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Writing Zone: Craft from the Ground Up

OWFI 2015 Conference

*Writing is a struggle against
silence.~ Carlos Fuentes*

Writing Zone: Craft from the Ground Up is coming soon. The sessions are geared to all levels from beginning writers to veterans. Our speakers are multi-talented individuals who have crafted some outstanding presentations. I want to personally attend all of them as soon as I figure out how to clone myself. We look forward to bringing everyone together in May.

I want to give a shout out to the Tulsa NightWriters for paying it forward by initiating a scholarship in honor of Peggy Fielding. Peggy was a member of Tulsa NightWriters for many years, serving as a mentor to others. While she wrote and collaborated on several novels, her passion was geared to teens and young adults. She was active in many organizations from Oklahoma Mystery Writers to Romance Writers of America to Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. She touched so many with her craft and her love for all things writing.

Please join me in thanking both Tulsa NightWriters for their generosity and Peggy's family and friends for the legacy she left behind.



A huge shout out to the contest gurus working hard behind the scenes, Jim Martin and Tony LoPresti manage to make it all look so easy. Also, a shout out to Leatrice McKinney for the daily (and sometimes hourly) duty to the OWFI website, including the contest. Last, but definitely not least, a thank you to Natasha Hanova for stepping in and assisting with the constant updates to the site. It is totally above and beyond her job description. The volunteers working behind the scenes for OWFI are doing such good work to further the cause of writers and writing. If you're on Facebook or Twitter, give these individuals a shout out. Or you can email

the website with a thank you. You'd be surprised how appreciated that small gesture is.

Google our scheduled speakers and read their books as we prep for OWFI 2015. Their sessions involve everything from World Building to Self-Editing to the State of Publishing Today. There will be speakers educating us on marketing and business protocols. We have an Oklahoma son as our visiting poet this year, and his sessions look inspiring. Two words: Les Edgerton. Don't miss this. He's a phenomenal keynote for 2015. Richard Thomas will welcome us all on Thursday night. If you don't know Richard, you should. He's a triple threat: author, editor, and educator.

Plan now for the sessions that interest you. We'll run a survey closer to May in case we need to adjust the schedule. We have some incredibly nice people joining us from all across the country.

Let's give them a big, warm, Oklahoma welcome.

Conference Schedule

****** SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ******

6:00 p.m. – 7:30p.m.	Thursday, April 30 Richard Thomas Pre-Con Workshop. The State of the Publishing Industry (Extra \$15 fee may be paid at the door)			
Friday (May 1)				
8:30 a.m.	Opening Session – Welcome: Dawn Allen			
9:00 a.m.	Cover Design: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Cover Design – Brandy Walker	Middle-Grade, Young Adult, New Adult...What's the difference? – Maria V. Snyder	Bringing Sexy Back - Does Sex Belong in Thrillers? How to write them – Andrew Kaufman	Grab the Steering Wheel: How Hybrid Publishing Can Put You in Control of Your Career – Trisha Leigh
10:00 a.m.	Creating an Alien World (Get Your BEM on—Bug-Eyed Monster) – Mel Odom	Pitching Dark House Press: Neo-Noir, Speculative Fiction with a Literary Bent – Richard Thomas	Adult – Agent/Editor Panel: Michelle Johnson, Brent Taylor, Richard Thomas	
11:00 a.m.	SCRIPT NEKKID: Use Playwriting Techniques to Hone Character, Dialogue & Story – Amy Shojai & Frank Steele	Pitch Perfect – Brenda Drake	YA/NA – Author + Agent/Editor Panel: Leon Husock, Trisha Leigh, Melissa Nasson, Maria V. Snyder	
12:00 p.m.	Untapped Sources of Sales Luncheon with Les Edgerton: Room AB (Prior ticket purchase required)			
1:30 p.m.	“Immediate” Fiction Right Now – Mel Odom	Coming out of the Ghetto: The Emergence of Fantasy into the Mainstream and What it Means for You – Leon Husock	Mind Trips-Writing the Psychological Thriller – Andrew Kaufman	
2:30 p.m.	Cover Communication: What Your Cover Designer Needs to Know – Brandy Walker	Using the Voices in Your Head – Sara Henning	Keeping the Unreal Real: How to Keep Your Sci-Fi and Fantasy Believable – Michelle Johnson	Revising Like a Professional – Maria V. Snyder
3:30 p.m.	The Art of Formatting – Jennifer McMurray	Writing The Political – K. Quraysh	Smelling Elephants: The Demon Inside My Mind – Lee Lofton	Creating Atmosphere Your Reader Won't Forget – Sara Henning
4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Book Signing for Mystery/Science Fiction/ Horror/Thriller/Suspense			
6:30 p.m.	Banquet Keynote: We Are... Writers - Les Edgerton			
9:30ish (after banquet)	9:30 p.m. – Book Signing for Young Adult/Romance/Women's/Historical Fiction			

Saturday (May 2)

9:00 a.m.	Write The Good Fight Write The Good Fight – Brenda Drake	Imagination Rules the World – Jerry Simmons	Anything is Possible – Jerry Simmons
10:00 a.m.	What Should I Write and Why? – Mel Odom	Verse Journalism – K. Quraysh	How to Hook Your Reader on Page One... and Keep Setting the Hook Deeper on Every Page Thereafter – Les Edgerton
11:00 a.m.	Surviving Collaboration (Without Killing Each Other) – Amy Shojai & Frank Steele	Self-Editing 101 – Sara Henning	Creating Compelling Villains: The Dark Side of Fiction – Lee Lofton
12:00 p.m.	Conference Idea Networking Luncheon: Room AB (Prior ticket purchase required)		
1:30 p.m.	Writing Like Cats & Dogs – Amy Shojai & Frank Steele	Worldbuilding From the Ground Up: What Color is the Sky in your Mind? – Trisha Leigh	Never Say Never – Jerry Simmons
2:30 p.m.	Let's Get Social: Digital Networking – Brenda Drake	Pitch Perfect and Submission Shiny: Crafting an Enticing Query and Logline – Brent Taylor	Believable Make Believe: Just Say NO To Cordite! – Lee Lofton
3:30 p.m.	First Impressions Matter: Make Your First Page Pop! – Melissa Nasson	Writing Non-traditional Characters and Avoiding Stereotypes – A Murder of Storytellers	No Doesn't Mean "Final" – Andrew Kaufman
4:30-5:30 p.m.	General Board Meeting: Room [5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Book Signing for Poetry/Humor/Non-Fiction/Children's/Religious/Biography]		
6:30 p.m.	Banquet: OWFI Writing Awards		

***** SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE *****

Be Part of the OWFI 2015 Team

Many don't realize, but volunteers run the entire OWFI organization. We gather together four times a year in person and via Skype, and then email, call, Facebook and text continuously the rest of the time, planning for the upcoming conference. We can only accomplish this with the support of our band of helpers. At conference the volunteers have the advantage of not being mere wallflower observers, but true participants in the running of the show.

