

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 ©2013 Linda Apple

The **Report** is the quarterly newsletter of Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. It is published each March, June, September and December. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Submission guidelines are available upon request. Send submissions to wizardwayne@juno.com

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DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

Christine Jarmola

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



. . . And then we all packed up and went home with new ideas, motivations, and friendships.

That is the final sentence from a story that has spanned the past 45 years as we annually gather together the first weekend in May for the OWFI conference. For many it is the first time to ever behold the inner sanctums of the writing/publishing industry. For us old-timers, it's our version of the writer family reunion - a wonderful time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. From hearing New York Times bestseller Patrick Rothfuss speak (that was one disturbing, yet inspiring picture book he read) to talking one-on-one with a writing legend, Jodi Thomas (possibly the highlight of my conference) to meeting agents and editors and writers and ... well, you fill in the blank. This year's conference lived up to our expectations and then surpassed them.

Unlike some other conferences, OWFI is a non-profit organization and is completely run by volunteers – from the executive board to the timekeepers on the agent/editor interviews. All this couldn't take place without people willing to step up, and often out of their comfort zones, and help. When I asked how many volunteers it took to produce our conference Gayleen Rabakukk responded with this estimate:

“Twenty-two officers and committee chairs worked about twenty hours a month for the twelve months preceding the conference

(probably less in June, double in April, etc). There were an estimated 100 other volunteers doing specific tasks either at the conference or with the contest who put in at least ten hours each attending board meetings, category chairs, judges, registration desk, shepherds, etc.” (We do a whole lot of etcetera-ing). “There is a lot of overlap because typically each volunteer is doing several things. Using that equation, there were at least 6,500 volunteer hours worked to make the conference happen.”

Let me add to Gayleen's numbers that our contest chairs shorted through 824 entries plus the 47 books eligible for the trophy awards.

So once again, a big thank you to all those volunteers and our fearless leaders Patty Stith and Jan Morrill. Because of them we can have an outstanding weekend each year while paying a fraction of what it costs to go to other comparable conferences.

But OWFI doesn't have to stop on Sunday morning when you make your way home. Stay connected. It's easier than ever. Check out OWFI.org for all the updates. Read *The Report* and join our continuing discussions ranging from everything to new book releases and book signings, to personal joys and concerns on our members only Facebook page.

Hope you're making plans already to attend OWFI 2014: Create, Compose, Commit. Let me know how you plan to volunteer.

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Don't Miss This Book!

THE I LOVE TO WRITE BOOK: Ideas and Tips for Young Writers By Mary-Lane Kamberg

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

THE I LOVE TO WRITE BOOK
Ideas and Tips for Young Writers
By Mary-Lane Kamberg
Published by Crickhollow Books
2008, 135 pages

Actually just being in the same room with Mary-Lane Kamberg makes you want to write. Though the subtitle for this little book says it's for 'young writers,' it's packed with inspiration for any age, any level. As I read through chapters full of check lists, hot tips, suggestions, and quotes by famous writers, I saw I was caught up in it myself. All through the pages arrows point in from the left margin to the repeated bold command - - - Try This! It turns out these are the exercises in disguise and I couldn't wait to do them. It has a 5-star rating on Amazon and might just come in handy sometime to jump-start your ideas.

Kamberg uses the book in a class she founded and directs in Kansas City for eight weeks every summer called I Love to Write Camp, fourth through eighth grades in one section and eighth through twelfth in another. But she wrote it after she could find nothing to give her fourth grade niece who wanted to start writing. "I just followed Tony Morrison's advice," she said. "If you can't find the book you want to read, write it."

"I found both my agent, Mike Farris, then my publisher, at OWFI Conferences." In 2007, Phil Martin, Crickhollow Books, was one of the speakers and Farris pitched this book to him afterward.

"I always loved school supplies," her eyes twinkled, "so I thought I wanted to be a teacher." Though

she'd always written – school paper, scripts, advertising copy, she never thought she was a writer. But it all fell into place one day in the Kansas University Library. "I saw an article in Time Magazine that was really fun to read – the quality of the first two paragraphs made me realize that's what I wanted to do," she smiled. "I stood up right then, went across the street to the Journalism Department, and changed my major."

"My mother's always been my number one fan," she beamed. "She reads all my publications, even the children's books." It was years before Kamberg figured out she actually inherited her talent from her mother, Jessie Ladewig, who wrote a cookbook. And she wrote movie trailers for Twentieth Century Fox films during World War II. Kamberg gets plenty opportunity these days to 'play with school supplies' as she's been the co-director of Kansas City Writer's Group for the last

(Continued on page 25)

Though she'd always written – school paper, scripts, advertising copy, she never thought she was a writer. But it all fell into place one day in the Kansas University Library. "I saw an article in Time Magazine that was really fun to read – the quality of the first two paragraphs made me realize that's what I wanted to do," she smiled. "I stood up right then, went across the street to the Journalism Department, and changed my major."

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

A LOOK AT SCRIVENER

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

I am taking a different approach to this column. Instead of looking at a website, I'm looking at a program developed specifically for writers and writing. I learned about the Scrivener writing program in one of the groups I belong to on Facebook. The original poster mentioned that there was a two-week free trial, so I decided to look into it.

You can download Scrivener (for Windows, including Windows 8, and Mac) at Literature & Latte: <http://literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php>. They have screenshots and tutorials that show the highlights. In addition, there is a very detailed tutorial that comes with the software. After finishing that tutorial, I feel like I know the software inside and out.

One endorsement for the software is from Michael Marshall Smith who says, "The biggest software advance for writers since the word processor." Additional testimonials and endorsements are listed in a sidebar on the right of the page and also on a designated page.

In the past, I have been highly skeptical of any software program that advocates making the writing process easier. In large part, I am certain that is because they don't make sense to me. Scrivener does. It feels more organic and more like the way I think.

I like keeping things all in one place for a particular project. It's why I use notebooks. Scrivener does that electronically. There is a "Research" division where you can store relevant pictures, background information, character sketches, website addresses, and more. The corkboard feature allows you to have virtual index cards with a synopsis for that section. (I admit that I haven't used Scrivener for a novel yet, but it seems to me that those synopses would be beneficial when it comes time to write the novel synopsis.)

If you've already started working on a large project before you install Scrivener, it will let you import all of your files and even tells you how to split them

into sections. It does emphasize that it is only to help create a draft. For a final, printable file, it helps you export the file to a PDF, Word document, or other word processing software. Not only that, it will export it in the format you need, such as for a novel, nonfiction book, screenplay, etc.

Possible drawbacks to the software include the fact that it does only create a draft. The learning curve might also be a disadvantage. The plus side to that is you can reread the tutorial at any time. There is also an extensive "Help" file that they recommend you include as part of your "binder" for each new project. (You can choose to leave that out when you export your files.) One additional disadvantage might be that it can be a bit clunky, especially at first. That might be part of the learning curve, though.

I am aware that sometimes I am a bit behind the crowd when it comes to software and what is helpful or not. That may be the case here. However, if you're wanting something to help with project organization, I really think Scrivener would be a great help. At the very least, with a two-week free trial, you're not risking buying something you'll never use.

Jen Nipps is a member of the Web Writing Wonders. Her website is www.jen-nipps.com. Her latest book, *80 Creativity Tips*, is now available on Amazon.com or directly from her. She can be reached on Twitter or Facebook with the user ID "JenNipps" or by e-mail at jennipps@gmail.com.



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The Doctor is:

In

Out

The Feel of Real Books

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

Stuck without Internet recently while traveling, I visited a few of Thoreau's works on my Kindle. Some words and phrases looked familiar, most likely from the first time I absorbed those passages decades earlier, but I was disappointed not to feel the soul of his passion.

Was it my jaded, older perspective? Maybe the cold, sleek Kindle didn't offer the same reading experience after all. I wondered if anyone else met this conundrum while revisiting familiar works on e-readers, and upon returning to the desk, I found this email from one of my clients, Ken Luber.

The electronic version of Thoreau's words didn't make me feel "at home." We see and appreciate the convenience of digital forms, yet some of us still miss the perceived connection to the creator of those words.

This rambles a little, but there is a point. My oldest son is an architect in Seattle. He's computer savvy (always has been, in contrast to his father) and recently told me he downloads all of the books he reads. Last year my wife and I went to Scotland. While there, I bought a few books, one of which is a non-fiction account of one man's love for the sea and islands off the coast of northern Scotland. It is historical, archeological, and a laborious read for someone like me, not withstanding, he can often be eloquent. He's a fine writer and I've been reading this book for months.

I think I mentioned to you that I teach ESL and a GED course. I leave for work at about two in the afternoon and get home at about nine, driving up and down a mountain to get to work and back. I rise early and spend my mornings busy with tasks, chores and writing concerns. I'm exhausted when I finally get home. Last night, after doing my lesson plans for the next day, I sat down alone in the living room and picked up this man's

book to read. And this is the point of my ramble.

Holding the book in my hands, I immediately felt at home, I felt peace. I was happy to have this soft cover book in my hands, knowing I would be a participant in the author's adventure... Now, I suppose in time I could get the same feeling from a Kindle; after all, it's the work itself that counts. But I don't think I'm ready to make that jump; I

still want to hang on to the pages in that book -- even though, from a mercenary point of view, I know that, meager though they are, I still earn more royalties from e-books, on my published novel, than I do from other sources.

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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, **THE HEALTHY WRITER'S HANDBOOK**, featuring tips from dozens of writers she's met over the past two decades who know how to succeed and stay healthy in their writing careers. **What Really Matters to Me** is a journal that helps people discover their goals and obtain their dreams. 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**, and **THE COLOR ME BIBLE**. Robyn has sold articles to major magazines, such as **The Writer**, **Writer's Digest**, **ABA: Student Lawyer**, and a score of others.



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MARKETING

Hello? Is Anyone Listening?

Lela Davidson, Social Media Guru

I hear from a lot of authors who don't want to bother people with repeated messages about our work. They want to be unique, insightful, useful even. They loathe repeating themselves. I get it. The problem is we cannot expect people to be listening every time we start talking. How can they, with the job and the relationship and the occasional trip to the gym?

Even people who are listening are not listening. They are distracted or they ignore your message because they do not need what you have to offer right now. Maybe they need something just slightly different. Or maybe they don't need it until tomorrow. And that's if they see it. Everyone you know does not see every new website page, blog post, or social media status update you publish.

