On behalf of everyone here at the Writers’ League of Texas, welcome to the 23rd annual Agents & Editors Conference.

It’s true what they say: “The stars at night are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas.”

This year, the Writers’ League of Texas turns 35. In 1981, a group of writers gathered under the stars in a backyard in Austin, seeking a cure for “the loneliness of the writing life,”* and this organization was born.

This conference, now in its 23rd year, is the shining centerpiece of the year-round programming that has developed since that backyard potluck, programming that includes a Summer Writing Retreat in West Texas, year-round classes, a monthly panel discussion and podcast on writerly topics, visits to public schools, and presentations in rural libraries across the state.

We’ve come a long way in a short time—from that first gathering of writers under the stars thirty-five years ago to our own gathering of writing stars under one roof this weekend for the twenty-third time.

And what a weekend we have planned for you.

On Friday, you’ll choose from ten Genre Meet-Ups (a chance to share ideas and gain insights specific to your category) and, new this year, we’ll host a Pitch Lab that’s open to everyone (practice makes perfect—and practicing with fellow attendees helps to ease the nerves).

On Saturday, you’ll choose from twenty-five panels that focus on craft, business, and community (new this year: “Craft: Beyond Genre” panels, highlighting techniques that genre writers have honed and that all writers can learn from). You’ll enjoy some face time with our impressive faculty of agents and editors, whether during one-on-one consultations, before or after breakouts, or during the general sessions and the evening cocktail reception. And you’ll hear from two terrific keynote speakers: Benjamin Alire Sáenz and Jenny Lawson, both stars of Texas, both not to be missed.

On Sunday, you’ll start the day with Saundra Goldman’s talk on creativity and meditation. You’ll choose from eight presentations focused on strengthening your writing and expanding your business acumen. And you’ll join us for a closing luncheon, a chance to look back at the whirlwind weekend and look ahead to what’s next for you.

Three big days with more than 350 people in attendance. Thirty-five years in the making. It’s going to be big, it’s going to be bright.

Let’s get to it.

Becka Oliver
Executive Director

* “I can’t believe this group I helped start with potlucks and cheap wine in my backyard has grown into such a vast enterprise. My entire motivation was the loneliness of the writing life, and the Writers’ League still offers the cure for that and most other writer afflictions.”
  —Sarah Bird, Founding Member

Please join us in congratulating the 2016 Writers’ League of Texas Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists, many of whom were able to join us here this weekend.

You’ll be able to spot them by the blue ribbons they’re wearing.

See page 20 for the complete list.
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All programs and presenters are subject to change.

This project is funded and supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and in part by the City of Austin through the Economic Development Department/Cultural Arts Division believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin’s future. Visit Austin at NowPlayingAustin.com

The Writers’ League of Texas

is a statewide nonprofit that supports writers, both published and not yet published, across Texas and beyond. With over 1300 members and counting, our programming includes weekend classes, a summer writing retreat, Project WISE (presentations in public schools), and Texas Writes workshops in rural libraries. For more information, visit the WLT’s website at www.writersleague.org.

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Writers’ League of Texas

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For their generous support of our programming, the Writers’ League of Texas would also like to thank the Writers’ League of Texas
Brenda Copeland
St. Martin’s Press
Brenda Copeland is an Executive Editor at St. Martin’s Press, where she has worked since 2010. Brenda publishes a vibrant mix of fiction and nonfiction, from the commercial to the literary, and looks for strong stories told with a strong voice. Current authors include Mo Daviau, Ann Leary, Barbara Delinsky, Matthew Dicks, and Amy Sue Nathan. Over the course of her career, Brenda has published such bestselling authors as Dean Koontz, Cecily Von Ziegesar, and Melissa de la Cruz. Brenda teaches book editing at New York University.

Michelle Howry
Simon & Schuster/Touchstone
Michelle Howry specializes in commercial nonfiction. Her bestsellers include popular history books like The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan, diet books like The New Atkins for a New You and The Forks Over Knives Plan, Hollywood diva Kristin Chenoweth’s A Little Bit Wicked, and the Bro Code franchise of books. Michelle acquires platform-driven practical nonfiction in the areas of self-help, personal finance, psychology, relationships, cookbooks, and health, as well as narrative nonfiction in categories such as popular history, biography, popular science and technology, and some celebrity memoir, including two upcoming books from #1 New York Times bestselling author Matthew Inman, aka The Oatmeal.

Jodi Warshaw
Amazon Publishing
Jodi Warshaw got her start in publishing as an intern for Gordon Lish at Alfred A. Knopf and his literary magazine, The Quarterly. From there she moved to San Francisco to edit pop-culture titles for Chronicle Books. For the past two years she’s been at Lake Union Publishing, an imprint of Amazon Publishing, where she acquires book-club fiction. Her taste runs the gamut from historical to contemporary women’s fiction, and right now she’s particularly looking for issue-oriented fiction in the vein of The Perfect Son by Barbara Claypole White and Inside the O’Briens by Lisa Genova.

Ethan Bassoff
Lippincott Massie McQuilkin
Ethan Bassoff represents both emerging and established writers of literary and crime fiction and narrative nonfiction including history, science, humor, and sports writing. His clients include New York Times bestselling writers, winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the Whiting Award, PEN/USA Book Award for Creative Nonfiction, and finalists for The National Book Critics Circle Award and the Edgar Award. Ethan brings a strong editorial approach to all proposals and manuscripts, understanding that great ideas must also tell compelling stories.

Ann Collette
Rees Literary Agency
Ann Collette was a freelance writer and editor for 15 years, regularly contributing to over 30 publications, before joining the Rees Literary Agency in 2000. Her list includes books by New York Times bestselling author B. A. Shapiro, Edgar nominee Ashley Weaver, Oprah’s “Unputdownable Mysteries” author Mark Pryor, Anthony nominee Vicki Lane, RT Award nominees Clay and Susan Griffith, and Steven Sidor. She likes thrillers, literary, upscale commercial women’s fiction, historical, and mystery. In nonfiction, she prefers narrative nonfiction, military and war, work to do with race and class, and work set in or about Southeast Asia. She also represents pop culture, humor, and memoir.