If you would like to be a volunteer don't wait for someone to ask you, tell us. Here's a list of positions that need helpers, so whether for thirty minutes or the whole conference you can be a part of making it happen.

Shepherds— For each conference presenter we have an OWFI liaison who guides them they need to be and generally takes care of making sure they have a good experience at OWFI. Many former Shepherds have commented how fulfilling it was to be able to get to know the presenters personally and make lasting friendships. Contact Linda Apple at lindacapple@gmail.com if you would like to be a shepherd.

Agent/Editor— Working in the Agent/Editor pitch room is a great way to be a little fly on the wall and see the highs and the lows of pitching your story. Volunteer and see behind the veil so to speak. If you want a chance at this opportunity contact Erin Cochram at ecochranpitchco15@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Basket Wars— Each year Vivian Zabel and her Basket Wars crew do an awesome job of raising funds so that we are able to offer scholarships to OWFI. Contact Vivian at Vivian@vivianzabel.com if you would like to help.

Don't worry. There are more opportunities to volunteer. Check the OWFI.org website or email NatashaHanovaOWFI@gmail.org if you would like to be a part of making OWFI 2015 the best conference yet.



Contest Category Sponsors Needed!

The generous contributions of our sponsors help pay for the awards and maintain affordable entry fees for OWFI's prestigious writing contest.

Affiliate Groups are encouraged to sponsor one or more categories. Individual and business sponsorships are also welcome. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the awards booklet and during the awards banquet. (Great advertising opportunity folks!) No contribution is too small. We will gladly take your pocket change. It all adds up in the end.

Full sponsorship for Categories 1-30: Unpublished Manuscripts is \$105 (partial sponsorships are \$50 or \$55)

Full Sponsorship for Categories 31-34: Published Books (Trophy Awards) is \$310. (Partial sponsorship for the trophy awards are \$60 each and \$70 for the CDLC award) Full sponsorship for the Crème-de-la-Crème Award is \$500.

As a special incentive there will be a free table reserved, front and center during both OWFI banquets, for the individual, group, or business contributing a full sponsorship for the CDLC award.

If interested, contact Vickey via email: [vck \[at\] cox \[dot\] net](mailto:vck@cox.net)

You'll need to provide a sponsor name, your contact information (email and phone number), and determine which category you'd like to sponsor.

Make checks payable to OWFI

Memo: Category Sponsorship

DO NOT PUT THE CATEGORY # IN MEMO AREA OF YOUR CHECK. Please indicate a 2nd and 3rd choice of categories you would like to sponsor with your contact information just in case someone has already sponsored your first choice.

Your donations are sincerely appreciated by the winners and the entire Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc. organization.

Please direct inquiries to [vck \[at\] cox \[dot\] net](mailto:vck@cox.net)

Book Room

As in past years, there will be a “Book Room” available where books by attending authors and speakers will be available for sale, as well as a large selection of books pertaining to the writing craft. Like last year, the plan is to combine the Book Room and Autograph Sessions, where instead of one big autograph period on Saturday afternoon, there will be several signing IN THE BOOK ROOM, throughout the conference period, which last year proved to be a more pleasant and enjoyable experience, both for buying and selling all the books we love.

Best of Books, of Edmond, will once again operate the Conference Book Room. All OWFI members and conference speakers are eligible to participate. Authors who want their books available for sale must conform to the following guidelines.

Authors (or publishers) must notify Doug Kelley via email by **April 6, 2015** of any title(s) they want ordered by the book store to have included in the book room inventory (Option 1, below). If you are bringing your books, or having them shipped directly to the hotel, please let me know by the week leading up to the conference so we can plan table space. Due to limited space, non-speaker titles will be limited to 5 copies on display at any one time. Also, authors of multiple books will be limited to no more than 5 titles on display. (You may, of course, restock as sales warrant.)

Option No. 1: Best of Books will order your books from Ingram or your publisher if they are returnable and the bookstore receives the standard retailer discount. Best of Books will not purchase books via the Internet, self-published books, or electronic books. (*Use Option 2 for books published by those methods.*) Best of Books will split profits of this option with OWFI. Neither Best of Books or OWFI will assume responsibility for delays in shipment, short ships or publisher/shipper errors.

Option No. 2: Authors provide the books to be sold by Best of Books. The bookstore changed ownership this year so we need to negotiate a contract and that is not completed at this time. Once that information is available, we'll post on the website and all three OWFI Facebook pages. Authors should bring in their books starting Thursday evening (during Best of Books' set-up time) or Friday morning or whenever you arrive at the conference. Unsold books must be picked up at the end of the autographing session Saturday afternoon. If the remaining books are not picked up, the author will be billed shipping to have them returned. .

Authors may ship their books directly to the Embassy Suites to arrive between April 20 through April 30, addressed to:

OWFI Book Room
Embassy Suites Hotel
1815 South Meridian
Oklahoma City, OK, 73108.

Phone: 405-682-6000.



Do not contact Best of Books directly. Contact Doug Kelley by email (dougkj [at] yahoo [dot] com) and he will coordinate it. Send the following information:

Author name:

Title:

ISBN:

Publisher:

Release date:

If you wish to participate in the autograph sessions (tentative times listed below), let Doug know when you send your book information.

