

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

# THE REPORT

SPRING 2012

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 4



*Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.*

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD

in Oklahoma, the United States and around the world



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

Linda Apple

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## DON'T FORGET THE 3 R'S

For the OWFI conference, I have three words: Register, Reserve, and Review.

**REGISTER** before March 15<sup>th</sup> in order to get the early-bird discount. And when you register, seriously consider our “added value” options – the Thursday night pre-convention workshop, as well as the Friday and Saturday lunch workshops. The descriptions of the workshops are on the website. However, let me give you a little more “insider” information to whet your appetites.

**Dan Case** is enjoying incredible success, as are his authors, after formatting the AWOC books into Kindle and Nook form. He has the knowledge and wants to share it with you. Do you have short stories, poems, manuscripts, how-to's? Turn them into e-books. My royalty checks from e-books are growing with each one.

**Jack Dalton** comes to us from Alaska. Don't let unfamiliarity keep you from taking advantage of his Friday workshop. He is in demand *worldwide* for his presentations on writing, storytelling and theatrical performances. You will be mesmerized as you learn from him.

**Steven James**, our keynote, agreed to do the Saturday workshop. We learned last year the value in hearing from our keynotes and their journey to success. I've heard him present many times. I always leave his class with an aching hand from taking notes, new zeal for writing, and a better writer.

**RESERVE** your room at the Embassy. They are holding the OWFI block of rooms until April 19, 2012. Another insider tip: I'm getting emails and calls from a lot of people who are coming for the first time because of our faculty. It looks like we are going to have a large group, so don't wait until the last minute, okay?

**REVIEW** our speakers, editors, publishers, and agents. We have worked hard to get all the genres represented. If your genre isn't there, it isn't for the lack of invitations. My goal for all of you is success and selling. To date we have six agents. We have *nine* editors and publishers who are *actively seeking* manuscripts. So please, please, please, *review* what they represent and what they are seeking! *Then make an appointment. Appointments are open from March 1-April 27.*

**E.B. White** author of *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*, and contributor to *The Elements of*

*Style* said this, “I admire anybody who has the guts to write anything at all.” As writers we have to be brave when we put our ideas, thoughts, and creativity “out there” for all to criticize, ridicule, applaud, or worse – be totally indifferent. Then at conferences we find we must “kick our bravery up a notch” when we pitch our work. To help bolster your confidence we have scheduled **Chuck Sambuchino**, editor for *Writer's Digest Books* and the *Guide to Literary Agents*, to give his presentation, *Pitch Perfect*, as one of the first classes before our appointments begin. After Chuck is our editor, publisher, agent panel. This is a large group and because we have longer sessions and a lot of speakers we have to combine this panel. *I urge you to send me your questions for the panel.* We are taking “written” questions off the floor in interest of time. But as a courtesy for the panel, I'd like them to have time to think about their answers. Please send me your questions at [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) and put “Panel Questions” in the subject line.

Don't forget your 3 R's and “Writer up” your bravery. I want this to be *Your Year!*

Keep Weaving,

Linda

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## Read This Book!

# A Journey to Die For

by Radine Trees Nehring

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

**A JOURNEY TO DIE FOR**  
**By Nadine Trees Nehring**  
**Published by Wolfmont Press**  
**275 pages**

“Often I know my characters better than I know myself,” Radine Trees Nehring chuckled. “I do such deep research on them that I sometimes discover what I really think.”

Nehring is a five-foot two-inch mass of sparkling, smiling energy, usually wearing a hat so she's easy to pick out in a crowd. *A Journey to Die For* is the sixth book in the ‘To Die For’ award-winning mystery series. We join popular amateur sleuth, Carrie McCrite, and retired police-officer husband, Henry King, in the first chapter as they board a train. They're taking a day trip on an historic excursion from Springdale, through places like Frog Bayou, to Van Buren, Arkansas.

Intrigue starts early when they realize a local TV station is doing a piece on the tourist attraction. Carrie's razor-sharp intuition detects a couple of the passengers toward the front of the car who seem to dodge the camera, and we're off - through river walks, nail-biting police chases, quaint

restaurants, and hair-raising shootouts in antique shops with priceless treasures. Her peers at the Killer Nashville Writer's Conference voted it their top prize in 2010, the Silver Falchion Award.

A true love of the Arkansas Ozarks with it's beautiful scenery and lush landscape combined with civil war history and warm communities full of genuine folks keeps her writing passion alive.

**Wound through the plots and characters are Nehring's own strong values. She's convinced we're here to help others and is determined people will triumph amid the pressures and challenges.**

She and photographer husband, John, lived in Tulsa and started traveling to Arkansas for weekends, then bought vacation property near Gravette (outside Bentonville) before they moved

there full time.

Though the books are fiction, her readers can trust the landmarks and historical information as a guidebook. They have everything but maps.

Her fans fall into several categories. At a book fair in Texas, an English teacher brought her students with instructions to pick a book for the class to study – and they picked her book.

Another fan who wrote on her blog asked when the next 'To Die For' book would be out. She needed a “Carrie fix.”

But these aren't just sweet little mystery cozies for women. Since the third book in the series (*A Treasure to Die For*, 2005) where Carrie's husband, Henry, became a POV character and contrast to Carrie's bubbly personality, she's gained male fans.

And Nehring thinks it's a happy accident that she didn't describe Carrie in greater detail. “Women from 40 to 80 identify with her,” she laughed, teal blue eyes twinkling beneath the brim of her straw bowler.

Wound through the plots and characters are Nehring's own strong values. She's convinced we're here to help others and is determined people will triumph amid the pressures and challenges. They're not perfect and they've suffered. She deals with who they are, what they've done, right and wrong. But she wants them to gain strength and for evil

*(Continued on page 19)*



**Annie Withers, originally from Tulsa, lives in Kansas City, and is a member of KC Writers Group, Tulsa Night Writers, OWL, and OWFI. She writes articles, mostly profiles, of people, events, and places and is writing her first novel. She's a designer, photographer, and okay – a bit of a philosopher.**

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## Once Around the Web

# 3 SITES TO BOOKMARK

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

Every year, *Writer's Digest* comes out with its list of 101 Best Sites for Writers. Every year, like a good little lemming, I read over the list and check out the ones that I haven't looked at in the past. Some I find useful and those I bookmark. With that said, here are what I consider to be the top three websites that writers should bookmark along with a few reasons why.

**1. Preditors & Editors** – <http://www.pred-ed.com>: The Preditors & Editors site is maintained by David Kuzminski. He started the site in 1997 with the purpose of providing writers with contacts and information as they seek to market their work for publication. Along the way, he also provides information about scams and unscrupulous agents and editors.

**2. Writer Beware** – <http://www.writerbeware.com>: Writers Victoria Strauss and Ann ("A.C.") Crispin maintain this site along with Richard White. Specifically, they are the Committee on Writing Scams for the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America. Their information, however, is useful for writers regardless of genre. For example, they also receive sponsorships from other writers' organizations, such as the Mystery Writers of America. If a writer has a specific question

about a publisher, editor, or agent, she can contact Writer Beware directly and they will look into the complaint. They have a blog (Writer Beware® Blogs, <http://accrispin.blogspot.com>) that is frequently updated.

**3. Writer's Market Online** – <http://www.writersmarket.com>: There is obvious value in this site in that it has an extensive market database. Writers who are not familiar with the site don't know

I'm saying is here are three sites that can help you do your homework when it comes to deciding where to send your word-babies.

Oh, and that list of 101 sites for writers from *Writer's Digest*? You can find it at <http://www.writersdigest.com/101-best-websites-for-writers>. You will need to register for the free download, but it's worth registering for the WD site in general anyway.

**Admittedly, there are a lot more valuable sites out there than just these three. I realize chances are high you already have these sites bookmarked. It's similar to hearing something you think you already "know" in a workshop: Everyone needs reminders.**

they also have information on scams and other undesirables as mentioned before. An extra benefit is the business side of things, including articles on how much freelancers should charge, crafting a query letter, targeting market research, etc.

Admittedly, there are a lot more valuable sites out there than just these three. I realize chances are high you already have these sites bookmarked. It's similar to hearing something you think you already "know" in a workshop: Everyone needs reminders. All

Jen Nipps is the author of *Devoted to Creating: Igniting the Creative Spark in Everyone*, a book of devotions centered around creativity, and *Windsong & Other Poems*. She is a member of the Web Writing Wonders. Her website is [www.jen-nipps.com](http://www.jen-nipps.com).



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The Doctor is:

**In**

Out

# VOWELCABULARY

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

As wordsmiths, we think we're soooooo smart showing off our big list of words when we write and when we speak. Riiiiight.

Perhaps you suffer from a similar dreaded disease I do: distended vowelcabulary syndrome. It recurs every so often, usually when I'm extra fatigued and I make the mistake of thinking I can still carry on a normal conversation.

Not so.

A couple of nights ago, hurrying to speak to my handsome Irishman during a commercial when the Thunder and Mavericks took a time-out, I experienced a relapse. I wanted to share how good his mom was doing with her rehab following hip surgery. I'd been to her house earlier in the day to catch up her laundry and housework and noticed a major difference from the previous week.

"Really, your mom's walking is improving dramastically."

He looked at me, a bushy eyebrow cocked, making sure he had heard me correct.

What had I said? *Dramastically? Really? Not dramatically or drastically, but dramastically? Good grief.* And I had said it out loud, in front of the fella I tease

relentlessly when his tongue tangles around a word.

It started shortly after we were married and he tried to explain a great western he'd been watching.

"This father and his daughtee..."

Well, I lost it.

Here's this big lug of a blue collar guy telling me a tough western

tale and he says "daughtee" in-

stead of "daughter." I never did hear the rest of his movie explanation and eleven years later, all either of us has to say "daughtee," and we both giggle until we can't breathe.

The truth is I'm usually the worst, though, inventing all kinds of words without trying. As writers we can take advantage of this type of malady when needing an eccentric character who might be a bit off, or who can't quite remember the right word. And of course, I wouldn't be a good doc if I didn't remind you to use those new words sparingly or else they will lose their effectiveness.