Claudia Cross
Folio Literary Management
Claudia Cross graduated from Harvard Divinity School and has represented Mother Theresa’s Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta, and Where There Is Love, There Is God, along with works by Clotilde Dusoulier, Rachel Gibson, Glenn Meade, Travis Thrasher, Melanie Wallace, Katherine Kallinis, and Sophie LaMontagne. Claudia represents literary fiction, romance novels, commercial women’s fiction, and cooking and food writing, in addition to serious nonfiction on religious and spiritual topics. She appreciates a smart and quirky sense of humor.
Kerry D'Agostino
Curtis Brown, Ltd.
Kerry D’Agostino received her certificate in publishing from the Columbia Publishing Course, her masters in Art in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her bachelor's from Bowdoin College. Kerry currently assists Peter Ginsberg and handles audio rights for Peter and Katherine Fausset. Kerry is looking for literary and upmarket fiction that is voice driven, accessible, and authentic. Above all she is drawn to work that either introduces her to something new or makes her see something old in a new way.

Jenni Ferrari-Adler
Union Literary
Jenni Ferrari-Adler represents exciting novelists including Mo Daviau and Brittani Sonnenberg; the agency’s award-winning food writers and food shops; YA and Middle Grade; narrative nonfiction, and other categories. She holds an MFA in Fiction from the University of Michigan and a BA from Oberlin. She edited the anthology *Alone in the Kitchen with an Eggplant: Confessions of Cooking for One and Dining Alone*. She has taught Fiction at the University of Michigan and the Gotham Writers’ Workshop, and worked as a reader for *The Paris Review* and as a bookseller at Housing Works. Jenni is on the contracts committee of the AAR and is a member of The IACP.

Allison Hunter
Stuart Krichevsky Literary Agency, Inc.
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. She is always looking for funny female writers, great love stories, campus novels, family epics, and projects that speak to the current cultural climate.

Jennifer Johnson-Blalock
Liza Dawson Associates
Jennifer Johnson-Blalock joined Liza Dawson Associates as an associate agent in 2015, having previously interned at LDA in 2013 before working as an agent’s assistant at Trident Media Group. Jennifer graduated with honors from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in English and earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Before interning at LDA, she practiced entertainment law and taught high school English and debate. Jennifer is acquiring both narrative and prescriptive nonfiction from seasoned writers with strong platforms. She also seeks commercial and upmarket fiction, especially thrillers/mysteries, women’s fiction, contemporary romance, young adult, and middle grade.

Mark Gottlieb
Trident Media Group
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 publishersmarketplace.com 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, Young Adult, and certain nonfiction categories such as Pop Culture, Memoir, How-To, and Humor.

Paul Lucas
Janklow & Nesbit Associates
From his first days with books, Paul Lucas has loved the feeling of getting lost between the covers. He remembers reading in his closet with a flashlight after bedtime so his parents would think he had gone to sleep. He is actively looking for upmarket commercial fiction, specifically historical, thrillers, science fiction and fantasy. On the literary side, he likes reading narratives about immigration, ostracization, class, family, and race. For nonfiction, he is drawn to narratives, learning new things, and the occasional humor project.
Meet the Agents

Bonnie Nadell  
**Hill Nadell Literary Agency**  
Bonnie Nadell represents writers of both fiction and nonfiction. The nonfiction ranges from books of current affairs like Pulitzer Prize winner Sonia Nazario’s and Rebecca Solnit’s to memoirs such as Firoozeh Dumas’ *Funny in Farsi*, Tony Cohan’s *On American Time* and *Mexican Days* and David Lebovitz’ *Living the Sweet Life in Paris*. The fiction ranges from Nicole Mones’ to Antonya Nelson’s short story collections and novels to all of the books of fiction and nonfiction written by the late David Foster Wallace. She also represents debut novelists like Kate Racculia (*Bellweather Rhapsody*) and Kayla Rae Whitaker (*The Animators*).

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

Jessica Papin  
**Dystel & Goderich Literary Management**  
Jessica Papin is an agent at Dystel & Goderich in New York. Prior to that, she was the Director of International Rights at the American University in Cairo Press, in Egypt, and an editor at Warner Books (now Grand Central Publishing) in New York. With a background on both sides of the desk, Jessica loves working collaboratively with clients to shape and refine their work. She is interested in literary and smart commercial fiction, narrative nonfiction, history, medicine, science, economics and women’s issues. In every case, she looks for passion, erudition, and storytelling skill. A wry sense of humor doesn’t hurt.

Ammi-Joan Paquette  
**Erin Murphy Literary Agency**  
Ammi-Joan Paquette is a senior agent with Erin Murphy Literary Agency, representing all types of children’s and YA literature. She is also the author of the *Princess Juniper* series. Her other published works include the novels *Paradox*, *Nowhere Girl*, and *Rules for Ghosting*, and the picture books *Ghost in the House*, *Petey & Pru & the Hullabalo*, and *The Tiptoe Guide to Tracking Fairies/Mermaids*. In her agent acquisitions, Joan is particularly drawn to richly voiced, unforgettable characters and settings, as well as tightly-paced, well-plotted stories with twists and turns that keep you guessing right until the end.

Liz Parker  
**InkWell Management**  
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 nonfiction. While Liz reads everything under the sun, she is most on the hunt for the beach read.