Friday

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Book Signing for Mystery/Science Fiction/ Horror/Thriller/Suspense

9:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Book Signing for Young Adult/Romance/Women's/Historical Fiction

Saturday

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Book Signing for Poetry/Humor/Non-Fiction/Children's/Religious/Biography

Author Centerpieces

If you have a book that was published this year, or just want to promote one you have written, a great way to do it is through the centerpiece program at the OWFI Conference. Make a centerpiece that goes with the theme of your book. Let your imagination run wild! Think, what is your favorite part of the book, and then bring it to life. Take the centerpiece to the conference, and let the bidding begin! A silent auction will be held to vote on and purchase the centerpiece and proceeds to go OWFI.

1. Bring your centerpiece to the registration desk on the first day of the conference
2. Buy a \$1.00 ticket (or more) for a chance to win the centerpiece of your choice
3. View all the centerpieces at the Friday night banquet (you can bid on them there as well)
4. Take home the centerpiece you purchase after the Saturday night banquet

And don't forget to have your picture made with the author/centerpiece artist after the Saturday night festivities. Support your local author and OWFI by bidding on the centerpiece of your choice.

Please contact me at peggy.chambers@hotmail.com to let me know if you plan to bring a centerpiece.

First Pages Wanted

Melissa Nasson of Rubin Pfeffer Content is going to do a session on first pages at OWFI 2015. She will cover what goes into a gripping opening that hooks the reader and makes them beg for more. She will also critique first pages during the session, offering her opinions and comments on what could strengthen the piece as well as where it shows promise. The best part about this session, the first pages being critiqued? One of them could be yours!

This is an opportunity to receive an agent's reaction to *your* work. In order to participate, please send the first 250 words of your completed and polished—that's query ready—manuscript to the following email address:

melissa@rpcontent.com

Please title the subject of the email as follows: **OWFI FIRST PAGE PITCH SESSION SUBMISSION** so the entries can be readily identified and not lost in Melissa's slush pile. Be sure to include your name and the title of your entry.

First pages must be submitted by **March 27, 2015** in order to be considered. We highly recommend writers make the most of this opportunity by submitting their work as soon as possible. Only the first fifty entries will be accepted.

While this is an amazing chance for feedback from an industry professional, this is also a live event where time is a factor. While Melissa will cover as much material as possible, submission of a first page does not guarantee a live critique.

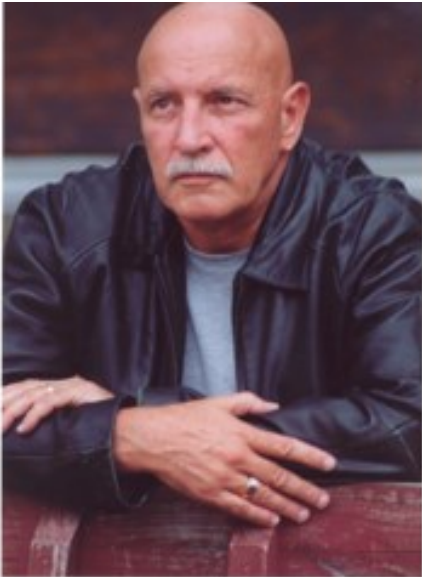
If your entry is selected to be featured during the session, celebrate! But please keep in mind that while feedback on a first page *may* result in a request of more material, this is at the agent's discretion and is not guaranteed. Please do not submit any extra material to Melissa unless she explicitly asks to see more of your work.

You can read more about Melissa, what she's looking for in a novel, and Rubin Pfeffer Content on page 16 of The Report. Good luck everyone!



2015 Faculty

The OWFI 2015 theme is Writing Zone: Craft from the Ground Up, and is perfect for writers just starting out as well as established writers. Below you can find information about most of our speakers, presenters, agents, and publishers.



Les Edgerton is a full-time writer with fifteen books in print. He teaches creative writing on the university level, through private coaching of writers, and on various on-line venues. He writes in a variety of forms: novels, short stories, nonfiction books, screenplays and the subjects he chooses to write about are just as varied, including sports, literary fiction, thrillers, black comedy and the craft of writing. His work has been nominated for or won: the Pushcart Prize, O. Henry Award, PEN/Faulkner Award, Derringer Award, Spinetinger Magazine Thriller of the Year (Legends category), Jesse Jones Book Award, Edgar Allan Poe Award (short story category), Violet Crown Book Award, and others. His screenplays have placed as a semifinalist in the Nicholl's Foundation Script-writing Award, and as a finalist in the Best of Austin and Writer's Guild's screenwriting awards. His 18th book, a black comedy crime caper, titled *The Genuine, Imitation, Plastic Kidnapping* came out in October from Down & Out Books.

Brenda Drake grew up the youngest of three children, an Air Force brat, and the continual new kid at school. She hosts workshops and contests such as Pitch Wars and Pitch Madness on her blog, and holds Twitter pitch parties on the hashtag, #PitMad. When she's not writing or hanging out with her family, she haunts libraries, bookstores, and coffee shops, or reads someplace quiet and not at all exotic (much to her disappointment). She's represented by Peter Knapp at Park Literary. Look for her upcoming novels from Entangled Teen *Touching Fate* and *Library Jumpers*, releasing 2015.



Sarah Henning is a crime writer, recovering newshound, and word nerd of the highest order (aka a freelance copy editor). She has degrees in journalism and Spanish from the University of Kansas, and has worked for several news organizations, including The Associated Press, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Charlotte Observer*, and *The Palm Beach Post*. When she's not hunched over her computer or curled up with a good book, Sarah is probably running ultramarathons, playing with her cherub-cheeked kids, or nagging her husband to eat more kale. She is repped by Rachel Ekstrom of the Irene Goodman Literary Agency.



