



WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS

September 13, 2016

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### 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.

September Third Thursday

## September Third Thursday



## Straight Out of Science Fiction and Fantasy: Today's Writers Imagining Speculative Worlds

Thursday, September 15, 2016, 7 PM

BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar Blvd.

3rd Floor

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

Every month, Writers' League members and friends gather at BookPeople in Austin for a panel discussion on topics related to the craft and business of writing. These events



Click [HERE](#) to read WLT member Kirsche Romo's review of *The Memory of Us* by

Camille Di Maio.

### "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

**George Arnold's** (Garland) ninth [Cats of the CIA](#) novel was released by Eakin Press. *Pharaohs' Follies; Kits of the CIA* explores the pyramids of Giza (Egypt) and Valley of the Kings as the CIA cats hunt rogue scientists cloning a new race from the bones of ancient pharaohs. Includes 750-word /pronunciation guide in Arabic. Juvenile reader crossover to adults.

**Anne Bustard's** (Austin) debut middle-grade novel, *Anywhere but Paradise*, is a 2016 WILLA Literary Award finalist for Children/YA Fiction and Nonfiction, presented by [Women Writing the West](#).

**Ann Fields** (Dallas) welcomes all writers to the 2016 Writers Retreat at the Shooting Star Ranch, Red Oak, Texas. Focused writing, relaxation time and group feedback amid the wonders of nature are hallmarks of this annual retreat. Runs from Friday, October 14 - Monday, October 17. More details [here](#).

are the highlight of our month at WLT; we love meeting our members, connecting with fellow writers, and fostering positive conversation and growth in the Austin literary community and beyond. We also record these conversations for our [podcast](#) so that writers everywhere can join us, regardless of their location. At this month's Third Thursday, we're excited to discuss science fiction and fantasy writing.

The debate about what qualifies as "true" science fiction and fantasy is an inherent part of the genre. But in a year like this, it's easy to forget that science fiction isn't limited to outer space and fantasy isn't limited to the Medieval world of *Game of Thrones*. The genre is vast, containing many different subgenres and types of readers. It's also a genre that has often stood at the forefront of hot button issues, and, again, this year is no different. Efforts to make the Hugo Award (the Pulitzer of science fiction and fantasy) more inclusive of gender, race/ethnicity, and sexuality encountered very public resistance from some writers and readers, who attempted to stack the nominations with mostly white, male writers.

At this Thursday's panel (7 pm, BookPeople), we'll host a discussion with four science fiction and fantasy writers, exploring what makes the genre so exciting and how it continues to adapt to and reflect current technological advances and social issues.

Our distinguished panelists will be:



**P.J. (Tricia) Hoover** wanted to be a Jedi, but when that didn't work out, she became an electrical engineer instead. After a fifteen year bout designing computer chips for a living, P. J. decided to start creating worlds of her own. She's the author of *Tut: The Story of My Immortal Life*, featuring a fourteen-year-old King Tut who's stuck in middle school,

and *Solstice*, a super-hot twist on the Hades/Persephone myth. When not writing, P. J. spends time with her husband and two kids and enjoys practicing kung fu, solving Rubik's cubes, watching Star Trek, and playing too many video games. For more information about P. J. (Tricia) Hoover, please visit her website [www.pjhoover.com](http://www.pjhoover.com).

**Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail** (Missouri City) invites you to come share your words and music at Off 6, a new coffee house series that will take place the second Tuesday of every month just outside Houston. For more information, please click [here](#).

**Manning Wolfe** (Austin) won two new awards for her debut legal thriller *Dollar Signs: Texas Lady Lawyer vs Boots King*. The novel took a Bronze Medal in the 2016 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards, and is a semi-finalist in the 2016 Kindle Book Awards. For final results, check out her [blog](#) at [www.manningwolfe.com](http://www.manningwolfe.com).