Seriously. Don't flatter yourself. We are all simply too busy to consume all the messages we are all creating. That's why you need to send messages in as many different formats as possible as often as possible without worrying that your incessant messages are a nuisance. Your audience is only seeing one out of seven of those posts—if that.

Your work is good. Be proud of it. Spread that goodness like a virus over the wide web of the world. Flip your perspective from selling to serving. What you sell can improve someone's life—even just for a day or a few minutes—so sell it! Sell a smile or a half hour of fantasy. Sell the good news you've learned.

Bottom line: no one else is going to promote you. This is not a reflection of the quality of your work or the cleverness of your marketing. No one else is going to promote you because they are busy doing whatever they are doing. Which is another reason they may not seem to be listening.

Keep talking.

Ignore everybody else's noise and focus on making your own in the place it is most likely to be heard.

Lela Davidson is the author of *Blacklisted from the PTA* and *Who Peed on My Yoga Mat?* She has sold thousands of books online, and she has been a regular at OWFI since 2007. She wrote *Sexy, Smart, & Search Engine Friendly: Get Found Online Without Losing Your Mind or Wasting Your Time* to demystify online marketing for authors and other small business entrepreneurs.



OWFI Photo Prompt Contest

Want to get your winning entry published in the Report? On the back cover of every issue there will be a photo. Write something based on that photo: the opening paragraphs of a short story or a novel, a story/novel synopsis, an entire flash fiction story. The only restriction is that you keep it under 400 words and give it a title. The best one will be printed in the following issue of the Report (the decision of the judges is final). That, and a printed copy of the newsletter with your winning entry in it, will be your only reward.

It doesn't have to be a complete story. It can be a vignette, a slice of life, a caption, a dialogue — anything that a writer might write. Any person or persons in the photograph may be a central character or a secondary character of a story. You may pretend they are the subject of a biography or an interview. They may be the focus of an ersatz newspaper article. Perhaps you can best write about a given photo with a poem or an essay. Just write it and send it to the editor at: wizardwayne@juno.com.

Send it within the body of the email or as a TEXT attachment. Entry deadline is August 1, 2013.

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2013 OWFI Contest Winners

2013 Contest Sponsors and Donors

Crème de la Crème
Bernadine Wells Memoriam

Five Categories
Kathlyn C. Smith

Two Categories
Tulsa Night Writers
Bernadine Wells Memoriam

Full Category
Bartlesville WordWeavers
Linda Basinger
Deborah Camp
Enid Writers Club
Peggy Fielding
The Inklings
Kansas Writers Association
Norman Galaxy of Writers
Carolyn and Gary Wall

Half Category
McAlester's McSherry Writers
Barbara Shepherd in memory of Monte Shepherd
Sandra Soli
Maria Veres and Family in memory of Monte Shepherd

Other Donations
Leon Beall

Many people worked to make our contest a success. Thanks to Second VP Tony LoPresti, President Patty Stith, Conference Coordinator Jan Morrill, and all our OWFI officers. Thanks also to Maria Veres, Barbara Shepherd, and Inez Phillips for answering questions, keeping me sane, and stepping in during emer-

gencies. Of course, none of this could have been possible without our amazing judges and category chairs. And finally, I thank all the entrants for your patience, kindness, and most of all, your incredible talent!

--Sonia Gensler, First VP and 2013 Contest Chair

Unpublished Manuscript Awards

CATEGORY 1 ~ MAINSTREAM NOVEL ~ 19 ENTRIES

Judge: Maria Rachel Hooley, Lawton, OK
Category Chair: Julia Mozingo, Lone Star Night-Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Mahout's Elephant" by Neena Kahlon, Fort Worth Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Mercy" by Jodi Thompson, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Trial Separation" by John Biggs, MAL

1st HM: "Fit to Survive" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 2 ~ CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE ~ 10 ENTRIES

Judge: Desiree Holt, Sisterdale, TX
Category Chair: Julia Mozingo, Lone Star Night-Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Tall, Green and Gorgeous" by Linda Basinger, Norman Galaxy of Writers

SECOND PLACE: "The Lingering Lie" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

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THIRD PLACE: "Fear of Danger" by Mary Ann Kerl, McAlester's McSherry Writers

1st HM: "Kiss and Don't Tell" by Joan Minor, MAL

CATEGORY 3 ~ HISTORICAL NOVEL ~ 11 ENTRIES

Judge: Marcia Preston, Edmond, OK

Category Chair: Julia Mozingo, Lone Star Night-Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Loyalty" by Laura Popp, Tulsa Night Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Last Grain" by Cynthia Henzel, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Tangled Garden" by Susan Cogan, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st HM: "Black Gold" by Jeanie Horn, Arkansas Ridge Writers

CATEGORY 4 ~ MYSTERY/SUSPENSE NOVEL ~ 21 ENTRIES

Judge: Rene Gutteridge, Oklahoma City, OK

Category Chair: Julia Mozingo, Lone Star Night-Writers

FIRST PLACE: "One Death Two Early" by Sandra Parsons, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Cobwebs" by Mary Coley, Tulsa Night Writers

THIRD PLACE: "River Story" by Kathleen Norris Park, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st HM: "The Dead Don't Bleed" by Joan Minor, MAL

2nd HM: "Dark Thickets" by Lowell Long, Writers of the Purple Sage

CATEGORY 5 ~ WESTERN NOVEL ~ 7 ENTRIES

Judge: Charlotte Anne Smith, Nowata, OK

Category Chair: Julia Mozingo, Lone Star Night-Writers

HONORABLE MENTION: "The Last Real Cowboy" by Kathleen Gibbs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 6 ~ SF/FANTASY/HORROR NOVEL ~ 26 ENTRIES

Judge: Sara D'Emic, Cold Spring, NY

Category Chair: Julia Mozingo, Lone Star Night-Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Catalyst" by Rebekah Loper, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Ebon Blade" by Jere Ellison, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Tilly & Tulli," by Sarah Denton, MAL

1st HM: "The Blackthorne Wolves" by Sandy Leppin, MAL

2nd HM: "The War of All Time" by Erin York, MAL

CATEGORY 7 ~ NONFICTION BOOK ~ 8 ENTRIES

Judge: Amy Shojai, Sherman, Texas

Category Chair: Arlene Graber, Kansas Writers Association

HONORABLE MENTION: "Red Heels and Smokin'" by Nequita Hanna, Tulsa Night Writers

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CATEGORY 8 ~ PICTURE BOOK ~ 20 ENTRIES

Judge: Darleen Bailey Beard, Norman, OK
Category Chair: Nita Beshear, McAlester's
 McSherry Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Bedtime Lullabayou" by Angie Kay
 Dilmore, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "'Twas the Age of Augustus" by
 Laura Popp, Tulsa Night Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Simon's Birthday Party" by Una
 Belle Townsend, MAL

1st HM: "Amelia" by Kendra Henthorn, MAL

2nd HM: "A Land Not So Very Far Away" by Cathy
 Collar, Bartlesville Wordweavers

Judge: Sandra Mitchell, Greenwood, IN
Category Chairs: Nita Beshear, McAlester's
 McSherry Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Fierce" by M.M. Cox, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "A Girl Named Jude," by E.R. Ar-
 royo,
 Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: "Blink" by Natasha Hanova, Midwest
 Pen & Ink

1st HM: "Angels & Guitars" by Nicola Eddy Daubert,
 MAL

2nd HM: "Armadillo Queen" by Eric Reitan, MAL

CATEGORY 9 ~ MIDDLE GRADE BOOK ~ 19 EN- TRIES

Judge: Vivian Zabel, Edmond, OK
Category Chair: Nita Beshear, McAlester's
 McSherry Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Mid-Evil" by Laura Popp, Tulsa
 Night Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Daughter of the Centaurs" by Cyn-
 thia Henzel, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Home Schooling for Hawks" by
 Priscilla H. Wilson, Kansas City Writers Group

CATEGORY 10 ~ YOUNG ADULT BOOK ~ 27 EN- TRIES

Category Sponsor: Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 11 ~ POETRY UNRHYMED SHORT ~ 56 ENTRIES

Judge: Sharon Martin, Oilton, OK
Category Chair: Maria Veres, Oklahoma City Writ-
 ers, Inc.

FIRST PLACE: "The AA Order" by Erin York, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "After the Procedure" by Eric
 Reitan, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Afghan Moon" by Keli Wright, Ar-
 kansas Ridge Writers

1st HM: "Black Boys" by R.C. Neighbors, Student

2nd HM: "Bathing My Youngest Daughter" by Ann
 Cleary, Bartlesville Wordweavers

3rd HM: "Elegy for an Apple Tree" by Neal Huffaker,
 Norman Galaxy of Writers

4th HM: "Rumor" by James Graham, Pen and Key-
 board Writers

5th HM: "Fancy Flight" by Julia Mazingo, Lone Star
 Writers

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CATEGORY 12 ~ POETRY UNRHYMED LONG ~ 52 ENTRIES

Judge: Robert Ferrier, Norman, OK

Category Chair: Sharon Worthey, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Death of Winter" by Diana Keathley, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Skin Hunger" by Christine Nichols, Stillwater Writers Group

THIRD PLACE: "Remembering Proofrock" by Eric Reitan, MAL

1st HM: "Bus Stop" by Maria Rachel Hooley, Rose Rock wRiters

2nd HM: "When Death Sat Next to Me" by Vivian Zabel, Pen and Keyboard Writers

3rd HM: "Seasons of Change" by Jeannie Horn, Arkansas Ridge Writers

4th HM: "Insomniac" by Lynda Stephenson, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

5th HM: "The Harvest" by Fred Causley Sr., Stillwater Writers Club

CATEGORY 13 ~ POETRY RHYMED SHORT ~ 39 ENTRIES

Judge: Susan Peters, Merriam, KS

Category Chair: John Morris, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Hours Married to Shadow" by Kristyn Reid, Oklahoma Write Now

SECOND PLACE: "The Ring" by R.C. Neighbors, Student

THIRD PLACE: "A Living" by Charlotte Anne Smith, Bartlesville Wordweavers

1st HM: "Sonnet (Why did Grandma Keep Old Letters)" by Charlotte Schreck Burns, MAL

