

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

DATE: SUMMER 2010 VOLUME 43 ISSUE 1

THE REPORT



Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD
in Oklahoma, the United States and around the world



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Cover Photo © 2006 Simon Dumitri

The *Report* is the quarterly newsletter of Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. It is published each March, July, September and December. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Submission guidelines are found on the OWFI web site at www.owfi.org. Send submissions to wwyrick@sciencemuseumok.org.
 Chief Editor: Wayne Harris-Wyrick
 Printed by: Schatz Publishing Group
 Book Review Editor: Annie Withers
 Web Reviews Editor: Jen Nipps
 Profiles Editor: Nita Beshear

All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer Barbara Shepherd at:
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 Treasurer: **DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.**

Dan Case

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Dan, thank you for talking me into speaking at this conference. The energy level was incredible. This is the best conference I've ever been to," said one of the speakers to me on Sunday morning after the conference.

This was a typical remark to me from each of the speakers that were in attendance. The agents and editors were greatly impressed with the quality and high level of professional writers we have in our organization. They all said they would be glad to come back if invited. You should all pat yourselves on the back, because everyone contributed in making this conference one of the best ever. AND the word will get out through these folks in New York and throughout the country about our group of writers at OWFI and our great conference. This will make it easier to attract quality speakers, editors, and agents to our conferences in the future. (Pat yourselves on the back again.)

Great things have happened in our organization this year. Thanks to the committee headed up by Wayne Wyrick, we now have changes to our bylaws that have effectively created a new affiliate group in OWFI, members-at-large. Actually members-at-large is not a new affiliate group, but they are now represented on the board by two new delegates, Gayleen Rabakukk (gayleen@rabakukk.com) and Larry Mike Garmon (talewright@gmail.com). If you are a member-at-large and have concerns that need to be addressed by the board, you can relay those concerns through your new delegates.

Last year at this time, I challenged everyone and every affiliate group to set goals related to writing (entering the OWFI annual contest) and attending and supporting the OWFI annual conference. What a great response we had! (Pat yourselves on the back again.) It's time

to renew our goals for this coming fiscal year. Start now by writing something in a category you don't normally write in for the next contest. Start saving those nickels, dimes, and quarters to pay for the conference next year.

Linda Apple, our new conference chair, and I have named next year's conference, "Write Now!" While you are still high from the conference, follow up those agent and editor requests... right now. Implement those new ideas you received at the conference... right now. And, of course, starting today, write now!

With only a couple of days rest from this year's conference, we got to work on the Write Now! Conference 2011. We will be announcing our hotel location and our keynote speaker for 2011 at the next board meeting on September 12, 2010. Normally this board meeting would be on the first Sunday, but since this is Labor Day weekend, we will schedule the meeting the following Sunday.

My challenge to you all individually is to start writing something new for the contest next year, (write now!) save your nickels, dimes, and quarters for the conference fees, (right now!), and volunteer to help at the Write Now! Conference. (email me at chickenwriter@gmail.com) Let's continue to show the world that Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. is home to the best writers.

NEWS FLASH

So many attendees to the 2010 Conference commented how nice it was to be back in our old "stomping grounds" and the Oklahoma City Embassy Suites hotel and conference center Dan made it a priority to try

and get us back there for 2011 at a favorable rate. He has signed a contract on behalf of OWFI to hold the next conference at the same venue.



All Photos credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick

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Don't Miss This Book!

HOW TO WRITE BEST-SELLING FICTION

By Dean Koontz

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

"Stories are another way of pretending we live forever – they allow us to live more lives than the one God allotted to us," Dean Koontz says. "Successful authors touch a common cord that binds us all together." Clearly he goes much deeper than how to write fiction here. He explores the deep need storytellers fill in our culture.

I knew reading this book would be an adventure when Jerry Jenkins, with over 65M books sold himself, wrote that this is "the finest book on writing ever written."

Koontz' excitement and passion for reading and writing scream off the pages, but I was surprised by how personal it feels. With a teacher's heart, he reaches down from his lofty, high-published heights (Google tells me 400M copies sold to date in over 38 languages) all the way down to me, as if he actually cares that I achieve excellence first, then selling success.

The book is so full of priceless advice I struggled to do it justice in this small space. So I'll hit some of the unusual high spots and hope you'll find a copy to read for yourself. But good luck there because it's way out-of-print and the few used copies available are pricey. I'll spare you the details of my finding a copy to review.

What encouragement and challenge I felt when he wrote that all good novelists are sooner or later popular. Then he uses the more powerful term anchored in history, 'storytellers,' saying their work lasts through the ages. Storytellers are those who write **for** the masses rather than **down** to the masses. He says academics are often scornful of these works in their day, giving as examples, Dickens, Mark Twain, and Robert Lewis Stevenson. Koontz adds, the fundamental test for greatness in literature is whether it's being read.

The marketplace for fiction is always changing. Books will sell, he thinks, as long as civilization survives to produce them. And he said (30 years before the Kindle, by the way) "so flow with the changes and profit from them." Millions and millions of people truly love fiction and no other form of entertainment can be so totally involving.

Nothing has the breadth, depth, richness, and emotional impact of a well-wrought novel.

Koontz demonstrates the difference between mainstream and genre fiction better than any I've seen before, saying mainstream is well researched and crafted and deals with broader stories than genre. Because of this, they appeal to a larger audience, which makes it possible to communicate with more people. But this last point is particularly important to the publisher since he has to make a profit. It provides the opportunity to promote to a larger audience for larger sales. Another fact you might want to remember is happy endings stimulate better sales.

With genre fiction, the simplicity limits the appeal and the sales. I'd have to say my own reading preference is usually genre fiction, but I see his point.

I'll just list some of his major topics in the book and make brief comments, hoping to whet your appetite.

Creating and Structuring a Story Line: Koontz says it's often a disaster to let the characters control the course and intent of the story, that you should know how to solve the hero's problem before starting the novel. The best stories come about when you "squeeze and process real-life experiences into a pungent essence." The pressure applied by plot structure 'helps reduce the chaos of real life to a meaningful moment of observed truth.'

Story Ideas: Read/observe broadly.

The initial idea in his books is usually external but the rest comes from his own personality filtered through the character's POV. He thinks plots from external sources feel flat and forced. But take heart, while writing bad stuff he says you can often get better ideas.

The Classic Plot: He uses a version of the story cycle you've seen spelled out many places, with the four points. I'll only mention his first point – the hero is about to be plunged into 'terrible trouble.' He thinks the worst error new writers make is not making the trouble terrible enough.

He says you lose the reader if they aren't hooked in the first chapter and the editor if not hooked by page three. But you have to capture the book buyer on page one!

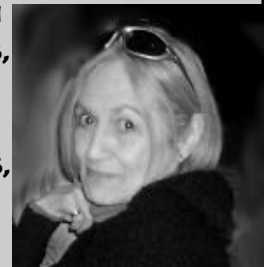
Action, Action, Action: It's "very important" but hard to do it just right until you've developed the felt sense. Better you should err with too much until then.

Read, Read, Read: I'll let you find

(Continued on page 16)

Annie Withers, originally from Tulsa, lives in Kansas City, and is a member of KC Writers

Group, Tulsa Night Writers, OWL, and OWFI. She writes articles, mostly profiles, of people, events,



and places and is writing her first novel. She's a designer, photographer, and okay – a bit of a philosopher.

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Once Around the Web

Procrastinating Writers: A Website Review

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

I finished the laundry, dried the dishes, and took out the trash. I don't have a dog to walk. How many computer games can I play before I have to get writing?

Ooops! Hello. You caught me.

Some days, I am the Procrastination Queen. Who isn't? (For you men out there, I concede you would be Procrastination Kings instead.)

I keep an eye out for tips and tricks to help me beat procrastination. Recently, while browsing for blogs on my Kindle e-reader (yes, procrastinating), I found the Procrastinating Writers blog (www.procrastinatingwritersblog.com).

It was started by Jennifer Blanchard in March 2008 to help her and some of her friends avoid procrastinating to keep them from writing. She says it worked. She completed a novel a week and a half before her self-imposed deadline. She continued the blog well after completing her project.

Blanchard and guest bloggers share tips, tricks, and tools that have helped them beat the procrastination habit. Recent posts include "5 Methods to Help You Write Every Day," "The Un-Schedule Worksheet," and "When Is Procrastination Really Not Procrastination?"

New entries post once a week. Despite what we hear about "you have to include links and interactive elements in your blog posts," she has very little of that. It does not take away from her blog at all. In fact, it makes it less busy, which is good for click-happy procrastinators like me.

Additional sections include Resources, where she lists some writing-related ebooks; Support This Blog, which tells readers how they can help support the cost of maintaining Procrastinating Writers; and Write Every Day, which includes a site-based program

similar to Dr. Wicked's Writing Lab (www.doctorwicked.com) without the horrible screeching sound or screen-color changes if you stop typing for too long.

Blanchard has made it easy to reach her with the feedback form on her Contact page. She sounds accessible and personable in her "About" information. She even includes her Twitter ID (www.twitter.com/ProcrastWriter) in her posts from time to time.

