



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

May 10, 2016

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Price jumps on May 24!

2016 Agents & Editors Conference



June 24-26, 2016

Hyatt Regency

208 Barton Springs Rd.

Austin, TX 78704

REGISTER NOW!

A weekend full of panels, presentations, private consultations with industry experts, keynoters, and more!

May Third Thursday

Me, Myself, & I: Writing the Personal in Nonfiction and Memoir



Thursday, May 19, 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

True stories can take the form of memoirs, personal essay, and first-person reportage. But where should the story begin, what is the right frame, how much context and background should the writer provide, and how does the personal fit within larger social and cultural narratives?

On May 19, join us for our monthly Third Thursday

2016 Summer Writing Retreat



July 17-22, 2016
Sul Ross State
University
Alpine, TX

[REGISTER](#)

During this six-day retreat, five intensive writing workshops will be taught simultaneously by five experienced instructors, offering a unique opportunity for participants to enjoy an intimate class setting during the day and a larger group dynamic outside of the classroom throughout the week. This retreat is singular in its focus, its emphasis on community, and its very special location.

Tickets are still available for [The Confident Revision: A Roadmap for the Editing Process](#) with Charlotte Gullick and [Long-Form Narrative in a Short-Form World](#) with Texas Monthly's Michael Hall.

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.

panel discussion at BookPeople in Austin. During this free and open to the public event, we'll talk about writing the personal in memoir and nonfiction. The discussion, followed by questions from the audience, will be moderated by our Program Director, Michael Noll, and will include four terrific writers (bios of our panelists can be found below).

And, if you're not in the Austin area (yes, we know you're out there, we really do), we have some great news: Before the end of this month, we'll be sharing information on how you can access past 2016 Third Thursday discussions in podcast form, to listen to whenever and wherever you'd like -- and by June 15, we'll have this May discussion available. More on this soon!



Michael Hall is a senior editor at *Texas Monthly*. He won two 2001 Katy Awards: one for Best Reporter Writing Portfolio and one for Personality Profile/Interview for his story "Lance Armstrong Has Something to Get Off His Chest." He won a Texas Gavel Award in 2003 for his story about capital punishment, "Death Isn't Fair," which was also nominated for a National Magazine Award. Hall's stories have appeared in the *Best American Magazine Writing*, the *Best American Sportswriting*, the *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and *Da Capo Best Music Writing*. He has also written for *Trouser Press*, *The New York Times*, *Men's Journal*, and the *Austin American-Statesman*.



Donna Johnson wrote the memoir *Holy Ghost Girl* about her childhood spent amid the inner circle of tent revivalist preacher David Terrell. She has written about matters of faith for the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Austin American Statesman*. She also created, wrote, and produced a radio show called *Tech Ranch*, which said everything that could be said about technology and culture in one minute, five days a week. Donna lives and writes in Austin, TX.



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

George Arnold (Garland) has had his 18th book released by Eakin Press. *Mulligan: Justice Reclaimed* is about Texas's broken jurisprudence system. When a young Hispanic woman is wrongfully convicted due to racism, bigotry, and sloppy police work, the judge orders a re-investigation in this fictional yet eerily realistic novel.

Charlotte Gullick (Austin) will be interviewed about her first novel, *By Way of Water*, on the radio program [A Kind Voice on Books](#) on Wednesday, May 11 at 7 pm. Charlotte is also teaching a class at our Summer Writing Retreat: "The Confident Revision: A Roadmap for the Editing Process." Details [here](#).

Elizabeth Harris (Austin), along with Mary Helen Specht and Thomas McNeely, will read at Malvern Books in Austin at Friday, May 13 at 7 pm. Specht's *Migratory Animals* won the Texas Institute of Letters' Steven Turner Award for First



Antonio Ruiz-Camacho was born and raised in Toluca, Mexico. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *Texas Monthly*, *The Millions*, and elsewhere. His debut story collection *Barefoot Dogs* won the Jesse

H. Jones Award for Best Book of Fiction, and was named a Best Book of 2015 by *Kirkus Reviews*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Texas Observer* and PRI's *The World*. Antonio lives in Austin, Texas, with his family, where he's currently at work on a novel.



Deb Olin Unferth is the author of three books, most recently the memoir *Revolution*. Her work appears in *Harper's*, *The Paris*

Review, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The New York Times*, and *McSweeney's*. An associate professor of creative writing at the University of Texas at Austin, she has received three Pushcart Prizes and a grant from Creative Capital. Her next book is forthcoming from Graywolf Press.