**Are you a current WLT member interested in submitting to Member News? Email your 50-word blurb (including links and your city of residence) to [member@writersleague.org](mailto:member@writersleague.org). Please make sure to follow the third-person format used in our announcements. For a full list of guidelines, click [here](#).**

## Texas Writes



Our next Texas Writes event will take place in **Burnet, Texas, at the Herman Brown Free Library on Thursday, September 15 at 1 pm. Featured speakers: Carol Dawson and Donna Johnson.**

For the full 2016/2017 schedule, visit the [Texas Writes](#) page on our

**Marshall Ryan Maresca** is a fantasy and science-fiction writer, author of the Maradaine novels from DAW Books, starting with his debut novel *The Thorn of Dentonhill*. He grew up in upstate New York and studied film and video production at Penn State. He now lives in Austin with his wife and son. His work appeared in *Norton Anthology of Hint Fiction* and Rick Klaw's anthology *Rayguns Over Texas*. He also has had several short plays produced and has worked as a stage actor, a theatrical director and an amateur chef.



Ex-cocktail waitress, ex-librarian, and unrepentant English major, **Rebecca Schwarz** is a mild-mannered editorial assistant for a scientific journal by day. By night, she writes science fiction and fantasy stories. Her work has appeared in *Interzone*, *Podcastle*, and *Daily Science Fiction*. She is currently writing her first novel. You can read about her writing life at [www.curiousworlds.blogspot.com](http://www.curiousworlds.blogspot.com).

**Adam Soto** is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a recipient of the Michener-Copernicus Fellowship. A finalist in *Narrative Magazine's* 2012 30-Below Contest, Soto's writing also appears or is forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *fields*, and elsewhere. He currently lives in Austin, where he is an assistant editor for *American Short Fiction* and working on a novel. [@adjoso](http://adamsotowriter.com)



**Hope to see you there! Join our [Facebook event](#) for more info.**

Citizen Giveaway

# Finished Your Copy of CITIZEN?

website.

## Join us in Midland!



### September 16-18, 2016 Permian Basin Writer's Workshop

The [Permian Basin Writers' Workshop](#) (PBWW), now in its second year, is a weekend long event in Midland, TX, featuring a variety of lectures, hands on workshops, and panel discussions with publishing professionals, including agents, editors, publishers and writing coaches.

For the first time, the Writers' League will have an exhibitor table at the event and our Executive Director, Becka Oliver, will be moderating the opening panel on Saturday morning. WLT members receive a special discount on registration -- call our offices at 512-499-8914 for details.

**Members!  
Volunteer or Sign  
Your Book at Our  
Texas Book Festival  
Booth!  
November 5-6,  
2016  
Austin, TX**



During the Writers' League of Texas's August Third Thursday panel discussion, "Black Literature Matters," in Austin, TX (August 18, 2016), 200 copies of CITIZEN were shared with attendees. If you received a copy and have finished it, we hope you'll sign it and pass it forward to another reader to enjoy. Stop by our September Third Thursday to drop it off with a staff member, our mail it to our offices: 611 S. Congress Ave, Suite 200A-3, Austin, TX 78704. And if you haven't read CITIZEN yet, we'll be handing out a limited number of copies at this month's Third Thursday.

## 2016 Fall Classes

# Upcoming Classes



### [The Novel Hatchery: Moving a Novel Idea into Its First Draft](#)

with Stacey Swann

September 24, 2016

10 am to 1 pm

St. Edward's University, Austin, TX

Read more [here](#).

If you're a WLT member in good standing and are interested in joining us at our TBF booth as a volunteer, or if you're interested in signing your book at our booth, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information on volunteering during the festival, email us at member (at) writersleague (dot) org with "TBF Volunteer" in the subject line, and we'll get back to you with details.

For more information on signing your book, please visit [this page](#) for guidelines. Slots are available on a first-come first-serve basis. While we will do our best to accommodate everyone, we do have a limited number of slots, so we appreciate your understanding. The deadline to fill out the form for consideration is September 19 at noon. Email member (at) writersleague (dot) org with "TBF Book Signing" if you have any questions.