2nd HM: "Christ Within the Crown of Thorns" by Carol Snow, Tulsa Night Writers

3rd HM: "The Dieter" by Beth Stephenson, Red Dirt Writers Society

CATEGORY 14 ~ POETRY RHYMED LONG ~ 43 ENTRIES

Judge: Maria Veres, Edmond, OK

Category Chair: Sharon Worthey, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "A Poet's Prayer" by Carol Snow, Tulsa Night Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Consider Young Thaddeus Baker" by Kelly Roberts, Red Dirt Writers Society

THIRD PLACE: "Dual Citizen" by Kristyn Reid, Oklahoma Write Now

1st HM: "Old Town: In Memoriam" by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville Wordweavers

2nd HM: "The Procrastinator" by Neal Huffaker, Norman Galaxy of Writers

3rd HM: "Reality Renting" by Frances Wykes Searcey, Norman Galaxy of Writers

4th HM: "A Legend in His Own Time" by Marianne Logan, Ol' Tascosa Word Slingers

CATEGORY 15 ~ FLASH FICTION ~ 56 ENTRIES *Category Sponsor: The Inklings*

Judge: Frank Steele, Sherman, TX

Category Chair: Jen Nipps, Web Writing Wonders

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FIRST PLACE: "Table for One" by Franklin Ray Gas-kin, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Walk a Mile in her Heels" by Shel Harrington, The Inklings

THIRD PLACE: "Molly's Malaise" by Sally Jadow, Kansas City Writers Group

1st HM: "Life Ends" by Nick Lyon, Red Dirt Writers Society

2nd HM: "The Rose Garden" by Pam Wetterman, Tulsa Night Writers

3rd HM: "The Switch" by Kathlyn Smith, Tulsa Night Writers

4th HM: "Inca 4" by Bill Wetterman, Tulsa Night Writers

5th HM: "Seeing Clearly" by Chantell Tiatrakul, Enid Writers Group

CATEGORY 16 ~ SHORT SHORT STORY ~ 67 ENTRIES

Judge: Inez Phillips, Oklahoma City, OK

Category Chair: Adrienne Crezo, Lawton, OK

FIRST PLACE: "Kill the Cat" by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville Wordweavers

SECOND PLACE: "The Mysterious Mr. Smith" by Charles R. Vassel, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Down on Bayou Boeuf" by Maxine Taylor, River Valley Writers

1st HM: "Goldilocks, Two Bears and the Great Pumpkin" by Leora Bridgewater, Writers of the Purple Sage

2nd HM: "Johnny Adair" by Art Youmans, Tulsa Night Writers

3rd HM: "Emerging Release" by Frances Wykes Searcey, Norman Galaxy of Writers

4th HM: "The Bee Martin" by M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa Night Writers

5th HM: "A Silhouette Romance, Sort of" by Marjorie Bixler, Fort Worth Writers

6th HM: "An Honorable Man" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 17 ~ SHORT STORY ~ 55 ENTRIES

Judge: John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City, OK

Category Chair: Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

FIRST PLACE: "A Good Hand" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Listening to the Imp" by Eric Reitan, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Macho Man" by R.C. Neighbors, Student

1st HM: "Forest Cat" by Mary Coley, Tulsa Night Writers

2nd HM: "Make Ahead Macaroni Salad" by Beth Stephenson, Red Dirt Writers Society

3rd HM: "Twisted Little Women" by Donna Welch Jones, Tulsa Night Writers

4th HM: "A Buttercup in the Flats" by Mary Keilly, Fort Worth Writers

5th HM: "The Turd Wagon" by Terry Alexander, Arkansas Ridge Writers

CATEGORY 18 ~ JUVENILE SHORT STORY ~ 24 ENTRIES

Judge: Gwendolyn Hooks, Oklahoma City, OK

Category Chair: Jan Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Jellica's Pot of Gold" by Renee Roberts, MAL

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SECOND PLACE: "Life Saving Polka Dot Umbrella" by Donna Welch Jones, Tulsa Night Writers

THIRD PLACE: "In Old Sweden One Summer" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st HM: "The Warrior and the Mist" by M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa Night Writers

CATEGORY 19 ~ YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY ~ 19 ENTRIES

Judge: Tessa Gratton, Lawrence, KS

Category Chair: Jan Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Puzzle Pieces" by R.C. Neighbors, Student

SECOND PLACE: "Harvest Queen" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville Wordweavers

THIRD PLACE: "Meet Me at the Kissing Post" by Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville Wordweavers

1st HM: "Serena and the Chocolate of Destiny" by Jenny Beverage, MAL

CATEGORY 20 ~ SF/FANTASY/HORROR STORY ~ 35 ENTRIES

Judge: Alex Miner, Seattle, WA

Category Chair: Sylvia Forbes, Arkansas Ridge Writers

FIRST PLACE: "The Dog Who Swallowed the Fish" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers

SECOND PLACE: "The Roses are Beautiful this Year" by Nancy Hartney, Arkansas Ridge Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Dear Boy" by John T. Biggs, MAL

1st HM: "The Price of Blood" by Susan Cogan, Norman Galaxy of Writers

2nd HM: "Communion" by Kelly Bristow, The Inklings

3rd HM: "Unholy Ground" by Natasha Hanova, Midwest Pen & Ink

CATEGORY 21 ~ PROSE HUMOR ~ 39 ENTRIES

Judge: Carol Shenold, Bethany, OK

Category Chair: Janet Bradburn, Web Writing Wonders

FIRST PLACE: "Loving a Cowboy is Like Running with Scissors" by Nequita Hanna, Tulsa Night Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Nap Strike" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville Wordweavers

THIRD PLACE: "The Family of Potticus" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st HM: "Lather, Rinse, Repeat" by Heather Davis, Bartlesville Wordweavers

2nd HM: "The Exchange" by Cathy Collar, Bartlesville Wordweavers

3rd HM: "Interstate Salvation" by John T. Biggs, MAL

CATEGORY 22 ~ ESSAY ~ 35 ENTRIES

Judge: Eric Reitan, Stillwater, OK

Category Chair: Arlene Graber, Kansas Writers Association

FIRST PLACE: "A Creed for Creed" by Angela Peters, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "A Lapse in Judgment" by Tracy Paul, Writers of the Woodlands

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THIRD PLACE: "How Long Did It Take?" by Gayleen Rabakukk, MAL

1st HM: "Poll Axed" by Neal Huffaker, Norman Galaxy of Writers

2nd HM: "One Man's Art" by Martha Lea Bryant, The Inklings

3rd HM: "It's a Sickness" by Heather Davis, Bartlesville Wordweavers

CATEGORY 23 ~ PLAY/FILM/TV SCRIPT ~ 12 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Barbara Shepherd and Maria Veres and Family

In memory of Monte Shepherd, son of Barbara Shepherd

Judge: Terry Phelps, Oklahoma City, OK

Category Chair: Sylvia Forbes, Arkansas Ridge Writers

FIRST PLACE: "The First One Hundred Days" by Darrell D. Bartell, Fort Worth Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Elysian Fields" by Linda Marshall, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Anything Less Than Beautiful" by Eric Reitan, MAL

1st HM: "The Band You're About to Hear" by R.C. Neighbors, Student

CATEGORY 24 ~ TECHNICAL/HOW-TO ARTICLE ~ 18 ENTRIES

Judge: Barbara Rollins, Abilene, TX

Category Chair: Arlene Graber, Kansas Writers Association

FIRST PLACE: "Pressure's On!" by Beth Stephenson, Red Dirt Writers

SECOND PLACE: "International Travel with Children" by Jodi Thompson, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "It's a Win Win: How to Make Credit Cards Pay You" by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville Wordweavers

1st HM: "More Meal, Less Mess" by Rhonda Franz, Writers Guild of America

CATEGORY 25 ~ FEATURE ARTICLE ~ 16 ENTRIES

Judge: Mary-Lane Kamberg, Olathe, KS

Category Chair: DesJean Jones, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Going Off the Beaten Path in Hawaii" by Michael Varhola, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Spokane: City for All Seasons" by Bernadine Wells, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: "The Kings of Copper" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

1st HM: "Full Disclosure Mom Hits the Big City" by Heather Davis, Bartlesville Wordweavers

CATEGORY 26 ~ WESTERN ARTICLE ~ 9 ENTRIES

Judge: Sandy Whiting, Park City, KS

Category Chair: DesJean Jones, Member at Large

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HONORABLE MENTION: "Giddy Up, Japanese Style!" by Laura Popp, Tulsa Night Writers

CATEGORY 27 ~ INSPIRATIONAL ~ 33 ENTRIES *Category Sponsor: Bernadine Wells Memoriam*

Judge: Kendra Bonnett, Milbridge, ME
Category Chair: DesJean Jones, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "On Chairs Stacked to Heaven" by Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville Wordweavers
SECOND PLACE: "Out of the Blue" by Cathy Collar, Bartlesville Wordweavers
THIRD PLACE: "Who Signed Me Up for This?" by Nequita Hanna, Tulsa Night Writers

1st HM: "Healing my Secondary Trauma" by Kelly Roberts, Red Dirt Writers Society
2nd HM: "The Big C" by Una Belle Townsend, MAL
3rd HM: "Burma Born, American Made" by Laura Popp, Tulsa Night Writers

CATEGORY 28 ~ COLUMN AWARD ~ 12 ENTRIES

Judge: Mari Farthing, Oklahoma City, OK
Category Chair: Debbie Smart, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Apocalypse Farm" by Sharon Martin, MAL
SECOND PLACE: "Watch Your Language" by Kathleen Park, Norman Galaxy of Writers
THIRD PLACE: "Minivan Momma" by Heather Smith, Bartlesville Wordweavers

1st HM: "Making Crime Pay" by Faith Wiley, MAL

CATEGORY 29 ~ NOSTALGIA ~ 36 ENTRIES *Category Sponsor: Bernadine Wells Memoriam*

Judge: Matilda Butler, Corvallis, OR
Category Chair: Ginny Greene, Clyde, TX

FIRST PLACE: "Red Shoes" by Brenda Black, Arkansas Ridge Writers
SECOND PLACE: "Rodeo Gold" by Martha Lea Bryant, The Inklings
THIRD PLACE: "Black Bird" by Laura Popp, Tulsa Night Writers
1st HM "America's Team" by Martha Heady, MAL
2nd HM: "Meeting Grandfather" by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville Wordweavers
3rd HM: "Growing Pains" by Beth Stephenson, Red Dirt Writers Society