Quraysh Ali Lansana is author of eight poetry books, three textbooks, a children's book, editor of eight anthologies, and coauthor of a book of pedagogy. He is a faculty member of the Creative Writing Program of the School of the Art Institute and the Red Earth MFA Creative Writing Program at Oklahoma City University. A former faculty member of the Drama Division of The Juilliard School, Lansana served as Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University from 2002-2011, where he was also Associate Professor of English/Creative Writing. *Our Difficult Sunlight: A Guide to Poetry, Literacy & Social Justice in Classroom & Community* (with Georgia A. Popoff) was published in March 2011 by Teachers & Writers Collaborative and

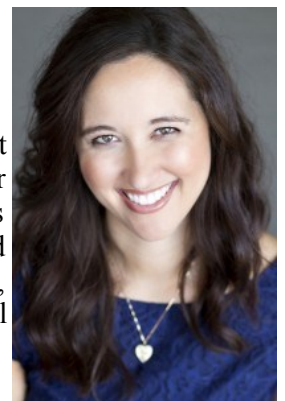
was a 2012 NAACP Image Award nominee. His most recent books include *The Walmart Republic* w/ Christopher Stewart (Mongrel Empire Press, September 2014) and *reluctant minivan* (Living Arts Press, May 2014).

Having a great deal of wanderlust, **Jennifer McMurrain** traveled the countryside working odd jobs before giving into her muse and becoming a writer. She's been everything from a "Potty Princess" in Yellowstone National Park to a Bear Researcher in the mountains of New Mexico. She has won numerous awards for her short stories and novels, including hitting #1 on the Amazon Best Seller list with her debut novel *Quail Crossings*. She lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma with her husband and daughter. She has just released her third novel, *Return To Quail Crossing*.



With a career in law enforcement that spanned nearly two decades, **Lee Lofland** is a nationally acclaimed expert on police procedures and crime scene investigations. He consults for many best-selling authors, and is a regular speaker at writers conferences, including the Left Coast Crime Conference, Pennwriters Conference, Deadly Ink, and Willamette Writers Conference. He is also the host and director of the Writers' Police Academy, an event where writers learn realism by attending an actual police academy.

Trisha Leigh is a product of the Midwest, which means it's pop, not soda, garage sales, not tag sales, and you guys as opposed to y'all. Most of the time. She's been writing seriously for over five years now and has published six YA novels and eight adult titles (as *USA Today* bestselling author Lyla Payne). Trisha is the author of [The Last Year](#) series and the [Cavy Files](#) books. Look for [The Historians](#), the first in a new YA science fiction series, coming from Bloomsbury Spark in 2015! She's represented by Kathleen Rushall at Marsal Lyon Literary Agency.

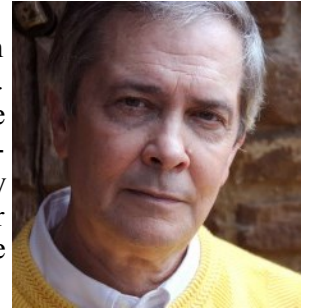


Amy Shojai is a certified animal behavior consultant and author of 30 nonfiction and fiction pet-centric books, including *Lost And Found* and *Hide And Seek*, thrillers that include dog viewpoint. She's also a composer, playwright and performer and has collaborated with Frank Steele to co-write, direct and produce three musical theater productions. Most recently, she combined her love of pets, music and theater when she and Frank co-wrote, directed and produced, *Strays, The Musical* to enthusiastic audiences in Sherman, Texas. Amy also is a past OWFI president and is delighted to share sessions about collaboration, playwrighting techniques and pet-centric tips.



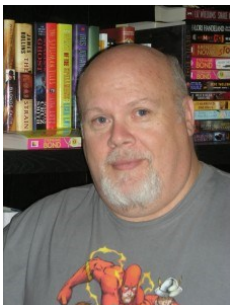
Jerry D. Simmons is an Oklahoma native and former New York publishing executive for the Time Warner Book Group. Over the years he directed an international marketing group and worked on hundreds of New York Times bestselling titles and with numerous bestselling authors. Today he writes the INSIGHTS™ blog and publishes the TIPS for WRITERS™ newsletter.

Frank Steele has had a passion for writing since he wrote neighborhood plays as a kid in Vernon, Texas. As a teacher, he encouraged his students to write and create original work. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and plays/screenplays are his main focus these days. His topics for OWFI will focus on writing with a partner...the challenges and the successes. His most recent outing is *Strays, The Musical* written with OWFI member, Amy Shojai, which was recently produced to enthusiastic crowds in Sherman, Texas. Can 'partner writing' be a success? Very much so! He looks forward to explaining how in the sessions he and Amy will present.



Brandy Walker is the owner and lead designer at Sister Sparrow Graphic Design. Brandy is an international award winning artist with over ten years of graphic design experience. After founding Sister Sparrow Graphic Design in 2012, she fell in love with book cover design and has happily designed book covers ever since. Brandy's covers have been featured on blogs like The Book Cover Designer and Library at the End of the Universe. Brandy lives in a small town in the Texas Panhandle with her military husband and their three rambunctious dogs.

Andrew E. Kaufman is a former broadcast journalist-turned-author. He was named one of the highest-grossing independent authors in the country after his combined sales pushed well past the six-figure mark. His success led to an international dual publishing deal with Thomas & Mercer and 47North. After receiving his journalism and political science degrees at San Diego State University, Andrew began his writing career as an Emmy-nominated writer/producer, working at the CBS affiliate in San Diego, and then in Los Angeles. For more than ten years, he produced special series and covered many nationally known cases, including the O.J. Simpson Trial. Andrew is represented by Scott Miller, Executive Vice President of Trident Media Group in New York.



Author of over 180 published books, **Mel Odom** lives in Oklahoma with his family and enjoys movies, books, television, games, gardening, and... (he's ADHD and easily snared into bright and shiny).

2015 Conference Scholarship Application

Conference dates: Friday May 1 and Saturday May 2, 2015 at the Embassy Suites, 1815 S Meridian Ave, Oklahoma City Schedule posted on the website: OWFI.org

Full (two-day) and Partial (one-day) Conference Scholarships are available for qualifying applicants. Membership in OWFI is not required. Applications for full conference must be received no later than **March 1**, with notification of award by March 15. Single day application deadline is **April 1** with notification by April 10. All candidates must complete this application form and also submit a statement saying why they would like to attend. Previous scholarship recipients will be considered, if funding is available after new applications have been reviewed. The Basket War silent auction project raises funds for scholarships, therefore each recipient of a scholarship must agree to volunteer for an hour at the silent auction tables during the conference. Scholarships do not include hotel room or extra workshops; Banquets are included with full two-day scholarships only.

