Kaminsky was selected by BBC as "one of the 12 artists that changed the world."

Ilya Kaminsky has worked as a law clerk for San Francisco Legal Aid and the National Immigration Law Center. More recently, he worked pro-bono as the Court Appointed Special Advocate for Orphaned Children in Southern California. He currently teaches in Princeton and lives in New Jersey.

KATIE FARRIS IS THE AUTHOR of *A Net to Catch My Body in its Weaving*, winner of the 2021 Chad Walsh Poetry Award, and her collection of poems, *Standing in the Forest of Being Alive*, was just released from Alice James Books. She is also the author of the hybrid-form text *boysgirls*, (Marick Press, 2011; Tupelo Press 2019), and the chapbooks *Thirteen Intimacies* (Fivethousand Places, 2017), and *Mother Superior in Hell* (Dancing Girl, 2019).

Most recently she is winner of poetry awards from Beloit Poetry Journal, Fairy Tale Review, Massachusetts Review, and the Orison Anthology Prize in Fiction. Her work has appeared American Poetry Review, Granta, The Atlantic Monthly, The Nation, and Poetry, and has been commissioned by MoMA. She is the co-translator of several books of poetry from the French, Chinese, and Russian, including Gossip and Metaphysics: Russian Modernist Poems and Prose. She graduated with an MFA from Brown University, and is currently associate professor of literature, media, and communication at Georgia Institute of Technology.

JILLIAN MEDOFF IS A "BESTSELLING AUTHOR who has made a name for herself with uncannily insightful takes on the dark side of family institutions." (Entertainment Weekly) Her most recent novel, *WHEN WE WERE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL*, is a story about privilege, power, consent and dirty, sexy money that garnered many accolades: Book of the Month Club feature selection, Apple Books Best of the Month, Audible Editor's Pick, People Picks of the Week, and a favorite of Town and Country Magazine and O Daily, among others.

Jillian has written four other novels: *THIS COULD HURT, I COULDN'T LOVE YOU MORE* (a national bestseller), *GOOD GIRLS GONE BAD*, and *HUNGER POINT*. *HUNGER POINT* was made into an original cable movie starring Christina Hendricks and Barbara Hershey and directed by Joan Micklin Silver (Lifetime TV, 2003).

A former fellow at MacDowell, Blue Mountain Center, VCCA and Fundacion Valparaiso in Spain, Jillian has an MFA from NYU. She studied with Mona Simpson (her thesis advisor) and Jonathan Dee; and took master
classes with Toni Morrison, Grace Paley, and Joyce Carol Oates. Jillian's MFA experience was life-changing. She sold her graduate thesis, originally titled THE HUNTERS, to HarperCollins where it was retitled HUNGER POINT and published as her debut novel in 1997. Back then, readers loved the deeply depressed Frannie; now, they hate her and her whole stupid, self-absorbed family. Times change, culture evolves, and still, trauma endures.

In addition to writing novels, Jillian has a long career in corporate consulting. Since her early days at Max Factor and American Home Goods (in Trump Tower!), she's worked for a wide range of employers, including Deloitte and Aon. Now with Segal Benz, she advises clients on communication strategies for all aspects of the employee experience.


On April 15, Jillian will discuss "Finding the Balance: The Long View on Life, Work and Writing." In this talk she will discuss her more-than-30-year career as both a novelist and consultant (the day job), the highs, the lows, and how to how to find the balance with family, work, and writing fiction.

FoxTale Book Shoppe presents

**Dawn Major**

in conversation with Ann Hite

Saturday, April 29
1:00PM
Book purchase appreciated.
April 29, 2023 Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference

Register Now

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 ATLANTA 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 give 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.
May 5-6, 2023 Atlanta Writers Conference

Register Now

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.

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 MEMBER PATRICIA ANN BOWEN has published the final book in a trilogy that spans forty years from now into the future about a speculative cure for Alzheimer’s, and the generations of people affected by it. The fictional journey began with The Cure, was followed by Legacy of The Cure, and is completed with this final novel, Fulfilling The Cure.

PURCHASE LINK

In addition to her novels, Patricia has also authored Unintended Consequences, a collection of short stories. She has taught short story writing, had several of her stories published in anthologies and online magazines, and leads the only short story critique group for the AWC.