Trophy Awards

CATEGORY 30 ~ PUBLISHED JUVENILE BOOK ~ 10 ENTRIES

Judge: Anna Myers, Chandler, OK
Category Chair: Patty Stith, Arkansas Ridge Writers

The Great Elephant Escape
Una Belle Townsend, MAL

CATEGORY 31 ~ PUBLISHED NONFICTION BOOK ~ 10 ENTRIES

Judge: Lela Davidson, Rogers, AR
Category Chair: Patty Stith, Arkansas Ridge Writers

Writing Alchemy: How to Write Fast and Deep
Matilda Butler and Kendra Bonnett, Members at Large

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CATEGORY 32 ~ PUBLISHED POETRY BOOK ~ 6 ENTRIES

Judge: Carol Hamilton, Midwest City, OK
Category Chair: Patty Stith, Arkansas Ridge Writers

Hanging the Curveball
 Ron Wallace, Red River Writers

CATEGORY 33 ~ PUBLISHED FICTION BOOK ~ 21 ENTRIES

Judge: Malena Lott, Edmond, OK
Category Chair: Patty Stith, Arkansas Ridge Writers

End of the Trail
 Vickie McDonough, Tulsa Night Writers

Crème de la Crème Award

Sponsored by
Bernadine Wells Memoriam

“Loving a Cowboy is Like Running with Scissors”
 Category 21: Prose Humor

Nequita Hanna
 Tulsa Night Writers
 Tulsa, Oklahoma

Judges:

Vickie Malone Kennedy, 2011 Crème de la Crème Winner
 Sandra Soli, Oklahoma Book Award Winner
 Carolyn Wall, Oklahoma Book Award Winner

All first-place entries were read anonymously during the judging process for this award.

This year’s Crème de la Crème Award is presented by the Bernadine Wells Memoriam. Donors to this fund include Ilene Wahl, Lee Hudson, Loretta J. Parks, Angela D. Reid, Christine L. Boerner, and the OWFI Scholarship Fund.

Bernadine Wells passed away from complications of the flu on February 2, 2013, just two weeks shy of her 92nd birthday. An Honorary Life Member of Oklahoma City Writers, Bernadine moved to Washington about 10 years ago to be with her daughter. Many of her writings were published in magazines and she was a frequent contest winner. She was always willing to help beginning writers.

Bernadine was busy writing right up until the last. There were several unfinished articles on her computer. Bernadine really enjoyed the friends she met through OWFI and Oklahoma City Writers.

About the Judges

1. MAINSTREAM NOVEL: **Maria Rachel Hooley** has written over thirty-five novels, including *October Breezes*, *Summer Sunsets*, and *Sojourner*. More than 50,000 copies of her work have sold. She has had poetry published in over eighty literary magazines across the nation and in the United Kingdom. When she's not busy teaching high school students, she's working on her next novel. She lives in Oklahoma with her husband and three children.

2. CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE: **Desiree Holt**'s writing is flavored with the rich experiences of her life, including a long stretch in the music business representing every kind of artist from country singer to heavy metal rock bands. For several years she also ran her own public relations agency handling any client that interested her, many of whom might recognize

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themselves in the pages of her stories. She is twice a finalist for an EPIC E-Book Award, a nominee for a Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award, winner of the first 5 Heart Sweetheart of the Year Award at The Romance Studio as well as twice a CAPA Award for best BDSM book of the year, winner of the Holt Medallion, multiple winner of the Whipped Cream Book of the Week Award and is published by five different houses.

3. HISTORICAL NOVEL: **Marcia Preston's** first novels were mysteries featuring the daughter of a Gypsy mother and a redneck father. One of these won the Mary Higgins Clark Award for suspense fiction. Marcia herself is neither a Gypsy nor a redneck, just a Democrat. For twenty years, Marcia edited and published *ByLine*, a national magazine for freelance writers. She also wrote for a long list of national magazines before becoming a full-time novelist. She now writes mainstream novels centered on issues important to families and women readers. *The Butterfly House* hit #1 on the Heatseekers bestseller list in England and has sold widely in Europe. Marcia is an experienced speaker for writers' conferences, libraries, book clubs and civic groups. A member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Blue Star Mothers (mothers of active military) and National Association of Royalty Owners, she is a past-president and Honorary Life Member of the statewide Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc.

4. MYSTERY/SUSPENSE: **Rene Gutteridge** is the award-winning and best-selling author of more than eighteen novels, including the beloved Boo Series and *Heart of the Country*, her novelization release with director John Ward and Tyndale House Publishers. Her recent suspense titles include *Listen*, *Possession* and the award-winning Seven Hours project *Escape-ment*. She's been published by Bethany House, Tyndale House, WaterBrook Press, Thomas Nelson and B&H and novelized the successful motion picture *The Ultimate Gift*. She is teaming again with screenwriter

Cheryl McKay for the romantic comedy *Greetings from the Flipside* from B&H and releasing her new suspense title, *Misery Loves Company* from Tyndale in 2013. Her romantic comedy *Never the Bride* won the 2010 Carol Award for Best Women's Fiction. Her upcoming literary projects include the novelization of the motion picture *Old Fashioned* with Tyndale House Publishers and filmmaker Rik Swartzwelder.

5. WESTERN NOVEL: **Charlotte Anne Smith** has been a freelance writer since high school, but made it a career starting in 1968. She has written for well over 115 different publications, more that once for all but five and for over 30 years for some. She also has been an editor, section editor and general assignment reporter for four different newspapers, three in Oklahoma and one in Kansas. She is currently putting together a book about growing up in the Arkansas Ozarks during the Depression and WWII. Many of what will be chapters in the book have already been published in magazines like *Good Old Days* and *Ozarks Mountaineer*.

6. SF/FANTASY/HORROR NOVEL: **Sara D'Emic** is an Associate Agent with Talcott Notch Literary, representing fantasy, science fiction, horror, and mystery. Recently she judged the Horror category for the Writer's Digest Popular Fiction Awards. She graduated from Emerson College with a B.A. in Writing, Literature, and Publishing. She was previously an editorial/PR intern for Last Light Studio (Boston) and an editorial intern for Hanging Loose Press (Brooklyn). She currently lives in upstate New York with her dog, Martha.

7. NONFICTION BOOK: **Amy Shojai** has been reinventing herself for years. She's a certified animal behavior consultant, and the award-winning author of 26 best selling pet books that cover furry babies to old-fogies, first aid to natural healing, and behavior/training to Chicken Soup-icity. She is the Puppies Guide at puppies.About.com, the cat behavior expert at cats.About.com, and hosts a weekly half hour Internet

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Pet Peeves radio show. Amy has been featured as an expert in hundreds of print venues including *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Family Circle*, as well as national radio and television networks such as CNN, Animal Planet's DOGS 101 and CATS 101. She's been a consultant to the pet products industry and a host/program consultant for select "furry" TV projects. Amy brings her unique pet-centric viewpoint to public appearances, writer conferences/keynotes/seminars and thriller fiction in her debut novel *Lost and Found* that includes pet "voice"--of course!

8. PICTURE BOOK: **Darleen Bailey Beard** loves writing books for kids. Many of her books are based on true stories and have been turned into plays, received "starred" and "boxed" reviews, and have been chosen as "Junior Library Guild Book Selections." Her novel, *The Babbs Switch Story*, won the Oklahoma Book Award and the Gamma State Author Award. Her latest chapter book, *Annie Glover is NOT a Tree Lover*, has been nominated for several state book awards and the "Green Earth Book Award." She lives in Norman, Oklahoma, with her two children and enjoys gardening, reading, traveling, and doing author visits and public speaking throughout the U.S. Check out her fun web site at: www.darleenbaileybeard.com.

9. MIDDLE GRADE BOOK: As she reared her children and was a stay-at-home-mother, with spells of working in the business world, **Vivian Zabel** wrote short stories, poetry, and articles, which were published. Vivian taught English and writing for 27 years and retired in 2001. Every year she taught, she attended writing classes, workshops, and clinics, not only to learn how better to teach her students, but also to hone her own writing skills. Finally in 2001 after retiring, she began to write full time and to write longer works. In 2007, she began 4RV Publishing. So far the company has released nearly 100 titles, has 75 authors, and numerous illustrators, editors, and other staff. Several titles have won awards, including the Oklahoma Book Award in Fiction, a top finalist in the USA Best Books

in Science Fiction, a Mom's Choice Award, and a silver medal from Children's Literary Classics. Vivian writes, edits, and heads the traditional publishing house.

10. YOUNG ADULT BOOK: **Saundra Mitchell** has been a phone psychic, a car salesperson, a denture-deliverer and a layout waxer. She's dodged trains, endured basic training, and hitchhiked from Montana to California. She teaches herself languages, raises children, and makes paper for fun. She's the author of *Shadowed Summer*, *The Vespertine*, *The Springsweet*, and the forthcoming *The Elementals* and *Mistwalker*. She's also the editor of the forthcoming YA anthology *Defy the Dark*. She always picks truth; dares are too easy.

11. POETRY UNRHYMED SHORT: **Sharon E. Martin** has sold more than 100 poems for children and adults to such magazines as *McCall's*, *Byline*, *Lollipops*, *Primary Treasure*, *Amelia*, and *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. She has won more than fifty writing awards and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her chapbook, *No Sanctuary*, published by Amelia Press, won the Pegasus Award from Oklahoma Writers' Federation in 1998. A second book of poetry will be published in 2013.

12. POETRY UNRHYMED LONG: Hugo native **Robert Ferrier** is the author of four published novels available at SynergEbooks.com, Amazon.com and other E-Book publishers. His poetry has appeared in *Oklahoma Today*, *Möbius*, *The Mid-America Poetry Review*, *Blood and Thunder*, *Broomweed Journal*, *Crosstimbers*, *Westview* and *Metro Library Magazine*. His books, *Rhythms* and *Ambient Light*, each won the OWFI award for Best Published Book of Poetry. He was a 2007 nominee for Poet Laureate of Oklahoma.

13. POETRY RHYMED SORT: **Susan Peters** is a native Midwesterner who returned to her roots in 2005 after living and working 15 years in Europe and Asia. Her poetry has appeared in *Kansas City Voices*, *Light Quarterly*, *Persimmon Tree*, *anderbo*, and *The*

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Barefoot Muse, as well as in several anthologies. In 2011, she presented a workshop on "Formal Poetry: Not Quite Dead Yet" at a conference sponsored by the Kansas City Writers Group. She teaches in the English for Academic Purposes program at Johnson County Community College, where she occasionally torments students by requiring them to memorize poetry.

