“One of the most transformative weekends ever.”

2022 Agents & Editors Conference

A WEEKEND

June 24-26

29th Annual

by the Writers’ League of Texas
On behalf of everyone here at the Writers’ League of Texas, welcome to the 29th annual Agents & Editors Conference

We know it’s no small thing that you’ve chosen to be here, which is one of the many reasons why we’ve worked long and hard on the program you’re holding in your hands.

Over the next three days, we’ll be joined by 21 agents and editors from notable literary agencies and publishing houses, over 60 published authors and other industry professionals, close to 30 tried and true (and some new!) volunteers, 10 exhibitors ready to talk with you about how they support writers, and 250+ registrants (you!), not to mention the inimitable Jami Attenberg, our Keynote Speaker. I say all of this because I hope that when you look around this weekend you remember that this conference would not be possible without every single person in attendance. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for joining us.

So here we are. Maybe you’re here ready to pitch your work or perhaps you’re looking to learn all you can about the business of writing before diving into the query trenches. Maybe you’re here to listen to authors talk about their craft or to meet fellow writers and expand your literary community. My guess is you’re here for more than one of these reasons. No matter what boxes on the list you check off, you’ll find there’s something for you in the 40+ sessions taking place over the next three days.

If you’re ready to dive into a craft topic with two authors who have read each other’s books and are excited to share how they approach writing, make sure you make it to an “In Conversation” session.

If you want to hear from one presenter on a specific topic like sensitivity readers, or nonfiction book proposals, or even what a novelist can learn from screenwriting, add one of the five presentations in this program to your schedule.

If you want to hear firsthand from agents and editors about the industry today, what they look for in query letters and synopses, and how they approach their work with writers, you’ll definitely want to make it to one of the many panels featuring our distinguished faculty.

And if you’re hoping to build your literary community, well, pretty much every session in this program is a chance for that.

No matter what you’re looking to get out of this weekend, here’s my hope for you: I hope you’ll be adventurous and try at least one of each type of session I mentioned above. I hope you’ll step out of your comfort zone a bit and sit in on a session you might not have otherwise attended just because you’re curious about the topic. I hope that you’ll be a little vulnerable and turn to the person next to you and ask them what they’ve been reading lately. And I hope you’ll remember that, even if you’re flying solo, you’re not in this alone. Throughout these next three days, find me or another WLT staff member to say hello. Find us if you have any questions or if you want to tell us how your consultation went or share what you heard someone say on a panel. We’re here for you, truly.

I’m so glad you’re here with us this weekend and I can’t wait to see you on the other side.

Sam Babiak
Program Director
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All programs and presenters are subject to change. This project is funded and supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and 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.

We’d also like to thank Inprint and the Library Foundation for their generous support of this program.

Cover design: Anne Stevenson
Wendy Wong
Ballantine

Wendy Wong (she/her) was a food writer prior to her pivot into publishing. She worked at a small educational publishing company before joining HarperCollins, where she acquired a variety of fiction and nonfiction for Harper and Harper Business. She is currently an associate editor at Ballantine in Penguin Random House, focusing on commercial and upmarket fiction, along with narrative nonfiction in the areas of big think, memoir blended with reportage, essay collections, and cultural criticism. Themes of interest include millennial issues, complex relationship dynamics of all stripes, liminal spaces, diaspora, belonging and community, and all things food.

Harry Kirchner
Counterpoint Press

Harry Kirchner is a Contributing Editor at Counterpoint Press. His interests include literary fiction and nonfiction, mystery, memoir, and natural history. Harry spent more than thirty years as a sales representative and National Accounts Manager for Publishers Group West and Ingram Publisher Services before founding Pharos Editions and moving into the editorial side of publishing. Acquisitions include Spells by Peter Rock, Heart Berries by Terese Marie Mailhot, Nature Matrix by Robert Michael Pyle, This Town Sleeps by Dennis Staples, The Elephant of Belfast by S. Kirk Walsh, The Houseboat by Dane Bahr, and Red Paint by Sasha taqwšału LaPointe.

Meet the Editors

Finding Your Way Around the Hyatt Regency

All breakout rooms are on the first and second floors in the main part of the hotel. Agent and editor consultations are on the 17th floor. Friday’s check-in is in the Big-Bend Ballroom on the first floor and the welcome reception will take place in the Texas Ballroom on the second floor. Our exhibitor area is located in the Texas Foyer on the second floor. All Saturday and Sunday general sessions are in the Texas Ballroom on the second floor.