AWC MEMBER NICK GANAWAY’s novel The Russia Leak has been published. When Karly, an elite prostitute in Atlantic City, blackmails her Washington lover, a headline-favored political figure she calls Jag, the presidential hopeful sees his White House dreams evaporating and explodes in rage, leaving Karly for dead in her swanky hotel suite. To ensure all evidence of his crime is buried forever, Jag takes advantage of his access to U.S. Government Top-Secrets. Forever is short lived however. When a seedy New Jersey lawyer stumbles onto the crime and blackmails Jag, it triggers an onslaught of espionage, terrorism, murder and missing Russian nuclear materials. When the President pulls in Cam Warfield from the intelligence community to contain the damage, Warfield tracks a winding thread through Russia, Langley, Paris, and Tokyo. But when the thread leads him back to the very halls of power in Washington, Warfield’s own FBI and CIA unleash the underbelly of their services to hunt him down and kill him! But can he survive long enough to convince the incredulous President that a disaster of nuclear proportions is only minutes away from Los Angeles? And that it can be prevented—but only by shooting a Japanese passenger plane out of the sky. Will he do it?

PURCHASE LINK

Nick Ganaway creates believable characters who come to electrifying life as they face twists and hurdles that keep pages turning. Forever passionate about the thriller genre, Nick’s writing is influenced by his many years of reading the works of Connelly, Baldacci, Patterson, Silva, Winslow, Turow, Follett, DeMille, Grisham, Clancy, le Carre, and others. Nick lives in Dunwoody, GA, USA, and has three loving children and six beautiful grandchildren. He is a proud member of the Atlanta Writers Club.
AWC MEMBER ANISSA GRAY’s new novel Life and Other Love Songs will be published in April. Her launch event is on April 15 at 2pm at 44th and 3rd Booksellers in Atlanta.

About the book: It's a warm, bright October afternoon, and Ozro Armstead walks out into the brilliant sunshine on his thirty-seventh birthday. At home, his wife Deborah and daughter Trinity prepare a surprise celebration; down the street, his brother waves as Oz heads back to his office after having lunch together. But he won’t make it to the party or even to his briefcase back at his desk. He’s about to disappear. In the days, months, and years to follow, Deborah and Trinity look backward and forward as they piece together the life of the man they love, but whom they come to realize they might never have truly known. In a gripping narrative that moves from the Great Migration to 1970s Detroit and 1990s New York, we follow the hopes, triumphs, losses, and secrets that build up and tear apart an American family.

PURCHASE LINK

Anissa Gray was born and raised in western Michigan. She is the author of the critically acclaimed 2019 novel The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls. Gray is also a journalist whose work has been featured in The Washington Post, CNN, and The Cut. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her wife.

AWC MEMBER DAWN MAJOR’s novel The Bystanders launches on April 7, 2023. It is a dark coming-of-age story set in the 1980s when big hair was big, and MTV ruled. In a quiet town of annual picnics and landscapes, the Samples’s rundown trailer and odd behaviors aren’t charming the locals. The Bystanders pays homage to Americana, its small-town eccentricities, and the rural people of the Northern Mississippi Delta region of Southeast Missouri, a unique area of the country where people still speak Paw Paw French and honor Old World traditions.

PURCHASE LINK

As a child, Major moved from California near Lawrenceton, Missouri—the town that inspired The Bystanders. She has a graduate degree from the Etowah Valley Creative Writing program. She was a recipient of the James Dickey Review Literary Editor Fellowship, the Dr. Robert Driscoll Excellence in Writing Award on Regional Themes, and Reinhardt University’s Faculty Choice Excellence in Writing Award.
One of **AWC MEMBER DAVE SWAN**’s recent short stories was inspired by a futuristic AI bot. His new one, “Come Sing It Plain,” reworks a 17th-century British murder ballad into a contemporary tale of tragedy and vengeance. Fittingly, it’s been published by the London-based **Close To The Bone**.

