June 17 - AWC Monthly Meeting In-Person at Duluth Public Library (GSU-Dunwoody is closed for the summer) for Members and First-Time Guests, 1:30-4:00 pm Eastern

Guest Speaker #1 – Daniel Black: Rhythmic Writing
Guest Speaker #2 – Meg Leader: World Building for All Genres

Atlanta Writers Club - founded 1914, we are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.
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Atlanta Writers Conference: Nov. 3-4, 2023

Speakers at Our Next Meeting

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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

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Atlanta Writers Club
SUMMERTIME AND THE WRITING IS...

When my kids were in school, summer brought a change of schedule and rhythm to Georgia’s sticky June and July days. My thoughts were all about squeezing the most from break, whether that was fun, travel or simply catching up on sleep. Those were the years when writing slowed, with no brain space for extra creativity. I never left writing. It just morphed into something different, with bursts of time instead of longer blocks. Phrases and thoughts captured on notecards and research notes snatched from quick searches instead of pages and chapters unfolding over subsequent days and weeks.

Depending on your schedule, summer may offer up a different scenario. An opportunity to write for days while on vacation or attend a writer’s retreat. Years ago, Billie Jean King did a segment on the show Finding Your Roots. There was a surprise in her genealogy, and Henry Louis Gates Jr. asked what she would do with this information since it wasn’t what she expected. She said, “Champions adapt.”

I don’t think we have to be a sporting champion to adopt this philosophy about life and our writing. At the May club meeting Tim Johnston said he writes to music, while a friend of his needs silence. We may have our preferred environments, but if the desire to write is strong, we will find a way. Tim mentioned capturing the seed of a short story in the Notes app on his phone late one night so he wouldn’t lose it.

There are so many ways these days to bottle the lightning, whether it involves technology or not. We shouldn’t be afraid to try something different, even if it’s something as simple as a new organization system. Summer is the perfect time to set up Scrivener, try journaling, switch to Google Docs or test out a recording-to-text app. It’s also the time to – as our other May speaker Patty Dann said – recognize that “Genius is in the breath of a sparrow.” We can go out and live some life and finetune those observation skills to seize every detail; sights, sounds, smells, etc. We can listen to conversations while we’re out and about for phrasing and authentic dialog. I’m challenging myself to write short fiction this summer. I’ll still be researching the next novel, but it’ll be fun to utilize time and space differently to keep the creative juices flowing. What are you doing with your writing this summer? Drop me a line 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 and find out more at www.jillevans.com.
Awards made at our May 20, 2023 meeting
(photos courtesy of Patrick Scullin):

Terry Kay Prize for Fiction
Winner: SUSAN ANDRELCHIK (pictured) for “At the Beach”

Runners-up:
Chuck Storla for "I Chat, Therefore I Am"
Karen Staman for "The Scissor Bird"

Rick Bragg Prize for Non-Fiction
Winner: JACQUELINE BASSAN for “Dawn”

Runners-up:
Stephen James for "No Cheese"
Mike Burrell for "Blessings (1956)"

Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry
Winner: COLETTE BENNETT for "Wing"

Runners-up:
Lauren McGuire for "I No Longer Know What Prayer Is"
Kathleen Whitten (pictured) for "Dinner with Dolphins"
Meeting photos courtesy of Patrick Scullin

Link to Complete Set
May 5-6 Atlanta Writers Conference Photos

Photos by Patrick Scullin:

See all photos here
Our videographer was unavailable to record this meeting.

Meeting photos courtesy of Patrick Scullin and Kai Smith:

Link to Complete Set
June 17 AWC In-person Meeting

June 17, 12:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Duluth Branch Library, 3180 Main St, Duluth, GA 30096 (Georgia State University: Perimeter College - Dunwoody Campus is closed in June and July). (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.