Submit application to: Gwen Hewitt, HCR 65 Box 185, Canton, OK 73724-9403
Email applications preferred; email: Gwencool@aol.com

Please answer all 10 questions and attach your statement.

1. Your Name: _____

2. Your complete Address: _____

3. Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

4. Your Website (if applicable): _____

5. If not selected for full scholarship, do you want to be considered for 1-day? Circle one: Yes No

6. Are you an OWFI member? Circle one: Yes No If yes, for how long? _____

7. Are you a member of an OWFI affiliate? Yes No If yes, which one(s)? _____

8. Are you a high school or college student? Circle one: Yes No If yes, indicate institute, classification, and, if in college, your major: _____

9. Have you ever attended an OWFI conference? Circle one: Yes No

10. Have you ever received an OWFI scholarship before? Circle one: Yes No If yes, when and how many? _____

11. Include a statement of less than 500-words explaining how you would benefit from receiving an OWFI scholarship and how OWFI would benefit from your participation in the conference. Include such information as: Academic or Work experience; Leadership & Community service or Letters of recommendation; and most important is a personal statement of your goals and aspirations.

Basket Wars

BasketWars: Silent Auction for Scholarships

Every year before the OWFI conference, affiliates and individuals use their imaginations to assemble “baskets” of goodies for writers and readers to enjoy. Those “baskets” may be suitcases, purses, buckets, antique metal egg baskets, or any container imaginable. Contents vary from books, journals, interesting bottles of drinks, gardening tools, jewelry, quilts, book marks, candy, a Kindle, and anything a writer or reader might use and/or enjoy. Affiliates and individuals may donate more than one basket.



We often donate more for each basket than is received in the highest bid, but the goal is to help people attend the next year’s conference, people that otherwise would not be able to be there. The only requirement for scholarship recipients, other than attending and improving their writing skills, is they help with BasketWars during the conference they attend.

Now, what guidelines do we have for the silent auction? One big problem is having participants read and remember deadlines during the auction. I’ll list those deadlines below, and they will be posted all around the tables where the items for auction reside. If people/affiliates would notify Vivian Zabel (Vivian@vivianzabel.com) that they will be providing a basket, paper work for the donation can be prepared before hand. “Baskets” need to be checked-in no later than 9:00 AM Friday morning of the conference. They can be brought Thursday evening.

Basket Wars Includes two divisions: A division for large baskets includes containers with 15 or more items; a division for small baskets includes containers with 14 or fewer items. Certificates will go to affiliate and individual in each division that provides the basket bringing the highest bid.

Basket Wars continued...

Guidelines:

1. If people notify me that their affiliates or they individually, are bringing a basket by April 15, 2015, I can have paper work ready and know how many tables to have available.
2. Be creative. Be as generous as possible, but remember this is a voluntary project.
3. **Please be sure that the name of the individual or affiliate and size division as well as list of contents is attached to the basket (container) when it is checked in at the conference.**
4. The time when the auction **will end** (11:00 AM) will be posted by the basket display. NOTE full information at BasketWars tables.

The results of the silent auction will be posted by the tables where the baskets are displayed. **Information needed**, when you notify me of a basket that will be donated, please send the following:

1. Name of person or affiliate
2. Name of contact person for an affiliate
3. Email address of person to contact

BasketWars contact info:
Vivian Zabel,
Vivian@vivianzabel.com
cell phone 405-820-9640,
address: 2912 Rankin
Terrace, Edmond, OK 73013

P.S. We brought in nearly \$1,000 last year.



2015 Pitch Session Appointment Guidelines

Your conference fee **must** be paid before you make an appointment with an editor or agent. Appointment requests will be accepted **ONLY** between **March 1, 2015 and April 28, 2015**. Between those dates, send email request for appointment to Erin Cochran at ecochranpitchc015@gmail.com

Be sure to put OWFI in the subject line. Please include your phone number and an e-mail address. For more information about what type of manuscripts the editor, agent or publisher is looking for, and how they like it presented, go to their websites.

One-day attendees who wish to make an appointment must state which day they are attending. You may make only one appointment with either an agent or an editor. Send a first & second choice for agent or editor in case of scheduling problems. Additional appointments may be available at the conference. Check at the registration desk.

If you do not receive an email confirmation of appointment within a week of your request, please resubmit. Sometimes e-mail goes astray in cyberspace.

Appointment times will be e-mailed to you prior to the conference. Please bring this information with you to the conference. Please verify your appointment time at the editor/agent table at check-in since appointments may have been changed to accommodate special needs.

Please do not ask for a specific time or date in your request for appointment unless you are a volunteer at the conference and need to work around your designated duty roster.

Do your homework! Practice your pitch before you come, and be certain your manuscript is within the range of work the editor or agent represents. Good luck to each of you!

Following is a list of attending agents, editors, and publishers.

Richard Thomas is editor-in-chief of Dark House Press. They are currently seeking short story collections of at least 40,000 words and adult novels in the following genre: neo-noir, fantasy, sci-fi, horror, transgressive, crime, surrealism, and the grotesque. They like an elevated perspective and a literary voice so avoid the expected, formulaic, same-old stories.
(special notes on genres)

Fantasy – NO dragons, trolls, or swords

Sci-fi – nothing classic like spaceships or time travel

Horror – avoid the same ol' classic monsters and cheap thrills

They do not want erotica, romance, or most non-fiction. Memoir, poetry, young adult, and new adult will be a hard sale ... but they aren't saying 100% "no" yet.





Leon Husock is with L. Perkins Agency. He is seeking *middle grade* and *young adult* novels in science fiction and fantasy genres. He likes strong characters and an original premise but keeps an open mind for anything that catches his eye. He also likes historical fiction set in the 20th century prior to 1980. His dream manuscript is fantasy with a vibrant protagonist and a unique premise that twists an existing trope.

The L. Perkins Agency, founded in 1987, has agents in many countries and works with an established film agency. They work hard to stay ahead of the curve and help their authors lead the pack. They currently represent around 200 authors in a wide variety of genre.