Elizabeth Winick Rubinstein  
**McIntosh & Otis**  
Elizabeth Winick Rubinstein, senior agent and President at McIntosh & Otis, has degrees from New York University and Manhattan School of Music. She began her book publishing career in subsidiary rights and then as acquisitions editor at a major audio publishing imprint. Elizabeth’s primary interests include literary fiction, women’s fiction, historical fiction, and mystery/suspense, romance, along with narrative nonfiction, history, and current affairs. Elizabeth represents numerous *New York Times* bestsellers and both Agatha and Edgar Award winners and nominees.
Meet the Presenters

**Tricia Skinner**
**Fuse Literary**
Tricia Skinner is an Associate Agent working with Fuse Literary co-founder Laurie McLean. She began her writing career as a newspaper reporter and wrote for *The Detroit News, Investor’s Business Daily, MSN,* and *The Houston Chronicle*. Tricia has 20 years of experience working with the video game industry in various roles, including public relations, industry relations, and writing/editing. She is also a hybrid author of passionate urban fantasy (represented by McLean). Diversity in genre fiction is dear to Tricia’s heart. As an agent, she wants to represent authors who reflect diversity and cultures in their work.

**Stacy Testa**
**Writers House**
Stacy Testa joined Writers House in 2011, after beginning her publishing career at Farrar, Straus & Giroux. She is seeking literary fiction and upmarket women’s fiction, particularly stories with international settings, unique subcultures, historical hooks, magical realism, and powerful women. On the nonfiction side, she is interested in acquiring remarkable memoirs, humor writing, narrative nonfiction, and prescriptive titles with strong platforms. She also represents a select number of realistic young adult titles. Stacy is drawn to anything with an interest in social justice, a compelling narrative voice, and/or a great sense of humor.

**Renée Zuckerbrot**
**Lippincott Massie McQuilkin**
Renée Zuckerbrot worked as an editor at Doubleday before becoming a literary agent. Her authors include Kelly Link, Shawn Vestal, M.O. Walsh, Keith Lee Morris, Andrew Malan Milward, Eric Lundgren, Harley Jane Kozak, and Eric Sanderson. They have won or been nominated for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction, the National Magazine Award, the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography, the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, the NYPL Young Lions Fiction Award, B&N Discover Great New Writers Award, the PEN/O. Henry Prize, the Shirley Jackson Award, the Locus, the Hugo, the Nebula, and the Pushcart, among others.

**Stephanie Barko**
**Stephanie Barko’s award-winning clients include traditional publishers and their authors, small presses, and independently published writers. She promotes nonfiction & historical fiction exclusively, including how-to, history, career, business, biography, self-help, and memoir. Debut authors and spiritual nonfiction are especially welcome. She was nominated by her peers as Book Publicist of the Year and voted Preditors & Editors Best Book Promotion Service. She developed DIY Book Platform, a web-based app to serve authors who could not afford a publicist. Stephanie has degrees in Business & Sociology and is based in Austin.**

**Carol Dawson**
Carol Dawson is a novelist and non-fiction author whose books include the novels *The Waking Spell, Body of Knowledge, Meeting the Minotaur,* and *The Mother-in-Law Diaries*. Her award-winning nonfiction book *House of Plenty: The Rise, Fall, and Revival of Luby’s Cafeterias* was published by the University of Texas Press. She has taught creative writing and literature at the College of Santa Fe, as well as in numerous workshops. Her work has been published in *Texas Monthly, Southern Living, The Oxford-American,* and *Parenting Magazine*. Her latest book, *Miles and Miles of Texas: The Story of the Texas Highway Department, 1917-2017,* is forthcoming this fall from Texas A&M University Press.

**Saundra Goldman**
Through her website and blog, her courses, and one-on-one mentoring, Saundra Goldman helps individuals connect the dots of their creative lives and step up with work that speaks to their deepest calling. Saundra has served as assistant to Natalie Goldberg, author of *Writing Down the Bones,* and has taught Goldberg’s work to hundreds of students in Austin, New Mexico, and in France. Her articles, essays and reviews have appeared in *Brain, Child, Literary Mama, babble.com, Theater and Drama Review,* the *Texas Observer,* the *Austin American-Statesman,* and in numerous exhibition catalogs. wwwsaundragoldman.com
Meet the Presenters

Shennandoah Goodson
Shennandoah Goodson is the Director of Marketing and Business Development for Connor Creative Co, a full service marketing and production agency based in San Antonio. She began her career as a freelance copywriter before evolving to marketing strategy and brand management. Copywriting is still at the heart of everything she does and she uses her experience to teach writers how they can make a living doing what they love.

Jeramey Kraatz
Jeramey Kraatz is the author of The Cloak Society series from Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins. His writing has previously appeared in places like Salon, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, Gizmodo, and Thought Catalog. He grew up in Odessa, Texas, studied advertising and English at TCU, and graduated from the MFA program at Columbia University where he studied nonfiction writing. He has worked as a snow-cone maker, barista, mannequin dresser, and intern in the editorial department at Marvel Comics. When he is not writing about superpowers, he teaches writing and sometimes works with cartoons.

Sarah Smarsh
Sarah Smarsh has reported on class and politics for The New Yorker and Harper’s online, The Guardian, Guernica and many others. She is a columnist for On, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, Gizmodo, and Thought Catalog. Her book In the Red, on the American working poor and her own upbringing in rural Kansas, is forthcoming from Scribner. Sarah has filed more than a thousand news stories, and her essays and criticism on cultural boundaries have appeared in or are forthcoming from Longreads, the Texas Observer, Vela, Creative Nonfiction, McSweeney’s, The Morning News and more; her piece “Poor Teeth” (Aeon) was listed as notable in Best American Essays 2015.

Jo Whittemore
Jo Whittemore is the author of the tween humor novels Front Page Face-Off, Odd Girl In, and D is for Drama, as well as The Silverskin Legacy fantasy trilogy. She is a member of the SCBWI (Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators) and is one of the founding members of The Texas Sweethearts & Scoundrels. Jo has also written for, and been featured in, newspapers and national magazines.

Manning Wolfe
Manning Wolfe is an author and attorney, with one foot in the business world and one foot in the creative realm. Her business experience, combined with her vivid imagination manifests in quality services for clients, as well as compelling storytelling for readers. The first in her legal thriller series, Dollar Signs: Texas Lady Lawyer vs Boots King, published in February 2016. The second in the series, Dollar Signs: Texas Lady Lawyer vs Browno Zars will publish this summer. Manning is a graduate of Rice University and the University of Texas School of Law.