AGENDA

12:45-1:30 p.m. Nosh and Networking Mixer for members and first-time visitors in the meeting room
1:30-1:45 p.m. AWC announcements and upcoming events with AWC President Jill Evans
1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Daniel Black: Rhythmic Writing
2:45-3:00 p.m. Book signing for Daniel Black in the meeting room
3:00-4:00 p.m. Meg Leader: World Building for All Genres
4:00-4:15 p.m. Book signing for Meg Leader in the meeting room

Dr. Daniel Black is an award-winning novelist, professor, and activist. His published works include They Tell Me of Home, The Sacred Place, Perfect Peace, Twelve Gates to the City, The Coming, Listen to the Lambs, Don’t Cry for Me, and the essay collection Black on Black. In 2014, he won the Distinguished Writer’s Award from the Mid-Atlantic Writer’s Association. The Go On Girl! National Book Club named him “Author of the Year” in 2011 for his novel Perfect Peace. Perfect Peace was also chosen as the 2014 selection for “If All Arkansas Read the Same Book” by the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library. The novel has been reprinted more than ten times and is being heralded as an American literary classic. Dr. Black has also been thrice nominated for the Townsend Literary Prize, the Ernest J. Gaines Award, the Ferro-Grumley Literary Prize, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Georgia Author of the Year Prize.

Dr. Black’s work has been justly celebrated. National Book Award winning author Charles Johnson says The Coming is “powerful and brilliant.” He goes on to state, “This is a work to be proud of!” Pulitzer Prize winning author Alice Walker says, “Perfect Peace is a spellbinding novel that kept me reading late into several nights. A young boy raised as a girl until ‘she’ was eight years old…. and then? Forced to be a ‘boy.’ It is a gift to have so much passion, so much love, so much beautiful writing so flawlessly faithful to the language of ancestors who grappled as best they could with more than they could ever understand. This novel will one day be a film of much benefit to us, if done well. The visuals of it will help us see what we are so often blind to: the great fluidity inherent in all things, including ‘race’ and sexuality. Thank you, Daniel Black.”

A native of Kansas City, Kansas, Dr. Black spent his formative years in rural Blackwell, Arkansas. Dr. Black graduated from Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) where he earned the prestigious Oxford Modern British Studies fellowship and studied at Oxford University. He was awarded a full fellowship to Temple University where he studied with poet laureate of the Black Arts Movement, Sonia Sanchez and earned his Ph.D. in African American Studies. Dr. Black is now Professor of African American Studies at his alma mater Clark Atlanta University.
Dr. Black lives in Atlanta and is the founder of the Ndugu-Nzinga Rites of Passage Nation, a mentoring society for people of African descent.

On June 17th, Dr. Black will discuss the power of writing rhythmically in any genre or topic.

Meg Leader has been a published writer of nonfiction and fiction with major New York publishers for more than 30 years in a variety of genres and using various pen names, including The Comprehensive Guide to World-Building: Everything You Need to Know for ALL Genres! She has also judged writing contests for more than two decades. She understands the issues and problems that writers face as they struggle to create a page-turner novel. Meg has a new series of writing books under the Page-Turner Fiction series available. And she can help!

On June 17th, Meg will present World Building for Every Genre

Do you think story worlds are only needed if you write fantasy or science fiction?

You're WRONG!

All stories need a world. All stories take place somewhere. It's up to you, as the author, to create a believable story world that is genre-appropriate as well as story-appropriate. No matter whether you write a contemporary romance, an epic fantasy, or a neo-noir police procedural, your novel exists in its own story world that is appropriate for the tale you are spinning.

A story world is essential for readers to ground them into the space your story occupies. It gives your story believability if you get the story world right—and if you don’t get it right, you can lose your reader before you realize it!

Once you build your story world, do you know how to use it to strengthen your novel and increase the reader’s engagement? The story world can and should be much more than a passive backdrop. It can act as its own character. It can affect the characters and character arcs of your story. It can modify your plot and impact the structure of your novel. It can even help you develop the theme of your story.

In this talk, you’ll learn the basics of how to use your story world to improve your story in four key areas, including:

- Characterization
- Plot
- Story Structure
- Theme

Let your story world help you craft novels that will pull your readers into your story and make them want to stay!
AWC member Brian DeLaney was featured in the May 2023 issue of Milton Neighbor Magazine as a part of a local author spotlight sponsored by Milton Media and Poe & Company Bookstore in Milton, GA.

Brian’s latest novel is Chasing Pirates.