**AWC MEMER CHIKA UNIGWE**’s novel *The Middle Daughter* will be published in April. When seventeen-year-old Nani loses her older sister and then her father in quick succession, her world spins off its axis. Isolated and misunderstood by her grieving mother and sister, she’s drawn to an itinerant preacher, a handsome self-proclaimed man of God who offers her a new place to belong. All too soon, Nani finds herself estranged from her family, tethered to her abusive husband by children she loves but cannot fully comprehend. She must find the courage to break free and wrestle her life back—without losing what she loves most. A modern reimagining of the myth of Hades and Persephone within a Nigerian family, *The Middle Daughter* charts Nani’s journey to freedom and homecoming.

**PURCHASE LINK**

Chika Unigwe was born in Enugu, Nigeria. She was educated at UNN and KUL (Belgium) and earned her PhD from Leiden University, Holland. Widely translated, she has won awards for her writing. Her books include *On Black Sisters Street* and *Better Never than Late*. She teaches at Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA.

**AWC MEMBER THOMAS WILLIAMS** has written an upbeat tale of ideas and the world of writing and publishing: *The Editor: How the Brewster Gazette Became the World’s First Metaphysical Newspaper*. John Hawkwood meets a midlife crisis head-on when he resigns his professorship to buy a struggling weekly newspaper in the college town of Brewster, North Carolina. When he grows weary of writing editorials lamenting the shenanigans of the City Council or the scoundrels in Washington, he makes a drastic change. Henceforth, he will editorialize not about the mundane but about the transcendent: the nature of time, the hard problem of consciousness, and leaps of faith. The Brewster Gazette becomes the Brewster MacroCosmos, the world’s first metaphysical newspaper. The Editor tells the story of Hawkwood’s adventures doing these things and how, in the process, he discovers his own identity.

**PURCHASE LINK**

Thomas A. Williams, PhD, is the author of 15 published print books, non-fiction and fiction (including two by university presses, Georgia and Alabama) and a dozen ebooks. His freelance credits include Esquire magazine, Writer’s Digest, and other publications. He was editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper and several regional magazines (*The New East* magazine and *Tar Heel: the Magazine of North Carolina* among others). He is a book designer, editor, and self-publishing consultant.
LORIN OBERWEGEGER 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 OBERWEGEGER

A Comprehensive Four-part Workshop for Creating Successful Fiction

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

Recording available. AWC members can contact Executive Director George Weinstein for link.

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.

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Intown Writers Classes

Are you a writer who never writes? Looking for the self-discipline that is so difficult to access in this nonstop, post-pandemic world?

Intown Writers is for you.

With esteemed local authors and editors offering a variety of classes, we offer the discipline you need and the community you crave. Three classes in April for your writing needs. Go to Classes to learn more about our offerings and instructors Zoe Fishman, Nicki Salcedo, and Heidi Hill.
Following his January meeting presentation at GSU, professional screenwriter and professor of screenwriting Michael Lucker returns for a quarterly webinar series offered exclusively to AWC members. This is a free member benefit.

On June 14 at 7 p.m. Eastern, Michael will take you on a deep dive into the process of adapting your book into a screenplay.

To register for Michael's quarterly webinar series, AWC members are encouraged to reply to this email. AWC Executive Director George Weinstein will confirm your spot. If you need to join or renew so you can take advantage of this free member benefit, CLICK HERE.
ANI announces an exciting collaboration with the AWC, inviting any AWC member to launch a new or recent book at an ANI Author Showcase Event.

ANI will provide:

- A welcoming venue where friends, family and fans can attend your talk and signing.
- Promotional assistance reaching 6,500+ supporters, together with print and online articles.
- Shared videotaped presentations as available.
- Professional assistance, as needed, for presentations.

Author Indication of Interest

Interested? Please send completed info to Wayne Boston.

YOUR NAME: ______________________________ EMAIL: ______________________________


GENRE: ________________________________ YOUR WEBSITE: ________________________

PLANNED RELEASE DATE: ________________ PUBLISHER: __________________________

PUBLISHER CONTACT: ____________________ QUERY LETTER: Please attach.

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  - Returnable.
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- Bookmiser purchases books from the author if the above criteria are not met. In such cases, the author provides the books for the event. Bookmiser handles sales. At the end of the evening, Bookmiser pays the author 60% of the retail price (set by the author) for all books sold, pays all applicable sales tax, and reports sales to NYT and ABA.

