

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

THE

REPORT

FALL 2013

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 2

Home, sweet home!
Create, Compose, Commit
May 1-3, 2014



Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD

in Oklahoma, the United States and around the world



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DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

Christine Jarmola President's Message

The Conference is Coming! The Conference is Coming!



The OWFI 2014 conference is almost here!

Okay, maybe it is still nine months away, but like something else that takes nine months, planning a conference of this size takes a long time and a lot of planning.

Our first step is to read all of those surveys that everyone so faithfully fills out each year. And yes, we really do read them. They are very productive. I'm not sure how survey responses from, say, maybe a morticians' convention might go, but with authors if you ask them to write what they think, they take the time to really write what they think.

And we listened. Well, actually read.

Our goal is to always keep what works from year to year and to change what does not.

One thing we are adding, because many asked for it, is to have a beginners' track of workshops. We're calling it Conference 101. It will include everything from *How to Get the Most Out of a Conference* to *What is a Query Letter and Do I Need One?* I think it will be a great addition to help those who are just sticking their toes in the water and want to know the next step on the pathway to becoming published. Be sure to pass this on to friends who might fit the bill and especially college students who are deciding on a writing career.

One thing we're changing is going back to 50-minute sessions. We tried the longer sessions, but it seems most people prefer shorter so that they can hear a better variety of the speakers.

Step two - find a venue. For OWFI 2014 we are going back *home* to the Embassy Suites OKC. Although we loved the beautiful and spacious accommodations of Embassy Suites Norman, many felt we were just a little too spread out. There's something to be said about being the only group in the hotel to help create the feeling of camaraderie, which is one of the top reasons that people come to OWFI. Also, it makes it harder for those authors, publishers, agents and editors to get away from you.

Step three – book fabulous speakers. Always on the survey, people expound on how great different presenters were. We have had some amazing people over the years. This year we are striving to keep the same high standards. The next issue of *The Report* will list all the speakers and their bios, but for now I'll just tease you with a few. For all you poets, we have none other than the Poet Laureate of Oklahoma, **Nathan Brown**. In the world of YA authors, we have one of the best, who's also one of Oklahoma's own, **Tara Hudson**. For those who want to know the ins and the outs of self-publishing,

(Continued on page 15)

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Read This Book!**THE RED KIMONO**

By Jan Morrill

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

THE RED KIMONO

By Jan Morrill

Published by University of Arkansas Press
2013, 306 pages

Pages and pages of raw emotion hidden inside ordinary words, that's Jan Morrill's first novel, *The Red Kimono*. It's quiet, visual, and as graceful as a *geshia* dance.

She tells the story of a Japanese-American family in Berkeley, California whose lives were ripped out by the roots on December 7, 1941. Sachi, nine-year-old daughter, hears the radio broadcast - Pearl Harbor - surprise attack - sinking ships. The next day at school she hears, for the first of many times, "Hey girl, you look like the enemy!"

Each chapter is titled one of the three point-of-view characters - Sachi, Nobu, her 17-year-old brother, or Terrence, Nobu's black school friend. Each title also has a location and a date, a feature that becomes a ticking clock, foreshadowing cliff-hanger after cliff-hanger.

An example is Sachi's question to her father when he explains why they aren't the enemy. "Papa, if we didn't do anything wrong, why can't we go to the park?" Then a couple chapters later is one entitled "Terrence, Berkeley, California, December 23, 1941. It contains the plot point that sends the slowly building tension crashing out of control. A telegram announced his father, a Navy cook, died in the bombing at Pearl Harbor.

Morrill writes in layers of exquisite opposites, so subtle you don't notice it for a day or two. Then the characters, the vivid pictures, even the resonance and vulnerability of the words pull the readers in close, then drive them through the events at a deep emotional level.

Terrence runs from the house to hide his emotion from his mother and young sisters and sees two friends in the park. When they ask what's wrong, he says, "The japs killed my father."

They were white school friends who played basketball with Nobu and Terrence, who'd also been bombarded by the loss of normal life and the anxiety that replaced it. In their anger, they lash out at a Japanese man in the park with his daughter. It all starts with taunting, pushing, then kicking.

I'm going to leave you there in my own cliff-hanger, but I'll say what happens next sets the trajectory for the rest of the story. It took me two weeks to read this book because I could only take the intensity in small chunks. I knew Morrill was half Japanese and her own mother had been in an internment camp.

"It was getting so heavy I finally added a new

(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

UDEMY.COM: A WEB SITE REVIEW

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

Udemy (www.udemy.com) bills itself as “the academy of you.” But what is it?

It is an online education platform where you can take classes and watch video lectures at your own pace. They have certification tracks, certificates of completion to present for continuing education credits, and more.

Topics range from technology, business, and design to art and photography, health and fitness, and lifestyle to math and science, education, languages, and much more. In browsing the courses, you can add them to your wishlist or enroll by clicking one button.