So don't be afraid to use humor or a little unique twist with your word choices. You never

*(Continued on page 19)*

**Don't be afraid to use humor or a little unique twist with your word choices. You never know, they may make your writing healthier in a dramatic way. And by all means if you also suffer from a distended vowelcabulary, please email me your favorites and I'll print them in the next column.**



**Robyn Conley, the book doctor, speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write.**

**Her books include: *BE YOUR OWN BOOK DOCTOR*, which gives a checklist of editing tips for writers, and *What Really Matters to Me*, a journal that helps people discover their goals, and then offers practical tips to make**

**those dreams come true. Her other published titles include a diversity of topics, such as *BEYOND THE BRANCHES*, *Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree* and *Pray the Bible with Paper and Pen*. Her biographies include: *John Grisham*, *Cartoonists*, *Alexander G. Bell*, and the juvenile reference books: *Meerkats*; *Depression*; *Motion Pictures*; and *The Automobile*. Robyn has sold to major magazines, such as *The Writer*, *Writer's Digest*, *ABA: Student Lawyer*, and a score of others.**

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# WHAT'S THE USE OF A WRITER'S GROUP?

by Mary Ellen Main  
Writers of the Purple Sage

This past year was my first time to be involved in a writer's group. A friend learned that I liked to write, so she invited me to go with her to attend a Writers of the Purple Sage meeting in Woodward. It's been great getting to know each other as we've traveled to and from the monthly meetings.

I'd wanted to be in a writer's group for many years but, because of my husband's work (and his wanderlust), it had not been possible. It might also have had to do with the fact that I didn't have the nerve to join one...maybe...a

little bit. Because of that, it helped that I got to attend with someone the group knew so they wouldn't eat me alive, or whatever it was I thought they were going to do to me. Not only did they not eat me alive, but they were quite encouraging. They wanted to listen to what I wrote and responded by appreciating the good points and kindly suggesting changes that might help my writ-

ing. They also listened to my comments about their writing.

Then the day came when my friend was not able to attend one of the meetings and I decided to go on my own. I wondered if the group would treat me the same when my friend wasn't with me, since I was a newcomer. They did. I had a blast and felt right at home.

I appreciate the way WOPS sets up their meetings.

There's a brief time before and after the meeting for visiting. Old and new business is discussed, either a member or a guest presents a lesson, members read their

assignments from the previous month, report submissions and acceptances, and anyone who has something they'd like critiqued may read that piece to the group. I found myself working to get some writing done so I could report it at the next meeting.

My friend also invited me to attend my first writer's conference. I knew even if the conference turned out to be a dud, the

trip itself would be fun. What a double blessing to find out that the conference was also great!

So, what's the use of a writer's group? For me it has been to help thrust me back into writing after a very dry period. I've gained new writing friends, I've been able to focus on my writing more, and I have people to whom I'm accountable for the work that I'm doing. I realize not all writer's groups are created equal. I guess some are probably the wicked stepmothers of writer's groups. I'm just glad the one I got hooked up with is the fairy godmother of writer's groups.

Whether you're a new writer, or a seasoned writer who hasn't had the opportunity or inclination to be in a writer's group, I would encourage you to get involved in one this year. From hearing people talk at last year's OWFI conference, I think you'll find most groups to be the fairy godmother type. Thanks, Writers of the Purple Sage, for the jump start you've given my writing. It's been a good year. I look forward to many more.

**We would love to hear your writing story: how you got into writing, what attracted you to this field or, even more interestingly, what frightened you about writing. How did you overcome those fears? Or did you? Tell us your story so we can share with all OWFI members here.**

**Mary Ellen Main was born on a small farm between Hunter and Garber, Oklahoma, and ended up in the panhandle, Beaver, (so far) with several states and countries in between. She writes travel articles for *The Herald Democrat*, Beaver's newspaper, and enjoys singing, playing piano, and reading aloud. She belongs to Writers of the Purple Sage and OWFI.**

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## Report Photo Contest, Winter 2011

# MADE FOR THIS MOMENT

### Mary Ellen Main Writers of the Purple Sage

She flew in early that morning to do some shopping, but as she landed, her right wing snagged on an un-trimmed rose bush - beautiful, but deadly. The snag wasn't visible, but she knew at once she was grounded. There was nothing to do but go ahead and shop and hope for a solution to present itself.

As the day wore on, her spirits fell. The shops began to close. She smiled bravely, telling each vendor what a wonderful day she'd had. Her packages had been sent on ahead, since she couldn't carry them in flight, but the chances of her ever seeing them again were dwindling with the daylight.

Then she saw him - the balloon man; shoulders drooped, steps painful and faltering, a large clump of balloons bobbing up from his small cart.

Sensing her looking at him, he raised his head. Their eyes met. Suddenly, they both knew they were made for this

moment - she with her wounded wing keeping her from soaring the heights, and he with the need to see a smile and lift a spirit.

His steps quickened until, breaking into a run, he pushed his cart as fast as its wheels would go, propelling it closer, closer to her. Her smile spread wide and she began to tingle from her toes upward, just as she always did before she took flight.

He skidded to a halt as he reached the place where she perched, her delicate legs dangling gently. He grabbed a large bunch of balloons and quickly secured them to her dainty wrist. With one brief kiss across her soft lips, he turned and hurried down the street in the opposite direction. Joy was not to keep, but to give away.

She turned to watch him go. Smiling, she kept her eyes trained to the back of the little balloon man, merely a spec at the end of the long street. Slowly, slowly her body and spirit lifted, the little balloon man etched in her memory for all time.

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

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

**wizardwayne@juno.com.**

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

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# 2012 Conference Faculty

As currently planned

## Steven James, Keynote Speaker



Critically acclaimed author Steven James has published over thirty books spanning the genres of psychological thrillers, prayer collections, dramas, mono-

logues, a nine book series on creative storytelling, YA fantasy, and inspirational non-fiction. *The Queen*, number five of his bestselling thriller series *The Patrick Bowers Files*, is due out September 1st, 2011.

*Publishers Weekly* calls him a "master storyteller at the peak of his game." *Suspense Magazine* says, "He sets the new standard in suspense writing." James has received wide critical acclaim for his work including four Storytelling World Honor awards, two Publishers Weekly starred reviews, and a 2009 Christy Award for best suspense. The Patrick Bowers series has sparked a lot of interest in Hollywood. The first book 'The Pawn' has already been optioned. His latest thriller, *The Bishop*, was named both *Suspense Magazine's* and *The Christian Manifesto's* 2010 Book of the Year.

He earned a Master's Degree in Storytelling from ETSU in 1997 and is an active member of International Thriller Writers, the Authors Guild, and International Association of Crime Writers. He has taught writing and storytelling principles on three continents.

In addition to the above, Steven is also a poet and a frequent contributor to *Writers' Digest Magazine*. You can find his latest article is in the July/August 2011 edition.

For more information on Steve James,

please visit his website:  
[www.stevenjames.net](http://www.stevenjames.net)

## Program: How to Create Three-dimensional Characters

Characterization is brought out by showing how a character acts in relationship to other characters. By showing your characters' quirks, fears, hopes, goals and attitudes you can create memorable, realistic characters. This will be a hands-on seminar with practical ideas and activities you can use today.

**William Bernhardt** spent ten years as a litigator and partner at one of Okla-



homa's most prominent law firms. After his books consistently hit the New York Times-bestseller list, he left the law to write and teach writing full-time. Bernhardt also holds a Master's Degree in English Litera-

ture, giving him a unique résumé—the only legal writing instructor in the nation who has had academic acclaim, a successful, award-winning law practice, and numerous New York Times-best-selling novels. He has over ten million books in print that have been translated into more than two dozen languages. His best-selling series of novels featuring lawyer Ben Kincaid inspired *Library Journal* to dub him the "master of the courtroom drama."

## Program: The Complete Writing Process: Premise, Preparation, and Pitch Perfect Prose

Bernhardt addresses the fundamental problems that sometimes prevent talented writers from being published. If you've been pitching a novel for some time, but agents aren't asking to see the manuscript, there's a problem with the premise. If agents have asked to see the

manuscript, but none have taken you on: there's a problem with your writing. Bernhardt addresses both problems and more in this detailed seminar addressing concept, style, and execution.

## Deborah Bouziden

Known as the "Queen of How-to's", Deborah Bouziden has been writing how-to articles and books throughout her 25+ year writing career. She has written how-to articles for *Writer's Digest*, *The Writer*, and currently writes how-to books for



Globe Pequot Press. Her latest how-to book was released in November, 2011, and is titled *How-to Run a Home Based House Painting Business*. To learn more about Bouziden visit her website at [www.deborahbouziden.com](http://www.deborahbouziden.com), where you can link to her on Twitter, Facebook, or email her to ask questions about writing, particularly how-to writing.

## Program: Writing the Nonfiction How-to Book

No reason to think about writing a nonfiction how-to book and becoming overwhelmed. It's all in the details and breaking them down. In this session, Deborah will take you step by step through everything you need to know to write a non-fiction how-to. We'll start by looking at areas you can write about, writing how-to articles, markets for your work, and how to expand what you know and do, into a 200+ page book.

## Dan Case, AWOC.COM

Dan Case is the editor of *Writing for DOLLARS!* ([www.writingfordollars.com](http://www.writingfordollars.com)), one of the

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# 2012 Conference Faculty

oldest newsletters on the Internet.

*Writer's Digest* has included writingfordollars.com as one of the best websites for writers and one of the best places to get published on the Internet. Dan is the co-author of *The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling Magazine Articles* and author of hundreds of articles, essays, and other short works. He is a past president of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.



**Pre-Con Workshop Topic: How to Self-Publish Your Novel on the Kindle, Nook, and iPad (and Make More Money Than Being Published by New York)**

Nearly half of the bestselling books on Amazon's Kindle (ebooks) are published by small press and indie publishers. On Amazon's Kindle ebook rankings, several books published by Dan's company, AWOC.COM Publishing, are out-selling books that are on the NY Times best-selling list. Dan will reveal how you can self-publish your ebook for the Amazon Kindle, the Barnes and Noble Nook, the Apple iPad, and other ebook reading devices then publish and turn it into a bestseller and earn more money than if you were traditionally published.