Additional information relating to ANI and its current and past programs can be found HERE.
Freelance or “Free Lunch”

By AWC Member Dave Swan

On a recent Saturday night, I was busy messaging back and forth with a publisher about a possible freelance editing gig. Today I’m sadder but wiser – well, not really sad, just hoping to pass along a bit of advice.

The overture came from a small independent house that puts out speculative fiction and magical realism. The job seemed similar to others I’d done. However, I should have looked more closely at the owner’s profile on a leading professional networking site (which will remain anonymous but whose name rhymes with Blink Tin).

My Zoom interview began with a few standard questions. There were also some about my knowledge of financial literacy, a subject I’d dealt with in a previous editing life. So far, so good. Then all of a sudden, I was hearing a long spiel about guaranteeing my own financial security. Why?

You guessed it. This literary tycoon also works for a financial services outfit that some observers and ex-employees describe as a multi-level marketing operation like Amway. She claimed she was offering this “security” as a benefit. To a freelancer. Not magic and definitely not realistic.

 Needless to say, this ended the conversation. All I lost was a little time but it could have been worse. So if you’re scouting for writing, publishing, editing, or other opportunities:
• Research, research, research any offer and the company or people behind it. After all, you wouldn’t write a Civil War novel if you don’t know Gettysburg from Vicksburg.
• Apply due diligence to every lead, even if it’s from an apparently solid source.
• Whether you call it instinct, your gut, Spidey sense, or the Force, trust your inner voice when it tells you something isn’t right.

Dalton ’23 Book Fest

The Dalton-Whitfield County Public Library will hold its annual Book Fest on Sat, April 1st from 10am -2pm. Over thirty Georgia authors will be participating on panels focusing on Killer Reads—True Crime and Thrillers, Getting Your Material into Print; World Building and Fantasy Fiction, and Storytelling Basics. Authors will also be signing books.

Admission is free and parking is available onsite. The library is located at 310 Cappes St., Dalton, GA 30720. For more information, call 706-876-1379.
AI for Authors – Awesome Tools or Pandora’s Box

By AWC Member Greg Juhn

The January, 2023 eQuill covered five ways that writers can use AI art for inspiration and marketing. In this issue, I show examples of how AI art can help you visualize and describe a scene's physical location, which has obvious practical value to the writer. But I also wanted to elaborate on something I alluded to at the end of the previous article: we are in new territory with AI-generated content, including text, images, and audio, and it raises a lot of fascinating and challenging questions for artists. First, though, let’s talk about location descriptions.

Grounding Scenes in Immersive Locations

When you describe a scene’s physical setting, imaginative details can draw readers into the moment and help them believe that the location is real. But how do you come up with these details? In addition to your imagination, you could study photographs, watch videos, interview people, or walk around actual physical spaces. To find out what it looks like inside a textile mill or soviet submarine, for example, just do a google image search.

But what if your scene involves monsters, fantasy worlds, dreamscapes, hallucinations, alternate realities, alien ecosystems, ancient crypts, archaic bookstores, superheroes, or anything with an exaggerated quality? Here is where AI art tools really shine. They excel at generating random stuff that you can use as a launch point for your creative ideas. Let’s walk through a couple of examples, step by step.

Example 1

Say your characters are climbing up the inside of a lighthouse and approaching the top. Your first draft might read, “The lighthouse stairs wound upwards in a tight, treacherous spiral, and we arrived after many steps at a small trapdoor. As we lifted the door and pulled ourselves up, we saw a giant crystalline lamp, shining with reflected sunlight but unlit for many years.”

Then you generate some AI images, including this one:

Based on this concept, you might be inspired to write something like: “We emerged into a room lined with windows – a ring of massive portholes glowing with sunlight. In the center, a mahogany staircase wound up one flight to the lantern room, giving the impression of a smaller lighthouse within the bigger one. Long panes of brilliant glass stretched above us, a twinkling crown in the bright sun, although the ancient lamp itself had been dark for a hundred years.”

For an adventure story with a touch of whimsy, this description contains fresh imagery that keeps the reader’s imagination engaged. It doesn’t matter if the generated image has some kooky AI weirdness about it, or if you embellish what you see. You’re not trying to describe the image literally, but rather the scene in your imagination that it inspires.

