

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

Send submissions to

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All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer.

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DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

Dan Case

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I read a story about author Alex Haley of *Roots* fame the other day. After retiring from the Coast Guard in 1959, he decided to become a writer. A successful writer. He moved to Greenwich Village, where all struggling artists seem to live in New York City, and started writing... every day. He was down to his last 18 cents and two cans of sardines when a check arrived in the mail for an article he had written. Encouraged, he continued on... writing every day.

OWFI strives to make it easier for you to succeed as a writer than what Alex Haley had to go through. But, of course, you can't skip the most important step: Write Every Day.

The plans for our 2010 conference, *Write Every Day*, is on track and I'm getting more excited about it as the days draw closer. To help all writers succeed, we've assembled one of the largest and best faculties ever assembled for an OWFI conference. We will have 30 different presenters this year! Among them are four agents, seven editors, one publisher and 18 successful writers. Here's your opportunity to learn from successful writers, make one-on-one appointments with agents and editors, rub shoulders with all (including many successful writers that attend and aren't presenters), and feel the intimacy

that only comes from the experience that has developed over the years at our conferences.

I spoke with the Embassy Suites Hotel today and they tell me that they are quickly booking all of the rooms we've set aside for OWFI. So don't wait. Make your reservations today to get the good rate. Information on the hotel is in this issue.

There is a limited number of appointments with editors and agents. Each editor or agent is having just eight appointments each (or two hours worth). We nearly wore them out in previous years. Be sure to prepare exactly what they want to see and hear from you! Look for all the information you need on editor and agent appointments in this issue. If you miss out on getting an appointment with the editor or agent of your choice, there are many more opportunities to hobnob with these folks... take a speaker to lunch, most are hosting buzz sessions, all are willing to "smooze" during the conference when they aren't busy with appointments or presentations.

Be sure to find information in this issue about:

Bag stuffers—If you have bookmarks, flyers, free samples or other writing-related info to disperse amongst conference attendees, contact Tony LoPresti (hardlo@cox.net) or Deborah

Bouziden
(deborah@deborahbouziden.com)

Table reservations—To make table reservations at the banquets for your group, contact Tammy Hinton (tammy@tammyhinton.com). Reservations are not required, but this will insure your group can sit together... also we always can use the twenty bucks!

Bookstore—If you want your books in the bookroom, contact Doug Kelley (kellejdjas@earthlink.net).

Autograph Party—To reserve a spot at the autograph party contact Wes Warner (weswarner@hotmail.com)

Be a shepherd—Contact Bob Avey for the opportunity to shepherd and introduce a speaker! (novelyes@cox.net)

Buzz sessions—If you'd like to host a buzz session, list it with Dion Mayes-Burnett (spirithealer2003@aol.com)

We are fortunate that we don't have to move to Greenwich Village to become successful writers these days. We can do it right here in Oklahoma (and surrounding states) because with OWFI and all our affiliate writing groups, we have all the helps we need to become successful. Remember... *Write Every Day* and I'll see you April 29 – May 1.

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Read This Book!

TWISTED CREEK BY JODY THOMAS

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

Romance novels weren't my favorite genre but after meeting Jodi Thomas last year at OWFI, I couldn't imagine she'd write something I wouldn't like. In fact she said she started writing historical romance partly because she wasn't satisfied with the ones she found to read.

She weaves the rich personalities so smoothly into the dialog and description that even the hard-core mystery buff won't get bored by all that back story getting in the way of the plot.

And there are nice surprises hidden along the way. Thomas draws us so deeply into the private thoughts of Allie, her twenty-six year old main character, that I knew her. The picture Thomas painted was a humble and hard-working young woman who never thought of herself. She loved her grandmother, Nana (who'd raised her) so much that she wanted more than anything to make a secure life for the two of them. It was several chapters into the book before the male lead,

Luke Morgan, tells us she's a blonde that looks really good in a pair of shorts.

Though Allie is the main character, I'd call Nana the star. Allie thinks her grandmother's 'a hundred pounds of bottled sunshine' and Thomas writes she has 'a voice that had taken eighty years to mature into pure twang.' So sensitive is Thomas toward this delightful character, I wondered what treasured woman she was patterned after.

The writer's years spent as a family therapist also shows in the rest of the characters, who are so odd and authentic I'd swear she knows the charming weirdos at my own lake community, down to the fishing guide that always smells like dead fish.

Twisted Creek has a strong sense of place and could easily be a series like Jan Karon's Mitford or Mayberry with Andy, Opie, Barney, and Aunt Bea. But Twisted Creek is so far back in the sticks, it's another shock when modern

Thomas draws us so deeply into the private thoughts of Allie, her twenty-six year old main character, that I knew her. The picture Thomas painted was a humble and hard-working young woman who never thought of herself. She loved her grandmother, Nana (who'd raised her) so much that she wanted more than anything to make a secure life for the two of them. It was several chapters into the book before the male lead, Luke Morgan, tells us she's a blonde that looks really good in a pair of shorts.

problems like meth labs and ATF agents intrude into their world.

Nana makes such delicious food which is described in enough detail you could almost follow the recipe. In fact one caution might be to not read this book while dieting.

Most of Thomas' books take place in Texas, this one outside Lubbock. She's lived in Texas most of her life so she's an expert at it. They must be proud of her there as she keeps winning awards and

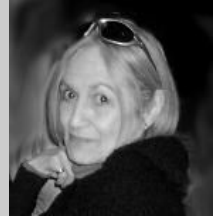
putting the state in the limelight. Twisted Creek, published in 2008, won her the third RITA award from Romance Writers of America, which put Thomas in the Romance Writer's Hall of Fame. And to keep piling on the acclaim, it's also a New York Times Bestseller.

Her next book is just out, The Lone Texan, which I'm sure I'll add to the Jodi Thomas section of my library. I notice it was just voted Best Western Romance

Readers' Choice for 2009. There she goes again.

Visit her web site at www.jodithomas.com.

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.



A writer should get as much education as possible, but just going to school is not enough; if it were, all owners of doctorates would be inspired writers.

Gwendolyn Brooks

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Book Review

WHY SO MANY WRITERS ARE MORNING PEOPLE

Jennifer Carsen, J.D

You've pulled all-nighters. You've burned the midnight oil. You've worked through the wee hours. It's what lawyers do (as well as law students, though generally more pizza is involved).

But what I'm suggesting is a radical departure from this. I'm suggesting that you carve out time to write in the morning - when the sun is on its way up rather than down, when you're daisy-fresh rather than dog-tired.

You may be wondering how you can do this, especially considering that you're bleary-eyed after all those late nights. Daisy-fresh may be the furthest thing from your mind at five a.m., when the only thing you can ponder is whether or not to roll over before you hit the snooze button.

But here's the thing: Early morning is the only time that's truly yours. Nothing has blown up in spectacular fashion yet. Nobody's looking for you, eager for a chat or a favor or help with a particularly loathsome task. It's just you and your time, before the day gets away from you.

Because the day will get away from you - that much is certain. We've all had days that started with the best of intentions and ended in recriminations or even tears. Even good days become a kind of triage in which only the most important, urgent tasks get done. Your

writing is important, but it's not urgent because nobody but you will care if you skip it. The only way to be certain you get it done is to sneak it in early, before you quite know what's hit you. Then the rest of the day is gravy.

Here are some tips for changing your night-owl ways:

1. Do it gradually. Every morning for one week, set your alarm clock 15 minutes earlier than you normally

would. The next week, bump it up by an additional 15 minutes. That may not seem like a lot, but you'll gain an hour over the course of a month in a way that won't shock your system.

2. Make friends with your TiVo. Do you really need to stay up late to watch *Cake Boss*, or *Top Gun* for the zillionth time? Plan your TV watching in advance so you don't get sucked into something vapid.

3. Don't rile yourself up before bed. Oftentimes it's hard to get up in the

morning because it's hard to get to sleep the night before. Avoid too much caffeine late in the day, and also too much booze. (You may think that third glass of wine is your express ticket to Slumberland, but alcohol actually disrupts your sleep patterns in a big way--you may crash hard initially, but you won't sleep well.) Also, if you read before bed, stick to fiction; non-fiction tends to stir up

your mind rather than winding you down for the day.

4. Just do it. You will not want to get up when the alarm rings 15 minutes early. Do it anyway, without thinking too much about it. Get up. Write. Repeat. After a while, you'll wonder how you ever got along without that extra time in the a.m.

But here's the thing: Early morning is the only time that's truly yours. Nothing has blown up in spectacular fashion yet. Nobody's looking for you, eager for a chat or a favor or help with a particularly loathsome task. It's just you and your time, before the day gets away from you.

Jennifer Carsen, J.D., is the founder of Big Juicy Life. Her specialty is turning lawyers into writers. Go to <http://www.bigjuicylifecoaching.com> to download the free report, "6 Myths About Leaving the Law for Writing."

Our regular Web Review feature **Once Around the Web** will return next issue.

A man who wants time to read and write must let the grass grow long.

Sloan Wilson
(Ed note: as I keep telling my wife!).

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The Doctor is:

In*Out***GIVE YOURSELF A DEADLINE**

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

Signing a contract with a publisher, whether book, magazine, or web content, is one of those gooey, wonderful writer moments. Then comes the deadline. Suddenly each hour of each day better produce some results.

Trouble with me is I stumble to accomplish any writing without the deadline. How many of you writers suffer the same way? Of course, I think of things to write all the time. I make notes. I research. I do everything except actually pop the words on the computer.

One solution I've learned is to give myself deadlines on "assignments." And not just one, either. If I only say "This year I will finish such-and-such book," well, I might do it, but then I stall again, or I stretch it out all year.

Actually, watching the Facebook writer friends report on their daily progress convicted me of my stumbling ailment. Those dedicated, always producing writers helped me realize I needed the working routine I had when my kids were young, where over-multi-tasking was essential if I ever hoped to become a published writer. It's kind of embarrassing to admit to my lazy streak at this point in my writing career, but it's there and I might as well acknowledge it and move forward.

So this year, I'm editing, writing, editing, writing, editing and writing with various goals each day. It helps me if I break the day into manageable tasks. First I use my higher energy moments for the creative process, and later when those yawns start creeping into the afternoon, I do research. If my spirit needs a total break, I might organize my receipts and expenses, but I only allow an afternoon for this once a month.

Soon the OWFI conference will require all your energy and all your excitement. After the final award is announced and you rip open those contest entries, you'll growl, grumble, and even smile at some positive comment. Most of all

you'll pledge to tweak those works of words into more winnable and marketable material. When you do, plan a schedule of daily tasks so your goals are attainable.

And by the middle of summer, email me to let me know how you're progressing. Send me those first five pages for a freebie, objective "look-see," and let's both accomplish all we can in 2010!