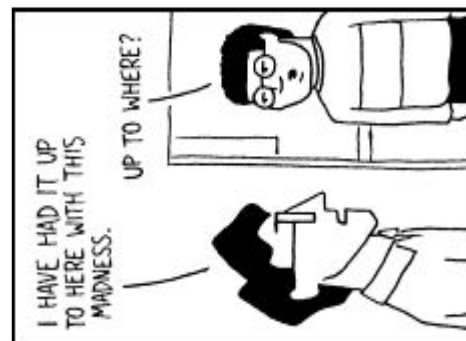
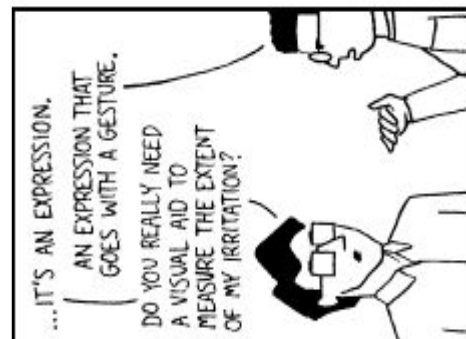
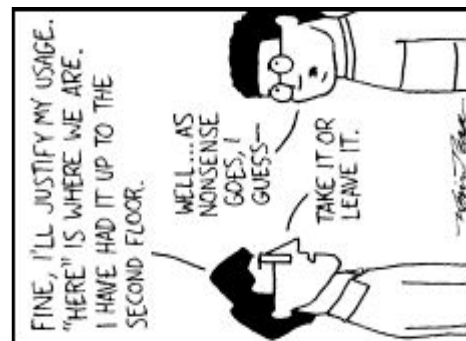
No broken links were found in this blog. That does not mean there are not any. (It really just means my trusty sidekick, Dead-Links.com, is down.)

The tagline for this blog is: "Advice, Motivation, and Inspiration for Writers Who Struggle to Get Started." In the short time I've been following the Procrastinating Writers blog, I have already found this to be true.

Jen Nipps writes from Ada, Oklahoma. She is a member of the Tulsa NightWriters,

McAlester McSherry Writers, and Web Writing Wonders. Her web site is

www.jenifernipps.com. She blogs at <http://jensorganized-writer.wordpress.com>.



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The Doctor is: **In** *Out*

HORSE SENSE

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

Writers need not be scribes of trail rides and rodeos to rustle up a little horse sense. "Horse sense," according to my way-worn-around-the-edges dictionary is defined as: "practical, simple common sense."

With a Stetson nod to much better western writers across the southern plains, I challenge each of you to saddle up your stories and ride 'em again. Why such advice right now? At this time every summer, I'm still answering emails from my OWFI writing friends about "crazy" judges and "ripped apart" entries from the recent contest and awards ceremony. Among the "Thanks for helping me make this story better" posts are the dozen or so asking, "How could this judge be soooooo wrong?"

Easy, they're human. They're sometimes not as objective as we'd like them to be, although I believe they do try hard to be objective. Maybe she subconsciously prefers male character leads and yours was a female. Perhaps your non-fiction content didn't appeal to this particular judge. Even if your story showed zero negative marks, it didn't win. What gives? What's the best action after pondering those judge's comments even when they make no sense? Also easy. We have to dust off our manuscripts and mount them one more time.

THINK PRACTICAL: If you've entered the story in the past and just missed placing by a slight margin, definitely reenter next year. Another judge might lean more toward your story than another as a top placer. Also, try to be objective when analyzing the judge's comments. Try to forget those precious words are yours and if a suggested change rings true, then consider revising. After all, most of us enter these categories hoping for some professional feedback. We should take advantage of any expertise offered, which brings me to a

final practical point: make sure you research the judge's background to determine if you believe the judge boasts criteria to support his or her comments. Not all judges are good at judging, no matter how great they are at writing or at teaching on a college level—and a lot of our judges are writers or professors.

THINK SIMPLE: More than anything, remain true to your style and your voice and YOUR story idea. Sometimes judges who are also writers can't help from taking your idea and conjuring up all kinds of alternative scenarios and character attributes. This type of commentary isn't productive. When perusing those comments, cull any suggestion stemming from a subjective viewpoint. Concentrate more on any "simple" suggestions, such as sentence structure help, or areas a judge believed were cumbersome or awkward or unbelievable. Along the same lines, judges who are teachers often judge from what's stated in textbooks, rather than what is market

and industry standard. The simple solution is learning to salvage the simple suggestions and scrap the others.

THINK 8-SECONDS: Perfect rides must last at least eight seconds. No bronc or bull rider I've ever met says those seconds flew by without any challenges. It's a rough, bumpy, bruising task, and so is writing. Whether creating to enter an OWFI category or creating to sell web content, magazine articles, books or novels, endurance is crucial. Your stamina and steadfast horse sense are two of your greatest allies. Feed them well and put 'em up with care. If you do, you will write to ride another day. And possibly win!

FREE CRITIQUE OFFER! Send the first ten pages of ANY genre, poem, or nonfiction to Robyn at PO BOX 506, Clyde, TX 79510. Include SASE for their return. Pages MUST be in Courier font, 12-point, double-space format. Must, must!

Robyn Conley, the book doctor, speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write.

Her books include: **BE YOUR OWN BOOK DOCTOR**, which gives a checklist of editing tips for writers, and **What Really Matters to Me**, a journal that helps people discover their goals, and then offers practical tips to make those dreams come true. Her other published titles include a diversity of topics, such as **BEYOND THE BRANCHES, Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree** and **Pray the Bible with Paper and Pen**. Her biographies include: **John Grisham, Cartoonists, Alexander G. Bell**, and the juvenile reference books: **Meerkats; Depression; Motion Pictures; and The Automobile**. Robyn has sold to major magazines, such as **The Writer, Writer's Digest, ABA: Student Lawyer**, and a score of others.



For additional info, check out her Web site at www.robynconley.com

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Why We Write

Exploring New Worlds: Vickey Malone Kennedy

Nita Beshear

Every time a writer begins to write they are entering into a new world. OWFI member, Vickey Kennedy is a product of the Star Wars Generation. She says, "I saw the first Star Wars movie in 1977 and I was hooked."

She entered the science fiction world in 1977, however Vickey has been exploring new worlds and frontiers much longer. Her parents may contend she's been making up stories since she began talking. Her first memory of entering into the writing orbit, was as a third grade student. She penned and performed a play which her teacher then entered into a contest for students. Vickey's story placed third against the much older teen age students.

That first win fueled Vickey's thirst for both writing and entering contests. "I've actually made more money on my writing from winning contests than from publishing. I enter a lot of them." This year she placed second with her science fiction novel, "Emmen Seed." Vickey is working to land on two writing contest planets, first place in the Writer's of the Future contest, and Crème de la Crème from OWFI. One day, no doubt, she will conquer those worlds.

Monetary awards aren't Vickey's only reason for orbiting around the writing contest planets. She says, "Contests are excellent learning experiences for new authors. Not to mention winning is an excellent confidence builder." She is especially proud of her landings on the OWFI contest world. "If your story

is good enough to win an award at OWFI then it's ready to send to a publisher."

In addition to writing contests, Vickey also circles the publishing world. Her most recent work is a story in an anthology by Yard Dog Press, www.yarddogpress.com. This is the fifth book in a series. Each book is based on Bubbas surviving the Apocalypse after the Yumbie 25 virus turns all the yuppies of the world into zombies the Bubbas call Yumbies.

The upcoming anthology is called "A Bubba in Time Saves None". Vickey's story is called "Bobbie Sue Almost Got Married."

While the Star Wars movies can be credited with Vickey's obsession with writing science fiction, she claims an over active imagination first pulled her into the writing orbit. She writes, in part, to keep her imagination from getting her in trouble.

When asked how she balances 'real life' and writing, Vickey says, "Balance isn't in my vocabulary. I'm a strong supporter of 'one thing at a time'. But I've become a very efficient multitasker."

The worst interference she's uncounted in her writing travels is her unreasonable need for sleep. "I need to learn to sleep faster." Hopefully, she'll share that secret when she discovers it.

Vickey writes to explore new worlds and frontiers. Why do you write? Share your story with us, other writers want to know.

On a personal note, this year I am your new 1st VP. Since that job is time intensive and I need to do a good job for you in that capacity this column is now looking for a new writer. Who wants to stretch their writing wings and write a quarterly column?

I can tell you, as the columnist you meet some really nice people and finding the stories isn't difficult. Everyone has been willing to share their stories with me, and with all of you.

It's great training and fun. Who's next?

I've enjoyed my time here, thanks to Wayne for making this opening for me. Thanks to all of you who so generously shared your stories. Most of all, thanks to all of you for reading, and commenting on the column.

Thanks,

Nita Beshear

Nita Beshear is a member of McAlister-McShery Writers and Tulsa Nightwriters.

She has two blogs which can be found at www.roadtoscholarship.wordpress.com and www.nita-onewomans-view.blogspot.com.



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Breaking In: Getting Started Freelancing for Magazines

Kelly James-Enger

So you want to write for magazines. Maybe you've dreamed of seeing your name in print. Maybe you want to make money as a freelance writer. Maybe you have a book to promote, or a topic you want to cover... whatever your reasons may be, you've decided to publish your nonfiction work in a magazine. What's next?

Making your pitch by writing a query letter. Don't make the mistake of writing the article and sending it in—most editors prefer queries over completed manuscripts and some won't even read a completed article. (The exception is if you're writing an essay, where you send the essay itself in along with a cover letter.)

Why query? First, that's how professionals do it. When you query, the editor assumes you know something about magazine freelancing. That's good. A query is essentially an offer—you describe the topic you'd like to write and tell her how you'd approach it. She can respond with a yes, and ask you to follow your query, or tell you she likes the idea but wants you to take a different approach than what you've outlined. (That happens in about half of my article assignments.)

Of course she can also say “no thanks,” but even then, a response gives you an opportunity to thank her for her time and pitch another idea. In short, a query letter serves multiple purposes—it's a sales letter, a letter of introduction, and your most important writing sample. There's no magic formula, but I like to use a simple template that includes:

A **lead** where you catch the editor's attention (just as the lead of an article should compel you to keep reading);

A **“why-write it”** section that fleshes out the article and explains

why the editor's readers will be interested in the topic;

A **“nuts and bolts”** section that includes elements like word length, working title, potential sources, and possible sidebars, if applicable.

An **“I'm-so-great”** section, or ISG, where you spell out your experience with or background in the subject. If you have clips, or published work, mention them here along with your writing experience.