Example 2

You’re writing about a hiker trudging through mountainous terrain, and your first draft begins, “Jorge trudged toward the peak, the cold burning his cheeks and nose. The mountain’s slopes appeared increasingly steep as he drew closer. Its surfaces were covered in ice and seemed impassable.”

After generating some images, you select this as your inspiration:

Draft two: “The peak jutted into the clouds as sharp and treacherous as a stone claw, leaning to the right in defiance of gravity and life. A thick icy sheet covered the northern side from a long winter of stormy winds; the southern edge hung nearly upside down in sheltered darkness.”
This second version is richer and more engaging. But is it cheating to look at an AI-generated illustration for inspiration? No, because all art requires something as inspiration, real or otherwise, and writing always uses ideas from outside you.

Okay, let’s get into some of the thornier issues raised by AI art tools.

Pandora’s Box

You’ve probably heard of ChatGPT, a text generator that uses the same underlying technologies as AI art. ChatGPT has amazing conversational abilities, but, as we’ve heard in the news lately, it also makes things up. You never know exactly what AI content generators will produce. That’s what fiction writers do, too – so it’s a good match. When it comes to fueling your imagination, a tool that randomly makes up crazy stuff is a good thing.

That said, generative art has generated problematic scenarios, not the least of which is the potential for flooding the internet with endless, effortless content. AI art could put quite a few talented, hard-working creatives out of business, and not surprisingly, illustrators are drawing their battle lines. But writers are heading down the exact same path.

Grammarly may seem innocent enough, but newer apps actively rewrite sloppy sentences or even write entire articles from keywords. We writers are on a slippery slope. It doesn’t take much imagination to foresee programs that rewrite and polish your stories in the style of Kurt Vonnegut, Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, or any other style or tone. At some point the software quietly crosses a line and is completely rewriting bad prose, turning it into something readable, competent, and enjoyable. Would it matter if a writer could not write well, but had everything fixed for them? Perhaps the story is more important than the writer’s ability to write it.

In this emerging world, will authors become more like story managers, letting software fill in all the details based on prompts, grooming, curating, and guidance? Will AI create a near-infinite number of stories? Will some of these stories be so amazing that no one will care how they were created?

I’ve been wondering for almost a decade where all this is headed. In fact, this is the subject of my satirical first novel, The Perfect, featuring a sort of super-advanced ChatGPT on steroids in human form. In the story, the bot has little patience for underachieving, second-rate humans. The main character, recognizing his all-encompassing inferiority, begins to question whether he has any worth at all. When I wrote the novel, this future was pure speculation. Now we’re starting to see how it might actually arrive. It’s all food for thought, and as time goes on, we will be less able to avoid answering these questions. We’ll just have to keep turning the pages before we know where this plot is heading and how this story might end.

Let me know if you have questions about AI art. I would love to hear your thoughts on the topic and can be reached via my email.

Greg Juhn is the author of The Perfect (a #1 Amazon seller in metaphysical and top 10 in cyberpunk) and the new thriller The Havoc Inside Us. To see the AI art for this novel on his Amazon page - click here.
The Freelancer’s Paradigm

By AWC Member Thomas A. Williams

FOR MANY YEARS I PUBLISHED regional magazines and weekly newspapers. To help beginning writers whip their material into shape for these break-in markets, I explained to them that anecdote and personal experiences were the lifeblood of readable articles. I put the structure basic to all good nonfiction writing into “one-two-three” form and gave it a name: the “freelancer’s paradigm.” Results were almost immediate. Marginal articles suddenly became publishable articles.

The paradigm is a simple pattern. It works the way our minds work, moving effortlessly from the general to the particular, leading the reader on with effective story-telling. It consists of three parts:

a. A general observation, statement of fact, or question;

b. Followed by a narrowing of focus to a single case;

c. Followed by an example, anecdote, or quote.

The freelancer’s paradigm lets the fresh air of personal, one-on-one experience waft through your narrative. In a recent article for Publishing for Entrepreneurs magazine, for example, I wanted to get across the idea that anyone with imagination and energy can make money publishing advertising-based local and regional publications. I could have started my article a very matter-of-fact way:

“Periodical publishing on the local and regional level can be quite lucrative. Statistics reveal . . . . “

Instead, I chose this version of the paradigm:

“Hometown publishing is a low-cost, high payoff opportunity. I went into this business five years ago with a Mac Plus, two used desks, and a laser writer. This year my company will gross $800,000. Next year we expect to top $1,000,000. How did I do it? Let me tell the ways.”

