



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

April 26, 2016

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## 2016 Summer Writing Retreat



**July 17-22, 2016**

**Sul Ross State University  
Alpine, TX**

**REGISTER**

During this six-day retreat, five intensive writing workshops will be taught simultaneously by five experienced

## Let the countdown begin...



**June 24-26, 2016**

**Hyatt Regency on Lady Bird Lake  
Austin, TX**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Members \$429 / Nonmembers \$489**

**Price Jumps on May 24!**

The 2016 Agents & Editors Conference is less than two months away and we couldn't be more excited. We know, we know, we say this every year, but we *really mean it* -- this June's event (our 23rd!) is shaping up to our best conference yet, with:

### A Full Weekend of Panels and Presentations

Our newly arrived Program Director Michael Noll (more on Michael [here](#)) is already hard at work crafting a full weekend

instructors, offering a unique opportunity for participants to enjoy an intimate class setting during the day and a larger group dynamic outside of the classroom throughout the week. This retreat is singular in its focus, its emphasis on community, and its very special location.

Tickets are still available for [The Confident Revision: A Roadmap for the Editing Process](#) with Charlotte Gullick and [Long-Form Narrative in a Short-Form World](#) with Texas Monthly's Michael Hall.

## Members Only



### "Members Review"

Interested in reviewing books? Contact us at [member@writersleague.org](mailto:member@writersleague.org) with "Members Review" in the subject line and we will respond with more details.



Click [HERE](#) to read WLT member Kirsche Romo's review of *Come and Take*

*It* by Landon Wallace.

### "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](mailto:member@writersleague.org).

## Member News

**Darlene Baker** (Georgetown)

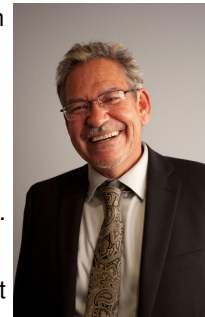
of panels, presentations, genre meet-ups, and more. We've got something for everyone, and we're bringing in authors and experts from across the state and country to speak to your burning questions about the writing process and the state of publishing today, with a wide range of topics including "Everyone Has A Story: What Makes Your Memoir Different," "The Debut Novel, from Query to Book," and "Getting Noticed: Meeting an Agent and Landing a Deal."

## 21 Agents and Editors

Our faculty this year includes 21 agents and editors from Amazon Publishing, Bradford Literary, Curtis Brown Ltd., Dystel & Goderich, Erin Murphy Literary Agency, Folio Literary Management, Fuse Literary, Hill Nadell Literary Agency, InkWell Management, Janklow & Nesbit Associates, Lippincott Massie McQuilkin, Liza Dawson Associates Literary Agency, McIntosh & Otis, Rees Literary, Simon & Schuster, St Martin's Press, Stuart Krichevsky Literary Agency, Trident Media Group, Union Literary, and Writers House. In addition to one-on-one consultations with our faculty (available now for purchase on our website), the weekend will be filled with opportunities to network and engage with both visiting professionals and local Texas authors and industry experts. Find the full list of [agents](#) and [editors](#) on our website.

## 2 Keynote Speakers

Two remarkable authors will grace us with their advice and wisdom on Saturday during our Keynote Luncheon and Keynote Cocktail Reception. Benjamin Alire Saenz, our Keynote Luncheon Speaker, is a poet, artist, and fiction writer. He is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University and his latest collection of short stories, *Everything*



*Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club*, won the PEN/Faulkner Fiction Prize in 2013. He is also an award winning young adult author and a professor of Creative Writing at the University of Texas at El Paso. Seating for this event is limited; all luncheon attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the speaker's story collection and tickets can be purchased on our [website](#).



The [Keynote Cocktail Reception](#) is open to all conference registrants and will feature Jenny Lawson, a columnist, blogger and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author. She's been

featured on *Gawker*, *Salon.com*, *Mashable*, *The London Times*, *The Washington Post*, *People*, *O Magazine*, *CNN*, *Time Magazine*, *The Today Show*. MSNBC calls her an "internet rockstar," Forbes repeatedly lists thebloggess.com

published *Going Through the Gears*, book 1 in the series *Shifting Gears*, on February 14 through Amazon.com and Kindle. Full of danger, courage, and travel, this novel is about a woman who switches careers and becomes a long haul driver in search of retirement income property.

