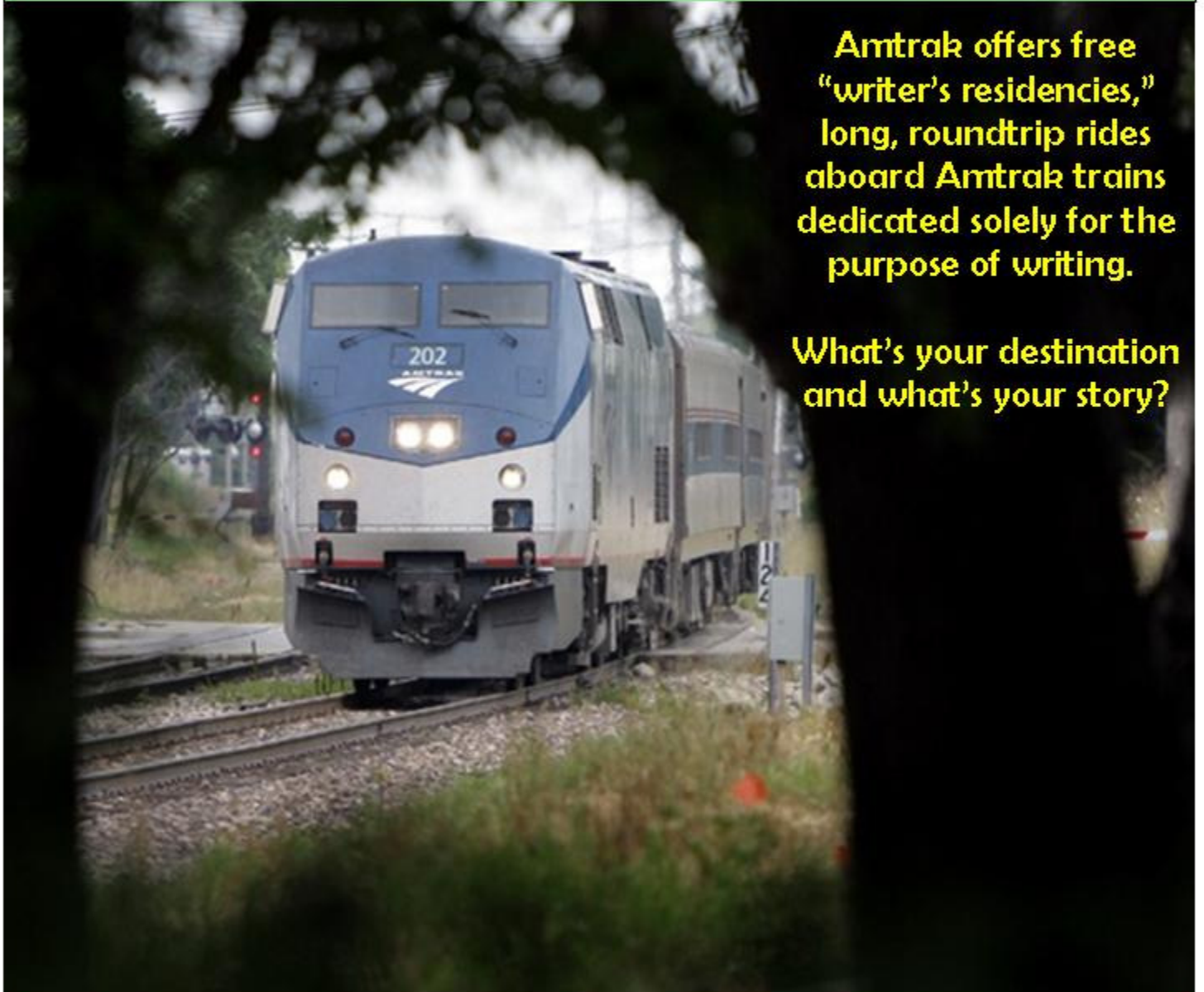


THE

REPORT



Amtrak offers free "writer's residencies," long, roundtrip rides aboard Amtrak trains dedicated solely for the purpose of writing.

What's your destination and what's your story?

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD

in Oklahoma, the United States and around the world



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OFFICERS:

President:	Christine Jarmola , 509 Chisholm Circle, Bartlesville, OK, 74006, 918-766-5068, cdjarmola@gmail.com
Conference Chair	Dawn Allen , 205 North Chickasaw, Box 154, Hardtner, KS, 67057, 913-530-7028, dawnallen20@att.net
1st Vice President:	Tony LoPresti , 832 NW 16th St, Moore OK, 73160, 405-420-6888, hardlo@cox.net
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Secretary	Julia Mazingo , PO Box 8217, Altus, OK 73522-8217, 580-482-8376, julia_mazingo@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Barbara McMinn , 9800 South Highway 137, Miami, OK, 74354, 918-440-8686, barbowfi@aol.com
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Grant Chair	Vivian Zabel , 2912 Rankin Terrace, Edmond, OK, 73013, 405-359-6365, vivian@viviangilbertzabel.com
STAFF:	
Newsletter Editor:	Wayne Harris-Wyrick , 8704 NW 87 th Terr., Oklahoma City, Ok, 73132, 405-602-3705 (office), wizardwayne@juno.com
Webmaster	Heather Davis , 1048 Meadow Drive, Bartlesville, OK, 74006, 918-914-0599, minivan.momma.2@gmail.com

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wizardwayne@juno.com

Editor: Wayne Harris-Wyrick
Printed by: Schatz Publishing Group
Book Review Editor: Annie Withers
Web Reviews Editor: Jen Nips
Book Doctor: Robyn Conley
Marketing/Platform: Heather Davis
Real Life Writing: Rhonda Franz

All address changes must be submitted to the **OWFI Treasurer Barbara McMinn at: OWFI, 9800 South Highway 137, Miami, OK, 74354, 918-440-8686, barbowfi@aol.com**

DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

Christine Jarmola

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On my first trip to Spain, (okay my only trip ever to Spain, but first sounds so much more jetsetty) I spent an entire afternoon in the *Retiro* Park. At the end of the day, as we were leaving, my friends asked what I thought of the *Palacio de Cristal*. "What big crystal palace?" I asked. In later years as a high school Spanish teacher I finally got to see the *Palacio de Cristal* - in a video - and it was beautiful. I can't imagine how much better it would have been in real life, but I had missed one of a wonder of the world because, even though I had been within walking distance, I didn't know to look for it.

At OWFI we also have many *wonders of the world*, yet each year many miss them because they don't know where to look. So here is my list of don't misses.

Registration will begin at 5:00 Thursday evening. Pick up your nametags and your schedule folders. And here is your first don't miss: donate \$1 for a chance to win one of the **Famous Author Centerpieces** from Friday night's banquet.

Another significant DON'T MISS is our add-on session Thursday evening at 7:30 with **Amazon Bestselling Author Andrew E. Kaufman**. Be sure to check that option on your registration form.

After Andrew's presentation, stop by the bookstore, get his book autographed and pick up a few more while you are there.

After the Thursday night festivities - DON'T SIT IN YOUR ROOM. Come down and hang out in the atrium.

The official start of OWFI 2014 is Friday morning at 8:30 (I know way too early - but it will be worth it.) One session many people tend to skip is the Welcome - but a good way to make sure you don't miss out, is to come and hear what is happening, before it happens. At the opening session schedules will be explained, presenters introduced, questions answered.