A Guide to the Conference Panels

CRAFT
These panels dig into the essential tools of our trade as writers. Craft panels that are titled “Beyond Genre” will examine how strategies that are common to one genre can be used by all writers. We firmly believe that great writing and compelling stories are not bound by genre.

BUSINESS
These panels pull back the curtain on the publishing industry and the process that turns manuscripts into books on the shelf. Panelists include agents, editors, reviewers, and booksellers.

COMMUNITY
Writing is a solitary act, but writers are part of an extensive community. The more fully we engage with other writers, teachers, and guides, the better our work becomes and the more doors we open into the publishing world.
Meet the Exhibitors

VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND TO LEARN ABOUT SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES.

Robyn Conley: Book Doctor/ Freelance Editor
Sam Weaver: Self-Publishing Consultant

AUTHORS.me
Provides a revolutionary platform that connects writers to agents and publishers.

The Authors’ Assistant
Striving to connect writers with readers by providing professional services in manuscript preparation, book design & production, and media promotion for print, e-book and audio.

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Books on writing and getting published as well as books by conference presenters.

Cider Spoon Stories
A ghostwriting service for every story: specializing in memoir, self-help, and fiction. Editing and other manuscript services available upon request.

Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference
Organized by Frank W. Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, University of North Texas.

Austin Community College Creative Writing Department
A two-year degree program open to all writers in most genres; online and face-to-face.
austincc.edu/crw

The Writing Barn
7.5 wooded acres devoted to writers: group and private retreats, weekend and week long intensives, book launches and other literary themed parties. Retreat. Create. Celebrate at The Writing Barn.
thewritingbarn.com

Yellow Bird Editors
Manuscript critiques, content editing, developmental editing, query letter critiques, and more.
yellowbirdeditors.com

Thank you to our Panelists, Moderators, Facilitators, and Emcees

Wendi Aarons, Salima Alikhan, Katherine Arden, Michael Barrett, Clara Bensen, Juli Berwald, Kathy Blackwell, Scott Blackwood, Christopher Brown, Anne Bustard, Frank Campbell, Katherine Catmull, Charlie Clark, Samantha Clark, Callie Collins, Elizabeth Crook, Mo Daviau, Carol Dawson, Kate Winkler Dawson, Jennifer duBois, Owen Egerton, Colleen Devine Ellis, Jill Alexander Essbaum, Becky Garcia, Meg Gardiner, Dina Guidubaldi, Syed Ali Haider, James Haley, Erin Hallagan, Alyssa Harad, Stephen Harrigan, Bethany Hegedus, P. J. Hoover, Cyndi Hughes, Donna Johnson, Sara Kocek, Lindsey Lane, Vanessa Lee, Nikki Loftin, Marshall Ryan Maresca, Meg Mattingly, Elizabeth McCracken, Joshua McCune, Jill Meyers, Scott Montgomery, Moira Muldoon, Stephanie Noll, Cory Putman Oakes, Carmen Oliver, Karen Olsson, Daniel Oppenheimer, Maya Perez, Rene S. Perez II, John Pipkin, Neal Pollack, Susan Pruett, Mark Pryor, Benjamin Reed, Gillian Redfearn, Sean Redmond, Adeena Reitberger, Jennifer Hill Robenalt, Michael Rosenbaum, Laura Cottam Sajbel, Rebecca Schwarz, Chaitali Sen, Beejoli Shah, José Skinner, Clay Smith, Suzy Spencer, Carlotta Stankiewicz, Natalia Sylvester, Brittani Sonnenberg, Mary Helen Specht, Typewriter Rodeo, S. Kirk Walsh, Patricia Walters-Fischer, Julie Wernersbach, Sasha West, Bradley Wilson, Kirk Wilson, Teri Wilson, Michael Yang, Brian Yansky, Jennifer Ziegler
Conference Sessions

Friday, June 24

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Pick up your badge and conference materials when you arrive on Friday. Saturday Keynote Luncheon tickets can be purchased ($45 on-site), subject to availability.
Big Bend A-C (first floor)

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Big Bend and Hill Country foyers (first floor)

1:00 to 3:15 p.m.
GENRE MEET-UPS
See box below for details.

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
PITCH LAB
Practice your pitch with other conference attendees. A great opportunity to build community and prepare for the conference’s many networking opportunities. Arrive at 3:30 for some quick guidelines and then spend the rest of the time practicing your pitch.
Foothills II (17th floor)

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
WELCOME RECEPTION
Join WLT staff and conference faculty for opening announcements and recognition of the 2016 Manuscript Contest Winners and Finalists (starting at 4:45 pm). Then, kick off the conference with snacks, socializing, and customized poems from Typewriter Rodeo.
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

FRIDAY GENRE MEET-UPS
Meet writers from within your genre for a facilitated discussion. Bring ideas and burning questions. Leave with practical information and new friends. Note: We will offer two General Fiction groups; please choose one.

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
GENERAL FICTION  Recommended for attendees writing novels that don’t fit in the other breakout categories. Led by Benjamin Reed and S. Kirk Walsh.
Hill Country A (first floor)

MYSTERY / THRILLER  Recommended for attendees writing novels that include mystery, thriller or suspense elements. Led by Meg Gardiner and Scott Montgomery.
Hill Country B (first floor)

NONFICTION  Recommended for attendees writing general nonfiction, narrative or practical, NOT memoir. Led by Juli Berwald and Kathy Blackwell.
Hill Country C (first floor)

HISTORICAL FICTION  Recommended for attendees writing novels with a historical setting. Led by James Haley and Susie Pruett.
Hill Country D (first floor)

SHORT FICTION / POETRY  Recommended for attendees working on short form fiction or poetry. Led by Michael Barrett and Charlie Clark.
Big Bend D (first floor)

WOMEN’S FICTION / ROMANCE  Recommended for attendees writing love stories, whether category romance or women’s fiction. Led by Patricia Walters-Fischer and Teri Wilson.
Hill Country A (first floor)

