

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

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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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Table of Contents

President's Letter	3	Photo Contest rules	8
Book Review	4	2013 Contest Rules	9
Web Review	5	2013 Contest Categories	12
Book Doctor	6	2013 Conference Speakers	18
Bulware-Lytton winners	7	Affiliate News	22

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DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

PATTY STITH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm so excited about the upcoming conference, **OWFI 45! Revive! Strive! Thrive!** Several things have been in the works to prepare. If you haven't noticed, the website has a new look: **www.owfi.org**. OWFI member, JP Jones of Collipsis worked with us to provide some extra features to the site, including online payment options.

The venue for the 2013 conference has changed. It will be held at the Norman Embassy Suites and Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. There's a lot more space. The bookstore will be in the thick of the action and there will be elbow room at the autograph party.

In the surveys from the 2012 conference, many people requested big name keynote speakers such as Stephen King, Janet Evanovich, or James Patterson. After reading the surveys, I posted a comment on the OWFI Facebook page stating due to OWFI's limited budget, we could have a keynote address and a baloney sandwich, or we could have a conference. Several folks offered suggestions for less expensive, yet inspirational and/or influential-in-their-genre speakers. As a result, I'm so very excited to announce that **Patrick Rothfuss** will keynote for us. Patrick Rothfuss was 20 when he

started writing his first book, *The Name of the Wind*. It took him seven years to finish the fantasy tale and then an extra four to persuade a publisher it would sell. In 2007 the book hit the New York Times and USA Today's best-sellers lists and was named one of the best books of the year by Publishers Weekly and Amazon.com. His work has been compared to George R.R. Martin, who has said of Rothfuss, "He's bloody good, this Rothfuss guy."

For the first time ever, we're having a graphic novelist and illustrator on the faculty. **Ron Fortier** is a graphic novelist primarily known for his Green Hornet and The Terminator comic books and his revival of the pulp hero, Captain Hazzard. During his comics career, he wrote many series for Now Comics, adapted a Gene Roddenberry's Lost Universe for Tekno Comix, and wrote an Incredible Hulk Annual.

Rob M. Davis began his career illustrating role-playing game modules for Mayfair Games (DC Heroes role playing game) and Iron Crown Enterprises (Champions super-heroes role playing game) His first "hit" comics work was on the Adult-oriented comic book *Scimidar* from Malibu Comics. Also for Malibu he penciled and inked the historic fantasy character Merlin

and the fill-in work for the new series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

We'll also have plenty of quality speakers on promotion, marketing and self-publishing, including **Jane Freidman** and **Mark Coker** of the Alliance of Independent Authors. Mark is also the founder of Smashwords.

Feedback from the 2012 conference surveys has resulted in us inviting back some speakers from the last conference. See folks, we actually read those survey answers. And, no, there's nothing we can do about the cold rooms. Bring a sweater, already. Yup'ik Storyteller **Jack Dalton**, Psychotherapist and crime thriller/mystery writer Dennis Palumbo and social media goddess, **Lela Davidson** will be returning. New topics, same great speakers.

We're still looking for agents and editors to take pitches. If you've been stalking a particular agent with no success just let me know. I'll see if I can get them to attend the conference. I won't mention your name. In all seriousness, we need some hot, hungry agents and editors, so if you have suggestions, please let me or Jan Morrill, conference chair, know.

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DON'T MISS THIS BOOK !

SCREENPLAY: THE FOUNDATIONS OF SCREENWRITING

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

SCREENPLAY: THE FOUNDATIONS OF SCREENWRITING
A Step-by-Step Guide from Concept to Finished Script
 By Syd Field

Dell Trade Paperback, 1979, Rev. 1984, 2005 Edition, 320 pages

Some of you budding screenwriters are probably Syd Field fans already. But I'm doing the rest of you a huge favor. Field is known as the screenwriting guru of Hollywood by those who know these things.

He's had the good fortune to understudy with giants, starting with Jean Renoir, French film director and son of famous French Impressionist painter, Pierre August Renoir. Field

was a pre-med student at UC Berkley where he had a part in a local play. directed by Jean Renoir. He told Field he had real talent and said the future of story telling is in film. Later, Field worked with Sam Peckinpah who wrote *The Wild Bunch* and saw up close his unusual approach to screenwriting.

Field started as a documentary scriptwriter in the early 60's at Wolper Productions and later be-

came an editor, producer, and coach. He's now said to be the world's premier film teacher with workshops and seminars around the world. A valued consultant on many Hollywood projects, even to whole countries. He has a list of now-famous students reaching back decades and has worked on too many highly acclaimed films to name. Not only has he developed incredible insights about communicating and the creative

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process, but when you see him in action, it's obvious he loves teaching others who are hungry to learn.

This book takes the story telling process apart, defines all the pieces, and shows

you how to put them together, step-by-step. He says "the art of storytelling stays the same, but the techniques and tools are always changing."

I'm not likely to write a screenplay and that's one reason I wanted to study his approach, to compare it with the way my own brain works. Perhaps I can capture a new way to sharpen my voice – to keep my 'techniques

and tools' up-to-date.

Field always goes back to the 'three-act structure,' saying since Aristotle it's been the foundation of every good screenplay, the core of the dramatic process. He defines structure as 'a linear arrangement of related incidents, episodes, or events leading to resolution' and points out it's flexible, as the story determines the structure – not the reverse.

In screenwriting he says the three acts – beginning, middle, and end, are separated by Plot Point I and Plot Point II, each containing the 'hook' that spins the action around and forward in another direction.

Further, he has unique ways to understand character development, dialog, context, and setting up the story that provide great exercises even if you think you

(Continued on page 17)



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

Group, Tulsa Night Writers, OWL, and OWFI. She writes articles, mostly profiles, of people, events, and places and is writing her first novel. She's a designer, photographer, and okay – a bit of a philosopher.

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Once Around the Web

USING TWITTERCHAT

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

TweetChat is a third-party application that uses Twitter's user interface to allow for real-time text-based chats.

Don't be overwhelmed by that. It basically means you can use TweetChat to chat on Twitter with a group of people in real-time instead of waiting for each person to post.

How Do You Log in to TweetChat?

First, make sure you are logged in to Twitter. Open a new window or tab in your

browser and keep Twitter open as well. (Pressing "Ctrl" and "T" at the same time will open a new tab.)

Go to <http://www.tweetchat.com>. You should see a page open up that tells you how TweetChat works. In the upper right corner, there is a button that says "Sign In." There are no fees for using TweetChat. You do not get e-mail from them. The only requirement is that you have a Twitter account.

If you have never used TweetChat before, or if you haven't used it in a long time, you will be redirected to a page asking permis-

sion to access your Twitter account. This is safe. The only posting it does on your behalf is what you post in the chat. After you click "allow," you will be taken back to TweetChat. You are logged in.

to your chosen chat, for example <http://www.tweetchat.com/room/journchat>. The posts will appear under your dialog box. Type your introduction and you're involved with the chat. You don't have to worry about putting the hashtag in

your posts.

TweetChat also automatically populates that for you.

What Are Some Features of TweetChat?

Under your Tweet box, there are some buttons you need to know about to help customize your TweetChat experience.

