May 20 - 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 - Patty Dann: Ten Rules to Write By

Guest Speaker #2 Tim Johnston: Lessons Transitioning from Short Stories to Novels
Click on the title to go to the page

4  A Message from the President
5  Townsend Prize Recognition
6  March 18 Meeting Video Link
6  April 15 Meeting Photos
7  May 20 AWC In-person Meeting
8  The Killer Opener Contest
9  May 5-6, 2023 Atlanta Writers Conference
11 Member Book Launches & Accolades
12 A Novel Idea, May
13 Volunteers Wanted for A Novel Idea
14 Lorin Oberweger 2023 Webinar Series
15 Become a Harlequin Medical Romance Writer
16 Michael Lucker's Quarterly Screenwriting Webinar Series
17 A Novel Idea Author Showcase
18 Patti Callahan Henry's Atlanta Book Launch Party
19 GCPL Author Events, May
20 How to Find Comp Titles Using ChatGPT
21 Southeastern Writers Association Conference
22 AWC Members Editor Directory
23 Alone Together in Georgia
25 Expose Yourself
26 Share Your Knowledge of Writing With Other Members
27 Free Promotion
28 AWC Critique Groups
30 Membership Renewal
31 Membership Benefits
32 Membership Form
Click here to Register for the Spring Writers Conference

May 20 - 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 - Patty Dann: Ten Rules to Write By

Guest Speaker #2 Tim Johnston: Lessons Transitioning from Short Stories to Novels

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.

Speakers at Our Next Meeting

Cover Art

Stay Connected to AWC

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A Message from the President

Cold Plunge

By the time you read this the club will be in the middle of our two conferences. April 29th was our second self-publishing conference, and May 5th and 6th is the traditional conference. No matter your focus, we’re sure you can benefit from attending either one or both. I always learn a ton about making my writing better and promoting my work, and I thoroughly enjoy interacting with editors, agents and other writers. Conferences haven’t always been my thing since I’m more of an introvert, but now I get excited every year when these events come around.

In the last few years I’ve heard a lot about the benefits of cold plunes. Have you heard about this? I see quite a bit about this online, and I watched Chris Hemsworth’s show Limitless. He went to Norway and swam in the sea in the middle of winter. I can’t imagine being that much of a masochist for health benefits, but I can understand that doing something that shocks the system can surprisingly be the best thing for it.

Years ago I was shy and didn’t relish meeting strangers or interacting with large groups of people. I know this may be a surprise since I stand up in front of you all every month. I’m at ease now, but the seed for getting there was sewn many, many years ago in my corporate IT experience. I went to a meeting in Phoenix—one that I was just supposed to be participating in—and the day before the presentation, my manager called to let me know he couldn't come. He said, "It's you." I stood up the next day and told myself, "There's no sense in breaking out in the shakes. Better get on with it." The meeting went surprisingly well.

Courage may have come more from the 117 degree Arizona heat melting my brain than from some sudden burst of confidence. Since then I've become more comfortable in front of and meeting new people.

Conferences can be overwhelming. It's a rush to the senses from all sides. Education filling the brain. Social skills tested to the max. Not to mention the stamina drain from all-day activities. For some people, this is invigorating. They are never more in their element than when they are with like minds bursting with shared energy. Others gasp at the cold plunge of a mixer and jump out as fast as they can.

No matter the feeling I have going in, or the experience while mingling, I have to look in anticipation of the feet-up next day when I’ll ask myself, "Am I glad I did it?" Anytime the event involves writing and writers the answer is always an emphatic, "Yes!"

If you haven't registered for the May 5th and 6th traditional conference, there's still time to sign up for the workshop and the Q&A panels. See all the details at www.atlantawritersconference.com. If you can't come to any of those, jump in and join us for the pre-monthly meeting mixer on May 20th. You'll get to know or reconnect with fellow writers. Some may be social butterflies, others might be wallflowers. Regardless, I think you'll be glad for the experience. I always am, and I hope to see you soon!