GENERAL FICTION  Recommended for attendees writing novels that don’t fit in the other breakout categories. Led by Jill Alexander Essbaum and Sean Redmond.
Hill Country B (first floor)

MEMOIR  Recommended for attendees writing memoir or personal stories. Led by Donna Johnson and Kirk Wilson.
Hill Country C (first floor)

SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY  Recommended for attendees writing novels for the SciFi or Fantasy markets. Led by Marshall Ryan Maresca and Rebecca Schwarz.
Hill Country D (first floor)

PICTURE BOOK / MIDDLE GRADE / YOUNG ADULT  Recommended for attendees writing books for young readers. Led by Samantha Clark and Carmen Oliver.
Big Bend D (first floor)
Saturday, June 25

8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
REGISTRATION
Pick up your badge and conference materials. The Registration Desk is also where you can purchase tickets for the Keynote Luncheon ($45 on-site), subject to availability. Texas Foyer (second floor)

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST
Get your day started right with coffee, breakfast tacos, and other refreshments. Texas Foyer (second floor)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Texas Foyer (second floor)

9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
OPENING SESSION
Welcome and Panel Discussion
Kick things off with an overview of the weekend and the panel discussion “Taking the Pulse: The Present and Future of Publishing”
Panelists: Author Scott Blackwood, Editor Brenda Copeland, Agent Claudia Cross, Sales Rep Gillian Redfearn | Moderator: Michael Noll
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
BREAK
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
CONSULTATIONS
All agent and editor consultations will take place on the 17th floor in Foothills I & II. Check in at the registration table in the Foothills lobby. Arrive no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. For details, see pages 16-17.
Foothills I & II (17th floor)

10:15 to 11:00 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
BUSINESS
The Debut Novel: From Query to Publication
Panelists: Brenda Copeland, Mo Daviau, Jenni Ferrari-Adler | Moderator: Maya Perez
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

CRAFT
Everyone Has a Story: What Makes Your Memoir Different?
Panelists: Ethan Bassoff, Clara Bensen, Alyssa Harad, Stacy Testa | Moderator: Stephanie Noll
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

CRAFT
How to Create Compelling Characters
Panelists: Christopher Brown, Kerry D’Agostino, Monica Odom, John Pipkin | Moderator: Jennifer Ziegler
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

BUSINESS
What to Do with Story Collections
Panelists: Dina Guidubaldi, Elizabeth McCracken, Bonnie Nadell, Renée Zuckerbrot | Moderator: Jill Meyers
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

CRAFT: BEYOND GENRE
Romance and Love Stories...for Every Writer
Panelists: Allison Hunter, Jennifer Johnson-Blalock, Rene S. Perez II, Tricia Skinner | Moderator: Anne Bustard
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

11:00 to 11:15 a.m.
BREAK
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)
Conference Sessions

11:15 a.m. to 12 noon

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUSINESS

Write a Query that Stands Out from the Pack
Panelists: Kerry D’Agostino, Jenni Ferrari-Adler, Allison Hunter, Jennifer Johnson-Blalock | Moderator: Jo Whittemore
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

CRAFT

Second Acts: Advancing Plot in Novels
Panelists: Scott Blackwood, Mark Gottlieb, Liz Parker, Brittani Sonnenberg | Moderator: Marshall Ryan Maresca
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

COMMUNITY

Finding Your Place in the Literary Community
Panelists: Owen Egerton, Adeena Reitberger, Tricia Skinner, Mary Helen Specht | Moderator: Samantha Clark
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

BUSINESS

This Is Like That: Finding Comparison Titles
Panelists: Frank Campbell, Clay Smith, Jodi Warshaw, Elizabeth Winick Rubinstein | Moderator: Salima Alikhan
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

BUSINESS

Make the Most of Your Readings and Author Events
Panelists: Becky Garcia, Erin Hallagan, Meg Mattingly, Julie Wernersbach | Moderator: Vanessa Lee
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

Saturday, June 25

Keynote Luncheon

“The Crooked Road Less Traveled: Me, My Writing, and the Publishing World”

Featuring the 2013 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction Winner

Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a poet, artist, and fiction writer. He is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University. His latest collection of short stories, *Everything Begins & Ends at the Kentucky Club*, won the PEN/Faulkner Fiction Prize in 2013. His first book of poems, *Calendar of Dust*, won an American Book Award and has also been awarded a Lannan Poetry Fellowship. He has published five books of poetry including *Dark and Perfect Angels, Elegies in Blue, Dreaming the End of War*, and *The Book of What Remains*, and he has just completed a new book of poems, *He.You.I*.

He is an award winning young adult author and his most recent YA novel, *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, has been recognized with several awards including the Prinz Honor Book, a Lambda Literary Award, The Stonewall Award, and The Pura Belpre Award, and has been translated into fourteen languages. His next young adult novel, *The Inexplicable Logic of My Life*, will be published next year, and he is currently at work on the sequel to *Aristotle and Dante*. He is a professor of Creative Writing at the University of Texas at El Paso.

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

Advance registration required; a limited number of tickets may be available at the Registration Desk on Friday and Saturday for $45. Cost of ticket includes lunch and a complimentary copy of speaker’s story collection, *Everything Begins & Ends at the Kentucky Club*. Benjamin will sign books after his keynote.
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUSINESS

Find Your Voice through Social Media and Blogs
Panelists: Wendi Aarons, Monica Odom, Carlotta Stankiewicz, Stacy Testa | Moderator: Beejoli Shah
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

BUSINESS

It Happened Here: Meeting an Agent and Landing a Deal
Panelists: Kate Dawson, Michelle Howry, Jessica Papin | Moderator: Stephanie Noll
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

CRAFT: BEYOND GENRE

Historical Settings and Characters...for Every Writer
Panelists: Elizabeth Crook, Stephen Harrigan, Karen Olsson, Jodi Warshaw | Moderator: Clay Smith
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

CRAFT: BEYOND GENRE

Thrilling Reversals and Plots...for Every Writer
Panelists: Ann Collette, Meg Gardiner, Paul Lucas, Mark Pryor | Moderator: Lindsey Lane
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

COMMUNITY

Literary Guides, Gurus, and Mentors
Panelists: Samantha Clark, Syed Ali Haider, Bethany Hegedus, Sara Kocek | Moderator: Bradley Wilson
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

Saturday, June 25

Keynote Cocktail Reception

Featuring #1 New York Times Bestselling Author

Jenny Lawson

Jenny Lawson is a columnist, blogger and #1 New York Times best-selling author (www.thebloggess.com). She’s been featured on Gawker, Salon.com, Mashable, The London Times, The Washington Post, People, O Magazine, CNN, Time Magazine, The Today Show. MSNBC calls her an “internet rockstar,” Forbes repeatedly lists thebloggess.com as one of the Top 100 Websites for Women, and Katie Couric calls her “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 Post’s 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 New York Times bestsellers.