Click [here](#) to join our Facebook [event!](#)

2016 Manuscript Contest

ANNOUNCING: The 2016 Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists!

We want to say a big congratulations to the honorees in each of the ten categories for the 2016 Writers' League of Texas Manuscript Contest:

GENERAL FICTION

Winner: Karen Stevenson

Finalists: Tobey Forney, Catherine Johnson, Isabella Ides, D.F. Salvador

GENERAL NONFICTION

Winner: Sandra Goldman

Fiction; both Harris' *Mayhem: Three Lives of a Woman* and McNeely's *Ghost Horse* won the Gival Press Novel Award. For more details, visit the [Facebook event page](#). (Thomas McNeely teaches a class for the WLT on May 14, details at right.)

Weina Dai Randel (Flower Mound) published *The Moon In The Palace* (Sourcebooks, March 1) and *The Empress of Bright Moon* (April 5), a historical novel series about the Empress Wu, the first and only female ruler in China. The duology received starred reviews from *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, Shelf Awareness, and top honor from RT Book Reviews.

Carl Vick's (Austin) new book *The Epic of Ur* was published on March 31. It is available for purchase from [Black Rose Writing](#), [Amazon](#), and at BookPeople in Austin. His [book release party](#) will be on June 3rd at Easy Tiger in Austin.

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](#).

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

Finalists: Brian MacPherson, Allan Gerson, David Barstow

HISTORICAL FICTION

Winner: James Wade

Finalists: Barbara Lazar, Caroline Crimm, Drew Crownover

MEMOIR

Winner: Carol Moczygemba

Finalists: Lisa Doggett, Phil Ribera, Ron Seybold

MIDDLE GRADE

Winner: Lori J. Sawicki

Finalists: Kelly Schierman, Bridgette Booth, Helen Jameson

MYSTERY

Winner: Alex Kiester

Finalists: Julie Ann Candoli, Erica Hurtak, Gay Yellen

ROMANCE

Winner: Tracy Johnston

Finalists: Deborah Solice, Laila Lamarr, Rodney Walther

SCIENCE-FICTION/FANTASY

Winner: J. Rae Moore

Finalists: Melissa Embry, Isabella Ides, Marilyn Rucker, Travis Hightower

THRILLER/ACTION-ADVENTURE

Winner: Melissa Embry

Finalists: S.C. Perkins, James Wade, Erica Hurtak, Donna Joppie

YOUNG ADULT

Winner: Kim O'Brien

Finalists: Flor Salcedo, Robin Cranney, Marisa Schouten, Mary Ann Loesch

PLEASE NOTE: We are currently in the process of emailing written critiques to the contest entrants. This process does take some time. If you entered the contest and do not receive your written critique by Friday, May 20, please email us at sara@writersleague.org so that we can resend. All critiques will be sent no later than May 20.

2016 A&E Conference



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](#).

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.

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 agent Monica Odom and editor Jodi Warshaw by clicking on the links below.

Click [here](#) for more information on registering for the conference. The registration price jumps on May 24.



Monica Odom joined Bradford Literary Agency in 2015. Monica is seeking nonfiction by authors with demonstrable platforms in the areas of: pop culture, illustrated/graphic design, food/cooking, humor, history, and social issues. She is also

looking for narrative nonfiction in these areas, and some memoir. For fiction, Monica is interested in literary fiction, upmarket commercial fiction, compelling speculative fiction and magic realism, historical fiction, alternative histories, dark and edgy fiction, and literary psychological thrillers. She does not represent genre fiction. Monica is serious about the fact that We Need Diverse Books and is looking for authentic representation of all characters, diverse or otherwise. She enjoys working closely with her clients on the editorial and developmental level to fine-tune manuscripts and proposals, and loves the process of managing a writer or artist's career. Read Monica's Q&A [here](#).

Jodi Warshaw is an Executive Editor with Lake Union Publishing, the book club fiction imprint of Amazon Publishing. Her recent bestsellers at Lake Union include Elizabeth LaBan's *The Restaurant Critic's Wife* and Ann Howard Creel's *While You Were Mine*. Her forthcoming titles this year include Catherine McKenzie's *Fractured*, Catherine Ryan Hyde's *Say Goodbye for Now*, Maddie Dawson's *The Survivor's Guide to Family Happiness*, Nancy



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

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.