**Tony Burnett's** (Davilla) debut poetry collection, *The Reckless Hope of Scoundrels*, will release on May 1. Described as "fearless, irreverent ... with a secular, singing magic," it is available in print only from independent bookstores in Austin and Houston, from Amazon, and from [Kallisto Gaia Press](#). Tony serves on the board of Writers' League of Texas.

**Elizabeth Harris** (Austin), along with Mary Helen Specht and Thomas McNeely, will read at Malvern Books in Austin at 7 pm Fri., May 13. Specht's *Migratory Animals* won the Texas Institute of Letters' Steven Turner Award for First Fiction; both Harris' *Mayhem: Three Lives of a Woman* and McNeely's *Ghost Horse* won the Gival Press Novel Award. For more details, visit the [Facebook event page](#). (Thomas McNeely teaches a class for the WLT on May 14, details at right.)

**Manning Wolfe** (Austin) has been selected to present at the "Authors in The House - Discover Me" segment of the 2016 GrubStreet National Conference for Writers. Manning will be presenting in Boston on Sunday, May 1 at 1 pm. She will discuss her debut legal thriller, *Dollar Signs: Texas Lady Lawyer vs Boots*

as one of the Top 100 Websites for Women, and Katie Couric calls her "Hilarious." Complimentary copies of her latest bestseller, *Furiously Happy: A Funny Book About Horrible Things*, will be available at the reception with a signing to follow Jenny's speech.

### **And the most important person . . . you!**

This conference wouldn't be what it is without our wonderful attendees who, year after year, travel from far and wide to join us for an unforgettable weekend in Austin. If you're already registered for the event, we hope you'll take full advantage of this opportunity to strengthen your writing, gain insight and perspective on the ever-changing publishing landscape while connecting with some of the industry's top players, and meet and network with fellow writers. (And be sure to read through the list of [Conference Tips](#) and catch up on any [mailers](#) you might have missed).

If you haven't yet registered and are considering the conference, give us a call if you have any questions, 512-499-8914. You might also visit our website to read [testimonials](#) from past registrants and check out the [FAQs](#).

## **We can't wait to see you in June!**

2016 Conference

# **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 agent Tricia Skinner and editor Michelle Howry by clicking on the links below.

**Click [here](#) for more information on registering for the conference. The registration price jumps on May 24.**

King.

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

**Our Next  
Open Office Hours  
May 12, 2016  
Registration closes  
May 11 at 12 pm**

Members: Meet one-on-one with a WLT staffer (in person or call in).

Click [here](#) for guidelines and to sign up. Current members only.

### 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](#).

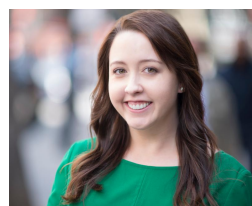
**Share Your Writers' League of Texas Story!**



**Elizabeth Winick Rubinstein**, senior agent and president at McIntosh & Otis, has degrees from New York University and Manhattan School of Music. She began her book publishing career in subsidiary rights and then took on the responsibilities of acquisitions editor at a major audio publishing imprint. Initially, she joined McIntosh & Otis to manage all

subsidiary rights but began working as an agent shortly thereafter. Elizabeth's primary interests include literary fiction, women's fiction, historical fiction, and mystery/suspense, romance, along with narrative non-fiction, history, and current affairs. Elizabeth represents numerous New York Times bestsellers, and both Agatha and Edgar Award winners and nominees. Read Elizabeth's Q&A [here](#).

**Jennifer Johnson-Blalock** joined Liza Dawson Associates as an associate agent in 2015, having previously interned at LDA in 2013 before working as an agent's assistant at Trident Media Group.