General observation, particular example and personal experience. This paradigm-based lead whets the reader’s appetite for the details to come, translating them into the language of personal experience.

Thomas A. Williams PhD is the author of 15 published print books, non-fiction and fiction (including two by university presses, Georgia and Alabama) and a dozen ebooks. His freelance credits include Esquire magazine, Writer’s Digest and other publications. He was editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper and several regional magazines (The New East magazine and Tar Heel: the Magazine of North Carolina among others). He is a book designer, editor, and self-publishing consultant.
Ann Hite takes her readers back to Black Mountain with this haunted short story collection. An array of new characters on the mountain experience ghostly encounters.

“Dawson’s prose is a kind of knife work: short, sharp stabs after agonies of teeth-clenching tension. . . . Dizzingly effective . . . It’s impossible not to read.”

—The New York Times Book Review

TUESDAY
APRIL 18, 2023
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Vintage Pizzeria
5510 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Sounds Wild and Broken  
*Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. - Virtual*

Celebrate Earth Month with a talk from author and biologist David Haskell as he discusses his book, *Sounds Wild and Broken: Sonic Marvels, Evolution’s Creativity, and the Crisis of Sensory Extinction*. *Sounds Wild and Broken* is an invitation to listen, wonder, belong, and act.

How Georgia Turned Purple  
*Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. - Duluth Branch*

Greg Bluestein, a top reporter at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* will host a lively look at the players and issues reshaping Georgia and American politics. Books available for sale and signing.

Local Indie Author Day 2023 Accepting Book Submissions

Each year Gwinnett County Public Library provides an opportunity for independent local authors to showcase their works with author talks, readings, book sales, and signings. This exciting event aims to bring libraries, indie authors, and readers together throughout our community. For more information and online book(s) submission, visit www.gwinnettpl.org/local-indie-author-day

**DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS:**
WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
Southeastern Writers Association Conference

June 9-13, 2023
Epworth by The Sea
St. Simon's Island, Georgia

Southeastern Writers Association

Five Days of Readings, Lectures, and Writing!
https://www.southeasternwriters.org/conferences
Not all missteps in an author’s life are part of a longer road to triumph. Perspective by Mark Athitakis, The Washington Post, March 6, 2023

Writing is a hard way to make a living, which is why a whole ecosystem exists to help you feel like you’re succeeding at it. Hashtags like #amwriting provide steady pep talks for people wading through the muck of a first draft. Dubious-seeming ads on Facebook peddle frictionless methods for selling thousands of copies of your book, practically without your even writing it. Perhaps less dubious but certainly more expensive, writing retreats offer chances to workshop your novel with professional guidance beneath the Tuscan sun or some equivalent. You can do it!

Except sometimes — often — most of the time? — you can’t. And when you fail, the ecosystem generally prefers you keep that to yourself. Social media thrives on self-deprecating riffs about rejection, but writers tend to reserve their most despairing fits of self-pity for their diaries. One of my favorite examples of the form is by Bernard Malamud, who, upon learning that his contemporary Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1976, sourly jotted: “Bellow gets Nobel Prize. I win $24.25 in poker.”

To confess failure messes with the narrative that writers have collectively built around success. That narrative fittingly resembles Freytag’s Pyramid, a classic shape for dramatic structure: rising action with some complications along the way, building to a triumphant climax and gently returning back to earth. For a writer, that means long solitary hours toiling away, then collecting rejections, until that magic moment when you can share your Publishers Lunch deal announcement on Twitter. (At which point you might safely joke about those past rejections.)

But like everything else in life, literary trajectories aren’t usually so straightforward and triumphant. Writers’ moods certainly don’t work that way; after all, Malamud wrote at least a half-dozen deathless short stories and a couple of classic novels ... and still felt sunk. The literary life is less like Freytag’s Pyramid and more like a sine wave — peaks and valleys, small victories alternating with strings of failures. If you’re lucky.

As the Canadian author Stephen Marche puts it, gloomily, in a slender new book titled On Writing and Failure: “There is no promised land. There is only exile.”

