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2016 Summer Writing Retreat

July 17-22, 2016

2016 Third Thursday

Keeping It Brief: Writing and Publishing Short Fiction
The 2016 Summer Writing Retreat is open for registration.

During this six-day retreat, in beautiful West Texas, five intensive writing workshops will be taught simultaneously by five experienced instructors, offering a unique opportunity for students to enjoy an intimate class setting during the day and a larger group dynamic outside of the classroom throughout the week.

Online Classes Are Here!

The Writers' League is pleased to announce a new partnership with The Loft Literary Center that will allow our members to sign up for The Loft's online classes at a 25% discount.

Thursday, April 21, 2016
7:00 PM
BookPeople
603 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX

Free and Open to the Public!
*please take elevator at back of store to third floor

Shorter doesn't always mean easier. Shorter doesn't always mean less important. The short story is a beautiful art form - the perfect choice (perhaps only choice) for many narratives.

But how can a writer know when their idea should be a short story as opposed to longer form? How deep can a writer go in a short story? Do short stories have a traditional narrative arc, a beginning, middle, and end? Where and how can one publish short fiction and what does the submission process consist of?

Join us Thursday, April 21, to hear how our four distinguished panelists have expertly dealt with this subject matter.

Michael Barrett is the Editor of The Austin Review.
Click HERE to see The Loft’s current list of classes. Choose your class and then contact the Writers’ League via phone at (512) 499-8914 or email us at member (at) writersleague (dot) org. Once your WLT membership is confirmed, we’ll send you the code to use at checkout. Details can also be found on our website.

**Austin Writers!**

2016 NEW FICTION CONFAB -- PRESENTED BY

**Austiin Public Library Friends Foundation**

**Saturday,**

April 23, 2016

John Henry Faulk
Central Library
800 Guadalupe Street
Austin, TX

Workshops (at various locations):
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

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Jill Meyers is the cofounder of A Strange Object, an independent literary publisher based in Austin, whose next release, *Man and Wife* by Katie Chase, publishes on May 10. A Strange Object also publishes a weekly digital magazine Covered with Fur. Before her current position, Jill edited a literary magazine called American Short Fiction. She is also one of the codirectors of Lit Crawl Austin.


Click here to join our Facebook Event!

2016 Conference
Readings and Conversations (plus Literary Fair):
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The New Fiction Confab invites several notable authors to spend a day in Austin's libraries leading writing workshops, reading their work, and engaging in conversations that offer the community a unique opportunity to explore and discuss contemporary fiction with the authors shaping America’s literary landscape.

This year, the Confab features authors Alexander Chee, Kaitlyn Greenidge, Samantha Hunt, Sunil Yapa, Kirk Lynn, Karan Mahajan, Karen Olsson, and Virginia Reeves. Read more on APLFF’s website.

Members Only

“Members Review”
Interested in reviewing books? Contact us at member@writersleague.org with “Members Review” in the subject line and we will respond with more details.

2016 Agents & Editors Conference:
Meet the Faculty

Every year, the Writers' League of Texas brings a faculty of close to thirty agents, editors, and other industry professionals to Austin for its Agents & Editors Conference. As we look ahead to the 23rd Annual A&E Conference in June, we’re happy to share Q&As with some of our faculty on Scribe (subscribe if you’re not already receiving our latest blog posts!). Visit our Featured Agents and Featured Editors page for the most up to date list of attending faculty. Read interviews with Agents Jenni Ferrari-Adler and Paul Lucas by clicking on the links below.

Click here for more information on registering for the conference. The registration price jumps on May 23.

Jenni Ferrari-Adler is an agent at Union Literary. Jenni represents exciting novelists including Mo Daviau (Every Anxious Wave), and Brittani Sonnenberg (Home Leave); the agency’s award-winning food writers and food shops; YA and Middle Grade; Narrative Nonfiction, and other categories. She holds an MFA in Fiction from the University of Michigan and a BA from Oberlin. She edited the anthology Alone in the Kitchen With an Eggplant: Confessions of Cooking for One and Dining Alone. She has taught Fiction at the University of Michigan and the Gotham Writers’ Workshop, and worked as a reader for The Paris Review and as a bookseller at Housing Works. Jenni is on the contracts committee of the AAR and is a member of The IACP. Follow her on twitter: @jenferrariaeder or contact her at jenni@unionliterary.com. Read Jenni’s Q&A here.
"Meet the Members"

Want to be profiled on our blog? We are looking for willing subjects for our weekly Q&A posts with current members. If interested, write us at member@writersleague.org.

Member News

Jess Archer (Austin) just released her acclaimed memoir, *Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham*, from *WestBow Press*. Where is home? It's the question that haunted Archer in a nomadic childhood, traveling the world with The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. With help from two of the greatest musical forces on the planet, Archer finds her way toward the answer. More [here](#).

Paul Lucas is an agent at Janklow & Nesbit Associates. From his first days with books, Paul has loved the feeling of getting lost between the covers. He remembers reading in his closet with a flashlight after bedtime so his parents would think he had gone to sleep. He is actively looking for upmarket commercial fiction, specifically historical, thrillers, science fiction and fantasy. On the literary side, he likes reading narratives about immigration, ostracization, class, family and race. For non-fiction, he is drawn to narratives, learning new things and the occasional humor project. Read Paul's Q&A [here](#).