Melissa Nasson is with Rubin Pfeffer Content. She is seeking *middle grade*, *young adult*, and *new adult* fiction in any genre. She likes unique, edgy characters, surprise settings, and romance that builds slowly and gives her butterflies. She also likes fantasy and sci-fi but not thrillers. In adult fiction she is open to speculative fiction and gothic/horror novels.



Rubin Pfeffer Content, LLC was founded in 2014 by Rubin Pfeffer after forty years in the publishing industry. They exclusively represent children’s and young adult literature as well as content that serves educational publishers and digital developers. They are devoted to producing long-lasting children’s literature that exemplifies outstanding writing, innovative creativity, and artistic excellence.



Michelle Johnson is the founder of Inklings Literary Agency. She is seeking *young adult*, *new adult*, and *adult* fiction as well as *memoir* and *true crime* non-fiction. She likes stories with surprising plot twists and well-rounded characters that make her laugh and cry. In fiction she is looking for contemporary, suspense, thriller, mystery, horror, romance of all kinds, fantasy, paranormal, and supernatural.

Inklings Literary Agency, LLC is a full service, hands-on agency seeking submissions from established authors and talented new authors. They represent a broad range of literary and commercial fiction as well as memoir and true crime. They are not seeking other non-fiction, poetry, short stories, screenplays, or children’s picture books. They offer their clients interactive representation and guidance to help build their author platforms and career.

Ally Robertson has been an editor with The Wild Rose Press since they first opened their doors in 2006. While she specializes in the Crimson Rose line she edits across the company for any genre and welcome speaking with authors about all their projects.

Although starting out as a romance only publisher, The Wild Rose Press has accepted mainstream fiction in a wide variety of categories for the past two years. These include historical fiction, erotica, women's fiction, mystery, thrillers and suspense and many others. They also, of course, still publish all subgenres of romance. TWRP, as they are known, publish short stories and full length novels. All stories are published electronically and anything over 45,000 words or 100 pages also goes to print.

TWRP is an author-friendly publisher. We believe that publishing a book takes team work between the author, editor and publisher. All submissions to Wild Rose Press will be considered and responded to.

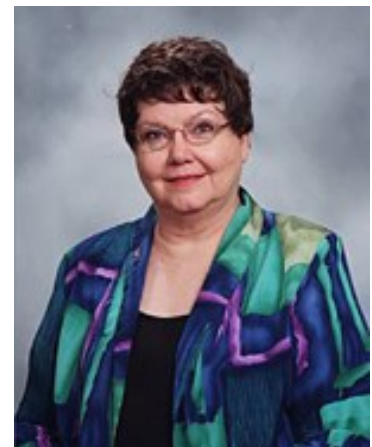
The Wild Rose Press, Inc. was voted Best publisher of the year for the 7th year in a row by a poll of voting of their readers and authors from Preditors and Editors. Ally Robertson has been at the OWFI conference for the past five years and is looking forward to another great year of meeting writers and hopefully signing new authors.



Brent Taylor joined TriadaUS Literary Agency in 2014. He represents middle grade, young adult, new adult, and select adult fiction in women's, crime, and literary genre's. He likes high-concept stories with a big commercial hook that are fun, smart, and exciting. For *middle grades* he likes humorous, intelligent fantasy and scare-the-pants-off-him ghost stories with larger than life characters and atmospheric settings. In *Young Adult* he's looking for genre bending stories, especially mysteries and crime fiction (the grittier, the better), high-concept contemporary stories with addictive romantic tension, and themes that deal with finding-your-place-in-the-world and new beginnings.

In *New Adult* his interests are skewed towards dark, gripping stories that keep him on the edge of his seat and entertained throughout. In *Adult* he loves psychological suspense based on true events and high-concept women's fiction that either is grand and exquisitely told or simple and heart-warming.

Vivian Zabel is the founder and president of 4RV publishing, a traditional, royalties paying publishing house with over 75 authors, including many OWFI members. She published short stories, articles, and poetry while teaching in the public schools for 27 years and now has seven published novels. 4RV publishes in the following genres: children's, teens and tweens, new adult, adult, non-fiction, and bible-based.



Hotel Information

OWFI is going to be incredible this year. Whether you're starting out with your first novel, in the midst of your career and looking for a little guidance, or a seasoned writer looking to take your work to the next level, OWFI has something for you. Don't miss out! Registration is open, you can submit your information online at OWFI.org under the CONFERENCE tab, or fill out the form on the next page and mail it in with your payment.

Then be sure to book your room at The Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City, 1815 South Meridian . To take advantage of the conference rate, we recommend you book your room(s) no later than 4-17-2015. After which the reduced OWFI rate of \$119.00 for a king suite or \$129.00 for a double suite may no longer be available. This rate is per suite, per night, plus tax. Be sure to mention "OWFI" when making room reservation(s).

Breakfast and Happy Hour included!

If you wish to book your room online, you can do so at OWFI.org under the CONFERENCE tab.



Rcvd date _____ Check # _____ \$ _____ Full _____ Pre Con. _____ F-S _____ F-L _____ F-B _____
S-S _____ S-L _____ S-B _____ \$ Due _____ Club _____ Initial _____

THIS SECTION FOR OFFICE USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THE LINE.

OWFI 2015

Writing Zone: Craft from The Ground Up

2015 Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference
May 1 – May 2
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME (type or print clearly) _____

STATUS (circle): ATTENDEE, JUDGE, SPEAKER, OWFI OFFICER, SCHOLARSHIP, MEMBER AT LARGE

HOME PHONE _____ BUS. PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ AFFILIATION _____

FULL REGISTRATION: (includes Fri/Sat seminars and both Friday night and Saturday night banquets).
Refunds granted only if requested on or before April 6, 2015, a \$50 processing fee will be charged.

