

# THE REPORT



#WeAreOWFI

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# 2016-2017 OWFI OFFICERS & STAFF

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*OWFI is a non-profit federation of writers’ groups dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word.*

*Find us online at [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org)  
Find us on Twitter at @OWFI  
Find us on Facebook at Oklahoma Writers’ Federation, Inc.*

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## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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### I have this thing about words.

I suspect that most of you writers can relate. We have words that we hate and many more that we love—and yes, we have very strong emotions tied into words. And now that this intro has become very wordy, I'd like to tell you about a word I love, serendipity.

Serendipity sums up so much of the best parts of life. It can be something as simple as finding the right parking spot on a day that an unexpected downpour hits or that accidental meeting that makes you meet the love of your life.

Serendipity and OWFI? Where is she going with this? So glad you asked.

When speaking to the general meeting at OWFI2016 I was going off the cuff because I must admit, due to unexpected life events, I wasn't prepared. Taking advantage of having the majority of the membership together I decided to answer what many had asked me since December Why, knowing what you know, would you be president again? And my answer was, knowing what I know, why not?

OWFI has been a part of my life since I was a child. Important occasions were never to be scheduled the first weekend in May.

OWFI is the umbrella organization for affiliate groups not just in Oklahoma, but Texas, Kansas and Arkansas. It's what makes us connected. It's what keeps us writing when any sane person would throw in the towel. It's not some far off organization

that makes up rules and throws conventions. OWFI is individual people who volunteer enormous amounts of their time to keep the group going in order to support each other in this crazy world of writing.

So back to serendipity. Speaking from my heart rather than from preparation I wanted to convey to our members how important it is that we embrace that OWFI is not a select group of people on an exclusive board that decides everything and does everything for the organization. OWFI is the members. And I stumbled upon a phrase that instantly caught on and has become our conference title for 2017—**We Are OWFI**.

With that theme, our team will be working this year to be inclusive of all members, beginning with our affiliate groups. We want to pull from the rich history of our members, utilizing our vast pool of talent so that as we approach our fiftieth year we will continue for fifty more. Let's work to refocus our thinking from *they* will do it to *we* will and each of us embrace our organization to make it thoroughly awesome.

I think we have our most exciting year yet ahead with OWFI. Some of the highlights to be looking forward to will begin with looking back on our first forty-nine years. Projects are in the works to remember those who started our organization and those who have kept it going.

We are half-way through recruiting our faculty for #WeAreOWFI2017 and it is already jammed packed with talent both new and old to OWFI. See Sabrina Fish's article on pg. 16 for a sneak peek of the highlights. We



will be bringing back favorites to the conference, including the literary hero's costume contest, the basket auctions, and the writing contest awards. We are also adding more fun, beginning with what is sure to include some theatrical shenanigans as Amy Shogai will be kicking off our first meeting. And we are so happy to have Andrew Kaufman back so we can celebrate along with him his victory over cancer.

But don't wait until May the fourth (be with you) to enjoy the benefits of OWFI. Join your local affiliate now—information on our affiliates is posted on our new and improved website [www.OWFI.org](http://www.OWFI.org) (Thanks Jack Burgos!). Start working on your contest pieces now (See if you can beat Jennifer McMurrain's all-time entry number of 24 last year). Enter the Report Fiction Prompt and hopefully your story will be printed in the November Report. (I've won twice and it feels so cool.)

I hope that you'll take the time to participate and maybe you'll also have some serendipitous moments as you embrace your unique part of #WeAreOWFI2017!

*Christine Jarmola is the OWFI President for 2016-2017.*

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## WHY STRUCTURE MATTERS

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**The greatest divide in the writing world is not between those who publish and those who don't—it's between those who actually finish a book and those who don't.**

Those in the first category have a decent chance of publishing. Those in the latter category have none—and are far more common. Starting a book is easy, but too many people bog down and quit before they finish or before the work is of publishable quality.

Why?

I'm sure there are as many reasons as there are writers, but one of the most prominent causes of failure in the writing world is a failure of process. People start writing because they think this is going to be fun, and writing will be a big improvement over their current job...and then it turns out to be hard work. They start in a blaze of inspiration, without planning or outlining or fleshing out the story. Pages fly like dust in a whirlwind...until they exhaust the initial idea and have no idea what happens next.

So they stop writing.

There are many institutional, snooty, or romantic ideas that cause people to write without plan or process, but there's nothing inherently more literary about writing from "inspiration"—which

generally means putting down the first idea that pops into your head. Why would you think that's the best you can do? Too often your subconscious dredges something up, not because it's fresh or perfect for your story, but because you've seen it before. Or read it before.

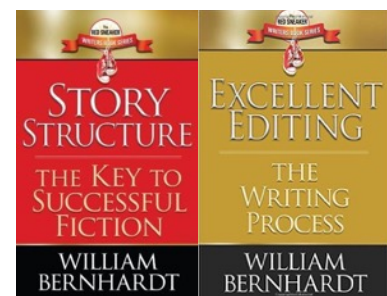
I despair when I hear people at conferences tell me how their characters "came alive and took control of the book." They usually smile with delight because they think this means they're very creative. I do not smile, because I know this means they lack discipline and are unlikely to finish anything publishable. Look, your characters are fictional. They do not "come to life" (though I hope you will bring them to life). Writing anything as large and complex as a novel requires application and discipline. Letting your characters run amok may evidence a great imagination, but it may also indicate a lack of work ethic necessary to keep your project on track. Your characters' undirected meanderings will likely be less entertaining to others than they are to you.

I've also heard people talking with pride about being "pantsers," that is, people who don't plan but simply write from the seat of their pants. This movement is emblematic of the idea that writing is a lark. Pantsers want to do the fun stuff, but skip hard work like outlining, which is why I have rarely seen a major book published by an actual pantsler. (Don't be misled by stuff writers say in interviews. I spent a memorable lunch helping an author outline his novel, only to hear him later claim on television that he never outlines.) Your goal is not self-entertainment. Your goal is to

produce something someone else will want to read.

In the next issue, I'm going to outline the fundamental elements of story structure as best I can given a limited word count. In the following issue, I will discuss how to turn those fundamentals into a workable outline, something that will not consume too much time but will make it about a thousand times more likely that you will finish a book of sufficient quality to attract readers and publishers.

Even if you pride yourself on being a pantsler, give it a look. You never know. I've been teaching this method for many years now, and I'm proud to say that more than two dozen of my students have gone on to become published writers. This may be the simple idea that transforms your writing and makes your writing goals a reality.



*William Bernhardt is the author of over forty books, including the bestselling Ben Kincaid novels and the Red Sneaker series on writing which features Story Structure: The Key to Successful Fiction and Excellent Editing: The Writing Process.*



# THE 2016 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

## UNPUBLISHED Manuscript Winners

### Category 1: Poetry, Unrhymed Short

1st: ARTHRITIS SWIMMING 101  
Laura Atanacio Edington, Member at Large  
2nd: FANCY FLIGHT Julia Mazingo, Lone Star NightWriters  
3rd: IN THE NEXT UNIVERSE Robert Ferrier, Norman Galaxy of Writers  
1st HM: THE REMAINS Donna Welch Jones, Tulsa NightWriters  
2nd HM: HIS GOODNIGHT MOON Terri Lynn Cummings, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.  
3rd HM: VIEWPOINT Karen Kay Bailey, Member at Large  
4th HM: ANOTHER LOVE POEM Adrean Messmer, Nevermore Edits

### Category 2: Poetry, Unrhymed Long

1st: MYSTERY IN BLACK AND WHITE Karen Kay Bailey, Member at Large  
2nd: SUMMERTIME SYNESTHESIA Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings  
3rd: TIRELESS STUDENTS Kathryn Spurgeon, Member at Large  
1st HM: IT WAS RAINING Jan Morrill, Member at Large  
2nd HM: I CRAVED Jennifer DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers  
3rd HM: THE PARAMEDICS Barbara J. Power, Member at Large  
4th HM: COOL, CALM AND DETECTED Lisbeth L. McCarty, The Sooner Galaxy of Writers  
5th HM: RESTLESS HEART Linda Derkez, Bartlesville WordWeavers

### Category 3: Poetry, Rhymed Short

1st: SLAMMING DOORS Erin Cochran, Nevermore Edits  
2nd: DRIFTING Kathryn Spurgeon, Member at Large  
3rd: SING AMERICA BLUES Kristyn Reid, OK Write Now

### Category 1 Winning Entry Arthritis Swimming 101 by Laura Atanacio Edington

The women wear their bodies like combat medals,  
strutting naked from the showers,  
unashamed of their war torn packages.  
Vines wind around legs and ankles,  
bulging veins of ripe fruit ready to explode.  
Delicately marked knees with lines scored  
with the precision of a ruler.  
Bony behinds and hips thick with cellulite  
hide fabricated hardware sealed under tender skin.  
Streaks crisscross bellies that produced  
an appendix, or gall stones, or a tumor or a child.  
Flattened chests where breasts used to be  
represent beauty and struggle and victory.  
No attempt to cover or disguise.  
Some of us avert our eyes,  
trying to deny our fates.

