AGENTS & EDITORS CONFERENCE
CRAFT • BUSINESS • COMMUNITY
JUNE 28-30
AUSTIN TEXAS
On behalf of everyone here at the Writers’ League of Texas, welcome to the 26th annual Agents & Editors Conference.

The other day I was talking with a local writer and friend who said, “Writers write. Authors revise.” It’s a pithy quote and, of course, a generalization. The East Texas master of horror and crime Joe R. Lansdale has said he doesn’t revise at all; he just makes sure each page is right before he moves on to the next. But my friend’s point stands, I think. Being an author means committing to writing for the long haul, not just when inspiration strikes.

That’s why you’re here. You’ve done the work on your manuscript—and continue to do the work—and now you want to move to the next stage: publication. As with writing, publishing is best measured in the long term. It takes time to find an agent, to revise the manuscript, to make the sale to a publishing house, to revise again for your editor, for the book to be printed and arrive on shelves, for it to find its way to readers, and for the next book to be written and sold and the entire process to happen all over again.

There’s also an element of unpredictability involved. The author Tayari Jones recently wrote about how her first three novels made little or no money—and then she received a call from Oprah telling her that her fourth novel *An American Marriage* would be part of the Oprah Book Club. When she went to cash her first royalty check, she said she felt shy about it and needed to explain herself. Afterward, all the tellers clapped.

A lot of times, success is more modest. Regardless, you keep writing and sending your work out. At this conference, you’ll meet authors who’ve had every sort of publishing luck, and we hope you’ll spend some time talking to them about their experience. You’ll also hear from agents, editors, and other publishing professionals working to find, refine, and publish the best books they can. And you’ll meet fellow writers at the same point at the process as you. Maybe one or two of them will become the people you meet up with to talk about writing, like my friend and I. Everyone’s in it for the long haul, working book by book to build a writing career.

I encourage you to spend the next three days talking to everyone you can, taking lots of notes, asking questions, buying books, and building your writing community.

Michael Noll
Program Director

Please join us in congratulating the 2019 Writers’ League of Texas Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists, many of whom are joining us here this weekend.
You’ll be able to spot them by the blue ribbons they’re wearing.
See page 24 for the complete list.
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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

is a statewide nonprofit that supports writers, both published and not yet published, across Texas and beyond. With more than 1400 members and counting, our programming includes in-person and online classes, a summer writing retreat, Project WISE (presentations in public schools), Texas Writes (workshops in rural libraries), and free events across the state throughout the year. For more information, visit the WLT’s website at www.writersleague.org.

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For their generous support of our programming, the Writers’ League of Texas would also like to thank

Cover design: Anne Stevenson
Meet the Editors

Michael Barron
Melville House

Michael Barron is a book editor at the independent publisher Melville House and was previously an associate editor at New Directions Publishing. In his capacity as editor, he has worked with authors such as Rachel Kushner, Rivka Galchen, Hanif Abdurraqib, Hampton Fancher, and others. As a writer and critic, Barron has written for Harper’s, Bookforum, frieze and Vice among other publications. For the website Culture Trip, Barron assembled the world’s first complete global anthology, which included a short story from every country in the world.

Sara Goodman
Wednesday Books

Sara Goodman began her career in 2001 as a junior agent at the Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd. literary agency, then moved over to St. Martin’s Press in 2007 to start fresh as an editorial assistant when she realized being an agent was not her calling. In the course of her career, she has edited Rainbow Rowell, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Eleanor & Park, and Courtney Summers, the New York Times bestselling author of Sadie. She edited the anthologies My True Love Gave To Me and Summer Days and Summer Nights with bestselling author Stephanie Perkins, in addition to editing the co-authored novel by David Levithan & Nina LaCour, You Know Me Well. She also published I Hate Everyone But You by YouTube sensations Gaby Dunn and Allison Raskin.

Finding Your Way Around the Hyatt Regency

All breakout rooms are on the first and second floors in the main part of the hotel. The consultations and pitch lab are on the 17th floor. Friday’s Welcome Reception is in the Zilker Ballroom, on the first floor of the Zilker wing near the parking garage. All other luncheons and general sessions are in the Texas Ballroom on the second floor.

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

Meet the Agents

Lauren E. Abramo  
**Dystel, Goderich & Bourret**

Lauren E. Abramo joined Dystel, Goderich & Bourret in 2005. As VP and subrights director, she maintains a small client list and sells foreign and audio rights for the agency. Her interests include humorous middle grade, contemporary young adult, and upmarket commercial fiction and well-paced literary fiction on the adult side. She’s also interested in nonfiction, especially pop culture, psychology, pop science, reportage, media, and contemporary culture. Her list has a strong focus on books that engage in some way with social justice. In all categories she’s especially seeking authors from marginalized communities traditionally underrepresented in publishing.

Reiko Davis  
**DeFiore & Company Literary Management**

Before joining DeFiore in early 2016, Reiko Davis was an associate agent at Miriam Altshuler Literary Agency for four years. She grew up in Kansas City, received her BA in Comparative Literature and Art History from Brown University, and is a graduate of the Columbia Publishing Course. She represents literary fiction, narrative nonfiction, and middle grade and young adult fiction. She is especially seeking books by underrepresented voices, including writers of color, immigrants, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. She loves books that aren’t afraid to tackle big questions or important emotional truths, and do so through remarkable storytelling.

