

January 5, 2016

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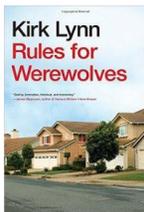
## Follow Us

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## Members Only

### "Members Review"

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



Click [HERE](#) to read  
WLT member  
Bradley P. Wilson's  
review of  
*Rules for  
Werewolves* by Kirk

Lynn.

### "Meet the Members"

## Happy New Year!: January & February Classes, Dallas Panel Discussion, & Contest Deadlines!

In 2016, we're all about helping *you* keep your New Year's writing resolutions. Join us for a free panel discussion or presentation (upcoming: [Dallas](#), [Crockett](#), [Woodville](#), [Austin](#)) or consider taking one of our January or February [classes](#). And for Writers' League members (you know who you are), our first Open Office Hours is next week: [January 14](#). Happy New Year, Happy Writing!

## 2016 January and February Classes

Click on the class title for additional info and to register.

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 Billy Huckaby

of Wild Horse Media.

## Member News

**Susan P. Baker's** (Laredo) novel, *Ledbetter Street*, was awarded Honorable Mention for *Writer's Digest's* Self-Published e-book awards in the Mainstream Fiction category.

**Katherine Catmull's** (Austin) third book, YA fantasy *The Radiant Road*, comes out from Dutton/Penguin January 19 with starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* ("Stunningly atmospheric, gorgeously complicated dream of a book") and *School Library Journal* ("Unforgettable. A haunting novel that contains all the darkness and light of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'").

**Neesha Hosein's** (League City) essay "The Newbie, Pessimist, Professional" was included in the ebook anthology *The Paid & Published Writer: 13 Stories of Publishing Success* (Freedom With Writing). Her six-word memoir was included in *The Best Advice in Six Words, Authors Famous and Obscure* (St. Martin's Griffin).

**Hunter Taylor's** (Kempner) novel, *The Journey Moon*, is available



## **Finding Your Way Into Your Story: How to Go From Inking to Incredible Read**

with Natalia Sylvester  
Saturday, January 23, 2016  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

St. Edward's University, Austin

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

For those who have ever felt overwhelmed by the desire and task of writing a book-length work, this class will focus on how to launch your project in the right direction, how to nurture your ideas (and uncover new ones) and what to do when you've taken off into storyland but start to lose momentum.

## **How to Workshop Your Writing**

with Charlotte Gullick and guest instructor Stephanie Noll  
Saturday, January 30, 2016  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

ACC Highland Campus, Austin

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



Giving and receiving thoughtful critical feedback is a learned skill that writers can develop and hone, and learning how to participate in and benefit from a workshop or other critiquing situation can be invaluable to any writer looking to take their craft to the next level.



## **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, Austin

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

from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#) and [Tate Publishing](#). Here's a brief synopsis: Before there was a Texas, a ragtag group of sailors were left on the shore of a new world. Three of those men-and one intrepid woman-walked across Texas to Nova Scotia in an amazing eleven months!

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: January 14, 2016

**Registration closes  
January 13 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



WRITERS'  
LEAGUE  
OF TEXAS

### 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](#).

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.

## How to Tackle the Embarrassing, the Forbidden, and the Emotionally Difficult

with Nan Cuba

Saturday, February 13, 2016

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

St. Edward's University, Austin

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



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.



## 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, Austin

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

In this class, we'll discuss what types of businesses are hiring writers, how to get the gig, the rules of writing for marketing and business, how to write for the internet (a.k.a SEO for dummies), and the five most profitable writing projects.

## The 2016 Writers' League of Texas Manuscript Contest:

**Members Only  
2016 Agents &  
Editors**

**Conference:  
The Early Bird  
Registration Rate of \$369  
Ends Today!**

**June 24-26, 2016  
Hyatt Regency  
Austin, TX**

Members, take advantage of our early bird registration for the 2016 Agents & Editors Conference. The first 70 registrants receive one complimentary consultation with an agent or editor.

Read bios of our [confirmed agents](#) and [editors](#) thus far.

Keep checking our [conference page](#) for more updates!