14. POETRY RHYMED LONG: **Maria Veres** is the author of two poetry chapbooks, *Waiting for Miracles* (2007) and *Storm Shelter* (2013). Her poems have appeared in many magazines, most recently *Ancient Paths*, *Epiphany*, and *Jack and Jill*. She is a former OWFI officer and a proud member of Oklahoma City Writers. Visit her online at mariapolsonveres.com.

15. FLASH FICTION: **Frank Steele** has always loved writing. During his BA and MA work at NTSU and OSU, he sold stories to the *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, wrote monologues for an L.A. comic (who never paid him) and wrote a play produced at NTSU. He has judged for OWFI as well as other writers' organizations. Most recently, his play *Kurves the Musical* (co-written with Amy Shojai) received rave reviews and great audience response. His next play, *A Comfort Breeze* got a much appreciated thumbs-up from Tom and Holly Sawyer. Target date for the production is spring of 2013.

16. SHORT SHORT STORY: **Inez Phillips** taught language arts and reading from elementary through graduate level over a span of 38 years. She has won awards for fiction, nonfiction, screen writing, poetry, and the OKC Writers Crème de la Crème award twice for juvenile short stories. Inez has been published in educational and trade periodicals. A longtime member of OKC Writers, she has served as president and newsletter editor. She chaired the OWFI annual contest twice and served as chair of the Contest Rules Committee for several years. She was made an OFWI Honorary Life Member in 2002.

17. SHORT STORY: **John Biggs** is one of those people who always loved to read but didn't really start writing

fiction until he retired from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 2001. Since then, he has published about a dozen stories in on line magazines (*Fever Dreams*, *Lorian Hemingway*, *Writers Digest*, *Frontier Tales*, and *BoySlut*--No my story was not porn or erotic); small circulation magazines, (*Storyteller*, *Grandmother Earth*# 19, and *Red Dirt*); and anthologies (*Voices vol. 4*, *Cactus Country vol.1*, *Glimpses of Insanity*). He has won a number of regional and national contests including: a 1st and two 3rd place wins from *Byline Magazine* in 2007, 1st and a 3rd in the 2008 OWFI conference, Semi finalist in the 2008 Katherine Ann Porter Prize, 3rd place in the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition in 2011, Grand Prize in the *Writers Digest* Annual competition in 2011, 2nd place in the Grandmother Earth Life Press Writing Awards in 2012, a 1st, a 2nd, and the Crème de la Crème award in the 2012 annual OWFI conference. Most recently he was selected as a Finalist in the 2012 Black Lawrence Press short story collection competition. At last year's OWFI conference John pitched his novel, *Owl Dreams* to Duke Pennell (Pen-L Publishing). That book is now under contract and will be coming out some time in 2013.

18. JUVENILE STORY: **Gwendolyn Hooks** has worked as a census taker, a waitress, a department store gift wrapper, a secretary for a sporting goods company, and a math teacher. But none of them has been as much fun as writing for children. She has written for magazines including *Highlights for Children* and has 17 published books. Her fiction books feature pets and friends, the two things everyone needs. Gwendolyn's eight book Pet Club Stories series combines both. Constantly stretching her writing skills, she wrote three nonfiction science books about food webs. She has been awarded the Mom's Choice Award for *Bobbie's Big Bear Hunt* and the SORMAG 2012 Reader's Choice Award. She blogs on The Brown Bookshelf, an American Library Association Great Website for Kids and is a member of the Society of Children's Book

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Writers and Illustrators. For the latest information about Gwendolyn visit her website Gwendolyn-Hooks.com and follow her on Twitter @GwenTheGweat.

19. YOUNG ADULT STORY: **Tessa Gratton** has wanted to be a paleontologist or a wizard since she was seven. She was too impatient to hunt dinosaurs, but is still searching for someone to teach her magic. After traveling the world with her military family, she acquired a BA (and the important parts of an MA) in gender studies, and then settled down in Kansas with her partner, her cats, and her mutant dog. She is the author of *Blood Magic*, *The Blood Keeper*, and the forthcoming *New Asgard* series, all from Random House. You can visit her at TessaGratton.com.

20. SF/FANTASY/HORROR STORY: **Alex Miner** is a shadowy figure. No one knows who invited him to OWFI, what his qualifications are, or why he chose to speak. When the man presents in public, he is exceptionally loud, and that is perhaps the only sure data anyone has on him. Rumors place Miner at the University of Oklahoma from 2004 to 2007 (as a grad student or loiterer, no one is certain), after which he fled the state of his supposed birth to teach English in Seattle, rural Japan, and who knows where else. He currently works for a Pacific Northwest company as a designer of English curricula, but not even his employers know how he got there. Wherever Miner goes, he starts up fiction writing groups and seems to fancy himself a Johnny Appleseed of workshops. When pressed about his credentials, he spouts off details that change with each telling. Our own interviews with Miner are confusing to say the least; he calls himself an educator and an "aspiring novelist" with three books under his belt, but as far as we can tell, he is simply loud.

21. PROSE HUMOR: **Carol Shenold** has been writing both fiction and nonfiction for over 25 years. She has two mysteries available on Amazon now, *Privy to Murder* and *Bloody Murder*. She just signed a contract with Wild Rose Press for her Urban Fantasy, *Fairy*

Dust, and is hard at work on the sequel, *Dead Fairies*. Carol loves to take every day small town people, put them in extraordinary situations and show them that the monster under the bed is real. She's mean that way. She lives and works in Oklahoma City with her daughter, two cats and a neurotic poodle, Jasper. When she isn't writing or working in Medical Quality Management, she loves to read, play the hammer dulcimer and paint portraits. Carol has flying monkeys and isn't afraid to use them.

22. ESSAY: **Eric Reitan**, a philosophy professor at Oklahoma State University, is the author of dozens of articles (both scholarly and for general readers) as well as two books: *Is God a Delusion?* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009) and *God's Final Victory* (Continuum, 2011, co-authored with John Kronen). His short fiction has appeared in such magazines as *Plot* and *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. He won the OWFI Crème-de-la-Crème Award in 2008. He blogs at www.thepietythatliesbetween.blogspot.com.

23. FILM/PLAY/TV SCRIPT: **Terry Phelps** has been a Professor of English and Director of the Learning Enhancement Center at Oklahoma City University since 1983. His courses at OCU include Writing for Stage & Screen, From Script to Screen, Introduction to Creative Writing, Advanced Grammar & Usage, Legal Writing, and composition. His publications include magazine and newspaper articles, scholarly articles, poetry, and short stories. He has also written and directed a musical and has a screenplay being reviewed in Los Angeles. His current projects include a Broadway-style musical, screen plays, a grammar book, and children's books. A member of the Oklahoma Writing Project (part of the National Writing Project) since 1978, he has presented in-service writing workshops for teachers and students across the state.

24. TECHNICAL/HOW-TO ARTICLE: **Barbara B. Rollins** retired after three decades as a lawyer and judge to become a full-time author, editor, and publisher with Silver Boomer Books. Thirty-nine books

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have come to life on her computer (twenty-three titles with two large print editions plus fourteen Kindle editions). Her name appears on eleven of those titles - the eight anthologies as editor and as author of *The Innkeeper's Christmas Eve*, *A Time for Verse - poetic ponderings on Ecclesiastes*, and *A Cloud of Witnesses - Two Big Books and Us*. While a judge, waiting for lawyers she wrote a juvenile novel *Syncopated Summer* and a series of juvenile forensic books, *Ballistics*, *Cause of Death*, *Fingerprint Evidence* and *Blood Evidence*. Rollins is a past president of Abilene Writers Guild, past Area Governor with Toastmasters, and a Rotarian. Her greatest joy is being Grandmom to twin grandsons

25. FEATURE ARTICLE: **Mary-Lane Kamberg** is an award-winning professional writer, editor, and speaker. She has published eighteen books, including nine for children. She has also published hundreds of magazine articles for adults and children, dozens of poems, and short fiction. She is co-leader of the Kansas City Writers Group and past president of Whispering Prairie Press, which publishes *Kansas City Voices* magazine.

26. WESTERN ARTICLE: **Sandy Whiting**, an esteemed judge of Western fiction and non-fiction, hails from Park City, KS.

27. INSPIRATIONAL PROSE: **Kendra Bonnett** is an award-winning author of more than 300 magazine articles, editor of three magazines (including the award-winning Profit Magazine for IBM), and author/ghostwriter of eight books. She left IBM to assist former Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon with research and spent 18 months interviewing more than 100 leaders from the worlds of business, finance, government and sports, including President Gerald Ford; Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Schultz; journalist Jack Anderson; Wall Street's William "Billy" Salomon of Salomon Brothers among others. She is the co-author of the award-winning collective memoir, *Rosie's Daughters: The "First Woman To" Generation Tells Its Story*, and the newly released

Writing Alchemy: How to Write Fast and Deep. When not writing, she teaches and coaches writers. Kendra, a 30+ year marketing executive versed in new technology techniques, brings her insight and knowledge to writers, helping them build successful marketing and publishing strategies for their books as well as writing them.

28. COLUMN: **Mari Farthing** is the Editor of *Metro-Family Magazine*, an Oklahoma City-based publication focused on moms, parenting and families and the Senior Editor at Buzz Books, an Oklahoma City-based publishing company with a number of YA and adult fiction and non-fiction titles available in ebook and paperback. Mari has over 15 years of experience in writing and editing in a variety of genres and environments (a benefit of her husband's 23-year career as a non-commissioned officer in the Air Force), which includes technical writing, classroom instruction and speaking opportunities. Mari has participated as a judge in writing competitions ranging from children's essays to past OWFI competitions and the *FOLIO* magazine Eddie & Ozzie awards for the past two years. Mari fills most of her free time with family, fitness, knitting, buying paper and pens and blogging. She writes regularly about writing and editing, parenting issues, and pop culture. She is a founding member of the Oklahoma Women Bloggers network and contributes to several other blogs when the topic won't fit in one of these places

29. NOSTALGIA: **Matilda Butler**, the other half of Women's Memoirs, is an award-winning author of more than 50 articles, has contributed chapters to several anthologies, including *The New Papyrus* (Microsoft Press), and co-authored the award-winning *Women and the Mass Media*. She is co-author (with Kendra Bonnett) of the collective memoir *Rosie's Daughters: The "First Woman To" Generation Tells Its Story*, which received a 2008 IPPY national book award as well as three other book awards. The second edition of this book, which includes new interviews,

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2013 OWFI Contest Judges

has just been released. She teaches and coaches writers, is a conference speaker, and is co-author of the recently published *Writing Alchemy: How to Write Fast and Deep*. Matilda, an Oklahoma native, is a social scientist and high tech entrepreneur who applies her knowledge to writing, helping people tell stories in new and powerful ways.