Pause: Some chats move very quickly. Pausing the chat

lets you read what you might otherwise miss. Be careful when using this, however. The

TweetChat # Enter hashtag to follow

How to use TweetChat

- #### 1 Sign in to TweetChat.

Signup with [Twitter](#) if you don't have an account.

Our login securely authenticates you with Twitter. Once authenticated, you will be returned directly to TweetChat.

If you ever want to sign in as a different user, sign out at Twitter and return to TweetChat.
- #### 2 Choose hashtag to follow.

[Hashtags](#) identify specific topics and those hashtags allow TweetChat to connect you with people talking about similar things.

TweetChat helps put your blinders on to the Twitter-sphere while you monitor and chat about one topic.

Choosing a hashtag directs you to a TweetChat room.
- #### 3 Converse in real-time.

Each tweet automatically gets the hashtag added and the room auto-updates.

You can use the "User Control" area to feature people you like or to block spammers.

"Smart pausing" has been added so when you scroll down the page, it will not refresh, helping you avoid replying to the wrong person.

Follow us on Twitter today: [@TweetChat](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

How Do You Use TweetChat?

Once you are logged in to TweetChat, you need to know which hashtag you will be following. One example is #journchat, which takes place every Monday at 7:00 Central/8:00 Eastern. Another example is #souljourneybk, which is a one-time event chat preceded and followed by conversation using the same tags.

Type your tag into the box at the top of the TweetChat screen without using the "#" since that is automatically populated for you. After you click "Join," you will be taken

Jen Nipps is a member of the Web Writing Wonders and McAlester McSherry Writers. In order to answer some questions asked of her, she created The Twitter Queen on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thetwitterqueen>. You can also follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/jennipps>.



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The Doctor is:

In

Out

FASCINATION!

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

As writers, have you ever clipped a favorite phrase from some newspaper article, short story or novel? Maybe you even

clipped it out and taped it to your writing desk to help inspire your own creations. Fascinated, weren't you?

My Irishman reminded me the other day of how we often take creation for granted instead of staying in a mode of fascination. We were sipping coffee in the early morning coolness before the West TX sun fried the day into the usual afternoon swelter. He said he never wanted to take that rejuvenating coolness for granted. He hoped to always stay fascinated with God's creation.

As a book doc, nit-picking new writers' gatherings and groupings of words each day, I sometimes go weeks without feeling a bit of fascination by what I'm reading.

It used to be easier to be fascinated when Sandra Soli crafted the poetry column for *ByLine* magazine and I was a rabid reader way back when. Sandra—who

still loves poetry, critters that meow, and Thunder players who roar—offers her expert writing advice through online classes and

workshops. You can contact her at: sandra-soli@cox.net; but here's a preview of what I appreciate in Sandra's ability to share her own poignant prose when writing about poetry, with her strong style highlighted in bold:

"Is this good?" Every poem needs something

of an imperative, a need for the

poem to exist. Is it important to have written this poem? Is there an essential essence in its heart that adds its own melody line to the universal song that has been given to the world before this one poem?"

Fascinating.

Sometimes Sandra evoked as much or more imagery and emotion in her instructive guidance than the poems she inserted as samples.

"When you hit somebody between the eyes, one rock is enough.

Many poets make a good point, then (just to be sure) repeat it at the end of the poem. Don't overkill."

About winning contests, or not winning them, she wrote:

(Continued on page 21)

Robyn Conley, the book doctor, speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write. Her books include: **BE YOUR OWN**



BOOK DOCTOR, which gives a checklist of editing tips for writers, and **What Really Matters to Me**, a journal that helps people discover their goals, and then offers practical tips to make those dreams come true. Her other published titles include a diversity of topics, such as **BEYOND THE BRANCHES**, **Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree** and **Pray the Bible with Paper and Pen**. Her biographies include: **John Grisham**, **Cartoonists**, **Alexander G. Bell**, and the juvenile reference books: **Meerkats**; **Depression**; **Motion Pictures**; and **The Automobile**. Robyn has sold to major magazines, such as **The Writer**, **Writer's Digest**, **ABA: Student Lawyer**, and a score of others. **ORDER** her latest book, **INSIGHTS FROM THE JOBSITE** in time for all your hard working, blue-collar buddies for Christmas. Each short vignette has a full-color photo, showing all kinds of jobsites. They'll love the big print, too!

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The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest 2011

Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest

Since 1982 the English Department at San Jose State University has sponsored the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, a whimsical literary competition that challenges entrants to compose the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels. The contest (hereafter referred to as the BLFC) was the brainchild (or Rosemary's baby) of Professor Scott Rice, whose graduate school excavations unearthed the source of the line "It was a dark and stormy night."

The original: "It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents — except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness." — Edward George Bulwer-Lytton, *Paul Clifford* (1830).

The rules to the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest are childishly simple:

Each entry must consist of a single sentence but you may submit as many entries as you wish. Sentences may be of any length. Entries must be original and previously unpublished.

Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest 2011 Results

Winner!

Cheryl's mind turned like the vanes of a wind-powered turbine, chopping her sparrow-like thoughts into bloody pieces that fell onto a growing pile of forgotten memories.

Sue Fondrie, Oshkosh, WI

The winner of the 2011 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest is Sue Fondrie,

an associate professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh who works groan-inducing wordplay into her teaching and administrative duties whenever possible. Out of school, she introduces two members of the next generation to the mysteries of *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, and--of course--the art of the bad pun.

Prof. Fondrie is the 29th grand prize winner of the contest that began at San Jose State University in 1982. The contest challenges entrants to compose bad opening sentences to imaginary novels takes its name from the Victorian novelist Edward George Bulwer-Lytton, who began his "Paul Clifford" with "It was a dark and stormy night."

At 26 words, Prof. Fondrie's submission is the shortest grand prize winner in Contest history, proving that bad writing need not be prolix, or even very wordy.

Runner-Up:

As I stood among the ransacked ruin that had been my home, surveying the aftermath of the senseless horrors and atrocities that had been perpetrated on my family and everything I hold dear, I swore to myself that no matter where I had to go, no matter what I had to do or endure, I would find the man who did this . . . and when I did, when I did, oh, there would be words.

Rodney Reed, Ooltewah, TN

A Selection of Category Winners

Winner: Adventure

From the limbs of ancient live oaks moccasins hung like fat black sausages -- which are sometimes called *boudin noir*, black pudding or blood pudding, though why anyone

would refer to a sausage as pudding is hard to understand and it is even more difficult to divine why a person would knowingly eat something made from dried blood in the first place -- but be that as it may, our tale is of voodoo and foul murder, not disgusting food.

Jack Barry, Shelby, NC

Winner: Crime

Wearily approaching the murder scene of Jeannie and Quentin Rose and needing to determine if this was the handiwork of the Scented Strangler-- who had a twisted affinity for spraying his victims with his signature raspberry cologne--or that of a copycat, burnt-out insomniac detective Sonny Kirkland was sure of one thing: he'd have to stop and smell the Roses.

Mark Wisnewski, Flanders, NJ

Winner: Fantasy

Within the smoking ruins of Keister Castle, Princess Gwendolyn stared in horror at the limp form of the loyal Centaur who died defending her very honor; "You may force me to wed," she cried at the leering and victorious Goblin King, "but you'll never be half the man he was."

