



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

March 1, 2016

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**Stop By  
Our Booth!**



2016 Agents & Editors Conference

## Writers' League of Texas 2016 Agents & Editors Conference



June 24-26, 2016

Hyatt Regency on Lady Bird Lake

**April 2, 2016**

**San Antonio**

**Central Library**

**San Antonio, TX**

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

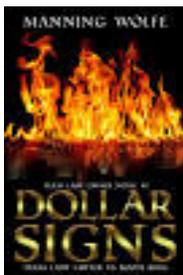
If you're a current member and are interested in helping out at this year's festival as a volunteer, please email member (at) writersleague (dot) org with "San Antonio Book Festival Volunteer" in the subject line.

### **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.



Click [HERE](#) to read WLT member Tony Burnett's review of *Dollar Signs: Texas Lady*

*Lawyer Vs Boots King* by Manning Wolfe.

**Austin, TX**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Happy March, writers!** We're gearing up for this year's Agents & Editors Conference with lots of fun news to share, including our Keynote Cocktail Speaker announcement (see below!).

Consultations with our fabulous faculty will go on sale later this month. You can read our agent's bios [here](#) and our editor's bios [here](#).

**If you haven't registered for the conference yet, don't miss out on the current registration rate: \$389 for members and \$449 for nonmembers. The registration rate jumps to \$429 for members and \$489 for nonmembers after March 28.**

**And now, (drumroll, please...)**

# **ANNOUNCING 2016 KEYNOTE COCKTAIL SPEAKER: #1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author and Blogger Jenny Lawson**

## "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).

## Member News

**Gale Albright** (Austin), president of Sisters in Crime: Heart of Texas Chapter, invites you to the March 13 meeting to hear best-selling author Rhys Bowen (*Her Royal Spyness*) speak at the Yarborough Branch-Austin Public Library. The meeting starts at 2:00 pm and is free and open to the public. More [here](#).

**Marcia Feldt Bates'** (Austin) novel, *The Oys and Joys*, is now available on [Amazon](#). Every woman buries secrets - even from herself. Meet Lizzie, Sassie, Grace and Ruby. Boomers ready to reach for their dreams. But sometimes, the back side of middle age shoves the past, and the secrets it harbors, into the present. And secrets never die quietly.

**Jill Chamberlain** (Austin) will present her unique screenwriting method at BookPeople in Austin on [Wednesday, March 9](#) at 7:00 pm. She'll sign copies of her new book *The Nutshell Technique: Crack the Secret of Successful Screenwriting*



## Saturday, June 25, 2016

### 5:30 pm

## Hyatt Regency Austin

We couldn't be more excited to welcome acclaimed author Jenny Lawson (aka The Bloggess) to this year's Agents & Editors Conference as our Saturday Keynote Cocktail speaker. We've long admired Jenny's candid writing, her one-of-a-kind voice, and her willingness to honestly share her own experiences -- as a writer, wife, mother and more -- in a way that encourages and inspires others.

All attendees of the cocktail reception will receive a copy of Jenny's bestselling book *Furiously Happy: A Funny Book About Horrible Things* and a signing opportunity will follow her talk.

The Keynote Cocktail Reception is free to all conference registrants. No need to RSVP, just present your conference badge at the door.

### About Jenny Lawson:

Jenny is a columnist, blogger and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author. Her personal blog ([www.thebloggess.com](http://www.thebloggess.com)) is extremely popular. She's been featured on *Gawker*, *Salon.com*, *Mashable*, *The London Times*, *The Washington Post*, *People*, *O Magazine*, *CNN*, *Time Magazine*, and *The Today Show*. MSNBC calls her an "internet rockstar", Forbes repeatedly lists [thebloggess.com](http://thebloggess.com) as one of the Top 100 Websites for Women, and Katie Couric calls her

from University of Texas Press.

**Chip Dameron** (Brownsville), WLT interim board member, and Larry D. Thomas, former Texas Poet Laureate, are reading together in three Texas cities. March 5 at the [Friendswood Public Library](#) at 7:00 pm, March 6 in Austin at [Malvern Books](#) at 2:00 pm, and March 7 in San Antonio at [The Twig Book Shop](#) at 6:00 pm. Chip's poem about Texas, "A State of Mind," was recently featured on [Texas public radio](#).

**J.K. George** (Austin) will appear at BookPeople in Austin on March 1 at 7:00 pm to discuss and sign copies of his second book, *Contact Sport: A Story of Champions, Airwaves, and a One-Day Race Around the World*.

**Jeanne Guy** (Austin), board member of Story Circle Network and co-chair of the 2016 Story Circle Network's 8th Biannual Women's Writing Conference, is spreading the word about this unique and exciting event that supports and encourages women writers. The conference is being held in Austin April 15-17 and is open for [registration](#). Keynoters include Brooke Warner (SheWrites Press) and best-selling novelist and memoirist Susan Wittig Albert.

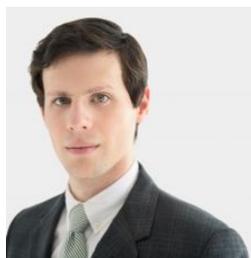
**Donna Joppie** (Horseshoe Bay) is seeking interested fiction writers in the Marble Falls, Horseshoe Bay, and

"hilarious." She is a repeated finalist (and an occasional winner) in the Weblog awards for Best Writing, Most Humorous Writer, Best Design, Blog of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement. She was once named *The Huffington Posts'* Greatest Person of the Day and has fooled many people into thinking she's very important. She is a sought-after speaker, and has around a half million twitter followers, including Ellen DeGeneres, the Today Show, Barack Obama and many more. She's written two books about her life, *Let's Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir*, and *Furiously Happy: A Funny Book About Horrible Things*, both of which are award-winning NYT bestsellers.