5:30 p.m.

Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

Sponsored by Thompson & Knight Foundation

Admission included with conference registration. Light refreshments provided. Cash bar. All attendees of the cocktail reception will receive a copy of speaker’s latest book. She will sign copies after her keynote.
3:00 to 3:15 p.m.  
**BREAK**  
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.  
Texas Foyer (second floor)

3:15 to 4:15 p.m.  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**BUSINESS**  
**Become Your Own Best Marketer**  
Panelists: Colleen Devine Ellis, P. J. Hoover, Michelle Howry, Jennifer Hill Robenalt | Moderator: Wendi Aarons  
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**What Makes Young Adult Novels Different?**  
Panelists: Katherine Catmull, Ammi-Joan Paquette, Rene S. Perez II, Benjamin Sáenz | Moderator: Nikki Loftin  
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**CRAFT: BEYOND GENRE**  
**Narrative Arcs...for Novels and Memoirs**  
Panelists: Jennifer duBois, Donna Johnson, Joshua McCune, Brian Yansky | Moderator: Jennifer Ziegler  
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Fairy Tales, and Superheroes...for Everyone**  
Panelists: Katherine Arden, Mo Daviau, Paul Lucas, Renée Zuckerbrot | Moderator: Owen Egerton  
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

4:15 to 4:30 p.m.  
**BREAK**  
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.  
Texas Foyer (second floor)

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**BUSINESS**  
**What Agents Mean When They Say “_____”**  
Panelists: Ethan Bassoff, Ann Collette, Claudia Cross, Mark Gottlieb | Moderator: Suzy Spencer  
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**CRAFT**  
**Are We There Yet? Ending Your Novel**  
Panelists: Sara Kocek, Bonnie Nadell, Liz Parker, Natalia Sylvester | Moderator: Michael Yang  
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**CRAFT**  
**Breaking Stereotypes: Writing Characters Who Don’t Share Your Background**  
Panelists: Bethany Hegedus, Daniel Oppenheimer, José Skinner, Mary Helen Specht | Moderator: Laura Cottam Sajbel  
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**CRAFT**  
**What Now? Responding to Writing Setbacks and Missteps**  
Panelists: Jennifer duBois, Ammi-Joan Paquette, Neal Pollack, Chaitali Sen | Moderator: Michael Noll  
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**BUSINESS**  
**Congratulations, You’re Published! What Next?**  
Panelists: Jeramey Kraatz, Cory Putman Oakes, Chaitali Sen, Natalia Sylvester | Moderator: Michael Rosenbaum  
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

**Single Shots: What to Do with Stories, Essays, and Poems**  
Panelists: Callie Collins, Adeena Reitberger, Beejoli Shah, Sasha West | Moderator: Cyndi Hughes  
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)
Sunday, June 26

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.  
**BREAKFAST**  
Get your day started right with coffee, baked treats, and other refreshments.  
Texas Foyer (second floor)

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.  
**PRESENTATION**  
*Meditation & Mindfulness for Writers*  
with Saundra Goldman  
Breathe deeply and get your feet firmly planted in the moment during this hour of meditation and discussion of mindfulness practices you can use during this last day of the conference and beyond.  
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon  
**AGENT & EDITOR CONSULTATIONS**  
Please check in at the Consultations Registration Desk in the Foothills lobby no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.  
Foothills I & II (17th Floor)

9:15 to 10:30 a.m.  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
**PRESENTATION**  
*Making Writing Your Day Job*  
with Shennandoah Goodson | Emcee: Olga Campos Benz  
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**PRESENTATION**  
*Legal Obligations and Pitfalls in Publishing*  
with Manning Wolfe | Emcee: Carlotta Stankiewicz  
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**PRESENTATION**  
*Crafting a Great (and Saleable) Nonfiction Proposal*  
with Jessica Papin | Emcee: Moira Muldoon  
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

10:30 to 10:45 a.m.  
**BREAK**  
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.  
Texas Foyer (second floor)

10:45 a.m. to 12 noon  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
**PRESENTATION**  
*Trouble Talk: Beefing Up Your Story with Conflict and Dialogue*  
With Jeramey Kraatz | Emcee: Olga Campos Benz  
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**PRESENTATION**  
*Building an Effective Platform*  
with Stephanie Barko | Emcee: Carlotta Stankiewicz  
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**PRESENTATION**  
*Writing and Publishing Personal Essays*  
with Sarah Smarsh | Emcee: Moira Muldoon  
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

**PRESENTATION**  
*Make a Long Story Short: Writing a Synopsis*  
with Jo Whittemore | Emcee: Tony Burnett  
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.  
**CLOSING LUNCHEON**  
Join the WLT staff for a closing meal, a recap of the weekend’s highlights, and thoughts about where you go from here.  
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)
Length of Appointments
All consultations will be 10 minutes long. A volunteer will be on hand to time your session and will cue you as your time nears its end. Once you receive that cue, please wrap up your meeting promptly. Because other attendees are scheduled after you, ending on time is EXTREMELY important. Occasionally consultations will get off schedule; please be patient if that is the case.

Agent/Editor Consultations
The agents and editors you’re meeting with are expecting a verbal pitch during your one-on-one meeting. Come prepared with your short and succinct pitch and be ready to elaborate, share additional details, and answer questions when prompted.

