



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

August 30, 2016

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## 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 *The Memory of Us* by

2016 Texas Book Festival

## 2016 Texas Book Festival: November 5-6, 2016



TEXAS  
BOOK  
FESTIVAL

Every year, the [Texas Book Festival](#) brings more than 40,000 book lovers of all ages to the State Capitol grounds in Austin for a full weekend of programming with over 250 authors, including author readings and presentations, panel discussions, book signings, cooking demonstrations, live music, local food, YA authors, children's activities, and exhibiting vendors from across the state.

Since the Festival's beginnings, the Writers' League of Texas has participated as an exhibitor. Each year we look forward to this wonderful opportunity to support Texas authors and meet members, readers, and writers from across the state and nation. At our booth, visitors can meet our staff and volunteers (see the sidebar on the left for more info on volunteering), learn about membership, and raise a glass to toast our [book award honorees](#). And this year as in years past,

Camille Di Maio.

### "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).



we're thrilled to give our members the opportunity to sign and promote their books at our booth.

If you'd like to take advantage of the opportunity to sign at our Texas Book Festival booth, the guidelines are fairly simple, and the process for submitting your name and book for consideration is easy -- find the guidelines and link to sign up [here](#). Note that this opportunity is members-only [benefit](#). Let us know if you have any questions before the deadline of September 19 at noon.

With over 1300 members and only two days' worth of signing spots available, we want to thank you in advance for understanding that, while we'll certainly do our best to accommodate everyone who meets the guidelines, we unfortunately can't guarantee that there will be space for all interested members. Please know, if we can find a place for you, we will!

As always, if you have questions on anything here (or anything else), please do reach out to us at (512) 499-8914 or via email at [member@writersleague.org](mailto:member@writersleague.org).

Hope to see you in Austin in November (if not before)!

Best,

WLT Staff

**Attention Members: The deadline for registering interest in signing at our booth is **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 at NOON.****

## Member News

**Lareatha Clay** (Dallas, TX) invites writers of all genres and experience levels to attend the Fall 2016 Texas Writers' Workshop in Archer City. This four-day retreat includes quiet time to write, as well as small classes led by published, experienced instructors. Get details about the workshop, including schedules, instructor bios and other registration information [here](#). You can also find more info on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**Carol Fox** (Circleville/Taylor) recently published *Ask Me Nothing*, a novel set in rural Central Texas, whose characters unknowingly harbor a sociopath in their midst. Available on [Amazon](#).

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

**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](mailto:member@writersleague.org). Please make sure to follow the third-person format used in our announcements. For a**

2016 Fall Classes

## Upcoming Classes



### [Twisting Facts Into Stories: Reality In Fiction and Nonfiction](#)

with *Antonio Ruiz-Camacho*  
Saturday, September 3, 2016  
10 am to 1 pm  
St. Edward's University,  
Austin, TX  
Read more [here](#).

[More Than Meets the Eye: Writing the Four Other Senses](#)

full list of guidelines, click [here](#).

## Texas Writes



Our next Texas Writes event will take place in **Burnet, Texas, at the Herman Brown Free Library on Thursday, September 15 at 1 pm. 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.

## Volunteer at Our Texas Book Festival Booth!

If you're a WLT member in good standing and are interested in joining us at our TBF booth as a volunteer, we'd love to have you!

For more information on volunteering during the festival, email us at [member \(at\) writersleague \(dot\) org](mailto:member@writersleague.org) with "TBF Volunteer" in the subject line, and we'll get back to you with details.

## Our Next Open



with *Marian Szczepanski*  
Saturday, September 10, 2016  
9 am to 12 pm  
St. Edward's University  
Austin, TX  
Read more [here](#).



## [Time-Traveling through Pace: Building a Narrative Using Time and Action](#)

with *Natalia Sylvester*  
September 17, 2016  
9 am to 12 pm  
St. Edward's University

Austin, TX  
Read more [here](#).

2016 Fall Classes

## Write What You Know



## Twisting Facts Into Stories: Reality In Fiction and Nonfiction with Antonio Ruiz-Camacho

Saturday, September 3, 2016  
10 am to 1 pm

**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.

## 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.

St. Edward's University, Moody Hall 204  
3001 S. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78704

*Last chance to sign up for this class!*

***"Many stories from real life, when told exactly as they happened, lie flat on the page because most of them lack inherent narrative force . . . It's the writer's work to put together a series of seemingly inconsequential moments in order to tell a compelling story."***

**-Antonio Ruiz-Camacho**

Writers are often asked, "Where do you get your ideas?" The answer is usually some version of this: "All around me." We draw upon current events, personal memories and family anecdotes, and weird news from all sorts of media for our storytelling material. It's an impulse that comes naturally, to hear a story on the news and think, "I should write about that." The best writers know how to turn those random, unexpected pieces of inspiration into fully developed essays, stories, and novels. This class will teach students to observe reality with the eyes of a journalist and imagination of a fiction writer in order to translate facts and events into riveting stories in any genre.

