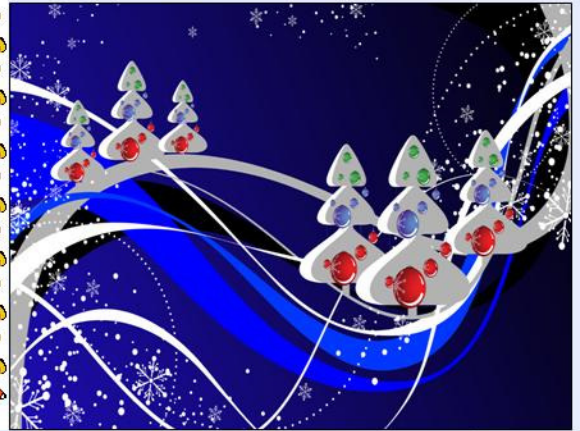


THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

DECEMBER 2009 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 3

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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**If you don't  
have the time  
to read, you  
don't have the  
time or the  
tools to write.**

Stephen King

Cover photo © Catalina Cirimpei 2008

The *Report* is the quarterly newsletter of Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. It is published each March, July, September and December. Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Submission guidelines are found on the OWFI web site at [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org).

Send submissions to

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**DO NOT SEND ADDRESS  
CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL  
OFFICE.**

Dan Case

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## OWFI 2010 Conference *Write Every Day Conference!* Keynote Speaker is set.

*New York Times* bestselling author Dana Stabenow will headline our 2010 conference.

Dana Stabenow's first mystery, *A Cold Day for Murder*, the first in her Kate Shugak series, won an Edgar in 1993. Her first Thriller, *Blindfold Game*, hit the *New York Times* bestselling list in 2006. The seventeenth Kate Shugak novel, *A Night Too Dark*, will be out in February, 2010.

Dana is best known for her settings in the Alaskan wilderness and the realistic, down-to-earth characters (dog mushers, miners, hunters, trappers, fishermen, bush pilots, pipeline workers, Park rangers, Aleuts, Athabascans, Tlingits) that populate her novels. Dana just signed a contract with a production company that will be turning her Kate Shugak novels into a television series. Find out more about Dana Stabenow on her website ([www.stabenow.com](http://www.stabenow.com)).

The best news about Dana Stabenow is that she will be attending the entire conference and attending workshops along with the rest of us (she'll even be hosting a buzz session!). That means you'll have plenty of opportunities to "smooze" with our keynote speaker. Dana has never been to Oklahoma and looks forward to our hospitality. If you are like me,

I always look forward to reading some of the keynote speaker's books before the conference, especially if I haven't read them before. I highly recommend any of her mysteries, both the Kate Shugak series and the Liam Campbell series. I am in the middle of reading her thriller, *Blindfold Game*, and it kept me up reading all last night.

We have a great lineup of faculty for our conference so far, including New York agents, Josh Getzler and Cherry Weiner; book editors Kate Angelella (Simon and Shuster) and Alice Crider (WaterBrook Multnomah an imprint of Random House); authors Kelly James-Enger, Jessica Burkhart, Deborah LeBlanc, Christina Katz, and our very own Margaret Daley and K.D. Wentworth. Check out the website for more.

We also have some great bonus workshops. Box Lunch workshops on Friday and Saturday will be conducted by Page Lambert (Emotional Fuel: How to Keep the Creative Fires Burning) and Linda Apple (My Recipe for Chicken Soup for the Soul). You'll want to plan on coming to the bonus Early Bird Special Workshop on Thursday evening with Kelly James-Enger who will teach us "Six-Figure Freelancing: Techniques to Help you Get There—or Just Get More Green."

I've been speaking to several writers groups in Texas the past few months and talking up our conference. I am very pleased that so many are enthusiastic about coming to Oklahoma City and taking advantage

of our conference. So don't wait. Sign up as soon as you can and make your reservations at the hotel before the Texans invade us and take up all the space. I look forward to seeing everyone at the *Write Every Day Conference!*

### Hotel Information for the *Write Every Day!* OWFI Conference 2010

**Embassy Suites  
1815 S. Meridian  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
405-682-6000**

OWFI room rate is \$109.00 per night. Up to 4 people can stay in these two-room suites. Call the hotel directly to receive these rates. Reservations must be made before April 8, 2010, but call early to book your room – rooms are usually sold out before the cutoff date. Should you need to cancel your reservation, you must call at least 72 hours prior to your arrival date or the first night suite/tax will be charged to your credit card.

More information can be found at: <http://www.embassysuites.com>  
Search for "Embassy Suites Oklahoma City - Will Rogers World Airport"

**Reservations must be made before April 8, 2010 to receive the OWFI Conference rates. When making reservations, make sure to tell them this is for the OWFI conference.**

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## Read This Book!

# Sweeping Up Glass

By Carolyn Wall, OWFI member

Kristen Lamb, Book Review Co-Editor

Carolyn Wall's *Sweeping Up Glass* is a pure narrative delight that grabs hold of the heartstrings and doesn't let go. Carolyn does an amazing job of weaving together story, character, triumph and tragedy to create an intricate human tapestry filled with all the shades, hues and subtleties of real life. Her rich storytelling voice captures the imagination and transports the reader almost instantly to another place and time.

Like all novels, however, *Sweeping Up Glass* was not without weaknesses. In my opinion, Carolyn's writing strength rests in her characters, and the minor weaknesses I found lay in the plot. First, it was not made very clear how the inciting incident was linked to the story's antagonist and the final resolution. I was never sure what action prompted the villain, after so many years, to begin slaughtering the wolves of Big Foley Mountain. Also, the ending, although extremely good, was not, in my opinion, adequately foreshadowed.

I feel that Carolyn did an unbelievable job making the reader care about the story's protagonist, Olivia, but the climax of the book had more to do with minor players who did not appear for long lengths of time after the first half of the novel. Also, Olivia's mother Ida, a tragically evil and complex character, for

me, was never fully resolved. The novel also had some really brilliant twists, but like the ending, I felt they could have been better foreshadowed without losing any of the surprise. And finally, Carolyn employed some very powerful symbols—the wolves, the quilts, the earth—that could have been brought more to the forefront and left less to subtle interpretation.

**Carolyn is such a strong writer that any flaws melt away in the richness of her story and voice. All of her characters were poignant and real with lives and dramas distinctively their own. One could pluck any one of the character's arcs from this novel, no matter how minor the player, and write an entirely new story with just as much depth.**

The greatest part about this novel was that I really had to work hard to find any faults. In fact, I had to go back and look for them I was so taken with the narrative. Carolyn is such a strong writer that any flaws melt away in the richness of her story and voice. All of her characters were poignant and real with lives and dramas distinctively their own. One could pluck any one of the character's arcs from this novel, no matter how minor the player, and write an entirely new story with just as much depth.

As an editor for years, I frequently find it difficult to enjoy reading. Yet, *Sweeping Up Glass* is a modern day classic and one of the few books I've read that allowed me to take off my editor's hat and just simply enjoy a good story. If one is in the market for a great read with a classic feel combined with the pacing of contemporary fiction, *Sweeping Up Glass* is a perfect choice.

**Kristen Lamb is an award-winning writer who teaches *Marketing and Social Media for Writers*. She has worked as a freelance writer/editor for eight years, runs the *Warrior Writer Boot Camp* for the Fort Worth Freelance Writers Network, and also serves on the board of directors for the DFW Writers' Workshop.**



**Famous Author Dinner**  
Friday evening, April 30, 2010

In addition to our keynote speaker at the Friday evening dinner, Amy Shojai will present a tribute to the "famous authors" among OWFI members who have succeeded in having a book published in the previous year calendar (2009). To keep the program to a reasonable length, we're limiting it to the first 25 authors who submit the required information (below), and to only one title per author. If we have more than 25 responses, preference will be given to authors published by traditional, royalty publishing houses.

**You must be registered at the conference and present at the banquet to be included. Submit the following information to Amy Shojai ([shojai@verizon.net](mailto:shojai@verizon.net)) by March 15, 2010:**

1. Title of book, publisher, author's legal name and pseudonym, if used.
2. Brief author bio, not more than 25 words.
3. Any awards, great cover quotes, en-

(Continued on page 5)

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## Once Around the Web

# Facebook Tools For Writers

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)), the social networking site for connecting with friends and family, offers more for us as writers than procrastination-encouraging games and applications and chatting with your long-lost best friend from fifth grade. Connecting and reconnecting are important, too. We might want/need someone from Barstow, California, or Fort Benning, Georgia, to buy a magazine with our article in it or our new book.

In addition to the traditional way of connecting via Facebook, there are two more tools you should know about: Groups and fan pages. (Yes, I know some of you already know about these.)

**Groups:** A group on Facebook allows for interaction and discussion between anyone who opts in. Group members can post links, pictures, and videos at the group owners' discretion. People can also leave messages and announcements on the group "wall." Group administrators also have the option to create group events.

For example, there is an OWFI group on Facebook. (Use the search function and look for "Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc." The actual URL is rather long.) By the time this *Report* is out, there will be information up about the upcoming conference.

To create a group, when you have logged in to Facebook, click on the "Applications" tab in the lower left corner. Go to the "Groups" option. When the groups page opens, in the upper right corner, above "My Groups" is a button that reads "Create a New Group." The next page that opens asks you for the group information, including name, description, type of group, etc. After you have created the group, it walks you through additional steps and other options.

**Fan Pages:** Honestly, fan pages are

very similar to groups. They allow for photo albums as opposed to individual photo postings. With fan pages, there are more options to promoting the page on Facebook. If you have an office location with certain hours, you can also choose whether or not to include that information.

There is also an option to let you receive updates to your fan page (presumably made by fans if that option is enabled) to your mobile phone. One difference between a group and a fan page is that people can post reviews on fan pages.

Creating a fan page is both the same and different from creating a group. From the "Applications" tab, select "Ads and Pages." Don't pay any attention to the advertising options that open up. Just click the "Pages" link. Click the gray button to "Create Page." After you select which type of page (local; brand, product, or organization; or band, artist, or public figure) and name your page, Facebook walks you through setting up the page.

Here are some tips for creating pages: As writers, you want to select the "Band, artist, or public figure" option and choose "writer" from the drop-down list. This is not something you can go back and edit later. Also, you cannot include "Fan of..." in the title of your page since Facebook adds that automatically.

As of right now, Facebook does not offer customizable domains for groups or fan pages as they do for individual members. According to site news, that is coming soon.

Facebook warrants exploring to see how you can make it work for your own promotional efforts, whether you have a book out or not. Whether you decide to create a group or a fan page, remember to include all speaking engagements,

book signings, and other events you will be attending in the "Events" section that is provided. You might be surprised at who shows up.

**Jen Nipps is a member of the Tulsa Night-writers and Web Writing Wonders. In order to answer some questions asked of her, she created her own fan page. It can be found by searching "Books and Articles by Jen Nipps" on Facebook.**



*(Continued from page 4)*

dorsements or other honors your book received.

4. An author photo and the cover image from your book. Color images preferred. Send electronically if possible (jpeg attachment) or mail hard copies to Amy at the address below. (Amy will do her best to return hard copies.)

5. A brief synopsis or excerpt from the book (think jacket blurb) not to exceed 50 words. Other books you published in the same year may be mentioned here.

6. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Read your synopsis/blurb to a friend to get feedback. The blurb should make people want to read your book! Include a note about the book's genre to help Amy interpret the text to best advantage.