Sessions, Sessions, Sessions. The best way to comprehend our sessions is think of a three-ringed circus - only we'll have four. During a two-day period we will have forty-six presentations, two add-on luncheons, two banquets, a poetry slam, a costume contest, a centerpiece drawing, basket wars, buzz sessions and book signings in the bookstore. Definitely more than Barnum and Bailey ever packed into a circus tent.

We have sessions on queries, contest winning, characterization, blogging, action books, memoirs, fiction into fact and fact into fiction, playwriting, and ... well, you just never know what might be covered. (Check the tentative Conference Schedule on the inside back cover of this Report.)

One not to be missed session - so important that we are offering it three different times - is **how to enter the OWFI contest online**. Jennifer McMurrain will walk you through the steps for online entry and you'll be surprised how easy it is - and how much money you can save not paying postage.

Let's Do Lunch Don't eat alone at OWFI. On Friday you can join the OWFI Faculty for a **Networking Luncheon**. On Saturday you can do lunch with **Eloisa James**. (Check it on your registration form. Must pre-pay.) Or make a new friend and dine together. The unwritten rule of OWFI is you can talk to anybody. Read their nametag and then strike up a conversation. You know from the start you have one thing in common - you're both interested in writing.

A very important plan ahead so that you don't miss out:
Costume Contest. Yes, you read that right. This is the inaugural year for the OWFI Famous Author/Character Costume Contest (we really need a cleverer name for this if you have one). There will be three winning categories: Best costume depicting an author, best costume depicting a literary character and most creative costume. Be as extravagant as you want and compete to win some great prizes. Everyone gets to vote and the winners will be announced on Saturday night.

Famous Authors have three ways to be recognized this year. One - create a centerpiece with your book to be awarded to the lucky person who has given a \$1 donation for a chance on it. Contact Heather Davis at Minivan.momma.2@gmail.com. Two - send your book cover and synopsis to Marilyn Boone mpboone@hotmail.com to be included in the Famous Authors Slideshow. Three - contact Doug Kelley at dougkj@yaho.com to have your books in our OWFI Bookstore. (Details on all these are here in the Report and online at www.owfi.org)

After the banquet on Friday night **DO NOT GO TO YOUR ROOM**. Hang out in the bookstore for a Romantic autograph party featuring **Eloisa James**. Then join a group for an informal buzz session. A list of buzz sessions and locations will be posted at information central in the bookstore.

Sometime before noon on Saturday stop by and bid on the Basket Wars. This is a wonderful opportunity to get some lovely prizes and help support OWFI scholarships at the same time.

At 5:00 all three evenings, **DO NOT GO TO YOUR ROOM**, but have a complimentary beverage courtesy of Embassy Suites and chat informally with the OWFI Faculty and all your new friends.

End the conference in style at our own version of the Academy Awards as we present the **OWFI Writing Contest** winners. Glitz and Glamour to your hearts content and cheer on all your new friends and possibly yourself as the names are announced.

Hopefully, this quick overview will help you not miss out on what is shaping up to be another fantastic OWFI. I'll see you in OKC May 1st - and I doubt I'll ever go to my room.

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Read This Book!

The Purloined Skull

By Velda Brotherton

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

THE PURLOINED SKULL

Velda Brotherton

Oaktree Press, 2013, 269 pages

House lights dim and a single spot appears at center stage as Velda Brotherton approaches the podium. We've opened the front cover of her book and those who know her imagine her quiet confidence spreading across the hush as she smiles a greeting. We're on the edge of our seats as she begins her performance. We hear her voice on every page as she tells the story.

So many layers – the setting, characters, rhythms, complex relationships, rich texture page after page. I couldn't help comparing it to other Southern favorites - sort of *To Kill A Mockingbird* meets *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*.

The small Arkansas town is inhabited by deliciously peculiar characters we'd expect to find in the quiet, green hills with rocky outcroppings and clear bubbling streams. "The air smelled of new birthing. The dogwoods were in bloom, lacing the rugged hills in creamy white."

She uses humor to draw us deeper, as when she describes Kyle, the burned out old druggie whose dog dug up the bones. Naturally he lives in a hard-scrabble cabin hidden back in the trees. He'd reported the grave, hoping it was ancient and worthy of a reward. "He lifted his thin shoulders and the hems of his overalls raised to reveal dirty ankles." We know to stay upwind when she tells us, "He scratched his butt through filthy britches that hung on him like he was a broom stick."

Brotherton's expert foreshadowing starts at the beginning. She uses the whole first chapter to tell us the main character's last name, slowly revealing, drip by drip, essential information. 'Jessie's' a young professional, an injured soul trying to start over. When the story opens, she's just been hired to write for a small weekly paper by the editor, an old friend of her father's. She lets us think for many pages that Jessie's just another confused little nobody before the author reveals she's come home licking wounds received from her last as-

signment – as a hot-shot journalist in Los Angeles, pursuing a Pulitzer.

Since it's also a nail-biting mystery, we're not surprised to find the romantic tension is focused on a detective, a 'hot' ex-narc from Dallas. We actually laugh out loud to realize his name is, well what else, Dallas Starr.

The whole book vibrates between the meticulous detail of a pen-and-ink drawing and the bold brush strokes of a slapstick farce. We're already interested in Starr as the handsome new small town cop when Brotherton layers in a few new facts – he's part Cherokee Indian who has inherited psychic powers from his grandfather, and he uses these unbidden 'spells' that come on him to help solve crimes.


Where do all her characters and their stories come from you might want to know. She said with a grin and a shrug, "I know most of them personally." She was born in Arkansas and her family moved to Wichita when she was about five. Graduating from there, she married her high school boyfriend. Don, an airline mechanic, was hired by PanAm Airlines in 1962 and they moved to New York City with their young son and daughter.

After a few years, they moved back to Arkansas where she taught piano lessons and painted for a while. Then she got a job at a small weekly paper, not unlike Jessie. She wrote her first book in 1985 after spending time with a local group of writers.

Nearly thirty years later, she has twenty books published in several genres, both fiction and nonfiction. "We've traveled all over the place to conferences, librar-

(Continued on page 20)

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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MARKETING AND YOUR PLATFORM

Building a Platform: Letting Your Readers Help

Heather Davis

The first time I finished reading my very favorite book, *We're Just Like You Only Prettier* by Celia Rivenbark, I did three things. First, I looked her up on Amazon to see what other books I could get my hands on. Second, I looked her up on the Internet and read every single word of her website—I even sent her an email telling her how much I adored her writing (she wrote me back, too!). And third, I told everyone who would listen about her and her books. She had just used me to help build her platform.

When our readers finish our book and they love it, they are going to look for more. They are going to look for more books to devour; they are going to look for more information about you and, they are going to look for like minds to share their literary love with.

Our platform is going to fuel our readers in their desire for more of us, and we need to be ready for them.

If you feed them, they will come. When we're just starting out as an author, we probably only have one book in our hip pocket ready to share with our readers. While that's a great start, constantly be thinking about what you can offer your readers right now. Not every author will have a full-length manuscript, he/she can throw out there, but you do have many avenues through which you can make an offering. If you blog,

blog regularly. Offer sneak peeks of your works in progress. Share short stories on your blog or website and consider publishing or sharing prequel and/or sequel information on your blog or website. After they've read your book, they'll want more—give it to them.