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


Scan this QR code for complete bios for our visiting editors
Meet the Agents

**Erica Bauman**  
**Aevitas Creative Management**  
Erica Bauman represents a wide variety of authors across middle grade, YA, and commercial adult fiction. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and has worked in the publishing industry since 2012. Erica is most interested in novels that feature an exciting premise and lyrical, atmospheric writing; imaginative, genre-blending tales; worlds filled with haunting, quietly wondrous magic; fresh retellings of mythology, ballet, opera, and classic literature; sharply funny rom-coms; graphic novels for all ages; fearless storytellers that tackle big ideas and contemporary issues; and working with and supporting marginalized authors and stories that represent the wide range of humanity.

**Jan Baumer**  
**Folio Literary Management**  
Jan Baumer started her publishing career as an editorial assistant at Ellie-Award winning magazine Budget Living and moved on to book publishing as an acquisitions editor at HarperOne, one of the world's leading spirituality, health & lifestyle publishers. In January 2019, she joined Folio Literary Management as an agent and loves marrying her editorial background with her intuition for commercial viability while helping her authors craft the perfect proposal for the market. Jan’s interests as an agent are solely nonfiction, specifically spirituality, religion, self-help, health & wellness, parenting, cookbook, memoir, and business with a spirituality or self-help angle.

**Eloy Bleifuss**  
**Janklow & Nesbit Associates**  
Eloy Bleifuss joined Janklow & Nesbit Associates in 2019 where he is cultivating a growing list of fiction and nonfiction clients. He started out in publishing at Simon & Schuster where he worked for the publishers of S&S, Touchstone, and Scribner. Eloy is seeking genre-blurring upmarket and literary fiction. He likes writing that is dark, uncanny, funny, and queer. Anything with a speculative element is a plus. A graduate of Vassar College, he hails from Chicago and now lives in Brooklyn.

**Danielle Bukowski**  
**Sterling Lord Literistic**  
Danielle Bukowski is a literary agent at Sterling Lord Literistic. Her authors have won and been finalists for major awards; published in The New Yorker; had their books translated into numerous languages; and optioned for film and TV. She is looking for fiction and select nonfiction, with an emphasis on stylish writing and fresh ideas.

**Heather Carr**  
**The Friedrich Agency**  
Heather Carr is a literary agent at The Friedrich Agency where she represents fiction and nonfiction for adults. Originally from the suburbs of Portland, OR, she now lives in Brooklyn, NY. Heather is easily enticed by literary fiction that veers toward the strange, offbeat humor, and setting as character. Her favorite nonfiction is narrative or journalistic with a knowledgeable guide who will charismatically introduce her to a topic that may initially appear intimidating. In both fiction and nonfiction, she loves to be invited into a world she may not otherwise have access to, or that has been historically sidelined.

**Victoria Dillman**  
**Howland Literary**  
Victoria Dillman is an Associate Agent at Howland Literary. Prior to Howland, she was an assistant and foreign rights associate at Sobel Weber Associates. She is most interested in adult literary/upmarket fiction and narrative and expert-driven nonfiction. She would particularly like to hear from underrepresented communities including neurodivergent, queer, and BIPOC voices. As someone who grew up internationally, Victoria is also drawn to narratives exploring transitory homes and cultures.

Scan this QR code for complete bios for our visiting agents
Meet the Agents

Caroline Eisenmann
Frances Goldin Literary Agency

Caroline Eisenmann joined the Frances Goldin Literary Agency in 2017 after spending four years at ICM Partners. In adult literary and upmarket fiction, Caroline gravitates towards novels that engage with social issues, speculative elements, ruthless narrators, and work that centers around intimacy and its discontents. In nonfiction she seeks idea-driven work driven by expansive curiosity, as well as deeply reported narratives, literary memoir, cultural criticism, and essay collections. Her areas of interest include science, technology, nature, social justice, psychology, and culture.

David Forrer
InkWell Management

David Forrer began his career in publishing in 1997 after receiving a Masters in Creative Writing (fiction) from Boston University. He has been an agent with InkWell Management since it was created in 2004. His areas of interest and representation range from literary, commercial, historical and crime fiction to suspense/thriller, humorous nonfiction and popular history.

Paloma Hernando
Einstein Literary Management

Paloma Hernando (she/her/hers) joined Einstein Literary Management as an Associate Agent in 2020. Paloma has been working in independent publishing since 2015, involved in editing, publishing, and selling mini-comics, zines, graphic novels, webcomics, and large-scale anthologies. A 2017 graduate of Maryland Institute College of Art, Paloma currently lives in Brooklyn.