## C. Hope Clark

C. Hope is founder and editor of FundsforWriters.com. Find her clips in *Writer's Digest*, *The Writer*, *Writers Market Guide to Literary Agents*, *TURF Magazine*, *Landscape Management* et al. Alma Mater is Clemson University which



gives her an eerie love for all things orange. Her suspense series was contracted by Bell Bridge Books for publication - the first to be released in February 2012.

**Program: Funding Streams for Writers** teaches how writing income is more than penning articles or publishing a book. It's the identification of all potential writing income sources from contests to grants, from freelance gigs to ebooks, from speaking to even full-time employment. *Funding Streams for Writers* shows how all these resources can come together to a river of writing income. Noted for being a resource guru, Hope reaches over 40,000 readers each week with her FundsforWriters newsletters, and *Writer's Digest* selected FundsforWriters.com in its 101 Best Websites for Writers - for the past eleven years.

## Jack Dalton

Rooted in Naparyarmiut (Hooper Bay), born in Bethel and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Jack Dalton has grown up an ambassador between two worlds, his Yup'ik and European heritages. A professional storyteller, writer and teacher, Jack has been honored by the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education as a Distinguished Dignitary, and considered by many people around the world, to be "The Storyteller."



He received the first Expressive Arts grant from the National Museum of the American Indian to co-create the first Yup'ik opera with friend and world-famous Yup'ik music group, Pamyua co-founder, Stephen Blanchett. He's created and produced five theatrical works of storytelling, written a book, several plays and created curricula used in all

levels of education. Performing throughout Alaska and the US, he has also performed in New Zealand, France, Denmark, Australia and headlined the Scottish Int'l Storytelling Festival in Scotland.

**Program: Respecting Other Cultures**

Many writers are excited to portray different cultures, often trying to help by spotlighting and sharing their uniqueness and beauty. However, this can be very tricky. Join Alaska Native storyteller, Jack Dalton, in this deeply thoughtful discussion about what can work and what can be difficult when writing about cultures that aren't ours. (All writing levels).

**Friday Lunch Workshop: When Polar Bears Wishes Came True: Understanding And Creating Meaningful Stories**

Join Alaska Native storyteller and writer Jack Dalton as you discover the power of story to *shape cultures* in this interactive and entertaining writing workshop. Discover simple, easy and sometimes challenging techniques for brainstorming, creating, plotting and completing stories, based on the Alaska Native tradition of *storytelling*. Listen to Alaska Native stories, learn about "story theory" and the *Value Learning Process Map*. Perfect for emerging writers, but challenging enough for experienced writers.

## Lela Davidson

Lela Davidson is the author of *Blacklisted from the PTA* (Jupiter Press, July 2011). She is a regular contributor to the *Today Show Moms* blog, Brooke Burke's *Modern Mom*, and featured parenting



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# 2012 Conference Faculty

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blogger for Lifetime Television's morning show, *The Balancing Act*. She is also the Managing Editor of Parenting Squad, a website that receives nearly 100,000 pageviews per month. She is also a popular speaker among audiences of women, small business owners, and media professionals. Her humor essays have been published in dozens of parenting magazines throughout the United States and Canada, and in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: New Moms* (March 2011).

**Program: Social Networking for Beginners**

This session covers easy-to-use tools for building a presence online with tools like WordPress, Facebook, and Twitter. Lela shares how she leveraged these free resources to build a loyal readership made up of her target demographic. She also teaches attendees how to ensure their efforts are efficient, effective, and ultimately working toward the goal of getting published and sold.

**NOTE: LELA is participating on the social networking panel. Think about your questions for her and send them to: [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) or [conferencechair@owfi.org](mailto:conferencechair@owfi.org). Indicate SOCIAL NETWORKING PANEL in the subject line.**

## Melissa Frain

Melissa Frain is an editor for Tor Books, where she specializes in young adult fiction, urban fantasy, and contemporary fantasy. Her authors include Lisa Desrochers, Kendare Blake, Rachel Caine (anthology), Kristen Simmons, and Susan Krinard. She is currently looking for strong new voices in YA and contemporary fantasy. Well-



drawn characters are a must, and a great romantic element is always a big plus. She would love to see more teen fantasy along the lines of Kristin Cashore's GRACELING and FIRE or beautiful contemporary stories with a fantastical twist, like Alice Hoffman's PRACTICAL MAGIC.

**Program: TBA**

## Wayne Harris-Wyrick

As the director of the Kirkpatrick Planetarium, Wayne has written a



monthly astronomy article since 1984. Currently he is the editor of the OWFI newsletter, *The Report*. He has also published a few poems and science fiction short stories. His children's

picture book *Why Am I Me?* came out in 2011 and 2 more are set for an early 2013 release.

In his spare time, he hunts ghosts. He has been on dozens of investigations and captured stuff that still amazes him to this day.

**Program: You Got Ten Seconds and Other Block Busters:**

Have you ever picked up a book, read the first sentence or paragraph and decided from that you didn't want to read that book? An editor or an agent may have dozens of novels on her desk to evaluate. If time is tight, she may use the first sentence to reject the book. So make sure your first sentence is the best one in your work.

If you can't explain your book in a few sentences you may not understand it yourself. We'll find out how well you know your own writing by **flashing** it.

As writers, we look for inspiration in

many sources. You will write a short piece or an opening scene from a photograph.

**NOTE: Wayne is participating on the Paranormal Panel. Think about your questions for him and send them to: [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) or [conferencechair@owfi.org](mailto:conferencechair@owfi.org). Indicate PARANORMAL PANEL in the subject line**

## Silver James

With a rampant imagination aided and abetted by a Muse who runs with scissors, Silver James loves to share the stories created in that vast comic void pretending to be her

mind. Over the course of her lifetime, she's been a military officer's wife, mother, state appellate court marshal, airport rescue firefighter and forensic fire photographer, crime analyst, technical crime scene investigator, and writer of magic, mystery, and romance. Retired from the "real world" now, she lives in Oklahoma and spends her days at the computer with her two Newfoundland dogs, the cat who rules them all, and myriad characters all clamoring for attention. She is the author of *Faerie Fate* and *Faerie Fire*. To find out more about Silver, visit her at [www.silverjames.com](http://www.silverjames.com)

**NOTE: Silver is participating on the Paranormal Panel. Think about your questions for her and send them to: [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) or [conferencechair@owfi.org](mailto:conferencechair@owfi.org). Indicate PARANORMAL PANEL in the subject line**

## Jeanetta Calhoun Mish

Jeanetta is a writer, scholar, professor, and editor of Mongrel Empire Press. She earned her Ph.D. in American Studies



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with an emphasis on contemporary American poetry and working-class studies. Her poetry collection, *Work Is Love Made Visible*, published by West End Press in March 2009, won three major awards in 2010. Jeanetta's first collection of poetry, *Tongue Tied Woman*, won the Edda Poetry Chapbook Competition for Women in 2002.



**Program: Poems from History, Family And Otherwise**

In this workshop, we will explore the use of historical documents as inspiration and material for poetry. Participants are encouraged to bring a family story, a family photo, or an historical story or moment to use in the workshop. To prepare for writing, we will read poems from Natasha's Trethewey's *Native Guard*, Carolyn Forché's *The Angel of History*, and selections from Mish's own work.

**Mary Ann Morgan**

From the time she was a small child, Mary Ann Morgan has been able to communicate with what she calls "those on the other side". Mary Ann now uses her gifts to help and counsel others as a psychic detective and medium. She is one of the top psychics available today, which is shown by her extensive and impressive clientele, including presidents, actors, musicians, politicians, defense attorneys, and bereaved families.



Morgan also works aggressively as an Analytical Intuitive Profiler (a psychic

detective, in layman's terms) and Crime Scene Analyst for numerous governmental and law enforcement agencies at local, national and international levels to solve violent crimes perpetrated against humanity

**NOTE: Mary Ann is participating on the paranormal panel. Think about your questions for her and send them to: [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) or [conferencechair@owfi.org](mailto:conferencechair@owfi.org). Indicate PARANORMAL PANEL in the subject line.**

**Jen Nipps** currently lives and writes in south-central Oklahoma. She is past Publicity Director for the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI). Her writing has appeared in *WRITERS Journal*; the *OWFI Report*, which is the newsletter for OWFI; *WritingForDollars*; *4HEALTH Magazine*; and on Tutorial-Blog.org. She is the author of *Devoted to Creating*, a book of devotions centered around creativity. She is working on *Get Twitter-pated: A Writer's Guide to Twitter*, which should be out in time for the conference. She has been called the Twitter Queen on several occasions and has decided to claim that crown for herself. She launched the Twitter Queen Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/TheTwitterQueen>) page earlier this year. She is currently active on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Plurk, and Google+.



**NOTE: Jen is participating on the social networking panel. Think about your questions for her and send them to: [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) or [conferencechair@owfi.org](mailto:conferencechair@owfi.org). Indicate SOCIAL NETWORKING PANEL in the subject line.**

**Marcia Preston**

Marcia Preston earned M.A. and B.A. degrees from University of Central Oklahoma, taught thirteen years in public high schools, and worked as an editor and public relations director for a western-heritage museum.



Her first novels were mysteries featuring the daughter of a Gypsy mother and a redneck father. One of these, *Song of the Bones*, won the Mary Higgins Clark Award for suspense fiction. For many years, Marcia edited and published *By-Line*, a national magazine for writers. She wrote for a long list of national magazines before becoming a full-time novelist. Her mainstream novels center on issues important to families and women readers. *The Butterfly House* hit #1 on the Heatseekers bestseller list in England and has sold widely in Europe.

**Program: The Writer's Voice**

It captivates readers, seduces editors and mystifies writers. What constitutes that elusive quality called voice? In this session we'll study examples from successful authors with the goal of learning to recognize and strengthen voice in our own work. If you have a (very short) sample of strong voice from a favorite author, bring it to share if time allows.