Robyn Conley, PO Box 506, Clyde, TX 79510

(Remember, Courier font, 12-point font, double-space, with an SASE for return of the pages.)

HAVE A TERRIFIC CONFERENCE AND KNOW I'LL MISS YOU ALL!

Robyn Conley, the book doctor,



speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write. Her latest book is **BEYOND THE BRANCHES, Writing and**

Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree.

Other writing books are **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 the biographies: **John Grisham, Cartoonists, Alexander G. Bell**, as well as these juvenile reference books: **Meerkats; Depression; Motion Pictures; and The Automobile**. She has sold to major magazines, such as **The Writer, Writer's Digest, ABA: Student Lawyer**, and a score of others.

From the 2010 Conference Chair

PROMO ITEMS WANTED

We are gathering items to put in our conference bags. If you have bookmarks, postcards, pens, pencils, fliers, or any other promotional items you would like stuffed in the conference bags, send 400 pieces to: Deborah Bouziden, 8416 Huckleberry, Edmond, OK 73034, by April 23rd. If you would prefer to hand deliver them to the hotel, they must be in Deborah's hands by noon on Thursday, April 29th.

REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Registration is an important part of the organizational efforts at our conference. Volunteers are needed to man the tables on Thursday evening, Friday morning, and Saturday morning. We are hoping to find enough volunteers so each person can work one to two hours and we can rotate our volunteers out. Working at the registration table is a great way to meet other conferees. If you are interested in volunteering to work at the registration tables, send an email to Deborah Bouziden at:

deborah@deborahbouziden.com

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Why We Write:

Zero to Nine and Counting The Sharon Ervin Story

Nita Beshear, Features Editor

Conference 2010

Editor/Agent Appointments

HOW TO GET AN EDITOR / AGENT APPOINTMENT

One of the most sought-after events at the OWFI conference is an appointment with one of the numerous agents and editors that speak at the conference. You can register to get a ten-minute appointment to pitch your book.

YOUR CONFERENCE FEE MUST BE PAID BEFORE YOU CAN MAKE AN EDITOR OR AGENT APPOINTMENT.

No appointment requests will be taken before March 1, 2010 or after April 27, 2010. If you register at the last minute, check at the registration desk when you arrive to see if any appointment slots remain. One-day attendees must state which day they are attending. Do not request a special time slot. The only requests we take for special time slots are for OWFI volunteers and presenters, so their appointment will not interfere with their duties. If you want a special time slot, **be a volunteer!**

You may make only one appointment in advance—either an agent or an editor, but not both. Please send a first and second choice in case of scheduling problems. Additional appointments are sometimes available at the conference.

You can register by sending an email to Agent/Editor Coordinator: Catherine “Katey” Johnson at: catherinekaty@aol.com

In the email, please include your phone number and an e-mail address, and put ‘OWFI APPOINTMENT REQUEST’ in the subject line of your email.

Appointment confirmation: you will receive an email confirmation of your request. If you do not receive a confir-

(Continued on page 8)

“Zero to sixty in under a minute.” Remember those words?

They were often used in advertising fast cars during the muscle car era. Sharon Ervin is not a muscle car fanatic, or even fan. She didn’t become a published writer with her first book, or her second, or her third.

When I first met Sharon, many years ago she liked to say, “I have nine finished books.” Of course, what she didn’t like to say, to finish the statement was, “and none of them are published.”

One day that all changed. While working on manuscript number twelve she received the green light from a publisher for book number eight. She had her first contract. It’s been full speed ahead ever since. To date six of her earlier manuscripts have been published by print/royalty houses as well as a couple of her newer works.

She was a busy mom of four children and she helped her husband in her office. Where did she find the time to write those early books?

“The summer of 1982, I got up at five every morning and wrote until seven, six days a week,” Sharon said. “No one needed me much during those hours. By the time school started that fall, I had 378 pages of brilliant prose.”

While that first book, CHOICES, still resides on her hard drive Sharon has hopes it will one day find a published home. CHOICES isn’t alone. She has multiple books waiting on her hard drive for a publisher. At last count she was up to twenty completed manuscripts. Of course now she can smile when she says that because she can finish it with, “eight of my books are published with a ninth, *Candlesticks*, coming in June.

Today, demands on her time are still intense. Sure the kids are grown and gone, and her hours at the office have

lessened, however, now she’s added grandchildren and marketing her published books to the mix. Plus, she’s still looking for that evasive agent, and she’s still writing and marketing her completed and as yet unpublished work. How does she do it?

While doing the myriad of “mindless” tasks involved in everyday life Sharon’s characters are moving around in her head, going places, doing things, causing trouble. She must write them down so they can move on. Sometimes they need her to write them out of the trouble they’ve found. Sharon uses her characters as motivation, she writes to find the story.

“My characters, like my children will NOT follow my dictates. They have their own agendas.” Sharon explains. Following her characters leads to a lot of surprises. Sharon adds, “it’s heady entertainment for an author not to know what’s going to happen next.”

While Sharon Ervin is busy writing to discover what mischief her characters have gotten themselves into now, what about you? Why do you write? Share your story with others. Drop me an email and let me know what motivates you to write and how you find the time.

Nita Beshear is a member of McAlster-McShery Writers and sometimes the Tulsa Night-writers. She’s just published her first book, DEVOTED TO QUILTING, which is available at her website, www.nitabeshear.com. You can follow her on her blog, www.devotedtoquilting.wordpress.com.

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Conference 2010

Basket Wars 2010

Please let me know if you as an individual or an affiliate are going to participate in Basket Wars at this conference. Time really is running out, and I need to have an idea of how many tables are needed for displays. All I need now is an email saying, "Yes, the whatever affiliate is participating," or "Yes, I'm going to have a basket."

What is BasketWars? Affiliates and/or individuals create a "basket" (can be any kind of container) with books or items a reader or writer could use (imagination needed). At the OWFI Conference, the basket is checked in with Vivian Zabel. A silent auction then earns money to help with the conference expenses/scholarships. Individuals and/or affiliates may donate more than one "basket."

Includes 2 divisions: A division for large baskets includes containers with 15 or more items; a division for small baskets includes containers with 14 or fewer items. A token of my appreciation will be given for the each of the divisions.

Be creative. Be as generous as possible, but remember this is a voluntary project. **Please be sure that the name of the individual or affiliate is attached to the basket (container) when it is checked in at the conference.**

Yes, we often invest more in our donation container than is received in a bid, but each basket is just that, a donation for a good cause.

BasketWars contact information: Vivian Zabel, vzabel@sbcglobal.net or Vivian@viviangilbertzabel.com cell phone 405-820-9640, address 2912 Rankin Terrace, Edmond, OK 73013

P.S. I lost the addresses of the person who won the individual basket prize and the affiliate which won the top small basket award.

Would the winners please email me those addresses? Otherwise, I'll bring them to the conference.

Editor/Agent Appointments

(Continued from page 7)

mation within a week, please submit your request again. Sometimes email gets lost to spam filters or cyberspace.

Your appointment slip. Your appointment day and time information will be on a colored slip of paper folded in with your name badge at registration. No appointment information is given out until then, because the schedule is subject to last minute changes.

Want to volunteer? Don't be bashful about getting involved. OWFI runs on volunteers and we really appreciate your help! If you are willing to spend an hour or more assisting with agent/editor appointments, please include that information in your appointment request, along with the best time(s) that you are available to help.

Request appointments by e-mailing Catherine during the specified dates at catherinekatey@aol.com.

At a later date, we will post on the Editors and Agents page of the OWFI webpage (www.owfi.org) the professionals available to meet one-on-one at this year's conference. On the web page, the agents and editors will be listed along with the fiction/nonfiction material they are interested in seeing. Do your homework! Practice your pitch before you come, and be certain that your manuscript is within the range of work the

Good writing excites me, and makes life worth living.

Harold Pinter

Conference 2010

Book Room

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

Authors (or publishers) must notify me, the book room chairperson, by Friday, **March 19, 2010** of any title(s) they want included in the book room inventory, choosing one of the three options below. Due to limited space, non-speaker titles will have 5 copies on display at a time. Authors of multiple books will be limited to 5 titles on display.

Option No. 1: Best of Books, of Edmond, OK (405/340-9202), will order your books from Ingram or your publisher if they are returnable and the bookstore receives the standard retailer discount. Neither Best of Books nor OWFI will assume responsibility for delays in shipment, short ships or publisher/shipper errors.

Option 2: Authors provide the books to be sold by Best of Books. Books will be sold at retail price (provided by the author). Author must report quantity delivered, author name, address, and return shipping information. The author will receive 70% and Best of Book will collect 30%. Books need to be brought to Book Room by Friday morning or upon arrival at the conference, and unsold books must be picked up at the end of the autographing session Saturday afternoon. If the remaining books are not picked up, the author will be billed shipping to have them returned.

Option No. 3: Author provides and sells his or her own books from the book

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room, conducting all sales and providing your own change. Neither Best of Books nor OWFI will receive any portion of those sales.

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

Do not contact Best of Books directly. Contact me: Doug Kelley, 2500 Barnes, Pocola, OK 74902; Phone: 918-436-7103; E-mail:

dougkjas@earthlink.net and I will coordinate it. Send the following information: Author name; Title; ISBN; Publisher; Release date

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

erence will be given to authors published by traditional, royalty publishing houses.

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

1. Title of book, publisher, author's legal name and pseudonym, if used.

2. Brief author bio, not more than 25 words.

3. Any awards, great cover quotes, endorsements or other honors your book received.

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

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

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

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

Conference 2010

Contest Sponsorship

OWFI members, affiliates, and friends of OWFI can choose to sponsor an OWFI Contest Category. Sponsorships pay the cost of awarding contest prizes for one category or half of a category. These help a great deal to make our conference self-supporting, so that registration fees can go towards expenses for bringing in quality speakers.

To sponsor one category, please contribute \$105, using the form below. If your writers' group is extremely small and cannot manage \$105, please try to contribute \$52.50 for half a category. You may request a specific category, and we'll honor the request if possible but can't guarantee it. (It's much easier if you simply donate for any available category.) Whenever possible, special requests to sponsor in memory of an individual will be noted.

Please send your contest sponsorship donation and a copy of this form to the treasurer, Barbara Shepherd, at the address below. Make checks to Okla. Writers Federation Inc. Also, to be sure your group is properly credited, please send a copy of the form below to Gayleen Rabakukk, by e-mail if possible, at Gayleen@rabakukk.com. Mail checks to Barbara Shepherd OWFI PO Box 54302 Oklahoma City, OK 73154 owfiwriters@gmail.com

Conference 2010

Famous Author Dinner

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

Name of group: _____

Contact person + e-mail & phone: _____

Check one: Full category, \$105 Two categories! Thanks!