Registration is free. You can register by linking to your Facebook account or by filling out the registration form. Classes on writing can be found in Art and Photography or in Business, depending on what your focus is.

How do the courses work?

When you register for a course, you will be taken to the class outline. There is a status bar at the top that shows how much of the class you have completed. Under that, on the left is the course outline. It tells you how long each video lecture is. (Some courses also have downloads of course slides and/or quick reference guides for you.) To the right, at the top is a box that tells you how many items you need to complete before you can get your certificate. Under that is a dialog box where you can ask the instructor questions. That is also where you will find your answers.

Once you click on a section to watch that lecture, the default is a split screen with the video on one side and three tabs on the other. The first tab describes the lecture in progress. The second tab is for questions while you watch the video. Be sure to check back because that is also where your answers will appear. The third tab is for notes you take during the lecture. After it is over, you have the option to download your notes for that particular video.

As far as the video itself, you can watch it as is on a split screen or you can make it full screen. Under the video is an option to turn autoplay on or off. It’s better to have it off in case you’re not quite ready when it comes up. There is also a checkmark in a circle. At the end of each lecture, make sure this is checked green. If not, it doesn’t count as having been watched.

What if you want to do more than just take courses and watch videos? What if you want to teach a course too? You can do that.

There is a link at the top of the screen that says “Create a course.” You can provide a course for free or at a cost you determine. According to the Udemy website, instructors keep approximately 85% of their course fees and retain ownership of their courses. The remainder goes to help pay to keep the site accessible.

The platform walks you through creating your own course. After you start the process, you get an e-mail with instructions on how to contact Udemy for help if you need it.

From what I have seen on the site, there are no dead links. If there are any, students bring them to the instructors’ attention and they are corrected. The site is a little confusing at first but is overall user-friendly. If I were to give it a rating, I would give it a solid 4 stars, maybe 4.5. There are too many areas I have yet to explore to give it the whole 4.5 or even 5 stars.

Jen Nipps is a member of the McAlester McSherry Writers, and Web Writing Women. She will soon be offering courses on writing, creativity, and crochet on Udemy. Her website is www.jennipps.com.



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The Doctor is:

In**Out**

Mix 'Em Ups

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

“What do you think about plum upside-down cake with no-churn, dark cherry ice cream?”

My Irishman turned the front of a popular women’s magazine toward me, then flipped pages to the recipe and started reading rapid-fire, as if he were a prof doling out the semester’s syllabus requirements.

“Sure, we can try it, I suppose.” He caught me off-guard, my hands and mind busy tending to Schnauzer chores while his mom was away for the weekend. If he hadn’t been waiting on me to fill up food and water bowls, he never would have seen her magazine in the kitchen--and I never would have spent hours the next day trying to recreate the recipes of those pictures.

Oh my, the whole flavorful fiasco reminded me of the recent articles I’ve been grilling across the keyboard, trying my best to revise, re-slant, and resell. Markets that were once available for the type of writing I create now want leaner, bullet-based fact points. I’m learning, trying new things.

All of us writers must evolve, willing to mix new ingredients together to find the next level of success or the best layer of texture to pad our portfolios.

Some of us enter this business believing we are only fantasy writers; others believe we’re mystery writers and that’s all. The truth is we add new seasons with each season. A dash of non-fiction here enriches the pocketbook there. Stirring in a children’s story with research we discovered for our novel idea might bring another sale and a new audience to our books.

One of my favorite, favorite things to do at this stage of my career is not the actual writing: it’s talking with seniors, encouraging them to *write* their life stories. Sure, those sessions revolve around my book,

Beyond the Branches: Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family History, but they’re more about community and fellowship, more about fun and reminiscing. Those seminars are such an unexpected treasure compared with the days I spent typing out my first dry submissions as a new writer.

Whichever stage you’re in at this moment, either facing your first submissions, your next deadline, or one more revision on an old article, remember: a little mix ‘em up might be just the perfect recipe for your success.

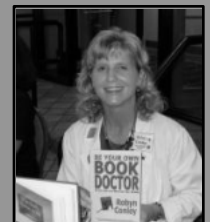
Another element might be a free critique! You can send me ten pages (on an email attachment, formatted in courier font, 12-point, one-inch margins, and double-spaced) and I’ll edit them electronically and send them back with my com-

ments and suggestions. Send them to:
robconbookdoc@gmail.com

Until next time: happy writing!

All writers must evolve, willing to mix new ingredients together to find the next level of success or the best layer of texture to pad our portfolios.