Bring Your World to Life

Magic Words: The Art of Writing the Unreal with Katherine Catmull

Saturday, April 16, 2016
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
St. Edward's University
Trustee Hall, Room 303
Austin, TX

*DON'T MISS OUT: Registration closes end of day, Thursday, April 14.*
veteran nonfiction author, publishes a new short story on his blog every Friday (#fridayshort). For more information visit his website.

Cynthia Bowen's (Round Rock) memoir, Proud Flesh: The Resurrection of Baby B, is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. Cynthia will be reading and signing Proud Flesh at the Round Rock Library's Local Author Fair on Saturday, April 16th, from 1-4. Visit her website cynthiabowen.com for more information.

Gina Buchanan (Lavon) has released her novel The Road to L.A. Carly and Jake have been friends since childhood. After falling for Jake, Carly is crushed when he makes it big as a rock star in L.A. Now that Jake's famous, they barely talk. Worse, droves of beautiful women are vying for Jake's affection. Can she ever win his heart? Available on Amazon.

Jessica Hagemann (Austin) of Cider Spoon Stories is teaching a workshop called "Flower Essences and Creative Writing Workshop" on April 30 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. Holistic shaman-teacher Elizabeth Quigg and ghostwriter Jess Hagemann will co-lead a workshop on the color yellow, including flower essences that support vibrant memory and digestion, and fun writing exercises meant to stimulate whole-body expression and renewal. Register here.

Who's Point of View Is It?

$49 members / $109 nonmembers

Whether it's fantasy, sci-fi, horror, dystopian, magic realism, or a genre of your own, if you're writing speculative fiction, your job is to make the reader believe in-and care about-an unreal world. And you've got to show them the rules of your world without a story-stopping mudslide of exposition.

In this half-day, hands-on class, students will talk about tricks and tips for building a living, breathing world, how to make their book fresh and original, establishing the rules without putting readers to sleep, avoiding fantasy clichés-or making them their own, and writing dialogue that brings their worlds to life. Read a Q&A with Katherine here.

Katherine Catmull is the author of Summer and Bird (Dutton Young Readers/Penguin), one of Booklist's 2012 Top Ten First Novels for Youth and a TLA Spirit of Texas Reading pick for 2014-2015. Her YA fantasy, The Radiant Road, comes out from Dutton in January and has already received starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and School Library Journal. She is one of four co-authors of The Cabinet of Curiosities (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2014), a collection of scary short stories. Catmull is also an actor, freelance arts writer, and a produced and published playwright.

2016 Spring Classes

Are you a current WLT member interested in submitting to Member News? Email your 50-word blurb (with links!) at member@writersleague.org. For a full list of guidelines, click [here](#).

2016 marks the Writers' League of Texas' 35th Anniversary.

To celebrate this milestone, we’re asking members to consider renewing their membership in 2016 at the special Anniversary Level or one of the Premium Levels. Details on the various membership levels and associated benefits can be found [HERE](#).

**Share Your Writers' League of Texas Story!**

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**Who's Telling Your Story - And How? Narrative Voice and Point of View in Fiction with Sara Kocek**

Saturday, April 23, 2016
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
St. Edward's University
Trustee Hall, Room 303
Austin, TX

Registration closes end of day, Thursday, April 21.

REGISTER NOW!

$49 members / $109 nonmembers

We all know the feeling of picking up a book and "hearing" the narrator's voice in our heads. But how, exactly, do we capture a voice on the page? And more importantly, how do we make our narrator's voices so vivid and distinct that they're unmistakable?

In this workshop students will cover how to create compelling narrators that stand out in the slush pile--whether they’re writing in the first person, third person, or from multiple points of view. Students will also work on polishing the narrative voices in their own stories and novels through in-class writing and revision.
We're collecting stories, memorabilia, and photos from our members past and present to celebrate our 35th Anniversary.

We've created a form to make it easy to share stories or photos from our history. Click [here](#) to submit your contribution.

For more information on our 35th Anniversary plans, click [here](#).

Support the Writers' League at Your Local Randalls!

You can support the Writers' League of Texas when you shop at your local Randalls through the [Randalls Good Neighbor Program](#). Since 1996, The Good Neighbor Program has offered their customers an easy way to donate to their favorite nonprofit organization.

Read more about the program [here](#) and follow the link to the form. Be sure to include the Writers' League's Charity Number: 277.

2016 Spring Classes

**Ready to Self-Publish?**

**Author to Entrepreneur:**

A Roadmap to Effective Self-Publishing with Danielle H. Acee

Saturday, April 30, 2016

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

St. Edward's University

Trustee Hall, Room 303

Austin, TX

*Registration closes end of day, Thursday, April 28.*

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

$99 members / $159 nonmembers
Are you curious about what "self-publishing" means in today's market? Do you wonder if self-publishing is the right path for achieving your goals as an author? Are you looking for strategies that can help you to become a more effective self-published author?

Now more than ever, self-publishing is a legitimate path to both publication and establishing a name for yourself as an author. Writers equipped with the understanding, tools, mechanisms, and drive can break through into the publishing realm with not only a published title, but readers willing to follow and support them.

Danielle H. Acee is co-owner of The Authors' Assistant, a writer's one-stop-shop for editing, publishing, and promotional services founded over 20 years ago. The Authors' Assistant has worked with award-winning and bestselling authors such as Janice Woods Windle, True Women; Mike Kearby, Spur Award Finalist; Chris Rogers, Dixie Flannigan Series; and Jack Woodville London, French Letters, a WWII Historical Fiction trilogy.