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.
Townsend Prize Recognition

Congratulations to the 2023 AWC Townsend Prize for Fiction winner Sanjena Sathian and all the finalists!

Congratulations to author Sanjena Sathian, winner of the 2023 AWC Townsend Prize for Fiction for her novel Gold Diggers, and to all the finalists!

On April 13, we celebrated a lovely evening at The Wimbish House with nearly 120 supporters of the Atlanta Writers Club and the literary community.

Our thanks to Melissa Fay Greene, who gave an outstanding keynote address; Robert Strickland for his beautiful piano music before the ceremony; A Capella Books for selling the 10 finalists' nominated work, Zest catering, and the staff of The Wimbish House, the home of the AWC from the 1920s to 1990.

Special thanks go to AWC Townsend Director, former AWC president, and officer emeritus Clay Ramsey, the AWC Townsend reading and planning committees, current AWC president Jill Evans, and executive director George Weinstein for their tireless work over the last two years to make Thursday night a reality.

Ten finalists of the Townsend Prize for Fiction:

- 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*

(Photos by Kai Smith, eikönik images)
Please use this link to view a recording of our March 18 meeting with Brandon Massey and 12 Member Moment speakers: [LINK](#)

**April 15 Meeting Photos**

A link to the April 15 meeting video will be shared when our videographer finishes editing it.

Meeting photos courtesy of Kai Smith: [Link to Complete Set](#)
May 20 AWC In-person Meeting

AGENDA

May 20, 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 visitors in the café
1:30-1:45 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans & presentations to AWC annual contest winners
1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Patty Dann: Ten Rules to Write By

2:45-3:00 p.m. Book signing for Patty Dann in the café
3:00-4:00 p.m. Tim Johnston: Lessons Transitioning from Short Stories to Novels
4:00-4:15 p.m. Book signing for Tim Johnston in the café


“The BUTTERFLY HOURS: Transforming Memories into Memoir, published by Shambhala Press, is the go-to book for writers seeking creative ways to draw on material from their very own lives and was chosen as one of the “Best Books for Writers” by Poets & Writers Magazine. Patty Dann has published seven books, four fiction and three non-fiction. Her work has been translated into French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Chinese, Korean and Japanese. Her novel MERRAIDS was made into a movie starring Cher, Winona Ryder and Christina Ricci.

Check out her website: LINK

Ten Rules to Write By are lessons Patty Dann has learned from teaching writing workshops for over thirty years. For both fiction or memoir, these seemingly simple exercises will help you tap into your memories. Whether you’re a published author or the last time you put pen to page was in a teenage diary, you will find Dann’s lessons provide your work with a surprising and creative foundation.
TIM JOHNSTON: Lessons Transitioning from Short Stories to Novels

Tim (T.D.) Johnston is an award-winning author of novels and short stories. His collection Friday Afternoon and Other Stories won the 2017 International Book Award for Best Short Fiction, and his 2022 debut novel, Reciprocity, has been optioned by Universal as a multi-season television series. Reciprocity was named a finalist for the 2022 International Book Award for General Fiction. His second short-story collection, Weeding for Eisenhower, recently debuted and is available wherever books are sold. Johnston’s stories have been published in numerous magazines and journals. He is the series editor for the Short Story America anthology series of short fiction by today’s writers, with seven volumes and over 200 contributors from America and the world. He lives in Jacksonville, Florida and Beaufort, South Carolina with his wife, Stacey, daughters Brooke and Taylor, and son Nicholas.

Here is a link to his website.

Tim comes from short fiction, so as a novelist he decided not to try to change this leopard’s spots. His debut novel, Reciprocity, came out in the spring of 2022, and one reviewer referred to the 107 chapters as “scenes” which compel the reader to advance from one chapter ending to the next chapter’s beginning. This reviewer was already a reader of his short stories, and he observed that the elements of the short story (early hook, early tension, potential for conflict) are repeatedly present in Tim’s employment of multiple-character point of view in writing a crime thriller.