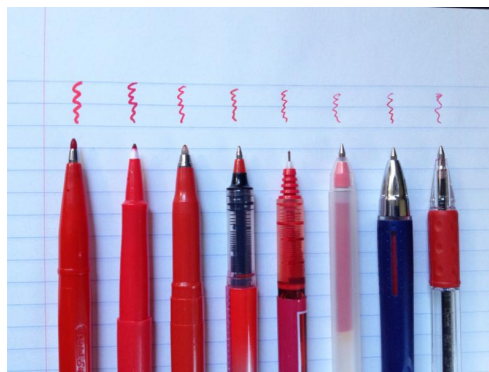
Follow Us



Star's *Sisters One, Two, Three*, and Loretta Nyhan's *All the Good Parts*. Jodi acquires book-club fiction across the gamut from historical to contemporary women's fiction. Currently, she is focused on acquiring issue-oriented fiction in the vein of Barbara Claypole White's *The Perfect Son* and Lisa Genova's *Inside The O'Briens*. Read Jodi's Q&A [here](#).

2016 Spring Classes

Discover Your Voice



Losing Yourself, Finding Your Voice: The Art of Revision

with Thomas McNeely

Saturday, May 14, 2016

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

St. Edward's University

Trustee Hall, Room 303

Austin, TX

Registration closes end of day, Thursday, May 12.

REGISTER NOW!

\$99 members / \$159 nonmembers

You have brilliant beginnings to a dozen stories. You have just as many promising first -- or second, or tenth -- drafts. Now, what? Moving past those first pages or drafts requires an author to listen closely to what their stories or characters have to tell them, which can entail a radical re-envisioning of the story's shape, voice, point of view, plot, or characters. Or perhaps only a difference in one critical authorial decision. Or perhaps allowing the character to make the decision for you, the one which seems riskiest, the choice which is least like the one you yourself would

make.

Growing as writers often means going beyond what we ourselves intended for our stories. In this course, students will review the possibilities that the fundamentals of craft (including plot, character, and point of view) hold for unlocking the potential of their stories. Students will work in small groups to workshop -- and literally cut up -- their stories. Students will then brainstorm revision of their stories.

Please bring five typewritten, double-spaced copies of a 3000-word maximum short story or beginning of a longer work of fiction. Also bring a pen, notepad, scotch tape, and scissors.



A native of Houston, Texas, **Thomas H. McNeely**, is the author of *Ghost Horse*, winner of the Gival Press Novel Award. A former *Dobie Paisano*, Wallace Stegner, and National Endowment for the Arts fellow, he has taught writing at Stanford University, Emerson College, and other universities and writing workshops. His short fiction has appeared in *The Atlantic*,

Ploughshares, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere, and has been anthologized in *The Best American Mystery Stories* and *Algonquin Books' Best of the South: From the Second Decade of New Stories from the South*. Visit his [website](#).

2016 Spring Classes

Make 'Em Laugh!



Writing Funny: A Short Course on Humor with Greg Garrett

Saturday, May 28, 2016

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

St. Edward's University

Trustee Hall, Room 303

Austin, TX

Registration closes end of day, Thursday, May 26.

REGISTER NOW!

\$49 members / \$109 nonmembers

"Dying is easy. Comedy is hard." So goes the old Hollywood saying. But the truth is, we can learn a great deal from studying comedy -- valuable insights about story structure, language, and characters are to be gleaned from writers who have employed tried and true ways to bring the funny to their work

This half-day class with one of our most popular instructors will offer insight into comic relief and comic structures to writers of fiction, long and short form, as well as those working on memoir and personal essays. Class time will be spent laying out a number of ways that writers build humor into their work, and studying some terrific examples from fiction, film, TV, and joke writing. Students should come ready to take notes, and join master teacher and award-winning writer Greg Garrett for a Saturday morning focusing on how you can leaven your story with humor-or how you can be your funniest self.



Greg Garrett is the author or co-author of over twenty books of fiction, memoir, and nonfiction, including the acclaimed novels *Free Bird*, *Cycling*, *Shame*, and *The Prodigal*. Greg has taught creative writing, literature, and film for over a quarter-century at Baylor University, and has also read, spoken, taught, and led workshops across the US and Europe. A member of the Texas Institute of Letters, Greg has taught highly-rated courses for the Writers League on novel writing, point of view, dialogue, and many other topics, and enjoys the chance to meet and work with writers at all stages of their careers. He lives with his wife Jeanie and their family in Austin.



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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