AWC member Yolonda Swain launched her new book in May. Awaken You Have What You’re Seeking, brings a fresh perspective and takes readers on a journey of self-discovery and faith, showing us that the answers we seek have been hiding within us all along. It’s a power-packed dose of inspiration and motivation that will leave you feeling uplifted and ready to tackle anything life throws your way. So, get ready to awaken the treasure within you. It’s time to come alive with what gives your life. If you’re tired of searching for answers and feeling the stress of each day blending into the next, it’s time to reset and embrace your unique story and the value you bring to the world. Through practical biblical wisdom, this devotional will help you see that you’re more than a mere spectator in this world. You have a vital role, and it’s time to live it out. Each devotion will inspire you to take action and follow God’s lead, whether in your relationships, professional life, or spiritual walk. Prepare yourself for an exciting journey of personal development and spiritual awareness through this book.

PURCHASE LINK

Yolonda A. Swain is a continuous improvement leader, author, and speaker on a mission to share the transformative power of God’s love and grace to unlock His treasures within you. As a gifted speaker who inspires with her message of hope and self-discovery, she enjoys traveling the world and sharing a transformative vision, guiding us toward a deeper understanding of ourselves and our relationship with God.

AWC member and social media volunteer Dave Swan’s latest publication, “Contraband” appears in Litro Magazine as an editor’s pick for their Story Sunday USA segment.
SUMMER 2023 CELEBRATION

MIKE NEMETH

CHERIE CLAIRE

FATIMA HENSON

Authors will be happy to autograph books purchased at the event

TUESDAY
JUNE 20, 2023
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Vintage Pizzeria
5510 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd.
Dunwoody, GA 30338
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

ORINOBERWEGER 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.
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.

Black Writers Weekend

AUGUST 3 - 6, 2023
SUMMERS IN ATLANTA ARE LIT

LINK
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 anovelidea.authorshowcase@gmail.com

YOUR NAME: ______________________________ EMAIL: ______________________________


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 at:

http://anovelidea.us
Meet the Author Daniel Black  
Thursday, June 1 | 7 pm | Duluth Branch  
Daniel Black, award-winning author, and African American Studies professor will discuss his new book, *Black on Black*. In his debut essay collection, Dr. Black tackles topics ranging from police brutality to the AIDS crisis. Books available for sale and signing.

The History of Ice Cream  
Thursday, June 8 | 7 pm | Virtual  
Love ice cream? Learn more about the curious and fascinating history of America’s favorite frozen dessert with author Suzanne Woods Fisher.

Meet the Author Diane Marie Brown  
Thursday, June 8 | 7 pm | Duluth Branch  
Come enjoy a lively, fun-filled author talk with Diane Marie Brown, author of *Black Candle Women*. Piper Huguley, author of *By Her Own Design*, will moderate this event that is not to be missed. Books available for sale and signing.

Meet Bestselling Author Lisa See  
Saturday, July 8 | 7:30 pm | Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center  

DISCOVER MORE & REGISTER FOR ONLINE ACCESS:  
WWW.GWINNETTPL.ORG/ADULTSERVICES
5 of the Best AI Tools for Proofreading Your Work
By Daniel Feininger

Editing is a tedious job. Whether your medium lies in academic composition or presenting new ideas to your colleagues in the office, there will always be a need to create nuanced arguments that are backed by reason, fact, and research. To put these ideas together, there must be a meeting of two distinct skills: writing and editing. Anyone who has cobbled together a college essay knows that difficulties sometimes lie in reaching the word count, and other times it feels impossible to fit all of the necessary ideas into the word limit.

Proofreading is the other side of the coin, and this is where an essay or speech is honed with great precision to transform the rough lump of ideas into something with the clarity and focus required of a finished product. AI tools have been making headlines with their ability to create drafts in this creative process, and educators are worried that students will rely on AI systems to do their homework for them!

But there remain major differences between the flow that a human writer and an AI tool can achieve. A more interesting use for AI systems is in the proofreading and editing stage. Writers can become numb to the issues embedded within their own writing, especially if they've edited the content numerous times already. Unfortunately, the most widely used platform, Grammarly, remains unable to meet the needs of every user, but there are some solid alternatives that can act as potent partners in your writing process.

Can ChatGPT Be Used as a Proofreader?
By Sam Wolfe | Make Use Of

Artificial intelligence has come a long way in the past few decades. From being able to quickly find the answer to a specific question to predictive analysis, it’s no doubt that AI is the future. What it can do appears to be endless.

ChatGPT is one of the most popular AI as of late—you can’t seem to go a day without hearing the name or reading an article on it. Even more, its capabilities are impressive. The question here, though, is can it be used to replace other AI grammar checkers?