Postmarked by 3-13-2015 @ \$175 each x _____ = \$ _____
Postmarked **after** 3-13-2015 @ \$200 each x _____ = \$ _____

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS:

Friday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$55 each x _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$55 each x _____ = \$ _____

Special Dietary Requests: Vegetarian Gluten Free

SINGLE DAY SEMINARS (banquets NOT included)

Friday Seminars only @ \$80 each x _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Seminars only @ \$80 each x _____ = \$ _____

Extra WORKSHOPS (minimum 25 participants, must preregister - NO WALK-INS)

Thursday 7:00-9:00 p.m. *Pre-Con Workshop (meal included)* **Richard Thomas** @ \$ 25 each x _____ = \$ _____
Friday Box Lunch Workshop (meal included) – **Untapped Source of Sales** @ \$ 25 each x _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Box Lunch Workshop (meal included) – @ \$ 25 each x _____ = \$ _____

Total amt. enclosed = \$ _____

To pay by credit card, please enroll at OWFI.org. Enclose check payable to **OWFI**. Mail completed form and check (if applicable) to:
Vinita Eggers, OWFI treasurer Rt. 7 Box 51 Mena, AR 71953

Refunds granted only if requested on or before April 6, 2015, a \$50 processing fee will be charged.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Acceptances and Sales:

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER: POEM: "You Want Me to Do What?" *Mature Living* (12/15).

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMN: "Silliman on Sports" (Humoroutcasts.com, Absrdhumor.com).

MARY BRANNON: ARTICLE: "Phillipine Heat Melts Christmas Spirit," *Norman Transcript* (12/24/14).

Novels and New Books:

SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN: NOVEL: *Little Wicked Things*, amazon.com e-book, (www.coganbooks.net) (11/14).

BARBARA SHEPHERD: editor and publisher for ANTHOLOGY: *Beads on a String - Peace, Joy, and Love, for Wordwrights OKC Christian Writers*.

Professional Activities:

STAN SOLLOWAY: Interviewed on the National Red Eye Radio Network, after a humor article he wrote about Chelsea Manning; Named "Funniest Person in Oklahoma" after winning the Oklahoma City Comedy Competition at the Loony Bin Comedy Club on October 19; Headlined at the Comedy Parlor in Tulsa, OK on October 25; Wrote and performed his own material for paid speaking and comedy engagements at Lions Club of Newcastle (Nov. 8), Parental Comedy Show at MWC Community Center (Nov. 14), Anniversary Party in Chickasha (Nov. 22), Cox Machine Company Holiday Party in Wichita KS (Dec. 6), Atlas Pipeline Holiday party in Velma OK (Dec. 11), Christmas Party for a vending company in Ardmore (Dec. 12), Christmas Party for the Oklahoma National Guard in OKC (Dec. 18), Opolis Theater Christmas Party in Norman (Dec. 22).

LIZ COWAN: Book signing at the Canadian River Winery, October 25.

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER: Oklahoma City Writers' Contest Chair, November 14; Two editorial jobs, Fall 2014.

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Announced 2014 Winners of Art Affair Annual Literary Contest.

Contest Winnings:

NEAL HUFFAKER: Poetry Society of Oklahoma National Poetry Day Contest, DA-

VID STEWART MEMORIAL AWARD: 2nd Place, "Jam Session"; Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, RHYMED POETRY: 1st Place, "Romance 101"; UNRHYMED POETRY: HM, "Halloween"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 1st Place, "Into Darkness"; CHILDREN'S FICTION: 2nd Place, "The Spunky Tenderfoot"; SHORT STORY: "The Indomitable Dentist"; BONNIE SPEER CREME DE LA CREME AWARD: "Into Darkness".

STAN SOLLOWAY: Mortal Komey Contest in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, 1st Place.

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Oklahoma City Writers' Inc. Annual Contest, FLASH FICTION: 1st Place, "Painting on Safari"; JUVENILE: 1st Place, "Learn to Write a Haiku Poem". INSPIRATIONAL: 3rd Place, "Night of Thieves"; HUMOR: 3rd Place, "Pacemakers--Are They the Real Deal?"; SHORT STORY: 3rd Place, "Zianna's New Tribe"; Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, RHYMED POETRY: 2nd Place, "Poet on the Prairie"; UNRHYMED POETRY: "Auntie's Temper"; NON-FICTION ARTICLE: 2nd Place, "Claudia Potter, Medicine Woman"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: HM, "Writing with One Wing"; CHILDREN'S FICTION: 1st Place, "Hear Me on the Radio"; SHORT STORY: 2nd Place, "The Portrait Painter".

MARY BRANNON: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, RHYMED POETRY: 3rd Place, "Reflections"; UNRHYMED POETRY: HM, "The Note"; NON-FICTION ARTICLE: HM, "Christmas in March"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: HM, "Could He Do It?"; CHILDREN'S FICTION: HM, "The Other Twin".

SKYE LUCKING: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, UNRHYMED POETRY: 1st Place, "Memories"; NON-FICTION ARTICLE: 1st Place, "Purple Elephant"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: HM, "Laughing Gas and the Tornado".

JEAN STOVER: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, UNRHYMED POETRY: 2nd Place, "Springtime"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: HM, "Little Sister Tagalong".

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, UNRHYMED POETRY: 3rd Place, "Spellbound"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 2nd Place, "Grief Relief"; CHILDREN'S FICTION: 3rd Place, "A Lottery Ticket for Lionel"; SHORT STORY: 3rd Place, "Granny Thistle".

MARY PAYNE: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, NON-FICTION ARTICLE: 3rd Place, "Do Adopted Children Grow Up?"; CHILDREN'S FICTION: HM, "Lessons for Lyncoya".

KEITH EATON: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 3rd Place, "Remembering Paul and Jackie".

MARY A. SPAULDING: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, NOSTALGIC ESSAY: HM, "My Very Most Unforgettable Character".

SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN: Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Writing Contest, SHORT STORY: 1st Place, "Mystery without Mozart".

Norman Galaxy of Writers continued...

Club News:

Rose Deatherage Ferrier passed away November 25, 2014 at the age of 100 years. She was a poet, a writer, a quilter, and a Sooner football fan. Rose's writing career included awards from Galaxy and OWFI. Her poetry was published in *Broomweed Journal*.