What if you have no clips? Then write the best query you can. The fact that you don't have clips (yet) may not be a reflection of your writing ability. That being said, you needn't advertise that fact in your query. In other words, avoid language like, “Although I have never published anything *yet*...” That's a definite turnoff.

But editors are wary of inexperienced writers. That's why I suggest you pitch shorter pieces, or fillers, to the “front-of-the-book” sections most magazines have—these are often a good way to get your foot in the door. And don't overlook smaller periodicals, regional publications and trade magazines as potential markets. They're not as inundated with queries and are more likely to give a relatively inexperienced writer a shot. In fact, many journalists start their magazine writing careers writing for trades to build their clips before moving on to consumer mags.

I've found that after the idea itself, the most important section of the query is the ISG. Make sure that yours is strong. For example, if you're the mother of six kids and you're pitching a parenting piece, say so. If you've worked in human resources and are querying an article about improving hiring practices, mention that. Include clips if you have them but remember that your

most important writing sample is the query itself.

One last note—if you have no clips, an editor may offer to look at your piece “on spec”, or speculation, instead of giving you an assignment. This means that if you want to write it, she'll read it but with no contract or guarantee of acceptance. If you're short on clips, writing on spec can be a good way to prove yourself to an editor—and launch your magazine freelancing career.

Kelly James-Enger is the author of books including *Six-Figure Freelancing: The Writer's Guide to Making More Money* (Random House, 2005) and *Ready, Aim, Specialize! Create your own Writing Specialty and Make More Money*, second edition (Marion Street Press, 2008). She blogs on making more money in less time as a freelancer at <http://dollarsanddeadlines.blogspot.com/>



When Insults Had Class

"He has delusions of adequacy."

- Walter Kerr

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2010 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. is grateful to the people and organizations who sponsored categories.

Crème de la Crème

Red River Writers Club

Two Categories

Bette Ward Widney

Two Foxy Ladies

Full Category

AWOC.COM (Dan Case)

Bartlesville Wordweavers

Linda Basinger

Enid Writers Club

Freelance Writers Network

Gwen Hewitt & Sue McMurphy

Lowell Long

Jeanne Shirley

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Marcia Preston

Red River Writers Club

The Inklings

Tulsa NightWriters

Half Category

McAlester McSherry Writers

Other Donations

Enid Writers Club

A special thank you to the 33 category chairs and 36 judges who volunteered to help make this contest a success. 1st Vice President Inez Phillips and 2nd Vice President Nita Beshear are grateful that so many people willingly shared their time and talents to keep OWFI strong.

A special thanks to Barbara Shepherd, the OWFI treasurer, whose

unique contributions helped make the contest a success.

CATEGORY 1 – MAINSTREAM NOVEL

CATEGORY DONORS – Gwen Hewitt & Sue McMurphy

Judge: Sharon Ervin

Category Chair: Vickey Kennedy

40 Entries

1st Place OLLIE'S ANGELS, Nancy Powell, River Valley Writers

2nd Place THE CODE TALKER, Kathleen Norris Park, Norman Galaxy of Writers

3rd Place HEMINGWAY'S LOVER, Vinnie Hansen, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st CROSS DRESSING, DeeDee Chumley, The Inklings

2nd SONGS FROM THE CANARY CAGE, Kathryn Mitchell, Member at Large

3rd THE DAWNING, Karen Coody Cooper, The Inklings

4th THE THIRD SUSPECT, Dianne McCartney, Member at Large

CATEGORY 2 – CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE NOVEL

Judge: Jacqueline King

Category Chair: Rhonda Leverett

14 Entries

1st KYLE HARDING'S RETURN, Dianne McCartney, Member at Large

2nd LOVE ON THE MENU, Joan Rhine, Web Writing Wonders

3rd GRAVE SECRETS, Linda Trout, Tulsa NightWriters

Honorable Mention

1st BAYOU BORN, Linda Joyce Clements, Kansas City Writers Group

CATEGORY 3 – HISTORICAL NOVEL

Judge: Olyve Hallmark Abbott

Category Chair: Kathryn Veres

17 Entries

1st Place STONE HEART OF THE CHEYENNE, Velda Brotherton, Arkansas Ridge Writers

2nd Place DEVON'S WISH, Jen Nipps, Web Writing Wonders

3rd Place ASHES IN THE WIND, Priscilla A. Maine, McAlester McSherry Writers

Honorable Mention

1st LEAD ME HOME, Theresa Hupp, Kansas City Writers Group

CATEGORY 4 – MYSTERY/ SUSPENSE NOVEL

CATEGORY DONOR – Freelance Writers Network

Judge: Radine Trees Nehring

Category Chair: Jacque Graham

29 Entries

1st Place THE MAN WHO NEEDED KILLING, Susan Brassfield Cogan, Member at Large

2nd Place NO TITLE, Jack Riley, Member at Large

3rd Place SUICIDE WATCH, Joan Rhine, Web Writing Wonders

Honorable Mention

1st PHOBIA, David Lance Wright, Member at Large

2nd DEADLINES, Amy D. Shojai, Cuchara Writers Guild

3rd PASSION FOR GLORY, Marsha Lytle, Member at Large

CATEGORY 5 – WESTERN NOVEL

CATEGORY DONOR – Lowell Long

Judge: Dusty Richards

Category Chair: Mary Ellen Cooper

5 Entries

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2010 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

Honorable Mention

BASTARDY, Burna Cole, Member at Large

CATEGORY 6 - SCI-FI/FANTASY/ HORROR NOVEL

Judge: Bryan Fields

Category Chair: Barbara Shepherd

19 Entries

1st Place THE INDIGO CONSPIRACY, Danelle Hall, Oklahoma Write Now

2nd Place EMMEN SEED, Vickey Malone Kennedy, Norman Galaxy of Writers

3rd Place CRIMES OF OBEDIENCE, BOOK ONE, Molly Vandever, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st THE MASTER PLAN, Gordon Kessler, Kansas Writers Association

CATEGORY 7 - NONFICTION BOOK

Judge: Amy D. Shojai

Category Chair: Frances Searcey

15 Entries

1st Place WHAT HAVE YOU WRITTEN TODAY? Barbara Shepherd, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc., Mid-Oklahoma Writers

2nd Place COME SUNDOWN: THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF A FRONTIER WOMAN, Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Freelance Writers Network

3rd Place ANGELS FOR ALL, Nancy Powell, River Valley Writers

Honorable Mention

1st NINETY-NINE NUDGES FOR WRITING YOUR LIFE STORIES, Ann Champeau, Norman Galaxy of Writers

CATEGORY 8- PICTURE BOOK

Judge: Jeannie Alford Hagy

Category Chair: Ramona Anderson

31 Entries

1st Place CACTUS RED FINDS A BRIDE, Maria Veres, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Place THE LONG LUNCH LINE, Stephanie Theban, Member at Large

3rd Place A TRAIN TICKET FOR TESSA, Jean Stover & Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Honorable Mention

1st HERDING GUINEAS, Sharon Martin, Member at Large

2nd OKLAHOMA ALPHABET, Marsha Kay Oldham, Member at Large

CATEGORY 9 - MIDDLE READER BOOK

Judge: Peggy Fielding

Category Chair: Olyve Hallmark Abbott

14 Entries

1st Place THE BEAN MASTERS: COWBOY COOKS IN THE OLD WEST, Maria Veres, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Place JUST PLAIN LIZZY, Marsha Lyle, Member at Large

3rd Place BIG BANG, Sharon Martin, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st MASTER THEODORE, Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 10 - YOUNG ADULT BOOK

Judge: Mary Ellen Cooper

Category Chair: Lisa Willis

21 Entries

1st Place STRANDED, Lila Guzman, Member at Large

2nd Place DON'T TELL ANYONE I'M WRITING THIS, Maria Veres, Okla-

homa City Writers, Inc.

3rd Place WOUNDED WARRIOR, Jim Laughter and Victor J. Bretthauer, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 11 - POETRY UN- RHYMED SHORT

Judge: Kristyn Reid

Category Chair: Vivian Zabel

83 Entries

1st Place SOFT EXIT, Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

2nd Place WISHES FOR THE RESENTFUL MIDDLE-CLASS, Robert T. Chrisman, Kansas City Writers Group

3rd Place THE INVENTION OF WRITING, Susan W. Peters, Kansas City Writers Group

Honorable Mention

1st SUSTENANCE, Maril Crabtree, Kansas City Writers Group

2nd THE SEEING EYE COW, Doug Kelley, Arkansas Ridge Writers

3rd IN WITH THE NEW, Eileen Ryan, Tulsa NightWriters

4th ON THE RELATIVITY OF MOTION AND THE SUPERIORITY OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, Gordon

Greene, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

5th THE WEEPING WOMAN, Barbara Shepherd, Oklahoma City Writers Inc. & Mid-Oklahoma Writers

6th A MAN SHE, Carl Clark, Southern Oklahoma Writers Guild

7th SOME WINTER!, Frances Wykes Searcey, Norman Galaxy of Writers

8th LINES LOST WHILE BIKING, Robert Ferrier, Norman Galaxy of Writers

CATEGORY 12 - POETRY UN- RHYMED LONG

Judge: Sandra Soli

Category Chair: Arlene Graber

80 Entries

1st Place PICKUP GAME IN THE

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2010 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

SWEET HEREAFTER, Susan W. Peters, Kansas City Writers Group.