1st HM: ACROSTICISM Adrean Messmer, Nevermore Edits  
2nd HM: HOMELESS MAN WITH A BROOM Brenda Clark Thomas  
3rd HM: ORB WEAVER Jennifer DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers

### Category 4: Poetry, Rhymed Long

1st: G22: UP MORIAH AND DOWN Margery Kisby Warder, Bartlesville Word Weavers  
2nd: THE HOUSE ON THE HILL Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters  
3rd: CAT BOX WINTER Sidney Brammer, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
1st HM: A MELANCHOLY GIFT Jack Burgos, Nevermore Edits  
2nd HM: ODE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM Kristyn Reid, OK Write Now  
3rd HM: WOULD YOU BUY MY BUTTONS? Debra Grimm, Tulsa NightWriters

4th HM: A BEE GEES FRAME OF MIND Nikki Hanna, Tulsa NightWriters

### Category 5: Essay

1st: TO BREAK OR NOT TO BREAK, Pepper Hume, Bartlesville Word Weavers  
2nd: TRANSGENDER HEARTACHE Vivian Zabel, Pen and Keyboard Writers  
3rd: D-DAY Kim Rogers, Member at Large  
1st HM: DATING AT SIXTY EXPERIENCES Kathryn Smith, Tulsa NightWriters

### Category 6: Technical and/or How-To Article

1st: MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF: MANAGING YOUR ONLINE REPUTATION Holly Jahangiri, Pen & Keyboard Writers  
2nd: THREE KEYS TO CLASSROOM SUCCESS Inez Phillips, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd: CREATING EGGSHELL  
MOSAICS Erin Cochran,  
Nevermore Edits

**Category 7: Feature Article,  
NonFiction**

1st: COLONEL BOURLAND  
COMMANDS ATTENTION Barbara  
Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers  
2nd: THE BURNING OF  
ZOZOBRA Martha Draper, Enid  
Writers Club  
3rd: WOMEN ARE DYING Jennifer  
DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers  
1st HM MOHR SANG TENOR,  
GRUBER SANG BASS Margery  
Kisby Warder, Bartlesville  
WordWeavers

**Category 8: Blog, NonFiction**

1st: FIGHT LIKE A GIRL Adrian  
Messmer, Nevermore Edits  
2nd: BE A HORTON Lisa L.  
Marotta,  
3rd: OUR FIXER UPPER Dixie  
Maxwell,  
1st HM: TRAFFIC SIGNALS Jim  
Laughter,  
2nd HM: 'B' STANDS FOR BEST  
Mac Boyle  
3rd HM: FAT BLOGGING Malea  
Thomas

**Category 9: Inspirational Article**

1st: THE LESSON Rita Durett,  
Bartlesville Word Weavers  
2nd: PERSPECTIVE Christine  
Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
3rd: UNDENIABLE SIGNS Cathy  
Collar, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
1st HM: FOUNDATIONS OF  
STRENGTH Judith S. Rycroft,  
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.  
2nd HM: TEN POINTS ON  
PUNCTUALITY Jennifer DiCamillo,  
Arkansas Ridge Writers  
3rd HM: OUR FIRST Inez Phillips,  
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

**Category 10: Memoir/Nostalgia  
Short Story**

1st: A JOURNEY AND JAPAN Ann  
Clearly, Bartlesville Word Weavers  
2nd: HANDS Judith S. Rycroft,  
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.  
3rd: GANDY DANCER'S  
DAUGHTER Raymona Marie  
Anderson, Writers Guild of  
Arkansas  
1st HM: MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH  
RICKY NELSON Mary Coley,  
Tulsa NightWriters  
2nd HM: TEENAGE ANGST—  
1950S Nan McDowell, Tulsa  
NightWriters

3rd HM: COMPANIONS Joshua  
Danker-Dake, Tulsa NightWriters  
4th HM: FRESH CURTAINS  
Kathryn Spurgeon, Member at  
Large

**Category 11: Flash Fiction**

1st: BUMP Shannon Iwanski,  
Nevermore Edits  
2nd: REJECTION Bobbie Mardis,  
Enid Writers Club  
3rd: THE GENERAL F. Ray  
Gaskin, Member at Large  
1st HM: A LONG DAY Heather  
Davis, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
2nd HM: PICTURES OF YOU  
Adrean Messmer, Nevermore Edits  
3rd HM: UPGRADES Joshua  
Danker-Dake, Tulsa NightWriters  
4th HM: THE DATE John R.  
Fowler, Member at Large  
5th HM: TIME MACHINE Raymona  
Marie Anderson, Writers Guild of  
Arkansas

**Category 12: Short-Short Story,  
Adult Fiction**

1st: THE SACRIFICE Brenda Clark  
Thomas, OKC Writers Inc  
2nd: ENEMY OF MY ENEMY Vaun  
Murphey, Member at Large  
3rd: BREADCRUMBS Adrean  
Messmer, Nevermore Edits  
1st HM: RIDE THE RIVER Barbara  
Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers  
2nd HM: A GIFT FROM JOSEPH  
Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville  
WordWeavers  
3rd HM: DOWN IN THE BAYOU F.  
Ray Gaskin, Member at Large  
4th HM: APPLE FRITTERS AND  
PURPLE TAFFETA Jennifer  
McMurrain, Bartlesville  
WordWeavers

**Category 13: Juvenile Short  
Story, Fiction**

1st: LONELY LILLY WANTS A  
FRIEND, Mary Payne, Norman  
Galaxy of Writers  
2nd: SAVING CHRISTMAS Donna  
Welch Jones, Tulsa NightWriters  
3rd: THE WARRIOR AND THE  
MIST M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa  
NightWriters  
1st HM: FIREFLY NIGHTS Abigail  
Singrey, Bartlesville WordWeavers

**Category 3 Winning Entry  
Slamming Doors by Erin Cochran**

Close the door, take a breath  
"Ten – nine – eight"  
Sink to the floor  
And wait.

Close the door, tell a friend  
"Seven – six – five"  
Sleep on the words  
And cry.

Close the door, tame your heart  
"Four – three"  
Suck up your pride  
And leave.

Open the door, take a peek  
"Two – one"  
See that he's gone  
And ... done.

# THE 2016 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

## UNPUBLISHED Manuscript Winners (continued)

2nd HM: COYOTE AND THE SNAKE Kim Rogers, Member at Large

### Category 14: Young Adult Short Story, Fiction

1st: YOUNGEST WARRIOR M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa Nightwriters  
2nd: BLOWN AWAY Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
3rd: CALLIE'S CALAMITY Sally Jadlow, Kansas City Writers Group  
1st HM: SECOND CHANCES Ruth Weeks, Arkansas Ridge Writers

### Category 15: Short Story Adult, Fiction

1st: DECEMBER SILENCE Robbie White, OKC Writers Inc  
2nd: HIS EX H.B. Berlow, Rose Rock Writers  
3rd: RUBY'S SONG John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.  
1st HM: LIFESTONES M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa NightWriters  
2nd HM: MAMA'S DIRTY MONEY Raymona Marie Anderson, Writers Guild of Arkansas

### Category 16: Sci-Fi Fantasy Short Story, Fiction

1st: XINSHENG Jack Burgos, Nevermore Edits  
2nd: GROCERY RUN Joshua Danker-Dake, Tulsa NightWriters  
3rd: MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH Eric Cochran as E.P. Ferguson, Nevermore Edits  
1st HM: VENGEFUL RIDER Ruth Weeks, Arkansas Ridge Writers  
2nd HM: THE WISE WOMAN'S DAUGHTER Shannon Iwanski, Nevermore Edits

### Category 17: Horror Short Story, Fiction

1st: AUDITION NOTICE, Pepper Hume, Bartlesville Word Weavers  
2nd: MUSIC OF THE NIGHTINGALE Erin Cochran, Nevermore Edits

3rd: STORM SEASON John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.  
1st HM: RED EYE Peggy Chambers, Enid Writers Club

### Category 18: Prose Humor, Fiction or NonFiction

1st: OH, NO, NOT ANOTHER FRUITCAKE! Margery Kisby Warder, Bartlesville Word Weavers  
2nd: FIVE AND DIME HOTROD F. Ray Gaskin, Member at Large  
3rd: AT THE FUNERAL Sally Jadlow, Kansas City Writers Group  
1st HM: TODDLER CHILI BOMBER Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
2nd HM: THE TEXAN Ed Doney, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

### Category 19: Play, Film, or TV Script

1st: HOT SPRINGS 1933 F. Ray Gaskin, Member at Large  
2nd: BUFFALO ALICE Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
3rd: MURDER METHOD INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO Mac Boyle, Nevermore Edits  
1st HM: LADY TRAIL BOSS Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