7. E-mail to [shojai@verizon.net](mailto:shojai@verizon.net) with "AUTHOR" in subject line; or snail-mail to Amy Shojai, OWFI Author Presentation, PO Box 1904, Sherman, TX 75091-1904. Questions? Telephone her at 903.868.1022.

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The Doctor is:

**In**

Out

# An Christmas from the Book Doctor!

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

Merry, Merry to all you writers! Lists of cooking ingredients, lists of gifts, lists of contest entries . . . yes, that February deadline is only a few weeks away. So after the ornaments are tucked away, load up those manuscript files and start tap-tapping your next OWFI winner.

## FREE CRITIQUE!

Here's an extra incentive and my gift to you this Christmas: Send me the first ten pages of any entry, and I'll give you a freebie critique. As long as you include an SASE for the return of your pages and put the pages in the proper format (DOUBLE-SPACE, COURIER FONT, 12-POINT), I'll be happy to give you an objective view of your entry. Address and contact info is below.

Just remember: the sooner I receive them, the sooner you'll receive feedback. For 2010, I'm wishing all of my writer friends productive and smile-filled days of writing and publishing!

**Ed. Note: The Book Doctor's one-on-one sessions at the OWFI conference are always booked solid, so take advantage of Robyn's generosity!**



Robyn Conley is the author of more than ten published books, numerous articles and has for more than four years written a life-style column

"The Country Common-tater."

As a book doctor, she has counseled thousands of writers in one-on-one critiques and lectured at various workshops and conferences all across the United States. Her clients' manuscripts have won awards, earned income, and become published after passing under Robyn's red pen. Her editing credits are extensive and include authors who have gone on to be published in nearly all genres. Robyn has also taught courses at Texas Christian University, University of Texas at Arlington, and Howard County Junior College.

*Why We Write:*

## Stealing for his Writing: The Mike Jones Story

Nita Beshear, Features Editor

OWFI member, Mike Jones of Ardmore, like many writers, steals from other authors. Oh, he doesn't steal their words, or even their ideas, except maybe unconsciously. No, what Mike steals is more important.

Mike, a member of OWFI affiliate group, Arbuckle Creative Writers, prefers to write plays or short stories. He says, "I write more for pleasure and to learn more about the craft of writing. Of course making a buck or two would be great." And he has made a buck or two.

He's been published in, "The Screaming Eagle," (a magazine for members and former members of the 101st Airborne Division) and in an anthology by the Southern Oklahoma Writers. The play "The Buttermilk Conspiracy," which he co-authored has been performed at the Goddard Center in Ardmore, at the OCTA-FEST competition in Norman, and in Ringling Oklahoma. He hopes to have more of his plays performed on stage.

He didn't begin writing until adulthood, and started with nostalgia pieces. He wanted to put on paper, in story form the things and people who were significant to him while growing up. Out of those nostalgia pieces his writing grew. Today Mike focuses on short stories and playwrighting. Look for a play by Mike Jones to be performed in your area in the near future. Now that he's retired from both the US Postal system, and the florist business, Mike plans to spend more time writing with an eye toward having his plays performed. Maybe

While Mike is busy writing plays and short stories what about the burglarizing of other authors? What Mike Jones

**A rejection is nothing more than a necessary step in the pursuit of success.**

Bo Bennett

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steals from other authors is more valuable than their words or ideas and is available for the taking to all of us. He steals their muse.

He says, "When the muse temporarily eludes me, I like to pick up a good book and read it. If it's a wonderful book that pulls you in and won't let you go it can be very inspiring especially when you realize another writer created this experience for you the reader. Reading a good well written book that entertains and takes you to amazing places emotionally and physically can be a great inspiration for a writer."

Where do you draw your writing inspiration? What helps you keep you seat glued to the chair and your hands on the keyboard? Inquiring writers want to know, what makes you write?



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## DON'T MISS THIS BOOK!

# One Writer's Beginnings by Eudora Welty

By Annie Withers, Book Review Co-Editor

This little book should have a warning label printed on the cover, like cigarettes. The author enticed me to follow her to such deep levels by stimulating my own memories, I was afraid I couldn't find my way back. It will take days or weeks to process all the chunks she helped me dig out.

Pulitzer Prize winner Eudora Welty lived nearly 100 years and died July 23, 2001. Her birth and death were in Jackson, Mississippi where she spent most of her life, the ends separated by college and work in Wisconsin and New York. But it was in Mississippi that she developed her multi-faceted awareness and rich lyrical voice often found in Southern women writers. It was a secure place where her well-educated parents tried to give their children the best they could offer.

She shows us where her creative insights started and developed by outlining three categories – Listening, Learning to See, and lastly, Finding a Voice.

**Listening:** This is the most basic building block, likely because it starts in early childhood. Her first experience with books was being read to. Remembering the first time she realized *people* wrote books, she was startled and disappointed they weren't natural wonders. And as a child she loved the alphabet, how the letters looked in their ornate script on the pages of her picture books. She particularly loved the fancy 'O' in *Once upon a time*.

When she actually started reading, she could *hear* each word as her eyes touched them on the page, a voice saying it silently to her, and she assumed all writers read as listeners. The sound of what falls on the page begins the process of testing it for truth. "I have always trusted this voice," she said.

There were many opportunities to hear people talk – mostly her parents'

friends. Sunday drives to the country in their car gave her hours to sit between her mother and her friend in the back seat, the husbands of course in the front. "I didn't always understand the meaning but I could hear the drama." She loved the woman's stories, "because they were always told in scenes."

Another riveting description is about the sessions with Fannie, 'the old black sewing woman' who came to the house to make clothes for the girls. This independent lady took over their house for several days each year. And over the noise of the clacking sewing machine and with her mouth full of straight pins, she talked nonstop without dropping a single one. She tacked darts, shaped sleeves, and spun Eudora around to do hems all the while spreading everyone's secrets. Fannie went from house to house, "into the bosom of the town" gathering many juicy tales, then repeating them.

Eudora was delighted to hear of the private relationships, especially those that weren't suitable, often in spite of Mrs. Welty's gentle protests. Rapt attention helped her begin to understand human uniqueness and relationships.

"Long before I wrote stories, I learned to listen for stories rather than listen to stories," saying it was more acute. "It's like waiting for a mouse to come out of its hole." Learning to listen for the unspoken word as well as the spoken word was critical. And in order to recognize the truth when she heard it, she also had to recognize a lie.

**Learning to See:** She describes the experiences that fed her visual awareness. Her father loved photography and taught her to watch and wait for good shots, to develop a sense of timing.

They also did lots of traveling by car and train where she collected many visual memories.

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**Finding a Voice:** Her last category is the most complex and you really need to wander through her words yourself to grasp the depth of her lesson. She says that writing fiction has developed in her an abiding respect for the unknown in a human life time – a sense of where to look for threads, how to follow, how to connect, “how to find in the thick of the tangle, what clear line persists.”

When I finished visiting her life these few hours, with all its energy and simple elegance, and closed the back cover, I remembered the date of her death. I couldn't help feeling relieved for her that she didn't live 2 months longer, till September 23, 2001.

This book has only 100 pages but I'm glad it's one I own because I'll return to it again and again.

**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.**



In creating, the only hard thing is to begin: a grass blade's no easier to make than an oak.

James Russell Lowell

## Bonus Workshops for the 2010 Write Every Day Conference!

**OWFI offers several extra sessions for those attendee who want to maximize their experience. A pre-conference takes place Thursday evening prior to the start of the conference. Both Friday and Saturday have additional noon workshops that include a box lunch. There are additional fees for these. See the conference registration form on page 10 for details.**

**Six-Figure Freelancing: Techniques to Help you Get There—or Just Get More Green Thursday Evening.**

Kelly James-Enger escaped from the law in 1997, but don't worry—she's no fugitive. Since then, the former attorney has maintained a successful freelance career, writing for more than 50 national magazines. She's the author of books including *Six-Figure Freelancing: The Writer's Guide to Making More Money* (Random House, 2005) and *Ready, Aim, Specialize! Create your own Writing Specialty and Make More Money*, second edition (Marion Street Press, 2008) as well as a popular speaker on topics ranging from health to stress management and goal-setting. In this session, you'll learn new techniques to command higher rates, work more efficiently, develop and maintain client relationships, and break into new areas. Whether you dream or hitting the six-figure mark or simply want to be paid more for your work, you'll come away with new insights about how to maximize your writing time and boost your bottom line in the process. Visit [www.becomebodywise.com](http://www.becomebodywise.com) for more information about her.

**My Recipe for Chicken Soup for the Soul, Friday Lunch**

Linda Apple is the author of *Inspire! Writing from the Soul* (Buoy Up Press, 2009). She will reveal the secrets to her success in selling dozens of inspirational essays and stories, including ten stories to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series. Linda says, “There is a flame inside of every writer called purpose with passion. But this combination doesn't necessarily make an inspirational writer. So, what is an inspirational writer? One whose passion and purpose are motivated by the desire to encourage, to help, to heal the reader. Inspirational authors write with their readers in mind. However, just writing with the readers in mind isn't enough to ‘connect’ with them. Our stories must unlock their memories and engage them. The best way to do this is by using the Creative Nonfiction Method.”

**Emotional Fuel: How to Keep the Creative Fires Burning, Saturday Lunch**

Page Lambert has been teaching writing workshops for 11 years, in over 150 venues in the U.S. and British Columbia. She often teaches “across the genres” because, whether she's talking about narrative nonfiction, memoir, or fiction, she believes that all good writing starts at the emotional root of the human experience. Page's speaking style is intimate – an emotionally “up close” experience with the audience. Whether speaking about the 12-month trip around the world she took as a teenager, rearing her son and daughter on a small ranch in Wyoming, how her father gave birth to the financial planning industry, the month she spent alone in a remote mountain cabin, or floating down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, she will invite you inside both her joy and sorrow.

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# OWFI CONTEST SPONSORSHIP

Every year, OWFI members, affiliate member groups and friends of OWFI make the conference a success by choosing to sponsor an OWFI Contest Category. Sponsorships pay the cost of awarding contest prizes for one category or half of a category. Such contributions help make a great conference better by insuring the contest is self-supporting. This keeps registration fees some of the lowest in the country for any major writers conference and allows the registration fees to go towards expenses for bringing in quality speakers.

A contribution of \$105 sponsors any of the 32 OWFI writing contest categories. Sponsoring individual or group may request a specific category, or sponsor a category in memory of an individual. All such requests will be honored if possible. You or your group may also sponsor half a category for \$52.20, however

special requests will not apply to half-sponsorships.

You or your group will get recognition for your sponsorship. OWFI is a non-profit organization and your donations may be tax deductible.

Please send your contest sponsorship donation and a copy of this form—or the equivalent information—to the OWFI treasurer, Barbara Shepherd, at the address below.

Make checks to Okla. Writers Federation Inc. Also, to be sure your group is properly credited, please send a copy of the form below to Gayleen Rabakukk, by e-mail if possible, at [Gayleen@rabakukk.com](mailto:Gayleen@rabakukk.com). (Mailing address 2214 Hummingbird Lane, Edmond, OK 73034)

**Mail checks to  
Barbara Shepherd  
OWFI, PO Box 54302  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154  
[owfiwriters@gmail.com](mailto:owfiwriters@gmail.com)**

*(Continued from page 18)*

ference, and unsold books must be picked up at the end of the autographing session Saturday afternoon. If the remaining books are not picked up, the author will be billed shipping to have them returned.

**Option No. 3:** Author provides and sells his or her own books from the book room, conducting all sales and providing your own change. Neither Best of Books nor OWFI will receive any portion of those sales.