30. BEST PUBLISHED JUVENILE BOOK: **Anna Myers'** 19 novels for kids were published by Walker and have been honored by the New York Public Library, ALA, Social Studies Council, the Junior Library Guild, and many others. Myers's presentations have included the New York Librarian Association, American Library Association, and the International Reading Association. Learn more at www.annamyers.info.

31. BEST PUBLISHED NONFICTION BOOK: **Lela Davidson** is the award-winning author of *Blacklisted from the PTA and Who Peed on My Yoga Mat?* She is a freelance journalist and commentator for *TODAY Moms* and a regular contributor to *iVillage* and *Huffington Post*. Lela charms live audiences of all sizes on topics ranging from marketing and social media to family life, marriage, and the challenges of being over-40 in a Botox world.

32. BEST PUBLISHED BOOK OF POETRY: **Carol Hamilton** has upcoming and recent publications in *New Laurel Review*, *Tribeca Poetry Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Tulane Review*, *Meridian Anthology*, *Willow Review*, *Connecticut River Review*, *Bryant Literary Review*, *U.S. Newsletter*, *Poetrybay*, *ellipsis*, *California Quarterly*, *Humber Pie*, *Main Street Rag*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Aurorean*, *Versus Literary Review* and others. She has been nominated five times for a Pushcart Prize. She has published 15 books of children's novels, legends and poetry, most recently, *Master of Theater: Peter the Great and Lexicography*. She is a former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma.

33. BEST PUBLISHED FICTION BOOK: **Malena Lott** is a brand strategist, creative consultant, wife, mother and author in the Midwest. She hails from Western Okla-

homa, where she learned to live with tornadoes and love football, and received a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Comm at the University of Oklahoma where she was an Alpha Chi Omega. Lott has won numerous writing and advertising awards and was named 40 under 40 in OKC Biz. Lott's novels include *The Stork Reality*, *Fixer Upper*, *Dating da Vinci* and the novellas *The Last Resort* and *Life's a Beach*.

Crème de la Crème Judges

Originally from Alamo, Tennessee, **Vickey Malone Kennedy** illegally immigrated to Oklahoma over thirty years ago. She is a nurse, received her B.A., in Theatre from (USAO) University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, and did her graduate studies at Oklahoma State University. Vic is proud to be a dog (a Yard Dog Press author that is), an editor for 4RV Publishing, co-founder of Rose Rock wRiters, and actively involved with Norman Galaxy of Writers, Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc. and SoonerCon. She is the winner of the OWFI 2011 CRÈME DE LA CRÈME AWARD, and 2011 Darrell Award for Best Midsouth Short Story, and has judged in several writing contests, including the 2012 OWFI SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL.

Sandra Soli, a past OWFI board member, now serves on the board of the OK Center for the Book. Her poetry, short fiction (for adults and children), articles, essays, and photography have appeared in more than sixty markets. Awards include an Oklahoma Book Award, a citation from a national press for her mentorship of other writers, and two nominations for the Pushcart Prize. Sandy is a former columnist and editor. She enjoys collaborative projects and teaches by invitation, also privately by Email.

Carolyn Wall is the author of the *New York Times*-acclaimed novel *Sweeping Up Glass*, published on four continents. *Sweeping Up Glass* was the recipient of the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award for Fiction. The Boston Globe reported: "The fresh voice of that clear-eyed

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2013 OWFI Contest Judges

narrator reminded me of Scout in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I literally could not put it down." Carolyn's second novel, *Playing With Matches*, (also Random House) is now in bookstores. To fill orders, this novel required a second printing before its coming-out date. Receiving starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* and *Booklist*, it was chosen by Target as their July Summer Read. The *Huntington News* reported, "Readers of *Playing With Matches* will be reminded of William Faulkner's Mississippi Gothic characters."

When I was a young boy
they called me a liar.
Now that I'm all grown
up, they call me a writer.

Isaac Singer

The universe is full of magical
things, patiently waiting for
our wits to grow sharper.

Eden Phillpotts

Basket Wars 2013

Want to get your winning entry published in the Report? On the back cover of every issue there will be a photo. Write something based on that photo: the opening paragraphs of a short story or a novel, a story/novel synopsis, an entire flash fiction story. The only restriction is that you keep it under 400 words and give it a title. The best one will be printed in the following issue of the Report (the decision of the judges is final). That, and a printed copy of the newsletter with your winning entry in it, will be your only reward.

It doesn't have to be a complete story. It can be a vignette, a slice of life, a caption, a dialogue — anything that a writer might write. Any person or persons in the photograph may be a central character or a secondary character of a story. You may pretend they are the subject of a biography or an interview. They may be the focus of an ersatz newspaper article. Perhaps you can best write about a given photo with a poem or an essay. Just write it and send it to the editor at: wizardwayne@juno.com.

Send it within the body of the email or as a TEXT attachment. Entry deadline is August 1.

The BasketWars silent auction, which provides scholarships for the next conference, broke all records with a total of \$1,436 brought in from an array of containers full of goodies and two vacations on Beaver Lake.

The highest bid for a large affiliate basket went for the donation from Lone Star Night-Writers, \$172.00. The highest bid for a small affiliate basket resulted in a tie between two of the baskets donated by Enid Writers (who brought 8 baskets), and the bid was \$51 for each. The individual large basket with the highest bid was given by Dona Mularkey, \$100.00. One of Shirley Lowry's donations of a full 7 days, a week's vacation at her cabin on Beaver Lake, went for \$180, making it the largest bid for an individual's small donation. Remember large means 15 or more items included, while small means 14 or fewer items.

We couldn't have been so successful without the help of all who brought wonderful items for the silent auction and those who bid. Thank you.

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OWFI 45! REVIVE! STRIVE! THRIVE!



Tawnya Hobbs



Wayne Harris-Wyrick



Jen Nipps



Vivian Zabel

Book Review

continued

(Continued from page 4)

twenty plus years. It has a regular enrollment of 40 to 50 rowdy and creative adults for ten weeks in Spring and another ten weeks in Fall and you'd recognize many of their names from a list of author's banquet winners.

She's done many kinds of writing over the years – articles (at least 300 ghost written), health columns, trade magazines, and newsletters. And she's written biographies, collaborated on four books, and written fifteen nonfiction books for school libraries.

You couldn't predict her subjects – salt-water fishing, self-esteem, sports concussions among them. Her first two publications were about her favorite sport, competitive swimming. She swam from ages eleven to fifteen, achieving national championship level. Many years later she attended the national competition held in Wyandotte County and ran into her former coach. She's been coaching ever since at club pools in Kansas City.

She's always loved to write and read biographies but said she really wants to write suspense. She made veiled references to a fiction project she won't talk about yet, so for now, the whole thing's a mystery. I'll tell you about it when I find out.

If you're a singer, you lose your voice. A baseball player loses his arm. A writer gets more knowledge, and, if he's good, the older he gets, the better he writes.

Mickey Spillane

Book Doctor

continued

(Continued from page 6)

If you'll bear with me for one more thought, this has been on my mind for quite some time. I do see the convenience of e-books, and I'm well aware that we've jumped from 78's to 45's, LP's to 8 tracks to cassettes to CD's to digital downloads. And I know that books take trees, but great books are indeed the heart of trees. How many fossil fuels does it take to build an e-book? I can plant a tree; I cannot plant an oil well or a coal mine. But here's what I really want to tell you.

My wife is an artist-photographer. She has grown steadily as an artist since we first met eighteen years ago. But, from the very beginning, she put her art on the walls, like I used to stick my kids' school art on the refrigerator door. I quietly resented this habit of hers, although, in fairness, she shared the wall space with other artists' works she admired and bought. We moved to this mountain ten years ago. I had to pack all of my books in boxes where they've remained for the past ten years. I have a small office I share with the washer/dryer facilities and two six foot bookcases filled 90% with school text books.

It occurred to me, in my dumb male way, that my wife likes her art, as well as others, on the walls because the art speaks to her, it envelops her spirit and motivates her, not in just the traditional "that painting speaks to me," but in a chorus of everyday life. And so I realized that the need I have for those books to be on shelves that surround me is not because I care to tell people, or even myself, of how many books I've read or how smart I am, but because those books speak to me, those authors speak to me, not in their stories or necessarily in their wisdom, but in their passion, in their fire, in their attempt. It is their song I want to surround me, their silent, vociferous

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Book Doctor

continued

voice. I just don't think a ton of books packed in a digital reader is going to do that anymore than her photographs on her website would alone bring her daily pleasure.

Ken voiced exactly what bothered me: the electronic version of Thoreau's words didn't make me feel "at home." We see and appreciate the convenience of digital forms, yet some of us still miss the perceived connection to the creator of those words. Have any of you touched the pages or patted a book cover after reading bits of preferred prose from a favorite book? I have, lots of times. The emotional linking is almost tangible. As Ken's wife surrounds herself with her art and other artists' works, we settle in as writers around our piles of notes and bound books.

Our tug of war with bound or digital continues, but the strength of our writing should surpass each, and we should understand both venues. Here's hoping we'll be good stewards of our spines on our shelves, as well as appreciators of the advances modern technology offers to its readers.

And remember, if you have words you'd like me to critique for you, please attach the first ten pages to an email and I'll be happy to edit those pages for you for FREE! New email: robconbookdoc@gmail.com.

Ken Luber - A native of Wisconsin has spent his professional life in the greater LA area, working in TV, film and theater. His first novel Match to the Heart was published in '09. Ken's just completed novel, THE SUN JUMPERS, records the adventures of a teenage boy and his wannabe-shaman girlfriend who, ten thousand years ago, set out to save their cave-dwelling clan from extinction and unwittingly time-travel with two friends to the 21st Century home of a neurotic young filmmaker unaware that he desperately needs their help and that they, inspired by the wheel, desperately need to return to the past.