****Robyn Conley, the book doctor, helps writers learn how to make their writing healthy and marketable. Check out her latest book, *The Healthy Writer’s Handbook*, available for download or in print version at Amazon. If you want to subscribe to her weekly newsletter, email her at robconbookdoc@gmail.com**



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The Face of OWFI on Facebook

By Heather Davis, OWFI Webmaster
and Jen Nipps, OWFI Publicity Chair

OWFI, like almost everyone else on the planet, has a presence on Facebook. We invite all of our members and friends to interact with us through the entire year on that social media venue.

Facebook was started in the early 2000's as a way for college students and recent alumni to stay connected. Eventually, the site was opened for everyone to use. And, on some days, it seems like everyone is using it.

Having a presence on Facebook allows OWFI members to stay connected with each other outside of our annual conference the first weekend in May.

Our Page. The first way to stay connected to OWFI via Facebook is through our official Facebook *page*. Search **Oklahoma Writers** (www.facebook.com/oklawritersfed). This operates the same way as your Facebook page operates. People request to be friends with OWFI and once accepted OWFI or Oklahoma Writers' news and business will appear in your newsfeed.

This page will be reserved for official business and news from the organization. The settings are such that no one else can post on the Oklahoma Writer's timeline, so you won't see anything but official business, information and news. Members who are not already friends with Oklahoma Writers are encouraged to add us as a friend. This page is checked daily, so requests will be honored in a timely manner.

If you have news or information that is beneficial to the group as a whole and believe it would be helpful to have the Oklahoma Writers page share it on our timeline, please Facebook message it to that page or email it to Heather Davis (Minivan.Momma.2@gmail.com). If it's deemed appropriate for the group, it will be shared through this page.

This Facebook page is also linked to Twitter. So, if you prefer to get your news and updates via that

social platform, you can follow OWFI on Twitter @OWFI (www.twitter.com/OWFI).

Our Two Groups. In addition to the Facebook page, OWFI also offers two groups for our members. Groups differ from pages in that anyone can join (although you must request to be added) and anyone can post.

The first group is called **Oklahoma Writer's Federation, Inc.** (www.facebook.com/groups/91274374466/). This group is for members' news and sharing. It's a very active group, and you'll notice that members post things such as blogs, publications, activities, and affiliate information. Because it is very active, it is easy for a post to get lost in that group. It can also be frustrating for some who are looking for information or support. So, think of that group as the toot-your-own-horn group.

The second group is called **OWFI: Writer's Supporting Writers** (www.facebook.com/groups/141997929338664/). It's designed specifically for writers to share information (NOT your own publishing news or your own successes). This group would be an appropriate place to ask questions about publishing and trends and other issues related to the writing industry. It would also be an appropriate place to share writing information. For example, if you recently met with a New York editor and that person gives you a great piece of advice, you could share it in that group.

Once you are a member of these groups, you can find them easily by looking on the left side bar of your main page on Facebook. The third section down that side bar is called GROUPS, and it lists all the groups of which you are a member.

If you are not a member of the groups and wish to be, you will go to the group page and click the *Join Group* option at top right of the information bar. An administrator will add you shortly.

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MARKETING

Lose the Static, Dynamic Websites Win

Lela Davidson, Social Media Guru

I know this will be hard for some to believe, but when I was young(er), there was no Internet. Crazy, right?

Amazon.com did not even exist until I was in college. My first year out in Corporate America my cube mates and I were split 50/50 on whether or not we would be doing any of that new fangled online shopping. Some of us did not feel safe submitting our credit card numbers on a computer.

The world has changed. If you are in business you need a website as your home base online. Some of us who are a little bit older tend to think of a website as a static thing. My first website was a project that I created and then left alone. I moved on to the next project. I treated my website like a yellow pages advertisement that just needed to be set, and then I could forget it. But today's online marketing does not work this way.

Search engines favor websites with recent updates. Search engine algorithms change all the time, but this preference for updates probably will not change anytime soon. The search engine is trying to be a good neighbor. You would not recommend a tax accountant who hadn't reviewed the IRS rules since 1986. You would recommend the tax accountant who regularly attended classes, who was always learning something new. Updates to your website, commonly in the form of blog posts, tell the search engines your information is current.


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Search engines interpret new content as better information. We are dealing with machines. All they know is what we put on our websites and new data looks like new and relevant information. The assumption built into the algorithm is that the more often content changes the more value the website provides.

Get used to the idea of continuously updating your website, but do not let this overwhelm you. All you have to do is commit to a schedule, whether that is one new thing a month, a week, or a day. Consistent updates matter to the search engines and to your ultimate success. If you look at SEO as a weekend project you will never be successful at improving your website's position in search results, but if you look at it as a

weekly process, you will.

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



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Why Bother Attending a Conference

by Vivian Zabel

Writing conferences or book festivals with conference components offer opportunities for writers of all levels of ability and experience. However, not all writers understand how to make the most of a conference, how to receive the most benefit.

Let's examine some benefits of attending a writing conference, and, yes, I include myself because I'm a writer.