Can You Use ChatGPT as a Proofreader?
To directly answer the question, yes. ChatGPT can be used as a proofreader. However, there are limitations to what the AI can do for you and your writing.

When asked, ChatGPT explains how it can assist with proofreading and asks you to submit the work you want it to look over. It also asks that you clarify exactly what corrections ChatGPT needs to focus on. This would indicate that, though ChatGPT can look over your work, it is not capable enough to focus on everything proofreading entails.

Keep in mind that proofreading is different from editing. Proofreading look for the surface issues, such as grammar, punctuation, spelling, and formatting. Editing tends to look closer at sentence structure and clarity within the text.

Here are a few examples of specific proofreading focuses and the corrections that ChatGPT suggested when given the prompts.

To read the complete article, click here
2023 Moonlight & Magnolias Conference

October 12 - 14, 2023: Evergreen Lakeside Resort

Since its inaugural event in 1982, The Georgia Romance Writers Moonlight & Magnolia Writing Conference has a long-established tradition of supporting and developing writers of all levels. Whether you’re new to writing or established, there’s something at M&M for everyone. Writers of all genres are welcomed, respected, and encouraged.

Their 41st conference will be held at the Evergreen Lakeside Resort from October 12-14, culminating with our 40th Maggies Awards Banquet on Saturday night, October 14.

The Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort offers beautifully appointed, spa-like rooms with balconies. Over 70% of the rooms include a lakeside view.

Their theme is GROWTH (Goal, Research, Outreach, Writer, Train, Hone).

Thursday, Oct 12 - half-day morning craft workshop
Thursday, Oct. 12 - half-day afternoon marketing workshop,
Thursday, Oct. 12 - movie night
Friday, Oct. 13 - workshops, vendor event
Friday, Oct 13 - editor & agent appointments
Saturday, Oct. 14 - workshops,
Readers’ Afternoon Tea, The Maggie Awards Banquet

For complete details, click here
Southeastern Writers Association Conference

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

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

SOUTHEASTERN Writers
WRITERS HELPING WRITERS

Five Days of Readings, Lectures, and Writing!
https://www.southeasternwriters.org/conferences
The AWC maintains this directory in an effort to assist AWC members with editor options for consideration; however, the AWC does not endorse the individuals in this directory and is not liable for any member’s experiences with these editors.

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

**BOBBIE CHRISTMAS**

Zebra Communications: Excellent editing for maximum marketability

[Email](mailto:bobbie@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)

404-226-1381

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

I am an experienced developmental editor with fifteen years of experience bringing multiple authors to publication. 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.

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**

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.

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

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

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

1. Your name  
2. Your email address  
3. Your website, if available  
4. The fiction genres and/or nonfiction topics you have experience editing  
5. A brief statement detailing your editing experience of 75 words or less

Atlanta Writers Club
“VIRAL LITERATURE does what I’d always hoped the Decatur Book Festival would do... document the wild, glorious, and diverse abundance of talent that calls this region home. Together, these pieces tell the story of this place and time, but it also demonstrates the strength of this community of writers.”

~Daren Wang, Founder of the AJC Decatur Book Festival & Author of The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

The AWC’s Viral Literature: Alone Together in Georgia, is published by SFK Press. Viral Literature is a collection of the work of 32 of the top storytellers and poets in Georgia, ranging from the accomplished--Terry Kay (with his last published work before his passing), Janisse Ray, and Daniel Black--to talented emerging writers who are being published for the first time.

Twenty authors are from the wider creative community in Georgia, and the balance are AWC members, seven of whom were winners of a special club contest earlier this year.

The COVID-19 quarantine provided the opportunity for each contributor to reflect on the theme of “Alone Together in Georgia.” Some dealt with the pandemic directly, while others did not, but all circle the shared theme and show how these writers are finding a creative, hopeful, healing response to this crisis. The AJC Bookshelf featured our anthology here.

This diverse assembly of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction is available in both print and Kindle ebook formats from Amazon, and through orders with your local bookstore: see the store listing on Indie Bound. The cost is $19.99 for the paperback and $3.99 for the electronic version.