Terri Daniel, Seattle, WA

Winner: Purple Prose

As his small boat scudded before a brisk breeze under a sapphire sky dappled with cerulean clouds with indigo bases, through cobalt seas that deepened to navy nearer the boat and faded to azure at the horizon, Ian was at a loss as to why he felt blue.

Mike Pedersen

(Continued on page 8)

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Bulwer-Lytton continued

(Continued from page 7)

North Berwick, ME

Purple Prose Dishonorable Mention

LaTrina—knowing he must live—let her hot, wet tongue slide slowly over Gladiator's injured ear, the taste reminding her of the late June flavor of a snow chain that had been removed from a tire and left to rust on the garage floor without being rinsed off.

Betsy Replogle
Nichols Hills, OK

Winner: Romance

As the dark and mysterious stranger approached, Angela bit her lip anxiously, hoping with every nerve, cell, and fiber of her being that *this* would be the one man who would understand—who would take her away from all this—and who would not just squeeze her boob and make a loud honking noise, as all the others had.

Ali Kawashima, Greensboro, NC

Winner: Sci Fi

Morgan 'Bamboo' Barnes, Star Pilot of the *Galaxia* (flagship of the Solar Brigade), accepted an hors d'oeuvre from the triangular-shaped platter offered to him from the Princess Qwillia—lavender-skinned she was and busty, with two of her four eyes what Barnes called 'bedroom eyes'—and marveled at how on her planet, Chlamydia-5, these snacks were called 'Hi-Dee-Hoes' but on Earth they were simply called Ritz Crackers with Velveeta.

Greg Homer, Placerville, CA

Sci Fi Runner-Up:

Sterben counted calcium bars in the storage chamber, wondering why women

back on Earth paid him little attention, but up here they seem to adore him, in fact, six fraichemaidens had already shown him their blinka.

Elizabeth Muenster,
Columbia, PA

Winner: Vile Puns

Detective Kodiak plucked a single hair from the bearskin rug and at once understood the grisly nature of the crime: it had been a ferocious act, a real honey, the sort of thing that could polarize a community, so he padded quietly out the back to avoid a cub reporter waiting in the den.

Joe Wyatt, Amarillo, TX

Winner: Western

The laser-blue eyes of the lone horseman tracked the slowly lengthening lariat of a Laredo dawn as it snaked its way through Dead Man's Pass into the valley below and snared the still sleeping town's tiny church steeple in a noose of light with the oh-so-familiar glow of a Dodge City virgin's last maiden blush.

Graham Thomas, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, U.K.

Miscellaneous Dishonorable Mentions

Rosy lips aquiver, Lauren drizzled with tears the wave-tousled sands of Wampauset Municipal Area Public Access Beach, hearing in every shriek of shriek and plaint of plover the ancient wail--*kreeAHH, kreeAHH!*--of good women widowed by the sea, as well as tonal nuances indicating the shorebirds' relative levels of copulative receptiveness, for our umber-eyed heroine is both lover and ornithologist.

Anna Springfield, Raleigh, NC

OWFI Report Photo Contest

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

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

wizardwayne@juno.com.

Send it within the body of the email or as a TEXT attachment. Entry deadline is November 1, 2012.

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OWFI 2013 CONTEST RULES

This is the latest version of OWFI Contest Rules approved by the Board of Directors. There are some changes. Please read carefully.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The annual OWFI contest is open only to paid OWFI members and full-time students. For information on joining OWFI, see the Membership section of the web site.

The contest offers cash prizes in 29 unpublished manuscript categories, and trophies in 4 published book categories. Unpublished manuscript prizes are \$50 for first place, \$35 for second place, and \$20 for third place in each of the 29 categories. All entries are judged by published authors, agents, editors, or other publishing professionals. Judges are asked to provide feedback on each entry, either by completing scoresheets or by making written comments.

For each entry, contestants must include a self-addressed envelope (9 x 12 or larger for unpublished manuscripts), and an official 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.

Entries, entry fee, and official entry form must be post-marked on or before February 1, 2013. Contestants are urged to mail entries at least two weeks before the deadline to allow time for any rule violations to be corrected. Mail entry form and fee to the General Contest Chair at the address listed on the entry form. Mail each individual entry, with cover sheet, to the appropriate category chair (addresses are on the website and in the newsletter).

Please read all rules carefully before entering!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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 (\$20 if paid after November 30th) for affiliate club members and \$20 per year if paid before November 30th (\$25 if paid after November 30th) 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. Anyone entering a manuscript that previously won a cash award will be barred from the contest for a period of time to be determined by the Executive Board.

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. Scripts cannot ever have been optioned. (If accepted by a publisher after entry, the submission will be considered valid.) Works that have been posted on a blog, web site, or other online venue, except works posted for critique purposes, are considered published and are not eligible to be entered in Unpublished Manuscript Categories 1-29.
5. Electronically published novels for the trophy awards must be hard copied before being sent to the category chair.
6. Judges may not enter the category that they are judging.
7. Category Chairs may not enter the category they chair.
8. If entries are co-authored, all members of the writing team must be OWFI members. The team will be considered a single entrant and must pay a separate

(Continued on page 10)

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OWFI 2013 CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 9)

entry fee for their co-authored entries apart from any fees they pay for individual entries. Published anthologies and compilations of work by multiple authors entered in the Trophy Award categories are considered co-authored entries.

9. Persons, whether entering as a team or an individual, may enter a category only once.

10. No manuscript may be entered in more than one category.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

11. Entrants must pay a \$20 NONREFUNDABLE entry fee, which covers administrative costs and awards. This entitles participants to enter as many categories as they want (see restrictions in #8-10 above).

12. Manuscripts must be submitted to the appropriate Category Chair.

13. Entries must be postmarked by February 01, 2013. OWFI is not responsible for entries lost or delayed in the mail. The deadline will not be extended due to inclement weather.

14. All unpublished manuscript

entries must be mailed flat, no folds. Folded manuscripts or manuscripts in envelopes smaller than 9" x 12" will be disqualified. Published books should be mailed in an envelope the correct size for the book.

MS PREPARATION AND FORMAT

15. All unpublished manuscripts must be editor-ready. This includes the following:

- Typed or printed on one side of 8½" x 11" white paper, with 1" margins on all sides. Photocopies and computer printouts are allowed, but must be clear and easy to read.

- Double spaced. (*Exceptions:* Poetry and book synopses may be single spaced. Spacing for book outlines, overviews, and tables-of-contents should follow industry standard.)

- Place a header at the top of all pages except Page 1, listing the title and page number.

- 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 other than italics are not allowed.

- Play, film, or TV scripts should follow industry-standard formats.

For more information on manuscript formatting, consult a recent edition of *Writer's Market* (available at most libraries), or search "Manuscript Format"

online.

16. For ALL ENTRIES in Unpublished Manuscript categories 1-29 (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 (picture books, short stories, articles, etc.). Calculate using word processor word count or average 10 words per line, 25 lines per page.

- For multi-genre categories (see category descriptions), it is highly recommended that entrants note the specific genre in the upper right-hand corner below the word count or page count.

