



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

February 2, 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.

# Says the Groundhog, "Spring is in the Air!": Warm Up to the Writers' League of Texas' 2016 Spring Classes & Events





Click [HERE](#) to read WLT member Karen S. Swensson's review of *Mysteries of*

*Love and Grief* by Sandra Scofield.

### "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).

### "Community Member Q&A"



Get the scoop on Writers' League of Texas' Community Members. Our [latest Q&A](#) is with Danielle

Hartman Acee of Authors' Assistant.

## Member News

**Sanderia Faye** 's (Dallas) novel *Mourner's Bench* tells the story of a young girl coming to terms with religion, racism, and feminism while navigating the terrain of early adolescence and trying to settle into her place in her family and community. Click [here](#) to see a complete list of her upcoming events in the Dallas area and beyond. Visit her [website](#) and connect with her on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**Elizabeth Harris** (Austin), winner

**It's only February folks**, but here at the Writers' League we can feel spring just around the corner. Since our days have recently been peppered with spring-like temps, why not look ahead and renew those writing resolutions?

If you're struggling with writing dialogue or emotional scenes, or you'd like some guidance on how to earn a living as a writer, **see below for a peek at a few of our upcoming classes in Austin. You can find a full schedule [here](#).**

**For those of you outside Austin**, the Writers' League will be exhibiting at [Writefest](#) in Houston later this month and at the [San Antonio Book Festival](#) and Books in the Basin (Odessa) in April. If you're in the Johnson City area, the Johnson City Library is holding their [8th annual writer's conference](#) on February 24.

**What's more, in the next few weeks we'll be announcing an exciting new partnership that will offer a discount for online classes to our Writers' League members.** Stay tuned for details!

In the meantime, happy February!

### 2016 Spring Classes

# Learn to Make Your Writing More Authentic



of the Gival Press Novel Award for *Mayhem: Three Lives of a Woman*, will give a reading open to the public in Beaumont, at Lamar University, Maes Hall 108, on February 24, at 7:00 pm. She'd love to see you! Visit her [website](#) for more information.

**Myrtle F. Jackson** (Austin) published her third book of inspirational poetry, *Rose of Thanks*. Myrtle will be signing copies on Saturday, February 20 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Austin. It can be purchased from [iuniverse.com](http://iuniverse.com).

**Susan Signe Morrison's** (Austin) novel, *Grendel's Mother: The Saga of the Wyrð Wife* (Winchester, UK: Top Hat Books, 2015), a feminist retelling of the Old English poem "Beowulf", has been shortlisted for the [2014-2015 Sarton Literary Award](#) for Historical Fiction.

**Debra Winegarten** (Austin) is the featured speaker on February 4 at 6:30 pm at the San Gabriel Writers' League at the Georgetown Library, speaking on writing history for children and young adults.

**Kristin Shaw** (Austin) wants you to know that Listen To Your Mother's 6th annual Austin show will be held Saturday, May 7 at the AT&T Conference Center near the UT campus featuring local writers. The live, spoken-word event is hosted in 45 cities around the country. Click [here](#) for more information.

# Making Your Story Seem Real: Crafting Believable Characters and Engaging Dialogue with Stephanie Noll

Saturday, February 6, 2016  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
St. Edward's University  
Trustee Hall, rm 303  
Austin, TX

**REGISTER NOW!**

**\$49 members / \$109 nonmembers**  
**Last chance! Registration closes on Thursday.**

This class will look at novel and short story excerpts where characters and dialogue help to create a believable narrative. Students will examine how the writers of selected works create characters that are complicated and layered, and talk about how dialogue is so much more than a conversation between characters. Students will complete writing exercises that give them the opportunity to create characters and dialogue for new or existing work.

(Note: Writers of speculative and science fiction, have no fear-this workshop is for you, too! Making a story seem "real" is not the same as making it seem "realistic.")

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:  
February 11, 2016**

**Registration closes  
February 10 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

**WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS** 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'**



**Stephanie Noll** studied fiction writing at Texas State University, where she earned her MFA. Last fall, she published a young adult novel titled *Breach*, a book that she co-authored with four other writers. She is a frequent storyteller at *The Story Department*, a monthly fundraiser for the non-profit *Austin Bat Cave*. Stephanie has 17 years of teaching experience and has

worked as a senior lecturer in the English department at Texas State for the past 8 years. She also has led a memoir-writing workshop for female inmates at the Travis County Jail and has written a novel about a standardized test cheating scandal at an inner-city Houston high school.

2016 Spring Classes

## **Don't Let Writing Emotional Scenes Trip You Up!**



**How to Tackle the  
Embarrassing, the  
Forbidden, and the  
Emotionally Difficult  
with Nan Cuba**

**Saturday, February 13, 2016**

## 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](#).

### Bess Whitehead Scott Scholarship Fund

**Deadline is fast  
approaching!**

**February 5, 2016**

Looking for a scholarship for upper-level journalism classes or to advance your writing career? Applications are being accepted for the Bess Whitehead Scott Journalism Scholarship and for the Scott Scribes Scholarship (adults 40+).