Authors may ship their books directly to the Embassy Suites to arrive between **April 22 through April 30**, addressed to: OWFI Book Room, Embassy Suites Hotel, 1815 S. Meridian, OKC, 73108, attn. Debi Neuman.

Do not contact Best of Books directly. Contact me: Doug Kelley, 2500 Barnes, Pocola, OK 74902; Phone: 918-436-7103; E-mail: [dougkjas@earthlink.net](mailto:dougkjas@earthlink.net) and I will coordinate it. Send the following information: Author name; Title; ISBN; Publisher; Release date

Finally, please remember that Best of Books is in the book selling business, and despite the many books sold during the conference they don't make a great deal of money considering all the work they put in. Please treat their staff with the respect and courtesy with which they treat us.

Name of group: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person + e-mail & phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  Full category, \$105  Two categories! Thanks!  
 Half category, \$52.50  Non-specific donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special instructions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Rcvd date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Full \_\_\_\_\_ PreCon. \_\_\_\_\_ F-S \_\_\_\_\_ F-L \_\_\_\_\_ F-B \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Write Every Day

## 2010 Okla. Writers Federation Conference

Embassy Suites Hotel, Oklahoma City  
(Map on OWFI website or at [www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com))

NAME (type or print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_  
STATUS (circle): ATTENDEE, JUDGE, SPEAKER, OWFI OFFICER, SCHOLARSHIP, VEG-MEAL

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_  
Members at Large - Indicate (MAL)

### FULL REGISTRATION (includes Fri/Sat seminars and two banquets)

Postmarked by 3-15-10..... @ \$125 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Postmarked after 3-15-10 ..... @ \$150 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS:

Friday Banquet (ticket name \_\_\_\_\_) @ \$ 35 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Banquet (ticket name \_\_\_\_\_) @ \$ 35 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### SINGLE DAY SEMINARS (banquets NOT included)

Friday Seminars only ..... @ \$ 65 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Seminars only ..... @ \$ 65 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Extra WORKSHOPS (minimum 25 or up to 60 participants, NO WALK-INS)

Thursday 7-8:30 p.m. *Pre-Con Workshop (no meal) – Six-Figure Freelancing: Techniques to Help you  
Get There—or Just Get More Green* with Kelly James-Enger..... @ \$ 15 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday Box Lunch Workshop – *My Recipe for Chicken Soup for the Soul*  
with Author Linda Apple..... @ \$ 25 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Box Lunch Workshop - *Emotional Fuel: How to Keep the Creative Fires Burning*  
with Author Page Lambert ..... @ \$ 25 each x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amt. enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full refunds granted only if requested on/before April 1, 2010 (less applicable PayPal fees);  
thereafter, a \$25 processing fee assessed for ANY refund granted.  
Mail completed form and check or money order (no cash) payable to OWFI to  
**Barbara Shepherd, OWFI, P.O. Box 54302, Oklahoma City, OK 73154**  
Or register and pay online at our website [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org); under “Store” choose conference.

**HOTEL: Embassy Suites, 1815 South Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108, 405-682-6000**  
Register no later than 4-8-2010 for the OWFI rate of \$109—1,2,3 or 4 guests per room. Breakfast and Happy Hour  
included! **IMPORTANT: Our Group Rate code is OWF.**

## Membership Form

Valid from October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

New members may join at any time of the year; however, dues are not prorated.

#### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

\_\_\_\_\_ **MEMBER AT LARGE - (MAL) \$25.00**

Gives you the status of independent OWFI member.

**OR,**

\_\_\_\_\_ **AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBER**

You will be a member of one of the many individual writers' organizations that have met specific requirements to be accepted into OWFI.

**\$15.00** - Discounted if paid before November 30, 2009

**\$20.00** - If paid after November 30, 2009

Affiliate Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

What position do you hold (if any) in this affiliate? \_\_\_\_\_

Some affiliate clubs charge an additional membership. Check with the affiliate club's treasurer for more information. Visit the OWFI website for a list of affiliates: <http://www.owfi.org>

### PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your check or money order (made out to **OWFI**) to:

**Barbara Shepherd**  
c/o OWFI  
PO Box 54302  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a New Membership [ ] or a Renewal [ ]. Is this an address change? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Other): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive the newsletter as: **Hard Copy** [ ] **Email** [ ]

# Write Every Day Conference! Speakers



**JOSH GETZLER**, an agent with Writers House, holds an MBA and once owned a minor league baseball team. He is particularly into foreign and historical thrillers and mysteries. “Send me your ruthless doges and impious cardinals...and your farmhouse cozies! Give me atmosphere, let me learn something about another time or another place (or both), and kill off nasty Uncle Mortimer in the process--I'll be yours!” He considers middle grade and YA mystery or adventure series, but not so much fantasy, and no picture books. In nonfiction, he specializes in business/finance, history and sports.

**TERRY BURNS** writes inspirational fiction and is an agent with Hartline Literary (<http://www.hartlineliterary.com>). As a writer he has 30 books in print including 9 novels. A Young Adult entitled *Beyond the Smoke* came out from BJU Press January 2009 and won the 2009 Will Rogers Medallion, a historical fiction entitled *Saints Roost* just came out from Mountainview Press, just finished ghostwriting a novel for a publisher, and a series that began with *Mysterious Ways* from River Oak Publishing (the series bears that name). The second, *Brothers Keeper* came out Feb 1, 2006 and *Shepherd's Son* came out January 1, 2007. Other fiction includes *Trails of the Dime Novel*, a trade paperback from Echelon Press, *Don't I Know You?* and *To Keep a Promise* from Fictionworks. He has published over 200 articles and short stories. A popular speaker at workshops across the country, a bookstore of his available works as well as a regular blog can be found at [www.terryburns.net](http://www.terryburns.net). As an agent Terry says "I'm looking for a good book, well written, aimed at a market that looks promising, and where I feel I have the contacts appropriate to be able to sell the book in that market, a unique story



**ALICE CRIDER**, associate editor at WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group, began her publishing career in 1998 at Cook Communications, where she helped develop Sunday school curriculum before joining the adult trade book department. She moved to Alive Communications Literary Agency in 2001, and subsequently joined the editorial team at Waterbrook Press in 2004. Recent projects under women's non-fiction include inspirational story, memoir, relationship, devotional, parenting, marriage, and spiritual growth. Her favorites include faith-in-action stories that deliver authentic experience and inspiration, and messages that enhance relationships and break through to life change.

**CHRISTINA KATZ** is the author of *Get Known Before the Book Deal, Use Your Personal Strengths to Grow an Author Platform* and *Writer Mama, How to Raise a Writing Career Alongside Your Kids* for Writer's Digest Books. She has written hundreds of articles for national, regional, and online publications, presents at literary and publishing events around the country, and is a monthly columnist for the *Willamette Writer*. Katz is the founder of #platformchat, The Writer Mama Back-to-School Giveaway, *Writers on the Rise*, and The Northwest Author Series. She holds an MFA in writing from Columbia College Chicago and a BA from Dartmouth College. A “gentle taskmaster” to her hundred or so students each year, Katz channels over a decade of professional writing experience into success strategies that help writers get on track and get published.

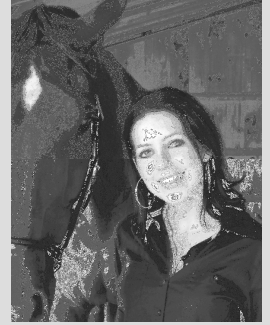


On January 1, 1997, **KELLY JAMES-ENGER** escaped from the law, but don't worry—she's not a fugitive. After five years as an attorney, she changed careers to become a fulltime freelance journalist, eventually writing both nonfiction and fiction books in addition to launching a successful speaking career.



While she's covered a variety of subjects, she specializes in health, fitness, and wellness, and has written for more than 50 national magazines including *Family Circle*, *Health*, *Parents*, *Redbook*, *Self*, and *Woman's Day*. She's also an ACE-certified personal trainer.

**JESSICA BURKHART** was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1987. Jess attended public and private school until the age of thirteen, when she decided to homeschool. She started writing for publication at fourteen and had her first essay published in *Teen Ink*. At sixteen in 2005, Jess enrolled at Lake City Community College (Lake City, Florida). While in school, Jess actively pursued freelancing and soon racked up dozens of credits in several magazines. In spring 2006, Jessica transferred to Florida State University. During the fall of her senior year in 2006, Jessica heard about National Novel Writing Month—the contest that challenged writers to compose a 50,000-word novel in 30 days. Jessica signed up and a month later, she had a rough draft of *Take the Reins*.



In April 2007, Jessica graduated magna cum laude from FSU with a BA in English and a humanities minor. That May, her agent sold her first novel as part of a four-book series to Simon & Schuster's Aladdin MIX. Jessica decided to become a full-time freelancer and author. Now, Jess has over 100 articles published in magazines such as *Girls' Life*, *Guideposts Sweet 16* and *The Writer*. Jess lives in NYC and is working hard



Award-winning and best-selling author, **DEBORAH LeBLANC**, is a business owner, a licensed death scene investigator, and has been an active paranormal investigator for over fifteen years. She's the President of the Horror Writers Association, Mystery Writers of America's Southwest Chapter, and the Writers' Guild of Acadiana. Deborah is also the founder of the LeBlanc Literacy Challenge, an annual, national campaign designed to encourage more people to read and Literacy Inc., a non-profit organization with a mission to fight illiteracy in America's teens. Her latest novel is *WATER WITCH*. For more information, visit [www.deborahleblanc.com](http://www.deborahleblanc.com) and [www.literacyinc.com](http://www.literacyinc.com)

Margaret Daley is an award winning, multi-published author in the romance genre. One of her romantic suspense books, *Hearts on the Line*, won the American Christian Fiction Writers' Book of the Year Contest. Recently she has won the Holt Medallion, Golden Quill Contest, FHL's Inspirational Readers' Choice Contest, Winter Rose Contest, and the Barclay Gold Contest. She wrote for various secular publishers before the Lord led her to the Christian romance market. She currently writes inspirational romance and romantic suspense books for the Steeple Hill Love Inspired lines. She has sold sixty-six books to date.

Margaret is currently the Volunteer Officer for ACFW. She was one of the founding members of the first ACFW local chapter, WIN in Oklahoma. She served as vice-president for two years in WIN-ACFW and is still on its board as an advisor. She has taught numerous classes for online groups, ACFW and RWA chapters. She enjoys mentoring other authors.

Until she retired last year, she was a teacher of students with special needs for twenty-seven years and volunteered with Special Olympics as a coach. She currently is on the Outreach committee at her church, working on several projects in her community.



Author Page Lambert writes about the western landscape, mentoring and guiding people who want to creatively connect more deeply with the natural world. She facilitates outdoor creative adventures, often working in partnership with other professional organizations and venues such as the Grand Canyon Field Institute, The Women's Wilderness Institute, and the Aspen Writers' Foundation.



Page's River Writing Journeys for Women with Sheri Griffith Expeditions were featured in the January, 2006 issue of Oprah's O Magazine as "One of the top six great all-girl getaways of the year!"

Also a presenter for a variety of literary and professional events, Page has conducted more than 150 workshops in the U.S. and British Columbia. She speaks on a variety of writing, motivational, and nature-related topics. Her writing workshops delve into fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Her corporate presentations focus on redis-

**More Write Every Day! Conference speakers on page 26**

# 2010 OWFI CONTEST ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND ENTRY PROCEDURES

For each entry, contestants must include a self-addressed, 9 x 12 stamped envelope (SASE), and a standard OWFI cover sheet. Contestants must pay careful attention to format and word length. To facilitate fair judging, entrants' names MAY NOT appear on the manuscript.

