



A CELEBRATION OF

story

BENEFITTING WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

Writers in the Schools (WITS) engages students in the pleasure and power of reading and writing. Founded in 1983 through the University of Houston's creative writing program, WITS sends some of our nation's most talented writers into Houston's classrooms. Today, WITS is ranked #1 by the Texas Commission on the Arts. WITS teaches creative writing to underserved students in schools, hospitals, community centers, juvenile detention centers, parks, hospitals, and homeless shelters. Over year-long residencies, WITS writers take students on a journey to discover their own voices as storytellers. This experience helps children to become critical thinkers, confident communicators, and lifelong learners. This year WITS writers will teach in 350 classrooms, reaching 20,000 students.



WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

a celebration of story

NOVEMBER 4, 2010
7:00 PM

Junior League of Houston
1811 Briar Oaks Lane Houston, Texas 77027

PROGRAM

- 6:15 PM VIP Reception
Music by the Texas Medical Center Orchestra
- 7:00 PM Registration
Silent Auction
- 7:45 PM Award: Mayor Annise Parker
- 8:00 PM Dinner
- 8:30 PM Speaker:
Jeannette Walls

Business/Cocktail Attire





A poet is a flag
standing tall
on a pole
in the ice and cold
making words sing
like stars on fire
or a choir of birds.



HONOREE MAYOR ANNISE PARKER

WITS will honor Mayor Annise Parker for being a strong advocate for public education and the power of the written word. A native Houstonian and Rice University graduate, she was a businesswoman, civic leader, and policymaker before becoming the 61st mayor of Houston, one of only two women to hold the City's highest elected office. She has served Houstonians for 11 years as a councilmember, serving her last five years as City Controller. Her lifetime involvement in literacy and the arts includes her co-owning a bookstore, developing a civics art program, and underwriting the Houston Poetry Festival where she participated as a poet.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER JEANNETTE WALLS

Jeannette Walls came to know the power of storytelling while writing her memoirs. *The Glass Castle* was on the *New York Times* best-seller list for more than three years, sold more than two million copies, and is being made into a movie by Paramount. Jeannette's story is at times harrowing and at times hilarious as she and her siblings go without food and indoor plumbing yet are encouraged to read Shakespeare and dream of the beautiful glass house they will all one day build. Despite all her hardships, Jeannette manages to leave West Virginia on her own at the age of sixteen, move to New York City, enroll in Barnard College, and eventually become a well-known columnist for *New York Magazine* and a television personality.



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WITS WRITER AWARDS - \$1,000

Emily Pipkin Blackwell & James Blackwell
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WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

1523 West Main, Houston, TX 77006
FAX: 866.793.4865 www.witshouston.org

For more information, contact Jennifer Watson at 713.523.3877, jwatson@witshouston.org or visit www.witshouston.org

TABLES

POET LAUREATE \$15,000

- One Premier table for ten people
- 10 tickets to VIP reception including photo with Jeannette Walls
- Ten signed books for VIP guests
- Recognition in Blooms anthology, distributed to 20,000 WITS students
- Opportunity to speak at a WITS event or in "I Wish I'd Written That" public service announcement
- Prominent recognition on printed materials and event signage

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER \$10,000

- One Premier table for ten people
- Six tickets to VIP reception including photo with Jeannette Walls
- Six signed books for VIP guests
- Prominent recognition on printed materials and event signage

NEWBERY MEDALIST \$5,000

- One Premier table for ten people
- Four tickets to VIP reception including photo with Jeannette Walls
- Four signed books for VIP guests
- Prominent recognition on printed materials and event signage

NY TIMES BEST SELLER \$2,500

- One table for ten people
- Two tickets to VIP reception including photo with Jeannette Walls
- Two signed books for VIP guests
- Recognition on printed materials and event signage

TICKETS

WITS WRITERS AWARD \$1,000

- Two Premier seats
- Two tickets to VIP reception including photo with Jeannette Walls
- Two signed books for VIP guests
- Recognition on printed materials and event signage

\$500 VIP

- Tickets include invitation to VIP reception and photo with Jeannette Walls

\$250 SEAT

Writers in the Schools is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The fair market value for goods and services provided during this event is estimated at \$50 per seat and \$500 per table.

EVENT CHAIRS

Lenora Noroski and Frank Inselbuch

HOST COMMITTEE

Jessica Rossman and Gordon Bethune
Jennifer Langdon and Joe Crownover
Nancy and Joe Ford
Tina and Craig Freedman
Deborah Ho Lin and Cho-Liang Ho Lin
Marcia and Michael Nichols
Monica Pope
Susan and Tom Scotty
Ginya and Clayton Trier
Andrea Ferguson White and The Honorable Bill White

SILENT AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Gift cards to local restaurants such as Benjy's, Ousie's Table, and t'afia
- Cooking lessons with Chef Monica Pope
- All-cast autographed script from the TV series "The Good Wife"
- Vacation getaway courtesy of Continental Airlines, the official airlines of A Celebration of Story
- Tickets and memberships to cultural venues such as Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston Ballet, Houston Symphony, and The Menil Collection
- Original artwork by Nicola Parente and Wendy Wagner

For an updated list of silent auction items, please visit witshouston.org.

*A writer is
a feather
flying above
like a kite toward
the orange sun,
going places.*