When our readers finish our book and they love it, they are going to look for more. They are going to look for more books to devour; they are going to look for more information about you; and, they are going to look for like minds to share their literary love with.

Our platform is going to fuel our readers in their desire for more of us, and we need to be ready for them.

If you're available, they will find you. Authors who share even a little bit of their every day life are more likely to receive fan mail. (Isn't that a major reason we become writers?) Fan mail, while fun, is also functional and builds working relationships. When readers come searching for you, be easy to find and easy to approach. You don't have to share every last detail about your life, but

if you write historical fiction and you run across a

(Continued on page 17)

Heather Davis is a momma, a writer and a constant platform builder. She is the author of TMI Mom Oversharing My Life and TMI Mom Getting Lucky (Buzz Books USA). She's a syndicated humor columnist; been featured on The Dr. Oz Show; is a regular contributor to Great Day Green Country on KOKI in Tulsa, and she blogs at www.Minivan-Momma.com. She answers all of her email in a timely manner and uses her manners at all times.



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The Doctor is:

In

Out

A Book Doctor's Worst Nightmare

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

It's a book doctor's nightmare. Worn and bloody, a novel's rough pages plop onto my desktop gurney. The diagnosis is quick. Both character and plot need stitches. Which element shall I save first?

True, we readers must *care* about your characters, but we must also worry about them. And we'll want that worry justified at the story's end. Just as every character must face a conflict in the opening of the story, each conflict must build before being resolved. And it darn sure better be resolved.

It's crucial for writers to remember that the initial conflict needs to have believable references throughout the story and by the story's closure. Notice I did not say a rosy, happily ever after closure. Any authentic tidying up will do, but it must be there, whether through dialogue or narrative. We must know how the inner motivation that spurred the character early on has progressed and finalized.

What inner motivation, you say? Let's take a peek at what Tom Sawyer, head writer and producer of the hit, *Murder She Wrote* has to say about building characters and their motivations in his book, *Fiction Writing Demystified*:

"Most of us learn early on to begin developing our characters by writing brief bios, three, four lines, more as we learn more about them.... But what's really important to your story...are: what are the lines of conflict between this character and the other characters? Where's the heat? Where are the problems? The pain? The one-sided abrasiveness? What does each want—and is having a

hard time getting? How do their goals clash with the interest of the other players? Are two or more of them pursuing the same ends? Will the achievement of one character's goal—the journey that gets him there—cost the well-being or life of another character? Will it cost him his own soul?"

What Tom knows is that fiction readers expect the character they've cared and worried about from the beginning will grow and learn, maybe even change a little from the way they first saw that character. And they want the character to digest those revelations as he or she encounters the plot circumstances that bring about any shifts in his or her thoughts or behavior.

Tension thrives when the conflict, either inner or outer, builds a little with each scene. Fiction lives or dies by the scene choices a writer makes, and those choices are based in character. What's at stake for the character in this scene? How will the character's thoughts, emotions, or behavior be affected by what happens next?

Each scene is a stepping stone in plot, yes, but also in character development. Some novice writers reverse the process and think plot is more important than character. They go hand and hand.

Best-selling author, Anne Lamott, says:

"Plot grows out of character.... Characters

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It's crucial for writers to remember that the initial conflict needs to have believable references throughout the story and by the story's closure. Notice I did not say a rosy, happily ever after closure. Any authentic tidying up will do, but it must be there, whether through dialogue or narrative. We must know the inner motivation that spurred the character early on has progressed and finalized.

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Book Doctor

Continued

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should not, conversely, serve as pawns for some plot you've dreamed up. Any plot you impose on your characters will be onomatopoeic: PLOT. I say don't worry about plot. Worry about characters. Let what they say or do reveal who they are, and be involved in their lives, and keep asking yourself, Now what happens?"

Robyn Conley, the book doctor, speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write. Her books include: **WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU PUBLISH: A Wellness Check-up With Book Doc, Robyn Conley**, which gives a checklist of publishing and editing tips for writers, **THE HEALTHY WRITER'S HANDBOOK**, featuring tips from dozens of writers she's met over the past two decades who know how to succeed and stay healthy in their writing careers. **What Really Matters to Me** is a journal that helps people discover their goals and obtain their dreams. 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**, and **THE COLOR ME BIBLE**. Robyn has sold articles to major magazines, such as **The Writer, Writer's Digest, ABA: Student Lawyer**, and a score of others.



Such great insight, but my favorite bit of advice from Ms. Lamott is: *"Find out what each character cares about most in the world because then you will have discovered what's at stake."*

Or, *"Where's the heat?"* as Tom Sawyer asked.

When you can do that chapter-by-chapter, that's when you've discovered how to keep the tension mounting over an entire novel-- paragraph-by-paragraph for a short story--and line-by-line in flash fiction.

One major advantage of incorporating this care factor and conflict factor into each scene, is you automatically avoid holes in your writing. If someone has ever critiqued your current story and said they had trouble connecting with the character or following the plot, then examine each scene for a lack of character motivation. I bet you'll be able to fill in those voids with ease.

And if you can mend some of your own literary wounds, then I can bandage other areas, such as slashing your passives, but that's another topic for another column. If you want to learn more right this second, you can find my new book at Amazon: *What to Know Before You Publish: A Wellness Check-up With Book Doc, Robyn Conley*. This is an updated revision of my first Book Doc book, with a complete new opening section devoted to the traditional and new publishing opportunities today.

Until next time, Happy Writing!

What I had to face, the very bitter lesson that everyone who wants to write has got to learn, was that a thing may in itself be the finest piece of writing one has ever done, and yet have absolutely no place in the manuscript one hopes to publish.

Thomas Wolfe

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Real Life Writing

Maximize Face Time at Writers' Conferences

Marilyn Collins

Many writers I know claim the status of “conference junkies.” What could be more fun than taking time for yourself to meet other writers, share your stories, learn from experts, and just have a great time among fellow writers? Conferencing is *not* writing but it is the source for networking, meeting agents, publishers, and speakers. An important base in becoming a successful and published author.

So, how do you maximize your time during a conference? Here are a few tips to help you get the most for your money and the most visibility for you and your work.

Prior to the Conference

1. **Print business cards.** Include your name, picture, email/web addresses, title/cover of published work, and keywords that apply: Author, Speaker, Blogger.

2. **Submit work to contests.** Winners are recognized. You can later use your awards in future PR or on your website/social media spots. These deadlines are early so check future conference information—sometimes as early as a year in advance for guidelines/deadlines. Be SURE to follow the directions very carefully—you don’t want your work tossed because of a technicality.

3. **Study speakers and workshops.** Decide in advance people you want to meet. Have a question ready to ask when you have the opportunity.

4. **Develop a 25 to 50 word pitch about your work.** Practice it ahead of time so when someone on the elevator asks, “What do you write?” you have the “elevator-pitch” down smoothly and conversationally. You’ll be asked this question many times in the course of a conference.

5. **Volunteer.** Conferences are run by volunteers and your help is welcome. Working with these top leaders is well worth your time. Ask to be a Shepherd for one of the speakers – hopefully the one you’ve already identified as a person you most want to meet.