The net royalties and revenues will be split between The National Historic Landmark Wren’s Nest and Literacy Action, Inc., representing the literary and literacy aspects of the AWC mission.
Expose Yourself

MAKE A READ-YOUR-BOOK VIDEO

• Make a video (SIXTY SECONDS MAX!) of you reading a sample of your work. Videos can be created with a phone, tablet, or computer.

• Upload your video to AWC VIDEO This may take a few minutes.

• Once uploaded, send an email to awc.member.services@gmail.com with "AWC VIDEO" in the subject line. Let him know you have uploaded your video and include info about where your book can be purchased. Include the title and author name.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WRITING SPACE

• Take a picture of where you write. Don't clean it up, show us the natural environment where you make the magic. You can be in the shot, or not.

• Send the picture to awc.member.services@gmail.com with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.

• Keep watching the Atlanta Writers Club Facebook page and Instagram page and when you are featured, share it with the world.

Look for it here

Cover Writer Octavia Butler

Atlanta Writers Club
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**.
# A W C

## Critique Groups

**GREEN groups are OPEN; RED groups are FULL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online #1</th>
<th>WAIT LIST</th>
<th>Fiction: Short Stories &amp; Novels</th>
<th>Meets on 2nd &amp; 4th Friday of the month via Zoom, 1pm.</th>
<th>Kelley Cody-Grimm EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online #2</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Fiction only Ongoing. Please submit 100 pages for vetting.</td>
<td>Linh Pham EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #3</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Self Published Authors Every 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday at 7 pm</td>
<td>(Michelle) Tompkins EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #4</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>All Genres 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm</td>
<td>Gail Lash EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #5</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>Short Stories Every 2nd Thursday at 1pm</td>
<td>Pat Bowen EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #6</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Young Adult &amp; Middle Grade Fiction Work shared by email</td>
<td>Brad Scott EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #7</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Screenwriting (email for details)</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Friday of every month at 7pm via ZOOM</td>
<td>Liz Irland EMAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #8</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Bill Robbins EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #9</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Romance 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8pm using Google Meets</td>
<td>Olga Jackson EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #10</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>April Love-Fordham EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #11</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>All Genres Meeting online every other Tues.</td>
<td>Nancy Fletcher EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #12</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Non-Fiction: Creative, Narrative, &amp; Memoir Meeting online, Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Abigail Biles EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #13</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>All Genres Meeting online every other Tues.</td>
<td>Susanne Fincher EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #14</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Adult Fiction Online, every other Thursday, 7-9 pm</td>
<td>Quinn Eastman EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #15</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Fiction 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
<td>Nathaniel Chaney EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #16</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>All genres Meetings are virtual via Zoom every other Monday at 10:30am. Members exchange drafts twice monthly for critiquing.</td>
<td>Toni Bellon EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #17</td>
<td>WAIT LIST</td>
<td>Sci-Fi and Fantasy Online using Google Meet, 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month at 7pm</td>
<td>Nathaniel Chaney EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online #18</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>Fantasy and Science Fiction Meetings are on Sunday, 9-11 a.m. every other week, with work sent to Nathaniel ahead of time.</td>
<td>April Love-Fordham EMAIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Online #19 OPEN
Memoir. Meets on 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m. Contact Chetan Sanker at EMAIL

Online #20 OPEN
Horror of any style. Virtual meetings are every other Tuesday, 7-8 pm. Contact Daniel Cozart’s EMAIL

Atlanta Northside WAIT LIST
(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
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

Tuesdays (7-8:30pm) and in-person 2nd & 4th Saturdays (2-3:30pm)
Susan Burnash EMAIL

Dunwoody/Sandy Springs WAIT LIST
Speculative fiction (novels and short stories) Meets every other Wednesday, 6:30pm. Usually at a restaurant. Zoom used if necessary. Calvin Clark 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 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

**Name**

__________________________

**Email Address**

__________________________

**Phone**

__________________________

**Street Address**

__________________________

**City, State, ZIP**

__________________________

### AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

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<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-Year Membership</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Year Student</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-Year Membership</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Membership</td>
<td>$499.00</td>
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### FAMILY MEMBERS (Enter names below)

- **Family Members - One Year**
  - Number of
  - $30.00

- **Family Members - One-Year Student**
  - $10.00

- **Family Members - Five Year**
  - $125.00

- **Family Members - Lifetime**
  - $250.00

### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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