

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF WRITING INSTRUCTION AND DISCUSSION

The TEXAS WRITES Program at the Peñitas Public Library

1PM | SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018 | 1111 S. MAIN STREET | PEÑITAS, TX | 78576
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | Refreshments Provided
RSVP by calling the Peñitas Public Library (956) 583-5656

Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall: Bringing a Story to Life through the Seasons

The passage of time as viewed through the changing seasons can be an effective means to render both place and character in personal stories. A judicious sprinkling of seasonal influences and activities, and all of the wonderful sensory details that come with them, allows a writer to create a world that feels palpable and accessible for readers. Participants will learn some tips and tools for incorporating the seasons into the stories they're telling.

Charlotte Gullick is the Chair of the Creative Writing Department at Austin Community College, and she holds a MA in Creative Writing from UC Davis and a MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her first novel, *By Way of Water*, was chosen by Jayne Anne Phillips as Grand Prize Winner of the Santa Fe Writers Project. Her other awards include a Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship for Poetry and a Christopher Isherwood Fellowship in Fiction, a MacDowell Colony Residency, a Ragdale Residency, as well as the Evergreen State College 2012 Teacher Excellence Award. Her writing has appeared in *Brevity*, *Pithead Chapel*, *Hippocampus*, and the *LA Review*.



Twisting Facts into Stories: Reality in Fiction and Nonfiction

Writers are often asked, "Where do you get your ideas?" The answer is usually some version of this: "All around me." We draw upon current events, personal memories and family anecdotes, and weird news from all sorts of media for our storytelling material. The best writers know how to turn those random, unexpected pieces of inspiration into fully developed essays, stories, and novels. Antonio Ruiz-Camacho will share examples from his own work and discuss strategies on how to observe reality with the eyes of a journalist and the imagination of a fiction writer in order to translate facts and events into riveting stories in any genre.

Antonio Ruiz-Camacho was born and raised in Toluca, Mexico. He moved to the U.S. at the age of 31 and began to write in English at 35. A former Knight Journalism fellow at Stanford University and a Dobie Paisano fellow in fiction by the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Institute of Letters, he earned his MFA from The New Writers Project at UT Austin. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *Texas Monthly* and elsewhere. His debut story collection *BAREFOOT DOGS* won the Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Book of Fiction, and was named a Best Book of 2015 by *Kirkus Reviews*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Texas Observer*. It was translated into Spanish by the author and published as *LOS PERROS DESCALZOS* in Mexico and the U.S.



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