## **Texas Writes**

Texas Writes, our rural libraries program, is heading to the J.H. Wooters Crockett Public Library in Crockett, TX with authors Meg Gardiner and Reavis Z. Wortham on Wednesday, January 13, and the Allan Shivers Library and Museum in Woodville, TX with authors Carol Dawson and Natalia Sylvester on Thursday January 21.

## **NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**DEADLINE TO ENTER:  
January 15, 2016**

***NOTE: This deadline will NOT be extended beyond January 15. If you'd like to participate in this year's contest you must submit your entries by midnight CST.***

*"I gained some precious knowledge about my manuscript, learned a little more about the market, gained some confidence, found additional motivation to continue to learn and grow as a writer, and had a good reminder that you don't score if you never take a shot at a goal."  
- 2011 Manuscript Contest Winner*

Have you been working hard on an unpublished manuscript that's finally ready for professional feedback? Well, here's your chance! Between now and January 15, consider submitting a short synopsis and the opening pages of your unpublished work to the Writers' League's 16th annual Manuscript Contest. (And no, you don't have to live in Texas to enter this contest. It's open to everyone, everywhere!)

The winner in each category will meet individually with a top literary agent representing writers in that category or genre. All entrants-whether winners or not-will receive written feedback on their submission from a published author or writing professional with proven expertise in their category or genre.

Best of all, you do NOT need to have a complete, finished draft to enter this contest. All you need are the first (roughly) ten pages of the manuscript plus a

Check out the full schedule on our [website](#).

***Austin Area Writers:  
Save the Date!***

**January  
Third Thursday**

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

**Thursday,  
January 21, 2016  
7:00 pm**

**BookPeople  
Austin, TX**

Join us for our first [Third Thursday](#) of 2016!

Authors Edward Carey, Lindsey Lane, Greg Levin, and Suzy Spencer discuss the joys and pitfalls of starting (or restarting) a manuscript.

RSVP to our [Facebook Event](#)!

**Support the Writers'  
League at Your**



**Local  
Randalls!**

You can support the Writers' League of Texas when you shop at

synopsis that describes the rest of the book you have planned.

Click [here](#) for contest guidelines and to enter. Questions about any of this? Email our contest coordinator at [sara@writersleague.org](mailto:sara@writersleague.org).

**The 2015 Writers' League of Texas  
Book Awards:  
NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**DEADLINE TO ENTER:  
January 15, 2016**

The state of Texas has a long tradition of serving as a setting for and inspiring great storytelling. Honoring that tradition, the Writers' League of Texas Book Awards were established in 1991 (known first as the Violet Crown Awards before being renamed in 2008) to recognize the year's best among those stories and to celebrate the exceptional writers behind them.

The 2015 Book Awards Contest is open to Texas authors of books published in 2015. Authors are NOT required to be members of the Writers' League. Authors may submit their book to one of the five following categories: fiction, nonfiction, middle grade/young adult, picture books, poetry.

One winners in each of the five categories will receive a \$1000 cash prize, a commemorative award, and public recognition at the 2016 Texas Book Festival in Austin, TX. In addition, five Discovery Prize Winners will receive a \$250 cash prize.

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



The deadline is fast approaching. **Submit** your book now!

## **Dallas Area Writers: *Save the Date!* "Being a Good Literary Citizen"**

**Monday,  
January 11, 2016  
Half Price Books Community Room  
7:00 PM  
5803 E. Northwest Highway  
Dallas, TX 75231  
Free and Open to the Public**

Join us for a lively literary discussion on January 11 and bring your literary-minded buddies!

The label "writer" can often be associated with a solitary existence -- a lone figure bent over a computer or notebook for hours at a stretch, at a desk for one, in a room of one's own.

But, while alone time for writing is important, it's also important to remember that there's a rich, diverse and active community that exists for writers. And there are myriad ways that we as writers can participate in that literary community; ways we can connect with each other to establish our creative tribe.

**Our distinguished panelists will be Karen Blumenthal, Will Evans, Sanderia Faye, and Jeramey Kraatz.**

Panelists bios and a link to RSVP can be found [HERE](#).



**The Writers' League of Texas**

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**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)**