Jennie Dunham  
**Dunham Literary, Inc.**

Jennie Dunham has been a literary agent in New York since May 1992. In August 2000 she founded Dunham Literary, Inc. She represents literary fiction and nonfiction for adults and children. Her clients have had both critical and commercial success. Books she has represented have appeared on the New York Times bestsellers list in adult hardcover fiction, children’s books, and children’s book series. Her clients have won numerous awards including: New York Times Best Illustrated Book, The Schneider Family Award, Boston Globe Horn Book Honor, and Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist. She is a member of the Association of Authors Representatives and SCBWI.

Melissa Edwards  
**Stonesong**

Melissa Edwards joined Stonesong as a literary agent in 2016. Previously, she was a literary agent at the Aaron Priest Literary Agency, where she managed the foreign rights for a 40-year backlist. Melissa began her career as a litigation attorney before transitioning into publishing. She is a tireless advocate for her clients and a constant partner during the publication process and beyond. Melissa represents authors of children’s fiction, adult commercial fiction, and select pop-culture nonfiction. She is looking for warm and timeless middle grade fiction and accessible young adult fiction. For adults, she is looking for fast-paced thrillers and smart women’s fiction.

Jessica Errera  
**Jane Rotrosen Agency**

Jessica Errera has been with JRA since 2014. She is looking for commercial women’s fiction with a fresh and fun hook, all genres of YA (especially diverse stories), contemporary romance, mysteries and suspense, the occasional historical fiction, and anything that might be read in a day on the beach. Jessica is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she spent four years cheering on the Tar Heels and a few fantastic months interning with Algonquin Books.

Serene Hakim  
**Ayesha Pande Literary**

Serene Hakim has been with Ayesha Pande Literary since 2015. A child of immigrants, she grew up straddling cultures and languages. She is looking for both adult fiction and nonfiction as well as young adult (all genres) with international themes or a focus on LGBTQ+, feminist issues and underrepresented/marginalized voices. She is especially interested in stories dealing with the Middle East and is specifically looking for writing that explores meanings of identity, home, family and parenthood/motherhood. Forthcoming projects include Kristen Arnett’s debut novel *Mostly Dead Things*.
Meet the Agents

**Tricia Lawrence**
*Erin Murphy Literary Agency*

Tricia Lawrence is the Pacific Northwest branch of EMLA, born and raised in Oregon, and now lives in Seattle. After 22 years of working as a developmental and production-based editor (from kids books to college textbooks, but mostly college textbooks), she joined the EMLA team in 2011 as a social media strategist. As an agent, Tricia represents picture books/chapter books that look at the world in a unique and unusual way, with characters that are alive both on and off the page, and middle grade and young adult fiction and nonfiction that offers strong worldbuilding, wounded narrators, and stories that grab a reader and won’t let go.

**Kelli Martin**
*Wendy Sherman Associates*

Kelli Martin has worked in book publishing for twenty years. She started at Simon & Schuster and rose up the editorial ladder at HarperCollins, Harlequin, and Amazon Publishing. At Amazon Publishing, Kelli was the launch editor and public face of Montlake Romance and executive editor at Lake Union (the general fiction imprint). Now as a literary agent, Kelli is passionate about signing authors in contemporary romance, romantic suspense, women’s fiction, domestic suspense and psychological thrillers. For Kelli, guiding writers, perfecting manuscripts and building a list of beloved books that satisfy publishing houses and readers are the loves of her life.

**Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts**
*Hannigan Salky Getzler Agency*

Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts joined Hannigan Salky Getzler in 2017, where she represents a list of literary fiction and nonfiction, as well as select middle-grade and YA. She began her career in the editorial department at MacAdam/Cage, an independent publisher based in San Francisco. Previously at Writers House, she has worked as a literary scout and was an agent and rights director at the Susan Golomb Literary Agency. She is always on the lookout for new voices and seeks to be a passionate advocate for her clients.

**Kim Lionetti**
*BookEnds Literary*

Kim Lionetti is a senior literary agent at BookEnds. Having started her twenty-five-year career in the industry as an editor at Berkley Publishing, she enjoys helping authors shape their works into books their readers will love. Kim’s client list includes women’s fiction, suspense, young adult and romance, and she’s looking for new talent in all of these genres, but she’s especially eager to represent more diverse voices. As an autism mom, she’s most passionate about stories featuring neurodiverse characters, and those with special needs.

**Alison Lewis**
*Zoe Pagnamenta Agency*

Alison Lewis is a literary agent at the Zoe Pagnamenta Agency, where she represents narrative nonfiction, cultural criticism, history, science, literary fiction, and memoir. A Colorado native and graduate of Middlebury College, she worked in editorial at W. W. Norton & Company before joining the agency in 2016. She is also editor of the literary magazine *American Chordata*.