On Site at the Conference

1. **Meet other writers.** A natural tendency is to eat

meals or sit with members of your writers’ group or a newly-found friend. Make it a challenge to sit with a different group of people as often as possible. If tables in the restaurant are full, take a seat at an empty table. I assure you that you’ll soon be joined by friendly people who also want to talk writing.

2. **Take a speaker to lunch.** If this is uncomfortable, ask a couple of other writers to join you. This offers a one-on-one time to talk about writing in a relaxed atmosphere. Several speakers will offer a “buzz session” open to anyone in the conference. These are after hours and always fun. Buzz sessions provide an unusual opportunity for face-time with a speaker.

3. **Exchange business cards with as many people as possible.** I write a “note to self” on the back of cards so I remember the conversation, any follow-up discussed, perhaps some information I said I’d send after the conference.

4. **Ask questions in the workshops.** Always state your name first, then ask your question. Provides good follow-up conversation—others in the room may want to talk later with you about the subject.

5. **Take advantage of the book room or exhibitor table to promote your published work.** You’ll meet lots of people and gain more visibility for yourself. Create a poster with your picture and work displayed on an easel behind your exhibitor table. Make an attractive and eye-catching table display—colorful cloth, stands for your books, flyers, business card holder and so forth. People will see you, see your picture, buy your books, take your card/flyer—and remember you.

Post-Conference Ideas

The party may be over, but your work’s not finished. Maximize networking contacts and finish the job.

1. **Don’t toss your conference notes.** Go over your handouts and lists of how-to offered by speak-

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REAL LIFE WRITING

Continued

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ers. Is there a follow-up question for speakers (who offered to answer them), did you make a “to-do list” from tips you gained in workshops, or a website you need to check out. We come back to busy lives but a quick follow-up to sort through material and handouts will pay off. File information you find valuable where you can find it again.

2. Go through the business cards you’ve exchanged. Send a quick note to newly made friends, or send information to those who’ve asked—whatever the follow up, do it now. Many writers will soon be off to their next conference so make your follow-up while still fresh in their minds.

3. Say “thank-you” to conference leaders. Send Kudos to the conference coordinator to share with volunteers. A word of praise takes little time but is much appreciated.

Most of all, love what you do. Your energy, passion, and enthusiasm draw others to you – and often lasting relationships are forged. Happy conferencing!

Marilyn H. Collins is known for her hands-on practical workshops. She is a frequent conference speaker and recently launched Mentors for Writers

(www.mentorsforwriters.com) offering online writing courses and individual coaching. CHS Publishing

(www.chspublishing.com) offers Step-by-Step Writing Guides focused on writing memoir, family history, local/regional history—and writing for regional/special-interest magazines. Proficient Writer NEWS

(www.proficientwriter.com), online newsletter for writers, also lists upcoming writers’ conferences. Subscribers may list writing conferences they wish to promote and their speaking engagements. Send to hswc1@cox.net.



WHY I JOINED OWFI

Vivian Zabel, Grants Director.

Memory-slippage comes with the passing of years, and mine definitely pass faster all the time, but I believe I became a member of OWFI in 2002 after hearing about the organization from Julia at Best of Books. Amazed that an organization existed that promoted and helped writers, I hurried to discover more and to join. I have not been disappointed, well, except at some Saturday night banquets when the announcements of winners doesn’t include my name.

When I couldn’t find an affiliate close enough that I could make meetings regularly, I, with a friend, founded Pen and Keyboard Writers. In turn, I became the delegate to the OWFI board meetings. As I worked from inside, I discovered many others who want to help writers, including ourselves, grow and improve. I hope we open our doors to more ages and cultures as we grow as an organization.

I have studied writing and have written for over 50 years. I taught writing for nearly 30 years and (as a publisher, editor, judge and speaker) continue to teach writing. At the same time, I continue to learn by attending conferences and reading books and magazines about writing. OWFI helps me with its conference and its writing competition. Even when I’m presenting a workshop or session, I attend other sessions so I can improve, too.

I don’t understand why everyone doesn’t join OWFI, and I spread the word wherever I go, even at other conferences and book festivals.

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OWFI 2014 CONFERENCE

COSTUME CONTEST!

The theme of the 2014 OFI Conference is **Create, Compose, Commit!** It is time to start being creative.

For those of you who plan on attending the 2014 conference, expect something new and different this year. During the Friday Night banquet, be prepared to meet some of your favorite authors and/or their characters during the first of what may become an annual OWFI Costume Contest.

All attendees to the Friday night banquet are encouraged to come in costume as their favorite author or literary character, or other writing-related character. You can be as outlandish as you feel comfortable with, but since the group as a whole will vote on the best costumes, don't be too obscure. You want your fellow OWFI'ers to know who you are pretending to be. And if you are good at accents and acting, play the part of your character! Maybe some year, one of our very talented members can write a play from some of our better costumes and we can perform it. Now that would be cool.

For your character, the context should be obvious, if subtle, from the costume, and voters may ask questions of the costume wearer if they are uncertain as to the reference. After all, we haven't all read every book or seen every movie.

The assembled attendees at the banquet will vote on three different categories: Best costume depicting an author, best costume depicting a lit-

erary character and most creative costume. The criteria for best author/character are straightforward: the author or character must be recognizable by the costume. Of course, mannerisms and the speech patterns of the wearer can add to the overall effect of the costume, as do any visual references to the book or series. The most creative costume doesn't need to necessarily represent a specific character or author, although it could. It may represent a writing genre or a com-

You can be as outlandish as you feel comfortable with, but since the group as a whole will vote on the best costumes, don't be too obscure. You want your fellow OWFI'ers to know who you are pretending to be.

monly-used character or genre motif, i.e. a hard-nosed detective, a spurned lover, or a cowboy. Dusty just may dress as he always does! It may represent some aspect of the writing/publishing field, i.e. a librarian, a cranky newspaper editor, or a book-worm. It may represent a character, scene or archetype of a screenplay (TV or movie) character, i.e. a zombie, fortune hunter, spy, or witch/wizard. It must have some connection to writing, but beyond that, the sky is the limit. And rumor has it that there may even be prizes!

With enough participation, we may be able to broaden the categories in future years, dividing, say, between classic authors/characters and modern ones. It might be interesting if Sherlock Holmes, from the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle series, and Sherlock from the current TV program both won.

I can't wait to parade around in my costume. Heck, I may even wear it for the Saturday Banquet, as I collect all my contest prizes.

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

OWFI 2014 Create, Compose, Commit!