On May 20th, he will discuss this approach in the transition from eclectic (in his case) short fiction to long fiction. In his work, he always believes in the early hook and in what engages him as a consumer of entertainment as well as subtext. As a writer he sees his stories unfold on a mental movie screen, incidentally making them somewhat “cinematic”. The result: the first studio to receive a copy of Reciprocity from Tim’s agent was Universal, and they optioned it as a multi-season television series for streaming, with Season One based on the novel.

Fortunately, his decision to write novels with the same approach to storytelling as he employs in his short fiction has paid off. During Q&A, he will happily answer questions about process and anything else that might interest members of the audience.

The Killer Opener Contest

hosted by Joshilyn Jackson and Lydia Netzer

We love to read novels, and we really love first lines and pages that capture our curiosity from the jump. Do you have a killer opener? Show us the first awesome paragraph of your thrilling work in progress. Your opener will be read by both of us, and you could win a prize, like a signed hardback or a critique session. To enter, click this link and complete the free submission form by May 5th: LINK
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.
Member Book Launches & Accolades

Centenarian **AWC member PEGGY COBB** has authored and illustrated the children's story Painter Pan. One day a charismatic, elfin character named Painter Pan comes sliding down a rainbow to visit Susan, who is unhappy with the picture she is painting. He is exactly five inches tall. His cape of beautiful rainbow hues is draped over his arm. With his painting tips and warm, comfortable smile, Painter Pan helps Susan with her painting. When he leaves, she waves goodbye, knowing that Painter Pan is found in every rainbow, bringing joy and happiness to children and adults everywhere.

For decades, author/illustrator Peggy Cobb, age 107, has told this story to generations of children in her family. It has been a lifelong dream of hers to bring the story to children everywhere. She describes how Painter Pan came to her 80 years ago on the [Amazon page](https://www.amazon.com) for this book.

**AWC member MICHAEL PHILLIPS** published The Lightning-Struck Tree (Along Time's Edge Book 2). In this sequel to Beyond the Empyrean, Hel Brand—a genetically engineered hero and rebellion leader—fights demons, dragons, and wizards, encounters talking animals, and meets a few old friends and enemies along the way. Part fantasy, part horror, and part space opera, but with a science fiction explanation for everything, this exciting novel has something for everyone. And, of course, there are more space cats! Hel wanders in the Alaskan wilderness during a blizzard. After nearly starving to death, he stumbles upon a small cabin and meets Hugh, who guides him out of the initial trauma of having transcended the fourth dimension. As his memories begin to settle, it turns out that he didn’t immediately arrive on Earth after falling through the Empyrean Gate and meeting the Ainar. He was sent somewhere else first, and he begins to tell his story to Hugh.

In Part I, he must fight the demonic Asuri in a clockwork universe above a void, with only a mysterious talking crow as his guide. In Part II, he finds himself on a bizarre island where a mysterious disease is being spread by the frightening plague doctors. And then he runs into an old “frenemy.” In Part III, Hel seeks to understand the strange new universe in which he’s trapped and travels to a medieval fantasy world in which dragons and wizards actually exist, and, in a surprising twist, it’s all been created by someone very well-known to him. In Part IV, he takes over the body of a Luojai quantum magician and must master this new body’s powers in order to save a nearly extinct society from evil aliens known as the Cíthleeri.

**PURCHASE LINK**

Michael Scott Phillips is the author of several science fiction novels: When Morpheus Overslept, Beyond the Empyrean, and The Lightning-Struck Tree. He also wrote Quite Quite Fantastic! The Avengers for Modern Viewers about the classic television shows, The Avengers and The New Avengers. An accomplished graphic designer and wildlife artist, he enjoys learning languages and inventing his own. [WEBSITE](https://www.michaelscottphillips.com)
**New York Times and USA Today** bestselling novelist

**JOSHILYN JACKSON**

**Discussing Her New Book**

**WITH MY LITTLE EYE**

“A dark, twisting confection, **WITH MY LITTLE EYE** will send readers racing through its pages. Joshilyn Jackson is a master storyteller.”