**Dennis Palumbo Writing the Psychological Mystery**

What is a psychological mystery, and what are the specific issues and concerns that authors need to



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address when writing one? Using lecture, examples and generous in-class writing exercises, practicing psychotherapist and crime novelist Dennis Palumbo

explores ways to craft a satisfying psychological mystery. Attendees will learn how to create vivid, fully-rounded characters; moreover, they'll learn that in the best mysteries, crime stems from strong emotions, and strong emotions stem from conflict. Kind of like life.

We'll also explore such topics as the importance of a strong, relatable protagonist; how to build a compelling, credible "world" in which the story takes place; and how to mine your own thoughts, feelings and experiences to enrich the inner lives of your characters.

**Dennis is also participating on the Paranormal Panel to discuss the *underpinnings of human fears*.**

## Chuck Sambuchino

Chuck is an editor for Writer's Digest Books. He is the editor of *Guide to Literary Agents*. He recently helmed the third edition of *Formatting & Submitting Your Manuscript* (2009). His humor book, *How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack*, will be released with Ten Speed Press / Random House, in Fall 2010.

**Programs: Mastering the In-person Pitch (Pitch Perfect)**

This is a chance for anyone and everyone to practice their "agent pitch" on me. I'll critique the pitch for all to hear. Individuals can pitch or simply attend to listen in on other pitches. It's an opportunity for writers to rehearse their eleva-



tor pitch before sitting face-to-face with agents. This session targets fiction and nonfiction writers, both novice and intermediate. The speech breaks down what needs to be in a pitch, and what NOT to include in a pitch. Before I listen to sample pitches, I spend 20-30 minutes talking about what a pitch is, and what not to do when sitting down next to an agent.

**Building Your Freelance Portfolio (Writing for Magazines & Newspapers 101)**

This presentation studies the basics of freelancing—how to write articles for magazines, newspapers and websites. It targets writers new to this arena. It shows how to identify markets, how to realize your own specialties, how to structure a magazine query, how to come up with ideas, how to resell ideas, and more. Handouts provided.

## Thomas B. Sawyer

Novelist, screenwriter, playwright, Tom was Head Writer/Showrunner of the classic CBS series, *Murder, She Wrote*, for which he wrote 24 episodes. Edgar & Emmy-nominated, Tom has written 9 TV series pilots, 100 episodes—both comedy and drama. He has been Head Writer/Showrunner or Producer/Story Editor on 15 network TV series. He wrote, directed and produced the cult film comedy, *Gosh Alice Goodbody*. His documentary, *Reunion*, was honored by the New York Film Festival, the Rochester and Edinburgh Festivals, and received national theatrical release.

Tom is co-librettist/lyricist of *JACK*, an opera about John F. Kennedy, that has



been performed to acclaim in the US and Europe.

He publishes *Storybase 2.0* writer's software which, along with his book, *Fiction Writing Demystified*, is a Writers Digest Book Club Selection. His first novel: bestselling mystery/thriller, *The Sixteenth Man*. Tom's latest thriller; the bestselling *No Place to Run*.

**Program: Screen & TV Writing - Thinking In Pictures**

Visual storytelling that can work for any kind of writing. TV & Film writing techniques that *will* make you a better storyteller: From creating protagonists we root for, to enigmatic bad guys, to "writing to the money," and more – non-theory stuff *every* writer should have in the bank.

**Fiction Writing Demystified**

Based on his bestselling book, Tom presents his practical approach to writing solid, entertaining stories that will grab and hold an audience -- and can even be about something important.

## Clarissa Willis

Clarissa Willis has presented workshops and teacher trainings around the country including the south, New England, the western states and Alaska. She is the author of thirteen books including: *Children with Special Needs in the Regular Classroom*;



*Your Child's Brain: Food for Thought*; and *You Can't Leave Till You Do The Paperwork: Matters of Life and Death*. Her book *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Strategies that Work* (2006) has won numerous awards including the I-Parenting Award for the best new teacher resource in 2007. She also the co-author of eight books including *Inclusive Literacy Lessons*. She has written eight children's books. Currently she is the Vice-President for publishing for Kaplan Early Learning and its imprint Gryphon House Books. Her website can be found at <http://www.clarissawillis.com>

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## Programs: Writing for Children: Myths and Realities

This workshop provides information on how to publish books for children and young adults. Whether writing fiction, nonfiction or anything in between, this workshop will help authors learn about the pitfalls or working with both large and specialty publishing houses.

## Writing for the Niche Publisher

This workshop for more advanced writers will discuss the challenges and rewards for writing for a niche publisher. Whether you are writing fiction or non-fiction knowing who to contact and how to demonstrate your skill to a potential publisher can make all the difference.

## Kathleen Y'Barbo

RITA and Carol award nominee Kathleen Y'Barbo is now the best-selling award-winning author of more than forty novels, novellas, and young adult books. In all, more than one million copies of her books are currently in print in the US and abroad, and her books have been translated into Dutch, German, and Spanish, to name a few. Her next historical novel, *THE INCONVENIENT MARRIAGE OF CHARLOTTE BECK* (Waterbrook) releases in June 2011, and in 2012 she debuts a contemporary Texas beach series for Love Inspired.



## Program: From Definition to Deadline: Crafting and Selling the Christian Novel.

Ever wondered what makes a novel "Christian"? Confused as to whether you should "clean up" your story and shift to the increasingly popular Christian market? Feeling called to write for the Lord

but not sure how to begin? Kathleen Y'Barbo, award-winning author of more than 40 books written for the Christian market, tackles these topics and more in her workshop.

## ROBYN CONLEY

Robyn has taught the mechanics of writing and publishing, as well as writing as a healing therapy at TCU, UTA, and hundreds of individual seminars around the country. She also is a well-respected and sought after freelance editor, often referred to by her clients as "the Book Doc."

*NOTE: Robyn will be taking one-on-one appointments to read 5 pages and give her diagnosis and any needed prescription to make your prose healthier. This year she will also be taking advanced appointments to read 25 pages for a fee of \$50.00. She is only taking 20 manuscripts so do not delay getting your name on the list! She will need them by April 1<sup>st</sup>. All manuscripts, 5 pages or 25 pages must be double spaced, 12 pt courier font. Send pages via mail to PO Box 506, Clyde, TX 79510, or email to [bookdoctor@earthlink.net](mailto:bookdoctor@earthlink.net).*



## STEPHANIE BARKO

Stephanie Barko was invited into the publishing industry after many years in high tech marketing. Her articles and book reviews have been published in Western American Literature, Roundup Magazine, Book Marketing Matters, San Francisco Book Review, and the Texas Book Marketing Directory. She was a 2010 Finalist in More Magazine's Reinvention Story Competition, nominated

by her peers as 2010 Book Publicist of the Year, and was voted Preditors & Editors 2010 Best Book Promotion Service. Her blog has been nominated as one of Writer's Digest's 101 Best Websites for 2012. Stephanie has degrees in Business & Sociology and is based in Austin.



**NOTE: Stephanie is taking one-on-one appointments to give conference attendees feedback on their platforms or the marketability of their book ideas.**

## AGENTS

### Meredith Barnes

Meredith Barnes is an associate agent at Lowenstein Associates as well as Digital Strategist and Subsidiary Rights Manager. She is particularly interested in building her nonfiction list, especially blog-to-book projects and projects dealing with alternative lifestyles (such as micro-farming) and social issues. She is also extremely interested in health, fitness, and spirituality nonfiction with a strong author platform, including an online presence.



Meredith is interested in a wide range of engaging fiction for all ages, including literary, women's, thrillers, and crime fiction. She is open to science fiction and fantasy that has something new to offer the genres. She does not represent early readers or children's picture books.

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For both nonfiction and fiction, Meredith considers more than just the print possibilities. Projects that lend themselves to apps, enhanced ebooks, and other fresh ways to tell stories are especially appealing.

## Terry Burns

Terry is an agent with Hartline Literary <http://www.hartlineliterary.com> as well as writing inspirational fiction. As a writer he has over 40 books in print including 10 novels. He has a new series from Port Yonder Press entitled "*The Sagebrush Collection*" of his collected short works and the first released March 2010 entitled "*On the Road Home*." A Young Adult entitled *Beyond the Smoke* won the Will Rogers Medallion and a new book "A Writer's Survival Guide to Publication" also from Port Yonder Press was developed out of the month long course he held for ACFW. A popular speaker at workshops across the country, Terry offers a bookstore of his available works as well as a regular blog at [www.terryburns.net](http://www.terryburns.net). As an agent Terry says "I'm looking for a good book, well written in a unique voice, 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. I'm pretty open as to genre but I don't do children's books, devotionals, sci fi or fantasy."



**Stephen Fraser** joined the Jennifer DeChiara Literary Agency as an agent in January 2005. He worked most recently at HarperCollins Children's Books, where he edited such creative talents as Mary Engelbreit, Gregory Maguire, Mi-

chael Hague, Ann Rinaldi, Kathryn Lasky, Brent Hartinger, Stephen Mitchell, and Dan Gutman. He began his career at Highlights for Children and later worked at Scholastic and Simon & Schuster. A graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont, he has a Master's degree in Children's Literature from Simmons College in Boston. He represents both children's and adult books in a wide range of genres.



## Louise Fury

Louise is a Literary Agent, Marketing advocate and general lover of books. She works at the L. Perkins Agency and always on the lookout for fun pop culture books. Louise organizes massive book groups for MG and YA Readers where kids can Meet, Greet and Eat with talented authors. She is also passionate about connecting with South African Authors. The rest of the time she networks while navigating the slush pile. Louise believes in the power of marketing and is constantly on the lookout for authors who know how to promote themselves.