**Rayhané Sanders**
*Massie & McQuilkin Literary Agents*

Rayhané Sanders is a literary agent and an independent book editor with over 10 years of industry experience. She began her career at *Newsweek Magazine*, before moving to book publishing, working for Penguin’s Dutton and Gotham Books and then for William Morris Endeavor. She represents literary, historical, and upmarket book club fiction; narrative nonfiction; and memoir. Her clients include bestselling, award-winning authors Lidia Yuknavitch, Janet Beard, Devin Murphy, Jonathan Weisman, Margaret Malone, and others.
DongWon Song  
Howard Morhaim Literary Agency

DongWon Song is an agent at Howard Morhaim Literary Agency representing science fiction and fantasy for adults, young adult, and middle grade readers as well as select nonfiction. He was formerly an editor at Orbit and a product manager for the ebook startup, Zola Books, and has taught as an adjunct instructor in the publishing program at Portland State University.

Marya Spence  
Jankow & Nesbit Literary Agency

Raised in California’s Bay Area, Marya Spence studied literature at Harvard, where she was fiction editor for the Advocate and specialized in creative writing. She got her MFA in Fiction at New York University, where she also taught, and has worked at The New Yorker, PAPER Mag, Travel & Leisure, Vanity Fair, Publishers Weekly, METROPOLIS Magazine, and more. As someone who values craft from the writer’s perspective, Marya represents a diverse range in fiction and nonfiction, including, but not limited to, literary novels and collections, cultural criticism and voice-driven essays, narrative journalism with a humorous or critical edge, and pop culture.

Paul Stevens  
Donald Maass Literary Agency

Paul Stevens has been an agent with the Donald Maass Literary Agency since 2016. Before joining DMLA, he worked as an editor at Tor Books for 15 years focusing on science fiction and fantasy. Paul is primarily looking to represent science fiction/fantasy for adults, but he also will consider other genres such as mystery and suspense if they have science fiction/fantasy elements. His clients include Kel Kade, Jeremy Finley, Dan Koboldt, Leanna Renee Hieber, and Sean Grigsby.

Saba Sulaiman  
Talcott Notch Literary Agency

Saba Sulaiman joined Talcott Notch Literary after working as an editorial intern at Sourcebooks, where she worked primarily on their romance line. She’s looking to build her middle grade and young adult lists and is particularly (although not exclusively) interested in contemporary realistic stories. She’s also open to category romance (all subgenres except paranormal), literary, upmarket, and commercial fiction, tightly plotted, character-driven psychological thrillers, cozy mysteries ala Agatha Christie, and memoir.

Kristin van Ogtrop  
InkWell Management

Kristin van Ogtrop is the former editor-in-chief of Real Simple and an agent at Inkwell Management. Under her stewardship, Real Simple became the #1 American women’s lifestyle magazine brand with a print and digital reach of 25 million, and in 2014, she was named by Fortune as one of the “55 Most Influential Women on Twitter.” A longtime magazine journalist, Kristin has worked at Vogue, Glamour, Premiere and Travel and Leisure, contributed to the New York Times bestseller The Bitch in the House and is the author of Just Let Me Lie Down, published by Little, Brown. As an agent, she represents lifestyle, essays, memoir, humor and fiction (both literary and commercial).

Cindy Uh  
Thompson Literary Agency

After practicing law for six years, Cindy Uh got her start in publishing as an intern at Einstein Thompson Agency before joining TLA in 2015. Cindy is excited to continue developing talent in both adult nonfiction and children’s fiction and nonfiction with an emphasis on compelling stories, distinct voices, and diversity (of all types). Her clients include New York Times bestsellers Mari Andrew, Cecile Richards and Lauren Peterson, as well as Bridget Beth Collins, Kimothy Pikor, Brent Preston, Kristin Russell, Shelly Westerhausen, Timothy Pakron, and Gautam Raghavan.
Meet the Agents

Kent D. Wolf
The Friedrich Agency

Kent D. Wolf is an agent with The Friedrich Agency, representing literary fiction and narrative nonfiction—from novels to story collections to immersive journalism to personal essays. His clients include National Book Award for Fiction Finalist Carmen Maria Machado, New York Times bestselling essayist Samantha Irby, Barnes & Noble Discover novelist Ingrid Rojas Contreras, and New York Times Notable novelist Martin Seay, among others.

Meet the Presenters

Eugene Fischer is a science fiction and fantasy author with an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. While at Iowa he created Writing and Reading Science Fiction, the University’s first creative science fiction course for undergraduates. Since moving to Texas he has continued to teach, leading workshops at conventions and designing classes for local organizations. His fiction has won the James Tiptree, Jr. Literary Award and been a finalist for the Nebula Award and Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award. He is currently developing a science fiction series for Amazon Prime Studios.

Britta Jensen’s debut novel Eloia Born was long-listed for the 2016 Exeter Novel Prize. The sequel, Hirana Bound releases in early summer 2020. Her stories have been shortlisted for the 2017 Henshaw Press and Fiction Factory prizes and she was published in the following anthologies: Stories for Homes, volume 2 and Sakura Dreams. Britta’s plays have been performed in New York City, Japan and South Korea. She holds a BA in Acting Performance from Fordham University and an MA in Teaching of English Literature from Columbia University and has taught in schools and therapeutic settings for fifteen years.