Rare Air

Jodi Thomas

When I was a kid I never heard of dyslexia. All I wanted to be was a writer. Thanks Mrs. Dickerson for helping me make that journey.

The word "dyslexia" was first coined in 1887 by a German physicist who described the condition as a "very great difficulty in interpreting written or printed symbols," but the term "learning disabilities" didn't come around in the U.S. until 1963.

About 15% of the United States population has a language-based learning disability

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which saw its start in 1969, now provides students with learning disabilities the assistance they need to excel in school alongside their peers.

I've heard it said that a writer develops in rare air.

I grew up in the east part of town a block away from the Texaco refinery. In the daylight it was an ugly collection of pipes, but at night I thought it was a castle. As a kid I never let reality get in the way so I spent many nights dreaming up stories. I also had younger twin sisters who were always willing to listen to my tales.

Unlike most writers, I didn't read early. In fact, if it hadn't been for my 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Dickerson, I might never have been much of a reader and therefore never a writer. She spotted a learning disability and suggested I attend a reading school one summer. I rode the bus downtown every morning and walked several blocks to the school. I often stopped to play at a little park sliced in-between buildings and highways. All alone each day, my imagination took over. I don't remember much about the reading lessons, but I can still walk in that little park and meet up with old imaginary friends.

School didn't come easy for me. I think I'm probably the only Caprock High School Hall of Fame graduate who was in the bottom fourth of the class. I never remember a teacher telling me I was gifted; it was usually more like "pay attention." By fifteen I was working part-time jobs after school and sleeping through class.

By the time I entered Amarillo College, I was checking groceries and paying my own way. So, I paid attention. Two years later my boyfriend, Tom was going to Texas Tech, so I applied. All I ever wanted to do was write but since I showed no sign of ever learning to spell, my mother suggested Home Economics. Two more years passed and I'm married, Tom's in the army and I'm teaching Home Economics and Earth Science to seventh grades.

My writing goal seemed a million miles away.

(Continued on page 30)

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Affiliate News

MID-OKLAHOMA WRITERS

Novels and New Books

JOHN PRIMO: E-BOOK: "Bringer of Fire" The Logan Bringer Series, Book one in a series of three novels. (01/13)
BARBARA SHEPHERD: Anthology: 2012 Mid-Oklahoma Writers Anthology "Imagination Turned Loose" (Art Affair Publishing) (01/13)

Contest Winnings

CHARLES VASSEL: 2013 OWFI Contest, Short-Short Story, 2nd Place, "The Mysterious Mr. Smith."

CHARLES VASSEL: Art Affair Writing Contest, WESERN STORY: 3rd Place: "Sadler and the Spirefire"

BARBARA SHEPHERD: 2012 Norman Galaxy of Writers Contest, NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 1st Place, "Colonel Bourland Commands Attention." CHILDREN'S FICTION: 2nd Place, "Ruby Wears Red." UNRHYMED POETRY: Honorable Mention, "Letter from a Young Patriot."

BARBARA SHEPHERD: 2012 Oklahoma City Writers Contest, BOOK: 3rd Place, "Red River Quilter." NOSTALGIA: 1st Place, "Ice Cream Time." INSPIRATIONAL: Honorable Mention, "Letter from a Young Patriot."

BARBARA SHEPHERD: 2012 Wordwrights Contest, FAMILY HISTORY: 2nd Place: "The Bourland Plantation Home."

2012 Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, POETRY: **CHARLES VASSEL:** 2ND Place: "Autumn Splendor," **DAVID ROPER:** 3rd Place: "I Remember Summer." NON-FICTION: **DAVID**

ROPER: 1st Place, "The Care and Feeding of Rejection Slips," **JEANNE SHIRLEY:** 2nd Place, "Advice from a Retired Amateur Genealogist," **BARBARA SHEPHERD:** 3RD Place, "You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down." SHORT-SHORT STORY: **BARBARA SHEPHERD:** 1st Place, "Night of Thieves," **TERRY MIRLL:** 2nd Place, "Yo!" PARANORMAL: **JEANNE SHIRLEY:** 1st Place, "Gloria's Ghost," **CHARLES VASSEL:** 2nd Place, "The Rescue," **BARBARA SHEPHERD:** 3rd Place, "Zianna's New Tribe."

Honors and Awards

JOHN PRIMO'S "Gwen Reaper" won the Paranormal Romance Guild's Reviewer's Choice Award for series Best Young Adult Novel of 2012. His "Sunset Vampire Series" won 3rd Place in the Reviewer's Choice Awards for Best Paranormal Series of 2012 by the Paranormal Romance Guild.

Club News

JUDY DURBIN, JEANNE SHIRLEY, AND BETTY PERSONETTE: Were made, Honorary Lifetime Members of the Mid-Oklahoma Writers

BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

Acceptances and Sales

HEATHER DAVIS: ESSAY: "I Don't Have To Be A Super Momma" and "Bad Hair Day," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Parenthood* (03/13).

C.D. JARMOLA: ESSAY: "Finding My Way," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Angels Among Us* (01/13).

Novels & New Books

HEATHER DAVIS: NONFICTION BOOK: *TMI Mom Oversharing My Life*, Buzz Books USA (<http://buzzbooksusa.com/>) (03/13).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: E-BOOK: *Jar of Pickles: A Short Story*, Smashwords (www.smashwords.com) (04/13).

Contest Winnings

HEATHER DAVIS: Bartlesville Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest, CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: 1st Place, "If My Best Friend Were a Lion".

C.D. JARMOLA: Bartlesville Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest, FICTION: 1st Place, "To Kill a Cat".

MARY KINCAID: Bartlesville Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest, POETRY: 2nd Place, "My Shoes".

DIANA PURSER: Bartlesville Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest, GRAND PRIZE WINNER, "Was Shakespeare Mother Goose?", NONFICTION: 1st Place, "Was Shakespeare Mother Goose?", and CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: 2nd Place, "Sally's Silly Sandwich".

CHARLOTTE SMITH: Bartlesville Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest, FICTION: 2nd Place, "Unknown".

Professional Activities

HEATHER DAVIS, JENNIFER MCMURRAIN and **BARBARA SHOFF** were all cast in the inaugural Listen to Your Mother - OKC show on May 5, 2013, where they read their essays about motherhood in front of a sold out crowd of 400.

Club News

The Bartlesville WordWeavers meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Bartlesville Public Library. All meetings are open, except for May and December. Please "friend" us on Face-



Affiliate News

Continued

book (WordWeavers Bartlesville) for all meeting updates.

ARKANSAS RIDGEWRITERS

Novels & New Books

VELDA BROTHERTON: E-BOOK NOVELLA: *The Legend of the Rose*, Kindle (05/13).

JAN MORRILL: NON-FICTION PAPERBACK: *Doll in the Red Kimono, A Collection of Essays*, CreateSpace, (05/13)

Professional Activities

JAN MORRILL: SPEAKER: Discussion of The Red Kimono at Elkins High School, Elkins, AR, 04/12/2013; Book signing at the opening of the WWII Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR, 04/16/2013; Discussion of The Red Kimono with Non-fiction writing class at College of the Ozarks, Hollister, MO, 04/22/2013; Discussion of The Red Kimono, Elkins Public Library, Elkins, AR, 04/23/2013; Reading of The Red Kimono, West Fork High School, West Fork, AR, 04/25/2013, Book signing, Steve's Sundry, Tulsa, OK, 04/27/2013; Books in Bloom, Crescent Hotel Garden, Eureka Springs, AR, 05/19/2013.

SYLVIA FORBES: SPEAKER: on Century Farms, for the Howard County (MO) DAR (3/21/13);

JUDGE: Saturday Writers Short Story Contest.

Contest Winnings

SYLVIA FORBES: Missouri Writers' Guild Contest, HISTORICAL ARTICLE: 1st Place, "Rabbits and Some Oys-

ter Soup"; TRAVEL ARTICLE, 2nd Place, "Captivating Keukenhof"; FORM POEM, 2nd Place, "Curling Up with a Good Mystery"; Columbia (MO) Art League Contest, one of 40 writer/artist pairs chosen for Fall 2013 exhibit (my words paired with artist painting).

Acceptances and Sales

ROBIN A. BURROWS: ARTICLE:

"The End Was Only the Beginning," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Writers* (05/13).

SYLVIA FORBES: ARTICLES:

"Forged by Fire," (5/13) and "Concrete Connoisseur," (12/12) both for *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyles*; "Equine Excellence," *Missouri Farmer Today* (4/27/13); "Winter Wonderland," (1/13) "Puerto Rico is Calling," (2/13) "Explore the 'Emerald Isle,'" (3/13) "The Soul of Seoul," (4/13) "Springtime Extravaganza," (5/13) and "A Natural Choice," (12/12) all for *Prime Magazine*; "Top Reasons to Visit Vancouver," TED.com (2/13); ANTHOLOGY *Well Versed 2013*: includes Short Story "Winter Rescue," and 3 Poems "Bully," "Haiku," and "A Galaxy of Words," (05/13).

FORT WORTH WRITERS

Professional Activities

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: SIGNING: "Killeen Salutes the Arts," Civic Center, Killeen, TX, (3/13).

Acceptances and Sales

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: ARTICLE: "Overton Park History," *Overton Life*, (5/13).

Olyve has recently signed on as a staff writer for *Overton Life*, Fort Worth.

Novels & New Books

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: BOOK: *Allie McCrae and the West Point Half-Blood*,

A.W.O.C. Press, (2013).

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales

BARBARA SHEPHERD, LYNDA STEPHENSON and MARY ANN WEST were published in *Imagination Turned Loose*, a publication of Art Affair. The book was also compiled by Barbara Shepherd.

SANDY SOLI has poems forthcoming in the 2014 *Texas Poetry Calendar* and the Southwest Anthology *Lifting the Sky: Southwest Haiku and Haiga*. She also had poems published *Oklahoma Today* and a haiku anthology from Dos Gatos Press.

AUDREY STREETMAN had three poems published in *Crosstimbers* and one in *The Elegant Rage*, an anthology honoring Woody Guthrie. She has a poem accepted for *Oklahoma Today*.

