



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

June 7, 2016

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Members Only



"Members Review"

Interested in reviewing books? Contact us at member@writersleague.org with "Members Review" in the subject line and we will respond with more details.

June Third Thursday

Third Thursday: Pitch Prep 101 with Two Industry Insiders



Thursday, June 16, 2016

7:00 PM

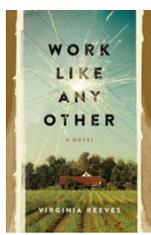
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Click [HERE](#) to read WLT member Tony Burnett's review of *Work Like Any Other* by Virginia Reeves.

"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.

Member News

Donna Dechen Birdwell's (Austin) novel *Shadow of the Hare*, volume two in her *Recall Chronicles*, was released on May 21. She will be a featured author at [Malvern Books' Novel Night](#) this Thursday, June 9. She will also be reading and signing at [River Oaks Bookstore](#) in Houston on Saturday, June 18.

Christy Esmahan (Austin) is celebrating two accolades: Her second novel, *Sinco*, is a finalist for an International Latino Book Award and her fourth novel, *The Laptev Virus*, winner of the 2015 Indie Excellence Award (7000 copies sold), recently caught the eye of an LA producer interested in optioning the film rights.

Judge Janice Law (Houston), who writes a Galveston Daily News travel column, joined an international press contingent visiting Highclere Castle north of London, where *Downton Abbey* was filmed. Lord and Lady Carnarvon lead personal tours for media

Do you need help boiling down your book's plot in a brief, intriguing, and marketable way for query letters? Or maybe you're attending the upcoming Agents & Editors Conference or another industry event and need help honing your pitch for consultations, cocktail mingling, and other networking opportunities.

Our June Third Thursday, the evening of June 16, will be focused on practicing your pitch, including a presentation and discussion with two experts (a former literary agent and a current sales director) who will share tips and tricks for capturing an agent's attention. Come ready to discuss your own project (we'll break into groups for pitch practice if there's time).

For those attending the upcoming Agents & Editors Conference (June 24-26) who are unable to attend this June 16 event, note that we'll be making a recording available to all conference registrants on Monday, June 20.

Our distinguished presenters will be:



Lance Fitzgerald has two decades experience in subsidiary rights, and is currently VP, Director of Subsidiary Rights for The Crown Publishing Group at Penguin Random House. Prior to that, he sold rights for Simon & Schuster and Putnam Penguin. He has sold rights for number one New York Times best-selling books including *41: A Portrait of My Father* by George W. Bush, *Gone Girl* by

Gillian Flynn, *Hard Choices* by Hillary Rodham Clinton, and *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Other best-selling authors he has worked with include Andy Weir, Anthony Marra, Cynthia Bond, Mary Higgins Clark, Tom Clancy, Deepak Chopra, David McCullough, Walter Isaacson, and Bob Woodward. He is a member of the International Rights Directors Advisory Board, and has been a featured speaker at the Writer's League of Texas, the Authors and Artists Representatives, the Columbia and NYU Summer Publishing courses, the Young-to-Publishing Group, and Slice Writers Conference.

Becka 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 five" 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



from France, Italy, Japan, Canada, Germany, UK and more.

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](#).

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 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](#).

(WME) after the two powerhouse talent agencies merged in 2009. As a literary agent, Becka 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.

2016 A&E Conference

2016 Agents & Editors Conference: We have a few spots left, don't delay!

The countdown to this year's Agents & Editors Conference has officially begun. We're less than three weeks from the big weekend (June 24-26 in Austin) and, with the program finalized (we'll post it on our website tomorrow) and the faculty and guests locked in, this is shaping up to be quite an impressive event.

For those of you who are already registered, we look forward to seeing you in eighteen (18!) days. And for anyone who is thinking about joining us, don't delay! We have a few spots left.

Meet the Faculty

Every year, the Writers' League of Texas brings a faculty of close to thirty agents, editors, and other industry professionals to Austin for its Agents & Editors Conference. We'll be joined by two keynote speakers, PEN/Faulkner Fiction Prize recipient Benjamin Alire Saenz and #1 New York Times bestselling author Jenny Lawson, and more than 70 panelists and presenters, including Stephanie Barko, Clara Bensen, Scott Blackwood, Chris Brown, Elizabeth Crook, Mo Daviau, Jennifer duBois, Jill Alexander Essbaum, Sandra Goldman, Stephen Harrigan, Donna Johnson, Jeramey Kraatz, Elizabeth McCracken, Karen Olsson, Mark Pryor, Chaitali Sen, Mary Helen Specht, Natalia Sylvester, Manning Wolfe, and many more.