2nd Place ABOVE THE PINNER ROAD, Robert W. Taylor, The Write Ingredients

3rd Place RESPECTABILITY, Cathy Miller, Oklahoma Write Now

Honorable Mention

1st DJANGOLOGY, Maria Rachel Hooley, Member at Large

2nd X, Lynda Stephenson, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd WAITING FOR MY BOY, Jan Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers

4th LAID TO WASTE, Kristyn Reid, Oklahoma Write Now

5th BERRY STAINS, Eric Reitan, Member at Large

6th UNBLOUND BY PHYSICS AND WORRY, Kelly Bristow, The Inklings

CATEGORY 13 – POETRY RHYMED SHORT

Judge: Jeanetta Calhoun Mish

Category Chair: Dianne McCartney
57 Entries

1st Place WHAT HE LIVED FOR, John Graves Morris, Member at Large

2nd Place THE CELLO PLAYER, Eric Reitan, Member at Large

3rd Place SUNLIGHT, Maria Rachel Hooley, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st SPINDRIFT, Lowell Long, Writers of the Purple Sage

2nd SAMURAI SUNRISE, Kristyn Reid, Oklahoma Write Now

CATEGORY 14 – POETRY RHYMED LONG

Judge: Linda Burkett O'Hern

Chair: Maria Rachel Hooley

59 Entries

1st Place SOMETIMES, Ron Wallace, Red River Writers

2nd Place MUTE, Lowell Long, Writers of the Purple Sage

3rd Place SUNKEN TREASURE, Clark Elliott, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st A PLACE TO PRAY, Jim Laugh-ter, Tulsa NightWriters

2nd THE FARMER'S EYES, Nancy Powell, River Valley Writers

3rd THE AWAKENING, Jean Stover, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

4th A KISS GOODBYE, Nellie Perry, Stillwater Writers

5th SAINT TEWDRIG, Robert W. Taylor, The Write Ingredients

CATEGORY 15 – SHORT SHORT STORY

Judge: Frank Steele

Category Chair: Carla Stewart

82 Entries

1st Place WILLIAM, Mary Keilly, Free-lance Writers Network

2nd Place PARACHUTE JUMP ON CORREGIDOR, Gerald Whitehouse, The Write Ingredients

3rd Place NOT WHAT I EXPECTED, Steve Whisnant, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st NO COWARD SOUL, Dee Ann Ritter, Just Write

2nd MY FRIEND JAY, Charles R. Vas-sel, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

3rd DELIA GETS HER MAN, Marjorie Bixler, Freelance Writers Network

4th THE DETOUR, Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Freelance Writers Network

5th RENDEZVOUS, Jim Etter, Okla-homa City Writers, Inc.

6th TAYLOR STREET, Murray Ed-wards, Member at Large

7th THE BEE MARTIN, M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa NightWriters

8th THE HARD TRUTH, Eileen Ryan, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 16 – SHORT STORY ADULT

Judge: Robert L. Ferrier

Category Chair: Michael Sasser

70 Entries

1st Place SPIRIT OF THE DEAD WATCHING, Eric Reitan, Member at Large

2nd Place DOING LIFE, Carol Johnson, Tulsa NightWriters

3rd Place UNCLE RALPHIE, Doris Wheelus, Tulsa NightWriters

Honorable Mention

1st THE PICTURE, Donna Le, Tulsa Nightwriters, & Pen andKeyboard

2nd CURTAIN CALL, Jerrel Swingle, Member at Large

3rd DEEPSY DOWN, John Biggs, Member at Large

4th FIRST CALF, Murray Edwards, Member at Large

5th IN THE ARMS OF ANGELS, Glo-ria Shirley, Tulsa NightWriters

6th SECOND TIME AROUND, Clay McKinney, Member at Large

7th WASHDAY EVERY MONDAY, Jim Miser, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 17 – JUVENILE SHORT STORY

Judge: Maria Veres

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

35 Entries

1st Place CHICKEN AND DUMPLING, Jan Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers

2nd Place A GRANDPARENT FOR JULIE, Jeannie Alford Hagy, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Place A SNOW TALE, Jerald James Daly, Muskogee Writers Guild

CATEGORY 18 – YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY

Judge: Bette Ward Widney

Category Chair: Alberta Daw

20 Entries

1st Place VELVET'S VALENTINE, Martha Lea Bryant, The Inklings

2nd Place STRETCHING MY PERIME-TERS, Joy Whatley, Just Write

3rd Place MARGARET DAY, Rhonda Leverett, The Write Ingredients

Honorable Mention

1st A DIFFERENT FOREVER, Gwen Hewett, Writers of the Purple Sage

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2010 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

CATEGORY 19 – SCI-FI/FANTASY/ HORROR SHORT STORY

Judge: Sarah Basore

Category Chair: DeeDee Chumley

29 Entries

1st Place ON THE WALL, Eric Reitan,
Member at Large

2nd Place FREEDOM, Maria Rachel
Hooley, Member at Large

3rd Place THE PIONEER SPIRIT, Eileen
Ryan, Tulsa NightWriters

Honorable Mention

1st THE RIGHT TO KNOW, Theresa
Hupp, Kansas City Writers Group

2nd THE AMAZING ADVENTURES
OF THE ALIEN HUNTER, Jackie Paxton,
Member at Large

CATEGORY 20 – PROSE HUMOR CATEGORY DONOR – Linda Basinger

Judge: Carolyn Branch Leonard

Category Chair: Gloria Teague

62 Entries

1st Place THE MUSTANG RANCH,
Gary Cummings, Kansas Writers Association

2nd Place CONFESSIONS OF A HOLY
ROLLER, Louella Turner, Arkansas
Ridge Writers

3rd Place GOING GREEN, ORANGE,
BLACK AND BLUE, Joyce Fenwick,
Tulsa NightWriters

Honorable Mention

1st LEARNING THE TRADE, Judy
Goodspeed, Professional and Amateur
Writers' Society

2nd NAKED TENNIS AT THE WHITE
HORSE, Susan W. Peters, Kansas City
Writers Group

3rd THE NAME GAME'S TO BLAME,
Gordon Greene, Oklahoma City Writers,
Inc.

4th THE ANIMAL PLANET BLUES,

Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City
Writers, Inc.

5th MEETING OF THE MINDS,
Theresa Hupp, Kansas City Writers
Group

CATEGORY 21 – ESSAY

CATEGORY DONOR – Red River Writers' Club in honor of

Dr. Truman Wester

Judge: Ann Champeau

Category Chair: Connie Blaylock

43 Entries

1st Place WHY BIGFOOT WON'T GO
AWAY, James A. Wood, Freelance
Writers Network

2nd Place THE ANATOMY OF AG-
NOSTICISM, Neal Huffaker, Norman
Galaxy of Writers

3rd Place YOU REALLY DON'T
HAVE TO DRINK, Charlotte Anne
Smith, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st IN REMEMBRANCE, Jerrel
Swingle, Member at Large

2nd WAR ON DRUGS, Steve Whisnant,
Member at Large

3rd MELUNGEONS AMONG US, Mary
A. Shackelford, Tulsa NightWriters

4th POVERTY AND NIMITY, Jan
Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers

CATEGORY 22 – PLAY/FILM/TV SCRIPT

Judge: Gordon Greene

Category Chair: Laurie Fraser

13 Entries

1st Place THE DECLARATION, Rick
Leidenfrost-Wilson, Member at Large

2nd Place ON TO ALASKA, Mary Ann
West, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Place NIGHT OF THE NAVAJO,
Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City
Writers, Inc.

Honorable Mention

1st INDIAN COUNTRY, Kristl Franklin,
The Write Ingredients

2nd SHADOWS, Dale Whisman, Tulsa
NightWriters

CATEGORY 23 – TECHNICAL/ HOW-TO ARTICLE

Judge: Carol Shenold

Category Chair: Linda Clements

30 Entries

1st Place HOW TO GUIDE YOUR
WRITING GROUP THROUGH THE
CONSTRUCTION OF AN EPISTO-
LARY SHORT STORY AND REMAIN

ON SPEAKING TERMS, Marjorie
Anderson, Challenged Pens

2nd Place THE SECRETS BEHIND MY
FAVORITE PARLOR TRICK, Murray

Edwards, Member at Large

3rd Place CUTTING COSTS WITH-
OUT GETTING A CHILL OR BREAK-
ING A SWEAT, Kelly Bristow, The
Inklings

Honorable Mention

1st CAT TO CAT INTRODUCTIONS,
Amy D. Shojai, Cuchara Writers Guild

2nd HOW I QUIT SMOKING, Gail
Mattingly, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd HOW TO START PLANNING FOR
FUTURE COLLEGE COSTS AND

THE FINANCIAL 911 TO DO IF THE
FUTURE IS NOW, Joan Rhine, Web
Writing Wonders

CATEGORY 24 – FEATURE ARTI- CLE

Judge: Wayne Harris-Wyrick

Category Chair: Sue McMurphy

20 Entries

1st Place A MIRACLE FOR FUN,
Jocelyn Pedersen, Norman Galaxy of
Writers

2nd Place THE TEN-YEAR NIGHT-
MARE OF BETTY AREY, Doris Whee-
lus, Tulsa NightWriters

3rd Place THE WAR OF THE TWO
JAQUELINES, Doug Kelley, Arkansas
Ridge Writers

Honorable Mention

1st I SURVIVED RETAIL HELL, Jim
Laughter, Tulsa Nightwriters

2nd PRIVATE THOUGHT AND PUB-
LIC TECHNOLOGY, James A. Wood,
Member at Large

CATEGORY 25 – WESTERN ARTI- CLE

Judge: Charlotte Anne Smith

Category Chair: Judy Huhman

5 Entries

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2010 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

Honorable Mention

BLACK SLICKER, GOLDEN HEART,
Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Freelance Writers Network

CATEGORY 26 – INSPIRATIONAL PROSE

Judge: Kathryn Fanning
Category Chair: Bonnie Tharp

52 Entries

1st Place LOST AND FOUND, Eileen Ryan, Tulsa NightWriters
2nd Place HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, Robert T. Chrisman, Kansas City Writers Group
3rd Place DADDY WARHIDE, Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Honorable Mention

1st BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PRAY FOR BECAUSE YOU JUST MIGHT GET IT, Doris Wheelus, Tulsa NightWriters
2nd WAITING ROOM LESSONS, Bettian Kanina Clark, The Inklings
3rd THE MEANEST MOTHER IN THE WORLD, Jan Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers
4th THE COLOR OF COURAGE, Cheri Lynn Quattrochi, Professional and Amateur Writers' Association