We learn. No matter how much we know, how long we've written, how many books we have published, we can and should continue learning and improving our writing abilities. Sessions and workshops at conferences and some book festivals give us the opportunity to hone our skills, to learn, to improve.

We are professionals, if we take our writing seriously, and we should act as if we are. Teachers, doctors, nurses, business people attend professional conventions and workshops to stay abreast of new techniques and technology in their fields. As writers, we should do the same as other professionals.

At many conferences, such as OWFI, we rub elbows with New York City agents and editors. In fact at OWFI, authors can make appointments to pitch their books to agents and editors from some of the major agencies and houses. Often small publishers are invited to take pitches from authors, too.

We network with other writers at conferences, discovering that others not only do what we do (write), but they also understand the struggles and the rewards. We meet and connect with everything from writers who are newbies to bestselling authors. At conferences, I met J.A. Jance, Debbie McComber, Steve Berry, Steven James, the late Tony Hillerman,

Dave Lieber, Jordan Dane, Merline Lovelace, Tess Gerritson (creator of Rizoli & Isles), and Margret Daley, just to name a few. Not only do those famous authors meet attendees, they visit and share with us.

Another way to benefit from a conference is to participate by volunteering. For example, shepherds at the OWFI conference get to interact with special speakers one on one. Imagine picking up someone like J.A. Jance at the airport, having lunch with her,

knowing that her attention is yours for those times. Ohhh ... Also anyone working the registration or information desk meets everyone. Volunteering allows attendees to become part of the inner circle. Conferences offer even more than discussed here. Some have writing competitions (such as OWFI).

Some offer an opportunity for editors to read the first few pages of a manuscript. To learn more about any conference or book festival that has workshops or sessions, search the internet. Find websites and read. Oklahoma Writers' Federation's website is <http://owfi.org> for example.

Personally, I participate in two or more conferences a year, and I learn something new at each as well as meet the most amazing people.

We are professionals, if we take our writing seriously, and we should act as if we are. Teachers, doctors, nurses, business people attend professional conventions and workshops to stay abreast of new techniques and technology in their fields. As writers, we should do the same as other professionals.

Vivian is OWFI's Grants Chair, the President and publisher of 4RV Publishing and writes constantly. For 27 years, she taught English, speech, drama, debate, French, yearbook, newspaper, creative writing. Visit her website at <http://www.vivianzabel.com/>



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Photo Prompt Contest

Here is the photo prompt from the last issue.



Only one thing remains,
The beauty in the cut.

The cut runs deep,
I run beautiful scarlet.

I Run Scarlet

Susy Smith
Storytellers of North Central Oklahoma

Beauty is seen through the soul,
My soul is locked tight,
I search, I cut, I search I cut,
My blood runs scarlet.

The soul is seen through the eyes,
My eyes are shut tight,
I search, I bleed, I search I bleed,
My tears run scarlet.

My beauty is unseen,
My soul is hidden,

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: a short story or the opening paragraphs 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 dialogue — anything that fits with the photo. 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 or .RTF attachment. Entry deadline is February 1, 2013.

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The Writer's Life: Wannabe or Havetabe?

by Dawn Allen, Midwest Pen & Ink

The days of the image of a lone writer typing away in an attic room are long gone. Today, a writer has to tweet, Facebook, Google, and blog their way into the publishing world or perish. Along that path, the writer must develop the skin of a rhino to fight off the arrows of rejection while polishing the PR skills of a White House Chief of Staff. Organizations like OWFI are a good place to determine if you are a writer in the vein of 'have to' regardless or want to write to see your name on a book. Are you a wannabe or a havetabe?

You know you **have to be** a writer when...

...the laundry piles up, the dirty dishes calcify in the kitchen sink, and phone calls go unanswered because the **muse** is speaking.

...everything from a news story to an obituary notice becomes a story idea that you have to write down in your ever-present writer's notebook or on toilet paper, whichever is available.

...strangers around you are no longer potential friends or enemies but fodder for the character mill of your fiction.

...you resent things other people embrace – dates, weddings, parties, award ceremonies; well, okay maybe not that last one...

...you'll pinch every penny possible to afford a workshop, conference, or class. Forget those poptabs for the elementary school, you'll be saving them for yourself.

...other women are shopping in exclusive clothing stores, other men in the hardware stores but you're thrilled with a trip to the local office supply.

Along that path, the writer must develop the skin of a rhino to fight off the arrows of rejection while polishing the PR skills of a White House Chief of Staff.

Wanna-Be Writers...

...love the idea of seeing their name on a book but hate to think of long nights in front of a computer, completely without a social life...

...have a great idea in their head but it never seems to move beyond their head...

...count their \$\$ from book sales completely

oblivious to the reality that there is little money from the books themselves...