Karin Slaughter, **New York Times** bestselling author

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**Tuesday, May 23rd**

**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Alpharetta Library
10 Park Plaza
Alpharetta, GA 30009

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**In Conversation with Acclaimed Author**

**WANDA MORRIS**

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**New York Times and USA Today** bestselling novelist Joshilyn Jackson’s books have been translated into a dozen languages, won SIBA’s Novel of the Year award, three times been the #1 Book Sense Pick, twice been the #1 Indie Next Pick, twice won Georgia Author of the Year, been a top ten finalist in the Goodreads Choice Awards, been the Target Book Club Pick, three times been a Books-A-Million Book Club Pick, four times been shortlisted for the Townsend Prize for Fiction, been a finalist for the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction, and won the Patricia Winn Award for Southern Fiction.
Volunteers Wanted for A Novel Idea

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL AUTHORS BY VOLUNTEERING

A Novel Idea Author Showcase is currently looking for volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
  - Manager posts to social media sites
  - Create/find content for social media posts
- TALENT COORDINATOR
  - Assist in finding authors for ANI showcases
  - Communicate with scheduled authors

If interested, please contact:

JEREMY LOGAN
anovelidea.authorshowcase@gmail.com
Lorin Oberweger 2023 Webinar Series

**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**

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.
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.

Become a Harlequin Medical Romance Writer

Harlequin is hosting a Medical Month Blitz, providing a fabulous opportunity to get your Harlequin Medical Romance submission fast-tracked! Submit your contemporary Medical Romance submission between May 1, 2023 and May 12, 2023 and receive a response, including editorial feedback, by May 31, 2023!

Click for details
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: ______________________________

TITLE OF BOOK: ____________________________ ISBN: ______________________________

GENRE: ___________________________________ YOUR WEBSITE: _______________________

PLANNED RELEASE DATE: ___________________ PUBLISHER: ___________________________

PUBLISHER CONTACT: ________________________ QUERY LETTER: Please attach.

Bookmiser coordinates all ANI book sales utilizing the following criteria:

- Bookmiser purchases books from Ingram Content Group if the books are listed as:
  - Returnable.
  - Wholesale priced as REG (=40% discount off the retail price).
- 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.
Patti Callahan Henry's
Atlanta Book Launch Party
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 - 5:00pm to 7:00pm

PATTI CALLAHAN HENRY
Atlanta Launch Party
to celebrate the publication of
THE SECRET BOOK OF FLORA LEA
with special guest MARY KAY ANDREWS

WED. MAY 3RD
5-7pm
HUFF HARRINGTON
425 Peachtree Hills Ave., No. 9
Atlanta, GA

YOUR $35 TICKET INCLUDES:
signed book, author meet-and-greet, swag bag,
shopping discount, sips & nibbles compliments
of KR SteakBar, & charitable donation to
Helping Mamas in memory of Katie Trocheck Abel.

DIAPER DRIVE: Please bring a package of
diapers (large sizes needed most)

JOIN FOXTALE BOOK SHOPPE on
Wednesday May 3rd, 5-7pm, at Huff
Harrington on Peachtree Hills Avenue
for Patti Callahan Henry's Atlanta
Launch Party celebrating the
publication of THE SECRET BOOK OF
FLORA LEA! The evening will
feature light bights courtesy of KR
SteakBar and a special guest
appearance by Mary Kay
Andrews. Your $35 ticket includes an
autographed book, author meet-and-greet, swag bag, sips and nibbles, a
shopping discount, and a charitable
donation to Helping Mamas in
memory of Katie Trocheck Abel.

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO
PURCHASE YOUR TICKET

Attendees are asked to please bring
a package of diapers (large sizes
needed most) for a Helping Mamas
diaper drive. FoxTale will be on-site
with extra copies of Patti's books for
sale. You do not want to miss this
special evening! Get your tickets now!