Applications are due to the Austin Community Foundation with a postmark no later than **February 5**.

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
St. Edward's University  
Trustee Hall, rm 303  
Austin, TX

**REGISTER NOW!**

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

Emotional characters are key to any piece of writing. But in order to write them, the writer must be honest about his or her own emotional reactions to personally challenging moments and want their characters to have that same range of feelings, resisting the impulse to make the characters sentimental or melodramatic. Those life-changing moments will be the inspiration for stories readers crave.

This class will help students identify those moments, ones ideal for fiction or nonfiction, and then help them recognize their complicated reactions in order to transfer those emotions to their characters. Students will practice focusing on craft elements (illustrating emotions through actions and sensory perceptions) in order to transform difficult material--the embarrassing, the forbidden, the emotionally difficult--into scenes that honestly expose life.



**Nan Cuba's** novel *Body and Bread* (Engine Books), won the PEN Southwest Award in Fiction and the Texas Institute of Letters Steven Turner Award; it was listed as one of "Ten Titles to Pick Up Now" in *O, Oprah's Magazine*, and was a "Summer Books" choice from Huffington Post. Cuba co-edited *Art* at our Doorstep: San Antonio Writers and

Artists (Trinity University Press), and published other work in *Quarterly West*, *Harvard Review*, and *storySouth*. She is the 2016 Dobie Paisano Fellow; founder and executive director emeritus of Gemini Ink, a nonprofit literary center; and teaches in the MA/MFA Program in Literature, Creative Writing, and Social Justice at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, where she is writer-in-residence.

2016 Spring Classes

See [website](#) for guidelines and forms. Or contact Jorjanna Price at: [jprice67@austin.rr.com](mailto:jprice67@austin.rr.com).

## **Houston Area**

### **Writers:**



**February 22-28, 2016  
Houston, TX**

Writefest is a week-long writers festival taking place February 22-28, 2016 in Houston, TX. It is hosted by Writespace, Houston's grassroots nonprofit literary arts center. The festival includes workshops, presentations, critique sessions, panels by local and national literary journal editors of all genres, a Literary Journal Fair, and readings by local and nationally-recognized authors. More information can be found [here](#).

**The Writers' League will be exhibiting at Writefest's Literary Journal Fair on Saturday, February 27. Stop by our table and say hi!**

**Writers' League members are eligible for a special registration discount! Call**

# **Earn a Living Doing What You Love**



## **How to Make Writing Your Day Job with Shennandoah Goodson**

**Saturday, February 20, 2016**

**9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**St. Edward's University**

**Trustee Hall, rm 303**

**Austin, TX**

**REGISTER NOW!**

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

Did you know that you could make a living writing full time, no book deal required? The rise of the digital age has put writers in great demand. Businesses need copywriters who can blog, develop websites, write newsletters, capture customer testimonials, and crank out content for search engines.

In this workshop, students will cover how to get businesses

our office at (512) 499-8914  
or email us at  
member@writersleague.org  
for more information.

## 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.

**Save the date!**

**Johnson City  
Library's  
8th Annual  
Writing  
Conference  
library**

ENJOY  **events**  
**attend** programs  
experience 

**Wednesday,**

to hire them and how to deliver the goods. Instruction includes what types of businesses are hiring writers, the rules of writing for marketing and business, how to write for the internet (a.k.a SEO for dummies), the five most profitable writing projects, and more!



*Shennandoah Goodson is a copywriter and business professional from San Antonio, Texas. Goodson received her first paid copywriting gig at the age of 15. Since then she has worked with experts, small businesses, publishers, and Inc 500 companies producing content and marketing strategies. Passionate about education, Goodson empowers writers to take charge of their careers by teaching them about writing, marketing, and publishing.*

# San Antonio Book Festival



**Saturday, April 2, 2016  
10:00 am to 5:30 pm  
San Antonio Central Library  
San Antonio, TX**

The Writers' League staff is looking forward to participating in this year's [San Antonio Book Festival](#) (April 2, 2016), and once again, we'll have our members signing copies of their latest books at our booth.

If you're a current member of the Writers' League and are

## February 24, 2016 Johnson City, TX

For more information call the Johnson City Library at (830) 868-4469 or visit their [website](#).

### Follow Us



interested in signing at this year's San Antonio Book Festival please click [here](#) to read the guidelines for consideration. The deadline for submitting is February 19. A dedicated email with details will be sent to all current members by the end of this week.

If you're a current member and are interested in helping out the Writers' League as a volunteer during the festival, please email [member@writersleague.org](mailto:member@writersleague.org) with "2016 San Antonio Book Festival Volunteer" in the subject line.

Hope to see you in San Antonio in April (if not before)!



#### The Writers' League of Texas

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