CATEGORY 27 – MAZIE COX COLUMN AWARD

Judge: Frances Wykes Searcey
Category Chair: Kelley Bristow

23 Entries

1st Place LIFE IN THE BIG CITY, Robert T. Chrisman, Kansas City Writers Group
2nd Place THE POWER OF FOOD, Barbara Shepherd, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc., Mid-Oklahoma Writers
3rd Place THE SAVVY SHOPPER, Dianne McCartney, Member at Large

Honorable Mention

1st PURR-SONALITY TIPS, Amy D. Shojai, Cuchara Writers Guild
2nd THE MORE WE TALK, Dixon Hearne, Lone Star Night Writers

CATEGORY 28 – CONFESSION STORY

Judge: Judith Sexton
Category Chair: Lynn Wendlebow

15 Entries

1st Place WE SOLD OUR CHILDREN'S MARIJUANA FOR CHRISTMAS, Gwen Hewitt, Writers of the Purple Sage
2nd Place MANGLED MIND, Kelly Bristow, The Inklings
3rd Place MAMA'S DIRTY MONEY, Ramona Anderson, Writers of the Purple Sage

Honorable Mention

1st I SEDUCED THE GROOM, Eileen Ryan, Tulsa Nightwriters

CATEGORY 29 – NOSTALGIC PROSE

Category Sponsor – Bartlesville Wordweavers

Judge: Jim Etter

Category Chair: Paula B. Gorgas,
60 Entries

1st Place THE SHOE BOX LEGACY, Paul Gaines, Challenged Pens
2nd Place THE BEAUTY CONTEST, Gail Mattingly, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
3rd Place BLACKBERRY COBBLER, Maggie Ramm, Just Write

Honorable Mention

1st THE REMARKABLE FIVE AND DIME, Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Freelance Writers Network
2nd A PENNY FOR MY THOUGHTS, Clay McKinney, Member at Large
3rd GRANDMA'S GIFT, Dianne McCartney, Member at Large
4th CROSSING OVER, Gloria Shirley, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 30 – BEST JUVENILE BOOK

Judge: Anna Myers
Category Chair: Nita Beshear

4 Entries

Honorable Mention

ENVIRONMENTALISM: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Mary McIntyre Coley, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 31 – BEST NONFICTION BOOK

Judge: M. Carolyn Steele
Category Chair: Jen Nipp

11 Entries

CHOCTAW CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, Devon Abbott Mihesuah, Member at Large

CATEGORY 32 – BEST BOOK OF POETRY

Judge: Judith Tate O'Brien
Category Chair: Jacqueline King
4 Entries

FAULT LINES, Karen Coody Cooper, The Inklings

CATEGORY 33 – BEST FICTION BOOK

Judge: Russell Long
Category Chair: Mike Jones
14 Entries

THE WIND COMES SWEEPING, Marcia Preston, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Category Donor – Red River Writers' Club in honor of Dr. Truman Wester

Judges: Sue McMurphy, Marcia Preston, Carolyn Wall

PICKUP GAME IN THE SWEET HEREAFTER

Category 12: Poetry Unrhymed Long
Susan W. Peters Kansas City Writers Group

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2010 CONTEST WINNERS & JUDGES

JUDGES

1. Mainstream Novel—Sharon Ervin's ninth published novel *Candlesticks* will be released June 16. Two other entries won first place in the 2009 OWFI contest for the Mainstream and the Contemporary Romance Novel categories. Sharon is married, has four grown children, lives in McAlester, Oklahoma, and credits OWFI and McAlester McSherry Writers for much of her success.

2. Contemporary Romance—Jacqueline King is a full time writer. She loves books, words, and writing tall tales about romantic adventures. She also enjoys murdering the people she dislikes on paper. She has published four novels, a traditional mystery, one nonfiction book, and dozens of short stories about women. She also teaches writing classes for Tulsa Community College.

3. Historical Novel—Olyve Hallmark Abbott turned to writing while still engaged in a musical career. She is a speaker and published author of three paranormal books with another on the way. Her ghost stories are in several anthologies. She is a member of Colonial Dames XVII Century and writes historical articles for genealogical quarterlies.

4. Mystery/Suspense Novel—Radine Trees Nehring has written magazine features, essays, newspaper articles, and appeared on radio broadcasts about the world near her Arkansas home. In 2003, her first mystery novel, *A Valley to Die For*, was a Macavity Award Nominee. Her five follow-up novels and short stories have earned more than a dozen awards and avid fans throughout the United States

5. Western Novel—Dusty Richards writes under his own name and pseudonyms. He has sold 98 novels, umpteen short stories, hundreds of articles and columns. Dusty won the 2010

Wrangler Award for his novel, *The Sundown Chaser*, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

6. Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Novel—Bryan W. Fields is a recovering trumpet player and author of 2 middle-grade science fiction novels published by Henry Holt: *Lunchbox and The Aliens* (featured in this year's Scholastic Book Clubs and Book Fairs), and *Froonga Planet*.

7. Nonfiction Book—Amy D. Shojai, CABC, an Honorary Life Member and past president of OWFI, is a nationally known authority on pet care and behavior, author of 23 nonfiction pet books and thousands of articles. She writes a weekly newspaper, CatChow.com, and About.com articles. Amy also hosts twice-monthly TV "Pet Talk" segments, weekly "Pet Peeves" at PetLifeRadio.com, and appears on Animal Planet's *DOGS 101* and *CATS 101*.

8. Picture Book—Jeannie Alford Hagy has been published in over twenty magazines and has placed in many OWFI contests. She is the author of a book for children and is active in the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. A retired teacher, she has read thousands of books for children.

9. Middle Reader—Peggy Fielding writes both fiction and nonfiction. She has published hundreds of articles and short stories, several nonfiction books, and has sold both contemporary and historical romance novels. Under her tutelage, her former students have gone on to write and publish more than 350 books.

10. Young Adult Book—Mary Ellen (M.E.) Cooper lived in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She published fourteen true crime books and anthologies, appeared on national TV, and spoke at writers conferences in OK, TX, AR, KS, NE, CO and OR. Mary Ellen helped and encouraged writers. She will be missed by the writing community.

11. Poetry Unrhymed Short—Kristyn Reid is an award winning poet and has numerous print and online publications. She has been featured at poetry readings in the area and has won yearly OWFI awards.

12. Poetry Unrhymed Long—Sandra

Soli publishes poetry regularly and won the 2008 Oklahoma Book Award in poetry, but also has published many articles and short fiction for both adults and children. Her work has been featured on NPR and twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Sandy mentors Oklahoma writers and teaches by E-mail.

13. Poetry Rhymed Short—Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, Ph.D., is a literary scholar and poet whose most recent book, *Work Is Love Made Visible*, won the 2010 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry and the 2010 Western Heritage Award for Outstanding 2009 Poetry Book awarded by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

14. Poetry Rhymed Long—Linda O'Hern has studied psychology, human relations, and law. She writes poetry and nonfiction articles which have appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books. Linda is an award winning writer, photographer, and illustrator.

15. Short Short Story—Frank Steele taught English and English composition/speech/drama for thirty years. He has sold short stories and written several plays. One of his plays was performed professionally. Frank writes and performs every chance he gets.

16. Short Story Adult—Robert Ferrer is the author of four published novels. His poetry has appeared in ten literary journals. His collections, *Rhythms* and *Ambient Light*, each won Best Book of Poetry trophies from OWFI. In 2006 Robert was nominated for Oklahoma Poet Laureate

17. Juvenile Short Story—Maria Veres is an award winning author who has published numerous magazine stories for young readers. She is the author of a poetry chapbook, *Waiting for Miracles*. She teaches writing at Francis Tuttle Technology Center.

18. Young Adult Short Story—Bette Ward Widney is an honorary life member of OWFI, and has been a board member for over a decade. A Crème de la Crème winner, she writes young adult and middle reader novels, plus inspirational non-fiction.

19. Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Short Story—Sarah Basore writes as Sara

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2010 CONTEST WINNERS & JUDGES

Saint John. Her novels include *Blood Atonement* and *Trust the Night* and a horror collection, *Black Hearts, Red Blood Dreams: Tales of Terror and the Supernatural*. Sarah has served on the OWFI board and as both First and Second Vice President.

20. Prose Humor—Carolyn B. Leonard, author, freelance magazine writer, genealogist, speaker, past president of Writers of Purple Sage, OKC Writers and the Oklahoma Writers Federation, was honored in Kentucky for locating and marking graves of American Revolutionary Patriots.

21. Essay—Ann Champeau won the 1994 Crème de la Crème award and won over 400 other awards. Ann has been published in more than 50 publications. Ann is an OWFI Honorary Life Member.

22. Play/Film/TV Script—Gordon Greene has been a professional actor, director, and theatre manager. He also taught theatre and chaired the department at Northern Arizona University. An award-winning writer, he is the author of six books, several plays, many videos and TV commercials. He's a past-president and an HLM of OWFI.

23. Technical/How-To Article—Carol Shenold has written fiction and nonfiction for the last 25 years. She has written for newsletters, newspapers, and magazines as well as taught writing. She has had three nonfiction books published. Her novels include *Privy to Murder* and *Bloody Murder*.

24. Feature Article—Wayne Harris-Wyrick is the newsletter editor for OWFI's *The Report*. He's had articles published in such prestigious magazines as *Science News*. His column, *Astronomy*, appears regularly in *The Oklahoman*. His children's book, *Why Am I Me*, will come out next year.

25. Western Article—Charlotte Anne Smith started writing in high school for a

horse magazine, has been a full-time freelancer since 1969, did hard news for 36 years, and is currently concentrating on magazines and working on two books; a memoir and a mystery. Charlotte has written for over 100 publications and done on-air for a radio station.