...know that book sales rely on the writer's ability to market himself and his work, which involves work. Blogging, tweeting, Facebook and a host of other social duties are less exciting than barhopping with your friends.

...realize that even if you devote all that time to the writing of the book, the marketing and social media, and the constant job search (query and rejection), your chances of selling that book in traditional publishing is less likely than winning the lottery...and totally not worth no social life.

Dawn Allen is a writing instructor and workshop presenter, the founding member of critique group, Novel Clique, and an active member of OWFI. She holds an MFA in Writing from the University of Nebraska.



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OWFI Conference 2013 Remembered



Tawnya Hobbs



Tawnya Hobbs



Vivian Zabel



Tawnya Hobbs



Tawnya Hobbs





Vivian Zabel



Tawnya Hobbs



Tawnya Hobbs



Tawnya Hobbs

Tawnya Hobbs



More OWFI Conference 2013 Remembered



Vivian Zabel



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Vivian Zabel



Tawnya Hobbs



MORE FROM THE 2013 CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Continued

(Continued from page 3)

you'll want to make sure you listen to **Darlene Shortridge**. And for our keynote speaker – sticking to the incredibly high standards set over the years – we have New York Times best selling author, **Eloisa James**. Yes, you read that right. This woman has authored over thirty romance novels while raising children, getting a Ph.D. and also assuming her alter ego of college professor. I'm hoping she'll teach us not only how to be fabulous writers, but how to budget our time to get it all accomplished.

Step four – Before we know it, it's going to be writing contest deadline time. Every year we all vow that we're going to get it done early and then we all make a mad dash to get it sent by February 1st. Fortunately it is now online, so no mad dashes to the post office just to have them close the door in your face.

Steps five, six, seven... – get registrations in, make room assignments, book flights, order food, print programs, send contest pieces to judges, get contest pieces back from judges, print awards, write checks, pick up speakers from airports, make goody bags,...

Step Last – My favorite step of all. Spend a fun filled, information packed Friday and Saturday enjoying the best writers' conference around.

See you at OWFI 2014 May 1-3 in Oklahoma City.



Tawnya Hobbs



Tawnya Hobbs

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Book Review

Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft by Janet Burroway

Dawn Allen, Midwest Pen & Ink

Like most writers, books on the art and craft of writing fill my library. Some are dog-eared and rubber banded to keep loose pages in place, some show little use. Reading about the art of writing is important, but it is often difficult to tell the gems from the gravel in selecting what to read. The market is a smorgasbord of such variety that it overwhelms most writers. From genre specific books to understanding the writer's soul to the mechanics of writing, craft books provide us with guidance when a classroom or a teacher is not what we need. Like most writers, I devour books of all kinds, but one book has influenced my writing more than any other. Janet Burroway's book *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* is definitely a gem for every writer, the novice or the professional.

The beauty of this book cannot be narrowed down or categorized the way a lot of writing books can be. Janet sets up a model of introducing a specific skill, for instance, dialogue. She provides examples of what works and what does not and why. Then, and this is the beauty of this particular book, she provides a feast of examples in the form of short stories. Her book is a who's who of short story writers but is not limited to the people you run into in a literature classroom. Instead, you will be reading Ron Carlson, Joyce Carol Oates, as well as John Cheever and Raymond Carver. The examples provided are so specific to the skills that, as you read, you identify the very things Janet has spent the chapter describing to you.

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Burroway also offers expository pieces by professional writers on the craft and its difficulties. Joan Didion tells why she writes, Anne Lamott empathizes with us over those first drafts we all produce but hate. These pieces offer us a break from the brain overload of so much information. More importantly, it is a different way of learning by hearing from those who have gone before us. She also offers specific exercises at the end of each section during which you can practice what the chapter and the authors highlighted

have taught you. Exercises provide more than practice and application; you never know when one of them will become a short story or the beginning of a novel. One day maybe your piece will be used in an upcoming edition of this very book.

Writing Fiction is a comprehensive look at

the writing process, and how writers of yesterday and today approach the art and craft. Janet Burroway has provided practicing writers with a creative writing class in a book. It instructs, guides, and gauges. It gives the writer opportunities to edit and revise based on the guidelines laid down by the chapter. If a new writer asked me what one book would do the most for a writer, beginning or veteran, I would say hands-down, Janet Burroway's book. Of course, any writer, but especially the beginning writer, should read anything and everything they can get their hands on. Every writer should do two things and do them all the time: read and write. For a book that immerses the writer in you in the craft of writing, this book is a five-course meal. Bon appétit.

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Book Review: *The Red Kimono*

By Jan Morrill

continued

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character to be a friend to Sachi in the camp," she admitted. "Even my veteran critique group could hardly stand it week after week," she laughed.