Tex Thompson is an instructor for the Writers Path at SMU and the author of the internationally-published Children of the Drought series. She is also the founder and ‘chief instigator’ for WORD—Writers Organizations ‘Round Dallas. When she’s not leading the charge at home in Dallas, Tex speaks to conferences, conventions, and workshops all over the country.

Jessica Wilbanks is the author of When I Spoke in Tongues, a memoir about faith and its loss. She has received a Pushcart Prize as well as creative nonfiction awards from Ninth Letter, Sycamore Review, Redivider, and Ruminate magazine. Her essays have received Notable Mentions in Best American Essays and Best American Nonrequired Reading, and she was selected as a finalist for the PEN annual Literary Award in Journalism. Jessica received her MFA in creative nonfiction from the University of Houston, where she served as nonfiction editor for Gulf Coast.

Nichole Williamson is the Lead Brand Strategist at Zilker Media. She assists in assessing client’s current branding infrastructure, developing digital strategy and building and managing their online presence. Nichole has created the digital strategies for thought leaders, authors, real estate agents and local brands seeking to grow their online footprint. Her Pinterest marketing tips for real estate agents was recognized by Fit Small Business. She is also certified in the social media management platform Sprout Social and in Google Analytics.

Who’s Who Complete bios for our visiting agents, editors and presenters are available at the 2019 A&E Conference page at the Writers’ League of Texas website.
Meet the Exhibitors

Visit our exhibitors throughout the weekend to learn about great opportunities and services.

**Austin Community College Creative Writing Department**
A two-year degree program open to all writers in multiple genres; online and face-to-face.
[ Austincc.edu/crw ]

**Blue Cubicle Press**
Blue Cubicle Press, home of the award-winning and internationally recognized literary journals *Workers Write!* and *The First Line*, is dedicated to giving voice to writers who realize their words may never pay the mortgage but who are too stubborn to stop trying. We’re here to support artists trapped in the daily grind.
[ Bluecubiclepress.com ]

**BookPeople**
The largest independent bookstore in Texas, offering books on writing and getting published as well as books by conference panelists, presenters and keynotes.
[ Bookpeople.com ]

**Bouchercon 2019**
The world’s largest mystery novel fan convention 50th anniversary – The Anthony Awards, panels, exciting guests of honor and more.
[ Bouchercon2019.com ]

**First Look Literary Ladies**
Sharon and Ann critique your first few pages and also offer workshops and short ebooks on all aspects of writing.
[ Firstlookliteraryladies.com ]

**Kallisto Gaia Press, Inc.**
A 501(c)3 literary nonprofit, home of *The Ocotillo Review* & the Texas Poetry Calendar.
[ Kallistogaiapress.org ]

**Word Nerd Crafts**
Hand-crafted, unique literary-themed crafts, such as Scrabble Tile earrings, upcycled journals, and tote bags.
[ Wordnerdcrafts.com ]

**Writers in the Field**
A hands-on, gloves-off, first-of-its-kind research experience for writers.
[ Writersinthefield.com ]

**The Writer’s Workshop**
Full Spectrum edits: development, substantive-line, copy editing, Query writing-review. Blurbs, summaries—all you need to polish, submit, and publish. References from traditional, indie, and self-pub authors.
[ Workshopwriter.com ]

**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 ]

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A Big Thank You to Jana’ Cornett and Candee Edwards and their outstanding group of timers for the one-on-one consultations: Stephan Baley, Joan Barton, Tiffo Carmichael, Hailey Clement, Amelie Corner, Linda Crume, John Edwards, Terry Freeman, Molly Guzzino, Tiffany Harelik, Stacee Harris, Caleb Heine, Heather Holland, Alexander Lewis, Sherry Lowry, Bernadette Nason, Joe O’Connell, Barbra Rodriguez, Thomas Ryfield, Tammi Schissler, Jessica Soukup, Kerry Stevens, Anne Stoll
Conference Sessions

Friday, June 28

11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Pick up your badge and conference materials when you arrive on Friday. Saturday Keynote Luncheon tickets can be purchased ($55 on-site), subject to availability. Big Bend A-C (first floor)

11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Big Bend and Hill Country foyers (first floor)

1:00 to 3:15 p.m.
GENRE SESSIONS
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 I & II (17th floor)

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
WELCOME RECEPTION
Join WLT staff and conference faculty to kick off the conference with snacks and refreshments (plus a cash bar), socializing, Typewriter Rodeo, and Typewriter Tarot. Zilker Ballrooms 3–4

Saturday, June 29

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Pick up your badge and conference materials. Saturday Keynote Luncheon tickets can be purchased ($55 on-site), subject to availability. Texas Foyer (second floor)

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST
Get your day started right with coffee, baked treats, and other refreshments. Meet fellow writers in your genre at designated tables. Texas Ballroom (second floor)

8:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Texas Foyer (second floor)

FRIDAY GENRE SESSIONS
Join fellow writers in your genre to learn tips for pitching projects successfully from published authors and industry professionals.