## Emmanuelle

**Morgen** joined Judith Ehrlich Literary Management in 2008. Previously she was an agent at Wendy Sherman Associates and an editor at Fo-



dor's, the travel arm of Random House. She represents women's fiction, romance, historical fiction, YA, and select memoir and narrative nonfiction projects. Her clients include YA authors Kathleen Peacock (*Hemlock*), Kat Zhang (*What's Left of Me*), Louise Rozett (*Losing It*), and Jamie Blair (*Leap of Faith*); adult fiction authors Alison Atlee (*The Type-Writer Girl*) and Danielle Younge-Ullman (*Falling Under*); romance authors Cecilia Grant (*A Lady Awakened*), Alissa Johnson (*Tempting Fate*), and Laurie London (*Bonded by Blood*); and memoirists Catherine McCall (*When the Piano Stops*) and M.E. Thomas (*Hiding in Plain Sight*), among others.

## Ally Robertson

lives in Oklahoma and has been an editor for The Wild Rose Press since they opened their doors in 2006. She edits for the Crimson suspense line and loves nothing more than a good thriller/mystery/suspense that keeps her turning pages. She also likes a boy gets girl romance thrown in the mix. In addition to being an editor, she's a published author (for TWRP and other publishers) in both suspense and paranormal under the pen name, Alicia Dean.



### What Ally is looking for:

As far as what I'm seeking, I normally acquire for the suspense line, but I can request any genre at all, as long as it's romance and it fits with the TWRP guidelines, which can be found at <http://wildrosepress.us>. Above all, romance is the focal point of all TWRP stories. If it's a suspense, however, the suspense thread should be carried throughout and should show up early in the story. If

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you'd like me to provide you with some basic guidelines that should be followed, rather than just providing the link where they can be found, let me know.



### Jessica Sinsheimer

Jessica Sinsheimer has been reading and campaigning for her favorite queries since 2004.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, she went east for Sarah Lawrence College and stayed for the opportunity to read soon-to-be books for a living.

Now an Associate Agent at the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency, she's developed a reputation for fighting office members to see incoming manuscripts first—and for drinking far too much tea.

Always on the lookout for new writers, she is most excited about finding literary, women's, and Young Adult fiction, and—on the nonfiction side—psychology, parenting, self-help, cookbooks, memoirs, and works that speak to life in the twenty-first century.

**Ed. Note: These are the faculty scheduled to speak at the 2012 OWFI Story Weavers Conference as of press time. There may be last-minute additions or deletions. Visit the OWFI website at [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org) fro any last minute changes.**

***If you can't annoy somebody, there's little point in writing.***

**Kingsley Amis**

## Editors Attending 2012 Story Weavers Conference

**Ed. Note: The Following editors are scheduled to attend the 2012 OWFI Story Weavers Conference as of press time. There may be last-minute additions or deletions. Visit the OWFI website at [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org) fro any last minute changes.**

### Steven A. Anderson

Steven Anderson has worked in the writing and publishing industry for fifteen years. As a writer he has written and published four novels, his latest, *Yuma Gold*, by Penguin Group in New York (November 2011).



For twelve years he has worked as a literary publicist for as many as thirty best-selling authors, including Stephen Harrigan and the late Elmer Kelton. As a publicist he has worked with numerous publishing houses, including Alfred Knopf, Tor/Forge Books, St. Martin's Press, Little Brown, and others. Steven is founder of the Read-West Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the awareness and diversity of Western literature.

Goldminds publishes western, historical or contemporary, or historical military fiction, and memoirs. A more complete list of what Steven is currently seeking will be forthcoming.

### Mari Farthing

Mari Farthing is an Oklahoma City-based writer and editor. Mari has 20 years of experience in a variety of writing styles, including freelance work, magazine articles, technical manuals, creative fiction, book and music reviews and essays. She has over 15 years of

experience as an editor, working with technical documents, magazine submissions and fiction, including YA, short stories and novels.

Mari has been recognized and awarded for her work with *MetroFamily Magazine*, where she has served as editor since 2008.

Mari will be at OWFI hearing pitches for both *MetroFamily Magazine* ([www.metrofamilymagazine.com](http://www.metrofamilymagazine.com)) and Buzz Books, USA ([www.buzzbooksusa.com](http://www.buzzbooksusa.com)).



### Normandie Fischer

Normandie Ward Fischer began her editing career in the mid-seventies, first as a proofreader, then copy editor, content editor, and finally senior editor at NDAC in the Washington, DC, area, during which time she also wrote and published a number of technical treatises that only a subject-

aficionado could love. Instead of accepting promotion to managing editor, she left DC for the Eastern Shore of Maryland to have and raise her children. In

subsequent years, Normandie continued writing and editing, and co-authored a memoir for Iranian actor/producer/activist Reza Fazeli. Her expertise caught the eye of her literary agent, Terry Burns of Hartline Literary Agency, who asked her to work as one of his assistants. Normandie comes from that job to take over Wayside Press, the new general market line at Written



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World Communications.

### What Normandie is looking for:

I'm looking for well-crafted stories that grab my attention and won't let go. I read eclectically, which means I enjoy most genres. I adore crazy or odd characters: they're what make our world so much fun. More than anything else, I want to come away from a story entranced. Entranced by the craft. Entranced by the characters. Entranced by the world I've entered. Language should draw me in and propel me forward. I long for stories that force me to sigh, mark the place, and feel a flutter of anticipation for our next visit. Show me an un-self-conscious work that makes me laugh or weep or sit on the edge of my chair, or a humorous memoir, especially if set in an exotic place. If you've written non-fiction that fits a particular niche market and written it compellingly, I'll take a look.

### Mark Stepp

Mark Stepp is the owner and managing editor of Old American Publishing, formerly of Houston, TX, and now based in Oklahoma. Stepp is a veteran writer and editor. He has worked for newspapers and magazines, and has been in the publishing industry for nearly 20 years.

### What Mark is seeking:

We make the bulk of our income in the nonfiction market. We love local histories. We will always consider any well-written local history.

In addition to local history books, we are getting into the fiction arena. We've tried a couple with tentative success. The marketing is less specialized and far more costly, but it is a market we are



definitely interested in. I'm looking for a fiction book I can get excited about, something with an interesting, lively plot, strong characters, and easy to read prose.

### Vivian Zabel

As an editor for over thirty-five years, an English and writing teacher for nearly thirty years, an author with poetry, articles, short stories, and novels published, and the head of a small publishing company for over three years, Vivian Zabel experienced both sides of the submission experience.



Her publishing company 4RV Publishing produced the Oklahoma Book Award winner in fiction for 2010: Confessions of a Former Rock Queen by Kirk Bjornsgaard. Other books have received regional awards in their categories. 4RV has released children's books, middle grade and young adult books, novels, and nonfiction books.

Vivian has also received emails from rejected writers thanking her for sharing evaluation comments that help and swearing at her for being so blind she can't tell wonderful writing when she reads it. She's very qualified to discuss submission etiquette.

### What Vivian is looking for:

4RV Publishing is looking for mainstream, mystery, suspense, thrillers, fantasy (without werewolves or vampires), historical fiction, science fiction, romance, Christian, nonfiction for middle grades, young adults, and adults. We don't want anything with graphic violence and/or sexual details.

NOTE: Vivian is participating on the Publisher Panel. Think about your questions for her and send them to: [president@owfi.org](mailto:president@owfi.org) or [conferencechair@owfi.org](mailto:conferencechair@owfi.org).

### Duke Pennell

Duke Pennell heads up Pen-L Publishing ([www.Pen-L.com](http://www.Pen-L.com)), a home for authors of fiction with a distinctive voice, and non-fiction that addresses people's

greatest passions and needs. He is creator of the e-zine "Frontier Tales" ([www.FrontierTales.com](http://www.FrontierTales.com)), high-



lighting the latest in Western short stories from across the country, and has recently released an anthology of the Tales in e-book and p-book. Duke was voted one of 2011's Top Ten Editors by Predators and Editors.

With his wife Kimberly, he provides manuscript editing and author marketing support in Fayetteville, AR.

Pen-L Publishing seeks manuscript submissions for:

Non-Fiction: Self-help, Inspiration, Adventure, Biography/autobiography, Health and Fitness, Humor, Crime, History.

Fiction: Fantasy, Historical, Paranormal, Mystery, Suspense, Light Horror, Science Fiction, Short Story Collection, Adventure, Young Adult, Romance, Children, Western.

**When asked how to make a sculpture of King David, Michelangelo replied, "That's easy. All I have to do is get a block of marble and chip away everything that is not David."**

**BY tat logic, a writer's job is easy: Get a dictionary and erase everything that is not part of your story.**

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## 2012 OWFI Conference Bookstore

We are pleased to again have Best of Books of Edmond operate the Bookstore, 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.

Please remember that Best of Books is in the book selling business, and despite many books sold during the conference, this is not a big moneymaker for them. Please treat their staff with respect and courtesy.

Authors (or publishers) must notify the book room chairperson, Doug, by **April 2nd** of any title(s) they want included in the book room inventory, choosing one of the three options below. DO NOT contact Best of Books directly. Due to limited space, non-speaker titles and authors of multiple books will be limited to five copies on display at any one time.

**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 IF the bookstore receives the standard retailer discount. Best of Books will split profits of this option with OWFI. Neither Best of Books nor OWFI assumes responsibility for delays in shipment, short ships, or publisher/shipper errors. Best of Books will not purchase books via the Internet, self-published books, electronic books, or any others that cannot be returned. This unfortunately includes the Publish America list. Those authors can utilize Option 2.

**Option No. 2:** Authors provide books to Best of Books, who will mark up the invoice price by 30%, of which 10% will go to OWFI. Those using this option should bring in their books on Friday morning, along with an invoice

indicating title, author's name, address, quantity, and retail price. Unsold books must be picked up at the end of the autographing session Saturday afternoon.

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

Contact Doug Kelley, 2500 Barnes, Pocola, OK 74902; Phone: 918-436-7103; E-mail: dougdjas@yahoo.com. With your questions or to participate; include the following information: Author name, Title, ISBN, Publisher, Release date, option choice, and your contact information.