17. Entries over the maximum length or under the minimum length will be disqualified.

18. 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.

19. A completed copy of the 2013 Official Cover Sheet must be attached to each submission with a paper clip (do not staple).

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OWFI 2013 CONTEST RULES

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.

20. All entries must include a self-addressed envelope. For unpublished manuscripts, the envelope must be no smaller than 9" x 12". For published books, the envelope should be appropriately sized to fit the book. 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. 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, 2013 deadline.

Contestants or entries fail to meet the Eligibility Requirements (see above).

Unpublished manuscript entries

folded or mailed in envelopes smaller than 9" x 12" (See EXCEPTION for Published Book entries in Rule #14).

Entries sent to the General Contest Chair instead of the Category Chair, or sent to the wrong Category Chair, though authors may resubmit before the February 1 deadline.

Any manuscript that is not "Editor-Ready"

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).

Trophy Award (Published Book) entries with a copyright date other than 2012.

Any manuscript found not to be the original work of an entrant. The Executive Board or its designated committee will screen all winning entries.

If you tell me,
it's an essay. If
you show me,
it's a story.

Barbara Greene

ONCE AROUND THE WEB

continued

(Continued from page 5)

chat continues and jumps quite a bit back to the top when you click *Play*.

Refresh Speed: You can control how fast or slow your chat screen refreshes and shows new posts. This button opens a sliding bar. The fastest you can refresh is 6 seconds. The slowest is 60 seconds. For fast-moving chats, putting it to 6 seconds helps you better keep up with the chat. Click the "x" to close the box after you have it at the speed you prefer.

User Controls: There are three options under this button.

-Feature: If you are in a busy chat, the person(s) you really want to see can get lost in the mix. Type their Twitter ID in the "feature" box to have their tweets highlighted with a blue bar so you can find them easier.

-Block: Unfortunately, there is not a way for the chat host to block spammers, trolls, or stalkers. That is up to each chat participant. Type their Twitter ID in this box to avoid seeing what they post. If they are too abusive, your only other option is to contact Twitter support to report them.

-Block Retweets: If you're even a little familiar with Twitter, you know about Retweets, usually abbreviated "RT." Retweets in a chat can become annoying. If you don't

(Continued on page 26)

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2013 OWFI Contest Categories

This year a new contest category: Flash Fiction has replaced the old Confession Story category. All other categories remain the same, but some of the category numbers have changed. Please read carefully.

CONTEST CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Categories 1-29: Unpublished Manuscripts

1. Mainstream Novel: Fiction— A successful mainstream novel tackles subjects of universal appeal, driven by characters and plots that find acceptance in the “mainstream” of readers. This category is large and diverse. Think Jodi Picoult, John Grisham, Harlan Coben, etc. Genre novels such as science fiction, mystery/suspense, romance, and historical should be entered in the appropriate categories. Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 25 pages (or less).

2. 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 25 pages (or less).

3. Historical Novel: Fiction— Historical encompasses novels set anytime in the recent or distant past such as ancient Greece, the Middle Ages, or World War II. 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 25 pages (or less).

4. 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

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2013 OWFI Contest Categories

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” on your mss.* Submit first consecutive chapters including prologue, if any, and synopsis. Complete submission limited to 25 pages (or less).

5. 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 during the 1700's and 1800's, as well as contemporary themes of the modern West today. These novels often feature cowboys, Indians, pioneers, gun battles, and scenes of ranch life. They can be either epic or intimate in scope. 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 25 pages (or less).

6. 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**, A novel in which magical, otherworldly, or supernatural elements are a central part of the plot or setting. Many fantasies take place on imaginary worlds. Characters may be something other than human or may possess magical powers; **Horror**, fiction intended to scare, unsettle or horrify the reader. Historically, the cause of the "horror" experience has 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 25 pages (or less).

7. Nonfiction Book: (Any non-fiction book)— This category is made up of an enormous range of divergent genres, which all seek to educate, inform, and/or entertain and sometimes inspire. **Narrative Nonfiction** 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 Non-fiction** 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-

(Continued on page 14)

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2013 OWFI Contest Categories

(Continued from page 13)

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 30 pages (or less).

8. Picture Book: Fiction or nonfiction (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, the protagonist 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. Picture

books 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. (Show, don’t tell). Limit 750 words.

9. Middle Grade Book: Fiction or nonfiction (for ages 8-12)— Same as Category 10, yet written for younger age children. For fiction, think *Hank the Cow Dog*. Submit first chapters, complete synopsis or outline, prologue if any and/or nonfiction proposal (per industry standard). Submission limited to 20 pages (or less).

10. Young Adult Book: Fiction or nonfiction for ages 12 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. For **novels**, think *Harry Potter*; the main character should have an important problem he/she struggles to solve. The 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. **Nonfiction** 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 20 pages (or less).

11. Poetry, Unrhymed-Short— Any theme, any form. A poem is characterized by intense, compressed language. Every word is carefully chosen. A poem can tell a story, create an image, or evoke an emotion. 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.)

12. Poetry, Unrhymed-Long— Same description as Category 11 above, but longer. ***17 lines and longer.*** (Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

13. Poetry, Rhymed-Short— Same description as Category 11 above, but written in rhyme. Any rhyming form may be used. ***16 lines and shorter.***

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2013 OWFI Contest Categories

(Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

14. Poetry, Rhymed-Long— Same description as Category 11 above, but longer and written in rhyme. Any rhyming form may be used. *17 lines and longer.* (Epigraphs and spaces are not part of the line count.)

15. Flash Fiction— An extremely short but complete work of fiction. As with longer stories, a flash fiction story must contain the four elements of fiction: setting (which is usually implied rather than fully described), one or more characters, a conflict, and a resolution. Because of the length limitations, these stories often make use of suggestion and innuendo. This is fiction in its barest, most essential form; every word must move the story forward. Stories submitted in this category should be targeted to an adult audience. Not more than 500 words.

16. Short-Short Story (Adult): Fiction— Same description as a Short Story (see summary in Category 17), but shorter. Not more than 2000 words.

17. 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.

18. Juvenile Short Story: Fiction— Same description as a Short Story (Category 17), yet with a subject matter aimed at children. For readers ages 3-7, 600 words maximum. For readers 8-12, 1000 words maximum. *Must put age range with word count on page one of manuscript.*

19. Young Adult Short Story: Fiction— Same description as a Short Story (Category 17), yet with subject matter aimed at readers 12-18. Limit 1200 words.

20. Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Story: Fiction— Same description as a Short Story (Category 17), 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.

21. 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. Manuscripts submitted in this category should be targeted toward an adult audience. Limit 2000 words.

22. 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

(Continued on page 16)



2013 OWFI Contest Categories

(Continued from page 15)

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.

23. Play, Film, or TV Script—

One, two, or three acts. As in all categories, must be unaccepted at the time of submission, and never optioned or produced at the time of submission. *Help the judge by noting “play” or “film” or “TV script” on your mss.* Format should follow accepted industry standards. Submit complete synopsis and opening scene(s). Complete submission limited to 30 pages (or less).

24. 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 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.

25. Feature Article: Nonfiction (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.

26. Western Article: Nonfiction—

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. Not more than 3000 words.

27. 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.