Jennifer graduated with honors from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in English and earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Before interning at LDA, she practiced entertainment law and taught high school English and debate. Jennifer is acquiring both narrative and prescriptive nonfiction from seasoned writers with strong platforms. She also seeks commercial and upmarket fiction, especially thrillers/mysteries, women's fiction, contemporary romance, young adult, and middle grade. Read Jennifer's Q&A [here](#).

2016 Spring Classes

## Learn How to Plot the Perfect Crime



### Taking the Mystery

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](#).

## 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.

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) writersleauge (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](#).

Support the

# Out of Writing Mysteries

## with Karen MacInerney

Saturday, May 7, 2016

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

St. Edward's University

Trustee Hall, Room 303

Austin, TX

**Registration closes end of day, Thursday, May 5.**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**\$49 members / \$109 nonmembers**

When it comes to writing mysteries, there are as many opinions about how to construct a good whodunit as there are ways to commit the perfect murder. This much-read, much-beloved genre covers a wide spectrum (from cozy to hard boiled to police procedural and everything in-between) and the writers who spin these edge-of-your-seat tales must be adept at plotting the twists and turns that fans expect and, most especially, the ones they don't expect, with red herrings and all.

This class, taught by an award-winning author in the genre, is for beginning and/or intermediate mystery writers who want to delve into what makes a mystery "work" - and how to write one effectively. Join Karen MacInerney and learn to commit murder yourself (on the page, of course).



**Karen MacInerney** is the author of numerous popular mystery novels, including the Agatha Award-nominated Gray Whale Inn Mysteries, the Margie Peterson Mysteries, the Dewberry Farm Mysteries, and the trilogy Tales of an Urban Werewolf, which was nominated for a P.E.A.R.L. award by her readers. When she's not working on her novels, she teaches writing workshops, chauffeurs children, and dodges housework. You can find her online [here](#).

2016 Spring Classes

## Ready to Revise?

**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.

**Follow Us**



# **Losing Yourself, Finding Your Voice: The Art of Revision**

**with Thomas McNeely**

**Saturday, May 14, 2016**

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**St. Edward's University**

**Trustee Hall, Room 303**

**Austin, TX**

***Registration closes end of day, Thursday, May  
12.***

**REGISTER NOW!**

**\$99 members / \$159 nonmembers**

You have brilliant beginnings to a dozen stories. You have just as many promising first drafts -- or second, or tenth. Now, what? Moving past those first pages or drafts requires an author to listen closely to what their stories or characters have to tell them, which can entail a radical re-envisioning of the story's shape, voice, point of view, plot, or characters. Or perhaps only a difference in one critical authorial decision. Or perhaps allowing the character to make the decision for you, the one which seems riskiest, the choice which is least like the one you yourself would make.

Growing as writers often means going beyond what we ourselves intended for our stories. In this intensive full-day

course, students will review the possibilities that the fundamentals of craft ( including plot, character, and point of view) hold for unlocking the potential of their stories. Students will work in small groups to workshop - and literally cut up - their stories. Students will then brainstorm revision of their stories. Please bring five typewritten, double-spaced copies of a 3000-word maximum short story or beginning of a longer work of fiction. Also bring a pen, notepad, scotch tape, and scissors.



A native of Houston, Texas, **Thomas H. McNeely** is the author of *Ghost Horse*, winner of the Gival Press Novel Award. A former Dobie Paisano, Wallace Stegner, and National Endowment for the Arts fellow, he has taught writing at Stanford University, Emerson College, and other universities and writing

workshops. His short fiction has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere, and has been anthologized in *The Best American Mystery Stories* and *Algonquin Books' Best of the South: From the Second Decade of New Stories from the South*. Visit his website at: [www.thomasmcneelywriter.com](http://www.thomasmcneelywriter.com).

**In advance of his class, Thomas McNeely will be reading & signing at Malvern Books with two other terrific authors -- Mary Helen Specht and Elizabeth Harris -- the evening of May 13th:**

**"Three Texas Novelists at Malvern Books"**

**Friday, May 13, 2016 at 7 p.m.**

**Malvern Books**

**613 W 29th St, Austin, TX**



Visit the [Facebook event](#) for more information.



**The Writers' League of Texas**

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