Half category, \$52.50

Special instructions? _____

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Rcvd date _____ Check # _____ \$ _____ Full _____ PreCon. _____ F-S _____ F-L _____ F-B _____
S-S _____ S-L _____ S-B _____ \$ Due _____ Club _____ Initial _____

Write Every Day

2010 Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference

April 29-May 1, Embassy Suites Hotel, Oklahoma City

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

HOME PHONE _____ BUS. PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

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

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

Postmarked by March 15, 2010..... @ \$150 each x _____ = \$ _____
Postmarked after March 15, 2010..... @ \$175 each x _____ = \$ _____

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS:

Friday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$ 40 each x _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$ 40 each x _____ = \$ _____

SINGLE DAY SEMINARS (banquets NOT included)

Friday Seminars only @ \$ 70 each x _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Seminars only @ \$ 70 each x _____ = \$ _____

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

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

Total amt. enclosed = \$ _____

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

HOTEL: Embassy Suites, 1815 South Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108, 405-682-6000
Register NO LATER THAN April 8, 2010 for the OWFI rate of \$109—1, 2, 3 or 4 guests per room. Breakfast and Happy Hour included! IMPORTANT: Call the hotel and tell them “OWFI” to get these rates.

SPEAKERS FOR 2010 WRITE EVERY DAY CONFERENCE

KATE ANGELELLA (Simon and Schuster,) specializes in commercial Middle Grade and tween fiction. Among the titles Kate has edited are: the Canterwood Crest series by Jessica Burkhart, Fiona Finkelstein, Big-Time Ballerina!! by Shawn K. Stout, The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon (the 2010 Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award Winner for New Talent), Dani Noir by Nova Ren Suma, and Devon Delaney Should Totally Know Better by Lauren Barnholdt. Kate treasures a unique voice above all else, but also loves angst-y girl characters, fresh takes on the chick-lit genre with strong commercial hooks, as well as novels with any type of magic or paranormal element.



LINDA APPLE (<http://www.lindacapple.com>) is the author of *Inspire! Writing from the Soul*, an instructional guide to inspirational writing.



She is a frequent contributor to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul Series* as well as numerous magazine and devotional guides. She is also a motivational speaker and serves as the Arkansas regional speaker-trainer for Stonecroft Ministries. Her current work in progress is a how-to book on public speaking for writers. For more information please visit her website: www.lindacapple.com

SANDRA BISHOP (MacGregor Literary), is a literary agent with MacGregor Literary, an agency of two which is consistently listed in the top five dealmakers on Publisher Marketplace and members of Association of Authors' Representatives (AAR). Prior to agenting, Sandra worked in the marketing department of a major CBA publishing company, and made a living as a freelance writer. Sandra and her husband Glenn have one son, and an adopted Katrina dog who lives with them in Portland, Oregon.



Twenty-two year old **JESSICA BURKHART** (<http://www.jessicaburkhart.com>) is the author of Canterwood Crest series published by Simon & Schuster's Aladdin MIX. Jess started freelancing at fourteen and has over 100 credits in magazines such as *Girls' Life* and *The Writer*. She wrote



Take the Reins, the first book in the Canterwood series, at nineteen and signed her book deal a few months later. Now, she's a fulltime author living in New York City. Visit her Website at www.canterwoodcrest.com.

TERRY BURNS (Hartline Literary) writes inspirational fiction and is an agent with Hartline Literary <http://www.hartlineliterary.com>. As a writer he has 30 books in print including 9 novels. A Young Adult entitled *Beyond the Smoke* came out from BJU Press January 2009 and won the 2009 Will Rogers

Medallion, a historical fiction entitled *Saints Roost* just came out from Mountainview Press, just finished ghostwriting a novel for a publisher, and a series that began with *Mysterious Ways* from River Oak Publishing (the series bears that name). The second, *Brothers Keeper* came out Feb 1, 2006 and *Shepherd's Son* came out January 1, 2007. Other fiction includes *Trails of the Dime Novel*, a trade paperback from Echelon Press, *Don't I Know You?* and *To Keep a Promise* from Fictionworks. He has published over 200 articles and short stories. A popular speaker at workshops across the country, a bookstore of his available works as well as a regular blog can be found at www.terryburns.net. As an agent Terry says "I'm looking for a good book, well written, aimed at a market that looks promising, and where I feel I have the contacts appropriate to be able to sell the book in that market, a unique story treatment and a unique voice."



ALICE CRIDER (WaterBrook Multnomah [Random House]), associate editor at WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group, began her publishing career in 1998 at Cook Communications, where she helped develop Sunday school curriculum before joining the adult trade book department. She moved to Alive Communications Literary Agency in 2001, and subsequently joined the editorial team at Water-



brook Press in 2004. Recent projects under women's non-fiction include inspirational story, memoir, relationship, devotional, parenting, marriage,

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SPEAKERS FOR 2010 WRITE EVERY DAY CONFERENCE

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and spiritual growth. Her favorites include faith-in-action stories that deliver authentic experience and inspiration, and messages that enhance relationships and break through to life change.

MARGARET DALEY (<http://www.margaretdaley.com>) is an award winning, multi-published author in the romance genre. One of her romantic suspense books, *Hearts on the Line*, won the American Christian Fiction Writers' Book of the Year Contest. Recently she has won the Holt Medallion, Golden Quill Contest, FHL's Inspirational Readers' Choice Contest, Winter Rose Con-



test, and the Barclay Gold Contest. She wrote for various secular publishers before the Lord led her to the Christian romance market. She currently writes inspirational romance and romantic sus-

pense books for the Steeple Hill Love Inspired lines. She has sold sixty-six books to date. You can visit her web site at <http://www.margaretdaley.com> and read excerpts from her books and learn about the ones recently released and soon to be released.

JANE FRIEDMAN (Writer's Digest) is the publisher, strategic leader, and brand manager of the Writer's Digest community at F+W Media in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she leads Writer's Digest magazine, Writer's Digest Books, and the Writer's Market series—as well as related online media, education, events, and competitions. She is on a passionate

mission to develop the best content and experiences for writers from all walks of life. Jane earned her BFA in creative writing from the University of Evansville, and holds an MA in English from Xavier University (Cincinnati). She blogs on the industry at There Are No Rules (blog.writersdigest.com/norules) and keeps a more personal web presence at JaneFriedman.com.

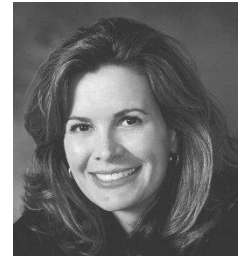


After almost three fascinating and productive years reacquainting himself with the world of publishing at Writers House, **JOSH GETZLER** (Russel and Volkening, <http://www.randvinc.com>) joined Russell and Volkening, Inc., as a (mostly) fiction and young adult/middle grade agent and their director of Film/Television rights. He says "I am particularly into foreign and historical thrillers and mysteries, so send me your ruthless doges and impious cardinals...and your farmhouse cozies! Give me atmosphere, let me learn something about another time or another place (or both), and kill off nasty Uncle Mortimer in the process—



I'll be yours! I take middle grade and YA mystery or adventure series, but not so much fantasy, and definitely not picture books. (There are many others who specialize in these books.) And please don't send religious fiction—I don't have contacts in the Christian book market."

On January 1, 1997, **KELLY JAMES-ENGER** (<http://www.becomebodywise.com>) escaped from the law, but don't worry—she's not a fugitive. After five years as an attorney, she changed careers to become a fulltime freelance journalist, eventually writing both nonfiction and fiction books in addition to launching a successful speaking career. While she's covered a variety of subjects, she specializes in health, fitness, and wellness, and has written for more than 50 national magazines including *Family Circle*, *Health*, *Parents*, *Redbook*, *Self*, and *Woman's Day*. She's also an ACE-certified personal trainer.



CHRISTINA KATZ (<http://christinakatz.com>) is the author of *Get Known Before the Book Deal*, *Use Your Personal Strengths to Grow an Author Platform* and *Writer Mama, How to Raise a Writing Career Alongside Your Kids* for Writer's Digest Books. She has written hundreds of articles for national, regional, and online publications, presents at literary and publishing events around the country, and is a monthly columnist for the *Willamette Writer*. Katz is the founder of #platformchat, The Writer Mama Back-to-School Give-away, *Writers on the Rise*, and The



Northwest Author Series. She holds an MFA in writing from Columbia College Chicago and a BA from Dartmouth College. A "gentle taskmaster" to her

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2010 Write Every Day Conference Speakers

hundred or so students each year, Katz channels over a decade of professional writing experience into success strategies that help writers get on track and get published.

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



Award-winning and best-selling author **DEBORAH LEBLANC** (<http://www.deborahleblanc.com>) is a business owner, a licensed death scene investigator, and has been an active paranormal investigator for over fifteen years. She's the President of the Horror Writers Association, Mystery Writers of America's Southwest Chapter, and the Writers' Guild of Acadiana. Deborah is also the founder of the LeBlanc Literacy Challenge, an annual, national campaign designed to encourage more people to read and Literacy Inc., a non-profit or-

ganization with a mission to fight illiteracy in America's teens. Her latest novel is *WATER WITCH*. For more information, visit

www.deborahleblanc.com and www.literacyinc.com



CAROLYN LEONARD (<http://www.carolynbleonard.com>) serves on the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (OGS) board as publicity director and editor of the OGS Newsletter, as well as being a member of Edmond Genealogical Society. She has been recognized by the Kentucky Sons of American Revolution for locating and marking graves of patriots. Past president of Writers of the Purple Sage, OKC Writers and the OK Writers Federation, she remains a commissioned writer for *Persimmon Hill*, magazine of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.



AMY LYONS (Globe Pequot, Amy.Lyons@globepequot.com).

ESTHER LUTTRELL (<http://esthertrell0.tripod.com/author.html>) began her career as a writer-director-producer of documentaries, educational films, and syndicated TV programs in the Midwest. She later moved to Los Angeles and joined the CBS Script Department. After a few months, she went to MGM whereshe went from their executive offices back to her first love: Production. She worked on movies-of-the-week, feature films, episodic TV (production coordinator on "CHiPs"), sitcoms, and TV specials. Her experience covers Comedy Development, Assistant to the Vice President of MGM-TV and Assistant to the Music Director. All this time

she ran her own script consulting service and managed to sell her first original feature story to Dick Clark Cinema Productions. Paul Rabwin, Emmy-award winning Producer of "The X Files" says, "What Esther teaches is important for you to know if you ever intend to make it as a screenwriter."