Lynn Johnston
Lynn Johnston Literary


Alex Kane
WME

Alex Kane joined WME in 2017, where he has worked on New York Times bestselling nonfiction and fiction. In both genres, he is especially drawn to stories that have a strong social or political conscience. He is looking for narrative nonfiction that uncovers forgotten moments in history, insightful reporting on contemporary events, pop-culture and music journalism about immersive subcultures, “big idea” and science books by academics and experts, cultural commentary, and select memoir. He is also looking for literary fiction propelled by the use of a dynamic plot, genre elements, or a strong sense of setting and voice.

Julia Kardon
HG Literary

Julia Kardon is an agent at HG Literary. She represents literary fiction and memoir, especially stories grappling with racial, sexual or national identity, narrative nonfiction, journalism and history.
Meet the Agents

**Stefanie Molina**
*Ladderbird Literary Agency*

Stefanie Molina is an agent at Ladderbird Literary Agency. She is primarily looking for BIPOC stories across all age groups, especially contemporary fantasy, romcom, mysteries, and thrillers. She loves stories that incorporate food, animals/the outdoors, sports, and intergenerational relationships. Outside of agenting, she enjoys hiking, swimming, baking, and playing the piano. Her favorite place in the world is Yosemite National Park! You can find her on Twitter @fiction_tech.

**James Mustelier**
*The Bent Agency*

James Mustelier is looking for a range of commercial and literary fiction and nonfiction. In all genres (but particularly in literary fiction) he prizes economical prose, complex characters, steadily building tension, narrative gravity, and the momentary relief of dark humor, even (or especially) amid dire circumstances. In commercial fiction, he’s looking for compact horror and mysteries with big hooks and intricate plotting. He’s drawn to grounded sci-fi and fantasy that features high stakes that touch on contemporary issues — more alternate histories and speculative fiction than high fantasy or space opera. In nonfiction, he’s looking for a vivid look into subcultures and events he might not otherwise have had the chance to explore. Much of his favorite nonfiction melds a distinct narrative voice with rigorous research. For YA and MG, he’s interested in epic fantasy, grounded sci-fi, and irreverent retellings of fairy tales, classic myths, and historical events. He is specifically seeking stories written from diverse perspectives that draw from underrepresented cultures.

**Aemilia Phillips**
*Stuart Krichevsky Literary Agency*

Aemilia Phillips represents writers who push conventional boundaries in order to address cultural, political, and social justice issues. With family on both sides of the Mexican border and interests in narrative nonfiction, literary fiction, and select poetry, she looks for diverse, impactful writing that challenges the way we think about the world, with a particular interest in Latin American and feminist voices. She loves books that appear to be commercial, but that are also smart cultural critiques that emphasize new viewpoints. She’s fascinated by darker, complex fictional characters who upend preconceptions, and stories with just a touch of magic.

**Sera Rivers**
*Martin Literary & Media Management*

Sera Rivers is a Senior Literary Manager at Martin Literary & Media Management. She holds an MFA in writing for children from Simmons University. She is actively seeking stories by authors and illustrators who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and other underrepresented and marginalized identities. Sera is especially looking for: MG/YA —horror (no demonic possessions); psychological thrillers; speculative fiction, including magical realism and ghost stories (no high fantasy); LGBTQIA+ romance; tough topics. Select PB—historically excluded stories; tough topics; horror (author/illustrator only for horror). She does not represent adult fiction/nonfiction. Check out her full MSWL and submission guidelines at SeraRivers.com.
Meet the Agents

Anna Sproul-Latimer
Neon Literary
Anna Sproul-Latimer, founding partner and president of Neon Literary, has over the course of her many years in book publishing sold multiple *New York Times* bestsellers, major book-to-film deals, and foreign translations in more than 50 languages. She represents all types of adult nonfiction—from memoir and history to pop culture, science, and parenting—as well as select literary fiction.