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 Becka Oliver and John Pipkin. Hill Country A&B

SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY  Recommended for attendees writing novels for the Sci-Fi or Fantasy markets. Led by Sukyi McMahon and Tex Thompson. Hill Country C

PICTURE BOOK / MIDDLE GRADE / YOUNG ADULT  Recommended for attendees writing books for young readers. Led by Mari Mancusi and Leila Sales. Hill Country D

NONFICTION  Recommended for attendees writing general nonfiction, narrative or practical, NOT memoir. Led by Cristin O’Keefe Aptowicz and Josh Frank. Big Bend D

2:15 to 3:15 p.m.
MEMOIR  Recommended for attendees writing memoir or personal stories. Led by Juli Berwald and Jessica Lamb Shapiro. Hill Country A&B

MYSTERY / THRILLER  Recommended for attendees writing novels that include mystery, thriller or suspense elements. Led by Meg Gardiner and Walt Gragg. Hill Country C

HISTORICAL FICTION  Recommended for attendees writing novels with historical settings. Led by James L. Haley and Patrice Sarath. Hill Country D

ROMANCE  Recommended for attendees writing love stories, whether category romance or women’s fiction. Led by Katie Golding and Julia London. Big Bend D
Saturday, June 29

Opening Session

Featuring Editorial Director at St. Martin’s Paperbacks and Executive Editor at St. Martin’s Press
Monique Patterson

In her eighteen years at St. Martin’s Press, Monique Patterson has published countless *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning authors. Some of her authors include co-founder of Black Lives Matter, Patrisse Khan-Cullors, and award-winning author asha bandele (*When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*), National Book Award Winner Jeff Chang (*Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation and Who We Be: A Cultural History of Race in Post-Civil Rights America*), #1 *New York Times* bestsellers PC and Kristin Cast (*Moon Chosen & The Dysasters*), *New York Times* bestselling husband and wife writing duo, Ashley and JaQuavis Coleman (*The Cartel series*) and award-winning author Sarah Bird (*Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen*). Monique is a member of the Macmillan Diversity and Inclusion Council.

9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Texas Ballroom

10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
BREAK

Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)
Saturday, June 29

Keynote Luncheon

“Wind in a Bucket: The Pleasures of Writers’ Lives”

Featuring Award-Winning Poet

Naomi Shihab Nye

Naomi Shihab Nye is the author of numerous books of poems, including *Transfer, You and Yours*, and *Fuel* and several books of poetry and fiction for children. She has been honored by the International Poetry Forum and the Texas Institute of Letters and won the Carity Randall Prize and the Academy of American Poets’ Lavan Award, judged by W. S. Merwin. She has been a Lannan Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a Witter Bynner Fellow, and served as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 2010 to 2015. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a Palestinian father and an American mother. During her high school years, she lived in Ramallah in Palestine, the Old City in Jerusalem, and San Antonio, Texas.

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Texas Ballroom

Sponsored by Thompson & Knight Foundation

Advance registration required and includes lunch and a complimentary copy of Naomi Shihab Nye’s book *Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners*. Naomi will sign books after her keynote.

Conference Sessions

11:00 to 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.

Texas Foyer (second floor)

11:15 a.m. to 12 noon

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Before You Sign: Questions to Ask an Agent**

Panelists: Reiko Davis, Melissa Edwards, Kelli Martin | Moderator: Rachel Engelman

Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**Getting Noticed: Pitch Wars and Twitter Pitch Events**

Panelists: Lauren E. Abramo, Jessica Errera, Maria Frazer, Amy Gentry | Moderator: Nettie Reynolds

Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**Connecting Character and Setting in Compelling Fictional Worlds**

Panelists: Sarah Bird, Edward Carey, Bridget Farr, DongWon Song | Moderator: Allison Grace Myers

Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**Anatomy of a Deal: Two Literary Novels**

Panelists: Heather Harper Ellett, Fernando Flores, Jason Pinter, Soumeya Bendirimad Roberts | Moderator: Desiree Evans

Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**Genre Close-Up: Kid Lit**

Panelists: Jason Gallaher, K.A. Holt, Tricia Lawrence, Saba Sulaiman | Moderator: Salima Alikhan

Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)
2:00 to 2:45 p.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Writing the Quiet Moments Between Plot Points
Panelists: Samantha M. Clark, Serene Hakim, Sara Kocek, Mary Helen Specht | Moderator: Amanda Scott
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

How Agents Work for Their Clients
Panelists: Reiko Davis, Alison Lewis, Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts | Moderator: Richard Santos
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

Building Your Platform as a Nonfiction Writer
Panelists: Colleen Devine Ellis, Anne Keene, Kristin van Ogtrop | Moderator: Wendi Aarons
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

Anatomy of a Deal: Two Suspense Novels
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

Genre Close-Up: Science Fiction/Fantasy
Panelists: Stina Leicht, DongWon Song, Paul Stevens, Barbara Ann Wright | Moderator: David Afsharirad
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

2:45 to 3:00 p.m.
BREAK

Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

Saturday, June 29
Evening Keynote

Featuring #1 *New York Times* bestseller
Tom Hart

Tom Hart is the author of *The Art of the Graphic Memoir: Tell Your Story, Change Your Life* and the *New York Times* #1 bestselling memoir *Rosalie Lightning*, which has been translated into French, Italian, Portuguese and Chinese, was featured on many “best of 2016” lists, and was nominated for two Eisner Awards. He is also the creator of the Hutch Owen series of graphic novels and books, including *The Collected Hutch Owen*, which was nominated for best graphic novel in 2000. He was a core instructor at New York City’s School of Visual Arts for 10 years, teaching cartooning to undergraduates, working adults, and teens. He currently lives in Gainesville, Florida, and runs the Sequential Artists Workshop.

