Hello, writers!

Since I took over as Program Director last fall, it’s been such a pleasure to meet and hear from many of you and to experience firsthand what makes this community so special. I’ve heard from you what you love about WLT, and I’ve listened to your wishlists, ideas, and dreams for our future. My hope is that this catalog reflects this combination of returning hits and exciting new topics to explore.

Our first event and class of the season promises to get you organized and ready to tackle the year. And then, this season’s class package, The Narrative Arc—spanning Beginnings to Middles to Endings—allows for a season-long focus on a longform project, whether you’re writing fiction or memoir. And because the brilliant Chaitali Sen is leading all three classes, you’ll experience continuity in instruction as you work to strengthen your story’s unfolding.

In February, we’re excited to offer our first Saturday Craft Seminar of the year with Jami Attenberg. The Today Show has deemed her new craft book, 1000 Words, the Best Motivational Read for the New Year, so don’t miss this opportunity to hear directly from Jami how to stay creative, focused, and productive. Registration includes a copy of the book.

Also in February, we’ll help you keep those new year writing resolutions going by hosting 10 write-ins over the course of the month. It is a leap year after all – let’s not let that extra day go to waste!

We then have classes designed to refine your craft in the areas of voice, imagery, dialogue, and scene. We have genre-specific classes in historical fiction (our most requested topic!), mysteries, flash fiction, and poetry. For our memoirists, we have a set of classes that will help you move beyond your memories to craft complex and rich stories. And, for those of you ready for (or nearing) the publication stage, we have two classes led by our Executive Director Becka Oliver designed to get you closer to the holy grail of a bound book in your hands.

To cap it all off, in June, we are ecstatic to once again host the 2024 Agents & Editors Conference here in Austin, TX. Don’t wait to secure your spot for the event that’s been hailed as “life-changing for serious writers.”

There’s no doubt that you all have inspired me. Now, let this season of programming inspire you. Together, let’s make this year of writing our most inspired yet.

Write on!
Sarah Renee Beach
Program Director

This catalog includes our upcoming online classes and special events for January through June 2024. Click on the event title for more information, including start time, duration, and registration details. All online classes and special events (except when noted) are live webinars on Zoom. All online classes are recorded and made available to registrants for 30 days following the class, so even if you can’t make it for the live session you can still enjoy the program. If you have any questions, please email us at wlt@writersleague.org.

Spring 2024
Member Events

While the WLT’s programs and events are open to all writers, WLT members receive a number of benefits with their membership, including steep discounts on online classes and special events, free consultation time with staff, and access to member-exclusive programming. To learn more about the benefits and services that come with WLT membership, click here.

Upcoming member events:
Tuesday, January 23: New Member Orientation
Tuesday, February 13: Ask Us Anything
Thursday, March 14: Virtual Member Meet-up
Tuesday, May 21: Off the Beaten Craft
Tuesday, June 11: New Member Orientation
This class package will help long-form writers — in both fiction and memoir — craft the arc of their story. Each story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. This class package will help you hone and craft each of these elements, so that your novel or memoir hooks your readers, keeps them invested, and leaves them longing for your next book. Each class is led by Chaitali Sen.

**Saturday, January 27**

“Beginnings Bootcamp: Start Your Story, Hook Your Reader”

The first third of any narrative is an on-ramp and road map to a new world — for both the writer and the reader. In this class, we will work through the elements of successful beginnings that keep writers and readers invested and excited.

**Saturday, March 23**

“Messy Middles: Raising the Stakes and Finding the Heart of Your Story”

The middle of your novel or memoir is where you really get to tell a great story. In this class, we will work through the elements of successful middles that keep writers and readers turning the page.

**Saturday, May 25**

“Destinations and Resolutions: The End and How to Get There”

The right ending of a novel or memoir should satisfy and haunt the reader. In this class, we will look at examples of effective endings and common mistakes in developing endings, and complete exercises to help construct and revise endings that feel both inevitable and surprising.

**Price:** $177 for members / $357 for non-members
The WLT is committed to making our online classes accessible to all writers, including writers who do not have the financial means to pay for programming. If you’d like to learn more about applying for available scholarship seats for our Spring 2024 classes, visit the page for the class you’re interested in and scroll down to “Scholarship Information.”