JOANNA LUTZ (Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr. magazines), assistant editor of *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* and *Clubhouse Jr.* magazines, began her writing career at age eight. When a children's magazine printed her story about rescuing a baby squirrel, she could hardly contain her excitement. After adding a couple of other “publishing credits” to her childhood portfolio, she entered adolescence and took a correspondence writing course. The skills Joanna learned in that course served her well as a college newspaper editor, as an editorial assistant and for the past two+ years as an assistant magazine editor. Joanna enjoys finding gems among hundreds of manuscripts and polishing those rare jewels until they shine! Her favorite parts of editing include fine-tuning fiction and making deep truths understandable for children.



NANCY ROBINSON MASTERS (<http://www.nancyrobinsonmasters.com>) is an award-winning author of 34 books, and has sold more than 3,000 feature articles. Her warmth, wit, and down-home writing style have made her a popular speaker at writing conferences, schools, organizations, and business events. You can take-off with Nancy, who is a licensed airplane pilot, at www.nancyrobinsonmasters.com where you can also order her book, *All My Downs Have Been Ups*, a collection of

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2010 Write Every Day Conference Speakers

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29 of her most popular personal experience stories sold to magazines and newspapers around the world.

DIANNE SAGAN (<http://diannesagan.wordpress.com>) enjoys her life as an author, business consultant, seminar facilitator, and public speaker to writers groups and women's groups. Like many writers she wrote most of her life in spare moments. She made the jump to full-time freelance ghostwriter

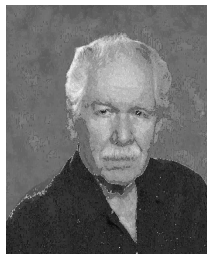


about four years ago. Her works of fiction include *Rebekah Redeemed*, Book 1 in the Touched by the Savior series, *Shelter from the Storm*, and contributing author to *Flash Tales: An*

Adventure in Words and *Tainted Mirror: An Anthology*. Coming this summer, *The Fisherman's Wife*, Book 2 in the above series. She says "Both my husband and I are writers. He writes a regular column weekly and in addition is a freelance editor. I love having an editor in the family when it comes time to polishing manuscripts for submission. We have six children, four grandchildren, and a dog."

JORY SHERMAN (<http://www.jorysherman.com>) began his literary career as a poet in San Francisco's famed North Beach in the late 1950s, during the heyday of the Beat Generation. His poetry and short stories were widely published in literary journals when he began writing commercial fiction. He has won numerous awards for his poetry and prose and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Letters for his novel, *Grass Kingdom*. He won a Spur

Award from Western Writers of America for *The Medicine Horn*. He has also won a number of awards from the Missouri Writers Guild, and other organizations. In 1995, Sherman was inducted into the National Writer's Hall of Fame. He lived in the Ozarks for over 20 years, last making his home in Branson.



His writing regularly appears in *The Ozarks Mountaineer* and *Ozarks Monthly* his latest collection of Ozarks pieces are in *The Hills of Home*, published by Hardshell Word Factory and *The Sadness of Autumn*, published by AWOC.COM publishing in Denton, Texas. He now lives on a lake in northeast Texas. Literary critics consider Sherman to be among the top 5 of western writers, according to Dale Walker, historian. Warren French, former professor of literature at the University of Florida, wrote that: "Jory Sherman has a strange and powerful knowledge of language and an almost perfect ear."

p. b. smith is an award-winning humorist, medical reporter and the author of nine published books, including *Sleep Disorders for Dummies*, and *Alzheimer's for Dummies*. She wrote for *People Magazine* for six years, from 1996 until it closed after 9/11, and still occasionally contributes stories to the magazine, and was a columnist and regular contributor to *Creative Screenwriting* for four years. She's written countless newspaper and magazine articles, and dozens of books and screenplays. She's currently focused on writing and directing the new web comedy series, "The Most Annoying People Ever," seen on YouTube. She has two grown children, a daughter and a son, and hopes one day to be all grown up herself. ms. smith does not believe in the concept



of writer's block, nor in capitalizing her own name.

DANA STABENOW (<http://www.stabenow.com>) was born in Anchorage and raised on 75-foot fish tender in the Gulf of Alaska. She knew there was a warmer, drier job out there somewhere and found it in writing books. Her first science fiction novel, *Second Star*, sank without a trace, her first crime fiction novel, *A Cold Day for Murder*, won an Edgar award, her first thriller, *Blindfold Game*, hit the New York Times bestseller list, and her twenty-sixth novel and seventeenth Kate Shugak novel, *A Night Too Dark*, was published in February 2010. <http://www.stabenow.com>



Educated in journalism and commercial art, **M. CAROLYN STEELE** (www.mcarolynsteele.com) owned a graphic art studio. She didn't start out to be a writer, but a promise to her dying mother set her on that path. In the process of keeping her word, she has won numerous awards, including a smattering of first place and crème-de-la-crème honors. Carolyn is published in eleven anthologies, including three of the *Heavenly Patchwork* series and two of the *My Hero* series and is currently developing a collection of stories based on the Creek Removal to Oklahoma.



Common writing problems encountered by her students inspired her recent book, *Preserving Family Legends for Future Generations*. This compact and easy to read volume was written as an aid to both genealogists and aspiring writers and has been featured in a number of newspapers, among them *The Daily Oklahoman* and *Tulsa World*. Most recently, *Pre-*

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Conference 2010

Presentations and Workshops

Kate Angelella, editor *Workshop*

Book Editor's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of book editors.

One-on-one Appointments

Middle Grade and tween fiction. Angst-y girl characters, fresh takes on the chick-lit genre with strong commercial hooks. Novels with any type of magic or paranormal element

Linda Apple, writer/speaker

Speak Out! Public Speaking for Writers

For the serious writer it is no longer enough to only face a computer screen. Now we must also face a sea of faces in order to build our platform and promote our work. The problem? Most of us would rather take a serious beating than hold a microphone, much less speak in it. But with a few mind adjustments and technique tips, the process will be much easier. In fact, it may just be fun.

My Recipe for Chicken Soup for the Soul

(This is the Friday Lunchbox bonus workshop)

Linda Apple is the author of *Inspire! Writing from the Soul* (Buoy Up Press, 2009). She will reveal the secrets to her success in selling dozens of inspirational essays and stories, including ten stories to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series. Linda says, "There is a flame inside of every writer called purpose with passion. But this combination doesn't necessarily make an inspirational writer. So, what is an inspirational writer? One whose passion and purpose are motivated by the desire to encourage, to help, to heal the reader. Inspirational authors write with their readers in mind. However, just writing with the readers in mind isn't

enough to 'connect' with them. Our stories must unlock their memories and engage them. The best way to do this is by using the Creative Nonfiction Method."

Sandra Bishop, agent

The Mystery of Voice

What is it? Who has it? How to get one if you've lost (or never found) yours. And why bother? We'll discuss the definition and properties of Voice in various forms, but most specifically, fiction.

Agent's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of agents.

One-on-one Appointments

Sandra will take appointments. She is looking for FICTION: Christian, Historical, Humorous, Literary, Mainstream, Romance - All, Women's, Young Adult, , NONFICTION: Celebrity and Media, Historical nonfiction, How to/DIY, Humor, Narrative nonfiction, Pop, Relationships, Travel, Adventure.

Jessica Burkhart, writer

From Freelancing to Fiction

Jessica will offer anecdotes of how she went from freelancer to author with a four-book deal just months after making the switch. She'll cover how to start freelancing, the benefits of writing for magazines, when to make the transition to fiction and why freelancing gives aspiring fiction writers an edge when querying agents. An accompanying Power Point is packed with helpful Websites, names of books and photos of Jess' giant box of rejection letters that didn't discourage her from writing.

Working with an Editor

(Panel with Kate Angelella, assistant editor at Aladdin)

What happens at Aladdin after signing a

book deal. Kate and Jess discuss how they work together to write and edit a bi-monthly series. The talk covers the process from idea, to outline to copyedits. They take questions at the end.

Terry Burns, agent/writer

Pitch and Promote Like a Pro

Are you ready for an agent? How do you know? How do you get one? Terry takes participants through the whole process of pitching, doing a query, doing a proposal, what's involved and why? He talks about how to find the confidence to sit down with agents and editors and make the pitch. Instead of a handout he follows up to attendees with a copy of his ebook on the course.

Agent's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of agents.

One-on-one Appointments

I don't ask for much. I'm looking for a well-written book with a unique story and a unique voice that I can see a market for and feel I have the right contacts to sell it into that market. Having said that, we don't do sci-fi or fantasy nor do we do books for young children. Beyond that we are pretty open, and when I am taking appointments I am accepting not only for myself but for the other Hartline agents.

Alice Crider, editor

Entrepreneurial Author

A look at how some writers "break out" and go big, why most don't, and some interesting principles that can help you spike your potential, jumpstart your publishing career, and join the ranks of best-selling authors.

Book Editor's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel

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Conference 2010

Presentations and Workshops

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of book editors.

One-on-one Appointments

Women's non-fiction projects, including inspirational story, relationship, parenting, marriage, and spiritual growth. My favorites include faith-in-action life stories that deliver authentic experience and inspiration, and messages that enhance relationships and break through to life change.

Margaret Daley, writer

Workshop 1:

How to Construct a Novel Part 1

At the beginning of a new story, sometimes a writer will stare at a blank computer screen, trying to decide how to put together the novel that has been swirling around in his/her head. This class will go through the piecing together of the novel into a salable product. How to construct a novel will follow the construction of a house, starting with having a solid foundation (characters), putting up the framework (plot) and finishing with the roofing (the black moment and resolution). Other elements of a novel (pacing, setting, point of voice) will also be discussed to help a writer construct a novel that will be compelling to readers.

Workshop 2: How to Construct a Novel Part 2

Jane Friedman, publisher

How to Succeed as a Writer When Print Is Declining: 3 Models

It used to be that writers could cut their teeth writing for newspapers and magazines, and work their way to success, even authorship. But what happens when those print opportunities just don't exist anymore? Learn the three models that successful writers have used to further their careers when the traditional methods have stopped working.

Editor's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of Book and Magazine editors.

One-on-one Appointments

Josh Getzler, agent

Do's and Don't's of the Query Letter

Need description and title

Agent's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of agents.

One-on-one Appointments

Kelly James-Enger, writer

Not-so-Secret Agents: How to Get a Good Agent—and Avoid the Bad Ones

Do you need an agent to sell your book? How do you get one? How do you approach an agent who's new to you? And what should you look for when you work with an agent? Come learn the basics of working with an agent, including how to make your novel or book proposal stand out from the heap, and how to nab an agent who will be your book's best friend.

From Query to Clip: How to Pitch, Research, Write and Publish your Magazine Article

Not sure how an initial idea is transformed into a finished article? This program unveils the step-by-step process of taking an idea and turning it into a finished piece, and teaches you how to do the same. Presented by Kelly James-Enger, author of six books including *Six-Figure Freelancing: The Writer's Guide to Making More Money* (Random House, 2005), and hundreds of articles for national magazines.