5:00 p.m.
Texas Ballroom
Sponsored by The Library Foundation
Admission included with conference registration. General seating with cash bar. Attendees will receive a copy of Tom Hart’s book *The Art of the Graphic Memoir: Tell Your Story, Change Your Life*. Tom will sign copies after his keynote.

*Tom Hart is the author of The Art of the Graphic Memoir: Tell Your Story, Change Your Life and the New York Times #1 bestselling memoir Rosalie Lightning, which has been translated into French, Italian, Portuguese and Chinese, was featured on many “best of 2016” lists, and was nominated for two Eisner Awards. He is also the creator of the Hutch Owen series of graphic novels and books, including The Collected Hutch Owen, which was nominated for best graphic novel in 2000. He was a core instructor at New York City’s School of Visual Arts for 10 years, teaching cartooning to undergraduates, working adults, and teens. He currently lives in Gainesville, Florida, and runs the Sequential Artists Workshop. Tom will sign copies after his keynote.*
Conference Sessions

3:00 to 3:45 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Finding Your Book’s Best Ending**
Panelists: Jill Meyers, Rayhané Sanders, Marya Spence, Brian Van Reet | Moderator: A.R. Rogers
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**Revving Up Your Plot’s Engine**
Panelists: Patrice Caldwell, Jennifer Donaldson, Jennie Dunham, Owen Egerton | Moderator: Levis Keltner
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**Thrills and Challenges of the Debut Book**
Panelists: Robert Ashcroft, Kendra Fortmeyer, Brittani Sonnenberg | Moderator: Vanessa Lee
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**Why I Represented and Bought These Books**
Panelists: Michael Barron, Melissa Edwards, Kent D. Wolf | Moderator: Jenny Fleming
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**Discovering Your Book’s Voice, Tone, and Style**
Panelists: Christopher Brown, Mark Dery, Charlotte Gullick | Moderator: Benjamin Reed
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

3:45 to 4:00 p.m.

**BREAK**
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Genre Close-Up: Memoir**
Panelists: Rayhané Sanders, Jessica Lamb Shapiro, Rachel Starnes | Moderator: Rachel Spies
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**Self-Promotion for Authors: Self, Indie, and Big-House Published**
Panelists: Josh Frank, Serene Hakim, Isobella Jade, Cindy Uh | Moderator: Melinda Rothouse
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**Revision: Is It Done or Are You Just Exhausted?**
Panelists: Tom Hart, Leila Sales, Chaitali Sen, Jessica Wilbanks | Moderator: Bradley P. Wilson
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**Inside a Publishing House: How Decisions are Made**
Panelists: Michael Barron, Sara Goodman, Monique Patterson | Moderator: Samantha M. Clark
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**Genre Close-Up: Mystery/Thriller**
Panelists: Lauren E. Abramo, May Cobb, Scott Van Doviak | Moderator: Robert Ashcroft
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)
Sunday, June 30
7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST
Get your day started right with coffee, baked treats, and other refreshments. Meet fellow writers in your genre in the ballroom.
Texas Ballroom (second floor)

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Texas Foyer (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 10:15 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Creating a YA Character to Fall in Love With
with Tricia Lawrence | Emcee: Maya Perez
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

Traditional Publishing by the Numbers: The Financial Side of Books
with Paul Stevens | Emcee: Kate Caldwell
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

Building a Powerful Narrative Presence in Your Memoir
with Jessica Wilbanks | Emcee: Jedah Mayberry
Texas 5 (second floor)

The Seven Deadly First Page Sins
with Tex Thompson | Emcee: Melanie Westerberg
Texas 6&7 (second floor)

10:15 to 10:45 a.m.
BREAK
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

10:45 to 11:45 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
It’s a Mystery: Writing and Publishing Crime Fiction
with Jason Pinter | Emcee: Maya Perez
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

Digital Marketing for Writers
with Nichole Williamson | Emcee: Kate Caldwell
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

Publishing Is a Marathon: Building Endurance as an Author Business
with Britta Jensen | Emcee: Jedah Mayberry
Texas 5 (second floor)

Genre Definitions That Are Useful to Authors
with E. J. Fischer | Emcee: Melanie Westerberg
Texas 6&7 (second floor)

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.
CLOSING LUNCHEON
Join us for a final meal, closing remarks, and a conversation between Writers’ League Program Director Michael Noll and Texas Book Festival Literary Director Julie Wernersbach, plus special guests.
Advance registration required.
Texas Ballroom (second floor)
Consultation Fast Facts

Where
All consultations will be held in Foothills I & II on the 17th floor of the Hyatt. Only one elevator goes to the 17th floor. The others take you to the 16th floor. From there you can take the stairs up one flight to the Foothills lobby.