**Our Next Open Office Hours is October 13, 2016**  
**Registration closes October 12 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.



## [Developing Characters: Make Readers Root for your Protagonist](#)

with Jennifer Ziegler

October 1, 2016

9 am to 12 pm

St. Edward's University, Austin, TX

Read more [here](#).

2016 Fall Classes

## Bring Ideas to Life



## The Novel Hatchery: Moving A Novel Idea Into Its First Draft with Stacey Swann

Saturday, September 24, 2016

10 am to 1 pm

St. Edward's University, Moody Hall 204

3001 S. Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78704

Writers often have a great idea for a novel but aren't sure how to dive in. Or they have already begun but hit an early wall. No matter the type of novel, this class will increase students' skills and confidence to jump in head first. Discussion will explore the following areas:

## 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 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



- Foundational pre-writing, getting a clearer sense of characters and their problems
- Roadmaps, whether they be detailed outlines or a handful of bullet points
- Crafting effective opening chapters
- Using craft elements to expand drafts: stakes, theme, and setting

This class is designed for students ready for their novels to crack open their shells, grow and fly to completion.

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

#### About the Instructor:



*Stacey Swann's fiction has appeared in Epoch, Memorious, Versal, and other journals. A former Stegner Fellow, she teaches with Stanford University's Online Writer's Studio. She's at work on Olympus, TX, a novel-in-progress she is whittling down from Texas-sized to a more modest Montana or New Mexico size.*

#### 2016 Fall Classes

## Write Realistic Characters



## Developing Characters: Making Readers Root for Your Protagonist with Jennifer Ziegler

Saturday, October 1, 2016  
9 am to 12 pm

St. Edward's University, Moody Hall 204  
3001 S. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78704

*"It begins with a character, usually, and once he stands up on his feet and begins to move, all I can do is trot along behind him with a paper and pencil trying to keep up long enough to put down what he says and does."*

*--William Faulkner*

There's no way around it. As authors we have to fully get to know our characters -- better, even, than they know themselves. Well-developed characters are the sticky mortar that holds all the other facets of a narrative together. They drive plot. They are products of setting and backstory. They grapple with themes. Most importantly, compelling characters draw readers into a story and keep them turning pages until it ends. An author can have a fascinating plot, but without realistic, engaging, and relatable characters, readers will not be able to follow it.

But what if you are struggling to find characters? Or to make them realistic? What if you, as writer, don't understand your characters or find them boring or discover that they are rebelling against you? (It can happen.) Or, conversely, what if you have a wonderful character ... but no clear plot?

This class will help writers understand the role characters play in storytelling and give tips on how to find and develop them -- and thereby, the plot. There will be some brief writing -- but only to demonstrate techniques for understanding characters. The class will be a safe space to learn and think. No students will be made to read aloud or share.

Class takeaways will include:

- Definitions on the different types of characters in fiction
- Techniques on finding the right character for your novel (or the right plot for your character)
- Some methods for problem solving

This class is for writers of any and all kinds of fiction.

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

About the Instructor:



*Jennifer Ziegler is the author of over 25 books, which including everything from stand-alone novels to series work to TV tie-ins, and range in genre from quirky comedy to action-adventure to dystopian. Her books have been featured on the Lone Star List and International Reading Association's Young Adults Choice list, recommended on NPR's "Tell Me More," optioned for film, and adapted into stage musicals. She also had the honor of serving as The Writers' League of Texas's Program Director until March of this year.*

*Ziegler lives with her husband, author Chris Barton, in Austin, where she continues to write books, lead writing workshops, and give presentations at schools, conferences, and book festivals.*

## 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/writersleagueoftexas](https://soundcloud.com/writersleagueoftexas). Visit [writersleague.org](https://writersleague.org) or call us at 512-499-8914 for more info.

**Find us on Soundcloud!**



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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)**