



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

August 16, 2016

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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.



Click [HERE](#) to read WLT member Tony Burnett's review of *Shadow of the Hare: Recall Chronicles Vol.*

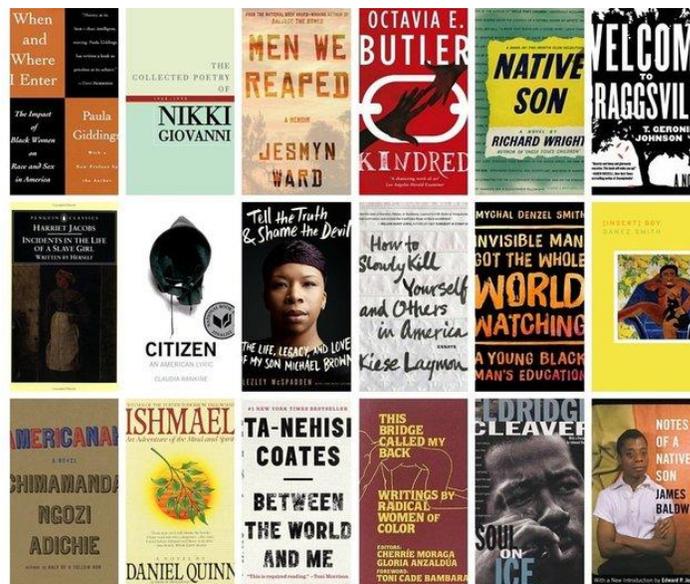
// by Donna Dechen Birdwell.

"Meet the Members"

Want to be profiled on our blog?

August Third Thursday

August 18: Third Thursday Black Literature Matters: A Conversation on Race and Writing



Thursday, August 18, 2016

7 PM

[BookPeople](#)

603 N. Lamar Blvd.

2nd floor

Austin, TX

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

Tamara Dever (Austin) of [TLC Graphics](#) has released [My Publishing Journey](#), a beautiful, guided journal that takes authors on a tour through each stage of publishing while filling in the details of their own unique journey. Gorgeous artwork, author anecdotes, and advice from professionals inform and encourage. Sure to become a long-treasured keepsake.

Kathryn Lane (The Woodlands) recently published her first novel, *Waking Up in Medellin*, part of her Nikki Garcia thriller series. Available on Amazon kindle and paperback. Her next novel is a work in progress. Kathryn recently received a Montie award for her pursuit of excellence in the arts. Visit her website [here](#).

David Morris Parson's (Austin) novel *The Divorce Comedy* has made the semi-finals list of the 2016 Mary Roberts Rinehart Fiction Contest from Stillhouse Press. Finalists will be announced in September, with first prize winning \$1,000 and publication.

Dustin Pickering (Houston) of [Transcendent Zero Press](#) announces the release of Kiriti Sengupta's *Reflections on Salvation*, a book pushing boundaries into a new literary form called "flash wisdom" by Dr. Mary Madec in Ireland. This collection brings us to a deeper understanding of what salvation means today. Bestseller on Amazon.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Includes a special book giveaway.

The poet Lucille Clifton wrote, "The literature of America should reflect the children of America." We couldn't agree more.

In this panel conversation, four accomplished writers--Michael Hurd, Varian Johnson, Doyin Oyeniyi, and Jennifer M. Wilks--will discuss why it's important for readers to seek out diverse books; what can be done to support writers of color (published and just starting out); the ways that writers, publishers, and literary organizations can support diversity in our literature, our programs, and our communities; and the crucial role that black literature plays in shaping the important conversation on race in our country today.

For this special Third Thursday program, the Writers' League is excited to partner with several literary organizations and entities across Austin (including [ACC's Creative Writing Department](#), [Austin Bat Cave](#), [Austin Public Library Friends Foundation](#), [Austin SCBWI](#), [Free Minds](#), [Huston Tillotson University](#), [Kirkus Reviews](#), [the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies](#), and [the Texas Book Festival](#)) to bring this panel discussion to as a wide an audience as possible and to give away books to those in attendance. **We'll have 200 copies of CITIZEN by Claudia Rankine on hand to giveaway to attendees.**

Find more about the event on [Facebook](#). We hope to see you there!

2016 Fall Classes

An Exciting Class on Book Marketing



Positioning Your Book in

Robert Pietzch (Galveston) recently published *Troman*, a fantasy young adult novel that can be enjoyed by all ages. Available on [Amazon Kindle](#) and in paperback. Watch the [book trailer](#) for a description.

Antuan Simmons (Wichita Falls) has written four books of poetry, *The Phoenix's Dying Light*, *The Crab Syndrome*, *The Mustard Seed* and *Saints & Sinners*. He is also the owner of the "American Poet 16" Clothing Line. You can purchase his t-shirts, and posters on his website [Read B.](#)

Are you a current WLT member interested in submitting to Member News? Email your 50-word blurb (including links and your city of residence) to member@writersleague.org. Please make sure to follow the third-person format used in our announcements. For a full list of guidelines, click [here](#).