The annual OWFI contest is open only to paid OWFI members.

If you are not yet an OWFI member and wish to join, you may submit the membership form and your dues payment along with your contest entry form, or send it separately to the OWFI Treasurer. (Name and address are on the form). You may join as a Member-at-Large (no association with any recognized OWFI affiliate writing group) for \$25.00, or as an affiliate member for \$15.00 (\$20.00 if paying after November 30, 2009) plus any dues required by the affiliate and paid to the affiliate. Check the list of approved OWFI affiliates and their contact information at [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org).

Note: Members who join OWFI between mid October and mid February are advised to review contest information and requirements posted on this website, or photocopy all contest information from a fellow member to ensure having it well in advance of the contest deadline.

1. Entrants must be paid-up members of OWFI or full-time students (students must provide verification of student status). Membership dues are \$15 per year if paid before November 30th and \$20 if paid after November 30th for affiliate club members and \$25 for members-at-large.
2. No manuscript that has won a cash prize (1st, 2nd or 3rd) in a previous OWFI contest may be entered again — EVER.

3. Contestants who win first place in an OWFI contest category may not enter that same category the following year.
4. Unpublished entries must be unaccepted for publication at the time of submission. (If accepted by a publisher after entry, the submission will be considered valid.)
5. Electronically published novels for the trophy awards must be hard copied before being sent to the category chair.
6. Judges may not enter contests that they are judging.
7. Category Chairs may not enter category they chair.
8. If entries are co-authored, both authors must be OWFI members. This will be considered "one" entrant.
9. Entrants may submit one manuscript per category. No manuscript may be entered in more than one category.

## ENTRY PROCEDURES

10. Entrants must pay a \$20 NONRE-FUNDABLE entry fee, which covers administrative costs and awards. This entitles participants to enter as many categories as they want (see #9 above).
11. Manuscripts must be submitted to the appropriate Category Chair.
12. Entries must be postmarked by February 01, 2010. OWFI is not responsible for entries lost or delayed in the mail.
13. Mail all entries flat, no folds. Folded manuscripts or entries in envelopes smaller than 9" x 12" will be disqualified.

## MS PREPARATION & FORMAT

14. All unpublished manuscripts must be editor-ready. That means \*typed and doubled spaced\* on one side of 8½" x 11" white paper. Poetry may be singled spaced. Book sample chapters must also

be double-spaced but "front/back matter" such as synopsis/overviews, table-of-contents, and chapter outlines should follow industry standard (double-spaced, single-spaced or combinations thereof). Play, film, or TV scripts should follow industry-standard formats. Use an easy-to-read 12-point font such as Times Roman or Courier that results in approximately 250 words per page (about 25 lines per page). Manuscripts using small print which violate these conditions will be disqualified. Fancy fonts are not allowed. Clear photocopies or computer printouts (laser, ink-jet, or near-letter-quality dot matrix) are acceptable.

15. For ALL ENTRIES in unpublished categories (books, short works, and poetry): In the upper right hand corner of the first page, type the category number. Beneath the category number (upper right hand corner of the first page) type one of the following:

- \* Number of lines (for poetry entries)
  - \* Number of pages entered (for book-length prose entries)
  - \* Word count for short works of prose (short stories, articles, etc.). Calculate using word processor word count or average 10 words per line, 25 lines per page.
  - \* Specific genre (see category descriptions) in multi-genre categories-- optional but highly recommended
16. Entries over the maximum length or under the minimum length will be disqualified.

17. No author's name, pen name or other author identification may appear on any manuscript page. Do not submit a manuscript in which your name is blacked out, whited out, cut out or covered with tape.
18. A completed copy of the Cover Sheet must be attached to each submission.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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sion with a paper clip (do not staple). The sheet must include: Category name, manuscript title, name of club, author's name, address and phone number. If not affiliated with any OWFI club, check Member-at-Large box.

19. All entries must include a self-addressed envelope no smaller than 9" x 12." If you plan to pick up your entries at the conference, you may omit postage, but the self-addressed envelope is required. Use your own name and address for both addressee and return address on these envelopes. Paperclip the return envelope to each entry. Note: Trophy entrants who choose not to pick up their materials at the conference should provide an appropriately sized and stamped mailer for postal return of their published book entry. Entries without the proper return envelope will be disqualified and destroyed. Entries without return postage, which are not picked up at the conference, will be destroyed.

### CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- Entries or entry forms/fees postmarked after the February 01, 2010 deadline.
- Contestants or entries fail to meet the Eligibility Requirements (see above).
- Manuscripts folded or mailed in envelopes smaller than 9" x 12" (SEE EXCEPTION for Trophy entries).
- Entries sent to the wrong Category Chair, though authors may resubmit before the postmarked deadline.
- Handwritten manuscripts.
- Manuscripts which use smaller type that allows more than 250 words on a double-spaced page (approximate).
- Entries over the maximum length or under the minimum length.
- Entries that contain any author identification (name, pen name, byline, etc.) any place other than the coversheet.
- Entries without the proper return envelope (these will also be destroyed).
- Any manuscript found not to be the original work of an entrant. The Executive Board or its designated committee will screen all winning entries.

## 2010 OWFI Contest Entry Categories and Details

Following are the 33 contest categories to which you may submit your entries. The first 29 are for unpublished works (must be unaccepted for publication at the time they are entered into the contest.) Categories 30 through 33 are trophy awards given for books published in the previous year. In addition, a Crème -de-la-Crème award winner is chosen from among all the first place entries of the unpublished categories.

**Mainstream Novel: Fiction--** Mainstream is a 'genre-less' category. A successful mainstream novel tackles subjects of universal appeal, driven by characters and plots that find acceptance in the "mainstream" of readers. A mainstream novel can be a romance (Nora Roberts), a horror novel (Stephen King), fantasy (J.R.R. Tolkien), mystery/suspense (Robert Parker), historical novel (Patrick O'Brian), and even young adult (J.K. Rowling). Traditionally, this category is large and diverse. Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 45 pages (or less).

**Contemporary Romance Novel: Fiction--** Contemporary romance novels take place 'present-day,' following strong, vivid characters on their journey of discovery and emotional *conflict* to a shared and satisfying conclusion. No plot point, setting, or current event takes precedence over the one central theme: the relationship between the two main characters. The end must leave the reader believing the protagonists' love will endure the rest of their lives. This category includes romantic suspense and Christian romances. Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 45 pages (or less).

**Historical: Fiction--** Historical encompasses novels set anytime in the recent or distant past (pre-1900) including Ancient Greece, the Old West, knights

or cave people. These novels are time capsules of an era and/or culture--the setting serves as a character itself. However, "Historical romance" focuses on the *relationship between the two main characters as they fall in love*, not the world events happening around them. Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 45 pages (or less).

**Mystery/Suspense Novel: Fiction--** This category is made up of two broad categories. **Mystery Novels** are all about the 'whodunit.' These books have a strong hook/murder and a cast of suspicious and compelling characters, and readers compete to solve the puzzle before the author reveals the answer. Whether told in first person or third, mystery novels showcase the main character as he/she follows a maze of clues and incidents leading to the Big Reveal. Detective and police procedural, espionage/spies, amateur sleuth, series or stand-alones, a winning mystery novel is a tightly-woven question from beginning to end. **Suspense Novels** and related **Thrillers** also require a strong hook that often includes a murder/death involving a strong main character and compelling cast. But unlike mysteries, suspense/thrillers more often focus on 'how-dunit.' The antagonist may be an individual, organization (government), or thing (virus) known to readers from the beginning but often hidden from the protagonist. Suspense novels and thrillers may be first person but more often third person, and often employ more than one viewpoint character. The main character may be the good guy or the bad guy. Whether a medical, psychological, techno, legal, or other sub-genre, the winning suspense novel is action-driven from beginning to end. *Help the judge by noting "mystery" or "suspense/thriller"*

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# 2010 OWFI Contest Entry Categories and Details

on your mss. Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 45 pages (or less).

**Western Novel: Fiction--** Novels in this category exemplify the flavor, drama, and resilience of the people who populated the wild frontier of the western United States between the 1700's and 1800's, as well as Contemporary themes of the modern West today. Cowboys, Indians, pioneers, gun battles, ranch life, western novels can be either epic or intimate in scope. If the story revolves around the relationship between two characters that only *lived* in the old west, enter it in Category 3 **Historical Fiction**. Western novels are time capsules of an era and/or culture, the setting a character itself. Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 45 pages (or less).

**Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Novel: Fiction--**This category is made up of three totally different genres: **Science Fiction**. A novel in which futuristic technology or otherwise altered scientific principles *contribute* in a significant way to the adventures. Often the novel assumes a set of rules or principles or facts and then traces their logical consequences; **Fantasy**. Any novel that is disengaged from reality, often set in non-existent worlds, such as under the earth, in a fairyland, on the moon, etc. The characters are often something other than human or include nonhuman characters; **Horror**. fiction in any media intended to scare, unsettle or horrify the reader. Historically, the cause of the "horror" experience has necessarily been the intrusion of an evil, or occasionally misunderstood, supernatural element into everyday human experience. Any fiction with a morbid, gruesome, surreal, exceptionally suspenseful or frightening theme

has come to be called "horror." *Help the judge by noting "sci-fi" or "fantasy" or "horror" on your mss.* Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 45 pages (or less).

**Nonfiction Book: (Any non-fiction book)--**This category is made up of an enormous range of divergent genres, composed of two broad categories which typically are presented/pitched very differently in the marketplace; however, all seek to educate, inform, and/or entertain and sometimes inspire. **Narrative Non-fiction** follows the form and style of various fiction genres (think *The Perfect Storm* and *First, Do No Harm*). Depending on style, biographies and autobiographies or family histories may fall under the narrative nonfiction umbrella, which basically consists of any "true" subject told in a narrative form. The author often has a personal stake or shared experience in the story. This form requires strong viewpoint character(s), story problems and satisfying resolutions. Length of complete work parallels similar works of fiction. **General Nonfiction** more commonly presents technical, self-help, how-to information, inspirational works, or otherwise fact-based material derived from an author's own expertise, author research, and outside expert sources. Style varies widely but in all cases content must be presented in a pleasing and accessible format. Chapters typically are broken up with sidebars, bulleted lists, photos/illustrations, tables and other value-added materials and may include direct quotes, footnotes, etc. Length of finished work varies widely, from short (under 20,000 words) illustrated gift books to encyclopedia-length reference books over 150,000 words. *Help the judge by noting "narrative" or "general" on your mss.* For **Narrative Nonfiction** submit *first consecutive*

*chapters* (and prologue, if any) with full synopsis. For **General Nonfiction** submit *any representative chapters*, and include a chapter outline *OR* book proposal per industry standard (overview, market analysis/competition, table of contents, etc). Submission limited to 45 pages.

**Picture Book: Fiction or non-fiction (for ages 1-8)--** Picture books are large art-filled books for children, which are primarily targeted to ages 0-8, but are also appealing to older kids and even adults. They are designed to bring information and/or entertainment to life for young eyes, and the text must be minimal. These books have a beginning, middle, and end. Picture books do not necessarily feature a character, but when they do, he/she/it must solve his or her own problem and the problem should be something significant. Often a picture book portrays a concept such as numbers, letters, weather, colors, etc. They may also evoke a mood, such as a bedtime story. These books should be engaging and present the topic in a fresh, child-like way. In addition, the well-conceived picture book should allow plenty of room for the illustrator to portray the action without author intrusion. (Show, don't tell). Ten pages maximum.