Scheduling
If you purchased consultations with an agent or editor in advance of the conference, you received an email notice with the date and time of your appointment(s) and the name(s) of the agent(s) or editor(s) you're meeting with. If you did not receive this information, please come see a staff person at the WLT Information Desk.

Checking In
Please check in at the Consultations Desk in the Foothills lobby on the 17th floor no earlier than 15 minutes before your appointment is scheduled to start. IMPORTANT: If you are late and miss your consultation, you will NOT be given another appointment.

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. One exception: If your project is a picture book, feel free to bring a copy of the manuscript to your appointment in case the agent or editor asks to see it.

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 on Friday 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 and much quicker than in your one-on-one consultation.

Support
Our panelists, presenters, and speakers (and find your next favorite book) by visiting the BookPeople table in the exhibitor area.
TIPS FOR CHATTING WITH AGENTS AND EDITORS: Be respectful of their time and the time of your fellow conference attendees. Keep your pitches short (we recommend one minute maximum). If someone says, “Yes, send it,” quit while you’re ahead! Say thank you, ask how they’d like it sent, and then excuse yourself.

Please remember that agents and editors have been listening to pitches all day (in a setting where they’re able to really listen and consider what you’re saying and give feedback). Do not go into the rest of the conference events expecting the same personal time and feedback. A great use of post-panel interludes and general sessions is to ask questions about the industry, what agents/editors like to see in queries and submissions, and recent books they have loved. Try to include multiple people in the conversation rather than talking with them one-on-one. After listening to someone for a few minutes, move on to another conversation. Keep a running list of who you’ve talked to and what they said; after the conference, follow up with a query (if they seem like a potentially good match) that references their remarks.

BE WILLING to talk to agents and editors who aren’t on your “must meet” list. Paths to publication are rarely neat and direct. Editors especially will be a great gauge of what ideas and stories the marketplace is looking for. You can also ask them how they acquire projects and what happens after a project is acquired.

DON’T FORGET that you will also be surrounded by more than 70 published authors who have won awards, sold thousands of books, and been in your shoes, trying to get published. There will also be marketers, publicists, booksellers, and other publishing professionals. Say hello, ask questions, and pick their brains. Take every chance to make connections and build knowledge that can serve you throughout your 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.

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 moderators, panelists, and the other conference attendees. You never know who the person next to you might be.

Be “book sociable.” At the receptions, chat with agents, editors, and authors about the thing that brings us together: books. Take this opportunity to learn about a book you should check out or connect with someone about a book you both love.

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.

VERY IMPORTANT: 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 WLT Information 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 Information 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 daily. Valet parking is NOT discounted.

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

Dining

Restaurants near the hotel:

- **Aussie’s Bar & Grill**, 306 Barton Springs Rd. Burgers, beer, and beach volleyball.
- **Bennu Coffee**, 515 S. Congress Ave. Fair-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!
- **Hotel San Jose**, 1316 S Congress Ave. Popular bar/lounge with outdoor seating.
- **Lucy’s Fried Chicken**, 2218 College Ave. Upscale versions of Southern staples, with a deck & patio.
- **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.
- **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 Avenue and you’ll be in the heart of funky shopping, more great restaurants, and live music.

Looking for alternative transportation? Austin is chockfull of alternative transportation options. You can ride share with Lyft and Uber, or hop on one of the many scooters or bicycles found throughout the South Congress and downtown areas.

About the Hyatt Regency Austin

ATM  An automated teller machine is in the hotel lobby near Starbuck’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 $21 per day or $34 overnight (discounts do not apply). For details, see “Parking.”

Restaurants and Bars

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

SWB/Southwest Bistro  
(second floor)
Breakfast buffet: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
A La Carte Breakfast: 6 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Marker 10 Spirits & Cuisine Bar  
(first floor)
Friday–Saturday 12 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Happy Hour: Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.
Anti-Harassment Policy

The Writers’ League of Texas is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race, age, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment in any form.

The WLT’s Anti-Harassment Policy in its entirety was shared with all conference registrants ahead of the event, can be found on the conference pages of the website, and copies are available at the WLT Information Desk on request.

Conference participants violating the Anti-Harassment Policy may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organizers.

We’d Love to Hear Your Thoughts

We’ll be sending you a survey shortly after the conclusion of the conference. Please take a few minutes to send us your honest feedback. This information will help us as we turn our attention to the 2020 A&E Conference. And, of course, you can also send us a separate note to conference@writersleague.org, or give us a call at 512-499-8914.