### Category 20: Picture Book, Fiction or NonFiction (ages 1-8)

1st: BENITO AND THE NIGHT CREATURES Mariana Llanos, OKC Writers Inc  
2nd: LOOKING FOR IT Jim Laughter, Tulsa NightWriters  
3rd: ALLIE'S RAINY DAY Jan Morrill, Member at Large  
1st HM: TWO DADDIES FOR DYLAN Sharon J. Wilson, Member at Large  
2nd HM: SCHOOL OF HORRORS Kim Rogers, Member at Large  
3rd HM: ADA THE BRAVE Jere Ellison, Member at Large

### Category 21: Middle Grade Book

1st: LIBRARY GIRL Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
2nd: THE CAVE Laura Atanacio Edington, Member at Large  
3rd: THE FROG PRINCE Caroline Gregory and Shawnette Nielson as May Nicole Abbey, Pen and Keyboard Writers  
1st HM: THE QUEEN AND THE FIDDLER Shelly Pagach, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

### Category 22: Young Adult Novel

1st: HAVEN: FIRE DEMONS Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
2nd: JAIRUS' DAUGHTER Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
3rd: THE NIGHT OF THE BARKING DOG Jen Nipps, Member at Large  
1st HM: BECOMING ROSE Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville WordWeavers

### Category 23: New Adult Novel

1st: FROZEN ROPES Paula Benge, Enid Writers Club  
2nd: PYRRHIC Jack Burgos, Nevermore Edits  
3rd: WRITE AND WRONG Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
1st HM: TRIVIUM Amber O'Toole, Member at Large

### Category 24: Mainstream Novel

1st: SLEEPING WITH THE FIRST LADY Connie Blaylock as Jaydyn Chelcee, Green Country Ruff Ritters  
2nd: SOME FORM OF GRACE Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings  
3rd: THE SEARCH FOR MANDOLAY Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers  
1st: REALMWALKER Jen Nipps, Member at Large

**Category 25: Romance Novel**

1st: THE DISENGAGEMENT  
Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville  
WordWeavers  
2nd: FACES Pepper Hume,  
Bartlesville WordWeavers  
3rd: TANGLED PROMISES Linda  
Trout, Tulsa NightWriters  
1st HM: MURDER IN THE  
MANSION Vivian Zabel, Pen &  
Keyboard Writers

**Category 26: Historical Novel**

1st: HARD TIMES IN THE  
HEARTLAND Sally Jadow,  
Kansas City Writers Group  
2nd: NOW I'M FOUND Theresa  
Hupp, Kansas City Writers Group  
3rd: FOREVER QUAIL  
CROSSINGS Jennifer McMurrain,  
Bartlesville WordWeavers  
1st HM: SWAYING WITH THE  
WIND Abir Sami Wood, Tulsa  
NightWriters

**Category 27: Mystery/Suspense Novel**

1st: DEATH IN CIMARRON  
VALLEY Mary Coley, Tulsa  
NightWriters  
2nd: TIES THAT BIND Jennifer  
Mathews as T.D. Hart, Member at  
Large  
3rd: OUTLAWS AND ANGELS  
Rebecca Cline, Member at Large  
1st HM: WHEN WRONG IS  
WRITE H. B. Berlow, Rose Rock  
Writers

**Category 28: SciFi/Fantasy Novel**

1st: THE DRYING'S KEY Brenda  
Clark Thomas, Oklahoma City  
Writers, Inc.  
2nd: THE BIKE-A-THON Anthony  
Cornelius, Member at Large  
3rd: PROJECTIONS Joshua  
Danker-Dake, Tulsa NightWriters  
1st HM: THE SOCIETY OF  
LEGIONS Brandi Barnett, The  
Inklings

**Category 11 Winning Entry**  
**Bump by Shannon Iwanowski**

Ivan stood in his childhood bedroom, closed his eyes, and listened to his life falling apart. Dad had been dead less than a day, and Ivan's heart felt as barren as the walls.

He was grateful for the movers. After gathering a few mementoes, he decided the rest could go to charity. He didn't have the room for it in his apartment. Besides, it was just clutter. It couldn't fill the hole in his soul.

Ivan turned a slow circle. The room had felt so big once. Now it suffocated him. He had to get out. Two steps from the door, he heard a bump in the closet and stopped. His breath caught in his throat. The sound was familiar, but he hadn't heard it in years.

He stared at the darkened closet. The small space had once been a point of contention between him and Dad. He wanted a door for it, but Dad always insisted it wasn't necessary. Ivan settled for hanging a sheet over it, but that had proven worse than no door. The ghostly floral movement kept him awake.

His hand hovered over the light switch just outside the door.

"Don't." The deep voice reminded Ivan of nights spent hidden under blankets.

"Charlie, is that you?" Ivan asked.

"I never understood why you called me that. Who names a monster 'Charlie?'"

Ivan sat on the floor and pulled his knees up under his chin. He couldn't see Charlie; he never could no matter how hard he tried.

"I guess a six-year-old boy does," Ivan said. "How've you been?"

"Lonely."

"Sorry. Things got...I grew up." He leaned his head back and willed tears to stay where they belonged. "I grew up," he said again.

"I tried to say goodbye before you left for college. I wanted to go with you, but I guess you outgrew me." Charlie moved around, and the sounds of multiple nonexistent items bumping into each other filled the closet.

"Dad's dead, Charlie."

"I tried reaching out to him a few times before he got too bad. He never believed in me. It was too late to start." Charlie bumped a few more times, and a small stone rolled across the floor. It stopped at Ivan's feet.

Ivan picked it up and studied the pinkish-red striations intermixed with golden-brown flecks. "Where did you find this?"

"In a box you left behind. I kept it to remember you."

"I'm sorry."

"You think you're the first kid to leave me behind?" Charlie asked.

"Yes," Ivan said. A thought occurred to him. "Do monsters have family?"

"Some do."

"Do you?" Ivan asked.

"I did have. I do right now."

Ivan rolled the rock back into the closet and pushed himself to his feet. "I have a new apartment, a new closet. It's not very big, but it would be a shame for it to go unoccupied."

"I'll see you tonight," Charlie said.



# THE 2016 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

## UNPUBLISHED Manuscript Winners (continued)

### Category 29: Horror Novel

1st: THE SANG FYE OF NEW ORLEANS Erin Cochran as E.P. Ferguson, Nevermore Edits  
2nd: THE EBON BLADE Jere Ellison, Member at Large

3rd: DRY SEASON John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.  
1st HM: HUSH Jennifer McMurray, Bartlesville WordWeavers

### Category 30: NonFiction Book

1st: NEAR SEX EXPERIENCES Nikki Hanna, Tulsa NightWriters  
1st: CHOICES I MADE VERSUS CHOICES MADE FOR ME Arlene Gale, Fort Worth Writers

## PUBLISHED Manuscript Winners

### Category 31: Juvenile Book (Published)

Trophy Winner: HEARTSTRINGS Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville WordWeavers  
Review by OWFI member Heather Davis:



My kiddos are pretty decent readers. In fact, they were such good readers in elementary school that we (I'm speaking as an elementary librarian now!) had trouble finding something that was appropriate, interesting and challenging all at the same time. Then along comes Marilyn Boone's Heartstrings.

Heartstrings is the sweet love story of a budding musician, her violin teacher and the star of the football

team. If this sounds like the making of a remarkable love story that's appropriate for all ages of readers, you are exactly right.

We meet Anna at the Samaritan Center, a place very dear to her heart, as she's volunteering her time weekly. E.C., the star quarterback intrudes upon her volunteer time, appearing arrogant, self-centered and only there because their history teacher is offering bonus points for volunteering. Soon, though, Anna will see a different side of E.C. as he befriends her younger brother. Anna gains confidence in herself as she befriends E.C. and confidence in her musical abilities through her instructor, Louisa, a mysterious figure also prominent at the Samaritan Center.

So many readers of all ages will find the beauty in unlikely friendships and in bonds that bind a family in Heartstrings. Long after you've finished the last page, you'll think back on this story with a satisfied smile.

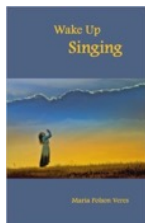
### Category 32: NonFiction Book (Published)

Trophy Winner: HEY KIDS, WATCH THIS Nikki Hanna, Tulsa NightWriters



*This book takes an insightful and comedic approach to the conversation about aging. Why do some people do growing old poorly? Why are precious years wasted when they hold so much potential? Do older people realize how much they influence the futures of others by how they age? The goal of the "beyond aging well*

*concept" is to contemplate these questions and to expose flawed stereotypes, introduce fresh perspectives, reveal possibilities, and inspire a robust third trimester of life. Transitioning into retirement and dealing with the complications of aging generate a plethora of issues, including a sense of being disenfranchised. You wonder how to matter going forward. The truth is, you can remain relevant, perhaps more so than ever before. It is possible your best days have not even happened yet. Because so much is written about how to age well, this book might be anticipated as being rich with old ideas dressed up in new clothes. However, the perspectives introduced herein bridge the gap between acceptance of life unfolding and aging in a way that promotes bliss. Strategies are introduced here that take aging to a level that enhances the lives of others. When it comes to aging, everyone is afraid on the inside, but growing old is the universe showing off. You can orchestrate your aging experience—not as a burden to those you love—but as a gift. Although anxiety lurks, the body aches, and losses are unrelenting, personal triumph is possible. By aging well, you hum. By going beyond aging well, you sing. Construct your experience so you sing like an opera star. Go ahead. Do it. Sing. (From [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))*



**Category 33: Poetry Book (Published)**

Trophy Winner: WAKE UP SINGING

Maria Polson Veres

A chapbook of nineteen poems. (From [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

**Category 34: Fiction Book (Published)**

Trophy Winner: CHEROKEE ICE John T.

Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Everyone on the Navajo reservation thinks Danny Riley is a witch.

Nothing to it, of course—just because his enemies have a way of catching on fire or getting stranded in the desert. He knows all that talk of magic is nothing more than tricks and superstitious nonsense. But since he left the rez to avoid being murdered, Danny's beginning to wonder if people are right about him.

In the city, he meets the girl of his dreams—but for some strange reason, she believes he is her husband. A stranger with tattoos on his face passes him a fat envelope filled with money. A homicidal dwarf is trying to kill him over something called Cherokee Ice—and it looks like he might do it. The little man points a pistol at him and says, "Silver bullets. You won't rise up



this time." Danny's mystified, but it's clear there's no way out. Nothing left but to fall back on his Indian ways and pray he really does possess some powerful magic. (From [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

**Creme De La Creme Winner:**

SLEEPING WITH THE FIRST LADY (Mainstream Novel)

Connie Blaylock as Jaydyn Chelcee, Green Country Ruff Ritters



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Leonard



**Don't forget: Renew your membership in October**

Being a part of OWFI gives you access to a slew of benefits, including marketing and networking opportunities, writing contests, regional writing conferences, and The Report.

All of that for just \$25—\$20 for Affiliate Group members.

Visit [www.owfi.org/membership](http://www.owfi.org/membership) for all the details on renewing either online or via regular mail

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## PHOTO PROMPT CONTEST

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One of the things we've heard repeatedly from our members is that you miss the photo contest that was featured in previous permutations of the OWFI newsletter. Well, by popular demand, it's back—with a few tweaks. This time we're posting two pictures per month on the OWFI website, and we're accepting submissions online. We'll review the submissions and print our favorites here in the Report. Did you miss this month's contest? There's a new set of photos each month, so be sure to try your hand at some short fiction!

### June 2016: Photo 1

**FREEDOM** by Shannon Iwanski

If there was one thing Edith couldn't stand, it was the fact Richie never wanted her to look or feel pretty. His petty jealousy drove her crazy.

The day she finally made up her mind to do as she pleased, no matter what he said, was the day she learned how quickly a knife could go through the throat of a sleeping man.

She was three states away when the announcement hit the radio. Lying in the front seat of her new Buick, wearing the powder blue heels Richie never liked, Edith smiled and enjoyed the feel of the sun on her ankles.



We never made it to the look-out, though. A rusted pick-up truck barreled down the road towards us and hit my left foot. I screamed in pain while Ned got a phone number from the other driver to exchange insurance information later. Ned was more concerned about my pain than future settlements at that point. As soon as he could, Ned drove me to the doctor.

Right away, I had to have surgery for my broken foot, and Ned stood by my side the entire time I was in the hospital. The doctor said I should

count my blessings that I didn't lose either one of my feet. Ned nodded in agreement.

"I have just one question to ask you," Ned said. "But I'm going to wait until we get out of the hospital." I suspected he was hinting at marriage.

Following the surgery, my foot was placed in a cast. When I was released from the hospital, I was given two ugly basic, black shoes to wear, along with crutches. Supposedly, the shoes were for stability. They may have been stable, but those shoes sure were ugly.

Ned wasn't the only one with just one question.

He drove me to the follow-up doctor visit, where I had just one question. "Doc," I asked, "how soon until I can wear high heels again?"

**JUST ONE QUESTION** by Lisbeth L. McCarthy

I always want to share all of my beautiful, wonderful, fantastic shoes for all of humanity to see. I'm generous that way. That's why I stuck my legs out the window when my boyfriend Ned was driving me to the romantic, scenic look-out point at Greentree Park. I suspected a marriage proposal was on the line, but I was more concerned with the world seeing my shoes.

I was wearing some killer teal pumps with six-inch heels, which were shoved out the window as we drove down the road. With the window down on my side, I loved the feel of the sun-kissed wind blowing in my hair, and delighted to see the late summer shadows dancing on my legs. Best of all, I was enchanted with the glossy purity of the Manolo Blahniks which so nicely completed my outfit. My shoes were goodness personified.

Ned said, "Those shoes are no good for where we are going."

"High heels go anywhere I go," I responded. "Especially my MBs!"

**JUST FOR A SECOND** by Mari Farthing

Rombertha knew that a moment to herself was too much to ask, but when she came across those shoes that looked like pistachio ice cream and felt like happiness, she couldn't resist slipping them on and taking a little nap. She set her scimitar on the floorboards but kept her gun belt strapped over her taffeta-lined skirt. I mean, even if there were more dead people than living, a girl still had the responsibility to be prepared for any reality, from cocktails to genocide.



**THE MEETING** by Staci Maundy

Laura glanced around the park from the comfort of her car. She watched as a young mom pushed a stroller around the walking trail that wound through the park and a middle aged man played Frisbee with a black lab on the lush grass in the center. She wanted to join them, but the heels she wore made her hesitate. Settling in to wait, she rolled the windows down and kicked her feet out so that she could feel the sun on her bare ankles. The warmth moved up her body as she finally allowed herself to relax.

She heard footsteps approaching and sat up eagerly, peering out the car window. Her shoulders drooped as a woman walked briskly by without even looking her way.

Laura sat back and let her mind drift to last night, when Collin came in after work. Late. Again. He seemed distracted and didn't return her greeting. She knew about the other women—a whole string of them since they had been married. She took out her frustration on the stove, scrubbing it until it shone. She consoled herself by thinking of today's meeting.

It was a chance encounter that led to this morning. She had run into Jeff at the coffee shop. She hadn't seen him since high school. Laura and Jeff struck up a conversation and caught up on the last ten years. Each morning over the course of two weeks, she learned a little more the life he had been living. Then, they decided to take the plunge and meet for lunch.

He was everything Collin was not, and she was starved for attention. He asked questions and let her talk about herself. They had an easy camaraderie.

"Hey, there."

Jeff's voice startled her out of her daydream. She looked up to see him leaning down into the open window.

"You ready for this?" He winked at her.

Laura felt her face heat up as she pulled her feet back into the car and leaned forward to talk to him.

"Yeah, I'm ready." She extended a package toward him.

He reached for the package and then hesitated, standing up and tapping his hand on the top of the car.

"Okay," he said, leaning back down. "Let's do this." He took the package from Laura.

"It's all there. All \$25,000. The address is on a little slip of paper inside."

He handed her a phone and winked. "You'll get a text on this phone when it's done." He met her anxious gaze.

"Don't worry. It won't be messy. And he won't feel a thing."

As Laura watched him walk away, she smiled. She would see him again in two months. She drove away, stopping at a gas station on the way home so that the security camera would capture her presence—and the time stamp—to serve as her alibi. When the text from Jeff came, she turned the car toward home to start a new life without her husband.

## Are you ready to try your hand with a story idea?

Use one of the two pictures below to inspire a story. Write something about it—a flash fiction piece, an opening paragraph, a poem, a conversation, an article—whatever strikes you. Keep it under 500 words and give it a title. We'll have a new set of pictures up every month. We'll print our favorites in the next copy of The Report.



Find full rules and information on [OWFI.org](http://OWFI.org). Click FICTION PROMPT from the WHAT'S NEW tab.



## June 2016: Photo 2



### READY by Mari Farthing

He stood—patient, silent—at the gate. Years passed; the rain fell and rusted his armor and that of his steed. He feared he would not be able to ride forth to meet Dorothy when she arrived and his fears were brought to truth when he saw them skipping by. Damn his brother the tin woodsman, so smug as he sneered up from his cozy quartet, making their way to the Emerald City.

### FAMILY CHAINS by Andrew Roberts

Here I stand at the annual viewing of my glorious great, great Grandfather George Cricket's war memorial. His almighty shining bronze statue stands in his memory. It was his personal favorite tribute to his massive ego. After The battle of iron chain, some two hundred something years ago, my grandfather became the first "president" to hold office for ten years. Somewhere during the ninth year he stopped being the war hero president and became Caesar the sequel minus the assassination. That was the same year he did away with congress and said that the presidency should stay in the family. So here we are, with my family, at a war memorial, dedicated to a man who has never been in a fight in his treacherous life.