**Middle Reader Book: Fiction or non-fiction (for ages 8-12)--**Same as Category 10, yet written for younger age children. For fiction, think *Hank The Cow Dog*. Submit first two chapters, complete synopsis or outline, prologue if any and/or nonfiction proposal (per industry standard). Submission limited to 35 pages.

**Young Adult Book: Fiction or non-fiction for ages 11 and older--** This category has the same rules as all books: for novels, write compelling stories with beginnings, middles, and ends. For nonfiction, provide accessible and interesting content that informs, inspires and/or educates. YA books are written primarily to the older teen audience (15-18). For **novels**, think *Harry Potter*; the main character should have an important problem he/she struggles to solve. The

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story should engage the reader in caring whether the character achieves that goal by story's end. These often deal with the tribulations of growing up. **Non-fiction** should focus on providing information that educates and informs the reader. Review the various novel and nonfiction book categories for further descriptions. *Help the judge by noting "novel" or "nonfiction" on your mss.* Submit first chapters and prologue, if any, with complete synopsis or outline, and/or nonfiction proposal (per industry standard). Submission limited to 35 pages (or less).

**Poetry, Unrhymed-Short--** Any theme, any style. Poetry deals with the poet's voice, with images, with ideas, but set in strict forms dictated by poetry conventions/standards and the author's imagination. Poetry may tell a story, present a single idea, paint a picture or feeling with words, etc. In all cases, it is an art form and should go beyond plain prose to evoke something deeper. **16 lines and shorter.** (Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

**Poetry, Unrhymed-Long--** Any theme, any style. Poetry deals with the poet's voice, with images, with ideas, but set in strict forms dictated by poetry conventions/standards and the author's imagination. Poetry may tell a story, present a single idea, paint a picture or feeling with words, etc. In all cases, it is an art form and should go beyond plain prose to evoke something deeper. **17 lines and longer.** (Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

**Poetry, Rhymed-Short--** Any theme, any rhyming form. Poetry deals with the poet's voice, with images, with ideas, but set in strict forms dictated by poetry conventions/standards and the author's imagination. Poetry may tell a story, present a single idea, paint a picture or feeling with words, etc. In all cases, it is an art form and should go beyond plain prose to evoke something deeper. **16 lines and shorter.** (Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

**Poetry, Rhymed-Long--** Any theme, any rhyming form. Poetry deals with the poet's voice, with images, with ideas, but set in strict forms dictated by poetry conventions/standards and the

author's imagination. Poetry may tell a story, present a single idea, paint a picture or feeling with words, etc. In all cases, it is an art form and should go beyond plain prose to evoke something deeper. **17 lines and longer.** (Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

**Short-Short Story (Adult): Fiction--** Same description as a Short Story (see summary in Category 16), but shorter. Not more than 2000 words.

**Short Story (Adult): Fiction--** A short story is a brief piece of fiction pointed and more economically detailed as to character, situation, and plot than a novel. They often revolve around a single theme, one climactic event developing a single character in depth. Narrower than a novel, a short story contains these basic elements: characters, setting, plot, conflict, resolution, climax, dialogue, protagonist, and antagonist. All short stories should present the major character with an important problem that the character must struggle to solve, and engage the reader in caring about whether the character achieves that goal by story's end. 2000 to 4000 words.

**Juvenile Short Story: Fiction--** Same description as a Short Story (Category 16), yet with a subject matter aimed at readers ages 3-7. 600 words max. For readers 8-12, 1000 words maximum. **Must put age range with word count on page one of manuscript.**

**Young Adult Short Story: Fiction--** Same description as a Short Story (Category 16), yet with subject matter aimed at readers 12-18. Limit 1200 words.

**Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Story: Fiction--** Same description as a Short Story (Category 16), yet with subject matter aimed at readers interested in the three genres represented (see Category 6 for details). *Help the judge by noting "sci-fi" or "fantasy" or "horror" on your mss.* Limit 5000 words.

**Prose Humor: Fiction or Nonfiction--** Prose humor is exactly that: a piece of writing meant to evoke humor. Everyday experiences can resonate with the reader, or common interest stories when written in a clever and entertaining voice bring forth a smile. The humor

piece should also meet the criteria of its form; column, short story, article/feature or essay. Limit 2000 words.

**Essay (Any subject of contemporary interest.)--** Essays are personal opinion pieces using narrative form to convince the reader of a certain point of view, or at least to better understand that writer's view. There are formal, fact-driven essays (George Will), and informal, lighter essays (Erma Bombeck). Bear in mind the quality and logic of the argument and how well the author uses facts, reasoning, and literary tools such as analogy to convince. Sometimes an opinion can be presented, a point of view expressed, an argument driven home, in a novel or unusual way: by telling a story or seeming to take the opposite point of view, or a fable with a clear moral at the end. Limit 2000 words.

**Play, Film, or TV Script--** One, two, or three acts. As in all categories, must be unaccepted and unproduced at time of submission. *Help the judge by noting "play" or "film" or "TV script" on your mss.* Format should follow accepted industry standards. Submit 10 to 30 consecutive pages and complete synopsis.

**Technical and/or How-To Article (Any subject.)--** This category is made up of two different genres that both aim to educate readers in different ways. Each style presents a problem, describes why it matters, then provides the solution--and sometimes offers a call to action. **Technical Articles** generally are longer, and cover a narrow but serious subject in great depth and rely on more than one expert (often including the author) to provide information that educates and informs a specific target audience. While the article may be scientific, it should also be readable and easy to understand and absorb. The reader should come away with useful information. **How-To Articles** often are shorter info-tainment (1500 words may be too long!) lighter fare that may rely on the expertise of the author alone. These articles not only educate and inform, they also provide specific and detailed steps for the reader to accomplish the stated

(Continued on page 18)



## 2010 OWFI Contest Entry Categories and Details

(Continued from page 17)

goal (how to bake cookies, make a craft, prepare a devotional, write a novel). A central theme follows through to the end. *Help the judge by noting "technical" or "how-to" on your mss.* Not more than 3000 words.

### **Feature Article: Non-fiction--**

**(Any subject.)** These are the articles listed prominently in a publication (magazine, newspaper, online, etc) covering a subject of great interest to that venue's target audience. The article must clearly have a reason to exist and not simply serve as a vehicle for advertising. Nor should it be a vehicle for presenting the author's opinion about a particular topic (For opinion pieces, see the "how-to" or "inspirational" or "essay" category descriptions). More than just-the-facts, a feature article uses a great hook, expert quotes, and a bang-up conclusion to convey its topic. The author's style or "voice" gives the piece life. Not more than 2500 words.

### **Western Article: Non-fiction--**

Whether dealing with some historical aspect/person, or just the best little dude ranch in Texas, the western article needs to always retain its distinctive flair. Refer to descriptions for technical article and feature article--and incorporate the western flavor. 1000-5000 words.

**Inspirational Article--** Should concern a *personal* experience or struggle, which provides inspiration or hope to others. A profile or personal story should touch the reader in some way and/or impart a valuable message and/or educate the reader in some way. Not necessarily religious in nature, the piece should strive to *inspire and motivate* the reader. It may be a vehicle for presenting the author's opinion about a particular topic that has personally affected him or her, and may also include a call to action. The author's style or "voice" gives

the piece life. Limit 3000 words.

### **Mazie Cox Reid Column Award--**

A column is a reoccurring piece that would commonly run with a byline and photo (think Dave Barry, Hints From Heloise). These are theme pieces—whether humorous, political, or how-to, the overall theme, author's style and column format remains the same for each installment. The column should be consistently useful, and should have a clear reason for existing. Columns usually are assigned to writers with expertise in the subject, because an author's credentials lend credence to the words. Columnists present a distinctive voice; you should feel you are getting to know the columnist and have a reason to read him or her again and again. Submit three different columns (newspaper or magazine) of no more than 600 words each.

**Confession Story: First person fiction--**The thing to remember when writing a confession is that these stories are strictly formulaic: sin, repent, reform. The characters begin with a problem (sin), go on to confront the problem (repent), then take steps to fix it (reform). While all endings needn't be happy, stories should be uplifting and encouraging. Above all, *a confession story is a short story* (see Category 16). Beginnings, middles and ends are required. Limit 5000 words.

**Nostalgic Prose--**Short stories that focus on down-home occurrences reflecting the past, these pieces evoke a fond remembrance of a time gone by, or memories of childhood. Common interest is the goal here. 1200 words maximum.

**Best Juvenile Book Award:** Published book of fiction or non-fiction. Ages 1-18.

**Best Nonfiction Book Award:** Published non-fiction book.

**Best Book of Poetry Award:** Published book of poetry

**Best Book of Fiction Award:** Published book of fiction (novel or short story collection)

**Creme-de-la-Creme Award.** Best entry in the contest.

## OWFI 2010 Conference Book Room

We are pleased to again have Best of Books of Edmond operate the Conference Book Room, allowing for convenient sales of our books. All OWFI members and conference speakers are eligible to participate. Authors who want their books available for sale must conform to the following guidelines. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

Authors (or publishers) must notify me, the book room chairperson, by Friday, **March 19, 2010** of any title(s) they want included in the book room inventory, choosing one of the three options below. Due to limited space, non-speaker titles will be limited to 5 copies on display at any one time. Also, authors of multiple books will be limited to no more than 5 titles on display.

**Option No. 1:** Best of Books, of Edmond, OK (405/340-9202), will order your books from Ingram or your publisher if they are returnable and the bookstore receives the standard retailer discount. (Outlets that have presented past problems, and thus not available through Option 1, include—but are not limited too--the recently popular Publish America, books purchased via the Internet, self-published books, or electronic books.) Best of Books will split profits of this option with OWFI. Neither Best of Books nor OWFI will assume responsibility for delays in shipment, short ships or publisher/shipper errors.

**Option 2:** Authors provide the books to be sold by Best of Books. Books will be sold at retail price, which will be provided by the author, along with quantity delivered, author name, address, and return shipping information. Of this retail price, the author will receive 70% and Best of Book will collect 30%, of which 10% will go to OWFI. Those using this option should bring in their books by Friday morning or upon arrival at the con-

(Continued on page 9)

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the United States and around the world.



Entrant's Last Name:

# OFFICIAL OWFI 2010 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

(Note: Writing teams *may not* enter works by one member of the team on the same form. Individuals must enter separately)



|                  |  |                                    |  |
|------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Name             |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dues Paid | <input type="checkbox"/> Dues Enclosed |
| Address          |  |                                    |  |
| City             | State                                    | Zip                                |  |
| Phone            | Email                                    |                                    |  |
| Club Affiliation | <input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large | <input type="checkbox"/> Student   |  |

|     | Cat # | Category | Title |
|-----|-------|----------|-------|
| 1.  |       |          |       |
| 2.  |       |          |       |
| 3.  |       |          |       |
| 4.  |       |          |       |
| 5.  |       |          |       |
| 6.  |       |          |       |
| 7.  |       |          |       |
| 8.  |       |          |       |
| 9.  |       |          |       |
| 10. |       |          |       |
| 11. |       |          |       |
| 12. |       |          |       |
| 13. |       |          |       |
| 14. |       |          |       |
| 15. |       |          |       |

1. Send photocopy of this form; keep original for your records. If necessary, include more entries on back of photocopied form.
2. Entry fee must be postmarked on or before FEBRUARY 1, 2010.
3. Make check or money order payable to OWFI Contest 2010. Fee of \$20 covers one entry in all 33 categories.