Morrill writes in layers of exquisite opposites, so subtle you don't notice it for a day or two. Then the characters, the vivid pictures, even the resonance and vulnerability of the words pull the readers in close, then drive them through the events at a deep emotional level.

Phrases like "the crackling sound before the music always reminded Sachi of rain pattering against leaves on the ground." to describe a phonograph, or "Her small hands peeked through sleeves - that drifted like kites in the breeze as she dipped and rose to the music." And when Nobu was enduring school those first days after the bombings, he "rushed down the crowded hall - - through a gauntlet of words that punched like fists."

You can see the layers again when the police forced their way in to search their home. "They watched helplessly while - - they opened drawers and closets, tearing through personal belongings like dogs through trash." And finally, the image I can't forget, "Mama stood in the doorway wringing a dish towel until it was as tight as her face."

"The story is fiction" she said, "taken from my research." But the culture of her mother's family gave her great insight. Her mother was actually one of nine children and survived the camp to thrive nicely. "She was the youngest and everyone took care of her," Morrill smiled. Like Sachi, she was indeed a graceful dancer and was in some movies. Morrill's parents met

in Hawaii when her red-haired, Scots-Irish Baptist father, a Lieutenant in the Air Force, met her Japanese-American Buddhist mother when she was a beautiful airline stewardess with Pan American Airlines.

She said the Japanese people are so private she had to get most of the detail about the internment camps through research. She covered many books, fiction and nonfiction, and enjoyed the websites which are a treasure trove of preserved information,

including audio and video recordings. She's listed her sources in the back of the book.

Morrill's passionate about defeating prejudice whether it's between races/cultures or just ideas. She's convinced many people make decisions based on the popular difference of the day, clumping everyone into groups without getting to know the individu-

als.

Recently Morrill's had other things to distract her from writing. She was 2013 OWFI Conference Chair and has been first the Vice-President, then now President of Ozark Writer's League for the last two years. Add to that the to-do list for 30 plus book signings she's done since this book came out in February and the talks she's delighted to give to groups - libraries, high schools, and junior colleges. She just learned the book has been picked as Editor's Choice for the Historical Novel Society.

This is the first book of the series, with two to three to follow. "I'm about a third way through the next one." If this is her first book, can you imagine what her next ones will be, when she really hits her stride?

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OWFI on Facebook

continued

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The main complaint about the Facebook groups, particularly the first group mentioned above, is that our timelines get clogged with an endless stream of self-promotion. And while we're happy for every success a member experiences, we may not have the time to see them all. Good news, though, there is a way to control that group to suit your needs.

To control the group, go to the group's main page. At the top, you'll see member pictures. On the right side of that first information bar, you'll see the word *Notifications*.

Click *Notifications*. That will give you a drop down menu that offers you three choices: **All Posts** (which is the default), **Friends' Posts** (which shows you only when your personal Facebook Friends post in the group) or **Off** (which shows you nothing in your newsfeed). Choose the Notifications setting which is best for you and your needs.

Please note that choosing **Off** does not mean you are leaving the group. It means that you'll need to go to the group to see anything posted.

If you decide that the groups are not something you wish to be a part of (we'll miss you!), you can leave the group by going to the group's main page. To the right of Notifications, you'll find an icon that looks like a round gear. Click on that icon and at the very bottom of that drop-down menu, you'll see the option *Leave Group*. Click on that and you are out.

Facebook is a free and convenient way to stay in touch with other writers as well as your audience. We hope that our OWFI presence will be helpful to you on your writing journey.

For more information about the groups, message Jen Nipps or email her at jencnipps@gmail.com. Links to the groups and our page have been provided if you want to use them. If you prefer, just type the group names in the search box at the top of your Facebook screen.

ERRATA: The Summer 2013 issue had the following in Member News section: CAROLYN WALL had an article WynEcote Wyoming 1902 accepted by Persimmon Hill.

That should have read CAROLYN B.. LEONARD's 4-page illustrated article on Wyncote Wyoming 1902 appeared in the Spring 2013 issue of Persimmon Hill, a Publication of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Never moon a werewolf.

Mike Binder

Jen Nipps writes the regular *Once Around the Web* column for the **Report**. See it on page 5.



Heather Davis, appeared on the **Doctor Oz** show to discuss oversharing your life on social media sites



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Affiliate News

OKC WRITERS

Sales and Acceptances

SANDY SOLI'S publications and acceptances include *Lifting the Sky: Southwestern Haiku and Haiga* (Dos Gatos Press 2013), the 2014 Texas Poetry Calendar, *Wingbeats II* (Dos Gatos Press's 2nd anthology of exercises), plus poems in *The Enigmatist* and *You are Here in the Journal of Creative Geography*. Along with other selected poets, Sandy read at WoodyFest in Okemah on July 13, celebrating Woody Guthrie's 101st birthday. She emceed the Full Circle poetry reading on July 28 featuring OCWI member Dorothy Alexander.