Follow us on Twitter @writersleague Share your tweets as #WLTCon2019 Like us at facebook.com/WritersLeagueOfTexas.
We’d Love to Hear Your Thoughts

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Finalists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adult</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>Icarus Flight School</em> by Krissi Dallas*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>Off Edge</em> by Carol Barreyre, <em>The Ascenditure</em> by R.S. Dabney, <em>Revolutionary Spirits</em> by Matthew LaWall-Shane, <em>Sugarcoated</em> by Melody Robinette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical Fiction</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>Far Away Bird</em> by Douglas Burton*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>The Invisible Prisoner</em> by Erica Hairston, <em>Feevah</em> by Brenda Hummel, <em>Revolutionary Spirits</em> by Matthew LaWall-Shane, <em>Valadon: A Girl from Montmartre</em> by Terri Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science Fiction/Fantasy</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>When Marisol Goes Home</em> by Susan San Miguel*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>Star Crossed</em> by Dwayne Goetzel, <em>Mind's Construction</em> by Matthew LaWall-Shane, <em>Pharmacide</em> by Elizabeth Steiner, <em>The Ballad Panacea</em> by Marcus Tyler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mystery</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>Cue the Corpse</em> by Karen Duxbury*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>Grave Promise</em> by Lisanne Davidson, <em>An Instant Out of Time</em> by Lori Roberts Herbst, <em>Hollywood Down Low</em> by Leigh Paulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Romance</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>Love Fronts</em> by Connie Estes Beale*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>Cartel Cover</em> by Risa Leigh, <em>Flirty Romancing</em> by Mary Ann Loesch, <em>What Remains Behind</em> by Rodney Walther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thriller/Action Adventure</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>Not for Sale</em> by James Peyton*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>Malt U.S. Cola</em> by Dwayne Goetzel, <em>Pharmacide</em> by Elizabeth Steiner, <em>Helpers</em> by Rick Treon, <em>Shine Your Eye</em> by Rodney Walther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Grade</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> <em>Sleep Leap</em> by Jennifer Voigt Kaplan*</td>
<td><em>Finalists</em> <em>Lockjaw</em> by Robin Cox, <em>The Blue Hour</em> by Erin Liles, <em>A Night Without Light</em> by Cathey Nickell, <em>Enchanted Gulf</em> by Noah Weisz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nonfiction (General &amp; Memoir)</strong></td>
<td><em>Winner</em> (General Nonfiction) <em>Sleeping in a Sunset</em> by Laurie Paternoster</td>
<td><em>Winner</em> (Memoir) <em>House, Mississippi</em> by Ursula Pike</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                               | *Finalists* *Closure: How Solving My Sister's Murder Broke Me Open* by Theresa Bastian, *Gifts from Damascus* by Susan McDonald, *Hurts: Searching for the True Story of Canada’s Largest Indian Hospital* by Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail, *Every New Beginning* by Tiffany Parcher
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Our 2019 Keynote Speakers:

Friday

Saturday
Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize Winner

Sunday
Hampton Sides, Bestselling author of “On Desperate Ground”

Featured Speaker
Margot Lee Shetterly, Author of “Hidden Figures”
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Creative Writing at Austin Community College
The Creative Writing Department at Austin Community College provides you with the opportunity to work with published authors and industry professionals to help you with developing your creative writing skills, finding your voice, building community, and cultivating your artistic practice.

We offer instruction in a variety of styles and genres, including Digital Storytelling, Memoir for Veterans, Poetry, Prose, Playwriting, TV Writing, Memoir, Creative Nonfiction, Screenwriting, Fiction, Young Adult Fiction, Songwriting, and interdisciplinary work in the fine arts and humanities.

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Jhumpa Lahiri
Valeria Luiselli
Viet Thanh Nguyen
Tommy Orange
Gregory Pardlo
Ann Patchett
Richard Powers
Annie Proulx
Claudia Rankine
Salman Rushdie
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Amy Tan
Mario Vargas Llosa
Jesmyn Ward
Meg Wolitzer

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The Chester B. Himes Memorial Short Fiction Prize will be judged by Michael Noll. Send one story up to 4200 words. A portion of revenue will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation

Kallisto Gaia Press Inc. is home to The Ocotillo Review and the Texas Poetry Calendar. We are proud members of the CLMP (Community of Literary Magazines and Presses). For more info visit www.kallistogaiapress.org
Join WLT Today.

Being a member means finding a community, honing your craft, and having access to resources that will enrich your writing life.

But don't just take our word for it:

"The Writers' League creates a path for writers to follow their dreams."
- WLT Member since 2011

"You hear a lot about the solitary life of the writer. With this group, you are never alone."
- WLT Member since 2012

"When I'm feeling great about what I'm writing, they're there to inspire me and cheer me on. When I'm in a rut and wondering what I've gotten myself into, they're there to support and help me get back on track. There's a certain comfort I get when I go to a panel or a writing class, a feeling of belonging that's often hard to find in other groups."
- WLT Member since 2014

"WLT has opened up a whole community to me where I can talk about my craft without losing its pulse."
- WLT Member since 2015

"WLT has given me courage."
- WLT Member since 2014

"Writing is a solitary pursuit, but the business is most definitely not. The [Agents & Editors] conference taught me what it requires, but the WLT workshops and resources teach me how to go about it so that it's not quite as daunting. Knowing that there are others out there who have been and are going through the same processes and have paved the way for me is comforting."
- WLT Member since 2014
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Note: The above tuition rates are for class registration only and do not include housing and meals. All-inclusive rates can be found on our website. In addition, you’ll find rates for the Write-Away option.

View complete class descriptions and register online at writersleague.org or call (512) 499-8914.