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2013 OWFI Contest Categories

DON'T MISS THIS BOOK! cont.

28. Mazie Cox Read 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*.

29. 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. Limit 1200 words.

Categories 30-33: Published Books (Trophy Awards)

Must have a copyright date of 2012. E-books, self-published books, and traditionally published books of any length are eligible.

30. Best Juvenile Book

Award—Published book of fiction or nonfiction for readers ages 1-18.

31. Best Nonfiction Book

Award—Published nonfiction book.

32. Best Book of Poetry

Award—Published book of poetry (chapbook or full-length collection).

33. Best Book of Fiction

Award—Published book of fiction (novel or short story collection).

Creme-de-la-Creme Award

A "best of contest" award will be chosen from among the first-place manuscripts in all 29 unpublished categories. The winner receives a trophy and an additional cash award.

(Continued from page 4)

know what you're doing already.

It's important to keep in mind that he's teaching about screenwriting, so some of his instructions may or may not apply to your type of writing. For instance, he says the best way to open your screenplay is to know the ending before you start writing.

He gives ideas about outlining or narrative synopsis, saying "when you can close your eyes and see the story unfolding from start to finish, you're ready to start writing."

If what I've said so far makes you want to know more, you have an exciting surprise coming. His website lists a number of great books, seminars and workshops, and DVD series. And don't go there until you have hours to spend. He updates his blog regularly and there are several interviews that will hold you spellbound if you love to eavesdrop while experts share their writing secrets.

So imagine my delight when I discovered at least one of his courses online on YouTube (I counted up to eight parts). I'm sure Syd Field in person would be well worth the trip but until I can manage that, I can do a lot of learning at home on my laptop.

You can find him at www.SydField.com

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2013 Conference Speakers

Editor's Note: As of press time, the following speakers were scheduled to attend the 2013 OWFI Conference.

2013 Keynote Speaker



After nine years at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, **Patrick Rothfuss**, 2013 Conference Keynote Speaker,

found he had accidentally earned enough credits to graduate with an English degree. He then went to grad school. He'd rather not talk about it.

In April 2007, *The Name of the Wind* was published and met with surprising success. In the years since, it has been translated into 30 languages, won all manner of awards, and become a bestseller in several countries.

After a great deal of work and a few raised eyebrows from his patient editor, *Wise Man's Fear* came out in March 2011, immediately hitting #1 on the New York Times Bestseller list.

When not working on the third book of the series, Pat plays with his baby, makes mead, and runs Worldbuilders, a geek-centered charity that has raised more than a

million dollars for Heifer International.

Jodi Thomas is a New York Times and USA Today best-selling novelist who has written 35 books and 11 anthologies. She is also a 5 time RITA award winner, the coveted recognition from the Romance Writers of America. Thomas is a marriage and family counselor, a background that enables her to write about family dynamics. She inspires and encourages writers to have courage and "put feet to your dreams."



Avon/Harper Collins launched **Jordan Dane's** debut suspense novels in Spring 2008 after buying the 3-book series in auction. Ripped from the headlines, Jordan's gritty plots weave a tapestry of vivid settings, intrigue, and dark humor. *Publishers Weekly* compared her intense pacing to Lisa Jackson, Lisa Gardner, and Tami Hoag—"romantic suspense that crosses



over into plain thriller country with tight plotting and exceptional male characters, both bad guys and good."

Angela

James, executive editor of Carina Press, Harlequin's digital-first imprint, is a veteran of the digital publishing industry and a long-time advocate for digital publishing. She has enjoyed nearly a decade of experience in her field, including successfully launching, building and serving as executive editor for two digital-first presses, most recently Carina Press. As executive editor of Carina, she was recently profiled in *Fast Company* magazine as a digital pioneer in the romance publishing industry



Sandra

Mitchell is an author of YA novels including *Shadowed Summer*, *The Vespertine*, *The Springsweet*, the forthcoming *Aetherborne* and



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2013 Conference Speakers

Mistwalker She's also the editor of the forthcoming YA anthology, *Defy the Dark*.



Jane Friedman is the web editor for the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, where she oversees digital content strategy and online marketing/promotion. Before joining VQR, Jane was a full-time assistant professor of e-media at the University of Cincinnati and former publisher of *Writer's Digest*. An active blogger for more than a decade, Jane's current blog was named one of the Top 10 Blogs for Writers in 2011-2012. Her Twitter activity is often cited as a model for those seeking to use social media effectively.



Lauri J Owen is the author of *The Embers Series*, a fantasy trilogy set in Alternate Alaska: a majestic land where those born with the power to control the elements rule as nobility over those who cannot. It's a land of luxury and loss, of secrets and

lies, of decadence and fear, of love and sorrow. More: it's a place of mages, magic and shape-changers.



Ron Fortier is a graphic novelist primarily known for his *Green Hornet* and *The Terminator* comic books and his revival of the pulp hero, *Captain Hazzard*. In 2006, along with artist Rob Davis, he started Airship 27 Productions, a production company devoted to publishing new adventures of classic pulp heroes. In 2011, Twilight Star Studio and Redbud Studio Comics began publishing Ron Fortier's *Tales of the Macabre*. Fortier has also co-written three novels with noted science fiction author Ardath Mayhar.

Rob M. Davis's first hit comics work was on the adult-oriented comic book *Scimidar* from Malibu Comics. Rob penciled and inked the historic fantasy character Merlin and the fill-in work for the new series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. Rob worked on an issue of *Maze Agency* (a critically acclaimed Mystery -Detective series) for *Innovation Comics*. He



has drawn *Quantum Leap*, based on the TV series DC Comics' two Star Trek comic books (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Star Trek* with *Kirk, Spock, McCoy*, and the original *Enterprise Crew*). Rob and Ron Fortier have collaborated on the graphic novel titled *Daughter of Dracula* and designing and illustrating a number of prose novels for Airship 27.

Tammi Sauer is the author of several children's books including *Mostly Monsterly*.



Among other awards, Tammi won the 2010 *Scholastic Parent & Child Best Book of the Year* and was the 2011 Winner of the Oklahoma Book Award and 2011 Winner of the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award

She lives with her family in Edmond, Oklahoma, with one dog, two geckos, and a tank full of random fish.

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2013 Conference Speakers

Amy Lil-ard is the award-winning author of *Saving Gideon*, the first in a series of "Amish



romances filled with humor, whimsy and grace." She was born in Mississippi but moved to Oklahoma when she was seventeen where she met and married Rob, her husband of 20 years.

Of herself, Amy says "I love homemade tacos, shoes, and romance novels--not necessarily in that order. I'm a big fan of country music, a staunch proponent of saving the Oxford comma, and I'm shamefully obsessed with all things Harry Potter."

Yup'ik Storyteller Jack Dalton



returns by popular demand. A professional storyteller, writer and teacher, Jack has been honored by the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference

on Education as a Distinguished Dignitary, and considered by many people around the world, to be "The Storyteller." He's created and produced five theatrical

works of storytelling, written a book, several plays and created curricula used in all levels of education. At residencies in schools across the country, he teaches the importance of storytelling to the continuation of all cultures and works with students to create their own stories, thus, continuing the tradition.