**SEND ENTRY FORM AND ENTRY FEE (check or money order) in business-size envelope to:**

Inez Phillips, General Contest Chair  
6200 Quapah Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Questions? Call 405-946-0981 or email [inezbowman@cox.net](mailto:inezbowman@cox.net)

You must be a paid-up member of OWFI or a full-time student to enter the contest. Send your membership fee of \$20 (\$15 if paid before Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009) for club affiliate members or \$25 for members-at-large to:

**OWFI, c/o Barbara Shepherd**  
PO Box 54302

Oklahoma City, OK 73154

Not sure if you've paid your 2009 dues? Email Barbara at

[owfiwriters@gmail.com](mailto:owfiwriters@gmail.com)

# OFFICIAL OWFI 2010 CONTEST COVER SHEET



**Do not write in this space. For use of Category Chair only.**

Poetry line count \_\_\_\_\_ Prose word or page count \_\_\_\_\_ Category Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category Chair Initial \_\_\_\_\_ SASE enclosed (circle one) Yes No MS Number \_\_\_\_\_

**WINNINGS (please circle) | First | Second | Third | 1st HM | 2nd HM | 3rd HM**

**NO HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make sufficient photocopies of this form to provide a separate Cover Sheet for each entry.
2. Complete all blanks, except those designated for the Category Chair. Please type or print legibly.
3. Use paper clips to attach appropriate cover sheet to each entry. **Do not** staple manuscripts. Only **one** copy of each manuscript is required.
4. Attach to each entry a self-addressed envelope sufficient to mail manuscript flat and unfolded. **Manuscripts will not be returned by mail without proper postage on the return envelope**, although they may be picked up at the conference. The envelope is **REQUIRED**.
5. Mail each entry to the appropriate Category Chair, with **NO SIGNATURE** required (chairs cannot stay home all day to collect such entries). **Do not** mail entries to the **General Contest Chair**. Doing so will invalidate your entry.
6. Collaborators must be paid members of OWFI. A collaborative team is considered one entrant.
7. Entries must be postmarked by **February 01, 2010**.

- |                                |                                     |                                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mainstream Novel            | 13. Poetry, Rhymed--Short           | 25. Western Article             |
| 2. Contemporary Romance Novel  | 14. Poetry, Rhymed--Long            | 26. Inspirational Article       |
| 3. Historical Novel            | 15. Short-Short Story (Adult)       | 27. Mazie Cox Reid Column Award |
| 4. Mystery/Suspense Novel      | 16. Short Story (Adult)             | 28. Confession Story            |
| 5. Western Novel               | 17. Juvenile Short Story            | 29. Nostalgia Prose             |
| 6. Sci-Fi/Horror/Fantasy Novel | 18. Young Adult Short Story         |                                 |
| 7. Nonfiction Book             | 19. Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Story     | <u>TROPHY AWARDS</u>            |
| 8. Picture Book                | 20. Prose Humor                     | 30. Best Juvenile Book Award    |
| 9. Middle Reader Book          | 21. Essay                           | 31. Best Nonfiction Book Award  |
| 10. Young Adult Book           | 22. Play, Film, or TV Script        | 32. Best Book of Poetry Award   |
| 11. Poetry, Unrhymed--Short    | 23. Technical and/or How-To Article | 33. Best Fiction Book Award     |
| 12. Poetry, Unrhymed--Long     | 24. Feature Article                 |                                 |

|                         |   |            |
|-------------------------|---|------------|
| <b>Category</b>         |   | <b>No.</b> |
| <b>Manuscript Title</b> |   |            |
| <b>Author's Name</b>    |   |            |
| <b>Address</b>          |   |            |
| <b>City</b>             | <b>State</b>  | <b>Zip</b> |
| <b>Phone</b>            | <b>Email</b>  |            |
| <b>Club Affiliation</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Member-at-Large</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Student</b> |            |

**All OWFI Contest Entries should be sent with cover letter to the appropriate Category Chair listed below. Sending an entry to the incorrect category chair may result in disqualification of your entry if the entry deadline date has passed before your entry gets to the appropriate Category Chair.**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>1. Mainstream Novel</b><br/>Vickey Kennedy<br/>721 E Boyd St<br/>Norman, Ok 73071<br/>vck@vickeymalonekennedy.com</p>                      | <p><b>12. Poetry Unrhymed Long</b><br/>Arlene Graber<br/>110 S. Oakwood<br/>Wichita KS 67218<br/>arlenegraber@cox.net</p>                          | <p><b>23. Technical / How-To Article</b><br/>Linda Clements<br/>12522 S. Acuff Ct.<br/>Olathe Kansas 66062<br/>lj_clements@yahoo.com</p>       |
| <p><b>2. Contemporary Romance Novel</b><br/>Rhonda Leverett<br/>62 Huntsman's Horn<br/>The Woodlands TX 77380<br/>rleverett@gmail.com</p>        | <p><b>13. Poetry Rhymed Short</b><br/>Diane McCartney<br/>225 Sherry Ln<br/>Burlson TX 76028<br/>rtney@att.net</p>                                 | <p><b>24. Feature Article</b><br/>Sue McMurphy<br/>2824 34th Street<br/>Woodward OK 73801<br/>sumac57@sbcglobal.net</p>                        |
| <p><b>3. Historical Novel</b><br/>Kathryn Veres<br/>P.O. Box 233<br/>Woodland Park, CO 80866<br/>kjveres@mywdo.com</p>                           | <p><b>14. Poetry Rhymed Long</b><br/>Maria Hooley<br/>303 NW Tanglewood Cr.<br/>Lawton OK 73505<br/>mariahooley@sbcglobal.net</p>                  | <p><b>25. Western Article</b><br/>Judy Huhman<br/>1610 E. Cypress<br/>Enid OK 73701<br/>ahuhman@suddenlink.net</p>                             |
| <p><b>4. Mystery/Suspense Novel</b><br/>Jacque Graham<br/>208 W. Padon<br/>Blackwell, OK 74631<br/>jacquegrahamok@yahoo.com</p>                  | <p><b>15. Short-Short Story</b><br/>Carla Stewart<br/>6735 S. 67th E Av<br/>Tulsa OK 74113<br/>carla.stewart@sbcglobal.net</p>                     | <p><b>26. Inspirational Prose</b><br/>Bonnie Tharp<br/>1813 N. Robin Rd.<br/>Wichita KS 67212<br/>bdtharp@cox.net</p>                          |
| <p><b>5. Western Novel</b><br/>Mary Ellen Cooper<br/>2600 S. Sangre Rd<br/>Stillwater OK 74074<br/>padlockmystery@aol.com</p>                    | <p><b>16. Short Story Adult</b><br/>Michael Sasser<br/>66745 S.318 Road<br/>Chouteau OK 74337<br/>sassFL@aol.com</p>                               | <p><b>27. Mazie Cox Reid Column Award</b><br/>Kelly Bristow<br/>10650 S. Sooner RD<br/>Edmond OK 73034<br/>kelly.bristow@edmondschools.net</p> |
| <p><b>6. Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Novel</b><br/>Barbara Shepard<br/>2913 Gettysburg Rd<br/>Edmond OK 73013-6459<br/>OklahomaCitywriters@aol.com</p> | <p><b>17. Juvenile Short Story</b><br/>Carol Johnson<br/>20 N. Union Ave.<br/>Tulsa OK 74127<br/>vadamaker@gmail.com</p>                           | <p><b>28. Confession Story</b><br/>Lynn Wendlebo<br/>4103 N. Hampton Dr.<br/>Norman OK 73072<br/>WENDLEJAQ@aol.com</p>                         |
| <p><b>7. NonFiction Book</b><br/>Frances Wykes Searcey<br/>1551 Bryant Circle<br/>Norman OK 73026<br/>fsearcey@aol.com</p>                       | <p><b>18. Young Adult Short Story</b><br/>Alberta Daw<br/>812 W. 60th Terrace<br/>Kansas City, MO 64113<br/>ajdaw@swbell.net</p>                   | <p><b>29. Nostalgia Prose</b><br/>Paula Gorgas<br/>22966 Hamilton Lane<br/>Poteau OK 74953-8720<br/>riokie@alltel.net</p>                      |
| <p><b>8. Picture Book</b><br/>Raymona Anderson<br/>1710 Mayflower Rd<br/>Bentonville, AR 72712<br/>raymona1@sbcglobal.net</p>                    | <p><b>19. SciFi/Fan/Horror Short Story</b><br/>DeeDee Chumley<br/>2024 Turtlecreed RD<br/>Edmond OK 73013<br/>deedee.chumley@edmondschools.net</p> | <p><b>30. Best Juvenile Book</b><br/>Nita Beshear<br/>7972 E. 150 Rd<br/>Calvin OK 74531-5053<br/>nbeshear@yahoo.com</p>                       |
| <p><b>9. Middle Reader</b><br/>Olyve Hallmark-Abbott<br/>3737 Summercrest Dr.<br/>Ft. Worth TX 76109<br/>olyve@flash.net</p>                     | <p><b>20. Prose Humor</b><br/>Gloria Teague<br/>P.O. Box 1354<br/>Mannford OK 74044<br/>gteague@cimtel.net</p>                                     | <p><b>31. Best Non-Fiction Book</b><br/>Jen Nipps<br/>442 N.E. 10th<br/>Ada OK 74820<br/>jen@jenifernipps.com</p>                              |
| <p><b>10. Young Adult Book</b><br/>Lisa Willis<br/>109 S.W 41st. St<br/>Moore OK 73160<br/>lisawillis@sbcglobal.net</p>                          | <p><b>21. Essay</b><br/>Connie Blaylock<br/>106 Nanih Waiya Lane<br/>Poteau OK 74593<br/>cnnblaylock@yahoo.com</p>                                 | <p><b>32. Best Book of Poetry</b><br/>Jackie King<br/>3939 S. 123rd E. Place<br/>Tulsa OK 74146<br/>jacquelineaking@sbcglobal.net</p>          |
| <p><b>11. Poetry Unrhymed Short</b><br/>Vivian Zabel<br/>2912 Rankin Terrace<br/>Edmond OK 73013<br/>vzabel@sbcglobal.net</p>                    | <p><b>22. Play/Film/TV Script</b><br/>Laurie Fraser<br/>15 Sweet Birch Place<br/>The Woodlands TX77382<br/>flygirlwr@yahoo.com</p>                 | <p><b>33. Best Fiction Book</b><br/>Mike Jones<br/>510 Locust<br/>Ardmore OK 73401<br/>mjwriter@cableone.net</p>                               |

# Affiliate News

## MID-OKLAHOMA WRITERS

### Acceptances and Sales

**DAVID ROPER:** CHILDREN'S STORY: "Albert the Great," *Humpty Dumpty* (September/October 2009); CHILDREN'S STORY: "Getting to Know Someone New," *Stories for Children Magazine* (September 2009); CHILDREN'S STORY: "How to Train a Flea" and "Herman, the Performing Flea," *Stories for Children Magazine* (October, 2009), CHILDREN'S STORY: "The Thanksgiving Assignment," *Stories for Children Magazine* (November, 2009)

**BARBARA SHEPHERD:** A poem published in *The Poetry Society of Oklahoma – February 0, 1936-2009 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Chapbook*. Also five poems and a full-page bio accepted for publication in *Poetry Is For Everyone*, a book including 40 poets, (November, 2009).

### Professional Activities

**BARBARA SHEPHERD:** Designed and published an expanded directory for Wordwrights-OKC Christian Writers.

**JAN HALL:** Will teach two classes at Rose State College's Continuing Education program: *Getting in Gear to Write and Memoirs*.