Six-Figure Freelancing: Techniques to Help you Get There—or Just Get More

Green

(This is the Thursday Early Bird Bonus workshop)

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

Christina Katz, writer

Get Known Before the Book Deal: A Platform Development Check List

Becoming visible is more crucial to landing a book deal than ever according to agents and editors in every facet of the publishing industry. Aspiring authors of all varieties need to develop a platform in order to get noticed. Based on her book, *Get Known Before the Book Deal*, Christina Katz will help you see the bigger platform picture and take the steps every writer must to get known and land a book deal. Participants will learn how to: assess whether or not they are plat-

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Conference 2010

Presentations and Workshops

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form-ready, cultivate the skills to develop a platform over time, gather up their writing credentials into an impressive one-pager. Even if you are not yet known and you don't have a writing specialty, you will enjoy this lively presentation about how to name, claim, cultivate and explain your all-important writer's platform from scratch.

Roadmap To The Nonfiction Book Deal: The Highs, The Lows & Everything In-between

Books on how to write book proposals can make the path from unpublished writer to published author seem straightforward and predictable. But the road to the nonfiction book deal is not always straight or anything you can set your watch by. In this workshop, you will become informed about what you can control, what you can't control, and what is required to deliver of a nonfiction book proposal that will stand out from the many. Participants will learn how to strategize content development over the long haul, understand what sets strong book proposals apart from weak book proposals, get organized and pace themselves for a smooth book-writing process. Learn how to prepare, polish your proposal, and land the deal. Many examples from published authors provided.

Page Lambert, writer/book doctor **The Driving Force of Character**

Emotional Fuel: How to Keep the Creative Fires Burning
(This is the Saturday Lunchbox bonus workshop)

One-on-one Appointments

Book Doctor! Will critique first pages of your book.

Deborah LeBlanc, writer

Working With the Dead

What really goes on behind the doors of an autopsy suite and embalming room.

Revvng It Up!

How to turn your thriller, horror, or suspense into a roller coaster ride that will keep readers on the edge of their seats, holding their breath, and begging for more!

Carolyn Leonard, writer

Researching and Writing Family Stories

Everyone has a family – and every family has at least one good story or legend. With the premier this year of the popular British TV show “Who Do You Think You Are?” on NBC-TV, genealogy has moved into being one of the most popular hobbies in the country. Carolyn B. Leonard, author of the newly released book, *Who's Your Daddy? – A Guide to Genealogy from Start to Finish*, says that finding your family's place in history is a life-changing experience and helping others do that is her goal. An avid genealogist who has been researching family history for years, she shows others how to do the research and get those stories written down so they are not lost.

Esther Luttrell, screen writer

Novel to Screenplay

For anyone who has ever wondered how to turn their novel or story idea into a professionally crafted screenplay. Learn the tricks that make it possible to condense 200+ pages into a marketable 120page script while maintaining the integrity of your story. “Your screenplay has to be a reading adventure. You tell it with an economy of words that sparkle and are used in cinematic terms,” says Luttrell. “If it sounds daunting, keep in mind that screenwriting is a craft, but fortunately one that any writer can learn.” Class writing exercises and interaction, plus free handouts.

Creating Dynamic Dialogue

The trick to good writing is the same as the joy of good reading: Sparkling dialogue that puts you inside the character's

head. This workshop explores your hidden potential to write dialogue that zings straight to your reader's heart. Luttrell says, “If you can write the way others talk, you can write dynamic dialogue. It's all a matter of listening.” Class writing exercises, plus free handouts.

Joanna Lutz, editor

Make Your Manuscript Stand Out!

Want to write a manuscript no editor can resist? Find out how to recognize and avoid common mistakes. Learn to make your story capture an editor's fancy, so he can't wait to publish it. Workshop will cover how to begin with a bang, hold your reader's interest and wrap it up just right. Taught by a magazine editor who has read thousands of manuscripts and rejected many, but also discovered gems by previously unpublished writers. Emphasis on writing for children.

Magazine Editor's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of magazine editors.

One-on-one Appointments

Nancy Robinson Masters, writer

Show and Sell: How to Market Yourself and Your Books in Schools as a Visiting Author!

Nancy Robinson Masters sells thousands of books each year as a Visiting Author in schools across America and gets paid to do it! No matter how good your book may be or what level student reader it targets, there are five things you must know before schools will invite you to show and sell your books before a captive classroom audience, and five things you must do after you are invited to make each school visit profitable. Expect to be surprised as Nancy provides the list of "school supplies" you need to succeed.

Bleeding, Scabbed, and Scarred: How to Write Ugly Stories That Sell

Every writer struggles when putting personal traumatic experiences into print. Nancy Robinson Masters has sold dozens of personal experience stories to

(Continued on page 18)

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the United States and around the world.



Conference 2010

Presentations and Workshops

(Continued from page 17)

magazines and newspapers by using three simple, proven techniques that win the praise of readers and payment from editors. Let Nancy show you how you can use these three techniques to turn your tragedies into triumphs for publication and pay in a variety of markets.

Dianne Sagan, writer
Ghostwriting Workshop
Life as a Ghost (Writer)

Dianne G. Sagan presents an informative and interactive workshop for writers who are interested in becoming a ghostwriter or those who would like to know more about it. She has an international clientele, and one of her ghostwritten books is on the Amazon Best Seller List in Canada. Participants will come away with an overall grasp for what it takes to be a successful ghostwriter, how to find your client's voice, and get the chance to try writing in someone else's voice during the workshop.

Virtual Book Tour Workshop:
How to Take a National Book Tour Without Leaving Home

Dianne G. Sagan presents an informative and interactive workshop for writers who are interested in becoming a ghostwriter or those who would like to know more about it. She has an international clientele, and one of her ghostwritten books is on the Amazon Best Seller List in Canada. Participants will come away with an overall grasp for what it takes to be a successful ghostwriter, how to find your client's voice, and get the chance to try writing in someone else's voice during the workshop.

Michael W. Sasser, writer
Freelancing for Newspapers

From literary giant Ernest Hemingway to mystery queen Edna Buchanan, countless famous authors have learned their

craft writing for newspapers. Newspapers today still offer opportunities for writers to learn and practice the essential skills of nonfiction and fiction writing alike. They also are doorways to building reputations, establishing work habits, networking and making money. Newspaper writing requires discipline, tight focus and research -- key ingredients to any successful writing career. It also permits writers to explore things they enjoy and those things about which they might want to learn. Learn the benefits of and secrets to writing for local and regional newspapers; and hear why the tightening newspaper market just might be good news for independent writers.

p. b. smith, writer
Workshop 1: How to Use Blogging and Social Networking to Sell a Book and Increase Your Book Sales

When promotional budgets -- especially those for unpublished and less established authors -- are practically nil, how can you make your books stand out, increase sales and build your reputation as an author or increase your chance of selling a book if your work is not yet published? Use blogging and social networking. Publishers appreciate authors who know how to use cost-effective Internet tools to promote their books.

Workshop 2: Writing the Short Script

George Lucas said the 21st century would be the era of the garage movie, and he was right. We have all the tools... affordable digital cameras, computer-based editing and rendering software, and readily available online distribution channels; but before you shoot the movie, you have to write the script. One of the best ways to break into filmmaking is with short films -- two to three minute vignettes that make people, laugh, cry or think. This class will teach you how to write them.

Jory Sherman, writer
The Magic of Writing

Jory Sherman conducts a workshop that will enable beginning or published writers to eliminate writer's block forever

and show the way to start and finish a short story or novel. His unique approach has produced a number of noted writers.

The Poetry Path

Jory Sherman will conduct a poetry workshop which will explore the ways in which a poet may write and publish poetry, gain recognition, and achieve success.

Gloria Teague Shirley, writer
Memoir Writing

Everyone has a story, or an entire book, in their life. If you want to know how to record family memories for future generations, come listen to someone who has done it. Gloria Teague is the author of SATURDAY NIGHT COCOA FUDGE, a memoir about being a child of the 50s in the south. Be sure to bring your memories with you.

Writing the Confession Story

They say confession's good for the soul; well it can be good for the checking account, too. There's a certain rhythm, a certain formula for writing for the confession market. Gloria Teague has sold over 50 stories to what some people call "The Trues" or the magazines your mother used to forbid you to read. It's a whole new world, a new generation of readers, and they're loud and proud about their confession stories. Come listen to how it's done and make a dollar or two.

M. Carolyn Steele, writer
Mining Family Legends for Story Ideas

This workshop will discuss using family legends and childhood memories for story ideas and how to craft them into memorable pieces worthy of publishing. Writing methods from creative nonfiction to enhancing known facts will be discussed and the value each can add to the finished product. Finally, we will examine the use of era research to enrich and enliven the story. Notable authors and their novels will be used as examples of stories "based on true facts."

(Continued on page 19)

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(Continued from page 18)

Cherry Weiner, agent

Everything You Wanted to Know About Publishing.

A New York agent's perspective on the writing business. Covering publishers, agents, and books.

Agent's Panel

Write down your questions for our panel of agents.

One-on-one Appointments

K.D. Wentworth, writer

Accessing Your Imagination: Learning to Listen to Fred

What do all genres of writing have in common? The need to access the fountain of ideas lying hidden in your subconscious! Come and learn a variety of techniques for uncovering the wealth of story material lurking just beneath the surface of your conscious mind.

Breathing Life into Your Characters

Without vivid, memorable characters, writing has no soul, but how do you construct the perfect story people to give your work the depth that all writers crave? We will discuss ways to select the perfect characters for your story and then make them come alive for the reader.

2010 Write Every Day Conference Speakers

(Continued from page 14)

servicing Family Legends for Future Generations was recommended in the literature section of *Tulsa People*, February 2010 issue.

As a little red-haired girl **GLORIA**

TEAGUE (<http://www.gloriateague.com>, gteague@cimtel.net) used to live in what was to become known as "The Zone". In "The Zone" she sang with Alvin and the other Chipmunks, rode with the Lone Ranger on her trusty stick horse, and wore her mother's voluminous half slip on her head, visualizing it as long golden tresses sure to capture the heart of her prince. She was born in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains into the most wondrous, crazy family ever to bless a child. Her family told her that her imagination could be her best friend. She's never had any reason to dispute that since it's helped her to cope with life's bumps and bruises. It's even boosted her checking account a few times. Gloria has dozens of short stories and articles published in national magazines, as well as serial and holiday stories published in regional newspapers. She's a contributor to *Book Marketing from A to Z*. Her article about cancer was in *Woman's World*, Oct. 2009. She placed first place in several writing contests, including the America Nostalgia Prose category at the OWFI conference in May, 2005 for a short story that spawned her book, *Saturday Night Cocoa Fudge*. Her latest book, *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*, was released in March 2009.