## 2016 Agents & Editors Conference: 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. As we look ahead to the 23rd Annual A&E Conference in June, 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 interviews with Agents Mark Gottlieb and Allison Hunter by clicking on the links below.

Click [here](#) for more information on registering for the conference.



**Mark Gottlieb** enjoys working directly with authors, helping to manage and grow their careers with all of the unique resources that are available to Trident. Since becoming an agent, he has ranked as high as #1 in Agents on

Publishers Marketplace in Overall Deals. He has also ranked #1 in categories such as Science-Fiction/Fantasy, Children's, and Graphic Novels. He has ranked in the top five for Thriller, Mystery/Crime, Women's Fiction, Romance,

Fredericksburg areas to form a writing group to share knowledge and critique each other's work. Please contact Donna at donnajoppie (at) outlook (dot) com or 512-673-8281.

**Teri Metcalf** (College Station) will be exhibiting as a member of the Brazos Valley Authors at the BVSO Premiere Market in Bryan, April 15-17. The group is looking for other authors in the area to sign and sell their books. The cost is \$50 per person to participate, and 10 percent of book sales. For information, contact Teri Metcalf at terimetcalf (at) yahoo (dot) com or at 979-764-3925 or the Premiere Market [website](#).

**Bill Rodgers'** (Austin) book *History Retweets Itself: Texas Edition* is available from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [BookPeople](#). This is the first in his series of humor books that take a fun look at significant events through the lens of modern day social media. "Very cool!" - Jay Leno. Visit Bill's [website](#).

**Manning Wolfe** (Austin) is signing copies of her legal thriller *Dollar Signs: Texas Lady Lawyer vs Boots King* in Houston on Saturday, March 5, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Murder By the Book. *Dollar Signs* is also available on [Amazon](#), [IndieBound](#), and [Barnes and Noble](#). Visit her [website](#) for more information.

**Debbie Zapata's** (Austin) and Heather Ross' play, *EXIT*, is about believing things can be

Young Adult, and certain nonfiction categories such as Pop Culture, Memoir, How-To, and Humor. Read Mark's Q&A [here](#).

**Allison Hunter's** clients include bestselling novelists, memoirists, journalists and experts in their field. She also worked with Lena Dunham on her bestselling memoir *Not That Kind of Girl*. She is actively acquiring literary and commercial fiction, memoir, narrative



nonfiction, cultural studies and pop culture at the Stuart Krichevsky Literary Agency. She is always looking for funny female writers, great love stories, campus novels, family epics, and for projects that speak to the current cultural climate. Read Allison's Q&A [here](#).

2016 Spring Classes

## Don't Pigeonhole Your Writing



### How to Write Genre Literary Fiction with Michael Noll

**Saturday, March 5, 2016**

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

**St. Edward's University**

different. Audiences hear about the person before the abuse, the struggle for hope, claiming one's personal power, the process of healing and moving forward. It premieres April 14 at the Vortex in Austin and tickets are now available. 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](#).**

## 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,

**Trustee Hall, rm 303**

**Austin, TX**

**Registration closes end of day, Thursday, March 3.**

**REGISTER NOW!**

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

Literary fiction used to occupy its own corner of the publishing world, but now many respected literary writers are incorporating genre elements in their work: monsters, science fiction worlds, hard-boiled detective stories, historical fiction worlds, and romance conflicts. These genre mash-ups pose a common problem: How do you move back and forth between a realistic world and a genre world within the same story or novel?

It's actually a problem that purely genre writers have long faced, and in this class, students will study examples from genres like science fiction/fantasy, crime/detective, horror, and romance, and historical along with works by some of today's most popular mash-up writers such as George Saunders, Manuel Gonzales, and Karen Russell. This class should be useful to anyone playing with genre in literary stories or committed to pure genre fiction.



**Michael Noll** teaches writing at Texas State University and edits [Read to Write Stories](#), a site that offers writing exercises based on published stories, novel excerpts, and essays. His work has been published at American Short Fiction, Chattahoochee Review, Narrative

Magazine, Huffington Post, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, and The Good Men Project. He was formerly the writer in residence at the Katherine Anne Porter House in Kyle, TX. He's currently at work on a story collection set in rural Kansas and a novel, *Seven Attacks of the Dead*.

2016 Spring Classes

# Make Sense of Your Memoir

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.



## **Finding the Best Stories of Your Life with Christine Wicker**

**Saturday, March 12, 2016**

**10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**ACC Highland Campus**

**Room 2105**

**Austin, TX**

**REGISTER NOW!**

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

In life, it all counts. But memoir is not life, it is a meaningful reconstruction of life. Stories in memoir must have a point that contributes to the whole.

Veteran writer and editor Christine Wicker will show students how to evaluate their stories and include only the most meaningful moments. She will explain how to establish the patterns in your life story that add up to a compelling and meaningful narrative. Most importantly, she will teach students how to "read" themselves, helping them see the patterns and emotional connections that bind the most pivotal stories in their life.



**apply by Thursday, March 3, 2016 (with both the application and writing sample). Payment is collected upon acceptance to the workshop.** Click [here](#) for more details and click [here](#) to apply.



**The Writers' League of Texas**

is a non-profit corporation, funded in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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