Julie Stevenson
Massie & McQuilkin
Julie Stevenson is a literary agent with Massie & McQuilkin in New York. She represents literary and upmarket fiction, suspense, memoir, graphic novels, narrative nonfiction, young adult fiction and children’s picture books. She is drawn to storytelling with unforgettable characters, an authorial command of voice, and a strong sense of narrative tension. She looks for work that both entertains and explores the depths of human experience, particularly the many facets of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social class, and regional backgrounds. She’s agented books that have won the Pulitzer Prize, the MWA Edgar Award, the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Caldecott Honor. Before she became an agent, Julie worked in the editorial departments of *Tin House* and *Publishers Weekly*. She received her bachelor’s degree in English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.F.A in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Hannah Strouth
Jane Rotrosen Agency
While earning her B.A. in English and Marketing from the College of William & Mary, Hannah completed an internship at a boutique literary agency in Virginia, where she fell in love with this side of publishing. After graduating from the Columbia Publishing Course, she joined JRA as Office Assistant and soon after was promoted to Contracts Associate. Today, as assistant to Andrea Cirillo, Annelise Robey, and Kathy Schneider, she helps maintain their list of clients while keeping her sights set on actively growing her own list. She is constantly diving into literary/upmarket fiction, historical fiction, and contemporary rom-coms.
Meet the Presenters

KB Brookins
KB Brookins is a poet, essayist, and cultural worker from Texas. They are the author of *How To Identify Yourself with a Wound* (Kallisto Gaia Press, 2022) and *Freedom House* (Deep Vellum Publishing, 2023).

Follow them online at @earthtokb.

**KB will be presenting on Saturday at 10:15 a.m. on “Building Your Author Platform.”**

Bev Chukwu
Beverly “Bev” Chukwu is a Nigerian American writer, producer, and script consultant from Garland, TX. She is an alum of the James A. Michener Center for Writers, where she received a fellowship in screenwriting and fiction. Her screenplay, *Prince of Lavendale Street*, was the feature winner in the BlueCat Screenplay Competition, and an excerpt of her novel-in-progress, *Of Broken Things*, was published in *Vol. 2 of the I Scream Social Anthology*. Bev is a queer writer, who tells stories about assimilation, the allure of groupthink, and characters who struggle with being someone they are not. Mental health advocacy for people of the Black diaspora is at the forefront of her work.

**Bev will be presenting on Sunday at 10:15 a.m. on “The Novelist’s Toolkit: Lessons from Screenwriting.”**

Janna Marlies Maron
Janna Marlies Maron is a professional editor with nearly 20 years of experience helping writers to complete their projects and produce the best work possible. Her experience includes time as a magazine editor, college professor, agency editorial director, and content director for a popular internet brand. She has worked on a number of book projects from self-published Amazon bestsellers to traditionally published *New York Times* bestsellers. She’s also the founding editor and publisher of *Under the Gum Tree*, a literary arts magazine publishing creative nonfiction and visual art, and the principal editor and creator of More to the Story, a company serving women writing nonfiction books through coaching, community, and critique.

**Janna will be presenting on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. on “Just Tell Me What to Do: Nonfiction Developmental Editing (and Why Most Writers Need It).”**

Stefanie Molina
Stefanie Molina is an agent at Ladderbird Literary Agency. She is primarily looking for BIPOC stories across all age groups, especially contemporary fantasy, romcom, mysteries, and thrillers. She loves stories that incorporate food, animals/the outdoors, sports, and intergenerational relationships. Outside of agenting, she enjoys hiking, swimming, baking, and playing the piano. Her favorite place in the world is Yosemite National Park! You can find her on Twitter @fiction_tech.

**Stefanie will be presenting on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. on “What Authors Need to Know About Sensitivity Readers.”**

Anna Sproul-Latimer
Anna Sproul-Latimer, founding partner and president of Neon Literary, has over the course of her many years in book publishing sold multiple *New York Times* bestsellers, major book-to-film deals, and foreign translations in more than 50 languages. She represents all types of adult nonfiction—from memoir and history to pop culture, science, and parenting—as well as select literary fiction.

**Anna will be presenting on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. “The Elements of a Great Nonfiction Proposal.”**

Scan this QR code to learn more about our presenters and their presentations
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. Students do not have to be in the degree program to enroll in classes.
austincc.edu/crw

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

Booktique Consulting
Welcome to your Author’s Concierge! At Booktique Consulting, we work one-on-one with new and established authors on writing, publishing, and marketing their books. We’re the missing piece you need to help you find your perfect readers and develop the writing career you’ve dreamed of.
booktique.mykajabi.com

Kallisto Gaia Press
Established small independent press publishing The Ocotillo Review, the Texas Poetry Calendar, and several single author works annually.
kallistogaiapress.org

More to the Story
Community, coaching, and critique for women writing nonfiction books. Surround yourself with a community of peers and professionals who are supporting you in the one main goal of finally finishing your book, including manuscript deadlines, professional editorial feedback, one-on-ones with your editor, and a revision plan to get your draft ready for next steps. Our alumni have secured book deals, signed with literary agents, and won manuscript contests.
moretostory.co