CHERRY WEINER (Cherry Weiner Literary Agency) has been agenting since 1977. She started out by handling science fiction, fantasy, and horror. She now handles all genres. Among the *all genres* she handles a good number of fairly well-known authors in the field of Romance, Mystery, Westerns and Native American Works. Some nonfiction has even crept into the mix but no poetry. Her experience being more tentative she tries not to handle children's and young adult manu-



scripts, but a few of her authors are doing the Y.A. run so she is trying to learn the genre and submitting for them.

K.D. WENTWORTH (<http://www.kdwentworth.com>)

has been writing and selling science fiction and fantasy for over twenty years. She got her start winning in the Writers of the Future Contest in 1988 and then won the Fields Publications Teachers as Writers Contest in 1991. Since then, she has sold more than eighty pieces of short fiction to such markets as *FASF*, *Hitchcock's*, *Realms of Fantasy*, *Weird Tales*, *Witch Way to the Mall*, and *Return to the Twilight Zone*. Four of her stories have been Finalists for the Nebula Award for Short Fiction. She also has seven novels in print, the most recent being *The Course of Empire*, written with Eric Flint and published by Baen. Her next book (also co-written with Eric Flint) will be *Crucible of Empire*, due out in March 2010. For the last seven years, she has served as Coordinating Judge for the Writers of the Future Contest and now also edits their annual anthology. She lives in Tulsa with her husband and a combined total of one hundred eighty pounds of dog (Akita + Siberian "Hussy") and is working on another new novel with Flint.



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Book Review: The First Five Pages

by Noah Lukeman

Reviewed by Gerri Baker, ©2002, Gerri Baker

The absolute worst thing for me to hear during mail call is, "You've got a package!" after I've been sending out novel submissions. I don't want to see my handwriting on my SASE. It's depressing and frustrating, no matter how positive I try to be. However, after enough rejections, I figured out the problem was on my end, not the editors'!

While hunting for answers, I stumbled across Noah Lukeman's book *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide to Staying Out of the Rejection Pile*. This is a fascinating and useful perspective on what agents and editors look for when considering manuscripts.

In the introduction, Lukeman reminds writers that "Agents and editors...read solely...with an eye to dismiss a manuscript." As

an agent, he developed a criteria that helped him reject manuscripts, sometimes with a single glance. *The First Five Pages* details his personal, prioritized checklist for rejection.

Most conventional writing wisdom says to start with characters, plot, theme, conflict, so on and so forth. But Lukeman says when editors assess a manuscript, those elements are the last things looked at.

Instead, 99% of manuscripts are rejected on the basis of five pages. Lukeman wants to find good writing, and he knows the mistakes made in the first five pages will continue throughout the rest of the submission.

In those five pages, he first looks for poor manuscript presentation. An unprofessional manuscript tells Lukeman that the writer doesn't take the process seriously. He also points to overusing adjectives, adverbs, and comparisons as problem markers. He devotes an entire chapter to the sound, rhythm, and grammar of prose, emphasizing the need for variable sentence structures. Then he wraps up the first section with a discussion on style.

In the second section, Lukeman discusses dialogue, but instead of starting with conventional issues, he begins with the problems between the lines. He says, "What's most interesting about dialogue is that you can dismiss it without even reading it. Instead, just look at its appearance

on the page." Frightening how much can be dismissed at a glance. The rest of the section discusses dialogue with that same brutal practicality -- commonplace and info-dump dialogue, melodramatic characters, and hard-to-follow conversations.

At this point, 99% of the submissions are already in the reject pile. Now the pressure is really on, Lukeman says, because the editors are still looking for excuses to reject the story, even though they've made it through the first five pages. Beyond this point, things like showing vs. telling, characterization, POV, plotting, pacing, etc. become important.

The only issue I had with the book was his examples. Lukeman mostly used poor writing models to make his points, only occasionally using published writers' samples. Usually these authors were classical authors like Conrad, Dostoyevsky, Camus, etc. While he pointed to writers like Stephen King, John Grisham, etc. for inspiration, he did not use any of their writing. I would have liked to see more modern authors being used as positive examples.

Nothing Lukeman discusses in *The First Five Pages* is new to an experienced writer. The key to this book is the emphasis he places on getting agents and editors through those first five pages. He takes the writing process and turns it on its ear to show writers how they are really being evaluated. With that knowledge, writers can then use his checklist to go back to their revisions and try to see what some poor editorial assistant is going to be reading.

Noah Lukeman. *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide to Staying Out of the Rejection Pile* (Fireside, 2000, ISBN 0-684-85743-X) \$11 U.S.

Most conventional writing wisdom says to start with characters, plot, theme, conflict, so on and so forth. But Lukeman says when editors assess a manuscript, those elements are the last things looked at. Instead, 99% of manuscripts are rejected on the basis of five pages.

Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance or a stranger.

Franklin P. Jones

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Affiliate News

CUCHARA WRITERS GUILD

Professional Activities:

AMY D. SHOJAI: signed books at the Westchester Cat Show in White Plains, New York; organized/ran the 16th Annual CWA Conference also in White Plains, New York; attended all-day photo shoot for Purina Catchow.com "mentor" column in St. Louis; RADIO: Weekly "Pet Peeves" show at PetLifeRadio.com; TV: twice monthly KXII-CBS "Pet Talk" segments; NEWSPAPER: Weekly "PETiQuette" column; NEWS-LETTER: Monthly free E-Newsletter "Pet Peeves"

Sales & Acceptances:

AMY D. SHOJAI: signed contract as "cat behavior contributing writer" to the About.com site (12 articles/month).

Contest Winnings:

AMY D. SHOJAI: honored with three CWA Muse Medallion awards for Pet Peeves weekly radio show, a shojai.com article, and the KXII-CBS "Pet Talk" television segment

New Books:

AMY D. SHOJAI: completed her 23rd book on the American Pit Bull Terrier (TFH Publications, Sept 2010); Release "Kindle" versions of Complete Kitten Care, Complete Care for Your Aging Dog, Complete Care for Your Aging Cat, Pet Care in the New Century.

FREELANCE WRITERS NETWORK

FWN

Acceptances and Sales:

MARJORIE BIXLER: WRITER of the column, "What Writers Read," for the *Green River Writers* (01/10).

Professional Activities:

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: TV INTERVIEW on Channel 31, Fort Worth (10/27/09);

SPEAKING/SIGNING at the "History-Haunts-and-Legends" Conference in "haunted" Jefferson, Texas (04/10); BOOK SIGNING her new book, *Texas Ghosts: Galveston, Houston, and Vicinity*, in Weatherford, Texas, for the "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz" Workshop at Weatherford College (04/24).

MARJORY BIXLER: SPONSOR AND JUDGE of the Short Story fiction category in the Green River Writers contest (2009).

ROBYN CONLEY: SPEAKER for East Texas Genealogy Society in the Tyler Public Library, Tyler, Texas, on "Writing Your Life Story" (2/13/10); SPEAKER for "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz" in Weatherford (04/24); SPEAKER at the Permian Basin Genealogical Society on "Writing Your Life Story" (06-28).

NEENA KAHLON: BOOK SIGNING: of *Remembering the Juice Mango* at Connections Bookstore in Fort Worth (01/23).

NELL NOONAN: BOOK SIGNING: *Not Alone: Encouragement for Caregiv-*

ers, Books on the Square, Granbury, Texas (12/09).

Club News:

CHRISTINE ENDY is the new president of Freelance Writers Network in Fort Worth.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

MAL

Honors and Awards

CHRISTINA GREENAWAY: OWFI Member at Large, nominated for the EVVY Awards, DREAM CHASER, A Novel That Reaches Beyond the Veil of Time.

MID OKLAHOMA WRITERS

MOW

Acceptances and Sales

DAVID ROPER: POEM: "Don't Eat the Gigggleberries," *Highlights for Children* (02/10).

BARBARA SHEPHERD: FIVE POEMS AND FULL PAGE BIOGRAPHY, *Poetry is for Everyone* (12/09).

Honors and Awards

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Named a Lone Star Poet for her poem "Creative Spirit."

Contest Winnings

MARGARETTE MALONE: Mid-

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Affiliate News

Oklahoma Writers Contest, POETRY: 1ST Place, "Haiku-Red Sun Sets," FLASH FICTION: 2ND Place, "The Old Man Waits."

BETTY PERSONETTE: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, NON-FICTION: 1ST Place, "My Father's Trees," POETRY: 2ND Place, "The First Feminist."

CHARLES VASSEL: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, FICTION: 1ST Place, "My Friend Jay," FLASH FICTION: 1ST Place, "Calamity Jane."

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, FICTION: 2ND Place, "The Silent War," FLASH FICTION: Honorable Mention, "The Hangover," Lone Star International Light of the Stars Contest, POEM: 2ND Place, "Creative Spirit."

DAVID ROPER: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, POETRY: 3RD Place, "What's So Great About Christmas?" FICTION: 3RD Place, "Margaret's House," FLASH FICTION: 3RD Place, "Daddy Would Be Proud."

JUDITH DURBIN: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, NON-FICTION: 2ND Place: "The Shrine," POETRY: Honorable Mention, "Analysis."

CHERYL WEEKS: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, NON-FICTION, 3RD Place, "Jake."

Professional Activities

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Presented a program in January to Wordwrights-OKC Christian Writers on Formatting Manuscripts. At the February meeting of Mid-Oklahoma Writers, she presented a program on Writing for Magazines.

JAN HALL: currently teaching a Memoir Class at Rose State College.

Club News

Mid-Oklahoma Writers meets at 7pm the second Tuesday of the month at the

Learning Resources Center, Rose State College, Midwest City, Oklahoma. Visitors are welcome.

NORMAN GALAXY

NGoW

Acceptances and Sales

HELEN DUCHON: Produced *UAW Newsletter* for Oklahoma University Women's Association, Nov., Dec., & Jan. Editor of Norman Galaxy of Writers newsletter *WriteLine*.

KEITH EATON: Published three articles for *Distinctly Oklahoma*, "Model Oklahomans," "Hugo, The Five-Ring City," and "The Allied Arts."

ROBERT FERRIER: Published poems, "Getting There" and "Old Chemo Veins," in *Blood and Thunder*, The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine's 2009 Journal, *Musings on Medicine*. Taped on *You Tube* by videographer Maggie Abel of Oklahoma City, reciting "Contrails" in memory of the seven astronauts lost in the 2003 Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. Published reviews of his 4 novels, "The Virtual Guard," "The Witchery Way," "Dear Mr. Kapps," and "The Plot Squad," for publisher *SynergEbooks.com*.

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: Sold three articles to *Journal Record, OKC*, about new businesses in the Moore-Norman Technology Business Development Center. Produces the Norman Bahai Newsletter. Published an article in Norman's *Transcript* "House Votes to Condemn Iranian Persecution of Bahai's."