In “On Writing and Failure,” Marche attempts to reset the way we talk about such struggles. He stomps Freytag’s Pyramid flat. “Rejection never ends,” he writes. “Success is no cure. Success only alters to whom, or what, you may submit. Rejection is the river in which we swim.” Samuel Beckett’s directive to “fail again, fail better,” is misunderstood as inspirational, Marche asserts: “To fail better, to fail gracefully and with composure, is so essential because there’s no such thing as success. It’s failure all the way down.”

Marche’s book isn’t a pep talk, but it’s not intended to cut you off at the knees. His sole prescription is stubbornness. “You have to write. You have to submit. You have to persevere. You have to throw yourself against the door. That’s it.”

To read the rest (creating a free Washington Post account to do so), CLICK HERE.
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-.05/word)--and define what kind of edit you want (developmental versus line-editing, or both). Then make your selection (consider picking two, for comparison purposes) and see if you like the job either editor did on that small portion of your manuscript before committing to having your whole book edited by that person.

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

BOBBIE CHRISTMAS
Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability
Email
Website

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

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

KAY HUNT
Email
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.

JUDITH KOLBERG
Email
Website

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. I specialize in content editing which includes structure, clarity, interest, flow, segue, overall readability 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
Email
Website

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

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

Available for query letter consults, developmental editing

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

DAWN RICHERSON
Email  Website

Nonfiction Genres: lifestyle, health, business, nonprofit, personal growth, self-help, memoir
Fiction Genres: mainstream, historical fiction, young adult

Providing editing & publishing services to authors since 2012. I specialize in developmental editing, strengthening the bones of your manuscript through content structure, depth, and clarity for a polished, professional manuscript ready to pitch or publish. Free video consult plus two full rounds of editing with detailed comments for a flat fee. Per-word rate available for shorter projects.

STEPHANIE SIEGEL
Email  Website

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 IndieBound. 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.

Kelly Johnson's Creative Space

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

Get a Publishing Credit

Cover Writer Robert Frost

Atlanta Writers Club
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**.
**Online #1** WAIT LIST
Fiction: Short Stories & Novels
Meets on 2nd & 4th Friday of the month via Zoom, 1pm.
Kelley Cody-Grimm EMAIL

**Online #2** WAIT LIST
Fiction only Ongoing. Please submit 100 pages for vetting. Linh Pham EMAIL

**Online #3** WAIT LIST
Self Published Authors Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7 pm J. M. (Michelle) Tompkins EMAIL

**Online #4** OPEN
All Genres 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm
Gail Lash EMAIL

**Online #5** OPEN
Short Stories Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm Pat Bowen EMAIL

**Online #6** WAIT LIST
Young Adult & Middle Grade Fiction Work shared by email
Brad Scott EMAIL

**Online #7** WAIT LIST
Screenwriting (email for details)
1st & 3rd Friday of every month at 7pm via ZOOM Liz Irland EMAIL

**Online #8** OPEN
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

**Online #9** WAIT LIST
Romance 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets Dana Armstrong EMAIL

**Online #10** OPEN
Study/Critique Group open to all level of writers and all genres. This is a different kind of critique group. Next we will be reading Save the Cat! Writes a Novel. Our goal over ten weeks is to each produce a 15-page outline either for a new novel or an analysis of an existing novel or movie. We will critique each other’s plot development. The group will meet for two hours on Saturdays at 9am via Zoom. April Love-Fordham EMAIL

**Online #11** WAIT LIST
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm Dana Armstrong EMAIL

**Online #12** OPEN
Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, & Memoir Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Quinn Eastman EMAIL

**Online #13** WAIT LIST
All Genres Meeting online every other Tues.
Nancy Fletcher EMAIL

**Online #14** WAIT LIST
Adult Fiction Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm
Susanne Fincher EMAIL

**Online #15** WAIT LIST
Fiction 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM
Mike Brown EMAIL

**Online #16** OPEN
All genres Meetings are virtual via Zoom every other Monday at 10:30am. Members exchange drafts twice monthly for critiquing.
Toni Bellon EMAIL