Professional Activities

JODY KARR had two paintings and an article about how she created the art published in the ebook, *A Walk Into Abstracts. How Did They Do That?, Vol. 6* by Sue St. John. Her painting, "On American Soil: Remembrance, Oklahoma City" won first place in the International Society of Experimental Artists Show. Her painting, "Spirit of the Hunted

Dove," won first place in a show in Purcell, judged by Oklahoma artist Bert Seaboum. **WAYNE HARRIS-WYRICK** started writing a new science column in the ezine "Voluted."

JEAN STOVER had a speaking part in the movie *Skid* written by Rene Gutteridge. The movie was filmed entirely in an airplane and will be out this fall.

Novels and New Books

BILL BERNHARDT'S books about writing: *Story Structure: The Key to Successful Fiction*, and *Creating Character: Bringing Your Story to Life* are both available in print and eBook editions. The third book in his Red Sneaker Writers series, *Perfecting Plot: Charting the Hero's Journey* is now on sale, as is his new book of poems, *The White Bird*.

Contest Winnings

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER'S juvenile short story "The Ultimate Reward" won 2nd place in Arkansas Writers' Contest.

MCALESTER-MCSHERRY WRITERS

Articles

NITA BESHEAR: ARTICLE: "Allen Quilters Plan Show," *Allen Advocate* (06/13); "Odessa Tripplett," *Allen Advocate* (06/21).

Novels & New Books

NITA BESHEAR: *Devoted to Quilting 2*, AWOC Books.

Professional Activities

NITA BESHEAR: Competition in Toastmaster Speech Contest in Tulsa, (04/22). Nita has also been busy with the following book signings: Allen Quilters Plan Show, June 13; Shawnee Mall, Coffee with the Author, May 25, and the Allen Quilt Show, Allen, June 14.

MARY ANN KERL: Completed a graduate certificate of 20 hours in Composition Studies and Rhetoric from Indiana University, (08/12).

ARKANSAS RIDGE WRITERS

Novels & E Books:

VELDA BROTHERTON: AUDIO BOOK: *Montana Promises*, ACX (05/13).



Affiliate News

Continued

Acceptance and Sales:

SYLVIA

FORBES: ARTICLES: "Shape Shifter" (6/13), "Stylish Reflections" (7/13), and "Bar Hopping" (8/13) all for *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyles*; "Pigs in the Parlor" (6/29/13), and "The Goodness of Garlic," (8/1/13) in *Missouri Farmer Today*; "Many-Faceted Milan" (6/13), "Hiking the Himalayas" (7/13), and "Dancing Across Southern Spain" (9/13) for *Prime Magazine*; "Bodacious Basil" (8/13) for *Missouri Gardener* - online.

JAN MORRILL: ARTICLE: "The Creative Power of Seventeen Syllables," *Flash Fiction Chronicles*, <http://www.everydayfiction.com/flashfictionblog/>, (08/29/13).

Contest Winnings:

SYLVIA FORBES: Southwest Writers Contest, ESSAY, top 20 finalist.

Honors and Awards:

JAN MORRILL: *The Red Kimono*, selected as Editor's Choice by the Historical Novel Society, (08/13).

Professional Activities

VELDA BROTHERTON:

WORKSHOP: Exposing Yourself Online, Online Promotion; OWFI May, 2013.

SYLVIA FORBES: HOST: of the Pamela Foster Writing Workshop in Fayette, MO on 7/13/13; and host of the upcoming Leigh Michaels Writing Workshop in Fayette, MO on 10/5/13.

JAN MORRILL: CLASS DISCUSSION: "Wearing the Red Kimono," Northwest Arkansas Community College, 07/18/13; WORKSHOP: "Writing Prompts to Deepen Characters," Elkins Public Library, 08/03/13; BOOK SIGNING: Tanabata Festival, Los Angeles, 08/10-11/13; WORKSHOP, "Finding the Warrior," Warrior Arts Alliance, Springfield Library Center, 08/15/13.

BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

Acceptances and Sales

HEATHER DAVIS: ESSAYS: "To Protect and Serve and Encourage," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive for Kids* (10/13); "When One Door Closes," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Dating Game* (12/13).

Novels & New Books

C. L. COLLAR: MIDDLE READER: *The McCory Chroni-*

cles: Katie McCory and the Dagger of Truth, LilyBear House (08/13).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN:

NOVEL: *Winter Song*, LilyBear House (9/13).

Club News

The WordWeavers will have a booth at the Washington County Fair, September 5, 2013 - September 7, 2013.

The 2nd Annual *Into the Book: A Festival for Readers and Writers* will take place on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at Bambino's Downtown Bistro (101 SE Frank Phillips Blvd, Bartlesville, OK) from 10:30 am till 3:00 pm. Free to the public.