FRANCES SEARCEY: Edited the Advent devotional booklet for Norman's

First Baptist Church. Published an article in Norman's newspaper, *The Transcript*, about the winners of 2009 Galaxy Writing Contest.

Published 2 poems, "Improving Vision," and "Surgery Waiting," in the 2009 Journal of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine's, *Blood and Thunder, Musings on Medicine*.

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Published 5 poems and a full-page bio in the book *Poetry is For Everyone*. Edited several chapters of a non-fiction book for another writer.

STAN SOLLOWAY & MIKE

KRAWCZYK: Published columns, "Silliman on Sports" columns, "Blindsided by the Blindside," "Tiger's Crash and Fall," "Dartmouth Squash Hecklers," "Crass Commercialism," "Twelve Months of Sports Year," "I.O.C. Seduced by Rio," "Rush? Rams? Really?," "Baseball Team Named, Town Goes Nuts," "Welcoming Favre Back," "Twelve Months of Sports Year,"

Novels and New Books

STAN SOLLOWAY & MIKE

KRAWCZYK: Published two new books for *Comedy Empire Press*, "Golfreaks" and "Sports Fans are Crazy." Stan did the writing and Mike did the cartoons.

LISA WILLIS: Published "The First Miracle," published by *4RV*, distributed by *Ingram*.

Contests Winnings

RUSS LONG: Won First Prize in NORMAN'S PERFORMING ART STUDIO'S DEPOT CENTENNIAL CONTEST with "Bicycling Past the Norman Depot," published in *The Transcript*. The prize was a trip for two on the Heartland Flyer to Ft. Worth, and overnight in the historic Ashton Hotel.

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Won 2 Hon-

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Affiliate News Continued

OL' TASCOSA WORDSLINGERS

Tascosa

Acceptances and Sales

CRAIG KEEL: ARTICLE: "Listening to the Master";

www.thisspirituallife.com, (11/09).

NANCY KEEL (writing as Nandi Eckles): ARTICLE: "Mother of the Monster", www.houseofhorror.org.uk, Issue #5 (10/09).

Katrina Donnell Kimble: ARTICLE: "God Bless the Moon", Amarillo Magazine (10/09).

Novels & New Books

PHYLISS MIRANDA & JODI KOUMALATS (THOMAS): NOVEL: Anthology, *Give Me a Texas Ranger*, Kensington (07/10); NEW CONTRACT: *A Texas Christmas*, Kensington (12/11), *Be My Texas Valentine*, Kensington (02/12).

Honors & Awards

JODI KOUMALATS (THOMAS) & PHYLISS MIRANDA: AWARD: *Give Me a Cowboy*, 2009 Judge A Book By Its Cover Contest, 2nd place Sexiest Cover, www.hbarwa.com.

JODI KOUMALATS (THOMAS): AWARD: *Tall, Dark and Texas*, 2009 Best Western Romance, sponsored by Love Western Romances, www.lovestwesternromances.com.

Professional Activities

NATALIE BRIGHT: INSTRUCTOR: *Write Stuff Workshop for Kids* targeted to homeschooling families, Amarillo Art Institute, March 12.

NATALIE BRIGHT & PHYLISS MIRANDA: INSTRUCTORS: *Writing Your Family Memoir Workshop*, Amarillo Art Institute, April 23.

MARIANNE MCNEIL LOGAN: POETRY READING: "Cowboy Poets vs Rappers" and "My Cowboys Sweet-

orable Mentions, 2 Third Places, a Second Place, and a First Place in Oklahoma City Writers' Annual Contest.

Professional Activities

JUDY HOWARD: Book signings for "Heavenly Patchwork I and II" "Centennial Stitches -- Oklahoma History in Quilts," and "Thanking Our Troops -- God Bless America Touring Quilts."

STAN SOLLOWAY: Performed comedy at the Speakeasy in Oklahoma City. It was a filmed event in which Stan did 40 minutes.

Club News

DOROTHEE GRIFFIN, our friend and a long time member of Galaxy passed away Dec. 27, 2009. In addition to many other activities, she arranged for free printing of the Friday Writers' book *Pastime for Past Times*.

FRIDAY WRITERS: Galaxy sponsors a critique group every Friday from 10:00-Noon at the Senior Citizens' Center. It is led by **FRANCES SEARCEY**.

GALAXY meets the first Saturday of each month at the Norman Public Library from 10:00 to Noon. Authors, publishers, and agents speak on writing and publishing.

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS

OKC

Sales and Acceptances

SANDI SOLI had a nature photograph accepted by Platte Valley Review, pub-

lished by the University of Nebraska. She also has new poems coming out in CrossTimbers and elsewhere.

WAYNE HARRIS-WYRICK has sold a children's picture book to 4RV Publishing.

BERNADINE WELLS sold "Backyard Blunders to *Birds and Blooms* magazine.

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER sold a St. Patrick's Day poem for the Cracker Barrel Department and a Fourth of July poem to *Mature Living*. She also sold a story "A Brownie Moment" to *Looking Back* magazine for the July 2010 issue and the story "Journey's End" for the April 2010 issue of *Storyteller* magazine.

Novels & New Books

GORDON GREENE has a new book of poetry coming out called *Traveling Companions: New Poems*.

Contest Winnings

LUCINDA CARROLL KISER: Short Story, Second Place: 'Chocolate Death', *Art Affair Annual Contest* (2/10); Short Story, Honorable Mention: 'Weight of the World', *Art Affair Annual Contest* (2/10).

BARBARA SHEPHERD won Second Place in Lone Stars Contest for her poem "Creative Spirit." She was named a Lone Star Poet and the poem was published in *Lone Stars Magazine*.

Professional Activities

SANDI SOLI in January she read work from her new book in progress at the Heritage Center in Ada, OK along with National Book Award winner LeAnne Howe and four other writers. Sandi is also busy judging several writing competitions.

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Affiliate News

Continued

heart", Cowboy Poetry Breakfast, County Barn in Amarillo, (02/13/10).

Club News

Phyliss Miranda remains as President, and Natalie Bright is the newly elected club Reporter/Delegate.

PEN AND KEYBOARD

PAK

Honors and Awards

4RV: Preditors & Editors Readers Poll, Best Publisher, 2nd Place.

SUZY KOCH: Preditors & Editors Readers Poll, BEING JACOB, FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, Best Book Art Work, 10th Place.

Professional Activities

ELYSABETH ELDERING will do a book signing March 19 at B & R Bookstore, Honea Path, SC, to promote State of Wilderness and State of Quarries in her Junior Geography Detective Series, plus Bubba & Giganto.

MIKE HINKLE writes Hey Hink, an Opinion column, every Thursday in the Edmond Sun.

Presentations for the Heartland New Day BookFest (April 9-11, 2010) include an author panel discussion of mystery/suspense thrillers. **VIVIAN ZABEL** is a panelist, together with Jordan Dane and Merline Lovelace.

JACQUE GRAHAM will do in-character presentation of Belle Cobb BookFest Website: <http://www.hndbookfest.com/>

Club News

Pen and Keyboard meets the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Edmond Library. The club web site is at www.pen-keyboard.weebly.com.

Pen and Keyboard will enter a basket in the Basket Wars at the OWFI conference in May. Basket will contain signed copies of books written by members, plus appropriate fillers. Local chair is **SUZY KOCH**.

Pen and Keyboard web site is being updated. Book reviews are a new project to help members improve writing skills and to promote good books. Currently reviews are posted for *Absinthe of Malice* by **PAT BROWNING**, *Midnight Cowboy* by **VIVIAN GILBERT ZABEL**, and *Angeline Jellybean* by **CRYSTALEE CALDERWOOD**.

JORDAN DANE will be guest speaker at the May 9 meeting of Pen and Keyboard.

Books and Novels

PAT BROWNING'S mystery novel, *Absinthe of Malice* (Krill Press 2008) is now available as an e-book on Amazon's Kindle.

RED RIVER WRITERS

RRW

Articles

DOLORES WHITE: Article, "When You Feel Like You've Failed," *Cross & Quill* (1/10).

JUNE PROCTOR: Article, "The Last Christmas," *Bryan County Star* (12/09).

KIM MAUCK: Articles, "Taste of Main," and "Escape Into Grapes," *Oklahoma Today* (1/10).

Professional Activities

MARION HILL: Book talk, Robert L. Williams Public Library, Durant, OK

(1/10).

RON WALLACE: Poetry Reading, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, honoring the poetry of Howard Starks (11/09).

TULSA NIGHTWRITERS

TNW

Acceptance and Sales

SARA HOKLOTUBBE: NOVEL. Her second mystery novel was recently accepted for publication by The University of Arizona Press. The working title is *The American Cafe* and is slated for a March 2011 release. The Alaska Sisters-in-Crime selected her short story, "St. Lawrence Island: Yup'ik Wisdom," to be included in *A Stranger Comes to Town*, an anthology that details the experiences of mystery authors who visited Alaskan villages in connection with Bouchercon 2007. The anthology is scheduled for release in 2010.

SALLY JADLOW: ARTICLE. She has a humorous piece in the latest *Cup of Comfort for Mothers* entitled, "Thanksgiving at Jennifer's."

CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: POEM. "On Viewing Impression Sunrise" will appear in the winter issue of Harp-Strings Poetry Journal.

Novels and New Books

CHARLES SASSER: NOVEL. St. Martin's Press announces the December 2009 release of the latest book by Charles W. Sasser, *NONE LEFT BEHIND*, in hardcover. His previous book, *GOD IN THE FOXHOLE* (Simon & Schuster, 2008), originally in hardcover, was released in mass paperback in February 2010. His next book, *PREDATOR* (Zenith), will be released in hardcover in the fall of 2010.

CARLA STEWART: NOVEL. She

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Affiliate News

Continued

recently received the Advanced Reader Copy of her book, CHASING LILACS.

Contest Winnings

M. CAROLYN STEELE: CONTEST. Honorable Mention in Western Short Story for "Keeper of the Fire," in the Art Affair Annual Literary Contest

Honors and Awards

PEGGY FIELDING, JACQUELINE (JACKIE) KING and DUSTY RICHARDS: NOMINATION. The trio's book, TWO FOXY HOLIDAY HENS AND ONE BIG ROOSTER, has been nominated for a Spur Award.

MYRA JOHNSON: NOMINATION. Heartsong Presents novel *Autumn Rains* was chosen as the Philosophy of Romance Book of the Year for 2009 by "Vince," who has been engaged in an in-depth study of the romance genre.

GLORIA TEAGUE: AWARD. She was given the award for 2009 Tulsa NightWriter of the year.