Our Silent Voice
When we first started the project: Our Silent Voice, it stemmed from personal experiences. We felt moved to stand with the silent, the quiet survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. We knew there was hidden trauma—shame and stigma. We chose to publish the stories we have collected, to stand with others who have bravely stepped forward and shared their story out loud, for justice and resolution. These heroes are an inspiration. In gratitude for this leadership, Our Silent Voice is becoming a collective voice for the men, women, and children who remind us everyday we do not have to stand alone in silence.
oursilentvoice.com

Sovereign Storytelling
Sovereign Storytelling (Austin) offers private and group coaching programs that triangulate your ideal mix of artistic creation, meaningful work, and financial abundance and cultivate your empowered author mindset. You have your M.F.A., Sovereign Storytelling help you get your M.F.B.: The Mindset to Finish Your Book.
sovereignstorytelling.com

Typewriter Tarot
Offering guidance and inspiration for Creative Spirits through one-on-one coaching, Tarot-inspired writing workshops, and magical gatherings to support your creativity. Join our email list to receive weekly writing prompts and creative rituals. For a free exploratory coaching session, complete the inquiry form on our website.
typewritertarot.com

The Writing Consultancy
Award-winning author and editor Britta Jensen offers collaborative, holistic editing and author services including: developmental editing, copy editing, manuscript critiques, literary agent submission edits, writing coaching and publishing assistance.
thewritingconsultancy.com

Writer’s Workshop
workshopwriter.com

Scan this QR code to learn more about our conference exhibitors
Friday, June 24

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CHECK-IN
Pick up your badge and conference materials.
Big Bend Ballroom (first floor)

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
WELCOME RECEPTION
Join WLT Staff and conference faculty to kick off the conference with snacks and refreshments (plus a cash bar), and socializing.
Texas Ballroom (second floor)

Please join us
in congratulating the 2022 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 19 for the complete list.

Friday, June 24

GENRE SESSIONS
Meet fellow writers in your genre and have the chance to ask published authors any questions you might have about the industry and the writing life.

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
NONFICTION Recommended for attendees writing general nonfiction, narrative or practical, NOT memoir.
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY Recommended for attendees writing novels for the Sci-Fi or Fantasy markets.
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
KID LIT Recommended for attendees writing books for young readers, including picture books, middle grade, and young adult.
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

GENERAL FICTION Recommended for attendees writing novels that don’t fit in the other breakout categories.
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
HISTORICAL FICTION Recommended for attendees writing novels with historical settings.
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

MEMOIR Recommended for attendees writing memoir or personal stories.
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
ROMANCE Recommended for attendees writing love stories, whether category romance or women’s fiction.
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

MYSTERY / THRILLER / SUSPENSE Recommended for attendees writing novels that include mystery, thriller, or suspense elements.
Hill Country C&D (first floor)
Saturday, June 25
OPENING SESSION
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
TEXAS BALLROOM (SECOND FLOOR)

Featuring VP – Publisher at Ecco
Helen Atsma

Helen Atsma, VP – Publisher (she/her) joined Ecco in 2019. She oversees the Ecco team and list, and for her own list acquires literary and book club fiction, along with memoir and some narrative nonfiction.

The writers she works with include Elizabeth Acevedo, Rumaan Alam, Nicole Chung, Patrick deWitt, Andrew J. Graff, Jennifer Haigh, Elizabeth McCracken, Anthony Veasna So, Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney, Natasha Trethewey, Shelby Van Pelt, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Kevin Wilson, and Laura Zigman. Previously, she was Editorial Director at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Over the course of her career, in roles at Grand Central Publishing and Henry Holt, she has edited a number of New York Times bestselling authors, including Sarah Hepola (Blackout), Jami Attenberg (The Middlesteins), Lily Koppel (The Astronaut Wives Club), Rhoda Janzen (Mennonite in a Little Black Dress, a #1 New York Times bestseller), and Catherine O’Flynn (What Was Lost, winner of the Costa First Novel Award). She began her publishing career in 2002 at Little, Brown.