26. Inspirational Prose—Kathryn Fanning, former editor and columnist for *ByLine* magazine, published articles in magazines and newspapers besides teaching classes and speaking at conferences across the country. After winning the *Guideposts* magazine competition, she helped other writers win the national contest. Retired, she now reads instead of writing. Kathryn is an OWFI Honorary Life Member.

27. Mazie Cox Reid Column Award—Frances Wykes Searcey, retired teacher turned freelance writer, has been published in *Oklahoma Runner*, *ByLine*, *True Confessions*, *Mature Living* magazines; *Reminisce*, *Blood and Thunder*, and *Aging Outloud*, book anthologies, and area newspapers. A past-president of Norman Galaxy, she leads The Friday Writers.

28. Confession Story—Judith Sexton is a country girl from Southern Oklahoma, who married a sailor, and lived on both coasts and in between. She has been settled in Stillwater for many years, where she sees her only grandchild daily. She has written and published numerous confession stories. Judith won the Crème de la Crème award in 2006.

29. Nostalgia Prose—Jim Marion Etter is a retired reporter for *The Oklahoman* and writes Oklahoma history and folklore. He's also known throughout the state as a storyteller. One of his books, *THUNDER IN THE HEARTLAND*, contains a story that won first place in an OWFI contest.

30. Best Juvenile Book—Anna Myers is the author of nineteen novels for kids, all published by Walker Books, NY. Her honors include many national and state awards.

31. Best Nonfiction Book—M. Carolyn Steele has won numerous writing awards and has stories published in eleven anthologies. Her book, *Preserving Family Legends for Future Generations*, is the

2010 Heartland Bookfest First Place winner. She frequently lectures to library, genealogy, and writing groups.

32. Best Book of Poetry—Judith Tate O'Brien recently completed a mixed genre (prose & poetry) memoir, *Crossing a Different Bridge*, Mongrel Empire Press. She has published three poetry collections: *Mythic Places*, *By the Grace of Ghosts* co-authored with Jane Taylor, and *Everything that Is, Is Connected*.

33. Best Fiction Book—Russell Long has written 5 novels and one book of poetry, a history of Cleveland County, and published travel feature articles in *The Oklahoman* and the *Norman Transcript*. Russ has published over 71 book reviews in *The Oklahoman*, served as president of the Norman Galaxy of Writers and vice president of OWFI.

Crème de la Crème—Sue McMurphy is a two time winner of the OWFI Crème de la Crème Award. She is also a two time finalist in the Romance Writers of America Golden Heart Contest. Sue has served as an OWFI officer, and currently serves as treasurer of Writers of the Purple Sage.

Crème de la Crème—Marcia Preston has edited two national magazines, taught high school English, served as PR director for a museum, and freelanced for a long list of publications. Her novels have earned a Mary Higgins Clark Award, Oklahoma Book Award, and two OWFI Best Fiction Book awards for *The Piano Man* and *Trudy's Promise*.

Crème de la Crème—Carolyn Wall, a two-time Crème de la Crème winner, has taught creative writing to over 4000 children through the Oklahoma Artist in Residence program. She teaches classes, mentors prisoners, and served as fiction editor for *Byline*. Random House will be bringing out another of her books soon.

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Photo credit: Jennifer Nippis



Photo credit: Carolyn Leonard



Photo credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick

In the highest civilization
the book is still the highest
delight.

Emerson

(Continued from page 22)

compared to other conferences I've attended. It was wonderful to meet such a variety of writers and speakers and to be appreciated for my contribution.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve OWFI.

**Alice Crider, associate editor
WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing
Group
A division of Random House, Inc.**

I must say that the OWFI attendees were some of the friendliest people I've ever met! I grew up in the South and love Southern hospitality, but I can't deny that Oklahoma rivals the South for warmth and a welcoming spirit! Attendees also impressed me with their good ideas and/or writing skills when I met with them in 1:1 appointments. So now I think I'm spoiled; next time I teach at a writer's conference, I might not have such kind, friendly folks in my classes and meetings.

**Joanna Lutz
Clubhouse Jr. magazine**

Book Review

(Continued from page 4)

his long list of over 100 suggested books where I think you'll find some surprises.

I'll sum up by giving you his recipe for the successful novel that you might want to sticky-note to your monitor.

Devise a strong plot and keep tightly controlled. Mix with multifaceted characters set against a striking background. Keep charged with action described with well-chosen, well-polished words. This delivers popular mainstream fiction that can gain a very large audience.

Finally, in case you think writing will ever be easy, after the years of success, he still writes 70 hours per week and says he often rewrites three or four times, then polishes until it gleams.

Nita Beshear has been our Profiles Editor since December 2007, but as our new 1st Vice President she fears her considerable duties preparing the 2011 contest will take up so much time, she won't be able to continue that regular Report feature. I am looking for a member of OWFI who would like to take on this feature, or perhaps start a new regular feature in our newsletter. If you are interested or have other ideas, please contact me at wwyrick@sciencemuseumok.org, 405-603-6566, or by U.S. mail at 2100 NE 52nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

When Insults Had Class

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend if you have one."

George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second, if there is one."

Winston Churchill, in response.

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INVISIBLE WRITING

Editor's Note: This is a call for submissions from OWFI members. I'd like to start a new, occasional feature on the writing that is not necessarily meant for publication.

The word "writing" brings to mind a picture of a person sitting at a desk, or perhaps in an easy chair, with a pad of paper and pen in hand, putting words and thoughts on the page. Or perhaps the vision you get from the word is that of someone tapping on a keyboard or a smart phone.

But the "what" of writing is not inherently tied to the "where" or "how" of the process. And a process it is, not an action. The putting of words to paper or screen is one of the final steps to writing. Many steps precede that physical aspect of writing. We must gain some knowledge of what we intend to write, although I *have* read some novelists who seem to have skipped that step. We have to decide who we are writing for and what words and concepts they would understand. And we have to decide what we want to say, all before any actual words are "written."

Long before writing had been invented, story tellers and bards kept history, true and fantasized, alive. Our ancestors often believe everything they heard from the storytellers, just as some people today believe everything they read. So in a sense, me telling a story to an audience, or planning how to tell such a story is in many ways mentally identical to the first stages of writing a story.

I recall reading a novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky (or was it Tolstoy or some other late 19th century Russian novelist? The memory fades...). I can't really recall all the details, but in it was a character who listed his occupation as novelist, unpublished. At one point in the book, the character spoke to the reader in

a long and very Dostoevsky-esque soliloquy explaining that not only was he an unpublished novelist, he had never actually written a novel. He went on to explain that we ALL write our lives as a series of novels in our memories and in the stories we tell others. Every human writes invisibly. Some of us write those same novels very visibly, but never get around to trying, or even necessarily wanting, to publish them. We might refer to this as journaling or "keeping a diary." Those writers among us who are even more driven to write, in the extended sense, try, sometimes with great persistence, to get their physically or electronically written novels published and a very small and lucky percentage of those DO get their works published.

But the simple fact remains that a large percentage of the writing done on this planet is invisible in some sense. Share your thoughts on writing invisibly. As I receive these, I'll place occasional pieces from OWFI members as an irregular feature in the **Report**.

The idea for this semi-regular feature came to me from a web site "Funds for Writers." Among other aspects of the site are occasional contests. The 2009 contest dealt with this very subject.

From the web site: "Funds for Writers" is an online resource for writers. We emphasize finding money to make writing a realistic career. From the web site <http://www.fundsforwriters.com/>, their 2009 contest was on Invisible Writing. Here are some suggested topics on this subject.

THEME: Invisible Writing

Sometimes we write words to exorcise demons. We type or write them on paper then fear someone may read them. Whatever your issue, whatever your thought, whatever your habit, the general theme is INVISIBLE WRITING. Make

the theme your own and let us know how INVISIBILITY works into your writing world. If you know anything about FundsforWriters, you know that we like lessons learned and motivational ideas

TOPIC Suggestions:

If you couldn't publish, would you still write?

Do you write words you're afraid to publish?

Do you hide words you hope no one will see until after you're gone?

Do you write words so you can rip them up and destroy them?

Do you prefer to write anonymously?

Do you prefer to write and fear to publish?

Do you wish to fade away from the world and write?

When Insults Had Class

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

Clarence Darrow

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Affiliate News

ARKANSAS RIDGE WRITERS

Due to editorial error, the Ridge Writers information was left out of the Spring 2010 issue. This includes that information.

Acceptances and Sales

LINDA APPLE: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE STORY: "First Place," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks Dad!* (2/09), **SHORT STORY:** "Granddaddy's Last Lesson," *Echoes of the Ozarks V* (12/09); **ARTICLE:** "From the Computer Light to the Spotlight, Why Writers Need to be Speakers" *The Owl's Hoot* (2/10); **ARTICLE:** "Stand-off with Lulu," *The Ozarks Mountaineer* (5/10)

VELDA BROTHERTON: "Legacy in Stone," *Skipping Stones*, (12/09).

SYLVIA FORBES: **CALENDAR:** *Bylines 2010 Writer's Desk Calendar*, Snowflake Press, (www.bylinescalendar.com) (2009); **CONTEST:** Writer's Digest 2009 Contest, 2 features in top 100 in Features category; **ARTICLES:** "Dollhouse Delights," *Rural Missouri* (01/10); "Pyramids of the Yucatan," *Prime* (1/10); "An Olympian Odyssey," *Prime* (2/10); "Tis the Season for Birding," *River Hills Traveler* (12/09); "Cooking Vacations," in *Prime* (11/09); "Unearthing Secrets of the Ancient World," *Prime* (12/09); "Slippin', Slidin' and Sleighridin': Collecting Sleighs Provides a Window to a Nostalgic Past," *Discover Mid-America* (1/10); "Needles and Pins: A Sewing Tale Be-

gins." *Discover MidAmerica* (04/10); "Riding in Style," *Howard County Electric CoOp News* (05/10); "Life Underground," *Missouri Life Magazine* (06/10); two health articles weekly (since 03/10) for *Premier Research Labs Newsletter*.