Professional Activities

BARBARA HOWELL: ARTICLE. The Tulsa World had an article about her and her book, SPLINTERS. She spoke at Prairie Rose Gracious Retirement Community in Tulsa.

JACKIE KING and PEGGY FIELDING: PROMOTION. The ladies spoke and signed books at the Carnegie Library in Sapulpa, OK on Jan. 23.

M. CAROLYN STEEL: ARTICLE. She was in the February 2010 issue of Tulsa People Magazine. Her book is mentioned in Angie Jackson's column "Worth Reading."

RADINE TREES NEHRING: SPEAKING. She will discuss a writer's secrets at Northwest Arkansas Free Writers' Conference, March 13, in Fayetteville and speak about writing fiction at Arkansas Writers' Conference, Holiday Inn Presidential, Little Rock, June 4-5.

GLORIA TEAGUE: PROMOTION. She will speak and sign books also at the Sapulpa Carnegie Library on Feb. 17 to writers and will give a repeat performance on April 17 for their Friends of the Library. On March 15 she will be interviewed on a radio station followed by speaking and signing for her last book, BEYOND THE SURGEON'S TOUCH at the Montfort & Allie B. Jones Memorial Library in Bristow. After auditioning for library dinner theatre fund-raiser, "Alternate Snow White", she was asked to play the role of the evil queen.

DALE WHISMAN: TEACHING. He was asked to speak to Dr. Andrew Horton's Film & Video Studies Class at the University of Oklahoma. Dale spoke about what it was like to write and shoot his first feature film, DOWN THE ROAD, which won "Best Feature Filmed in Oklahoma" as well as other awards, including the Award for Best Female Actor, which went to Sherry Whisman for her role as Ma Dunmore at the BareBones Film Festival in 2005. Following his speech there was a 'screening' of the whole film with Dale present to discuss it.

WRITE INGREDIENTS

WI

Club News

Submissions for this year's Henry Weidemeyer Memoir Award contest will be accepted early this year, only March 1 through 31st, 2010. The contest is open to everyone for unpublished work. Independent, professional judging. Three

pages, \$10 reading fee. \$75 awarded to 1st place, with other cash awards.

The award is given annually in memory of Henry Weidemeyer, a member of the Write Ingredients in The Woodlands, who enjoyed writing about his life. He began writing in his late 80's, won awards for his memoirs and was first published after he turned 90. Guess it's never too late to make memories! Write Ingredients, The Woodlands, Texas, sponsors the contest.

To learn more about the contest or Write Ingredients, visit www.writeingredients.com or mail to: jk.2writers@gmail.com. The workshop meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at Barnes and Noble in The Woodlands, Texas. Come and visit for a big Texas welcome!

Contest Winnings

GWEN HANSEN: Henry Weidemeyer Memoir Award '09, sponsored by Write Ingredients, The Woodlands: 3rd Place.

MARY APARAUCH: Henry Weidemeyer Memoir Award '09, sponsored by Write Ingredients, The Woodlands : 2nd Place, "Wooly Go or Won't He?"

LEON ARCENEAX: Henry Weidemeyer Memoir Award '09, sponsored by Write Ingredients, The Woodlands: 1st Place, "The Christmas Dance."

WRITERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

WPS

Professional Activities

In November, **CAROLYN LEONARD** presented a lesson to the Writers of the Purple Sage on writing and publishing works of genealogy.

JO ANNA attended the Cowboy Storytellers of the Western Plains in Wilmore, Kansas.

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



Affiliate News Continued

Sales and Acceptances

LEORA BRIDGEWATER: ARTICLE: "A Positive New Year," *Beaver Herald Democrat*, Beaver, Oklahoma .

JO ANNA PEARD: COLUMNS: "Westside Story," and "Senior Citizens' News," *Vici Vision*, Vici, Oklahoma.

Novels and New Books

CAROLYN LEONARD: Book: *"Who's Your Daddy?"* Roots and Branches, an Imprint of AWOC.OCOM Publishing, Denton, Texas.

Club News

BOBETTE DOERRIE is Acting President of the Starcreek Amateur Astronomy Society. An article on the subject was front page worthy for the Woodward News, Woodward, Oklahoma. **SUE MCMURPHY** and **JESSIE VANDERPOOL** attended a forum and talk by Texas author Jodi Thomas at the Josie Adams Cultural Center in Woodward, Oklahoma on the 10th February. Writers of the Purple Sage mourn the loss of member **FREDA CHRISTOPHER**. Freda and husband J.C. Christopher had moved from Woodward to Norman, Oklahoma
.OFFICERS for 2010
Leon Beall, President
Mechelle Andrews, Vice President
Louise Beckwith, Secretary

Sue McMurphy, Treasurer
Theresa Casper, Historian
Gwen Hewitt, OWFI Contact Person
Gwen Hewitt and Sue McMurphy, Delegates

Writers of the Purple Sage meet the last Sunday of each month, 3:00pm, OG&E Building, North 9th Street, Woodward, Oklahoma 73801.

Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them. There's many a best-seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher.

Flannery O'Connor

Scary Stuff!

The second annual "Scare The Dickens Out of Us" ghost story contest offers \$1000.00 first place, \$500.00 second place and \$250.00 third place prize money this year for a new, original ghost story up to 5000 words. Is anyone interested? Any genre is welcome.

This literary contest is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Dr. Eugene Clark Library in Lockhart, Texas, the oldest continuously in use library in Texas. Entry fee is \$20.00. The contest is privately funded, all entry fees go to the Friends for library projects.

Full rules are available at www.clarklibraryfriends.org.

Entries will be accepted from July 1 to October 1 2010.

We are also supporting a "Junior Scare the Dickens Out of Us" ghost story contest with a \$250.00 first prize. This is for ages 12-18 and requires a \$5.00 entry fee.



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Write Every Day Conference Tentative Schedule

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

5-8:30 p.m.	Registration Opens, Lobby Area (See Deborah Bouziden)
7-8:30p.m.	Pre-Con Workshop, Pre-Convene, Kelly James Enger. <i>Six-Figure Freelancing: Techniques to Help Get You There</i>

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

7:30-9:00 a.m., 12-12:30	Registration Opens, Lobby Area (See Deborah Bouziden)			
9-5:50 p.m.	BOOKSTORE/MEETING ROOM III (8:30 a.m. check-in consignment books) (Operated by BEST OF BOOKS)			
2-5:00 p.m.	EDITOR/AGENT APPOINTMENTS (See Catherine Johnson) ROOM D			
	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30-8:50 a.m.	Opening Session, Introductions, Announcements, George Hubbard (Chaplain), etc.			
9-9:50 a.m.	Magazine Editor's Panel			
10-10:50 a.m.	Agent's Panel			
11-11:50 a.m.	Book Editor's Panel			
12-1:50 p.m.	LUNCH WORKSHOP, PRE-CONVENE, Linda Apple <i>My Recipe for Chicken Soup for the Soul</i> (Must be Pre-registered to Attend.)			
2-2:50 p.m.	Gloria Teague <i>Shirley, Writing Confession Story</i>	P.B. Smith, <i>How to Use Blogging & social Networking to sell a Book & increase Your Book Sales</i>	Deborah LeBlanc, <i>Working With the Dead</i>	Editor/Agent Appointments
3-3:50 p.m.	M. Camlyn Steek, <i>Mining Family Legends for Story Ideas</i>	Jessica Burkhardt and Kate Angelella, <i>Working with an Editor</i>	Alice Crider, <i>Entrepreneurial Author</i>	Editor/Agent Appointments
4-4:50 p.m.	Cherry Weiner, <i>Everything You Wanted to Know About Publishing</i>	Page Lambert, <i>When the "Tale" Wags the Dog</i>	Ester Luttrell, <i>Novel to Screenplay</i>	Editor/Agent Appointments
5-6:30 p.m.	HAPPY HOUR, West Atrium Area (Bring Your Room Key)			
6:30-9:30 PM.	FAMOUS AUTHORS BANQUET, ROOMS A, B, C, D (Famous Authors Book Auction)			

After Dinner

Informal Buzz Sessions (Hosts, Subjects, Locations, TBA)

SATURDAY, MAY 1

7:30-9:00 a.m., 11-11:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION OPENS, Lobby Area (See Deborah Bouziden)			
9-5:30 p.m.	BOOKSTORE, MEETING ROOM III (Operated by BEST OF BOOKS)			
8:30-11:30	EDITOR/APPOINTMENTS (See Catherine Johnson) ROOM D			
	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30-9:20 a.m.	Amy Lyons, editor	Jessica Burkhardt, <i>From Freelancing to Fiction</i>	Carolyn Leonard, <i>Researching and Writing Family Stories</i>	Editor/Agent Appointments
9:30-10:20 a.m.	Dianne Sagan, <i>Virtual Book Tours</i>	Christina Katz, <i>Roadmap to the Non-fiction Book Deal</i>	K.D. Wentworth, <i>Breathing Life Into Your Characters</i>	Editor/Agent Appointments
10:30-11:20 a.m.	Jane Friedman, <i>How to Succeed as a Writer When Print is Declining</i>	Jory Sherman, <i>The Magic of Writing</i>	Ester Luttrell, <i>Creating Dynamic Dialogue</i>	Editor/Agent Appointments
11:30-1:20	LUNCH WORKSHOP, PRE-CONVENE ROOM, Page Lambert <i>Emotional Fuel: How to Keep the Creative Fires Burning</i> (Must be Pre-registered to Attend.)			
1:30-2:20 p.m.	Josh Getzler, <i>Do's and Don't's of the Query Letter</i>	Gloria Teague, <i>Memoir Writing</i>	Sandra Bishop, <i>The Mystery of Voice</i>	Deborah LeBlanc, <i>Revving It Up!</i>
2:30-3:20 p.m.	Terry Burns, <i>Pitch and Promote Like a Pro</i>	Kate Angelella, editor	P.B. Smith, <i>Writing the Short Script</i>	Joanna Lutz, <i>Make Your Manuscript Stand Out</i>
3:30-4:00 p.m.	OWFI BOARD MEETING			
4:00 - 4:20	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING			
4:30-5:30 p.m.	AUTOGRAPH PARTY Held in the COURT YARD (See Wes Warner)			
6:30-10:00 p.m.	AWARDS BANQUET, ROOMS A, B, C, D			
10:00 p.m.	COLLECT CONTEST MATERIALS, (PRE-CONVENE ROOM) Contest Chair Inez Philips and 2 nd VP Nita Breshear			

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

WWW.OWFI.ORG

Check out OWFI's web page for proposed changes in the Bylaws. These will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting during the *Write Every Day!* Conference April 29—May 1.



Wayne Harris-Wyrick
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Oklahoma City, OK 73132

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc

All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer.

Treasurer: Linda Basinger, 728 Chautauqua Ave., Norman OK 73069-4606
lindabasinger@cox.net

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