Social Media Guru (or is it

Goddess?) Lela Davidson is the author of *Black-listed from the PTA* (Jupiter Press, July 2011). She is a regular contributor to the



Today Show Moms blog, Brooke Burke's *Modern Mom*, and featured parenting blogger for Lifetime Television's morning show, *The Balancing Act*. She is the Managing Editor of Parenting Squad, a website that receives nearly 100,000 pageviews per month. Her humor essays have been published in dozens of parenting magazines throughout the United States and Canada, and in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: New Moms* (March 2011).

DENNIS PALUMBO, M.A., MFT is a writer and licensed psychotherapist in private practice,

specializing in creative issues. His novel *Mirror Image* (Poisoned Pen Press) is the first in a new series of crime thrillers. The sequel, *Fever*



Dream, is on sale now. He's also the author of *Writing From the Inside Out* (John Wiley), as well as a collection of mystery short stories, *From Crime to Crime* (Tallfellow Press). Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter, his credits include the feature film *My Favorite Year*. He was also a staff writer for the ABC-TV series *Welcome Back, Kotter*. His first novel, *City Wars* (Bantam Books) is currently in development as a feature film, and his short fiction has appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *The Strand*, *Written By* and elsewhere.



Jim McCarthy is a literary agent and vice presi-

dent at Dystel & Goderich Literary Management where he has worked his entire professional life since he started as an intern back in 1999. Jim focuses on adult and

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2013 Contest Speakers

young adult fiction across categories from cozy mysteries and paranormal romance to literary fiction and some deeply quirky comedies. He is a frequent guest at writers' conferences nationwide. His clients include *New York Times* bestsellers Richelle Mead, Juliet Blackwell, Alyssa Day, and Victoria Laurie, who was the second client he ever signed on back in 2003.

Rhonda Penders—Editor-in-Chief



The Wild Rose Press, which started in 2006 as a small press and e-publishing company. The company is

now home to over 1200 romance titles published in both electronic and print format. The company was built on the belief that a publishing contract is a team effort between editor, author and publisher. Her writing background includes everything from small town newspaper reporting to writing confessionals for *Dorchester* magazines. She has several full length novels and short stories published under the name Roni Adams.

Book Doc Continued

(Continued from page 6)

“It’s not the prizes, or the publications, or the fancy award certificates that bring fulfillment, **but the joy of creating. Remember, that’s all God got.**”

Fascinating.

Marcia Preston, writing as M.K. Preston in her mystery series, displays a master craftsmanship in evoking emotion and imagery. In *Perhaps She’ll Die* (Intrigue Press, 2001), Marcia features a young woman character, Chantalene, who enters a small, Oklahoma town’s historic courtroom filled with old wooden benches. Chantalene’s narrative tells us: “*Courtroom B smelled of furniture polish and old guilt.*” Later in the same paragraph we read, “*Lethargic ceiling fans disseminated Thelma’s floral perfume.*”

Fascinating.

Sometimes we can be fascinated by a particular form of writing. The *REPORT* editor, Wayne Harris-Wyrick offered his take on being fascinated when I asked my “Writer’s Chat” readers to share what fascinates them as writers and readers.

“I am fascinated with the micro-writing style (Microfiction -- stories under 100 words; I have about a dozen of them, and Twitter stories -- 140 characters or less) and with very clever, strong or emotive opening sen-

tences. That comes from the tongue-in-cheek Bulwer-Lytton contest for the most outrageous opening sentence. I once attended a talk about opening sentences and the speaker said his favorite was “The last camel died at noon.” What a great opening sentence, but it turns out that was actually the title of a kid’s mystery book, # 6 in a series by Elizabeth Peters. So I strive to come up with that opening sentence that makes a reader and an editor glued to the book from the opening moment! I’ll let you know whenever I write it....”

And that’s exactly the point. We as writers must stay fascinated with what we write in order to fascinate those editors who might purchase our creations. And the best way to do that is by reading fresh, well-written prose and poetry whenever and wherever we can. The truth is, every so often I’m blessed to read a new writer with a unique ability to turn a phrase. And once again, I’m fascinated.

As a post script, if you’d like to join my “Writer’s Chat” newsletter—emailed to your inbox each week—I’ll be happy to add you—bookdoctor@earthlink.net We cover one or two topics, and I add your responses to the next week’s “chat.” Think of it as a virtual conversation we might have at a writer’s conference, talking shop and staying in touch in our solitary worlds of writing. There are a lot of interesting comments and it’s so insightful. Here’s hoping your fall is filled with fascination!

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Affiliate News

BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

BWW

Acceptance and Sales

HEATHER DAVIS: NONFICTION BOOKS: Signed a multi-book, multi-year deal with Buzz Books USA. First book to be released on Mother's Day 2013.

SARAH LESLIE: ARTICLE: "Meaning Beyond a Meaningless World," *Join the Journey* (<http://gcc.jointhejourney.com>) (08/12).

Novels & New Books

LINDA DERKEZ: PICTURE BOOK: *Chip's Sharing Day*, Guardian Angel Publishing, Inc. (<http://www.GuardianAngelPublishing.com>) (06/12).

RITA DURRETT: E-BOOK: *Shades of Gray: A Short Story Anthology*, Kindle Books (www.amazon.com) (06/12).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: NOVEL: *Quail Crossings*, TreasureLine Publishing (<http://www.treasurelinepublishing.com>) (09/12).

Professional Activities

HEATHER DAVIS: BLOG: is now a contributor on <http://www.chick-wit.com>.

Club News

On September 15, 2012 the WordWeavers and Bartlesville Public Library will be hosting *Into the Book: A Festival for Readers and Writers*, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. No entry fee. Over 30 authors will be in attendance, including guest speakers Sonia Gensler and Bill Wetterman.

The **WordWeavers** meet the third Tuesday of each month at the Bartlesville Public Library at 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to anyone with a love of writing.

NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

NGW

Acceptances and Sales

MARSHA FERRIER: Photo of a cross in the window at First Presbyterian Church published in *Images of Faith, Catalog of Art Displays*, First Christian Church in Norman.

ROBERT FERRIER: Poem "Found Art" published in *Crosstimbers Literary Journal*, USAO, Chickasha, Fall-Winter 2011 issue. Poem: "History in Three Dimensions" in *Images of Faith, Catalog of Art Displays*, First

Christian Church in Norman. Poem "Bait Shop" accepted by *Oklahoma Today* for future issue. Video "The Dante Dreams -King Herod" on *Youtube.com*.

SYLVIA FORBES: Articles: "Rooftop Revolutionary: "A Man of Steel"; "Concrete Connoisseur" in *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyle*. "A Tale of Three Cities," "Captivating Keukenhof," "Alluring, Awesome, Ancient Athens" in *Prime Magazine*. "Journey to the Bottom of the Sea: A Titanic Adventure" in *Mature Focus*: "A 'Titanic' Plunge to the Bottom" in the *Senior Beacon*. "Gardening Up High" in *Missouri Gardener*; "A Stitch and a Story" in *Seniorwire*.

FRANCES SEARCEY: Poem, "Change" published in *Secrets of Aging, 2012 Senior Poetry book*. Poem untitled sold to *Lifeway* to be published in *Mature Living Magazine*.