Take some time to think of a few questions you might ask so that, should an agent or editor tell you early in the session that your project doesn’t sound like a good fit for them, you’re able to take full advantage of your time in the most productive way possible.

Please, do NOT bring a manuscript or extensive handouts with you to your appointment. It is highly unlikely that the agent or editor you’re meeting with will want to carry materials away with them (remember, most of our faculty are visiting from other cities and feel the same way you do about packing extras in their return luggage). Plus, handing something off at a conference means you’re not giving the submission its full due, the way you would with a well written query letter sent (following specific submission guidelines) after the event.

Keep in mind, tastes change and many factors can influence what genres or categories an agent or editor is currently looking for. The bios found in this program are a good starting point for gauging someone’s interests, but nothing is set in stone. If the person you meet with says he or she does not represent your type of book, use that time to gather information on what you might do to make your project more saleable. You can also talk about other ideas you have or ask for suggestions for other agents or publishers that it might be a fit for (especially if you’re talking to an agent who works in a large agency and might have colleagues who specialize in what you’re writing).

Finally, this is a great opportunity to ask about the state of publishing today, current market trends, and other general questions you might have. Come prepared and use your time well and wisely.
Networking

Agents, editors, and other special guests will attend the Welcome Reception event on Friday evening and the cocktail reception on Saturday evening. In addition, our faculty will lead presentations or sit on panels throughout the conference. Agents and editors welcome brief informal pitches and will be glad to talk with you throughout the weekend. Remember that pitching in this format should be more casual than in your one-on-one consultation.

PLEASE REMEMBER to be respectful of their time; keep your conversations short and to the point (we recommend three to five minutes maximum). If someone says “Yes, send it” after one minute, quit while you’re ahead! Say thank you and ask how they’d like it sent, and then excuse yourself. Especially at the two receptions, be aware of fellow attendees who may be waiting to also have a quick chat with the agent or editor you’re talking to. Stepping aside after your short pitch to make way for others is the polite and appropriate thing to do.

BE WILLING to talk to agents and editors who aren’t on your “must meet” list—you never know who might take an interest in your idea. The editors, especially, will be a great gauge of how your book might be received in the marketplace, and they can talk to you about how they acquire projects and what happens after a project is acquired.

FINALLY, keep in mind that the 21 agents and editors are not the only sources of great information and guidance that you’ll be surrounded by this weekend. We have more than 70 published authors and industry professionals taking part in the programming. Say hello, ask questions, seek advice and guidance. Many of these writers and experts have been in your shoes. Networking at a conference like this one isn’t just about having an agent say they want to read your manuscript. It’s also about making connections that will serve you throughout your writing career.


Conference Tips & Tricks

Take copious notes! Panelists and presenters will share lots of information and advice that you can use—now or later in your career as a writer. (Use that notepad in your welcome bag!)

Leave the outside world behind. Between sessions, don’t check in with your business or personal email. Instead visit with writers and other guests.

If you accept a business card from someone, take a moment to jot down a note about your conversation so you’ll remember later.

Approach other attendees and ask them what they are writing. Make friends!

Take advantage of having a book signed by the keynote speakers. It’s a great way to meet a fellow writer in person.

Be open-minded. You might arrive at the conference with certain assumptions or preconceived notions, about the faculty, the industry, and your own project. Leave that stuff at the door for a bit and be open to what comes.

Relax, have fun, and mingle. Get to know the instructors and the other conference attendees. You never know who the person sitting next to you might be.

Be prepared to present your “pitch.” Consultations are not the only opportunity to chat with an agent about your book. The two cocktail receptions, among other events, are great networking opportunities.

Don’t forget to visit the exhibitor tables when programming is not in session. Interacting with exhibitors opens the door to additional networking opportunities.

Don’t expect agents or editors to ask for or agree to take your manuscript or book on the spot. The vast majority of submissions are done electronically. If an agent or editor asks you to submit pages, be sure to get their contact information and ask them how they’d like to receive materials.

And, when in doubt, find a WLT Staffer or Volunteer and let us know how we can improve your conference experience.
Conference Fast Facts

The following Conference events require advance reservations: **Keynote Luncheon** (Saturday), **Closing Luncheon** (Sunday), and **Consultations**.

Any tickets to these events that remain will be available at the Registration Desk.

**General Conference Badges**

**Badges** Your name badge allows you entrance to all general conference events and panels. Please wear your badge at all times during conference hours. Door monitors will be checking badges at each session.

Conference badges will also be checked at all consultations and general sessions. You cannot attend any conference-related event without it. If you lose your name badge, go to the Conference Registration Desk to request a replacement.

**Guests** Family or friends staying with you cannot attend conference sessions. All conference events require paid registration.

**Parking** Attendees staying overnight at the Hyatt receive discounted self-parking at $10 per day; check with the hotel about using the card-access lot. Conference attendees who are not staying at the hotel will also receive discounted self-parking at $10 per day. Discount parking passes will be available at Registration. Valet parking is NOT discounted.

**Note: Please allow extra time** for parking if you’re staying off site.

**Dining**

Restaurants within walking distance of the hotel:

- **Aussie’s Bar & Grill**, 306 Barton Springs Rd. Burgers, beer, and beach volleyball.
- **Dominican Joe Coffee Shop**, 515 S. Congress Ave. Free-trade coffee house and a local hangout for writers.
- **Freebirds World Burrito**, 515 S. Congress Ave. Made-to-order burritos, tacos, and salads.
- **Home Slice Pizza**, 1415 S. Congress Ave. Authentic NY-style pizza by the slice or pie—an Austin staple with a great patio.
- **Hopdoddy Burger Bar**, 1400 S. Congress Ave. Created to express the perfect union between burgers and beer—puts the WEIRD in Austin burgers!
- **MamboBerry**, 1210 Barton Springs Rd. Frozen yogurt, smoothies, salads, sandwiches.
- **Sandy’s Hamburgers**, 603 Barton Springs Rd. Old-fashioned, locally owned burger and frozen custard stand.
- **Schlotzsky’s**, 218 S. Lamar Blvd. Breakfast, deli, salads, pizza, bakery, ice cream.
- **The Upper Decks**, 301 Barton Springs Rd. Casual dining while feeding your sports addiction.
- **Threadgill’s World Headquarters**, 301 W. Riverside Dr. Home-style Southern cooking, enormous portions of vegetables, and live music on weekends.
- **Toastie’s Sub Shop**, 215 S. Lamar Blvd. Subs, salads, tacos, pizzas, and wraps.
- **Thundercloud Subs**, 201 E. Riverside Dr. Fast, fresh and healthy subs, soups, and salads.
Culture and Nightlife

