Our First Third Thursday of 2016!

Beginning (Again):
How to Start or Restart a Writing Project

Thursday, January 21, 2016
7:00 PM
Click HERE to read WLT member Bradley P. Wilson’s review of Rules for Werewolves by Kirk Lynn.

"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.

"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

Steve Adams’ (Dallas) essay “Gifts Opened Later” was published in the Winter 2015-2016 issue of Notre Dame Magazine. Steve wrote this essay for a young actress who tragically died, and for writers who question if their work matters (sometimes you find out just how much it matters).

Harrison Cheung (Austin) just got his first A-list celebrity endorsement for his award-winning Christian Bale biography BookPeople
603 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX
Free and Open to the Public!
*please take elevator at back of store to third floor

Have a great idea for a book but you aren't sure how to get started? Or maybe you need to a return to a project that has lain dormant for a while -- for whatever reason.

Sometimes the trickiest part of writing is simply beginning. You can't finish what you don't start, but there is something overwhelming about the blank page or empty screen. And revisiting a manuscript you abandoned a while ago dredges up all kinds of fears and worries. So how do writers cope? How does one motivate his/herself to sit down every day and keep going?

Join us Thursday, January 21, to hear how these four authors deal with the challenge of starting (or restarting) a manuscript...

Edward Carey is the author of two adult novels, Observatory Mansions and Alva & Inva. The first part of his middle grade Iremonger Trilogy, Heap House, was a New York Times Notable Children’s Book, an NPR Great Read and a Kirkus Best Teen Book of 2014. The second and third books in the series, Foulsham and Lungdon, came out in July and November of last year. Although he was born in England, he now lives in Austin, Texas where he teaches creative writing at the University of Texas. He wrote the Iremonger Trilogy because he missed feeling cold and gloomy.

Lindsey Lane is the author of young adult novel Evidence of Things Not Seen (FSG, 2014), picture book and iTunes app Snuggle Mountain, and her short stories have been published in the literary
Bernadette Nason (Austin), actress and writer, presents her one-woman show, *Further Tales from Tripoli*, a series of funny and poignant stories about her life in politically troubled Tripoli as a vulnerable Englishwoman with a sunburn, a bucket of rice wine, and a psyche full of neuroses. Opens Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 pm at Ground Floor Theatre, in Austin. Click here for details.

Nancy G. West’s (San Antonio) Aggie Mundeen mysteries, *Fit to Be Dead* and *Dang Near Dead*, have been named finalists for the International Chanticleer Mystery & Mayhem Awards. Reviews of *Smart, But Dead* are here.

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.

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.

Stay Motivated!
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!

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.

Finding Your Way Into Your Story: How to Go from Inkling to Incredible Read

with Natalia Sylvester
Saturday, January 23, 2016
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
St. Edward’s University
Trustee Hall, rm 303
Austin, TX

$49 members / $109 nonmembers

Only one ticket left!

Writing a story is an incredible journey—but how do you know when, where and how to start? How do you not only get the initial spark of an idea, but sustain it throughout the beginning, middle, and end of your draft?

For those who have ever felt overwhelmed by the desire and task of writing a book-length work, in this class students will focus on how to launch their project in the right direction, how to nurture their ideas (and uncover new ones) and what to do when they've taken off into storyland but start to lose momentum.
Texas Writes, our rural libraries program, is heading to the Allan Shivers Library and Museum in Woodville, TX with authors Carol Dawson and Natalia Sylvester on Thursday, January 21.

Check out the full schedule on our website.

Natalia Sylvester is the author of the novel, *Chasing the Sun*, which was chosen as Latinidad's Best Debut Book of 2014. Her non-fiction work has been published in *Latina* magazine, *Writer's Digest*, and *NBCLatino.com*. Born in Lima, Peru, she came to the U.S. at age four and grew up in South Florida, where she studied Creative Writing at the University of Miami. A former magazine editor, she now works as a freelance writer in Austin, Texas and is a faculty member of the low-res MFA program at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. Follow her on Twitter/Instagram: @NataliaSylv

2016 Classes

**Hone Your Critiquing Skills!**

How to Workshop Your Writing with Charlotte Gullick with guest instructor Stephanie Noll Saturday, January 30, 2016 9:00 am to 12:00 pm ACC Highland Campus Rm 2105

*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 kicks off with a series of Monday-Friday workshops and culminates in a weekend filled with presentations, critique sessions, panels by local and national literary journal editors of all genres, a Literary Applicable to both fiction and non-fiction writers, the class will include exercises designed to help students come away focused and energized as they embark on this new beginning.
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 receive a special discount! Call 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.

Workshops are a tried and true way to gain valuable feedback on a work-in-progress. Giving and receiving good workshop feedback is a learned skill that writers can develop and hone, and learning how to participate in and benefit from a workshop can be invaluable to any writer looking to take their craft to the next level. Allowing other writers to critique your work in a group setting (where you critique their work in turn) offers fresh eyes and a fresh perspective, helps you to zero in on problems you might be overlooking, strengthens your skills as a reader, and opens the way to communing with your peers in a safe, nurturing environment.

Charlotte Gullick is a novelist, essayist, editor, educator and Chair of the Creative Writing Department at Austin Community College. She began a MFA in Creative Nonfiction at the Institute of American Indian Arts in July 2014. Charlotte's first novel, By Way of Water, was chosen by Jayne Anne Phillips as the Grand Prize winner of the Santa Fe Writers Project Literary Awards Program. Charlotte's other awards include a Christopher Isherwood Fellowship for Fiction, Faculty of the Year from College of the Redwoods as well as the Evergreen State College 2012 Teacher Excellence Award.

Registration is Now Open to Members and Nonmembers!

2016 Agents & Editors Conference
June 24-26, 2016
Hyatt Regency on Lady Bird Lake
Austin, TX

Through March 28th:
$389 members / $449 nonmembers

"I've been to other conferences that were long on warm fuzzies and short on particulars. WLT was strong on both optimism and real life practical advice." - Tracy Schorn, 2014 Attendee

Now in its 23rd year, the Writers' League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference is one of the nation's premier conferences for writers, an invaluable opportunity for attendees to discover new tools to strengthen their writing (craft), gain insight and perspective on the ever-changing publishing landscape while connecting with some of the industry's top players (business), and meet and network with fellow writers (community).

We already have an impressive lineup of top-tier literary agents from agencies such as Lippincott Massie McQuilkin, Union Literary, Trident, Dystel & Goderich, and Tessler Literary and editors from Simon & Schuster and Amazon Publishing with more to come! Read bios of our confirmed
agents and editors thus far and keep checking our conference page for more updates.

Take advantage of the reduced rate through March 28th!