## Sponsorships

**Don't be left out! There is still time for you or your affiliate to sponsor a contest category. Category sponsorships are \$105 or \$52.50 for a half category. For more information, email Maria Veres, contest chair at 1stVP@owfi.org**

**or  
Gayleen Rabakukk,  
sponsor chair at  
gayleen@rabakukk.com.**

## BasketWars

**More donations for BasketWars are needed. Any individual or affiliation can donate one or more baskets (or containers) with items readers or writers can enjoy. Baskets with 14 or fewer items will be in the small division. Those with 15 or more will be in the large division.**

**BasketWars is a silent auction that earns funds for scholarships to the OWFI conference. Any one interested can email Vivian Zabel at Vivian@viviangilbertzabel.com. She will gladly answer any questions.**

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## Read This Book! *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

to be punished. It's moral entertainment her loyal fans no doubt are hungry for.

Salted through the pages are word treasures that make us laugh . . . new words like 'Eggs-actly' and old-timey terms like 'golly.'

"I don't like coarse language," she said, "but I love an expression I recently found for Henry - 'Oh Blast!' He's a policeman for pete's sake, and he has to talk tough sometimes," she laughed.

Nehring's 'voice' is so personal and subtle it's like chatting with a friend. Usually a reader has to take a running leap to enter a story, but with no effort I climbed into the old rail car with Carrie and Henry.

Nehring is beginning to collect a pile of awards. Being nominated for a Macavity for her first mystery, *A Valley to Die For* (2002) must have been overwhelming. By now she has over 25 – certificates, trophies, and even keys to a few cities. She won 1st prize in the OWFI Mystery/Suspense category for this book, *A Journey to Die For*, in 2009, before it was sold and published. And right after winning the Silver Falchion Award in 2010, she was inducted into the Arkansas Hall of Fame in 2011.

Nehring makes connecting with the people, either in print or in person, look easy but it's a result of years of professional success. She first wrote essays for magazines, then articles as a reporter for fifteen

years where she developed a network of trusted experts she relies on to breathe reality into her plots and characters. Overlapping that, she had a radio show for ten years, which taught her how to listen. Her time behind the microphone gives her a natural grace with audiences and issues.

"But I write mysteries full time now," she proudly announced. Each book takes about a year and a half. Radine and John, since he's retired, make an adventure out of the research. John, an accountant and small business owner, keeps all the records and, I'm told, can solve nearly any problem. I've also heard he may be working on a mystery story of his own.

"I have to have a special feeling about 'the place' for a story first," she admitted. "There are lots of nice places but it has to speak to me before I can write about it." Then the history of the area is always the springboard. When she gets that far, the characters just seem to show up.

The seventh book in the series, *A Fair to Die For*, will be out this May and is centered around the War Eagle Mill and Craft Fair. It's one of the oldest annual fairs in the Ozarks – 60 years. War Eagle Mill, originally built in 1838, was burned down during the Civil War but was rebuilt and is still in operation today.

Loyal 'To Die For' fans will be delighted to know the next adventure is beginning to swirl deep within her creative juices.

For information: Books and blog: [www.radinesbooks.com](http://www.radinesbooks.com). Also available at Amazon.com (print and ebooks)

## The Book Doctor *continued*

(Continued from page 6)

know, they may make your writing healthier in a dramastical way. And by all means if you also suffer from a distended vowel-cabulary, please email me your favorites and I'll print them in the next column.

\*\*\*\* **Remember Robyn's free critique offer:** Send ten pages of your fiction's opening, or ten poems, or ten pages of an article or non-fiction book for an objective read and critique. Pages must be in Courier font, 12-point, double-spaced with one-inch margins all around. You can attach them to an email ([bookdoctor@earthlink.net](mailto:bookdoctor@earthlink.net)) or send them snail mail to:

Robyn Conley, PO Box 506, Clyde, TX 79510

[www.robynconley.com](http://www.robynconley.com)

Look for her new book: *Insights From The Jobsite* --the perfect gift for any blue collar worker or anyone who's ever wielded a power drill.

Literature is a textually transmitted disease, normally contracted in childhood.

Jane Yolen

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# Affiliate News

## INKLINGS

### Novels and New Books

**DEE DEE CHUMLEY:** *Beyond the Farthest Star*, God is Good Heavenly Publications (12/11)

**KAREN COOPER** co-edited *Cherokee Writers from the Flint Hills of Oklahoma: An Anthology* published by Indigitronic Publishing House to benefit the Cherokee Arts and Humanities Council, and completed a publishing project for the Cherokee Heritage Center of a coloring book called *Cherokee Life in 1890*.

### Professional Activities

**DEE DEE CHUMLEY:** Launch Party and Book Signing: *Beyond the Farthest Star* (12/11) on 1/14/12 at Best of Books in Edmond, OK

## OL' TASCOSA WORDSLINGERS

### Acceptances And Sales

**RORY C. KEEL:** DEVOTIONAL: "The Missing Pieces"

*The Secret Place Devotions for Daily Worship*, Judson Press, Spring 2012

### Novels And New Books

**LINDA BRODAY, RELEASE** eBooks: *The Cowboy Who Came Calling & Redemption*, Kindle Exclusive, Amazon.com (02/12).

**JODI KOUMALATS (Thomas):** NOVEL: *The Comforts of Home* Harmony Series #3 (11/11) and *Just Down the Road* Harmony Series #4 (4/12) Berkley.

**Jodi Koumalats (Thomas), Linda Broday, Phyliss Miranda:** ANTHOLOGY, *A Texas Christmas (10/11)* and *Be My Texas Valentine*, Kensington Publishing (01/12).

### Honors & Awards

**NATALIE BRIGHT:** CONTEST: "The Committee", romance short, Top 20 HM, WOW! Women on Writing.

**RORY C. KEEL:** CONTEST: 2nd and 3rd place devotionals, Texas Christian Writers.

**JODI KOUMALATS (Thomas):** RITA for *Welcome to Harmony*; Booksellers' Best Award for *Somewhere Along the Way*.

### Professional Activities

**NATALIE BRIGHT:** INSTRUCTOR: Exploring Kid Lit, Amarillo YMCA Writer's Voice

Workshop.

**NATALIE BRIGHT:**

SPEAKER: Awards Lunch Keynote, D&D Clubs Region VI Conference, Liberal KS.

**NANCY KEEL:** INSTRUCTOR: *PEN to WIN!* First Timers Orientation, Frontiers in Writing Conference.

**RORY C. KEEL:** INSTRUCTOR: *PEN to WIN!* First Timers Orientation, Frontiers in Writing Conference.

**RORY C. KEEL, NANCY KEEL, NATALIE BRIGHT:** NEW BLOG:

[www.wordsmithsix.wordpress.com](http://www.wordsmithsix.wordpress.com), Mon-Sat on all things writing.

**MARIANNE MCNEIL**

**LOGAN:** SPEAKER, Headlining Cowboy Poet's Breakfast, Amarillo.

**PHYLISS MIRANDA:** INSTRUCTOR: Women's Fiction, Amarillo YMCA Writer's Voice Workshop.

## TULSA NIGHTWRITERS

### Acceptance and Sales

**CINDY DOWNES:** ARTICLES: "Best Lake: Lake Tenkiller," "Best Author: Billie Letts," *Oklahoma Living Magazine*.

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## Affiliate News

Continued

**BARBARA HOWELL:** contacted about being featured on a new television show about women who are successful in male-dominated businesses.

**SALLY JADLOW:** BOOK/STORY: *God's Little Miracle Book II*, available in paperback and e-book at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com; short story in *Bylines* 2012 Calendar.

**MIKE KOCH:** SHORT STORY: "A Most Unusual Discovery," published in *Evolutionary Blueprint*.

**VICKIE MCDONOUGH:** NOVEL: *Long Trail Home* (Moody Publishers 2011).

**DEANNA PONDER (WRITING AS DENA GARSON):** ARTICLE: "Down to Business," *Ellora's Cave*.

**CHUCK SASSER:** BOOK: *A Thousand Years of Darkness* (Deadly Niche Press 2011) now available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, and book stores.

**CAROL LAVELL SNOW:** POEM/READING: *Texas* 2012 Calendar; reading, Dallas, TX.; poem selected for inclusion in *Byline's* 2012 Writer's Desk Calendar; poem accepted by *The Lyric*, the nation's oldest traditional poetry magazine.

**CAROLYN STEELE:** writing hint selected for inclusion in *Byline's* 2012 Writer's Desk Calendar.

**GLORIA TEAGUE:** STORY: Short story, "Too Hot to Dance," chosen to be read on *Suspense Radio*.

**MICHAEL VANCE:** NOVEL: *Global Star*, with R.A. Jones and Mel Fox (Pro Se 2012).

**BILL WETTERMAN:** STORY: "Don't Try to Act Twenty-one When You're Not," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: My Aching Back: Stories of People Fighting Back Problems*.

### Contest Winnings

**CAROL JOHNSON:** STORY: "Listen to the Silence," Honorable Mention, Short Story category, *Writer's Digest*.

**DONNA LE:** Tulsa NightWriters' Warm-Up contest, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**KRISTIN NADOR:** Tulsa NightWriters' Warm-Up contest, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and honorable mention.

**CAROLYN STEELE:** Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. competition, short story, "Soul of the Departed," 1<sup>st</sup> place; nostalgia, "Fingerprints on My Heart," 2<sup>nd</sup> place; book, *The Redemption of No-Chance*, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**LINDA TROUT:** Romance Writers, Ink *Where the Magic Begins* contest, Sensual Series category, "The Last Refuge," 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**BILL WETTERMAN:** Tulsa NightWriters' Warm-Up contest, 1<sup>st</sup> place; "The Family Tree," 8<sup>th</sup> place, Genre Short Story category, *Writer's Digest*, will be published in early 2012.

### Honors and Awards

**PEGGY FIELDING:** Amazon.com recently ranked romance

novel, *Scoundrels' Bargain*, #11 world-wide on their list of historical romances.

**JACKIE KING:** Named Tulsa NightWriters' NightWriter of the Year.

**JIM LAUGHTER:** Children's book, *Strangers in the Stable*, nominated for Preditors and Editors best cover art category.