E. J. PHILLIPS sold an essay to *Colorado Central* magazine.

CAROLYN WALL had an article, "Wyenote Wyoming 1902" accepted for *Persimmon Hill*.

Novels and New Books

WILLIAM BERNHARDT's illustrated children's book *Princess Alice and the Dreadful Dragon* is now available as an eBook.

ED DONEY'S thriller *Target: Heartland* is now available in various formats.

PAUL JOHNSON'S book *The Visitor* was released by Solstice Publishing.

Professional Activities

JUDY HOWARD was interviewed on *Sewing with Nancy* television program. **CAROLYN WALL** traveled to Atlanta, GA, for a celebration of her novel *Sweeping Up Glass* where she also taught a writing class.

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Affiliate News

Continued

KATHLEEN GIBBS held a launch party for her book *Journey of the Cheyenne*.

OL' TASCOSA WORDSLINGERS

Acceptances and Sales

Nancy Keel: ARTICLE, "Empire of Evil", *Bump Off Your Enemies*, Kindle Exclusive, Amazon Digital Services, Inc. (3/13)

Rory C. Keel: ARTICLE, "The Challenge," *Chicken Soup of the Soul: Writers Inspirations* (5/13)

Novels & New Books

Jodi Koumalats (Thomas): NEW RELEASE: *Can't Stop Believing*, Berkley (6/13)

Professional Activities

Natalie Bright: Signed with Mr. Stephen Fraser, literary agent of The Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency, New York.

Nancy Keel: new position as editor/proofreader, Carpe Diem Publishing.

Rory C Keel: launched Carpe Diem Publishing (1/13)

NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales

STAN SOLLOWAY: Still putting out the Silliman on Sports columns; hit the 500th and the 10th year and still going. **SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER:**

STORY: "Boot Camp" in *The Lutheran Message* (2013 edition).

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: BOOK REVIEW: (Page 2) was published in *The Norman Transcript*.

EMILIA BUCHANAN: ARTICLE: "Rolling on the River," *Oklahoma Living* (05/13).

ROBERT FERRIER GUEST EDITORIAL: "Creative Crossroads," and POEM "Contrails," *The Exhibitionist*, May issue; POEM: "European Starlings" published in *The Exhibitionist*, (04/13); POEM: "Bait Shop" *Oklahoma Today* May/June 2013 issue.

Novels & New Books

SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN published *Dragon Rising*, the third novel in her Black Jade Dragon series (01/13).

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER published chapter book of poetry, *Petals and Grace*.

Professional Activities

ROBERT FERRIER: Published his video *The Dante Dreams-Inferno-William "Boss" Tweed*, YouTube: (1/22/2013).

STAN SOLLOWAY was heard on the SPY.FM "No Fun Intended" 1/27/2013 radio show podcast; opened comedy act on 4/13/2013 at the Yellow Rose theater in Moore.

TOM BARCZAK and **SHERRY BYNUM** spoke to the Norman Kiwanis on 2/19/2013, at their lunch meeting. They shared historical information about Galaxy, discussed the quality programs, contest and opportunities offered through Galaxy, and read some of their works.

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK edited a college research paper, autobiography chapters, a poem and 42 articles for *Moore Monthly*.

LIZ COWAN spoke Norman Galaxy Meeting February 2013; and had several book signings for her novel, "The Dionysus Connection" in Norman/ OKC area (January 2013).

HELEN DUCHON: formatted new book of cartoons for Galaxy members **STAN SOLLOWAY** and **MIKE**

KRAWCZYK; formatted a collection of

31 articles by Stan, "Silliman on Sports in Song & Verse" with Mike's cartoons; published NEWSLETTER: *Among Friends* for Friends of the Norman Library Romance Book Sale on February 9, 2013; published NEWSLETTER: *WriteLine* for Norman Galaxy of Writers in November, December and January; Published NEWSLETTER: *VOTER*, for League of Women Voters of Norman, Spring 2013 edition.

ANDY HORTON wrapped up a wonderful semester teaching an OU Presidential Dream Course on the nature of laughter.

JUDY HOWARD signed 1905 cookbooks and exhibit art quilts at Marlene Newman's fund-raising coffee in McKinney, TX on May 2, 2013.

BARBARA SHEPHERD published a poetry chapbook for a client and compiled, edited and published "Imagination Turned Loose".

Contest Winnings

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Mid-Oklahoma Writer's Contest, three awards.

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK Norman Galaxy of Writers Contest, NONFIC-TION ARTICLE: 3rd place, "The Single Action Shooting Society's Spirit of the Game".

NEAL HUFFAKER: Poetry Society of Oklahoma Writing Contest, ECHO SONNET: 1st Place, "Endings"; BLANK VERSE POEM: 1st Place, "Perilous Passage"; FREE VERSE: 2nd place, "Springtime"; LIMERICK: 2nd HM, "The Party's Over".

MARY PAYNE: Toastmasters, SPEECH #6: 1st Place, "Hazing--A Rite from the Past".

RUTH LOEFFLER: Senior Poetry Contest, WOMEN'S DIVISION: 1st Place, "Autumn Light".

PEN AND KEYBOARD

Honors:

VIVIAN ZABEL: SHORT STORY:

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Affiliate News

Continued

HM "Night Crawlers", NETWO (Northeastern Texas Writers Organization).

HORTON DEAKINS: SCIFI NOVEL: Time Pullers, 4RV Publishing, one of five finalists, Sci-Fi category, USA Best Books.

New Books and Novels

JANET BROWN: NOVEL: Victoria and the Ghost, 4RV Publishers.

EVELYN WILSON-MARTIN (writing as E. H. McEACHERN): NOVEL: Human Gold released: late summer. Second in Jenny Tallchief series.

"Veterinarian, Jenny Tallchief, discovers an expanding human trafficking ring with the aid of her animal clients."

VIVIAN ZABEL: CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK: "I Like Pink" June, 2013, 4RV Publishing.

Professional Activities:

KATHY GIBBS, HISTORICAL FICTION: "Cheyenne Warrior" April speaker at Pen and Keyboard Writers. "The Need for Research for Fiction Writing"

VIVAN ZABEL: WORKSHOP SPEAKER: Lexicon Writing Conference, Denton Texas, July.

JACQUE GRAHAM: Lexicon Writing Conference, Denton, Texas, July.

WRITERS' GUILD OF ARKANSAS

Novels & New Books

LELA DAVIDSON: ESSAY COLLECTION: Who Peed on My Yoga Mat, Jupiter Press, (12/12), ONLINE MARKETING GUIDE: Sexy, Smart, and Search

Engine Friendly: Get Found Online Without Wasting Your Time or Losing Your Mind, (03/13)

Professional Activities

MARILYN H. COLLINS. CONFERENCE SPEAKER: "Turn Memory into Story," White County Writers' Conference (9/1); "Memoir Writing: Brighten Your Leaf on the Family Tree," Ozark Writers Live/Fayetteville Public Library (9/8); "Write Family Holiday Stories," Nightbird Books/Fayetteville (11/3); "Write Your Family History: Gather the Rascals, Gather the Saints," "Spin Your Writing Into Magazine Articles or Special Interest Publications," Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference, (05/12) ONLINE INSTRUCTOR: "Writing Family History," Nat'l Assoc. of Women Memoir Writers/Story Circle Network ((4/8-5/6); "Memoir Writing: Tell Your Story, Your Way," National Association of Women Memoir Writers/Story Circle Network (5/13 – 6/13).

LELA DAVIDSON: SPEAKER: "Getting Found Online: Use Search and Social to Put Your Marketing on Auto Pilot," Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference, (05/12), and Missouri Writers' Conference (04/12). SPEAKER/PANELIST: "SEO in Business," "Telling Hard Family Stories," WORKSHOP PRESENTER: Humor Writing, Arkansas Literary Festival (04/13).

RHONDA FRANZ: INTERVIEW: "What Moms Can Teach Their Kids About Money," *Ally Bank Straight Talk Blog*, (community.ally.com), (05/13), CONTRIBUTOR: New Editor for Project Eve (projecteve.com) on business and work-at-home entrepreneurship.

Contest Winnings

RHONDA FRANZ: HOW-TO/TECHNICAL ARTICLE: "More Meal, Less Mess: 11 Tips for the Not-So-Neat Cook," 1st Honorable Mention, Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference (05/12)

Acceptance & Sales

MARILYN H. COLLINS: ARTICLES for *2Njoy Magazine* (Life Redefined/Arts/Culture/Entertainment). "Healing

Power of Art" (09/12); "The Art of George Dombek: Artist of the Unexpected," "Radine Trees Nehring: Author of the "To Die For Series" (Oct.); "Marlon Blackwell: Architect Turns Reality into Dreams," "Pat Carr: Her Words, Her Wisdom" (11/12, 12/12); "Cindee Joslin Yoga Story: Peace, Possibilities, Transformation," "Lisa Sharp Lifetime Lover of Books: A Wonderful World of Words," (01/13, 02/13) **RHONDA FRANZ:** ARTICLE: "Spring Scraps: Small Composting for Families," *Peekaboo* family magazine (04/13), ARTICLE: "Checking it Twice: 25 Christmas Gifts for All Kinds of Kids," *Peekaboo* family magazine, (12/12)

Rare Air

(Continued from page 26)

But, the wind blows in Amarillo and things change. All those nights alone waiting for Tom to come home gave me time to read, really read, and take courses on writing, and begin my journey into fiction.

Now, 37 books later my editors sometimes ask, "Why don't you move to New York where the action is?"

I always say, "No thanks, I'll stay in the rare air of Amarillo with Tom."

Jodi Thomas is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of 37 novels and 11 short story collections. In



2006, she was the 11th woman to be inducted into RWA Hall of Fame. She currently serves as the Writer in Residence at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. Jodi's 37th book Can't Stop Believing will be released June 4, 2013. Jodi's website is www.jodithomas.com.

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD
Supporting writers and the craft of writing in Oklahoma,
the United States and around the world.



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Saturday Night Awards Banquet (Wayne Harris-Wyrnick)



Rapt Attention (Jen Nips)



Agents Panel (Jen Nips)



Denis McGill (Jen Nips)



Basket Wars (Vivian Zabel)



(Christine Nichols)

Keynote Speaker Patrick Rothfuss



Linda Apple, HLM and Christine Jarmola,
President (Tawnya Hobbs)

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