JEANIE HORN: Articles, "Promoting The Sheep Industry", *Ozarks Farm & Neighbor*, (2/10), "Leaders in Limousin", *Ozarks Farm & Neighbor*, (3/10), "The Best of Two Breeds", *Ozarks Farm & Neighbor*, (4/10), "Milk, Meat, and Much More", *Ozarks Farm & Neighbor*, (5/10). Article, "Night Riders", *Arkansas Encyclopedia*, (6/10), Article, "Cowboy Up!", *Ozarks Mountaineer* (7-8/10).

Novels & New Books

VELDA BROTHERTON: **THE BOSTON MOUNTAINS: LOST IN THE OZARKS**, Old American Publishing, 04/10; **ARKANSAS MEALS AND MEMORIES: LIFT YOUR EYES TO THE MOUNTAIN**, Goldminds Publishing, 05/10.

RADINE TREES NEHRING: **MYSTERY NOVEL: JOURNEY TO DIE FOR**, Wolfmont Press (05/15/10).

DUSTY RICHARDS: **WESTERN: WULF'S TRACKS**, Berkley Press (03/10); **NORTH TO THE SALT FORK**, NAL (06/10)

Contest Winnings

SYLVIA FORBES: **CONTEST:** Writer's Digest 2009 Contest, 2 features in top 100 in Features category.

ANN HOLBROOK: Annual Art Affair Writing Contest, **SHORT STORY:** 1st Place, "Life Everlasting."

JAN MORRILL: Ozarks Writers' League Gene Anderek Contest, **SHORT STORY:** 1st Place, "Xs and Os."

Professional Activities

LINDA APPLE: Gave "Life from a Writers Point of View" to Christian Women's Connection in Coffeyville, KS (01/10); speaking: "Writing From the Soul" at Northwest Arkansas Writers Free Conference, Springdale, AR, 3/10; speaking: "Write Your History" at W Women's Retreat, Branson, MO, 4/10; speaking: "My Recipe for Chicken Soup for the Soul" & "Speak Out" at OWFI Conference, OKC, OK (4/30/10-5/1/10); presentation at Fayetteville Public Library with Velda Brotherton, "Inspiration and Memories: A Chat with Two Authors."

VELDA BROTHERTON: Conversation with Radine Trees Nehring, Northwest Arkansas Writers Free Conference, Springdale, AR March 13; 04/15, Spoke at Ft. Smith Historical Society; 04/18, Spoke at Lake Ft. Smith State Park; 04/24, Spoke at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History; 05/08, Appeared at Fayetteville Public Library with Linda Apple, Inspiration and Memories: A Chat with Two Authors. **BOOK SIGNINGS**, 4/12 through 5/6 signed at 5 rural libraries in four counties of Arkansas.

SYLVIA FORBES: Conducted a Self-Publishing Workshop, held Saturday, Feb. 6, at the National Churchill Museum in Fulton, MO.

DELOIS MCGREW: Speaking; Bare Basics for Writers on editing tips, Northwest Arkansas Writers Free conference, Springdale, AR March 13

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Affiliate News

Continued

RADINE TREES NEHRING: Seminar: "A Writer's Journey" Trolley Line Bookshop, Rogers, AR, Feb. 28, 1-4:00, 479-636-1626; Conversation with Velda Brotherton, Northwest Arkansas Writers Free Conference, Springdale, AR, March 13 vebrotherton@gmail.com; Book release celebration: Arkansas and Missouri Railroad Excursion Train. Phone station for date and details: 479-751-8600.; Signing: T. Charleston, Grand Village Shops, Branson, Mo. May 13-14. 417-334-7931; Panelist and panel moderator: "Mayhem in the Midlands" writers' convention in Omaha, NE, May; 27-29. www.omahapubliclibrary.org/mayhem/ Speaking on Writing Fiction: Arkansas Writers' Conference, June 4-5 in Little Rock at Holiday Inn Presidential. blm-lmm@sbcglobal.net

DUSTY RICHARDS: Speaking on Writing 101, Northwest Arkansas Writers Free Conference, Springdale, AR March 13

RUTH WEEKS: Speaking: Ruthie's Rookie Writing Tips, Northwest Arkansas Writers Free Conference, Springdale, AR March 13

Honors & Awards

DUSTY RICHARDS: His novel, "The Sundown Chaser," won the Western Heritage Center and National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City's Western Heritage fiction award for 2010. The award will be presented on April 17th at their annual awards banquet.

FREELANCE WRITERS NETWORK

Professional Activities

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: BOOK SIGNING: *Texas Ghosts: Galveston, Houston, and Vicinity*, Barnes & Noble, University Dr., Fort Worth (04/10).

ROBYN CONLEY: BOOK SIGNING: *Beyond the Branches: Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree*: Weatherford College, "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz" (04/10); Robyn will give the Commencement Address for the Midland MRA High School (6/4/10).

MARILYN KOMECEK: Presented "Painted Poems," accompanied by PowerPoint images (abstract expressionistic paintings by her daughter) that echoed the poems and flash fiction. For the Fort Worth Women's Club (3/10).

NELL NOONAN: BOOK SIGNING: *Not Alone*. "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz," Weatherford, TX (4/10).

Contests Winnings

MARJORIE BIXLER: Abilene Writers Guild Contest, ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST: 1st Place, "Bending the Rules"; FLASH FICTION: 3rd Place, "Flora's Choice."

CHRISTINE ENDY: Abilene Writers Guild Contest, FLASH FICTION: 2nd Place, "Terrycloth Cape;" FANTASY NOVEL: 2nd Place, THE SECRET CLOVER; MAINSTREAM NOVEL: HM, THE SECRET CLOVER.

DEBBIE GILLETTE: Writers Digest, SHORT STORY: HM, "The Watermelon Bride."

JAMES A WOOD: Abilene Writers Guild Contest, ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST: 2nd Place, "Private Thoughts and Public Technology."

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Acceptances and Sales

DAHN LEE: REVIEW: "Gerald Hedberg The Christmas Buffalo" <http://www.midwestbookreview.com/cbw/>

[apr_10.htm#ChapterBook/EasyReader](#)
VINNIE HANSEN: Short Story. "Rooster and Buster Brown Shoes" has been accepted for publication in spring issue (2010) of The Porter Gulch Review.

Novels & New Books

DAHN LEE: Book: *How To Trick Or Treat In The Enchanted Forest And Not Get Eaten By A Monster*, Black Rose Writing (www.BlackRosewriting.com), (9/10)

PEN AND KEYBOARD

Acceptances and Sales

MIKE HINKLE: ARTICLE: "Titanic offers lessons for today", *The Edmond Sun* (04/14/2010), <http://www.edmondsun.com/opinion/x1687710714/Titanic-offers-lessons-for-today;> "Humor, even lack thereof, takes many forms.", *The Edmond Sun* (04/21/2010), <http://www.edmondsun.com/opinion/x993508547/Humor-even-lack-thereof-takes-many-forms/print;> "South Park censorship simmers with future consequences", *The Edmond Sun* (04/28/2010), <http://www.edmondsun.com/opinion/x1271723396/South-Park-censorship-simmers-with-future-consequences;> "Tale teaches modern lesson", *The Edmond Sun* (05/05/2010), <http://www.edmondsun.com/opinion/x500181618/Tale-teaches-modern-lesson.>

Novels & New Books

MICHAEL W. HINKLE: FICTION: *The Butane Gospel*, published by Wheatmark, Inc., 06/01/2010.

Contest Winnings

HOLLY JAHANGIRI: Heartland New Day BookFest 2008-2009 Published Book awards, CHILDREN: Winner, A

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Affiliate News

Continued

Puppy, Not a Guppy, Edmond, OK, 04/09/2010.

M. CAROLINE STEELE: Heartland New Day BookFest 2008-2009 Published Book awards, NON-FICTION: Winner, *Preserving Family Legends*, Edmond, OK, 04/09/2010.

VIVIAN GILBERT ZABEL: Heartland New Day BookFest 2008-2009 Published Book awards, TWEEN/TEEN: Winner, *Prairie Dog Cowboy*, Edmond, OK, 04/09/2010. She also won in Heartland New Day BookFest 2008-2009 Published Book awards, FICTION: Winner, *Midnight Hours*, Edmond, OK, 04/09/2010.

Honors & Awards

KIRK BJORNSGAARD: 21st Annual Oklahoma Book awards, FICTION: 1st Place, *Confessions of a Former Rock Queen*, Oklahoma Center for the Book, Oklahoma City, Posthumously 04/17/2010.

Professional Activities

JORDAN DANE: Writing Panel - "Crime Fiction aka Mystery, Suspense, Thrillers", Heartland New Day BookFest, Edmond, OK, 04/10/2010.

DONNA LE: Writing Workshop - "Tips for Beginning Writers", Heartland New Day BookFest, Edmond, OK, 04/10/2010.

VIVIAN ZABEL: Writing Panel - "Crime Fiction aka Mystery, Suspense, Thrillers", Heartland New Day BookFest, Edmond, OK, 04/10/2010.

Club News

Officer Elections for Pen & Keyboard Writers Group, Edmond, OK, 05/08/2010: President - Vivian Zabel, VicePresident - Horton Deakins, Secretary - Mary Millen, Treasurer - Donna Le, and Reporter - vehoae (Shirl Yancey).

Professional Activities

WRITERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

In November, **CAROLYN LEONARD** presented a lesson to the Writers of the Purple Sage on writing and publishing works of genealogy.

JO ANNA PEARD attended the Cowboy Storytellers of the Western Plains in Wilmore, Kansas.

Sales and Acceptances

LEORA BRIDGEWATER: ARTICLE: "A Positive New Year," *Beaver Herald Democrat*, Beaver, Oklahoma .