The stories that we all get brainwashed into believing as children, say that old George had led his troops into

glorious battle. With very little ammo, no backup, and one artillery cannon. And with just a few dozen troops, he managed to take out the entire enemy's army. That couldn't be farther from the truth. What really happened was much less inspirational. While the real actual battle was going on, George was just a field medic that was to cowardly and selfish to actually be there. According to our family's official archives, he had officially been declared a deserter that morning. Then three days later, the mist fell. A strange mist that made people live their own personal fantasy while slowly killing them. From that day on, everyone started calling it laughing gas, because of the project's twisted nickname "The Killing Joke," and everyone was afraid of the punchline. Afraid because if it were released on a civilian area, no one could escape. Afraid because you can't run from a cloud. A month from the battle it was sent out on an enemy city, everyone within a one-hundred-mile radius, would drop dead. Three days after the battle, the gas started to fade enough to see the damage. After four days, it was pointed out that none of our soldiers had made it to safety. Then on the fifth day, bodies were being removed, and the enemies had surrendered. The removal squad had found the courageous George with a gasmask hiding in a tree. The precious sole survivor of a horrible new weapon. He claimed to be hiding in that tree for three days with a gas mask he had found. After he returned, he sold his sob story in three separate books to help fund his successful presidency campaign.

Now, two hundred years later, everyone gets to attend this annual mandatory viewing of this monument of lies. Now, here I am standing with my father and grandfather, and the knowledge that I am the next link in the world's worst chain. But I promise, when I take the throne, all of that changes. I will expose the lies of my family, and break the chain. Or I will die trying.

### THE BETTER PART OF VALOR by Adrean Messmer

The clouds forever thick and grey  
Your gaze, your horse, will never stray  
still holding still, by moon and day  
Was it pride or prejudice, are you stupid or brave?

Time and tides and howling wind  
tarnish metal stripped of skin  
Would you do it all again  
and face defeat's final chagrin?

Hold high the flag, hold high your head  
At the magic hour, when the sky is shred  
does heroic gold turn villainous red?  
Was glory worth this gilded death?

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## SOCIAL MEDIA & BOOK PROMOTION

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### Recently, I came across an article about social media faux pas that need to stop.

I found myself agreeing with most of the points the article was making, including; not announcing Grandma's death before all the family has been notified, not hanging your dirty laundry out to dry in the not so fresh air of social media land, and of course, not post pictures of your friends in unflattering positions. Then, I was stopped in my tracks as I read, "Selling any type of product," being described as one of the most annoying social media faux pas people make.

What? Surely, they don't mean me! People love hearing about every single detail of my books...right? The hard truth is, while people do love hearing about our books, they don't like hearing about them every day, numerous times a day, every hour on the hour. I believe social media is one of the best (and cheapest) ways to help spread the word about our writing careers, but we have to remember to exercise balance so we don't annoy the very people we're trying to reach.

Here are some tips to help you utilize social media without ostracizing yourself in the process.

1. **Pick a promotion day (or two).** Every Wednesday and Saturday I put up a single post promoting one of my books. I include the tag line, title, price, keyword hashtags, and then a link to the book on Amazon. I try to post

after 8:00 pm, because that is when most people are on social media. I never say, "Buy my books," but I post it as a simple reminder that I have a book for sale. Hopefully, the reminder will make someone think, "Hey, I've been wanting to read that. Let me download it now, so I'll have it to read before bed."

When you promote your book every day, multiple times a day, people start to scroll past your posts just as they do advertisements.

2. **Do not private message your sales pitch.** I recently took a very unscientific Facebook poll on how much people hate this tactic. Let me tell you, they hate it a lot. It's one thing to put on your status that you have a book for sale, it's another thing entirely to use private messenger to try and sell your book. People find it invasive, some to the extent they block the offending party. Although we know nothing is truly private on social media, people still see PM as a safe place and most do not appreciate this approach.
3. **Develop a street team.** Create a closed group of "fans" who are willing to help you spread the word when you have a new book release. Now, keep in mind, your street team will only be as engaged with others as you are with them. If a person joins a street team and gets nothing out of it, then they aren't going to visit often. Give them secret sneak peeks, have them help pick character names, have little giveaways, let them BETA read, give them one on one time... even when you don't have a new book ready for release. Then when you're ready for your

book release, you ask them to help spread the word and they do, which carries your news much farther than you could do alone. Word of mouth is the BEST form of advertisement.

4. **Make it personal.** Social media is the best way for our readers to get to know us. To get to know that behind the stories, there is a real person—someone trying to make ends meet, or send their kid to college, or just trying to get their kid to eat anything but macaroni and cheese. Let your readers get to know you. Hardly a book signing goes by that someone doesn't ask me about my family, my latest trip, or best of all my current work in progress. We are able to laugh together and talk like old friends, because they have gotten to know me via social media. And yes, they are more likely to buy a book from a person they feel they know (and like). So be accessible, be kind, be gracious and your social media friends will follow suit.

Social media is a powerful tool in your promotion arsenal and with any powerful tool, using it wisely will result in wonderful opportunities.

*Amazon best-selling author Jennifer McMurrain has won numerous awards for her novels and short stories. She is president of the Bartlesville WordWeavers and currently the public relations manager for OWFI. You can learn more about Jennifer at [JenniferMcMurrain.com](http://JenniferMcMurrain.com).*

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## WATCHING YOUR LANGUAGE: STYLES

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**Among the horrors that make a writer quake in submitting a manuscript is making a mistake in grammar or spelling.**

Agents, editors, contest judges—all will declare that the first such error means a guaranteed trip to the waste basket with the whole thing. Whole thing being your months, maybe years of work.

That's bad enough, of course, but there are subtler thorny gates to pass as well. You may have met the red mark of "word choice" or "awkward" from an instructor or

judge. At a recent Rose State Short Course on Writing, more than one presenter urged hiring an editor before submitting our work for publication.

And here is where the dictum of "Know your audience" thunders righteously.

Those of us who write for hire must be particularly aware of our client's style preference, which can be idiosyncratic, to say the least. Style books, guides, and particularly company or organization preferences can vary to the point of hot disagreement. A scholarly or professional guide like *The Chicago Manual of Style* can be at odds with the *Associated Press Stylebook* on a point here or there. The serial comma, often called the Oxford comma, is a stellar example. Certain scientific, medical, or other special

dictionaries and stylebooks might also have their sway over your work. Magazine editors will sometimes cite their preference in their guidelines for writers. Be glad when they do.

And there can be the unspoken style preferences: tone, for example. Does the magazine or newspaper editor like it folksy and breezy or more formal, even scholarly? Does he or she prefer a pattern (like problem/solution) or some other format in the publication you mean to write for?

One of the most valuable handouts I ever received in my college journalism courses was a list of questions to answer about the advertisements in any magazine I might want to sell to. We students had to do it for a thick stack of magazines. Here are some of the questions: Are the ads aimed at the 20-to-30-somethings? Over 50? Directed mainly toward one gender? Families? What socio-economic level? Level of education?

You might think knowing all this would be the obvious first step in writing articles for any magazine. Not so. A chief complaint from editors is that too many writers submit pieces wildly out of sync with that publication's readers. The same goes for fiction, of course. You must read—no, study!—the guidelines for the agency or publisher you aim for. And read, read, read the kind of books you want to write.

*Kathleen Park, M.A., calls herself an escaped English teacher and a forever lover of words. Send her some of your pithy sayings, something to beat "He's so dumb, he don't know 'Come on' from 'Sic-em.'" ([katie.talks@gmail.com](mailto:katie.talks@gmail.com))*

### *Fare Thee Well*

*It has been my pleasure to have served as you president for the 2016 Oklahoma Writer's Federation, Inc. conference. I thank you for helping me make the conference a success. The conference would not have been possible without your help. So, thank-you for your support during my administration.*

*I urge you to support Christine as much as you supported me. I know she has been working hard to line things up for the 2017 OWFI conference and wants to make it as exciting as she can. Your support will mean a lot to her.*

*Once again, thanks to all of you for your support for the 2016 OWFI conference and I will see all of you in 2017.*

*Tony LoPresti  
Past President 2016*





## 2017 OWFI CONFERENCE INFO

Hello OWFI! Your 2017 Conference Chair here, hoping your summer is treating you simply fabulous. I've been asked to share a little of what I've been doing this summer especially for you! I'm sure you're all excited for our next conference, I know I certainly am. And I, for one, have plans to help make it "much more...muchier"! With that in mind, let me introduce the speakers I've contracted so far who'll help me achieve OWFI "muchness."

### KEYNOTE: New York Times Best-Selling Author Kelley Armstrong

Kelley Armstrong has been telling stories since before she could write. Her earliest written efforts were disastrous. If asked for a story about girls and dolls, hers would invariably feature undead girls and evil dolls, much to her teachers' dismay. Today, she continues to spin tales of ghosts and demons and werewolves, while safely locked away in her basement writing dungeon. She lives in southwestern Ontario with her husband, kids and far too many pets.



