



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

July 19, 2016

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### Members Only



#### "MembersReview"

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



Click [HERE](#) to  
read WLT  
member  
Tony Burnett's  
review of  
*Work Like Any  
Other* by  
Virginia

Reeves.

#### "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).



July 2016 Third Thursday

## Third Thursday: Meet Your Match: *Writing Groups, Critique Groups, Critique Partners, and More*



Thursday, July 21, 2016

7:00 PM

BookPeople

603 N. Lamar Blvd.

Austin, TX

**FREE and Open to the Public!**

\*Please take elevator at back of store to third floor\*

Writing can feel like a solitary pursuit, but in reality, a strong community can be key to writing success. If you're seeking motivation to put pen to paper or looking for feedback on your work, finding a writing/critique partner or group can take you and your work to the next level.

## Member News

**Joe Milazzo's** (Dallas) debut volume of poetry, *The Habiliments*, was recently published by Apostrophe Books. Find more info [here](#).

**Susan Signe Morrison's** (Austin) historical novel, *Grendel's Mother: The Saga of the Wyrd-Wife* (Winchester, UK: Top Hat Books, 2015), has been chosen as the winner of the Words on Wings Book Award for young adult fiction, a [Literary Classics Top Honors Award 2016](#).

**S. Martin Shelton's** (Georgetown) *Shanghai Express* was named a Finalist in the Historical Fiction category of Published Books by the East Texas Writers Guild in its annual First Chapter Contest. Learn more [here](#).

**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](#)**

## Texas Writes



Our [next Texas Writes event](#) will take place in **Marfa, Texas at the Marfa Public Library on Saturday, July 23 at 10AM. Featured speakers: Charlotte Gullick and Scott Wiggerman.**

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 August 11, 2016**  
*Registration closes August 10 at 12 pm*

But how do you go about finding your writing soul mate(s)? And once you've found them, how do you deliver effective feedback on others' work, and how do you keep your group or partnership going?

Join us the evening of July 21 at BookPeople for a panel discussion followed by the opportunity to mix, mingle, and maybe even meet your writing match.

Our distinguished panelists will be:

**Nikki Loftin** is the author of three novels for young readers: *Wish Girl*, which the *New York Times* called "a quietly poetic story about psychological truths," and which was selected as the Great Read of Texas for the 2016 National Book Festival by the Texas Center for the Book; *Nightingale's Nest*, named as "the next great book" by the Children's Literacy Foundation in 2014, and awarded the best children's book of 2014 by the Texas Institute of Letters; and *The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy*, winner of the Writers' League of Texas Book Award in 2013. She earned an MA from UT Austin in English/Fiction Writing, and teaches writing workshops in the U.S. and abroad. A native Texan, Nikki lives and writes just outside Austin with her Scottish photographer husband, surrounded by goats, dogs, chickens, and rambunctious boys.



**Karen Madnerney** is the housework-impaired author of multiple mystery series, and her victims number well into the double digits. She lives in Austin, Texas with two sassy children, her husband, and a menagerie of animals, including twenty-three fish, two rabbits, and a rescue dog named Little Bit. When she's not chauffeuring children or coming up with creative ways to kill people, you can usually find Karen hiding away with a book, dodging laundry, playing in the kitchen, or attending martial arts classes. Karen is also the founder of Austin Mystery Writers and occasionally teaches writing classes.

**Ron Seybold** directs the Writer's Workshop in Austin, a place for workshopping, retreats, and weekly creativity groups. A two-time finalist in The Writers' League of Texas manuscript contests for memoir and historical fiction, he's reported over the radio, acted in Austin melodramas, and walks his standard poodle Tess Harding less often than she would like. He coaches writers, edits books, and plays a part in helping writers from inspiration to publication.



August 24 Intensive

# MEMBERS ONLY:

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.

### Manuscript Contest

Congratulations to the 2016 Manuscript Contest winners and finalists! Click [here](#) for the list.

If you entered the contest and **have not yet received your written feedback**, please email our contest coordinator at [sara@writersleague.org](mailto:sara@writersleague.org) so that we can confirm your contact info and resend. **All critiques have been sent as of May 20.**

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



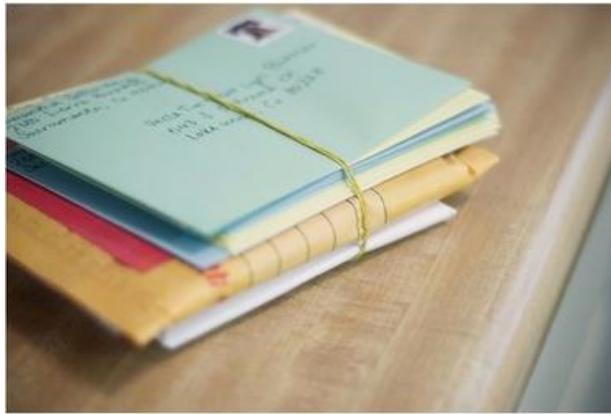
WRITERS'  
LEAGUE  
OF TEXAS

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

# Query Letter Writing



## First Impressions Are Everything: Composing a Standout Query Letter with Becka Oliver

Wednesday, August 24, 2016  
6:00 pm to 8:45 pm  
Writers' League of Texas offices  
611 S. Congress Ave., Ste, 200 A-3  
Austin, TX 78704

Our next Intensive class is a repeat of a favorite -- a crash course in query letter writing, with written and verbal comments on your query letter and instruction on how to craft a compelling pitch.

For those of you polishing up your existing manuscript to get it ready for potential agents, this is the workshop for you! In this special evening Intensive class, you will learn the necessary components of query letters and you'll have the chance to receive feedback on your own letter and offer feedback to your fellow classmates. Students will leave the class well on their way to having a draft or revision of a query letter for their writing project.

Prior to the class, each student will share with the instructor 1) the draft of a query letter for one writing project, 2) a one-page synopsis of the same writing project, and 3) your author bio. (If you don't have any or all of these things, you can still attend the class, but we do urge you to send in what you can in order to have a richer experience.)

Sign up soon (**current Writers' League members only!**), as registration will be strictly capped at 8.

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

For more information about our Intensive classes, click [here](#).

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](#).

### Follow Us



About the Instructor:



**Becca Oliver** joined the Writers' League in September 2013 as Executive Director after more than sixteen years of experience working in book publishing. She spent much of her publishing career inside two of the "big six" publishing leaders - Macmillan and Hachette Book Group -- licensing domestic and foreign rights on behalf of countless notable authors, including Sandra Brown, Brad Meltzer, Nicholas Sparks, Jon Stewart and the Daily Show, and more. In 2007, she made the leap from Associate Director of Subsidiary Rights at Grand Central Publishing to Literary Agent, first at Endeavor and then at William Morris Endeavor (WME) after the two powerhouse talent agencies merged in 2009. As a literary agent, Becca represented clients working in both fiction and non-fiction, including Brunonia Barry, Sheryl Crow, Kamran Pasha, Joanna Philbin, Susan Rebecca White, and the popular blog Awkward Family Photos.

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/writersleagueof texas](http://soundcloud.com/writersleagueof texas). 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

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