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
CHECK-IN
Pick up your badge and conference materials.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST
Get your day started right with coffee, tea, and an assortment of breakfast treats.
Texas Ballroom (second floor)

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

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AGENT & EDITOR 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 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

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

10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Getting Started: Facing the Blank Page
Panelists: Candace Buford, ire’ne lara silva, Saborna Roychowdhury / Moderator: Mary Helen Specht
Texas 5 (second floor)

A-Z: Understanding Publishing Lingo
Panelists: Heather Carr, Caroline Eisenmann, Aemilia Philips / Moderator: John Pipkin
Texas 6 (second floor)

In Conversation: Writer Meets World: Climate Change Through a Personal Lens
Panelists: Juli Berwald, Andy Bowman / Moderator: Alison Macor
Texas 7 (second floor)

Building Your Author Platform
Presenter: KB Brookins / Emcee: Mia Zozobrado
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

Before You Query: Preparing for the Agent Search
Panelists: Eloy Bleifuss, Victoria Dillman, James Mustelier / Moderator: Jennifer duBois
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
BREAK
Saturday, June 25
KEYNOTE LUNCHEON
“How to Carve Out a Creative Life for Yourself”
Featuring author
Jami Attenberg

Jami Attenberg is the author of seven books of fiction, including: Instant Love, The Kept Man, The Melting Season, The Middlesteins, Saint Mazie, and All Grown Up. Her most recent novel is All This Could Be Yours (2019), which was included on the Best of Fall lists from People, Vogue, USA Today, Entertainment Weekly, New York, Observer, Bust, Nylon, New York Post, Pop Sugar, and more.

Attenberg is also the author of the memoir I Came All This Way to Meet You: Writing Myself Home (2022). In this brilliant, fierce, and funny memoir of transformation, Attenberg—described as a “master of modern fiction” by Entertainment Weekly and the “poet laureate of difficult families” by Kirkus Reviews—revels the defining moments that pushed her to create a life, and voice, she could claim for herself. What does it take to devote oneself to art? What does it mean to own one’s ideas? What does the world look like for a woman moving solo through it? Exploring themes of friendship, independence, class, and drive, I Came All This Way to Meet You is an inspiring story of finding one’s way home—emotionally, artistically, and physically—and an examination of art and individuality that will resonate with anyone determined to listen to their own creative calling.

Attenberg has written about food, travel, books, relationships and urban life for The New York Times Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, the Sunday Times, Slate, and others. Her work has been published in a total of sixteen languages. She lives in New Orleans, LA.

12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
TEXAS BALLROOM (SECOND FLOOR)
Advance registration required and includes lunch and a complimentary copy of Jami Attenberg’s memoir I Came All This Way to Meet You: Writing Myself Home. Jami will sign books after her keynote.
Saturday, June 25

Just Tell Me What to Do: Nonfiction Developmental Editing (and Why Most Writers Need It)
Presenter: Janna Marlies Maron / Emcee: SG Huerta
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

The Dreaded S: Writing Your Synopsis
Panelists: Eloy Bleifuss, Stefanie Molina, James Mustelier / Moderator: Richard Z. Santos
Texas 5 (second floor)

3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
BREAK

3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The State of Kids’ Lit Today
Panelists: Jason June, Sera Rivers, Andrea L. Rogers / Moderator: Jacquetta Nammar Feldman
Texas 5 (second floor)

Writing Isn’t as Solitary as You Think: Building Your Literary Community
Panelists: Samantha M. Clark, Nan Cuba, Richard Z. Santos / Moderator: James Wade
Texas 6 (second floor)

In Conversation: Twists & Turns in Fiction: Keeping Your Readers in Suspense
Panelists: May Cobb, Katie Gutierrez / Moderator: SG Huerta
Texas 7 (second floor)

It’s a Partnership: Exploring the Author/Editor Relationship
Panelists: Dalia Azim, Harry Kirchner, Jill Meyers, S. Kirk Walsh / Moderator: Claire Bowman
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

The Dreaded Q: Writing Your Query Letter
Panelists: Heather Carr, David Forrer, Paloma Hernandez / Moderator: Leila Sales
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
BREAK

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY EVENING RECEPTION
Join WLT staff and conference faculty as we recognize the 2022 Manuscript Contest Winners and Finalists. Plus, some fun with Typewriter Tarot!
Texas Ballroom (second floor)

Sunday, June 26

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST
Get your day started right with coffee, tea, and an assortment of breakfast treats.
Texas Ballroom (second floor)

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Texas Foyer (second floor)

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The Submissions Landscape: Getting Published in Literary Journals & Magazines
Panelists: Christopher Brown, Caroline Eisenmann, Chaitali Sen / Moderator: Scott Semegran
Texas 5 (second floor)