Featured 2016 releases:



**Betrayals:** Gainesville book 4

*Someone is killing street kids in the city, and the police have tied Ricky to the crimes. Setting out with Gabriel's help to clear Ricky's name, Olivia once again finds her own life at risk. Soon the three are tangled in a web of betrayals that threatens their uneasy equilibrium.*

**City of the Lost:** first in a new mystery series

*Imagine a secret town, isolated in the Yukon wilderness, deliberately cut off from the world, where everyone is pretending to be someone they're not. Even good people can get up to some very bad stuff.*

### AGENT Sam Morgan of Jabberwocky Literary Agency



Sam is the Right Hand of Darkness at Jabberwocky. He is a native of Shelby, North Carolina and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Communications—Media Studies and Production. Before joining Jabberwocky in late 2012, Sam worked throughout New York City as a television critic, pizza guy, and several other glamorous positions. He's an active nerd across all media from British television (Doctor Who and Black Mirror), to videogames (Injustice and Nintendo), to SF and fantasy novels (Pratchett, Adams, Gaiman), to college basketball (Go Heels, Go America). Sam is also active in the New York comedy scene at the Upright Citizens Brigade theater and making his own little rinky-

dink videos in his spare time. He is ridiculously handsome, gut-busting witty, and prone to hyperbole.

For the time being, he is open for queries. You can email him at [quersam@awfulagent.com](mailto:quersam@awfulagent.com).

Also, he has a beard now. He feels this is important to know.

### EDITOR Ann Leslie Tuttle of Harlequin

Ann Leslie Tuttle is a Senior Editor at Harlequin Books with over 17 years' experience in acquiring, editing, and publishing women's fiction and romance. New York Times bestselling authors she has worked with include Sylvia Day, Julia London and Megan Hart.





## 2017 OWFI CONFERENCE INFO

Most recently she has solicited, edited and worked on packaging digital content in the areas of New Adult, contemporary and paranormal romance for Harlequin E and Harlequin's joint partnership with the Hearst Corporation. She has managed several category romance lines. It's always been her dream to work in publishing, and she especially loves that moment when she's discovered a writer with an amazing voice or a great story and is able to work with that author to share her work with readers.

### EDITORS Rhonda Penders & Ally Robertson of The Wild Rose Press

Rhonda Penders is Editor-in-chief at The Wild Rose Press



Ally Robertson is Editor of The Wild Rose Press' Crimson Line, which houses the romantic suspense, Mystery/Suspense, and Thriller genres.



### Cara Brookins, author



Cara Brookins is an author and motivational speaker. In addition to her memoir, *Rise, How a House Built a Family*, she has seven published fiction novels including young adult, middle grade, and adult. Her #RaiseMyRoof lectures motivate audiences around the country to build a new life and a new perception of self. A large social media presence on Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, and Facebook connect her to millions every month.

### Joan Stewart, the Publicity Hound

Publicity Expert Joan Stewart works with small business owners, nonprofits and organizations that need to use free publicity in traditional and



social media to establish their credibility, enhance their reputation, position themselves as experts, sell more products and services, and promote a favorite cause or issue—even without a publicist.

### Dr. Marty Ludlum, attorney/ Professor of Law at UCO/author

Dr. Ludlum is a Professor of legal studies at UCO and concentrates on international business transactions. He also leads study tours to England and Ireland. In his spare time, he enjoys time with his family and is an award winning magician. He holds a BA and MA in Economics, an MA in Communication, and a Juris Doctor, all from the University of Oklahoma.



### Jason Hough, Scrivener Coach/author

Jason M. Hough (pronounced 'Huff') is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Dire Earth Cycle* and the near-future spy thriller *Zero World*. In a former life he was a 3D artist, animator, and game designer (Metal Fatigue, Aliens vs. Predator: Extinction, and many others). He has worked in the fields of high-performance cluster computing and machine learning, and holds a patented invention related to location-based content licensing. He is also star of the 1.5 hour YouTube tutorial, Scrivener Bootcamp!



### Nathan Brown, Poet/Song writer

Nathan Brown is an author, singer-songwriter, photographer, and award-winning poet who recently served as the Poet Laureate of Oklahoma for 2013 and 2014. Though he lives now in Wimberley, Texas with his wife, Ashley, he has always considered Oklahoma his home. Nathan taught at the University of Oklahoma for many years, but now travels widely, offering readings, house



concerts, creativity workshops, and musical performances in an effort to bring back the hint of a smile and the hope for a good story in poems...poems unafraid of making sense...poems that carry us to better places.

## Judith Briles, Book Shepherd/author

Judith Briles, DBA, MBA is a recognized authority in workplace issues and personal and professional development and a master book shepherd. Her 30 books include *Show Me About Book Publishing* and *The Tango of Authoring and Publishing*. *Author YOU: Creating and Building the Author and Book Platforms* is her latest book. Judith knows the publishing and speaking worlds. To many, she's known as The Book Shepherd. Her books have sold in excess of 1,000,000 copies, sold multiple foreign rights to 16 countries and are multi-book award winners. Judith is the CEO of Mile High Press, has been featured on over 1000 TV and radio shows—from Oprah to CNN and print media from the Wall Street Journal to the National Enquirer, columnist for several publications including the Denver Business Journal, sought after speaker for conferences and associations. She is the Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of Author U, a membership organization for authors who desire to be seriously successful. Her websites are TheBookShepherd.com, AuthorU.org and Briles.com.



## Jennifer McMurrain, author

Having a great deal of wanderlust, Jennifer McMurrain traveled the countryside working odd jobs before giving into her muse and becoming a full time writer. She's been everything from a "Potty Princess" in the wilds of Yellowstone National Park to a Bear Researcher in the mountains of New Mexico. After finally settling down, she received a Bachelor's degree in Applied Arts and Science from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX. She has won numerous awards for her short stories and novels. She lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma with her husband, daughter, two spoiled cats, and two goofy dogs.



## Heather Davis, author

Heather is a momma, a writer, a blogger, a humorist, and has a finely tuned ability to share every last detail of her life with anyone who will read or listen. Her books are TMI Mom books: *Oversharing My Life*, *Getting Lucky*, *Crazy on Board* and *Girlfriend Rules*. Her fifth book *Life With Extra Cheese*, was just released to rave reviews. She's even been known to jet off to NYC to appear on national talk shows. She lives in Bartlesville with her husband, Brian, and her daughters.



## Amy Collins, Publishing Industry Speaker, author



Amy Collins packs every speech with tons of industry tips and executable advice. She has been a book buyer for a chain of bookstores as well as a Sales Director for a large books and magazine publisher. In 2006, Amy started New Shelves Books, one of the fastest growing book distribution, sales and marketing companies in North America.

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This list will continue to grow over the coming months, but I hope this glimpse into who you can expect to rub elbows with will get you excited. I'll be sending it along to Jack to add to the website soon. I hope you'll stop by and read up on this excellent list of people who are going to help make the 2017 conference simply grand!

Love, Hugs, and Happy Writing,  
Sabrina A. Fish, 2017 OWFI Conference Chair

## SAVE THE DATE!

The 2017 OWFI Conference will be held  
May 4-6 at the Embassy Suites Hotel

Watch [www.owfi.org/conference2017](http://www.owfi.org/conference2017) for updates



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## OWFI AFFILIATE UPDATES

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### Bartlesville WordWeavers

#### Acceptances & Sales:

LilyBear House, LLC has accepted Jennifer McMurrain's romance novel, Summer's End, for an early fall release. Abigail Singrey's article, "Healing Hands," was published in the June 2016 issue of Bartlesville Monthly Magazine. Abigail Singrey's article, "Flower of the Flock," was published in the June 2016 issue of Tulsa People. Abigail Singrey's article, "Our Farm, Your Table," was published in the July 2016 issue of Bartlesville Monthly Magazine.

#### New Books & Novels:

Jennifer McMurrain released Heart of an Angel: A Fantasy Novella through LilyBear House, LLC on June 12, 2016. Available on Amazon. Margery Kisby Warder released Astrid's Gift to her Loved Ones, using her mother's one hundred poems and her answers to questions from her grandchildren. It is available on Amazon.

#### Professional Activities:

Jennifer McMurrain will be presenting at Self-Pub Summit in Oklahoma City on October 8th, to receive more details sign up at <https://selfpubsummit.com/optin>

#### Contest Winnings:

Sidney Brammer's poem, "Cat Box Winter," won First Place in the 2016 Friends of the Bartlesville Library Writing Contest. Linda Derkez won second place in children's literature with "Henny the Brave Chicken" in the 2016 Friends of the Bartlesville Library Writing Contest. Jennifer McMurrain won Honorable Mention with her novel, Missing Quail Crossings, at the North Texas Book Festival. Abigail Singrey's short story, "The Enchanted Hair," won

Grand Prize and First Place in Children's Literature in the 2016 Friends of the Bartlesville Library Writing Contest.

#### Club News:

WordWeavers regrets to announce the passing of two of our beloved members, Charlotte Blood Smith and Diana Purser. Both were long-time OWFI members. Their presence as well as their written words will be greatly missed.

WordWeavers meet the third Tuesday of the month at the Bartlesville Public Library at 6:30pm. All meetings except for December and May are open and anyone is welcome to attend.