2014 Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference

May 1 - May 3

Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME (type or print clearly) _____

STATUS (circle): ATTENDEE, JUDGE, SPEAKER, OWFI OFFICER, SCHOLARSHIP, VEGETARIAN MEAL

HOME PHONE _____ BUS. PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

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Members at Large - Indicate (MAL)

FULL REGISTRATION (includes Fri/Sat seminars and both Friday night and Saturday night banquets)

Postmarked by 3-15-2014 @ \$175 each x _____ = \$ _____

Postmarked after 3-15-2014 @ \$200 each x _____ = \$ _____

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS:

Friday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$50 each x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$50 each x _____ = \$ _____

SINGLE DAY SEMINARS (banquets NOT included)

Friday Seminars only . @ \$80 each x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Seminars only . @ \$80 each x _____ = \$ _____

Extra WORKSHOPS (minimum 25 participants, must preregister - NO WALK-INS)

Thursday 7:00-900 p.m. Pre-Con Workshop (no meal) **Andrew E. Kaufman.** @ \$ 15 each x _____ = \$ _____

Friday Box Lunch Workshop (meal included) – **The Art of Networking** . @ \$ 25 each x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Box Lunch Workshop (meal included) – **Eloisa James** @ \$ 25 each x _____ = \$ _____

Total amt. enclosed = \$ _____

Refunds granted only if requested on or before April 5, 2013, a \$50 processing fee will be charged.

Enclose check payable to **OWFI** (if wanting to pay by credit card please enroll at OWFI.org)

Mail completed form to:

Barbara McMinn, 9800 South HWY 137, Miami, OK 74354

HOTEL: Embassy Suites Oklahoma City, Phone: 1-405-682-6000

Register **no later than 4-17-2014** for reduced OWFI rate of \$115.00 for one/two persons in a suite or \$125.00

for three/four persons in a suite. Rate is per suite, per night, plus tax

Breakfast and Happy Hour included! IMPORTANT: Use the hyperlink at OWFI.org or say "OWFI" when calling

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Be a part of the OWFI 2014 Team

Although the book *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky is a great read, in real life wallflower-dom isn't that fun. It's watching the world go by and wondering what it would be like to be a part of the action. At OWFI everyone is encouraged to join in the action and the easiest way to do that is to volunteer.

Many do not realize, but volunteers run the entire OWFI organization. We gather together four times a year in person, and then email, call, Facebook and text continuously the rest of the time, planning (sometimes plotting) our best ideas for the upcoming contest and conference. We can only accomplish this with the help of our band of helpers. At conference the volunteers have the advantage of not being mere wallflower observers, but true participants in the running of the show.

If you would like to be a volunteer don't wait for someone to ask you, tell us. Here's a list of positions that need helpers, so whether for thirty minutes or the whole conference you can be a part of making it happen.

Registration The registration table is the first interaction we have with conference attendees and it is important that it be manned or woman-ed throughout the conference with nice, patient, helpful people. If you could work a shift let Jennifer MacMur-

rain know via email Jennifermcmurray@gmail.com

Shepherds For each conference presenter we have an OWFI liaison who guides them they need to be and generally takes care of making sure they have a good experience at OWFI. Many former Shepherds have commented how fulfilling it was to be able to get to know the presenters personally and make lasting friendships. Contact Tom Barczak at barczaktom@yahoo.com if you would like to be a shepherd.

Agent/Editor Working in the Agent/Editor pitch room is a great way to be a little fly on the wall and see the highs and the lows of pitching your story. Volunteer and see behind the veil so to speak. If you want a chance at this opportunity contact Natasha Hanovan at NatashaHanovvaOWFI@gmail.com

Basket Wars Each year Vivian Zabel and her Basket Wars crew do an awesome job of raising funds so that we are able to offer scholarships to OWFI. Contact Vivian at Vivian@viviangilbertzabel.com if you would like to help.

Don't worry. There are more opportunities to volunteer. Check the website or email Christine at president@owfi.org if you would like to be a part of making OWFI 2014 the best conference yet.

2014 OWFI CONFERENCE FACULTY IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Thoughts from some of the Conference Faculty in their own words.

Keynote Speaker – Eloisa James

Eloisa on...wearing her two very own, stylish and separate hats:



When I'm not writing novels, I'm a Shakespeare professor. It's rather like having two lives. The other day I bought a delicious pink suit to tape a television segment on romance; I'll never wear that suit to teach in, nor even to give a paper at the Shakespeare Association of America conference. It's like being Superman, with power suits for both lives. Yet the literature professor in me certainly plays into my ro-

mances. *The Taming of the Duke* (April 2006) has obvious Shakespearean resonances, as do many of my novels. I often weave early modern poetry into my work; the same novel might contain bits of Catullus, Shakespeare and anonymous bawdy ballads from the 16th century.

When I rip off my power suit, whether it's academic or romantic, underneath is the rather tired, chocolate-stained sweatshirt of a mom. Just as I use Shakespeare in my romances, I almost always employ my experiences as a mother. When I wrote about a miscarriage in *Midnight Pleasures*, I used my own fears of premature birth; when the little girl in *Fool For Love* threw up and threw up, I described my own daughter, who had that unsavory habit for well over

her first year of life.

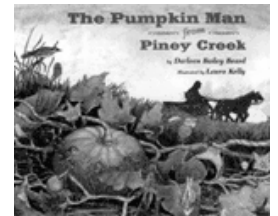
So I'm a writer, a professor, a mother - and a wife. My husband Alessandro is Italian, born in Florence. We spend the lazy summer months with his mother and sister in Italy. It always strikes me as a huge irony that as a romance writer I find myself married to a knight, a *cavaliere*, as you say in Italian.

Darleen Bailey Beard, children's books author Where I get my ideas.

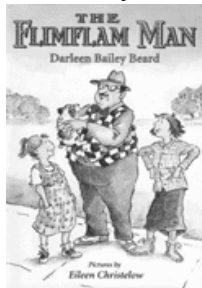
The Pumpkin Man from Piney Creek--When I was a



little girl, I wasn't allowed to have a jack-o'-lantern. My parents thought they were evil. I was always envious of my friends on my street whose doorsteps were lined with jack-o'-lanterns. So when I grew up, I did re-



search on this subject and my idea was born for this book. I love pumpkins and usually have several on my porch every autumn. My kids and I like to carve jack-o'-lanterns and toast the pumpkin seeds. My favorite thing to make for Thanksgiving is a pumpkin-cranberry bread. Yum!



The Flimflam Man--When my son was two years old, I was working part-time in a tailor shop. One of the salesgirls knew that I wrote stories

(Continued on page 14)

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Christine Taylor-Butler

Addicted to Reading From Early On: The path to being a children's author

(Continued from page 13)

for children and suggested I write about "The Sucker Day Festival." She told me about the funny history behind this festival. I went to several of the festivals and out of my research came, *The Flimflam Man*. This book was particularly fun to write because I got to interview a lot of interesting people. I also felt like a detective when writing this book, because I spent a lot of time at the Historical Society, looking up old newspaper articles and photos. So far, this has been my most fun book to write because the Flimflam Man was bigger-than-life and lots of fun to create. I've sold the play rights to La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA.

Twister--When I was in college, the one thing that was pounded into my brain more than anything else, was to write what you know and write what you love. One thing I love is my porch swing. It's my favorite place to sit and read and relax. So I set off to write a story about my porch swing and along sneaked up a twister. I



didn't really plan it. It just crept into my story and took over. I drew upon my memories of all the times I had to go to the cellar growing up in Noble, OK. Once, a twister went over our house and my dad and I and my dog Brutus ran to the cellar but my mom had just had her hair done at the beauty shop and didn't want to get her hair all blown around. So she stayed in the house and hid behind the sofa while we were down in the cellar. It was so scary hearing the crack of the hail and the roar of the wind and not knowing if my mom was alright. Luckily, the twister didn't hit our house and my mom's hair was still perfect!