Writing a Book is a Marathon: How to Keep Going When You Think You Can’t
Panelists: Gabino Iglesias, Stacey Swann, James Wade / Moderator: Shuja Uddin
Texas 6 (second floor)

After the Book Deal: From Acquisition to Publication
Panelists: Erica Bauman, Jan Baumer, Harry Kirchner / Moderator: Jill Meyers
Texas 7 (second floor)

The Elements of a Great Nonfiction Proposal
Presenter: Anna Sproul-Latimer / Emcee: Mia Zozobrado
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

Before You Sign: Questions to Ask an Agent
Panelists: Alex Kane, Aemilia Phillips, Hannah Strouth / Moderator: Katherine Catmull
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

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

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
AGENT & EDITOR 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 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment.
Featuring our three 2022 Summer Writing Retreat instructors discussing their favorite books and what authors and titles are inspiring them right now.

Sunday, June 26

CLOSING LUNCHEON

10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
The Sales Side of Publishing
Panelists: Christina Marroquin, Gillian Redfearn / Moderator: Scott Semegran
Texas 5 (second floor)

Let’s Talk Comp Titles
Panelists: Jan Baumer, Alex Kane, Wendy Wong / Moderator: Rebecca Worby
Texas 6 (second floor)

Worldbuilding in Fiction: Crafting Worlds Readers Want to Spend Time In
Panelists: Kimberly Garza, Robert Jackson Bennett, Tracy Wolff / Moderator: James Wade
Texas 7 (second floor)

The Novelist’s Toolkit: Lessons from Screenwriting
Presenter: Bev Chukwu / Emcee: Shuja Uddin
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

Beyond the Book Deal: How an Agent Supports Your Writing Career
Panelists: Erica Bauman, Julia Kardon, Lynn Johnston / Moderator: Chaitali Sen
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
BREAK

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where the Magic Happens: Writers on Revision
Panelists: Charlotte Gullick, Chaitali Sen, Tracy Wolff / Moderator: Bev Chukwu
Texas 5 (second floor)

Writing the Stories of Your Life: The Art of the Personal Narrative
Panelists: Edgar Gomez, Ursula Pike, Rachel Starnes / Moderator: Rebecca Worby
Texas 6 (second floor)

Playing the Long Game: Cultivating and Sustaining a Career as a Writer
Panelists: Chris Barton, Lynn Johnston, Julia London / Moderator: Katherine Catmull
Texas 7 (second floor)

What Authors Need to Know About Sensitivity Readers
Presenter: Stefanie Molina / Emcee: Shuja Uddin
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

What’s Next: The Role of the Writer After the Big “Yes”
Panelists: Danielle Bukowski, Victoria Dillman, Sera Rivers / Moderator: Becka Oliver
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
TEXAS BALLROOM (SECOND FLOOR)
Advanced RSVP required and includes lunch.
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’re doing 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 10 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 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.

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 hand-outs 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 editors 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 Session 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 to 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 two minutes 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 editors 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.
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 2023 A&E Conference. And, of course, you can also send us a separate note to wltconference@writersleague.org, or give us a call at 512-499-8914.

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Like us at facebook.com/WritersLeagueOfTexas.
Writers’ League of Texas
2022 Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists

GENERAL FICTION
WINNER
Rent The Jewels by Katerina Tsasis

FINALISTS
Madame Ishmael by Evan Brooke
It's Time You Met Claire by Karen Krajcer
When We Fall Again by Patricia Lowry
In Hot Water by Laura Esther Sciortino
Rat Girl by Jean Synodinos

NONFICTION
(General Nonfiction & Memoir)
WINNER – GENERAL NONFICTION
The Longest Minute by Nancy L. Glass

WINNER – MEMOIR
Burning Down the House by Carla Newman

FINALISTS
Trust and Confidence by Jim Lichtman
The Rise and Fall of the Monarch Butterfly Migration by Monika Maeckle
This Is Where I’ll Be by Annette Pearson
Do Not Hasten to Bid Me Adieu by Paige Schilt
Blister Pearl by Joy Victory

HISTORICAL FICTION
WINNER
The Heretic’s Daughter by Jessica Trapp

FINALISTS
The Deception by Priya Gill
Midnight Tightrope by Susan V. Meyers
A Passion For Tom by Sandra Salinas Newton
Generations by Jim Trudeau

SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY
WINNER
(witches!) by Elle Van Hensbergen