**CARLA STEWART:** BLOG LISTS: Novel, *Broken Wings*, named to three different Top Reads from 2011 blog lists.

**GLORIA TEAGUE:** *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*, #1 on publisher's best sellers list.

### Professional Activities

**MICHELLE CHIAPETTA:** INTERVIEW: Interviewed for "When Business and Creative Writing Clash" which ran on the WM Freelance Writers Connection Web site; guest post, "Michelle Chiapetta: Balancing Business and Creative Writing" on *Polish and Publish: Tools and Tactics for Creative Writers* blog.

**J. HOUSTON-EMERSON:** INTERVIEW: Featured writer of the month, NPR's *Native America Calling*.

**SALLY JADLOW:** CLASS: Creative Writing, Matt Ross Center, Overland Park, KS.

**CAROL JOHNSON:** CLASS/BLOG: Creative Writing, Day Center for the Homeless; social media expert Shari Weiss has selected two posts from *Ruminations of a Red Dirt Hussy* blog to be used as course material.

**MARY ANN KERL:** Selected to develop new journalism course for the University of Phoenix.

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## Affiliate News

Continued

**JIM LAUGHTER:** SIGNING/ INTERVIEWS: Signing at Tahlequah Public Library; blog interview; interviewed on KTUL about his children's book, *Strangers in the Stable*, and his thriller, *The Apostle Murders*.

**KRISTIN NADOR:** SPEAKER: Tulsa NightWriters about "Blogging Strategies to Strengthen Your Author Platform."

**CHUCK SASSER:** SPEAKER/ SIGNING: Speaker, Romance Writers; book signings at Steve's Books, Tulsa, and The Book Store, Wagoner.

**CARLA STEWART:** SIGNING/AUTHOR-PANEL: Pulpwood Queens Girlfriend Weekend.

**GLORIA TEAGUE:** SIGNING/ SPEAKING: Signing, *Safe in the Heart of a Miracle*, Mannford Public Library; book signing and guest speaker, Sapulpa Public Library; signing, the Boarding House Book Store, Claremore.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** OFFICER INSTALLATION: Tulsa NightWriters officers for 2012: Carol Johnson, President; Richard Beaty, Vice President; Bill Wettermann, Treasurer; Joyce Ross, greeter; Jane Greene, newsletter editor.

## NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

### Acceptances and Sales

**RUSS LONG** won *Noman Transcript* Christmas Story titled "My most exciting Christmas morning" published with photo of him and his wife Nell. Published story and photo of him and Nell for their 66th wedding anniversary (12/26/11). Feature article about the Norwegian Fjords, and life in the Sami Lapland people while tending their reindeer titled, "Troll Searching," published in the *Transcript* with pictures of him and his wife Nell.

**ROBERT FERRIER:** Published two poems, "Birth of a Twister," and "Going Digital," in *Mobius magazine* in Flushing, NY.

**KEITH EATON:** Published an article, "Harrington Living His Dream: in *Distinctly Oklahoma Magazine*.

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** Online humor on a new online humor site called "HumorOutcasts." Also on "Funny for Money." Still the top Kwipster in the country leading by about 40%.

**TOM BARCZAK:** Wrote and illustrated *Awakening Evan* (Part II, III & IV of VI) for Kindle.

**MIKE KRAWCZYK** compiling a new book with **STAN SOLLOWAY**, "Coaches, Characters and Mascots." Published cartoons for "Silliman on Sports."

**JOCELYN PEDERSON:** Published picture and outline about

DJ Handy, a Noble High School percussionist who earned a place in the U.S. Army All-American band in *Oklahoma Music*, the National Association for Music Education magazine.

**CONNI ECKSTEEN:** Published a blog article, *Stemz and Roses*. <http://wp.me/p11ZnA-5P>.

**BOB MAGARIAN:** Published his second suspense novel, "2 Hours with Infinity. For more information, visit his Web site: [www.robertamagarian.com](http://www.robertamagarian.com) or <http://www.facebook.com/robertamagarian>.

**ANDREW HORTON:** Published his 25th book, *Make a Joyful Noise: Essays on Comparative Cinema, Literature and Culture*. He and co-editor Joanna Rapf completed and turned in their manuscript for their anthology of 24 contributed essays, *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Film Comedy*.

**SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN:** Published novel, *Black Jade Dragon*, on Amazon Kindle.

**ROBBIE LAMBERSON:** Sold the final draft of her book, *My Sara*, to Tate Publishing.

### Professional Activities

**ANN CHAMPEAU:** Judged the Nostalgia Category for the Oklahoma City Writers' Annual contest.

**JUDY HOWARD:** In North Park Mall, OKC, "God Bless America Touring Quilts," with book signing. QSC Expos, Food for Body and Soul Touring Quilts, OKC Winter Quilt Show, Cox Convention Center. Signed her 5 books. Displays of

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## Affiliate News

Continued

“Thanking Our Troops – God Bless America Touring Quilts”; Food for Body and Soul Quilt Exhibits; 1905 Cookbook reviews; Civil War Quilt Trunk Show program. Other locations are Lee’s Summit, MO, Checotah Public Library; Okeene Library; 45th Infantry Museum; North Park Mall, OKC.

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** Performance and speaking schedule includes March 3/16/2012 as featured speaker/entertainer at USAO in Chickasha; 3/24/12 comedy at Rivermont; 3/31/12 conducting a 100-105 minute workshop on cartoon gag writing during the “Creative Writing Festival” at OCU during the afternoon; 4/14/12 emceeding the “Relay for Life” fundraiser at OU. Performed in Las Vegas at the Las Vegas Comedy Club on Christmas Eve.

**ROBERT FERRIER:** Won 1st place in 2011 Norman Tree Photo Contest for “Old and Open.”

### Norman Galaxy of Writers

#### 2011 Annual Contest

**Keith Eaton, Chairman**

**Bonnie Speer Crème de la**

**Crème winner: Ruth Castille** for Non-Fiction Article, “Dorothy Dayton Jones: The Dolly Smith Days.”

**Unrhymed Poetry: Robert Ferrer,** 1st place for “Lines lost While Biking”; **Katherine West,**

2nd place for “After the Bomb; A Poem of Fragments”; **Shelly Ann Richter** for “Tracks.” Honorable Mention to **Sylvia Forbes** for “Bully.”

**Rhymed Poetry:** 1st place to **Katherine West** for “Tryst Gibson.” 2nd place to **Neal Huffaker** for “Concert in the Cathedral.” 3rd place to **Shelly Anne Richter** for “Oh, Hail!”

**Adult Fiction:** 1st place to **Shelly Anne Richter** for “Heart Sticker.” 2nd place to **Katherine West** for “Dog Who Swallowed the Fish.” 3rd place to **Sylvia Forbes** for “Revenge By Retriever.” Honorable Mention to **Neal Huffaker** for “Tangled Roots.”

**Non-Fiction Article:** 1st place to **Ruth Castillo** for “Dorothy Dayton Jones; The Dolly Smith Days.” 2nd place to **Neal Huffaker** for “Risk of Fracking.” 3rd place to **Russell Long** for “Out of Breath.” Honorable Mention to **Shelly Anne Richter** for “Vigilance.”

**Children’s Fiction:** 1st place to **Shelly Anne Richter** for “Tattletale.” 2nd place to **Vickey M. Kennedy** for “Rider.” 3rd place to **Dewey Coffman** for “The Hunter and the Feast.” Honorable Mention to **Barbara Sheppard** for “Canine Storm-Spotter.”

**Nostalgic Essay:** 1st place to **Stan Silliman Solloway** for “How to Embarrass Your Teenager.” 2nd place to **Sherry Bynam** for “Pin Curls...A Message of Love.” 3rd place to **Barbara Sheppard** for “Remember the Raedeker.” Honorable Mention

to **Shelly Anne Richter** for “Animal Escapades.”

Judges for the contest were: **Gordan Greene, Benjamin Myers, Carol Cole-Frowe, Frank Steele, Linda O’Hern, Darlene Bailey-Beard, Maria Veres, Andy Rieger, and Dr. Bobbie Roe.**

## ARKANSAS RIDGE WRITERS

### Contest Winnings

#### **RUTH BURKETT**

**WEEKS:** *Storyteller Magazine*, PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD: 1st Place, “Second Chances.”

**ROBIN A. BURROWS:** Poets Roundtable of Arkansas National Poetry Day, OZARK POETS AWARD: 1st Place,

“Whippoorwill,” MILDRED W. MCKINNEY AWARD: 1st Place, “My Friend Barton.”

**PAMELA FOSTER:** Ozarks Writers League, BEST UNPUBLISHED BOOK: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, *Big-foot Blues*.

**JAN MORRILL:** Ozark Writers League, PARANORMAL SHORT STORY: 1st Place, “The Hypnotist”; UNPUBLISHED BOOK: 1st Honorable Mention, *Broken Dolls*; DAN SAULTS PERSONAL ESSAY: Third Honorable Mention, “My Green Acres.”

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## Affiliate News

Continued

### Novels and New Books

**VELDA BROTHERTON:** E-BOOK: *Wolf Song*, SynergeBooks (www.synergebooks.com/ebook\_wolfsong.html) (01/24); NOVEL: *Stone Heart's Woman*, The Wild Rose Press (www.tinyurl.com/6q3fab5) (01/30)

**RUTH BURKETT WEEKS:** E-BOOK: *The Rook and The Raven*, The Wild Rose Press (www.thewildrosepress.com), (02/12)

**ROBIN A. BURROWS:** POETRY E-BOOK: *Of Hearts and Souls: Poetry on Life, Love, and Everything Between*, Kindle Direct Publishing (11/11).

**PAMELA FOSTER:** NOVEL: *Redneck Goddess*, High Hill Press, 07/01/11

### Acceptances and Sales

**ROBIN A. BURROWS:** POETRY: "Just a Drop," *MauMag* (01/12).

**DUSTY RICHARDS:** WESTERN: Contract for two novels in Chaparral Range War series for Berkeley Publishing; Contract for three more Chet Byrnes series books in 2012 for Kensington in 2012.

