



### Winter Writing Workshop 2024

Before children, my wife and I were fun people. We were also both teachers. One summer, as something to do together for fun, we applied and were accepted to the Capstone Writing Project, a member site of the National Writing Project. That summer changed the trajectory of my career. No exaggeration.

I fell in love with strategic teaching of writing in the content areas. I fell in love with intentional lesson design to increase literacy. I fell in love with listening to other teachers tell their writing stories.

A couple of years later, I was asked to join the team as a Co-Director for the Capstone site. In that role, I fell in love with the professional development of teachers. I fell in love with supporting and helping teachers become better teachers. I fell in love with writing instruction.

I am the teacher and the leader I am today because my wife and I decided to do something fun together for the summer.

Auburn University will re-introduce a National Writing Project site to the East Alabama area this summer. The Plains Literacy Council is very proud to host the facilitators of the Village Writing Project for our Winter Writing Workshop Saturday February 10th from 8:30-11:30 at Lee-Scott Academy. At the Plains Workshop, Mike Cook and Charlie Lesh will give a taste of what an extraordinary experience the National Writing Project offers. [Click on this registration link to sign up!](#)

By the way, our children are grown and out of the house. My wife and I are fun again.

### Auburn Public Library Local Authors Winter Series

The Auburn Public Library is hosting local authors on four Saturdays in January and February. This is a great opportunity for you to meet local writers and hear their story journeys.

Saturday, January 6th, 2:00 pm  
**Peggy Jackson Walls**, historical nonfiction author of *Alabama Gold: A History of the South's Last Mother Lode* (2016) and *Lost Towns of Central Alabama* (2021)

Saturday, January 8th, 1:00 pm  
**Taylor Belich**, children's book author of *Calming My Body is as Easy as A, B, C* (2023).

Saturday, February 3rd, 2:00 pm  
**Sam Hendrix**, nonfiction author of *Auburn: A History in Street Names* (2021)

Saturday, February 24th, 2:00 pm  
**Dr. Herbert Denmark**, science fiction author of *The Diagrammed Path* (2022) and historical fiction author of the *Georgia City* series (2019-2021)

### Writing Revolution Book Study

The Alabama Literacy Association is hosting a virtual book study of Natalie Wexler's book *The Writing Revolution* over the course of seven weeks starting in January. The sessions will be recorded so you do not have to feel pressure to attend them all.

The facilitator? Meh. The content, though, is worth it! [You can use this link to sign up.](#) Details about times and dates will be sent to those who sign up!

### Alabama School Library Association Conference

The Alabama School Library Association will host its annual Conference February 1-2, 2024. School librarians serve students and teachers with passion, hope, and intention. Why is this relevant to you? Because the conference will be held in Opelika at the Grand National Marriott Resort. This conference is a great opportunity for all literacy zealots, librarian or not, in East Alabama to learn with others. Registration information can be found at the [link here](#).