### Club News

**Mid-Oklahoma Writers** meets at 7pm the second Tuesday of the month at the Learning Resources Center, Rose State College, Midwest City, Oklahoma. Visitors are welcome.

## MCALESTER'S MCSHERRY WRITERS'

### Acceptances and Sales

**SHARON ERVIN:** BOOKS: Audio versions of Ervin's 2008 releases, *AFTERMATH* and *MURDER ABOARD THE CHOCTAW GAMBLER*, are under contract with Books in Motion.

**PRISCILLA MAINE:** BOOK: *JOURNEY OF THE EAGLE* is scheduled for release as an audio book by Books in Motion.

### Professional Activities

**NITA BESHEAR, MARY ANN KERL, PAT DUGGER, and SHARON ERVIN** will sell and sign books at the Grand Avenue United Methodist Church Fall Festival in McAlester, Oklahoma on November 13 and 14. Nita's book, *DEVOTED TO QUILTING*, came out just in time for the holidays. As an aid to sales, **BESHEAR** is also teaching a beginning quilting class at East Central University in Ada.

**SHARON ERVIN** participated in the Chisholm Trail Book Event in Duncan, Oklahoma on October 24. **ERVIN** spoke at the Lawton Library's Lunch and Learn meeting on November 10 in Lawton, Oklahoma.

McAlester's McSherry Writers (McWriters) meets to critique at 1 p.m. the first and third Saturdays of each month in the conference room of the McAlester Public Library, 401 N. Second Street, McAlester. Meetings are free and open to all writers.

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

### Novels and New Books

**VIOLET CAMP:** NON FICTION: *The Military's Heart and Soul*, AEG Publishing Group, (July 2009)

## FREELANCE WRITERS NETWORK

### Acceptances and Sales:

**JULIE B. COSGROVE:** ARTICLES and DEVOTIONALS: Julie is contracted to write a monthly inspirational article for six months in a column, "For Her," in *The Christian Pulse, Edition Online*. The first: "The Smell of Fresh Bread" (11/09). The 2<sup>nd</sup> is "Sunday Morning Blahs or Ahs" (12/09); "Writing Web Content and Articles," in a future edition TBA of *The Cross & Quill* (2010); She has written two devotionals for christianwomentoday.com, production of *Truth Media*, Canada: "Be An Innkeeper," (10/09), and "Give it to the Dogs" (10/09); "Praise First," devotional for the *Diocese of Fort Worth Daughters of the King Website* (10/09).

### Professional Activities:

**OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT:** BOOK SIGNING/SPEAKING: *Ghosts in the Graveyard: Texas Cemetery Tales; A Ghost in the Guest Room: Texas Hotels, B&Bs, and Inns*, Dallas Public Library (10/09).

**ROBYN CONLEY:** BOOK SIGNING: *Beyond the Branches; Meerkats*; and

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## Affiliate News

Continued

*What Really Matters To Me*, at Farmer's Market "Cultural" Day, Midland, TX (10/24/09); Presented a workshop, "Revising, Marketing and Networking 101, for Freelance Writer's Network, Fort Worth, TX (11/14/09).

**NEENA KAHLOH:** BOOK TOUR/SIGNING: Neena recently returned from an October book tour in India. Novel: *Remembering the Juice Mango* (Rupa & Co.) came out in India in 8/09. Neena spent the past seven weeks on a book tour in New Delhi and the state of Punjab, where all the action in the novel occurs. The book-launch in New Delhi took place at India International Centre (IIC) on the 26th September to much fanfare, including invited readers (meaning English fiction readers), news media (from three language papers and TV media—English, Hindi and Punjabi), and four highly visible public figures from politics, TV and the Business World. Neena's Website: [www.neenakahlon.com](http://www.neenakahlon.com).

**ANN MCCORMICK:** SPEAKING: Ann McCormick, the "Herb 'n Cowgirl," recently presented a report to the Garden Writers Association on "Working the Web: Emerging Technology and Writers." She has also accepted the position of columnist for the Herb Quarterly Magazine. Ann's twice-monthly newsletter "Seasonal Living" and her blog can be viewed on her Website [www.annmccormick.com](http://www.annmccormick.com). Her book, *The Herb 'n Cowgirl Bakes*, is chock full of favorites.

**KRISTEN LAMB MCKIBBEN:** Taught a "Warrior Writers Boot Camp" for the Freelance Writers Network, Fall of '09. Will teach 3 classes for the DFWWW Writers 2010 Conference: "Introduction to Social Media for Writers," "Marketing for Fiction," and

"Marketing for Nonfiction."

**NELL NOONAN:** BOOK SIGNING: *Not Alone: Encouragement for Caregivers*, Barnes & Noble, The Parks Mall, Arlington, TX (10/09).

### Contest Winnings:

**DEBBIE GILLETTE:** SHORT STORY: "Blood on Tap," Honorable Mention, the *Writer's Digest's* 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Story Contest. This is Debbie's second consecutive year.

**NELL NOONAN:** CHILDREN'S FICTION: "What's for Dinner, Grandma?" 1<sup>st</sup> Place, North Texas Christian Excellence in Writing (9/09).

## ENID WRITERS CLUB

### Acceptance and Sales:

**DENNIS MACDONALD:** BOOK "13 Nightmares" He is working with filmmakers who are developing a movie based on one of the stories in this collection.

**NOLEN HARSH:** POEM "Too Late" published in *Elley Queen Mystery Magazine*, September/October issue. Also he had his poem printed in the *Enid News and Eagle*.

## ARKANSAS RIDGEWRITERS

### Acceptances and Sales

**LINDA APPLE:** PERSONAL EXPERIENCE STORY: "Mango Mud Blessings," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Count Your Blessings* (11/09), *SHORT STORY:* "VBS Blues," *Skipping Stones* (10/09).

**DAVE BAHNKS:** SHORT STORY: "Old Wizards Folly," *Skipping Stones*

(10/09).

**KAREN BREWER:** SHORT STORY: "The Stalker," *Wizards of Words 2009 Anthology*.

**ANN HOLBROOK:** SHORT STORY: "Then and Now," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Tough Times, Tough People* (06/09); *SHORT STORY:* "Pleasantville Justice," *Skipping Stones Anthology Volume I* (10/09); *SHORT STORY:* "The Point of Love," *Echoes of the Ozarks Anthology Volume V* (11/09).

**DOUG KELLEY:** ARTICLE: "Denny Flynn Guides Kay Rogers Park Toward State Fair" *The City Wire, Fort*

**JAN MORRILL:** SHORT STORY: "Sacrifice Rock," *Skipping Stones* (10/09).

**PAM TOMPSON:** SHORT STORY: "Silent Night, Lonely Night," *Skipping Stones* (10/09)

**JOYCE RAPIER:** SHORT STORY: "Jack and the Mud Pies," *Literary Cottage* accepted for future publication.

**DUSTY RICHARDS:** SHORT STORY: "A Funeral Ain't the Place," *Skipping Stones* (10/09).

**RUTH BURKETT WEEKS:** SHORT STORY: "Bubble Gum Messages," *Skipping Stones* (10/09).

**RUTH RAKESTRAW:** SHORT STORY: "Lost and Found," *Skipping Stones* (10/09).

**PATTY STITH:** SHORT STORY: "Arctic Survival," *Skipping Stones* (10/09).

### Novels & New Books

**WAYNE HANDCOCK:** MYSTERY NOVEL: "Up on Crowley's Ridge," *Xlibris Publishing*, release date 10/09.

**JOYCE RAPIER:** MYSTERY NOVEL: "Red Clay Murders, accepted by *Champagne Books* for 2010 release.

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## Affiliate News

Continued

### Contest Winnings

**DAVE BAHNKS:** Ozarks Creative Writers Conference, STELLA JOHNSON MEMORIAL CONTEST, 1st Place, "Old Wizards Folly," HIGH HILL PRESS THE NEXT NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLER CONTEST, 3rd Place, "The Final Door." **RUTH BURKETT WEEKS:** OCW The Clouse Literary Arts Award, CHILDREN'S SHORT STORY: 3HM The First Ballerina

**KAREN BREWER:** Arkansas Writer's Conference, DEL GARRETT'S GIMME THE CREEPS AWARD: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, "A Hint of Gardenias," MILDRED MCKINNEY AWARD: 1st HM, "Ode To A Cybermuse," HUMANE SOCIETY OF PULASKI COUNTY AWARD: 2nd HM. "No Place Like Home," DOROTHY TRUEX AWARD: 3rd HM "A-one, Two, Three."

**ANN HOLBROOK:** Arkansas Writers' Conference, JUST FOR KIDS AWARD: 2<sup>nd</sup> HM, "Pickle Soup"; Ozark Creative Writers Conference, OCW BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOWCASE AWARD: 3<sup>rd</sup> HM, "Redemption"; THE CAUDLE MEMORIAL AWARD: 1<sup>st</sup> HM, "Under Penalty of Law"; HIGHTOWER AWARD: 1<sup>st</sup> HM, "Richard's Example"; Storyteller Magazine, WRITING ON WALLS III ANTHOLOGY CONTEST: 4<sup>th</sup> Place, "Life Everlasting".

**JAN MORRILL:** Ozark Creative Writers' Conference, SATURDAY WRITERS FLASH FICTION AWARD: 2<sup>st</sup> Place, "Waiting for My Boy" **NANCY PEACOCK:** Arkansas Writers' Conference, TRUE ADVENTURE AWARD: 3rd HM, "Adventures in the Snow," **ROBBI RICE DIETRICH AWARD:** 2nd Place, "Texarkana," **DOROTHY**

**TRUEX AWARD:** 3rd Place, "Shall We Dance?" White County Creative Writers' Contest, MEMOIR, Ozarks Mountaineer Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, "Sugar Creek."

**ROSEMARY WEBB:** White County Creative Writers' Contest, FAMILY MATTERS: 1<sup>st</sup> HM, "Life Around Me"

**RUTH BURKETT WEEKS:** Ozarks Creative Writers Conference, MATTHEW MARTIN HEROS AWARD, 2nd Place "The Legend of Dixie Dandelion and Jalapeno Jack."

### Professional Activities

**LINDA APPLE:** Conducted writing workshop, "Why Write? Leaving a Legacy" at Stonecroft Women's Retreat (09/09), Spoke to American Christian Writers group in Little Rock Arkansas on Inspirational Creative Nonfiction Writing (09/09), gave presentation to the Red River Writers in New Mexico on Inspirational Creative Nonfiction Writing (10/09), gave "Life from a Writers Point of View" to Christian Women's Connection in Bartlesville, OK (11/09)

**JOHN CAPLINGER:** Presented a program to the River Valley Writers about using power-point in relation to writing.

**WAYNE HANCOCK:** BOOK SIGNING at the following locations: Hastings Bookstore in Russellville, AR. (07/18/09), Borders in Tulsa, OK (07/25/09), Hastings in Fayetteville, AR (08/01/09) and Borders in Rogers, AR (08/08/09)

**DOUG KELLEY:** Activity: Spoke to two Freshman English classes at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. 10/23/09

**RADINE TREES NEHRING:** on panels at: Killer Nashville, August 14-15; Midwest Mysteryfest in St. Louis, Sept. 25-26; Bouchercon in Indianapolis, October 15-18; Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave, October 30-Nov. 1, Interview and discussion, "Murder She Writes," interview on Internet radio, <http://www.blogtalkradio.com>, Monday,

September 14, 5-6 p.m., Radine Trees Nehring <http://www.RadinesBooks.com>, Blog for readers and writers: <http://radine.wordpress.com>, The "To Die For" mystery series...touring the Ozarks, one crime at a time. On August 29th he will do a special presentation on fiction writing for the Saturday Writers In St Charles Mo

**JOYCE RAPIER:** WEEKLY GUEST COLUMNIST: 100th short story was published in the Saturday edition of *the Press-Argus-Courier* in Van Buren, Arkansas .. (June 2009)

**DUSTY RICHARDS:** Sept 12 he is the moderator for the panel of western writers at The Cowboy Symposium in Lubbock Tx, Oct 3 He speaks at the Springfield Literary Fair Springfield Mo, Oct 12, he talks about the west and dime novels to the Country Tour Buses at the Madison County Fair Ground Huntsville Ar, Oct 9th he speaks at the Ozark Creative Writers Conference on "Basics of fiction" Eureka Springs Ar, Oct 17 He will be on a panel at The Red River New Mexico Conference, Oct 24 He will be at the Duncan Oklahoma Book Festival.