The WordWeavers of Bartlesville meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Bartlesville Public Library.

FORT WORTH WRITERS

Professional Activities

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT:

ARTICLE: "Precious Pets - Penny," *Overton Life Magazine*, (08/13);
SPEAKER: "Ghosts on the Coast," Bent Tree Country Club, Dallas, TX (05/13).

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Affiliate News

Continued

INKLINGS

Novels and New Books

SONIA GENSLER: *The Dark Between*, Alfred A. Knopf, (08/27).

Professional Activities

Inkling member Mari Farthing resigned as editor of Metro Family Magazine to focus on her own writing.

WRITERS' GUILD OF ARKANSAS

Professional Activities

MARILYN H. COLLINS: CONFERENCE

SPEAKER: "Memoir Writing: Brighten Your Leaf on the Family Tree," Missouri Genealogical State Conference, (08/13), Arkansas Writers Conference/ Moderator (05/13-06/13), **ONLINE INSTRUCTOR:** "Memoir Writing: Telling Your Story, Your Way," Story Circle Network (05/13 – 06/13), "Let's Make a Book," Story Circle Network (07/13-08/13), **EDITOR:** *Proficient*

Writer NEWS, online news letter for writers, (www.proficientwriter.com)

PEN & KEYBOARD

Honors:

VIVIAN ZABEL: SHORT STORY: HM "Night Crawlers", NETWO (Northeastern Texas Writers Organization).

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

New Books and Novels

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

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

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

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

Professional Activities:

VIVIAN ZABEL: WORKSHOP SPEAKER: Lexicon Writing

Conference, Denton Texas, July. WORKSHOP SPEAKER: Turning Pages Children's Book Festival October 11-12, Ada, Oklahoma

Club News:

MIKE HINKLE: Writing Articles, September 14, 2013

WILLIAM BURNHARDT: October 12, 2013. Workshops on preparing a website, marketing, eBooks coming in the next several months.

NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales:

LINDA BASINGER: SHORT STORY: "Arlington Waltz," published online in the Oklahoma Romance Writers of America (<http://okrwa.com>) holiday anthology for Memorial Day (2013).

ROBERT FERRIER: POEM: "Alone in Austin," *The Exhibitionist*, (<http://wordpress.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9b9a34d1ecfc62a7908e34d59&id=cb65521d6c&e=854a131a58>) (07/13).

DION MAYES-BURNETT: SHORT STORY: "Dorothy Flies the Coop" printed by Yard

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Affiliate News

Continued

Dog Press in anthology, *I Didn't Quite Make It To Oz*, (06/13).

STAN SOLLOWAY: three "Silliman on Sports" columns (www.sillimanonsports.com) (06/13).

Novels and New Books:

STAN SOLLOWAY: "Silliman on Sports in Song and Verse" is out (06/13).

LIZ COWAN: Published *The Marathon Man*, The second in the Perception series (06/13).

Professional Activities:

ROBERT FERRIER: Judged Long Unrhymed Poetry Category Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc. Contest, Oklahoma City, May, 2013.

STAN SOLLOWAY: attended the American Book Expo at the Javits Center in NYC on 5/31/2013; On 5/28/2013, did comedy at The Stand Comedy Club, NYC with Bill Burr, Nick DiPaolo, Janeane Garofalo; guest sports guy, talking about sports three times on a Coral Gables, Florida radio station; 6/21/2013, appeared at the Las Vegas Comedy Club at the Tus-

cany Suites and Casino in Las Vegas.

ANDY HORTON: Honored by a premiere in Athens of a TV documentary made about him and his 45 years of coming to Greece and bringing groups from OU and elsewhere over the years and writing about Greek film and literature and culture especially on the island of Kea.

Contest Winnings:

FRANCES SEARCEY: Arkansas Writers' Conference 2013 MINUTE POEM: 3rd place, "The Breather"; Voices International Award, POEM: 2nd place, "Catching Wisdom from Frost."

NEAL HUFFAKER: Arkansas Writers' Conference: MINUTE POEM: 1st place, "Eye Appeal"; HUMEROUS CHILDREN'S STORY: 1st HM, "Spike Speaks"; ESSAY: 3rd HM, "Ordinary People vs. Global Warming"; NONETTE POEM: 3rd HM, "Ozark Refuge."

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER: Arkansas Writers Contest, JUVENILE SHORT STORY: 2nd place, "The Ultimate Reward."

MARY BRANNON: Toastmasters, Won first place as an evaluator, June 13, 2013.

LISBETH MCCARTY: Toastmasters, Won first place for speech, "I will put you in jail!," June 13, 2013.



**Never express
yourself more
clearly than
you are able to
think.**

Niels Bohr

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Country roads,
take me home
To the place
I belong

With apologies to John Denver



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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.



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