**Online #17** WAIT LIST
Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm Dana Armstrong EMAIL

**Online/In person** On Hiatus
Laweranceville All genres Files shared via Google & meetings on second Thursday of every month from 6-7pm at Five Forks Library
Ashley Melonson EMAIL

**GREEN groups are OPEN; RED groups are Wait Listed**
Atlanta  Open  
With Latin American Association. All genres in English, Spanish, Spanglish and more. Bi-weekly on Thursdays at the Latin American Association. 6:30-pm to 8:00pm. Instruction and facilitation in English/Spanish/Spanglish Jonathan Peraza Campos & Anna Frida Herrera EMAIL

Atlanta Northside OPEN  
(W. P. F.) SciFi but open to other types of speculative fiction Meetings at Barnes & Noble, 2900 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta on 3rd Thursday of month at 6:30pm. Helen Shaw EMAIL

Atlanta/South Brookhaven  Open  
Open Literary fiction. Meets in person at pre-selected location, 7-9pm every other Tues. We’ll discuss preshared excerpts and pre-meeting critiques. Jim Trueblood, EMAIL (LIMITED TO 10)

Online/In-person Tucker  Open  
Children’s picture books & Middle grade fiction, with near complete manuscripts. Zoom on 1st & 3rd

Dunwoody/Sandy Springs  Open  
Speculative fiction (novels and short stories) Meets every other Wednesday, 6:30pm. Usually at a restaurant. Zoom used if necessary. Sarah Minnear, EMAIL and Serene Taleb-Agha EMAIL

Online/In-person Dunwoody, Duluth WAIT LIST  
Science Fiction, Space Opera, & Fantasy. Online file sharing. In-Person before/after AWC meeting. Lisa Cooper EMAIL

Online/In-person Alpharetta  Open  
Screenplays Online filesharing for 30 days (one Act and then in-person meeting near North Point Mall on first Saturday of month. 10-12:30pm Joe Redace EMAIL

Lilburn Open  
All Genres. Meets on 4th Thursday of every month at Mountain Park Library, 1210 Pounds Rd., Lilburn, from 6pm to 7pm. Laura Sellers EMAIL

Marietta WAIT LIST  
All genres. Meets at member’s house 1st & 3rd Tues. 6:30 -8:00PM Linda Sullivan EMAIL

Marietta/East Cobb OPEN  
All genres.2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00PM in the East Cobb Library community room (4880 Lower Roswell Rd.) Margaret Richlin EMAIL

Roswell WAIT LIST  
All genres. Every Tuesday 6-8pm at Scooters in West Roswell. George Weinstein EMAIL

Sandy Springs WAIT LIST  
Fiction & N/F (Please indicate what you are writing, any published work, and expectations.) Saturdays except when AWC meets, 2:00-4:00 PM in member's home or virtual. Bill Ottinger EMAIL

Membership in the Atlanta Writers Club entitles members to participate in or start their own AWC-sponsored writing and critique groups, where you and your colleagues can help each other improve your writing craft. Above is the current list of active AWC writing/critique groups. If you have any questions about any of these groups, or if you would like to start your own group, please contact Officer Emeritus George Weinstein
Membership Renewal

The AWC has an automated system for tracking memberships and alerting members when it's time to renew. 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.

If you are currently a member...

• 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.

• 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.

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

• 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 prior to the expiration of your membership.
MONTHLY MEETINGS. On the third Saturday of each month, 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 AWC 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 $60 per year per person. Students can join for $10 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $30 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

## AWC Membership Dues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>One-Year Membership</td>
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<td>One-Year Student</td>
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<td>Five-Year Membership</td>
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<td>Lifetime Membership</td>
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## Family Members (Enter names below)

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<tr>
<td>Family Members - One-Year Student</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Members - Five Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Members - Lifetime</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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## Tax-Deductible Donation

- AWC General Fund
- AWC Scholarship Fund

## Total

Make checks payable to **Atlanta Writers Club**

Mail your check and this form to:

**Atlanta Writers Club**

c/o Jerry Weiner, Treasurer

8080 Jett Ferry Road

Atlanta, GA 30350

## Volunteer Opportunities

Yes! I would like to become an AWC Volunteer

- [ ] Monthly Meetings
- [ ] Conferences
- [ ] Book Festivals
- [ ] Other ________

## Family Members

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