**ROSEMARY WEBB:** Attended a four-week class (05/09) on writing poetry from the heart. Read a poem at the All Star Poets night at the Fort Smith Miller branch library's *Thursday Night Thing* (06/09).

### Club News

River Valley Writers meet at 1:30 the second Sunday of each month at the Fort Smith (main) Library with an average of 17 in attendance. Officers are elected in March and take office April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**President:** Karen Brewer

**Vice President:** John Nation

**Secretary:** Jean Vosper

**Program Director:** Alice Kaye Horton

**Treasure/Reporter:** Rosemary Webb

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

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Supporting writers and the craft of writing in Oklahoma,  
the United States and around the world.





## OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS

### Professional Activities

**BARBARA AVERY** became the editor of her high school class of '53 newsletter called *Connections*. She designed, wrote and published the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly issue in July.

**CAROLYN LEONARD** won a prize for booth display at the Chisholm Trail Book Festival in Duncan, OK in October.

**SANDI SOLI** spoke on "Imagination in the Realm of memory" at the Red Dirt Festival in November.

**JUDY HOWARD** presented "Under the Covers with Granny reveals Oklahoma Secrets" Quilt Trunk Show at the Bethany Public Library in October. She was interviewed on the Oklahoma City PBS station about her book *Thanking Our Troops—God Bless America Quilts*.

**CATERINE JOHNSON** (aka Kari Grant) was in a group art exhibit in July at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Executive Offices. Two of her paintings "Tsunami of Love" and "Category F-5 Love" were purchased.

**CAROLYN WALL** had a book signing for her book *Sweeping Up Glass* at Barnes and Noble in July. The book has been published in 10 countries on six continents. She appeared on KFOR-TV in Oklahoma City and the Tulsa PBS station in August.

**JEAN STOVER** taught *Writing Your Life Story* through the Intregis Third Life organization in September and October. He also help organize a craft fair at the Northwest Baptist Fair.

**JEAN STOVER** was inducted into the USAO Hall of Fame in November.

**MARCIA PRESTON** had a book signing at Barnes and Noble in September.

**MARIA VERES** spoke on "How to Keep Writing When You'd rather Not" at the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators September meeting in Oklahoma City.

**JIM MARION ETTER'S** book, "Thunder in the Heartland - Parables from Oklahoma, 2nd Edition," is among fiction works featured in the October issue of Roundup, the magazine of Western Writers of America.

### Sales and Acceptances

**SHELLYANNE RICHTER** sold a nostalgia article titles "Betty Jean's Birthday Blunder" to *Looking back Magazine* for the September 2010 issue.

**BARBARA SHEPHERD** had a poem published in *The Poetry Society of Oklahoma —February 9, 1936-2009—75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Chapbook*.

**BARBARA SHEPHERD** and **CATHERIONE JOHNSON** are among 40 poets whose work has been accepted for publication in *Poetry Is For Everyone*. Each has five poems in the book which was due out in November.

**SHELLY ANNE RICHTER** sold a Valentine's Day poem to "Mature Living" for their February 2010 issue. She also had an "Outhouse Annie" poetry recital in September for retired veterans. She won the Toastmaster's Humorous Speech contest in August

### Contest Winnings

**TRINA LEE** won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Oklahoma Art Guild with a watercolor named "Trees."

### Scholarships:

Red Maier  
405.277.9224  
redmaier@earthlink.net

## Conference Chairpersons

The OWFI *Write Everyday!* Conference can't function without a lot of volunteers. The following OWFI members are chairs of various conference committees. Decide which committee you wish to work on and contact that committee chair. If it is TBA, volunteer by contacting OWFI president Dan Case at [chickenwriter@gmail.com](mailto:chickenwriter@gmail.com)

### **Sponsorships and Grants:**

Gayleen Rabakukk  
405.818.1089  
[gayleen@rabakukk.com](mailto:gayleen@rabakukk.com)

### **Shepherd Chair:**

Bob Avey  
918-250-0837  
[novelyes@cox.net](mailto:novelyes@cox.net)

### **Editor/Agent Appointments:**

TBA

### **Information/Handouts/Bag Stuffing:**

TBA

### **Autograph Party:**

TBA

### **Famous Author Presentation:**

Amy Shojai  
903.868.1022  
[shojai@verizon.net](mailto:shojai@verizon.net)

### **New Member/Volunteer Receptions:**

TBA

### **Registration:**

Deborah Bouziden

### **Badges:**

TBA

### **Famous Author Book Auction:**

Mary Ann West  
405.348.0818  
[maryannwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryannwest@sbcglobal.net)

### **Book Store Liaison:**

Doug Kelly  
918.436.7103  
[kellydjas@earthlink.net](mailto:kellydjas@earthlink.net)

### **Buzz Sessions:**

Carolyn Leonard  
405.751.2345  
[carolynleonard@mac.com](mailto:carolynleonard@mac.com)

### **Basket Silent Auction:**

Vivian Zabel  
[vzabel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vzabel@sbcglobal.net)

### **Reserved Tables:**

TBA

### **Member Directory:**

TBA

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# *Write Every Day Conference! Speakers*

**Esther Luttrell** began her career as a writer-director-producer of documentaries, educational films, and syndicated TV programs in the Midwest. After moving to Los Angeles, I joined the CBS Script Department. After a few months, she went to MGM and back to her first love: Production. Page worked on movies-of-the-week, feature films, episodic TV (she was production coordinator on "CHiPs"), sitcoms, and TV specials. Her experience covers Comedy Development, Assistant to the Vice President of MGM-TV and Assistant to the Music Director. (her first experience was a Streisand film!) During all this work, she also had her own script consulting service and managed to sell her first original feature story to Dick Clark Cinema Productions. Paul Rabwin, Emmy-



**K.D. Wentworth** got her start winning in the Writers of the Future Contest in 1988, and then later won the Field Publications Teachers as Writers Award in 1991. She has sold over fifty short stories to such markets as *Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *Aboriginal SF*, *Pulphouse*, *Return to the Twilight Zone*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and *Realms of Fantasy*. She published three novels with Del Rey, *The Imperium Game* (February 1994), *Moon-speaker*, (November 1994), and *House of Moons*, (July 1995). Her more recent Hrrin novels *Black/on/Black*, and *Stars Over Stars*, were published by Baen in February 1999, with the sequel in 2000. Her most recent book was *The Crucible of Empire* with Eric Flint published by Baen in March 2010. Her earlier novels have been reprinted by Hawk Publishing Group and are available at bookstores or from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Three of her short stories have been Nebula finalists: "Tall One," "Burning Bright," and "Born Again." Ms. Wentworth is an active member of the Science Fiction Writers of America, (SFWA) and was elected Secretary in 2000 and in 2003. She became a Judge in the L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest in 2000 and now also serves as Coordinating Judge for the contest and teaches in the Writers of the Future Workshop with Tim Powers each summer.



Gloria has dozens of short stories and articles published in national magazines, as well as serial and holiday stories published in regional newspapers. She's a contributor to *Book Marketing from A to Z*. Her article about cancer was in *Woman's World*, Oct. 2009. She placed first place in several writing contests, including the America Nostalgia Prose category at the OWFI conference in May, 2005 for a short story that spawned her book, *Saturday Night Cocoa Fudge*. Her latest book, *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*, was released in March 2009. Gloria is a member of Tulsa NightWriters and is the editor of NightScripts, the organization's newsletter. She's a long time of OWFI. More information can be found on her webpage [www.gloriateague.com](http://www.gloriateague.com).



Linda Apple is the author of *Inspire! Writing from the Soul*, an instructional guide to inspirational writing. She is a frequent contributor to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul Series* as well as numerous magazine and devotional guides. She is also a motivational speaker and serves as the Arkansas regional speaker-trainer for Stonecroft Ministries. Her current work in progress is a how-to book on public speaking for writers. For more information please visit her website: [www.lindacapple.com](http://www.lindacapple.com)



# Dana Stabenow 2010 OWFI Keynote Speaker

## From Dana Stabenow's web page:

I was born in Anchorage, Alaska on March 27, 1952, and raised on a 75-foot fish tender in the Gulf of Alaska.

When I wasn't seasick I wrote stories about NORMAL children who lived on SHORE, and made my mother read them. Probably some of my best work.

In 1964, the Great Alaskan Earthquake occurred during my twelfth birthday party. It was then that I realized I was destined for greatness, always supposing I survived the day.

I graduated from Seldovia High School in 1969 and put myself through college working as an egg grader, bookkeeper and expediter for Whitney-Fidalgo Seafoods in Anchorage.

I received a B.A. in journalism from the University of Alaska in 1973 only because the dean of students called me into her office the previous fall and, looking kindly at me over the tops of her glasses, asked me if I planned on graduating with the rest of my class the following spring.

This was the first time someone had suggested that perhaps I might not. She further informed me that participation in Lathrop Dorm's second floor keggers did not, in fact, count as credit. Well.

After graduation I spent one more summer knee-deep in humpies and blew everything I earned on a four-month backpacking trip to Europe with Rhonda Sleighter, college roommate and one of the dedicatees of Play With Fire.

There, I discovered English pubs, German beer and Irish men.

Fortuitously, upon my impoverished return home (I think I had something like twenty bucks and change in my pocket when I stepped off the plane) construction began again on the TransAlaska Pipeline, and answering whole-heartedly to the call of the cash I worked for Alyeska Pipeline at Galbraith Lake and later for British Petroleum at Prudhoe Bay.

I made an obscene amount of money and went to Hawaii a lot. That was in the days when it cost \$322.21 r/t Anchorage-Honolulu-Anchorage, and a flight to any of the outer islands was included. Sigh.

In 1982 I turned 30. Was this what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, work on the Slope and party in Hawaii? Well...but no. I left the Slope for the last time on August 17, 1982 (but who's counting?) and enrolled in UAA's MFA program, from which I graduated in 1985. My goal was to sell a book before I went broke and I just barely made it: *Second Star* was bought by Ace Science Fiction in 1990. It fell with an almighty thud on the marketplace and was never heard from again. Oh dear.

In 1991 my editor sniffed out the existence of the first Kate Shugak mystery and offered me a three-book contract. "What makes you think I can write any more of these?" I said. "Shut up and sign," said she.

"Great," I said when she called to tell me *A Cold Day for Murder* had been nominated for an Edgar award, "what's an Edgar?" After a long pause, she explained. "Great," I said. "Does any money come with it?"

It won in 1993. And the rest was madness.



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The Oklahoma Writer's Federation, Inc. is a non-profit federation of writer's groups dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word.



Wayne Harris-Wyrick  
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**Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc**

All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer.

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**All of us learn to write in the second grade. Most of us go on to greater things.**

**Bobby Knight**

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