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

Read a Q&A with the instructor [here](#).

About the Instructor:



**Antonio Ruiz-Camacho** was born and raised in Toluca, Mexico. A former Knight Journalism fellow at Stanford University, a Dobie Paisano fellow in fiction by the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Institute of Letters, and a Walter E. Dakin fellow in fiction at Sewanee Writers' Conference, he earned his MFA from The New Writers Project at UT Austin. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Salon, Texas Monthly, The Millions, and elsewhere. His debut story collection *Barefoot Dogs* won the Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Book of Fiction and was named a Best Book of 2015 by Kirkus Reviews, San Francisco Chronicle, Texas Observer and PRI's The World. It was published in Spanish translation by the author, and is forthcoming in Dutch. Antonio lives in Austin, Texas, with his family, where he's currently at work on a novel.

2016 Fall Classes

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

Follow Us



# Captivate the Imagination



## More Than Meets the Eye: Writing the Four Other Senses with Marian Szczepanski

**Saturday, September 10, 2016**

**9 am to 12 pm**

**St. Edward's University, Moody Hall 204**

**3001 S. Congress Ave.**

**Austin, TX 78704**

A sure-fire way to captivate readers is with concrete details. However, describing the appearance of a person, place or thing is just the beginning. Characters, like readers, have four other senses-hearing, taste, smell, and touch-and each one offers the writer countless opportunities to render those characters' experiences more vividly. By extension, the reader's experience of fiction, memoir, and/or creative nonfiction embedded with sensory details will be deeper, more compelling, and, yes, visceral.

Allowing characters to hear, taste, smell, and touch enables a writer to create, not just a story, but a palpable world readers are eager to enter and reluctant to leave. In this class, students will read and discuss examples of sensory detail in narrative excerpts by such contemporary writers as Lily King, Michael Ondaatje, Anthony Doerr, Chitra Divakaruni and Lauren Groff, among others. The class also will include writing prompts for using sensory details in new or in-progress work.

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

#### About the Instructor:



**Marian Szczepanski**, author of the debut novel *Playing St. Barbara* (High Hill Press, 2013), holds an MFA in fiction from the Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and a BA in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame. Her short fiction has garnered the deMaine Award for an Emerging Writer from Clackamas Literary Review. She has received fellowships, grants, and awards from Hedgebrook, Vermont Studio Center, the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow, and the Houston Press Club. Named to the Houston Press roster of "100 Houston Creatives" for 2014, Marian teaches creative writing workshops in Houston at Writespace and beyond.

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#### 2016 Fall Classes

## Moving Stories Forward



## Time-Traveling through Pace: Building a Narrative Using Time and Action with Natalia Sylvester

Saturday, September 17, 2016

9 am to 12 pm

St. Edward's University, Moody Hall 204

3001 S. Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78704

Narrative pace is all about movement-every sentence or

paragraph has the potential to transport the reader through time and space. Moving between past and present and shifting from interior action to external action can propel a plot forward, stretch time to create suspense, or turn a small decision into a world-shifting event. But how do you navigate these dynamics to set the right pace for your story? How do you know to move in and out of time in one paragraph and stay in the moment in another? Is a scene more effectively told through action or through a character's perception of that action?

This class will examine

- the mechanics of paragraphs that build upon one another to create narrative pace;
- ways to write history, present action, and internal conflict all in one telling and plot-propelling go;
- ways that moving in and out of time informs the present;
- and how the interior versus the external can work in tandem to move a story forward.

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

About the Instructor:



Born in Lima, Peru, **Natalia Sylvester** came to the U.S. at age four. As child she spent time in south Florida, central Florida, and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas before her family set roots once again in Miami. Natalia received a B.A. in creative writing from the University of Miami. A former magazine editor, Natalia now works as a freelance writer in Austin, Texas and is a faculty member of the low-res MFA program at Regis University. Her articles have appeared in *Latina Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, *The Writer*, and *NBCLatino.com*. *Chasing the Sun* is her first novel. It was named the Best Debut Book of 2014 by *Latinidad* and was chosen as a Book of the Month by the *National Latino Book Club*. Her second novel, *Everyone Carries Their Own Water*, is forthcoming from Little A in 2018.

# 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](https://soundcloud.com/writersleagueoftexas). Visit [writersleague.org](http://writersleague.org) or call us at 512-499-8914 for more info.

Find us on Soundcloud!



## The Writers' League of Texas

is a non-profit corporation, funded in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts.

This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.



611 S. Congress Ave., Ste. 200 A-3, Austin, TX 78704/ [512-499-8914](tel:512-499-8914)/ [wlt@writersleague.org](mailto:wlt@writersleague.org)