### Enid Writers Club

#### Club News:

Marsha Kay Oldham spoke to Oklahoma Pen Women March 5, 2016, Poetry Society of Oklahoma's Contest Chair Saturday, March 12, 2016. Lucie Smoker presented at the Ada Scissortail Creative Writing Workshop March 31-April 2, 2016. Marsha Kay Oldham spoke at INSPIRATIONAL WRITERS ALIVE, IWA, meeting the March 31 – April 2, 2016 in Amarillo. Peggy Chambers featured her book Glome's Valley on April 8-9, 2016 at the Heavener Runestone Viking and Celtic Festival at the park. April 13, 2016 Peggy Chambers was a featured author at the Perry Carnegie Library benefit coffee for the library. Bobbie Mardis was asked to discuss her book The Triple Creek at the Commons assisted living center this month. They are reading the book together. Peggy Chambers - June 9, 2016 The Writers' Block radio interview 10:00 pm with L.A. Talk Radio. Marsha Kay Oldham will be the Keynote Speaker at the

Oklahoma Christian Women's Annual conference held at the Moore Christian Church on July 7 & 8, 2016.

### The Inklings

#### Acceptances & Sales:

Mari Farthing: wrote 2 articles published in OUTLOOK MAGAZINE's August issue: "Junkin'" (cover story) and "First-Hand Forensics"; selected as the August blogger of the month for oklahomawomenbloggers.com; article "10 Uses for DeNigris Apple Cider Vinegar" published on [www.denigris1889.com/10-uses-denigris-organic-apple-cider-vinegar](http://www.denigris1889.com/10-uses-denigris-organic-apple-cider-vinegar); OKLAHOMA PEACE OFFICER MAGAZINE "OSPOA Salutes" cover story, published spring 2016.

#### Professional Activities:

Lisa Marotta was selected as a panelist for METROFAMILY MAGAZINE's "Ask the Expert" series.

### Members at Large

#### Acceptances & Sales:

Una Townsend: I've received a contract from Doodle and Peck Publishing for my picture book, Scanner. It should be published in the Spring of 2017.

#### New Books & Novels:

Una Townsend: My new children's book called "Toby and the Secret Code" will be published soon. It's the story of a young boy whose great-great grandfather, Tobias Frazier, was one of the original code talkers in World War I. I've received information from the granddaughter of Tobias and other members of the Choctaw Code Talker's Assn. Hopefully, the book will be out in September. The book has a section



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in the back which lists numbers, colors, and days of the week in Choctaw.

### Mid-Oklahoma Writers

#### Acceptances & Sales:

DAVID ROPER now has a paperback version of Horsefly Hank and the Osage War Shield. He recently published an account of his family's 1974 50-day tour of Europe: Europe on 5-10 Nervous Breakdowns a Day. His picture book The Little Old Man, The Little Old Woman, and The Little Red Hen is scheduled for publication in September by Doodle and Peck Publishing. He has a three little worms story scheduled for the April 2017 issue of Highlights High Five: "The Magic Words." High Five recently purchased another story: "Why Mortimer Wears Glasses."

#### Contest Winnings:

BARBARA SHEPHERD won 1st place in the 2015 Poetry Society of Oklahoma Annual Contest with "In the Land of Make Believe." She won 2nd place in Adult Fiction in the 2016 Christian Writers Fellowship Annual Writing Contest in Kansas with the story "Mail Order Bride." In the same contest, she won 2nd in Poetry with "November Ice," 2nd in Children's Fiction with "Hear Me On the Radio," and 3rd in Children's Non-Fiction with "Wacky Animals from A to Z." She won awards in the Arkansas Writers' Conference 2016 contest: 1st Place for a poem ("The Journey"), 1st Place for a short story ("Daffodil Waltz"), 2nd Place for a 6-word short story ("Divorce"), 2nd Honorable Mention for a short story ("Granny's Gift").

#### Professional Activities:

BARBARA SHEPHERD attended the SCBWI conference in May, co-hosted the Fiction Writers Retreat on June 4, and was again juried into the Woody Guthrie Poetry. She read poetry at St. Benedict's in Shawnee; wrote press releases for Oklahoma City Writers, Wordwrights—OKC Christian Writers, and Mid-Oklahoma Writers; wrote and published a newsletter for Wordwrights; and made a trip to south Texas for research related to her newest screenplay.

### Norman Galaxy of Writers

#### Acceptances & Sales:

SYLVIA FORBES: COLUMN: "Tidbits" in Missouri Gardener (Mar-Apr 2016, May-June 2016); ARTICLE: "On the Terrace" AAA Oklahoma Home & Away (Jan-Feb 2016); POEM: "Spring" Happier Magazine (April 10-16, 2016).

#### New Books & Novels:

BOB MAGARIAN: NOVEL: "You'll Never See Me Again" (self-published, paperback available in Hastings, ebook available on all eReaders) (2016/05). LISBETH McCARTY: CHILDREN'S INTERACTIVE BOOK: "Unicorn and Friends" (self-published, Amazon.com). ELIZABETH COWAN: PAPERBACK BOOK: "Fractured Proverbs & Twisted Thoughts" revised 2nd ed. (amazon.com).

#### Professional Activities:

STAN SILLIMAN SOLLOWAY: MAY 2016: Featured in the book LAUGHCURES by Dr. Brian King, in "The Story of my 16 year cancer fight and how I've used humor to relax." Dr. King shows Solloway's

comedy videos as examples in his national lecture tour to health care professionals. Snippets from Solloway's comedy shows are on a website called "Killer Bits". ELIZABETH COWAN: Interviewed on "RRBC Rave Waves Blog Talk Radio, Behind the Pen" (archived at: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/ravereviewsbookclub/2016/04/02/rrbc-rave-waves-blogtalkradio-behind-the-pen-with-liz-cowan>). ROBERT FERRIER: Judged the Long Rhymed Poetry category, OWFI writing contest. Was the featured speaker for the Norman Galaxy of Writers June meeting: "Writing Craft of Novels and Poetry." ROBERT MAGARIAN: Gave a talk at Norman Library West followed by a book signing for "You'll Never See Me Again" on June 12. BARBARA SHEPHERD: Co-hosted the Fiction Writers Retreat on June 4. Attended SCBWI Conference in May, Juried into the Woody Guthrie Poetry Group, Scheduled to read her poetry in Okemah at Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in July. Read Poetry at St. Benedicts in Shawnee. Wrote press releases for Oklahoma City Writers, Wordwrights—OKC Christian Writers, and Mid-Oklahoma Writers. Wrote and published a newsletter for Wordwrights. Made a trip to south Texas for research on a screenplay. MARY BRANNON: Was an extra in a movie shown at Dead Center Film Festival. LINDA BASINGER: Attended the OWFI Conference in May. In June, Attended the 2016 West Texas Writers' Academy where she took an intensive 5-day course with Margie Lawson on adding power to prose with deep editing techniques. In July, attended the National Romance Writers of America conference in San Deigo. SHERRY BYNUM: In June,



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Attended the 2016 West Texas Writers' Academy where she took an intensive 5-day course with Margie Lawson on adding power to prose with deep editing techniques.

LISBETH McCARTY: Sooner Toastmasters, BEST SPEAKER: "When DNA leads Astray. CINDY NOBLE: Attended the Fourth Street Fantasy convention in Minneapolis, June 17-19, 2016.

### Honors & Awards:

LISBETH McCARTY: Annual Oklahoma Criminal Defense Association's Thurgood Marshall Award, recognizing outstanding appellate advocacy in the foot steps of the great attorney, judge and Justice Thurgood Marshall. Appellate advocacy in OK is based on written briefs—this award recognizes excellence in technical writing.

### Contest Winnings:

LETTY WATT: Story Circle Network writing contest, HOT FLASH STORIES: 2nd place, "Tide Pool, a Nearly True Love Story." SYLVIA FORBES: Missouri Writers' Guild contest, NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: 1st place; Kansas Authors Club, District 2, HAIKU: 1st place; SHORT FICTION: 2nd place; NON-FICTION ARTICLE: 2nd and 3rd place; POETRY, NARRATIVE VERSE: 3rd place; POETRY, CLASSIC FORMS: 3rd place; Abilene Writers Guild April Contest, POETRY: 1st place. BARBARA SHEPHERD: Arkansas Writers' Conference 2016 Contest, SHORT STORY: 2nd HM, "Granny's Gift"; 6 WORD SHORT STORY: 2nd place, "Divorce"; POEM: 1st place, "The Journey"; SHORT STORY: 1st Place, "Daffodil Waltz"; YA NOVEL: 1st HM, "The Generic Kid" (co-written with Shelley Anne Richter). SHELLEY ANNE

RICHTER: 2016 Arkansas Writers' Conference contest, SHORT STORY: 1st place, "The Proofreader"; SHORT STORY: 1st place, "Songwriter of the South"; ARTICLE: 2nd place, "Bring on the Parade"; POEM: 2nd place, "Sunday Suppers on the Farm"; HORROR: 3rd place, "The House Only I Could Live In"; POETRY: HM, "Angels Without Wings"; YA NOVEL: HM, "The Generic Kid" (co-written with Barbara Shepherd).