"I was born in a log cabin in the woods.... Scratch that. Writing has been a passion of mine for many years. I grew up in Ohio, near one of the best libraries in the world. I still miss it. The downtown branch consists of a city block of buildings with marble columns, stone floors, grand staircases . . . and books. Rooms and rooms filled with them. The corridors seemed to go on for miles and I was in heaven. Books were my escape and my portal to the rest of the world.



I read ever spare moment and made up adventures of my own. I became an escaped princess from Persia. I convinced my neighborhood friends that my parents were doing a favor for the king by hiding me from assassins. After confessing my ruse, I divided my friends into groups of spies ala "Man from U.N.C.L.E." and "Mission Impossible." I was always the evil villain. Somehow those characters had the broadest range and the most fun.

During that time I wrote even more implausible stories. It took many more years before I had the courage to follow my dreams. I thought writers were famous people like Dr. Seuss and Laura Ingalls Wilder. I didn't know that writers were ordinary people with extraordinary passion.

People just like you and me.

My writing took a circuitous route that included a New England boarding school, two MIT degrees (Engineering and Art & Design -- I'm the ultimate oxymoron) and a series of jobs that included working for a start-up software company followed by several years at Harvard University and more than a decade as a Graphic Arts Manager at Hallmark Cards. Still, the desire to write kept whispering in my ear.

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

These days my daughters read prolifically as do their friends, but many of their urban peers do not. There's a good reason for that. Multi-cultural children don't see themselves depicted as being relevant in today's society - as making a difference. They don't get to be the "heroes." So why bother? And yes, while more books are being published that depict children of color, most show us mired in stereotypes, or are tailored to what publishers "think" we want to read, or "think" we are so the voices don't ring true. Like a familiar accent, I can tell when the voice is off right away. We are a diverse and wonderful people from continents all over the world. Children of all colors spring from rich cultural and spiritual beginnings that publishing hasn't even begun to tap.

So I decided to lend my voice and help change the climate. Sixty five commercially published books so far. And in the process I realized that just as we need to inspire students to read for pleasure, we also need to show them the path towards math and science. How art and math are not mutually exclusive in terms of how higher order thinking is developed.

It's been a wonderful journey and I've made great friends along the way. Best of all, an amazing peer group of authors and some of the best teachers and librarians in the Midwest. My extended family.

Welcome to my new life. May you have many blessings on your journey as well!

P.S. If you are thinking about being a writer, click on the link for "Resources" I included some tips, links and clues there so you won't have to start entirely from scratch.

Tara Hudson

Books always got me in trouble in grade school—not because I wouldn't do my schoolwork, but be-

cause I'd finish my work early and then hide paperbacks in between textbook pages so I could read during class. In fact, books were the reason I received most of my disciplinary slips. (Books, and the time I refused to come down off the monkey bars, but that's a story only my husband will fully know.)

In high school, books were obviously not at the forefront of my mind. All rational thought had been replaced by boys, school elections, and my midnight blue Camaro. (Yes, I drove a Camaro. No, I'm not ashamed.) Fortunately, I had an amazing English AP teacher, who reminded me to think occasionally, and who told me if I wasn't writing every day, I wasn't living right.

Despite her advice, I decided to go Pre-Med in college, finishing my first year with 4.0 and an absolute hatred of my major. Two weeks into my sophomore year, in a moment of sheer abandon, I dropped all my science courses and enrolled in the only English Writing classes still open. A few well-intended souls told me this was the worst decision I'd ever made, but, boy, were they wrong. I loved every minute of my undergraduate education.

However, last minute panic (are we noticing a trend, here?) made me decide to attend law school, where I not only made my first B ever, but also met some of my best friends and learned how to trim down my writing (believe it or not).

Law led me to a great career, but books still haunted me. Tired of stagnant memos, I spent one rainy afternoon writing a ghost story to entertain my girlfriends. Twenty minutes after I emailed them a chapter, they wrote back, clamoring for more. And so, Hereafter was born—the product of my friends' encouragement, my husband's patience, and many, many lunch breaks.

In April 2010, I found my agent—the fantastic (and sleepless, I swear) Catherine Drayton—and in May 2010, I found my publishing home at Harper Collins Children's.



(Continued on page 16)

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

My measure of success will be the day I find some girl with a copy of *Hereafter*, slipped covertly between the pages of her textbook. I hope I'll be there to tell her books are worth the trouble. Always.

Mel Odom



To my way of thinking, there's not much to tell about me. My parents, both from Oklahoma, moved out to California long enough to have me, then moved back before I was a year old. I've never since been to Patter-son, the town where I was born, but I have seen pic-

tures.

After my parents came back to Oklahoma, we moved around a lot. Dad managed service stations all over southeastern Oklahoma and Oklahoma City for a while. The picture above with me on the horse, his name was Cocoa, was taken in Oklahoma City when we lived over at NE 23rd and Bartell Road. Behind the big metal wall in the background was a salvage yard. I was eight years old. I used to sneak across the road and go look at all the wrecked cars and trucks — and, for a while, there was even an airplane.

Parents these days would freak if their kid did that. I would freak. But back then Mom had her hands full with my younger brothers, who insisted on arriving about two years apart till she had four of us. I was 15 when my youngest brother was born. However, I was good at avoiding snakes, skunks, and questionable dogs back in those days. I was even good at catching crawdads, non-poisonous snakes, and horned toads. I have been curious all my

life. My wife still gets frustrated with me sometimes because I walk up to strangers and ask them what they're doing. I have gotten to see and do a lot of things just because of that simple question.

I lived in Francis, Oklahoma while I attended high school at Byng. As you can see from the picture below, there isn't a lot to the town of Francis, but it was only a two mile walk down to the South Canadian River. We'd pack sandwiches and be gone for the day. Mom never knew where we were. We got spanked regularly, but that only slowed us down. It didn't stop us. I graduated college from East Central University with a double major in English and History and a minor in Journalism.

I'm married and have five children. I coached little league baseball, football, and basketball. This picture is of me and three of my sons.

I've also written about 180 books in all kinds of genres. All that exploring I did as a kid has paid off! And there's never a day that goes by that I'm not curious about something!

I've met movie and television stars.

And I've hung out with heroes.

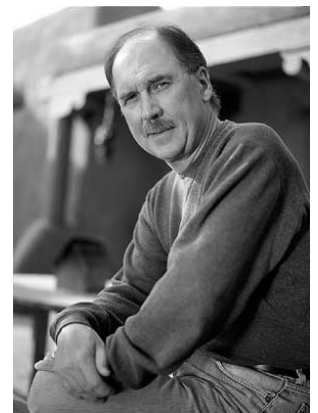
I've had a good, interesting life.

David Morrell

What's In A Name?

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Nonetheless many authors have an almost mystical attachment to the names they give characters. I once had a discussion with a fellow author who heatedly insisted that "Decker" was better than "Becker." The artist hero of my novel *Burnt Sienna* was originally called Kincaid, but my editor got nervous because there was a real-life artist with that name (although spelled differently), so in anguish I changed Kincaid to Malone. For about a week, I felt intense loss. Now I have trou-

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

continued

(Continued from page 16)

ble recalling the original name.