Community Member News

Ageless Authors (Dallas) has extended their contest deadline to August 31. Writers and artists age 65 and older are welcome to submit their essays, short stories, poetry, and line art for the Ageless Authors Writing and Art Contest. Deadline is August 15. Win cash prizes and get published this fall. Visit [their website](#) to learn more and submit your work.

Texas Writes



Our next Texas Writes event will take place in **Burnet, Texas at the Herman Brown Free Library on Thursday, August**

the Marketplace with Shennadoah Goodson

Saturday, August 20, 2016

9 am to 12 pm

ACC Highland Campus, rm 2105

6101 Airport Blvd.

Austin, TX 78752

"In all cases an author needs to find a way to make their book and themselves stand out in the crowd. It all starts by getting specific about your market, developing a niche, and crafting your content and marketing to suit."

-Shennadoah Goodson

Millions of books are published every year. With so much competition, how does an author make a book stand out in the sea of titles flooding the market? Proper positioning can make or break book sales, but it starts long before the book ever hits the printer. In this class students will learn how to position their books, whether they're fiction or nonfiction. Specifically, the class will cover:

- How to identify the competitive landscape affecting a book
- How the competitive landscape affects not just an author's platform but also the structure and content of the book
- How to define an author's positioning by finding a substantial niche
- How to use an author's competitive research to identify strategic partners, including authors for blurbs, organizations for direct sales, and built-in audiences
- How to translate an author's positioning into a winning marketing plan

This class will benefit writers taking a traditional publishing route as well as indie and self-published authors.

For more details and registration click [here](#). Read a Q&A with Shennadoah [here](#).

About the Instructor:



***Shennadoah Goodson** is Director of Marketing and Business Development for Connor Creative Co. In her many years as a PR and Marketing consultant, Shennadoah has worked with numerous authors and publishers to build successful book marketing campaigns and author platforms. A writer herself, Shennadoah is passionate about writing and books and loves empowering authors to take ownership of their book's success.*

11 at 10 am. Featured speakers: Carol Dawson and Donna Johnson.

We're just starting to schedule our next round of events. The 2016/2017 schedule, available on the [Texas Writes](#) page on our website, will be updated as we add new libraries.

Our Next Open Office Hours is September 8, 2016

Registration closes September 7 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.

Attention, Houston Writers!



Find Your Writing Family at the Writers Family Reunion

**Saturday August 20
8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Writespace at Silver Street Studios
2000 A Edwards #212
Houston, TX 77007**

The Writers' League of Texas is proud to co-sponsor the Writers Family Reunion, a one-day gathering and Build-Your-Writing-Community event designed to give writers an opportunity to develop friendships with other writers, learn from more experienced writers, and

Light Your Creative Fire



This Word Now: Brainstorming Your Way into Stories and Out of Dead Ends with Jodi and Owen Egerton

Saturday, August 27, 2016

9 am to 12 pm

ACC Riverside Campus

1020 Grove Blvd

Austin, TX 78741

Writer's block usually refers to the first page, blank and begging to be filled. But the block can arrive at any point in a manuscript, which is why Raymond Chandler suggested that stumped writers should let a character with a gun walk in the door of their blank page. This class will explore other strategies for jump starting the creative mind; transforming a flicker of ideas to a forest fire of imagination; and crafting messy, brilliant, surprising first drafts-not just by waiting for lightning to strike, but by seeking out thunderstorms.

Based on their new book on the craft of writing, [This Word Now](#), Jodi and Owen will lead a high energy morning of conversation, exercises, and insight into the art of brainstorming. The class will cover:

- methods for gathering ideas
- expanding those ideas into wilder stories
- and techniques for conjuring the most dangerous and exciting images for those stories.

As a bonus, each student will receive a copy of *This Word Now*—recently featured in the [Austin American-Statesman](#).

For more details and registration click [here](#).

fortify their knowledge of craft and career. All levels and all genres are welcome!

The first half of the day is free, and WLT members can use the code WLTMEMBER to receive \$15 off the ticket price for afternoon programming. Visit the [Writespace website](#) to learn more.

About the Instructors:



From writing books to making films to clowning on stage, **Jodi and Owen Egerton** play a key part in many of the scenes that make Austin a national hotspot for creativity. Jodi is a celebrated workshop leader, book editor, and wordslinger for Typewriter Rodeo. Owen is the author of several

novels and numerous screenplays as well as a feature film director. He has been voted Austin's Best Author by the readers of the Austin Chronicle seven times.

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



WRITERS'
LEAGUE
OF TEXAS

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!

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](#).

**Friends, Texans, Writers!
Lend Us Your Ears!**

Our Third Thursday Podcast is now on Soundcloud!

The WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS' THIRD THURSDAY program offers free monthly discussions on the craft and business of writing at BookPeople in Austin, Texas.

We're now proud to share these conversations with writers everywhere via our new podcast.

Find the podcast online at soundcloud.com/writersleagueoftexas. Visit writersleague.org or call us at 512-499-8814 for more info.

Find us on [Soundcloud!](#)

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The Writers' League of Texas

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