Event address:
Huff Harrington
425 Peachtree Hills Ave NE, No. 9
Atlanta, GA
UCS Immigration and Border Policies
A discussion with Efren C. Olivares of Southern Poverty Law
*Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.* - Virtual
Olivares’ book, *My Boy Will Die of Sorrow*, is about the immigrant experience, what separations do to families, and how the act of separation itself adds another layer to the immigrant identity.

**Georgia Women and the History of Conservatism**
A discussion with Professor Robin M. Morris
*Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.* - Virtual

**Empowering Children with Differences and Disabilities**
*Thursday, May 11 at 11:00 a.m.* - Virtual
Meg Zucker discusses her new book, *Born Extraordinary*, a parent’s guide to empowering children to embrace their visible and invisible differences.

**Understanding Generational Trauma Through Literature and Archives**
*Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.* - Virtual

**Writing Workshop - Show, Don’t Tell: Why it Matters to Your Reader**
*Saturday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m.* - Lilburn Branch
Zachary Steele, author and Founder of Broadleaf Writers, will take a deep dive into the process of drawing the most out of your characters and settings.

**DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS:**
[WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES](http://WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES)
Finding comp titles used to be a gigantic chore. You’d comb through hundreds of books, trying to find just the right two to suggest in your query letter. You didn’t want books too similar, and yet obviously they couldn’t be very different either. And most of the time, you had doubts whether you’d picked the right two. Well, ChatGPT makes finding comp titles easier than ever.

Here are five steps to finding your ideal comp titles for your query letter or book proposal. At the end I’ll put all five steps together in a prompt that you can use for your book.

1. Tell ChatGPT to pick titles published in the last three years.

Agents aren’t looking for books published a decade ago. They certainly aren’t looking for books published twenty or thirty years ago. That’s because when they pitch publishers, they have to include recent titles. That shows publishers there is current appetite for this type of book.

To read the full text of this essay, please click here
Southeastern Writers Association Conference

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

Southeastern Writers Association Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Cassandra King
Novelist, Memoirist
Tell me a Story: My Life with Pat Conroy

FACULTY
Michael Lister
New York Times
Best Selling Author

FACULTY
Susan Montanari
Children's Picture Book Author

FACULTY
Shari Stauch
Marketing Expert
Founder of Where Writers Win

FACULTY
Terri Gerrell
Founding Editor
Southern Yellow Pine Publishing

Five Days of Readings, Lectures, and Writing!
https://www.southeasternwriters.org/conferences
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](mailto:info@zebracommunications.com)
[Website](http://www.zebracommunications.com)

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

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

**KAY HUNT**
**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](http://www.judithkolberg.com)

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](http://www.janiemills.com)

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

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

“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.

Susanne Fincher'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
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**.
GREEN groups are OPEN; RED groups are Wait Listed

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 WAIT LIST
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 Olga Jackson 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 OPEN
Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, & Memoir Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm Quinn Eastman EMAIL

Online #12 OPEN
Fantasy and Science Fiction Meetings are on Sunday, 9-11 a.m. every other week, with work sent to Nathaniel ahead of time.
Nathaniel Chaney 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

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 Abigail Biles EMAIL

Online #18 OPEN
Fantasy and Science Fiction Meetings are on Sunday, 9-11 a.m. every other week, with work sent to Nathaniel ahead of time.
Nathaniel Chaney 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](mailto:)) 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 online 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

[Atlanta Writers Club Logo]

[Atlanta Writers Club Address]

**Name**

[Name]

**Email Address**

[Email Address]

**Phone**

[Phone]

**Street Address**

[Street Address]

**City, State, ZIP**

[City, State, ZIP]

### AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

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<tr>
<td>One-Year Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-Year Membership</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Membership</td>
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<td>Five Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWC Scholarship Fund</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**  

Make checks payable to **Atlanta Writers Club**

[Total]

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**

**Name**

[Name]

**Email Address**

[Email Address]

**Phone**

[Phone]

**Name**

[Name]

**Email Address**

[Email Address]

**Phone**

[Phone]