Names can have thematic significance, yes. The aging cavalry scout in my historical western *Last Reveille* is called Miles Calendar, words that suggest both distance and time. Also *miles* is Latin for “soldier.” But if we ignore a name’s meaning and think of it as an abstraction, we can avoid a lot of problems.

At the midst of a project, I find it useful to list the names of all my characters to ensure that each begins with a different letter of the alphabet, thus preventing a repetition of Anna, Albert, and Arnold. The list also helps me avoid a lot of names with similar endings: Harry, Bobby, and Audrey. In both cases, the names are sufficiently similar that readers will have trouble distinguishing the characters.

Note that the names Harry, Bobby, and Audrey also have the same syllables, as do Corrigan, Matheson, and Farraday, names that would be rhythmically wearying if all three were main characters in the same story, not to mention that Corrigan and Matheson both end with “n.”

Prepare a chart for names of one, two, and three syllables. Make sure there’s plenty of variety and that the names don’t begin and conclude with the same letters to avoid causing a blur. While all this might sound obvious, if you list the names in your current project, you might be surprised by the unfortunate patterns you discover.

Because of audio books, I also try to avoid names with “s” in them. “Susan said” challenges even the best actor. (Say that sentence out loud.) For me, the goal is to choose names that don’t inadvertently draw attention to themselves and distract the reader from the story.

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PLATFORM

continued

(Continued from page 5)

wonderful recipe in your research, share it. If you just took new headshots, show them off. If your kid just placed first in his track and field event, brag about it. Be present and accounted for on social media—interact with your fan base, and they’ll interact with you and become your biggest cheerleaders.

If you respond, they will love you. When I initially emailed Celia Rivenbark, I honestly did not think I’d get a response, but I did. She said: *Thank you for reading, Heather! Wishing you the best, Celia.* It probably took her no more than sixty seconds to actually type that out and press send, but it made me feel like I was the only fan she had, and I have preordered every single one of her new releases since. I received my first piece of fan mail before my books were even published. I responded. When my book came out, she sent me a picture of herself with my book on her Kindle. I’m often tagged in her statuses as well. She’s helping to build my fan base all because I used my manners and replied with kind words. My first fan works hard to promote me, and I didn’t even have to ask.

WRITING IS ONE OF THE FEW PROFESSIONS IN WHICH YOU CAN PSYCHOANALYZE YOURSELF, GET RID OF HOSTILITIES AND FRUSTRATIONS IN PUBLIC, AND GET PAID FOR IT

Octavia Butler

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Photo Prompt Contest Winner

Lost Brother

Lisbeth L. McCarty
Norman Galaxy of Writers

Our foster Mom was the worst. When she told us to “Get Lost,” she meant it so literally that she drove us out to the woods and shoved my brother and I down two separate paths.

“Now, walk!” She ordered.

I was scared. My path ended in darkness only a few feet ahead. I couldn’t even let my mind think about how my younger brother must feel.

We were used to such torture. “Mama B,” as our Foster Mom insisted that we call her, seemed to take delight in playing cruel tricks on us. I’m pretty sure she was mentally ill, but she could hide that illness so well whenever the social workers came to visit.

During those visits, my brother and I knew that we had to sit pretty and answer politely in ways which flattered Mama B or else we would be paying for it later.

Most of the time, Mama B treated her own two daughters quite differently. She combed their hair and clothed them in beautiful dresses. Once, when one of those girls came home with a rip in her dress, Mama B made that girl stand in the corner for an hour, then she gave her nothing but prunes for dinner.

My brother and I were her favorite targets, though. The hardest part was that there was no reason to anything that Mama B did. I once scrubbed the toilet until it was shining, but Mama B decided that I needed a beating because the job was not sufficient. Mama B broke my arm, but it had to heal on its own. Hospital visits were not allowed.

If only the “Hansel and Gretel” fairy tale were true! I don’t think even a witch with an oven could be worse than Mama B. I wanted to call out to my brother to see if he could hear me, but I was afraid Mama B would be listening.

I just kept walking. I could no longer see, and the branches began to snare in my hair. I had no sense of night or day. Finally, I fell asleep on the ground, exhausted.

I awoke to a searchlight illuminating me. I had been found by a search party.

Eventually, Mama B was punished for her cruelty, and I was sent to a home full of love.

My brother was never found.

(See the back cover of the Winter 2013 issue of the Report for the photo.)

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

It doesn’t have to be a complete story. It can be a vignette, a slice of life, a dialogue — anything that fits with the photo. Any person or persons in the photograph may be a central character or a secondary character of a story. You may pretend they are the subject of a biography or an interview. They may be the focus of an ersatz newspaper article. Perhaps you can best write about a given photo with a poem or an essay. Just write it and send it to the editor at: wizardwayne@juno.com. Send it within the body of the email or as a .DOC or .RTF attachment. Entry deadline is May 1, 2014.

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Late Additions to 2014 Conference Faculty

Jerry Simmons is a former New York Executive with the Time Warner Book Group where he was Vice President Director of Sales. He worked on hundreds of New York Times bestselling books and with dozens of bestselling authors. His blog and newsletter are widely read by authors around the world. He was born and raised in Tulsa and currently resides in Phoenix. You may contact him at his website www.WritersReaders.com.



AGENTS



Dawn Michelle Hardy has been called a “literary lobbyist” by Ebony magazine for her ability to help authors reach their readership using strategic promotions, win awards and garner national and local media attention.

Yes, it is time to for writing groups and individuals to step up and show their support for OWFI. Each contest category adds up to \$105 in prize money. With 33 categories, plus the Crème de la Crème, that’s a total of \$3,545.

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

Sponsors names are printed in the conference brochure, the contest booklet, The Report, on a poster at the registration table and read during the awards ceremony. Savvy marketers may sponsor a category in the name of their books to promote a series. Best of all, since OWFI is a non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible.

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

Please send your contest sponsorship donation and a copy of this form to the secretary, Julia Mozingo, at the address below. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc.

Mail checks to:

Julia Mozingo
 P O Box 8217
 Altus, OK. 73522-8217

Name to appear on sponsor list: _____

Contact person, e-mail and phone: _____

Check one: Full category, \$105 Two categories, \$210! Thanks!
 Half category, \$52.50 Other \$ _____
 Crème de la Crème \$500

Special instructions? _____

Faculty Additions

continued

She began her career in publishing in 2002, first as a assistant to a self published turned New York Times Bestselling author, then as an award-winning publicist and author consultant and now as an associate agent with Serendipity Literary Agency led by Regina Brooks.

Her client list is diverse ranging from a veteran entertainment writer, to a single mother, to a Washington Post award winning sports journalist. Her first acquisitions as agent included a biography on the Grammy winning pop-star Nicki Minaj (Hip-Pop Moments for Life by Isoul Harris), a previously self published memoir that garnered SyFy Channel docu-series fame (Forgotten Burial: A Restless Spirit's Plea from Beyond the Grave by Jodi Foster) and a forthcoming narrative inspired by the #2 most shared news story in 2013 on NBA 16-time Allstar Allen Iverson.

As an agent she is continuously seeking acquisitions for platform driven general interest narratives that can spark debate and heavy conversation. She welcomes the process of collaborating with editors and authors on topics in the area of sports, pop culture, blog and trend, music, lifestyle and social science.