As we look ahead to the 23rd Annual A&E Conference later this month (June 24-26), we're happy to share Q&As with some of our faculty on Scribe (subscribe if you're not already receiving our latest blog posts!). Visit our [Featured Agents](#) and [Featured Editors](#) page for the most up to date list of attending faculty. Read an interview with agent Liz Parker by clicking on the link below.

Click [here](#) for more information on registering for the conference. We're less than a month away, so don't delay!

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](#).

Online Classes Are Here!



The Writers' League is pleased to announce a new partnership with The Loft Literary Center that will allow our members to sign up for The Loft's online classes at a 25% discount.

Click [HERE](#) to see The Loft's current list of classes. Choose your class and then contact the Writers' League via phone at (512) 499-8914 or email us at member (at) writersleauge (dot) org. Once your WLT membership is



Liz Parker explored a variety of areas in publishing before joining InkWell Management in June 2015. In the years leading up to June 2015, Liz worked in the editorial department at Viking Penguin, was a scout with Maria B. Campbell Associates, and was the publishing director of Counterpoint/Soft

Skull Press in Berkeley, CA. Liz is actively signing authors of commercial and upmarket women's fiction and narrative, practical, and platform-driven non-fiction. While Liz reads everything under the sun, she is most on the hunt for the beach read. Click [here](#) to read her interview.

2016 Summer Writing Retreat

2016 Summer Writing Retreat: A Roadmap for Revision



Ever want to get away from it all and spend a week immersed in your craft? Here's your chance with the annual **Summer Writing Retreat** at Sul Ross State University in scenic Alpine, deep in the heart of West Texas.

Seats are still available in the revision class, ["The Confident Revision: A Roadmap for the Editing Process,"](#) with Charlotte Gullick. Writers who attend this class will come away with a clear sense of the distinct elements of effective storytelling to focus on for a revision as well as a definitive map for tackling the process and meaningful strategies to get (and stay) unstuck.

When we first set out on the audacious journey of writing an extended piece (whether a novel, memoir, or narrative nonfiction), we begin with either a passionate vision or a smoldering spark of an idea. We draft and draft and lose ourselves in the creative endeavor so that when we go for a walk or take a shower, the ideas, the connections, the associations come to us. This is part of our challenge when it's

confirmed, we'll send you the code to use at checkout. Details can also be found on our [website](#).

Writers: Tune In!



Third Thursday Podcast Now Available!

The Writers' League of Texas' Third Thursday program offers free monthly discussions on the craft and business of writing at BookPeople in Austin, TX. We're now proud to share these conversations with writers everywhere via our new podcast. Find us on [Soundcloud](#), where you can listen online or download to your computer or mobile device.

Support the Writers' League at Your Local Randalls!



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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

time for revision: we are so immersed in our work that we cannot see its weak spots, and we so want it to be good that when we sit down to revise, we are often constricted by our deep connections to the piece.

This class will focus on the two states of mind a writer needs- audacity and humility- to truly revise and gain the objectivity on our precious words to move the work from a draft into a crafted, compelling narrative. We will start by honoring the essential spark that brought you to the page and then hone its power to help you move through the many different stages of revision. After we remember the audacity that set us on the journey, we will humbly work with the different elements of effective storytelling to develop transitional drafts, which is key so we don't fall into the rigidity of perfectionism. If we play, we revise from a position of confidence, rather than fear. We will learn how to complete multiple pass throughs- focused on a single craft issue- which is a more efficient means of revising.

Read a Q&A with Charlotte Gullick [here](#), and visit the [class page](#) for more information and to sign up for her class.

"Charlotte is an accessible instructor with the ability to see the potential in the roughest of drafts. She is in the top tier of fine instructors."

*--2015 Summer Writing Retreat Attendee
on Charlotte Gullick's Class*

"Charlotte is the 'real deal' -- she cares about writers and the craft of writing."

*--2015 Summer Writing Retreat Attendee
on Charlotte Gullick's Class*



Charlotte Gullick is Chair of the Creative Writing Department at Austin Community College. A first-generation college graduate, she received her AA from Santa Rosa Junior College, a BA in Literature/Creative Writing from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a MA in English/Creative Writing from the University of California, Davis. She earned her MFA in Creative Nonfiction at the Institute of American Indian Arts in May 2016.

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, and a special author's edition was reissued by the Santa Fe Writers Project in November of 2013. Charlotte's other awards include a Christopher Isherwood Fellowship for Fiction, a Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship for Poetry, a MacDowell Colony Residency, Faculty of Year from College of the Redwoods as well as the Evergreen State College 2012 Teacher Excellence Award.

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 Writers' League of Texas

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