JO ANNA PEARD: COLUMNS: "Westside Story," and "Senior Citizens' News," *Vici Vision*, Vici, Oklahoma.

Novels and New Books

CAROLYN LEONARD: Book: *"Who's Your Daddy?"* Roots and Branches, an Imprint of AWOC.OCOM Publishing, Denton, Texas.

Club News

BOBETTE DOERRIE is Acting President of the Starcreek Amateur Astronomy Society. An article on the subject was front page worthy for the Woodward News, Woodward, Oklahoma.

SUE MCMURPHY and **JESSIE VANDERPOOL** attended a forum and talk by Texas author Jodi Thomas at the Josie Adams Cultural Center in Woodward, Oklahoma on the 10th February. Writers of the Purple Sage mourn the loss of member **FREDA CHRISTOPHER**. Freda and husband J.C. Christopher had moved from Woodward to Norman, Oklahoma.

OFFICERS for 2010: Leon Beall, President; Mechelle Andrews, Vice President; Louise Beckwith, Secretary; Sue McMurphy, Treasurer; Theresa Casper, Historian; Gwen Hewitt, OWFI Contact Person; Gwen Hewitt and Sue McMurphy, Delegates

Writers of the Purple Sage meet the last Sunday of each month, 3:00pm, OG&E Building, North 9th Street, Woodward, Oklahoma 73801.

RIVER VALLEY WRITERS

Acceptance and Sales

THOMAS LONG: ARTICLE: "You're Lost," *Backwoodsman* (12/09); **SHORT STORY / FANTASY:** "Requiem," *Chandler's Fantasy* (03/10).

JOYCE RAPIER: **SHORT STORY:** "Jack and the Mud Pies," will be released 08/10 through Editor Susan Reynolds, Literary Cottage and published by Adams Media.

Novels & New Books:

JOYCE RAPIER: **MYSTERY / SUSPENSE NOVEL** eBook, and soon thereafter in trade back: "Red Clay Murders," Champagne Books, Calgary, CA (05/01).

Professional Activities

MARTI FERRARI: **GROUP LEADER** of a monthly critique class called the Kindly Critics.

JOYCE RAPIER: **WEEKLY GUEST COLUMNIST:** of the Press-Argus-Courier in Van Buren, AR.

Club News

River Valley Writers meet at 1:30 the second Sunday of each month at the Fort Smith (main) Library with an average of 17 in attendance. Officers were elected in March and took office April 1st 2010. New officers: President: John Caplinger – Vice President: Mary Sangster – Secretary: Ralph Moore—Program Director: Alice Kaye Horton – Treasure/Reporter: Rosemary Webb.

The River Valley Writers Newsletter is compiled monthly by Mary Sangster and edited by Rosemary Webb.

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Affiliate News

Continued

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS

Professional Activities

CATHERINE JOHNSON was quoted by *Oklahoma Today* in an article called "So the Story Goes" about OKC StorySlam an contest in which entrants are allowed 7 minutes to tell a story.

CAROLYN LEONARD spoke at the Edmond Genealogical Society on "Getting Around Brick Walls in Genealogical Research" and to the Wordwrights Christian Writers Group on "Saving the Family Stories." She was also featured in the taping of the Metro Library Television about her book *Who's Your Daddy?*

MARIA VERES will teach a six-week class this summer on "The Joy of Writing" at Francis Tuttle Vo-Tech. She will also host the "Last Sunday Poetry Reading" at Full Circle bookstore and was one of the poetry judges for the Oklahoma Book Award.

Sales and Acceptances

MISSY MADDEN sold a poem to Mature Living for the Cracker Barrel Department in the September 2010 issue.

BERNADINE WELLS sold an article "We were Poor, but Didn't Know It" to Capper's and an article "Lilac Time" with photo to *Country Woman* for the "Looking Back" section.

SANDI SOLI had two poems and a flash fiction piece accepted for the Oklahoma Writing Edition of *Sugar Mule*.

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER sold a poem "Water Lillies" to Mature Living.

MISSY MADDEN sold a poem to *Mature Living* magazine for the Crackle Barrel department.

Novels and New Books

GERALD HIBBS New book *The Dahlgren Papers* published by Outskirts Press will soon be available from Amazon.com.

JEAN STOVER'S book *Murder on the Run* chronicling the Sirlon Stockade murders is now available.

Contest Winnings

LUCINDA CARROLL KISER won 2nd place with "Chocolate Death" and an Honorable Mention for "Weight of the World" in the annual Art Affair contest.

M. CAROLYN STEELE won Honorable mention for her western story "Keeper of the Fire" in the same contest.

Club News

CAROLYN WALL is recovering from her injuries and wants to thank everyone for all the cards she got.

Carolyn Leonard is also recovering from her bout with cancer. The battle is still ongoing and you can follow her fight at her blog page

www.carolynleonard.com.

When Insults Had Class

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor:
She said, "If you were my husband, I'd give you
poison."

He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

"HEY HARRY!"

by Thomas Ebert



2010 Speakers Speak Out

I was very impressed with the conference, the quality of the presentations made in the interviews and the quality of the faculty. I felt my workshop on "Pitch and Promote Like a Pro" was very well received, in fact, one woman said she had been coming to the conference since 1973 and it was "the best talk I've ever heard." Now that's a complement a guy can get his teeth into. I did intend at the end of my workshop to tell people that because of the time available that I was just skimming the surface but if any want more detail, I have a book on it entitled *Surviving Your Way to Publication* coming out from Port Yonder Press. If anyone would like to pre-order a copy I'm going to throw in an ebook on it they can load onto their computer to tide them over until the book arrives (\$5 value) and it can be ordered in the bookstore at my website www.terryburns.net - My compliments to all on a terrific conference.

**Terry W. Burns, agent, AAR
Hartline Literary Agency
hartlineliteraryagency.blogspot.com/**

I had a great time at the conference and found your conference attendees polite and non invasive.

Good work and I hope to be invited back. This is not said lightly. It is not often I ask to be invited back.

You can include these lines... or any part thereof in the newsletter and please, if you can, put me on the list to receive it regularly so I can keep up with what the group is doing.

Best
**CHERRY
CHERRY WEINER LITERARY
AGENCY**

OWFI was a great conference. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and the participants. It is a well organized confer-

ence and went beautifully. Deborah Bouziden was a great shepherd and a delightful person to get to know. The attendees at my workshops were engaging, kept the questions coming, and attentive. They were a joy to spend an hour with.

I have not been to a conference with evening buzz sessions before and think this is one of the things that sets OWFI off from the rest. The hotel provided great conversation areas for groups or one-on-ones with writers. The auto-graphing time in the atrium is a fun way to expand talking to attendees, as well as sell and sign books for them.

Even though I'm from Texas, I applaud the hospitality and friendly people in Oklahoma City at OWFI. Truthfully, I had a great time and would love to come back again. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this year's conference.

Keep on writing,

Dianne G. Sagan

**Author - Ghostwriter - Inspirational
Speaker**

I was really impressed with the lineup and caliber of speakers, and the talent and enthusiasm of the attendees. The hotel was a great choice, and even though I was there as a speaker, I came away with a wealth of information that will help me continue to grow my business and thrive in the ever-changing publishing industry. Definitely a worthwhile way to spend a weekend!

**Kelly James-Enger, author of Six-Figure Freelancing and Ready, Aim, Specialize! Create your own Writing Specialty and Make More Money
website: <http://www.becomebodywise.com>**

The OWFI conference was a wonderful experience for me. I believe I first spoke there some 35 years ago, so it felt like coming home to me. I met so many enthusiastic writers, writers who seemed to want to listen and learn more about their craft. I just hope I was able to help them overcome their fears and elevate the quality of their writing. Oklahoma City was where lovers of writing came

together and fell in love all over again. The hotel was great and so were all the delicious meals made more enjoyable by the attentive and considerate staff. As for OWFI members who volunteered, they were wonderful to us. Their hospitality, from Dan Case on down, was exceptional.

Thanks for inviting me,

Jory

www.jorysherman.com

www.originalartonline.com

www.winnsboroemporium.com

Wayne, this was my first time speaking at OWFI and I had a lovely experience. I met so many people who were all serious about their writing and it was a real pleasure to spend the time in such good company.

Best, KD Wentworth

<http://www.kdwentworth.com>

I really enjoyed the conference. The people were so gracious and accommodating. The opportunity to network was great. Thanks.

Margaret Daley

I'm in the middle of a crushing book deadline, but I'm never too busy to send a shout out about a terrific conference!

I had a wonderful time at OWFI! Everyone was so hospitable and welcoming, and I couldn't have been luckier to have you as my 'shepherd.' :) Never once did I feel 'lost' regarding where I had to be when and for what. Although everything appeared to move along effortlessly, I know a TON of work had been done to prepare for the event--and that work was still going on behind the scenes. Major kudos to all of you for doing such a remarkable job. :)

Thank you again for inviting me to the conference and allowing me to be part of the OWFI family!

Deborah LeBlanc

Thank you, and thanks to OWFI for inviting me to serve at the conference this year. The hotel accommodations were quite generous, and the speaking and appointment schedule was a breeze

(Continued on page 16)

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2010 Conference Memories



Photo credit: Carolyn Leonard



Photo credit: Jennifer Nipps



Photo credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick



Photo credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick



Photo credit: Carolyn Leonard



Photo credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick



Photo credit: Jennifer Nipps



Photo credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick



Photo credit: Carolyn Leonard



Photo credit: Wayne Harris-Wyrick



Photo credit: Jennifer Nipps



Photo credit: Jennifer Nipps

More conference photos are at
<http://s977.photobucket.com/albums/ae254/oklawritersfed/>
and
<http://gallery.me.com/carolynleonard#101285>

WWW.OWFI.ORG

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Wayne Harris-Wyrick
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