### Club News:

We are sad to report the passing of Norman Galaxy of Writers' founding member MARILYN FLEER (July 17, 1931 - March 13, 2016). Marilyn helped found the club when she was an undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism, where she received a BA and MA, with a minor in Medieval History. After helping to found Norman Galaxy of Writers, she remained an active member, holding every office except for Treasurer. She attended meetings religiously, baked and brought goodies, served as the Publicity Chair, and personally called every member to remind them of upcoming meetings. We will miss her presence among us and her lively addition to discussions, and we extend our sympathy to her family and friends. "From the Heart of the Galaxy"—an anthology of short works from Galaxy members (including contributions from Marilyn Fleer)—is now available on Amazon.com. Mark your calendars! Entries for The Norman Galaxy of Writers Annual Contest are due October 8, 2016. For more information contact contest chair Kim Ventrella ([pensieve@mac.com](mailto:pensieve@mac.com)). 2016 contest rules, categories, and entry guidelines to appear soon at: [normangalaxyofwriters.blogspot.com](http://normangalaxyofwriters.blogspot.com)

Norman Galaxy of Writers meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information please visit:

[normangalaxyofwriters.blogspot.com](http://normangalaxyofwriters.blogspot.com) or [facebook.com/NormanGalaxy](https://www.facebook.com/NormanGalaxy)

## Oklahoma City Writers

### Acceptances & Sales:

Terri Cummings's poems, "Snapshot" and "Cast Away" will be published by Oklahoma City Community College in Absolute 2016, a print magazine.

### New Books & Novels:

Carolyn Wall's new book, The Coffin Maker is available on Kindle, iPad, iPod, tablet or iPhone. For these epublications, Wall is writing under the pseudonym Elizabeth Penny.

### Professional Activities:

Terri Cummings held a book signing at Red Chateau in Casady Square.

Barbara Shepherd co-hosted the Fiction Writers Retreat on June 4, attended the SCBWI Conference in May, was again juried into the Woody Guthrie Poetry Group and scheduled to read her poetry in Okemah at the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in July.

## Tulsa NightWriters

### Acceptances & Sales:

DEREK BULLARD: ARTICLE: "Confessions of a Novice," NightScripts, TNWC (06/16). MARY COLEY: ARTICLE: "Uh-Oh, You Made a Mistake!" NightScripts, TNWC (08/16). REX GRIFFIN: ARTICLE: "Breakout Novel Intensive (BONI) Workshop," NightScripts, TNWC (05/16).

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NIKKI HANNA: ARTICLE: "Nik's Picks: 'William Bernhardt Workshop,'" NightScripts, TNWC (06/16); ARTICLE: "Nimrod Conference for Readers and Writers," NightScripts, TNWC (08/16). ANNIE HEARTFIELD HARTZOG: ARTICLE: "The Old Ways," This Land, This Land Press (07/16). DONNA WELCH JONES: ARTICLE: "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," NightScripts, TNWC (05/16). JACKIE KING: ARTICLE: "Writer, Teacher, and TNW Member Extraordinaire: Peggy Fielding (1927-2014)," NightScripts, TNWC (07/16). JIM LAUGHTER: ARTICLE: "My Tool Kit," NightScripts, TNWC (05/16); ARTICLE: "How Did That Happen?" NightScripts, TNWC (06/16); ARTICLE: "Observation," NightScripts, TNWC (07/16); ARTICLE: "Time," NightScripts, TNWC (08/16). RADINE TREES NEHRING: ARTICLE: "Defining Yourself as a Writer," NightScripts, TNWC (05/16). DAWN ORWIG: ARTICLE: "Researching Your Subject," NightScripts, TNWC (08/16). CHARLES W. SASSER: NOVEL: The Collective: The Chains We Revere, Publisher TBA (2017). CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: 'Few' or 'Less,'" NightScripts, TNWC (05/16); ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: 'Few' or 'Little,'" NightScripts, TNWC (06/16); ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: 'Number' or 'Amount,'" NightScripts, TNWC (07/16); ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: 'of' and 'ly,'" NightScripts, TNWC (08/16). BILL WETTERMAN: ARTICLE: "When Choosing a Path to Publication, Count the Cost," NightScripts, TNWC (05/16); "Tulsa NightWriters Mini-Conference,"

NightScripts, TNWC (06/16); ARTICLE: "Growth, Passion, Craft," NightScripts, TNWC (07/16); ARTICLE: "A Letter from Your Vice President," NightScripts, TNWC (08/16).

### **New Books & Novels:**

DEBORAH CAMP: E-BOOK: Solitary Horseman, Amazon Digital Services LLC (08/16). RADINE TREES NEHRING: NOVEL: A Portrait to Die For, Dark Oak Mysteries (04/16). CHARLES W. SASSER: NOVEL: Shadow Mountain, Deadly Niche Press (Summer 2016); NOVEL: Night Fighter, Skyhorse Publishing (11/16); NOVEL: Blood in the Hills, Lyons Press (2017).

### **Honors & Awards:**

JULIE KIMMEL-HARBAUGH: Winter 2016 WOW! Flash Fiction Contest, FLASH FICTION: Finalist, Going Home.

### **Professional Activities:**

DENIECE ADSIT: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. LYNNETTE BENNETT: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. JANET BROOK: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. DEREK BULLARD: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts; Interviewed by NightScripts as June's Featured NightWriter. MARY COLEY: Participated in a book signing with fellow Oklahoma Book Award

finalists and winners at Full Circle Bookstore, in Oklahoma City, OK, on June 23. ROBERT COOPER: Interviewed by NightScripts as July's Featured NightWriter. DAVID CRASS: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. MARK DARRAH: Spoke to the Tulsa NightWriters Club on July 19. The topics were "Recognizing Clichés and How to Avoid Them" and "Writing in Active Voice"; Will conduct a reading and book signing from A Catalogue of Common People, on August 20, at 11:00 a.m., at the Pawnee Public Library. DANA FRIDAY: Interviewed by NightScripts as August's Featured NightWriter. REX GRIFFIN: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. NIKKI HANNA: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. ANNIE HEARTFIELD HARTZOG: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. SARA SUE HOKLOTUBBE: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. MORGAN JACOBY: Contributed to "Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters," authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. SALLY JADLOW: Taught poetry writing at Omaha Wordsowers on April 29-30; Contributed to "Words of Wisdom

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for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. DONNA WELCH JONES: Arranged a Giveaway on Goodreads for the Tulsa NightWriters Club anthology, A River of Stories, from April 19-May 9. JULIE KIMMEL-HARBAUGH: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts; Contributed a list of “Tips for Finding Time to Write” for the August issue of NightScripts. MIKE KOCH: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. JIM LAUGHTER: Interviewed by ClimateWire magazine, in Washington, D.C., about his book Polar City Red, in connection with a story about the global effects of climate change; Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. RENEE’ LA VINESS: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. TAMMY MULLINS: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. RAE NEAL: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom

for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. RADINE TREES NEHRING: Had a release party at Nightbird Books in Fayetteville, AR, on May 7; Spoke and conducted a book signing at Books in Bloom, at the Crescent Hotel, in Eureka Springs, AR, on May 15; Had a release party at Trolley Line Books in Rogers, AR, on May 28; Since then, Radine has been busy as a guest on many blogs and on Sirius, Blog Talk, and other radio programs. DAWN ORWIG: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. CHARLES W. SASSER: Went on an assignment in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, for a magazine article on wolves. CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. CARLA STEWART: Participated in a book signing with fellow Oklahoma Book Award finalists and winners at Full Circle Bookstore, in Oklahoma City, OK, on June 23. BARBARA THOMAS: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. BILL WETTERMAN: Contributed to “Words of Wisdom for Writers from Tulsa NightWriters,” authored by Donna

Welch Jones, in the May issue of NightScripts. BETH WILSON: Interviewed by NightScripts as May’s featured NightWriter.

### Club News:

THE TULSA NIGHTWRITERS CLUB will host a free “Craft of Writing” Mini-Conference on November 5 at Martin Regional Library, in Tulsa, OK, from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Began its annual membership drive in July; Announced the guidelines and submission deadline for the 2016 TNWC Flash Fiction Contest, at the July meeting; At the July Officer Board meeting, the Board established a TNWC Hall of Fame and elected two inductees: the late Peggy Fielding and another club member, who will be announced at the August meeting; Welcomed six new members from May-July: Sally Godwin, Nathan Hill, Tierney James, Lynnetta Ruble, Mike Staniford, and Aaron Steiner.

## Writers of the Purple Sage

### Acceptances & Sales:

Mary Ellen Main, articles published in the Herald Democrat newspaper, Beaver County: (Homegrown Series) "This Old House" (5/5/16), "My Home Town" (5/12/16), "Glimpses of School Days" (5/19/16), "A Beautiful Heart" (6/9/16)