January

**Thursday, January 18**

January Third Thursday: “The Writer’s Toolbox: Preparing for the Year Ahead”

Live on Zoom.

**Saturday, January 20**

“Write Before You Write: Outlining, Planning, and Plotting” with Jennifer Ziegler

Are you working on or about to start developing a story idea? Learn strategies that will help avoid project-killing problems before you start writing.

*Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members*

**Saturday, January 27**

“Beginnings Bootcamp: Start Your Story, Hook Your Reader” with Chaitali Sen

The first third of any narrative is an on-ramp and road map to a new world — for both the writer and the reader. In this class, we will work through the elements of successful beginnings that keep writers and readers invested and excited. This class is a part of “The Narrative Arc” class package.

*Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members*
February

This February, we invite you to fall in love with your writing practice. Join us for ten virtual write-in sessions, three hours each, thirty hours total. Sign up for one session, all ten, or any number in between. Just click the link and RSVP.

Thursday, February 1
Write-in

Saturday, February 3
“Writing from Multiple Points of View” with Kristen Bird
This class will explore and offer tips to address the unique challenges of writing from multiple points of view, so each character will have their own arc and fit neatly into the through line of the entire story.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, February 3
Write-in

Monday, February 5
Write-in

Tuesday, February 6
One Page Salon
Live Reading Series at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX.

Saturday, February 10
Write-in

Monday, February 12
Write-in

Thursday, February 15
February Third Thursday: “Places Unknown: Crafting Fully Realized Settings”
Live on Zoom.

Saturday, February 17
“Writing Historical Fiction: It’s Not About the Past” with John Pipkin
This class will cover the basics of writing historical fiction, beginning with research strategies and resources and moving on to plotting, characterization, setting, and how to avoid some of the common pitfalls in the genre.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, February 17
Write-in

Monday, February 19
Write-in

Saturday, February 24
Saturday Craft Seminar: “1000 Words” with Jami Attenberg
A look at the 1000 WORDS project, from its inception as a summertime project to its evolution as a year-round inspirational metaphor for staying motivated, creative and productive. We’ll dive deep into each stage of the process and linger in the season of winter, when we begin new projects, explore what kind of writer we want to be, why we want to write, what kind of subject matter we find compelling, and how to find the courage to simply begin.
Price: $35 includes book

Saturday, February 24
Write-in

Monday, February 26
Write-in

Thursday, February 29
Write-in
Saturday, March 2
“More than Memory: Using Research to Enhance Your Memoir” with Ursula Pike
Memoirs begin with a writer attempting to understand their lives, but personal reflections can only take you so far in a memoir. This workshop will give you tools and resources to build on your memories and enhance your memoir.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Tuesday, March 5
One Page Salon
Live Reading Series at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX.

Saturday, March 9
“Building Your Platform as a Writer” with KB Brookins
Whether you're just getting started or you've got a book deal, building an author platform is a necessary tool in the business of publishing. Learn about what goes into creating a platform and what having a platform can do for you.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-member

Wednesday, March 13
“Prose with Precision and Power: Writing Flash Fiction” with Christine Sneed
An introduction to flash fiction, which includes readings, writing exercises, and a craft discussion of this rewarding prose form.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-member

Thursday, March 21
March Third Thursday: “Dedicated: Who We Write For and Why”
at BookPeople in Austin, TX.

Saturday, March 23
“Messy Middles: Raising the Stakes and Finding the Heart of Your Story” with Chaitali Sen
The middle of your novel or memoir is where you really get to tell a great story. In this class, we will work through the elements of successful middles that keep writers and readers turning the page.
This class is a part of “The Narrative Arc” class package.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, March 23
“The Agent Search: Tips, Tricks, and Timeless Advice” with Becka Oliver
This class will cover everything from a look at traditional publishing today (and how to stay up to date and informed throughout the querying process), what materials you'll need based on what you're writing, identifying the most promising agents to approach for representation, asking the right questions when you have an offer, navigating the agent/author relationship, and much more.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, March 30
“Better Prose Through Poetry” with Charlotte Gullick
Want to craft more memorable prose and images in your novel, story, or memoir? Poetry's economy of language and use of powerful images offers creative, succinct points of divergence for writers of all genres.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members
April

Tuesday, April 2
One Page Salon
Live Reading Series at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX.