William Dale "Bill" Trumbly passed away October 31, 2014 at age 93. As a lieutenant in Company D, 38th Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, he arrived in Normandy, France ten days after D-day and saw 234 days on the front line, including the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and a battlefield promotion to 1st lieutenant. For many months, he worked with fellow Galaxy member Russ Long to gather stories of other veterans.

Norman Galaxy of Writers meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information go to: <http://normangalaxyofwriters.blogspot.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/NormanGalaxy>

Writer's Guild of Arkansas

Professional Activities

MAEVE MADDOX: SPEAKER: Author of film guide, *A Joan for All Seasons*, Maeve spoke about the historical Joan of Arc versus Hollywood notions, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Arkansas (01/15).

Publications and Sales

MARILYN H. COLLINS: ARTICLE:, "Driving the Mulberry River: Take a Scenic Tour Down Highway 215," *Arkansas Highways* (11/14); **ARTICLE:** "American Quilts: Stitches in History," *Butterfield Life Magazine* (11/14); **ARTICLE:** "The Second Shepherd's Play: Medieval Entertainment comes of Northwest Arkansas," *2Njoy Magazine* (12/14);

RHONDA FRANZ: ARTICLE: "Double Duty: Tips from the Trenches for Moms of Twins," *Peekaboo magazine* (11/14); **ARTICLE:** "Helpful Holiday Foods for Hungry Families (and Christmas Parties)," *TasteArkansas.com* (12/14); **ARTICLE:** "Scrumptious Pumpkin Scones" *TasteArkansas.com* (11/14); **ARTICLE:** "Kids in the Kitchen: Beyond the Basics," *TasteArkansas.com* (01/15); **ARTICLE:** "Frosty Fun! 23 Cool Winter Birthday Party Ideas," *Calgary's Child magazine* (01/15).

Fort Worth Writers

Acceptances and Sales

ARLENE CHAPIN: ARTICLES: Three articles relating to newly implemented Texas state required S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs in schools and the decades of success found in privately established robotics programs and competitions. Community News, Parker County, TX (12/14); Two (01-15).

ROGER LATHAM: LETTERS: *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* published three of Roger's "Letters to the Editor" from 09 through 12/14).

Novels and New Books

ARLENE CHAPIN: BOOK: *Face Forward, Move Forward*, TAG Publishing (02/15).

Professional Activities

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: SPEAKER and SIGNING: "History Haunts and Legends," the bi-annual Paranormal Conference and Ghost Tour in Jefferson, TX (11/14); EDITOR: Edited articles for the Fort Worth Coin Club's submissions to the Texas Numismatic Association—the latest, (01/15).

Club News:

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: The Fort Worth Coin Club presented Olyve with a lifetime membership, the 5th given since 1955.

DEBBIE GILLETTE is the new 2015 president of Fort Worth Writers. Vice-President: **Jeanne Bennett**; Secretary: **Marty Kiowski**; Treasurer: **Linda Austin**; Program Director: **Neena Kahlon**; New Members: **Roger Latham**; Delegate/Reporter: **Olyve Hallmark Abbott**



Bartlesville WordWeavers

Acceptances and Sales

BOB LONG: ANTHOLOGY: *It Really Happened*, Amazon (2/15).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: AUDIOBOOK: *Winter Song*, LilyBear House (2/15).

Novels & New Books

SARA MARION: NOVEL: *Confessions*, Amazon (11/14).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: AUDIOBOOK: *Quail Crossings*, TreasureLine Publishing (1/15), NOVELLA: *The Divine Heart*, LilyBear House (2/15).

MARGERY WARDER: NOVEL: *Elizabeth's Prodigal*, Parson's Creek Press (11/14).

Club News

The Bartlesville WordWeavers are saddened to report the loss of their member Bob Long who passed away on January 14, 2015.

The WordWeavers of Bartlesville meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Bartlesville Public Library.

Enid Writers Club

- Mable Carpenter stated that she had been re-working the first in her series of novels and had four query letters out to potential publishers and was awaiting an answer. She has begun a series to complement the original novel.
- Marsha Kay mentioned that Tony LoPresti asked her to be the third Vice Chairman to the Contest Committee for OWFI.
- Sharon Frye has been nominated for the Push Cart Prize. You must be nominated by your editor and she is excited to learn the outcome of her nomination.
- Peggy Chambers' newest novel *Secrets of Sandhill Island* was launched January 14, 2015.
- Peggy Chambers has been asked to speak at the OWL meeting in May. The theme for this workshop is Paranormal/Mystery.

Pen and Keyboard Writers

Novels and New Books:

JANET K. BROWN's new women's fiction was released by Pen-L Publishing recently. *Worth Her Weight* is an inspirational novel, ISBN: 978-1-940222-95-0.

VIVIAN ZABEL's historical young adult novel, *Prairie Dog Cowboy*, was released in paperback January 9, 2015. The hardback edition debuted in 2008. Publisher, 4RV; ISBN: 978-1-940310-19-0; available through any bookstore, Amazon, and <http://4rvpublishingcatalog.com>.

Professional Activities:

JACQUE GRAHM, **VIVIAN ZABEL**, and **SHIRL YANCEY** participated in the Edmond Authors Book Fair January 24, 2015.

VIVIAN ZABEL presented a workshop "So You Want to Write a Children's Book" at the LexiCon Writing Conference in Denton, Texas.

Contest Winnings:

VIVIAN ZABEL's children's book *I Like Pink* took 2nd place in the North Texas Book Awards.

Honors and Awards:

Children's book *I Like Pink* by **VIVIAN ZABEL**, received several honors recently: *Children's Literary Classics Seal of Approval*; *Silver Seal in 2014 International Literary Classics Awards*; one of 15 yearly titles chosen for *KART Children's Book List for 2014*.

Club News:

Pen and Keyboard Writers meets the second Saturday of each month, from 10 AM until noon, in the conference room at Mardel's, 33rd and Boulevard, Edmond, OK. Every meeting includes "share time" for writers to read and share their works.

HOLLY JAHANGIRI became the new affiliate reporter, effective January 10, 2015, while **JACQUE GRAHAM** accepted the treasurer's position.

The group is working on adding more speakers to its program schedule.