### Honors and Awards

**DUSTY RICHARDS:** His latest novel in the Chet Byrnes Ranch series, *Between Hell and Texas*,

debuted at number 3 on the Walmart bestseller list. (Kensington)

## BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

### Acceptance and Sales

**JENNIFER MCMURRAIN:** NOVEL: Signed with Treasure-Line Publishing for her inspirational Historical Fiction novel titled, *Quail Crossings*. The book will be released this upcoming spring.

### Novels & New Books

**RITA DURRETT:** E-BOOK: *Keeping Secrets*, Kindle Books (www.amazon.com) and Smashwords (www.smashwords.com) (08/11); E-BOOK: *Calypso Princess*, Kindle Books (www.amazon.com) and Smashwords (www.smashwords.com) (10/11); and E-BOOK: *Smugglers in Paradise*, Kindle Books (www.amazon.com) and Smashwords (www.smashwords.com) (12/11).

**C.D. JARMOLA:** E-BOOK: *Murder Goes to Church*, Kindle Books (www.amazon.com) (10/11).

**DIANA PURSER:** EDUCATIONAL TEXTBOOK: Grammar in a Nutshell, Nutshell Educational Products (www.nutshellpuzzle.com) (10/11).

### Professional Activities

**HEATHER DAVIS:** BLOG: is now a contributor on Fun-nynotSlutty.com

### Club News

The Bartlesville WordWeavers will be featured in the Spring Edition of Bartlesville Magazine. The Bartlesville WordWeavers meet at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Bartlesville Public Library, meeting rooms vary. Visitors welcome.

## FORT WORTH WRITERS

### Professional Activities

**OLYVE HALLMARK AB-BOTT:** SPEAKER: "Paranormal Legends," Texas Conservatory at Keller, TX (07/11); SPEAKING AND BOOK SIGNINGS: *Historical Ghosts*, Colonial Dames XVII Century at Colonial Country Club, Fort Worth, TX (10/11); "The Golden Age of Television," Woman's Club of Fort Worth (10/11); TV-Live--or Dead, Study group of the Fort Worth Woman's Club (11/11); Texas Conservatory of Keller, TX (12/11).

### Novels & New Books

**OLYVE HALLMARK AB-BOTT:** NONFICTION BOOK: *Lone Star Ghosts: Tales of Texas History and Hauntings*, Whitechapel Press (www.whitechapelpress.com) (2011)

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## Affiliate News

Continued

### Marilyn Gilbert Komechak

gave a PowerPoint program of her original poems with accompanying images, "Spirited Poems: Paintings Pictures and Photos" to the Women of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, Texas in January

Nell Noonan, author of *Not Alone: Encouragement for Caregivers*, Publisher is Upper Room Books, She attended book release celebration reception in February at Lakewood Village Retirement Community in Fort Worth

Roger Latham won Honorable Mention in two of the quarterly 24 HOUR SHORT-STORY CONTEST hosted by WritersWeekly.com.

## OKC WRITERS

### Acceptances and Sales

**SHELLEY ANN RICHTER** sold a short poem to *Mature Living* for Mother's Day issue. She also signed contract to write a screenplay for Edmond movie production company.

**BILL BOUDREAU** had his es-

say titled "Character" published on NPR's This I Believe.

### Novels and New Books

**WAYNE HARRIS-WYRICK** has signed two contracts for two new picture books to be released in spring of 2013.

### Professional Activities

**MARIA VERES** read poetry at the Norman Performing Arts Studio in January.

**CAROLYN LEONARD** spoke to the Dutch Cousins of Kentucky in September, 2011, and led a 9-day charter bus trip to New York. She also spoke to Edmond Pen, Keyboard Writers and Sons of the American Revolution and Oklahoma Society of Mayflower Descendants, all in November.

## WRITERS GUILD OF ARKANSAS

### Professional Activities

**LELA DAVIDSON**: Became columnist for Brooke Burke's *Modern Mom* ([www.modernmom.com](http://www.modernmom.com)), journalist for *MSNBC Today Moms* (<http://moms.today.msnbc.msn.com/>), released book trailer for *Black-listed from the PTA* (Jupiter Press, Imprint of Wyatt-Mackenzie).

**MARILYN H. COLLINS**: SPEAKER: "Stories from the History of Rogers," History Club, Rogers, AR (01/12), "Create a Strong Writing Life," University

of Arkansas, OLLI Classes (02/12), NEW WEBSITE: CHS Publishing (<http://chspublishing.com/>) for writers of nonfiction and fiction.

**RHONDA FRANZ**: WEBSITE: Blog relaunch of *CoffeeHouse Mom*. Blog with essays, parent tips, kid stuff, and commentary (<http://coffeehousemom.com/>).

### Articles

**LELA DAVIDSON**: ARTICLE: "Life of the (Book Launch) Party," (*Writer's Digest*, 02/12).

**RHONDA FRANZ**: ARTICLE: "Turn Up the Heat: 6 Reasons to Start an Affair With Your Slow Cooker," *Treasure Coast Parenting* (12/11), *Simply Family* (01/12), *Orlando Family* (01/12).

### Novels and New Books

**LELA DAVIDSON**: Two essays published in *Women Writing on Family* (The Key Publishing, 2012)

**MAEVE MADDOX**: *So You Want To Write! Tips and Pep Talks to Get You Started and Keep You on Track* (2011, DAEL Publications) (<http://daelpublications.com/>, <https://www.createpace.com/3736772>)

### Acceptance and Sales

**MARILYN H. COLLINS**: ARTICLE: "A Christmas Plan," *Story Circle Network Anthology – True Words: Holiday Stories*, (12/11), ARTICLE, "My Speaker's Niche: Turn Memories into Stories," SPEAK, Genealogical Speakers Guild (2/12).

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## 2011 Bulwer-Lytton Award Winners

Since 1982 the English Department at San Jose State University has sponsored the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, a whimsical literary competition that challenges entrants to compose the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels. The contest was the brainchild of Professor Scott Rice, whose graduate school excavations unearthed the source of the line "It was a dark and stormy night." Sentenced to write a seminar paper on a minor Victorian novelist, he chose the man with the funny hyphenated name, Edward George Bulwer-Lytton, whose famous opener has been plagiarized repeatedly by the cartoon beagle Snoopy. No less impressively, Lytton coined phrases that have become common parlance in our language: "the pen is mightier than the sword," "the great unwashed," and "the almighty dollar".

### WINNER

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

Sue Fondrie, Oshkosh, WI

### RUNNER-UP:

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

Rodney Reed, Ooltewah, TN

### Winner: Adventure

From the limbs of ancient live oaks moccasins hung like fat black sausages -- which are sometimes called *boudin noir*, black pudding or blood pudding, though why anyone would refer to a sausage as pudding is hard to understand and it is even more difficult to divine why a person would knowingly eat something made from dried blood in the first place -- but be that as it may, our tale is of voodoo and foul murder, not disgusting food.

Jack Barry, Shelby, NC

### Winner: Crime

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

Mark Wisnewski, Flanders, NJ

### Winner: Historical Fiction

Napoleon's ship tossed and turned as the emperor, listening while his generals squabbled as they always did, splashed the tepid waters in his bathtub.

John Doble, New York City

### Winner: Purple Prose

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

Mike Pedersen, North Berwick, ME

### Winner: Romance

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

had.

Ali Kawashima, Greensboro, NC

### Winner: Sci Fi

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

Greg Homer, Placerville, CA

### Winner: Vile Puns

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

Joe Wyatt, Amarillo, TX

### Winner: Western

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

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

Entry deadline for 2012 contest is April 15

<http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/2011.htm>

History of the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest (from the web site <http://bulwer-lytton.com/>).

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD  
Supporting writers and the craft of writing in Oklahoma,  
the United States and around the world.



# Story Weavers Conference 2012 Schedule

Thursday May 3rd					
5:30-8:00 PM			Registration Opens, Lobby Area (See Ruth Weeks)		
7:00- 8:30 PM			Pre-Conference Workshop		
Friday May 4th					
7:30- 9:00 AM			12:00- 12:30 PM		
9:00 AM- 5:50 PM			Bookstore		
Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D	Pre-Convene	
8:30			Opening Session		
9:00: 10:15	Lela Davidson: Social Media for Beginners	Chuck Sambuchino: Perfecting your Pitch	Hope Clark: Funding Streams for Writers	Jeannetta Mish: Poems from History, Family and Otherwise	
10:30-11:45		Agent/Editor Panel		Deborah Bouziden:	
12:00- 1:45			Lunch Workshop (Room)		
2:00- 3:15	William Barnhardt	Stephen Fraser: Elevator Pitch	Clarissa Willis: Writing for Children	Agent/Editor/ Publicist Appointments	
3:30-4:45		Melissa Frain: Genre Fiction		Tom Sawyer: TV Writing	
6:30- 9:30 PM			Famous Author Banquet and Keynote Address		
Saturday May 5					
AM11:00- 11:30 AM			Registration Opens, Lobby Area (See Ruth Weeks)		
9:00 AM- 5:30 PM			Bookstore		
Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D	Pre-Convene	
9:00-10:15	Kathleen Y'Barbo: Christian Romance	Social Media Panel	Dennis Palumbo: Mystery	Wayne Harris-Wyrick: Ten Seconds	Agent/Editor
10:30- 11:45	Chuck Sambuchino: Non-Fiction portfolio	Paranormal Panel	Clarissa Willis: Niche Market	Meredith Barnes: Advanced Social Media	
12:00- 1:30			Lunch workshop--Steven James		
2:00- 3:15	Marcia Preston: Voice	Jack Dalton: Cultures	Tom Sawyer: Demystified	Jeanetta Mish: Poems	Agent/Editor
3:30-4:00			OWFI Board Meeting		
4:00			General Membership Meeting		
4:30-5:30			Autograph Party		
6:30-10:00			Awards Banquet		
10:00			Collect Contest Materials		

**WWW.OWFI.ORG**



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**Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc**

All address changes must be submitted to the  
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**CONTEST PHOTO! See page 8 for details.**