Saturday, April 6
“Form and Possibility: Finding Freedom within Constraints” with Dr. Taylor Byas
This class will discuss three popular poetry forms—the sonnet, the pantoum, and the sestina—and will delve into some tips and tricks of working through (and with) their formal constraints to create possibility and poetic surprise.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Wednesday, April 10
“Crafting a Compelling Query Letter” with Becka Oliver
This class—taught by a former literary agent—will detail the key components that make up a compelling query. Through writing exercises and small group work, attendees will tackle each component with regards to their own project and should expect to leave the class with a first draft of a query letter.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, April 13
“Tackling the Problem of Memory in Memoir” with Rachel Starnes
This class will examine the problem of memory by drawing on a blend of literature, art, and neuroscience in order to grapple with the question of how one selects, recounts, and handles moments of imperfect memory in the writing of memoir.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Thursday, April 18
April Third Thursday: “Now Hear This: A Look at Audio Publishing Today”
Live on Zoom.

Saturday, April 20
“Introduction to Picture Books: Writing for Young Readers” with Liz Garton Scanlon
This class provides an introduction to the form and field of picture book writing, and the purpose and parameters to keep in mind as you work on these books for our youngest pre- and early readers.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, April 27
“A Deep Dive into Dialogue” with Stacey Swann
While many writers may struggle with creating incisive and surprising dialogue, the good news is that, more than any other aspect of writing, there are clear and useful rules for how to do so. We’ll dig into every aspect of dialogue creation to give students a whole new box of revision tools.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members
Wednesday, May 1
"Putting the Pieces Together: Information Gathering and Structure in Narrative Nonfiction" with Michael Hall
In this class, award-winning Texas Monthly journalist Michael Hall will talk about information gathering strategies used to develop full and rich stories and will then teach participants how to break down words and ideas in order to put them together into a structure that makes sense, resulting in a finished piece that flows smoothly.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, May 4
"Demystifying Intricately Plotted Mysteries" with Sherry Thomas
Learn an approach to mystery writing that focuses on characters and conflict rather than figuring out your plot in advance.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Tuesday, May 7
One Page Salon
Live Reading Series at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX.

Saturday, May 11
"Twisting Facts into Stories: Reality in Fiction and Nonfiction" with Antonio Ruiz-Camacho
Want to learn how to turn your true-life experiences or observations into stories? This class will teach students to observe reality with the eyes of a journalist and imagination of a fiction writer in order to translate facts and events into riveting stories in any genre.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Thursday, May 16
May Third Thursday: "Adaptation: Going from Book to Screen"
Live on Zoom.

Saturday, May 18
"Lessons from Screenwriting: Creating Compelling Scenes" with Beverly Chukwu
In this class, we'll take a look at the ways scenes are utilized to make the most compelling narrative journeys in screenplays. You'll not only analyze what makes a great scene, but you'll also get the chance to make your own short two-scene sequence that will get you to think about the relationship between scene and narrative "flow."
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members

Saturday, May 25
"Destinations and Resolutions: The End and How to Get There" with Chaitali Sen
The right ending of a novel or memoir should satisfy and haunt the reader. In this class, we will look at examples of effective endings and common mistakes in developing endings, and complete exercises to help construct and revise endings that feel both inevitable and surprising. This class is a part of "The Narrative Arc" class package.
Price: $59 for members / $119 for non-members
June

Tuesday, June 4
One Page Salon
Live Reading Series at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX.

Thursday, June 20
Live on Zoom.

2024 Agents & Editors Conference
June 21-23 in Austin, TX

The WLT’s Agents & Editors Conference is one of the nation’s premier conferences for writers. This summer, we’ll bring together nationally-known literary agents and book editors and other industry professionals with writers at all stages of the writing process for a weekend of conversation and community around the craft of writing and the practical steps toward publication.

“I would recommend this conference to anyone who writes.”

–2022 Attendee