LINDA TREADWAY: Articles: "Line-X," "Wilshire Pennington," "OU Medical & DaVinci," and "OKC Pickleball Club" in *Edmond Outlook Magazine*.

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Poem "Freedom", Oil painting "Running Free", accepted for Show/Sale, Celebration of Life Annual Art Exhibit, Integris Cancer Center, OKC.

CAROL COLE-FROWE: Article, "Professor Fun" in *Norman*

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Affiliate News

Continued

Magazine, reported the Woodward tornado for *New York Daily News*, stringer for *Bloomberg News*.

JOCELYN PEDERSEN; Articles "Burn Barn," to *Oklahoma Living Magazine*. "Chester's Drawers Poker Run," and "Noble Officials Try to Quell Animal Shelter Closing Rumor," to *Norman Transcript and Yahoo.com*.

Contests

NEAL HUFFAKER: Arkansas Writers' Conference Contest: First Place in Lucille Longstreth Memorial Award (poem); "Perilous Passage;" Second Place Minute award; "Noise Abatement;" Third Place, Pen Point Group Award (story) "Inspired by a Song: Can't Take my Eyes off You;" 2nd Honorable Mention, Mildred McKinney Award (essay): "Education and Citizenship."

SYLVIA FORBES: Honorable Mention in Short fiction for the Alabama Writers Conclave annual contest. 2012 Writers-Editors Network International Writing Competition: HMs for Fiction-Short Story, NonFiction-unpublished and NonFiction previously published. .

Professional Activities

ROBERT FERRIER & ROSE FERRIER: Poetry reading at

The Gardens at Rivermont, Norman.

ROBERT FERRIER: Presented "Poetry Aspects" for Member Moments at the June Galaxy meeting.

JUDY HOWARD: Exhibit/Book Signing: August 17-19 at the *Food for Body and Soul Touring Quilts* at the Rocky Mountain quilt Festival in Loveland, Co.

ANN CHAMPEAU: presented "Memoir Writing" at the August Galaxy Member Moments.

SYLVIA FORBES traveled to Arkansas to do four interviews for upcoming articles. Attended Wordcamp 2012 (on using Word-Press) in Fayetteville, Ar.

KWA

Acceptances and Sales

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

ARLENE RAINS GRABER: ARTICLE: "More than a Game" *CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: HOCKEY* (10/12)

Novels & New Books

GORDON KESSLER: E-BOOKS: MEN'S ADVENTURE, *Knight's Ransom*, (02/12) 1st in "The E Z Knight Reports," and *Knight's Big Easy*, 2nd book in the series. (06/12) The seventh edition of *Novel Writing Made Simple*, (07/12) and *Big Three-Thriller Bundle/Box Collection*, (07/12) a collection of thriller novels, and the first edition of *EBook Writing Made Simple*.

(07/12 All available at Amazon.com. and Smashwords. In addition, Kessler has released three ebooks for novelists. NON-FICTION, *How to Write a Novel-Storytelling, the Writer and the Ebook Novel; How to Edit, Revise and Rewrite Your Novel-A Quick and Simple Guide*; and *How to Prepare and Submit Your Novel to Agents and Editors*. Amazon (08/12)

BONNIE MYRICK: E-BOOK: HISTORICAL NOVEL: *Nelly of No Man's Land* will be published in September 2012 by Amazon and Smashwords.

HAZEL HART: E-BOOK: MYSTERY/SUSPENSE NOVEL, *Family History*, (07/12) available on Amazon.com for Kindle.

ARLENE RAINS GRABER: A Plane Tree in Provence, Women's Fiction novel, published in paperback with CreateSpace, (05/12)

Professional Activities

GORDON KESSLER: has created the Indie Writers Alliance, an online organization to help eBook writers market and publish their manuscripts. Check it out at: www.IndieWritersAlliance.com. Gordon also has a new blog: <http://GordonKessler.com>.

HAZEL HART AND BONNIE MYRICK have developed Keyhole Conversations, a video vlog company that produces videos of character interview from novels, book pitches, and writer interviews. www.2tgr.wordpress.com.

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Affiliate News

Continued

BONNIE MYRICK: Is creating book covers for writers along with book trailers.

CLUB NEWS

Watch for the annual Scene of the Crime conference in March 2013. Plans are underway and dates and speakers will be released soon.

PEN AND KEYBOARD WRITERS

P&K

Professional Activities

SHIRL YANCEY is taking part in the Library Camp with her nonfiction book *Conscience: Breaching Social Amnesia*.

JACQUE GRAHAM continues to give one woman monologues as her main character Belle Cobb, the first woman Indian doctor in Indian Territory.

VIVIAN ZABEL will hold a workshop and two presentations at the Alaska Writing Conference September 7 – 9.

Several members will attend and/or have books in the Kansas Book Festival in Topeka September 15.

Club News

Pen and Keyboard Writers has been working on improving our writing. At the September 8 meeting, Chuck Sasser will be the guest speaker. His topic will be “The 5 Steps to Writing success.”

JIM MARTIN is the new vice-president

The group now meets in the Mardels’ conference room, 33rd and Boulevard in Edmond, 10:00 – 12:00.

ARKANSAS RIDGEWRITERS

ARW

Professional Activities

SYLVIA FORBES: Attended Ozarks Romance Authors Conference (06/12); attended WordCamp 2012 (on using WordPress) in Fayetteville, AR (07/12).

JAN MORRILL: Attended WordCamp 2012, Fayetteville, AR (07/12); Conducted WordPress blogging workshop, Fayetteville, AR (08/12).

DONNA VOLKENANNT: Volunteer for Saturday Writers First Annual Youth Camp, St. Peters, MO (07/12); Workshop presentation on “Structuring Short Stories” during “The Write Direction Conference,” Columbia, MO (11/12).

Contest Winnings

SYLVIA FORBES: 2012 OWFI Annual Writing Contest, Poetry-Rhymed Long: 3rd place, Chil-

dren's Picture Book: 1st HM, and Short-Short Story: 3rd HM. Writers-Editors Network 2012 International Writing Competition, Fiction-Short Story: HM, NonFiction-unpublished: HM, and Non-Fiction-previously published: HM. Alabama Writers Conclave annual contest, Short Fiction: HM, “Revenge by Retriever.”

Acceptances and Sales

DAVID W.

BAHNKS: HORROR SHORT STORY: “Fauntleroy’s Legacy,” Anthology by Regina Riney Williams entitled *Writing on the Walls*, Mockingbird Lane Press (08/12)

SYLVIA FORBES: ARTICLES PUBLISHED: “Rooftop Revolutionary” (about green roofs) (05/12), “Man of Steel” (06/12), and “Concrete Connoisseur” (08/12) in *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyle*; “Captivating Keukenhof” (05/12), “A Tale of Three Cities” (Budapest) (06/12), “Alluring, Ancient Athens” (07/12), and “Crazy about Copenhagen” (08/12) in *Prime Magazine*; “Journey to the Bottom of the Sea: A Titanic Adventure” in *Mature Focus* (04/12); “A ‘Titanic’ Plunge to the Bottom” in the *Senior Beacon* (03/12); “Gardening Up High” (07/12) and “Herbal Cor-sages (08/12) in *Missouri Gardener*; and “A Stitch and a Story” for *Seniorwire* (06/12).