FINALISTS
Showmaker by Tristan Collins
The Water Chamber by Amélie Corner
A Stumble in Time by Dwayne Goetzel
The Mender by Jennifer Marchman
The Daughters of the Mountain by Meridian Parham

MYSTERY
WINNER
Worse Than Death by Brooke Terpening

FINALISTS
Parallel Secrets by Maria Barrs
Gravity Promised by Lisanne Davidson
The Conundrum by Debbie Hibbert
In the Red by Michael Hostetler

ROMANCE
WINNER
Nothing Like the Sun by Pearl Raphael-Hunt

FINALISTS
The Promise by Elizabeth Crowder
A Thief and A Gentleman by Donna Milakovic
The Heretic’s Daughter by Jessica Trapp
Code Blue by Faye C. Willard

THRILLER / ADVENTURE
WINNER
Resurrection and Redemption in the Land of Nod by Charles McDaniel

FINALISTS
Nightflower of Comanche Mound by Katlyn Bates
American Sicko by Meredith Knight
Bullets in the Water by Conor McAnally
Blue Lake by Ada Obua
Worse Than Death by Brooke Terpening

MIDDLE GRADE
WINNER
The Central Park Witches by Haleigh Blackwell

FINALISTS
Bring Back Home by Andrea Christen
Kingmaker by Henjie Fierce
With Cowries At Her Throat by Caroline Leech
Tomorrow Isle by Liz Rambo

YOUNG ADULT
WINNER
Ascension by Ashley T. Rummel

FINALISTS
Pure and Void by Claire Chastain
When We Fall Again by Patricia Lowry
Finding Home by Aimee Lunden
Tilde by Brenda Vicars
Looking to make your wardrobe more writerly?
Find new products in the Writers’ League Bonfire store.

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WE ARE YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE, proud to be part of the Austin community for over five decades. BookPeople hosts hundreds of events every years, from local debut to nationally recognized authors. Stop by to shop local today!

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The M.F.B.: The Mindset to Finish Your Book

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- Dismantle writer’s block, imposter syndrome, perfectionism, and analysis paralysis.

- Find the balance of artistic creation, meaningful career, and financial abundance so that you can thrive in all areas of your life.

Visit SovereignStorytelling.com/MFB to sign up for a free consultation.
The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation

is pleased to sponsor the 2022 Agents & Editors Conference

Join us for a variety of literary events and programs coming to your branch library

at Central cultural series features author events, musical performances, film screenings, cooking demonstrations, and gallery exhibitions at the Austin Central Library.

The Austin Youth Poet Laureate program aims to identify and uplift young writers and leaders who are committed to civic & community engagement and poetry & performance across Austin.

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 provide opportunities for publication. Workshops include spring break and summer camp programs for youth, school-based programs, and adult programs held in library branches.

The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation supports the Austin Public Library by increasing public awareness about the library and its importance to the community, and by enhancing library collections, programs, and facilities.

www.austinlibrary.org

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.

See our website for a full schedule of classes. Then come tell your story.

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Whether you’re a newbie or an established author, we’ll customize plans and strategies just for you, including:
- Writing and editing your books
- Navigating publishing options
- Implementing successful marketing campaigns
- Building or upgrading your author platform
- Launching or taking your career to the next level

Hi! I’m Cyndi Hughes, the former director of the Writer’s League of Texas and the Texas Book Festival. I founded Booktique Consulting to work one-on-one with authors to build their careers and connect with their ideal readers.
Finish Your Book in a Year

In our Nonfiction Bootcamp for women you will:

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- Work with a dedicated developmental editor
- Find support from a community of like-minded writers
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- Develop a writing practice that allows you to reach your full potential as an author and achieve your goals

Learn more and schedule a free consultation:
moretothestory.co

Did you know?

Writers' League of Texas members get a free 30 minute consultation once a month, every month. Meet with us over the phone or in person. Bring any and all of your burning questions. We're all ears!

Don't delay. Join today.
Notes:
2022 Summer Writing Retreat

Join us for a virtual month-long event. Focus on your craft & meet other writers. Register for one of three classes or the Write Away. Plus enjoy weekly special events, including craft seminars and lunchtime meet-ups.

Fiction: "Beginnings, Middles, and Endings: Fiction at Every Stage" with Stacey Swann meets every Monday

Memoir: “Memory + Form: Finding Models of Inspiration in Memoir” with Donna M. Johnson meets every Tuesday

Revision: “The Joy and Discovery of Revision: A Step-by-Step Approach” with Charlotte Gullick meets every Wednesday

July 11 - August 4