Bat Watching  The Congress Avenue Bridge next to the Hyatt hosts the largest urban bat colony in North America. Each evening around sunset the Congress Avenue bats emerge from the crevices of the bridge. For up-to-date emergence times call 512-327-9721 Ext 3.

Hike and Bike Trail  Enter from the back of the Hyatt Regency and stretch your legs on the 10-mile Roy and Ann Butler trail surrounding Lady Bird Lake. Make a splash with a choice of rentals including canoes and paddle boards.

Second Street and the Warehouse District  Just across from Lady Bird Lake is one of Austin’s top entertainment districts with even more dining and music!

South Congress (SoCo)  Walk a few blocks south on Congress and you’ll be in the heart of funky shopping, more great restaurants, and live music.

Looking for alternative transportation? Step outside the Hyatt for a ride in a Pedicab! These fit Austinites work for tips and will take you to whatever destination you desire. Want to do the pedaling yourself? There are several places that will rent you a bicycle for the day. Ask the Hyatt concierge for more information.

About the Hyatt Regency Austin

ATM  An automated teller machine is in the hotel lobby near Starbucks’s.

The Business Center (second floor) has computers, Internet access, and a printer available to guests 24 hours a day. High-speed wireless Internet is complimentary. Internet service in guest rooms is included.

Check-Out  Check-out time is 11 a.m.

Parking  Self-parking is available to Conference attendees for $10 per day. Valet parking is $18 per day or $31 overnight (discounts do not apply). For details, see “Parking.”

Restaurants and Bars

Starbucks  (first floor)
5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

SWB/Southwest Bistro  (second floor)
Breakfast: 6 to 11 a.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. to 12 noon
Sunday 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (all days)

Marker 10 Spirits & Cuisine Bar  (first floor)
Friday 2 pm to 1 a.m.
Saturday 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday 12 noon to 11 p.m.
Happy Hour: Sunday through Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m.
WRITERS’ LEAGUE OF TEXAS

2016 Manuscript Contest
Winners & Finalists

GENERAL FICTION
WINNER
Fieldings by Karen Stevenson

FINALISTS
The Secondaries by Tobey Forney
Prayers for an Illegitimate God by Isabella Ides
The Weight of Words Unspoken by Catherine Johnson
The Fruits of the Two Seasons by D.F. Salvador

GENERAL NONFICTION
WINNER
Artist Proof: The Case Between Hannah Wilke and Claes Oldenburg by Saundra Goldman

FINALISTS
David and the Little Giants: How a Battle over Technology Became a Battle for My Soul by David Barstow
The Spine of Our Choices by Allan Gerson
Violently If They Must by Brian MacPherson

HISTORICAL FICTION
WINNER
The Last Nothin’ Ball by James Wade

FINALISTS
The Spanish Captain’s Daughter by Caroline Crimm
Pig War by Drew Crowther
The Samurai’s Daughter by Barbara Lazar

MEMOIR
WINNER
Bologna for Breakfast: A Teenager’s Convent Memory by Carol Moczygemba

FINALISTS
The Missing Sip by Lisa Doggett
Malfeasance by Phil Ribera
The Road to the Perfect Game by Ron Seybold

MIDDLE GRADE
WINNER
Cooking Up a Catastrophe by Lori J. Sawicki

FINALISTS
Laurel Leblanc, Future Gazillionaire by Bridgette Booth
One Dog Speaks...The Tale of William Shakestail by Helen Jameson
Shadow Spinners by Kelly Schierman

MYSTERY
WINNER
In Her Skin by Alex Kiester

FINALISTS
The Best Offense by Julie Ann Candoli
Taboo by Erica Hurtak
The Body Next Door by Gay Yellen

ROMANCE
WINNER
Three Lessons in Seduction by Tracy Johnston

FINALISTS
Dancing with the Butler by Laila Lamarr
PSI, INC.: Game of Reckoning by Deborah Solice
What Remains Behind by Rodney Walther

SCIENCE-FICTION/FANTASY
WINNER
The Copper Curse by J. Rae Moore

FINALISTS
The Ugly Man by Melissa Embry
String Theory by Travis Hightower
Prayers for an Illegitimate God by Isabella Ides
The Cat, the Crow and the Grimoire by Marilyn Rucker

THRILLER/ACTION-ADVENTURE
WINNER
The Ugly Man by Melissa Embry

FINALISTS
Bound by Erica Hurtak
The Domino Effect by Donna Joppie
Jump Off by S.C. Perkins
Kerosene by James Wade

YOUNG ADULT
WINNER
The Darkest Place by Kim O’Brien

FINALISTS
The Healing by Robin Cranney
Butterfly Lies by Mary Ann Loesch
Damaged Goods by Flor Salcedo
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The Mayor’s Book Club is a citywide reading campaign that fosters a shared community experience through reading and discussion of the year’s book selection.

Badgerdog Creative Writing Workshops bring professional writers into libraries, schools, and community spaces to lead workshops with people of all ages and skill levels and provides opportunities for publication. Workshops include spring break and summer camp programs for youth, school-based programs, and adult programs held in library branches.

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Dan Flavin Installation at Richmond Hall, The Menil Collection, Houston, photo by J. Griffis Smith/TxDOT

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You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your membership with additional details for accessing the website and joining our mailing list.
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