ANN HOLBROOK: STORY: “A Change of Mind,” *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive for Great Health!* (09/12).

JAN MORRILL: NOVEL: *The*

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Affiliate News

Continued

Red Kimono, University of Arkansas Press (Spring 2013).

DONNA VOLKENANNT:

SHORT STORY: "Stairway to Heaven," *Shadows After Midnight*, Wellkins Press (Fall 2012);

BOOK REVIEWS: *The Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriana Trigiani, *The Boy Who Stole the Leopard's Spots* by Tamar Myers, Bookreporter.com (05/12); *The Road to Grace* by Richard Paul Evans, *The Dark Monk* by Oliver Potzsch, Bookreporter.com (06/12);

Game Changers by Mike Lupica, Teenreads.com (06/12);

INTERVIEW: Lisa Jackson, Bookreporter.com (05/12).

FORT WORTH WRITERS

FWW

Professional Activities

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: SPEAKER/

PERFORMER: *TV-Live—or Dead* and "The

Golden Age of Television," The Tradition Senior Living, Dallas, TX (06/12); BOOK REVIEW: *TV-Live—or Dead* and discussion of the "Golden Age of Television," The Book Club, Fort Worth, TX, (07/12).

ROBYN CONLEY: SPEAKER: Robyn spoke with the ladies from Hopewell Baptist Church in Crews, TX, where she sold out of *Pray the Bible with Paper and Pen*, as well as her devotional CD, *Prayer Push-Ups*, (06/12); SIGNING: *Insights from the Jobsite*. Robyn braved the heat outside Texas Star Trading Post in Abilene, TX to sign and sell her book and sold every bit as much as she perspired on the Saturday before Father's Day, (06/12). Robyn has been editing multiple manuscripts and edits a weekly "Writer's Chat" newsletter sent to hundreds of writers each week. To sign up, email her at bookdoctor@earthlink.com.

Novels and New Books

ROBYN CONLEY: NONFICTION: *Insights from the Jobsite*; The book is selling well and is packed with full-color photos—one for each short vignette—and it sports large print, perfect for those fellas and their bathroom office reading sessions," Eagle Wing Press, (Spring '12).

Acceptances and Sales

JAMES A. WOOD: SHORT STORY: "Turquoise and Silver," *Hardboiled*, Issue #44, Gryphon Books, Brooklyn, N.Y., (02/12).

Club News

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT was Runner-Up in the "Ms. Texas Senior America Pageant," (08/12). Contestants are judged on Interview, Philosophy of Life, Evening Dress and Tal-

ent. The National Pageant is in Atlantic City, (10/12).

WRITERS' GUILD OF ARKANSAS

WGA

Professional Activities

LELA DAVIDSON: Appeared in her first video as an official member of the iVillage iVoices team (06/12), SPEAKER: Creativity and productivity at the *Cooperative Communicators Association*, Tucson, AZ (06/12), SPEAKER: on the business of writing, social media, and self-publishing for the Ozark Writers' League (05/12), quoted about social media in the July 5th issue of the *Wall Street Journal* (07/12)

MARILYN H. COLLINS.

CONFERENCE SPEAKER:

"Memoir Writing: Brighten Your Leaf on the Family Tree," Nat'l Women's Memoir Conference/Story Circle Network, Austin, TX. ONLINE INSTRUCTOR: Nat'l Women's Memoir Writing/Story Circle Network. Class focus "Spin Life Stories into Magazine Articles."

Publications

LELA DAVIDSON: ESSAY:

True creativity often starts where language ends.

Arthur Koestler

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Affiliate News

Continued

“Why Magic Mike Doesn’t Do it For Me,” *The Huffington Post*, (06/12)

RHONDA FRANZ: ARTICLE: “Knocking on Wood: A Young Child’s Education in Home Improvement,” *Simply Family Magazine*, (06/12)

Acceptance and Sales:

MARILYN H. COLLINS: Articles for *2Njoy Magazine* (Life Redefined/Arts/Culture/Entertainment). “The New Great Passion Play: Eureka Springs,” and “A New Face on Garrison Avenue” (June/July); “Carolyn Joyce: Yesteryear’s Madam/Today’s Lady,” “Fort Smith: Who Knew History Could Be Such Fun?,” and “The Write of Way: Introduction of Dairy Hollow Writers’ Colony” (08/12.).

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS

OKC

Acceptances and Sales

GAIL MAATTLINGLY, Short Story, *A Timid Soul* in the June issue of *The Storyteller*.

SANDI SOLI published 3 poems, a recipe poem and 5 photographs in the *Oklahoma Review*. She also had pieces accepted for *Sugar Mule*, *Cross Timbers*, 2013

Texas Poetry Calendar and 100th birthday anthology for Woody Guthrie.

Novels and New Books

TONY LoPRESTI, children’s picture book *My Cat* was published in April.

Contest Winnings

SANDI SOLI was a finalist in the Write Corner Press national competition

Professional Activities

CAROLYN LEONARD taught classes on writing family history in Weatherford and Edmond.

Club News

PEGGY DIVEBLISS, a long-time member of OKC Writers passed away in February

ONCE AROUND THE WEB

continued

(Continued from page 11)

want to see them, click the box next to the bolded "Block Retweets?" Click the "x" to close the box when you're done.

Toggle Font: Do you want your print size larger or smaller? Clicking the "toggle font" button will take your font up or down a size. There is no customization on this feature.

Share Link: Do you have any friends who you think would be interested in the chat you're in? Clicking the "Share Link" button will automatically put a short post in your dialog box, including a link to the room in TweetChat. All you have to do is send it.

What Are Some Other Features?

So far, you have the basic information, plus a little extra, you need to participate in a chat on TweetChat. But what if you want a little more?

Here's the "a little more."

Out to the right of every tweet that goes through the chat, there is a series of faded buttons.

Reply: This is as straightforward as it gets. Clicking this button takes you to your dialog box to reply directly to that person on that specific tweet.

Retweet: This is also pretty straightforward. Instead of just sending the retweet, though, you have the option of adding a comment to it. Just remember it has to stay within the 140-character limit, including the hashtag.

User Control: This is a shortcut to either "feature" or "block" another chat participant without having to go through the "User Control" button described above.

Favorite: Clicking on this star will add a tweet to your Favorites list for you to go back to at a later date.

That's All?

You also always have the option of clicking on a person's Twitter ID to go directly to their profile page to learn more about them and to follow them.

TweetChat is, overall, the more user-friendly of the Twitter chat applications that are available. Explore other options, such as TwitterFall and TweetGrid, to see which you prefer. They all work in a similar manner. If you have questions, email jen@jen-nipps.com with "Twitter Chat" in the subject line.

Television has raised writing to a new low.

Samuel Goldwyn

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Conference 2012 Revisited



Photo by Tawnya Hobbs York



Photo by Tawnya Hobbs York

Background Photo by Carolyn Leonard



Photo by Carolyn Leonard



Photo by Tawnya Hobbs York



Photo by Tawnya Hobbs York





Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc.

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CONTEST PHOTO!
See page 8 for de-
tails.