Mari Farthing is a writer and editor with over 20 years of practical experience in private industry, government, media and publishing. Mari has worked with writers on technical documentation, procedural manuals, memoir, children's fiction (middle grade, young adult), women's fiction, suspense and horror.



Book Review

continued

(Continued from page 4)

ies, and historical societies setting up my tables and giving talks," she said. "Don's been carrying my books since I was fourteen," she beamed.

She's never stopped reaching out both to learn and to teach. She and writer pal, Dusty Richards, started the Northwest Arkansas Writer's in 1985 and sponsor a Free Conference in Fayetteville each year. Everyone's welcome but you need reservations (see below for their website) because it's always 'booked up' down to the last homemade chocolate chip cookie and folding chair. The next one is Saturday, March 8.

In a most enviable position now, she decides what she wants to write and has a number of publishers, all waiting for her next books. Working on several concurrently, she researches one, writes another, and edits a third. "I just have to make sure not to get the characters mixed up," she chuckled. Three will come out this year.

Her secret for success I'd say is to keep writing, keep talking to other writers, and keep showing your work to people who buy writing. She still has a variety of completed unpublished manuscripts to show them. Then, keep networking, both online and at conferences. Always keep your eye open for opportunities and remember to be 'friendly and not pushy.'

The Purloined Skull is the first in this series, *A Twist Of Poe*, and the second in the series, *The Telltale Stone*, comes out later this year from Oak Tree Press. Before I finish here, I have to warn (or perhaps entice) you by saying the romance gets pretty hot before the story ends. So just a thought - I don't recommend you stack these books near flammable substances.

Contact information:

For books:
www.vebrotherton.com
www.Amazon.com

For the Free Conference:
www.NAWriters.org

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Bringing Back The Bookstore

Do you miss walking into a bookstore? Remember the smell of the books. All the beautiful covers to look at. The helpful clerk who could figure out which book you meant when you said, “Umm, it’s about this guy and like this other guy doesn’t like the guy and this girl ...”

Well for OWFI2014 you can relive those days.

Welcome to our Bookstore, the hub of our convention.

The OWFI Bookstore will be centrally located this year with activities planned throughout the conference. Here are a few.

- All published conference attendees are encouraged to bring their books to be sold in the bookstore. (See fine print details at the bottom.)
- Coffee/beverages/snacks will be available for purchase and seating areas provided so that you can lounge, network, fellowship as you peruse the books.
- Genre specific autograph parties will take place at different times throughout the conference. Anyone who has their book for sale through the bookstore is encourage to participate in signing when their genre is happening.
- Readings by various authors will take place at designated times throughout the conference. If you would like to be a reader see contact info below.

So come and be a part of OWFI2014 and hang out with all the cool kids, as we enjoy the Bookstore
The Official Fine Print

We are pleased to again have Best of Books of Edmond operate the Conference Book Room, allowing for convenient sales of our books. All OWFI members and conference speakers are eligible to participate. Authors who want their books available for sale must conform to the following guidelines.

Authors (or publishers) must notify me, as the book

room chairperson, by Friday, **April 5 2014** of any title (s) they want included in the book room inventory, choosing one of the three options below. Due to limited space, non-speaker titles will be limited to 5 copies on display at any one time. Also, authors of multiple books will be limited to no more than 5 titles on display.

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

Option 2: Authors provide the books to be sold by Best of Books. Books will be sold at retail price, which will be provided by the author, along with quantity delivered, author name, address, and return shipping information. Of this retail price, the author will receive 70% and Best of Book will collect 30%, of which 10% will go to OWFI. Those using this option should bring in their books by Friday morning or upon arrival at the conference, and unsold books must be picked up at the end of the autographing session Saturday afternoon. If the remaining books are not picked up, the author will be billed shipping to have them returned.

Authors may ship their books directly to the Embassy Suites to arrive between **April 24 through May 1**, addressed to: OWFI Book Room, Embassy Suites Hotel, 1815 S. Meridian, OKC, 73108, attn. Debi Neuman.

Do not contact Best of Books directly. Contact me: Doug Kelley, 2500 Barnes, Pocola, OK 74902; Phone: 479-459-2429; E-mail: dougkjas@yahoo.com and I will coordinate it. Send the following information: Author name; Title; ISBN; Publisher; Release date

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

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Affiliate News

FORT WORTH WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales:

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: ARTICLES: "Precious Pets ~ Roxy, with a Special Story to Tell," *Overton Life*, (12/13); "Family Spotlight ~ The Escott Family," "Family Spotlight ~ Joy Wright and Her Beautiful 104-Years-Young Mother, Georgia Landers," *Overton Life*, N2Publishing, Inc., (1/14).

Professional Activities:

ROBYN CONLEY: SPEAKER: "Write Your Life Story," Fort Worth Genealogical Society, Fort Worth Central Library, (2/14); "Self-Editing Without Self-Destructing," Shreveport Writers Group, Bossier Arts Council, Shreveport, LA, (3/14).

New Books and Novels:

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: eBOOK, *Allie McCrae and the West Point Half-Blood*, Roots and Branches, (11/13).

MCALESTER MCSHERRY WRITERS

Acceptance and Sales:

NITA BESHEAR: ARTICLES: *Material Girls Newsletter* (10/20/13, 11/14/13, 12/18/13, 1/10/14); "Local Man Receives Quilt of Valor," *Madill Register* (01/23/14).

SHARON ERVIN: Signed a new contract with Oak Tree Press for publication of her new novel, *JINGO STREET* (10/17/13). This manuscript won first place in the Mainstream Novel Category at OWFI in 2009.

TAMMY HINTON: Started the Kilihoti Chapter of the DAR Newsletter.

MARY ANN KERL: Signed a contract with Quixote Press, a royalty publisher in Iowa, for her cookbook, *LOW-COST COOKIN' WITH FARM MARKET PRODUCTS*.

Novels and New Books:

TAMMY HINTON: E-BOOK: *Retribution* (12/15/13) NOVEL: *Retribution*, Prickly Pear Press (12/23/13)

DONA MULARKEY: NEW BOOK: *Inspiration in Uniform*, AWOC Press (11/2013)

Honors and Awards:

NITA BESHEAR: Named "Toastmaster of the Day" by Ben Cox, Oklahoma Toastmaster Governor (11/14/13).

Professional Activities:

NITA BESHEAR: SPEAKER: "Shopping Your Home for Sewing Notions," Material Girls Quilt Group, Allen, OK (10/10/13); "Introduction to Quilts of Valor," Extension Homemakers, Okemah, OK (10/15/13); "Telling Your Quilt's Story," Buttons and Bows Quilt Store, Victorville, CA (10/25/13); "Why You Need Toastmasters," Chickasaw Board, Ada, OK (11/20/13); "Thank You for Your Service," Quilt of Valor presentation, Madill, OK (01/09/14). BOOK SIGNINGS: Shawnee Shopping Mall, Coffee with the Author, Shawnee, OK (10/12/13, 10/19/13, 01/25/14). Impromptu presentation at airport, San Diego, CA (10/28/13). PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOPS: Christian Writers Workshop, Edmond, OK (10/19/13); Marketing Yourself Workshop, San Diego, CA (10/26-10/28/13).

SHARON ERVIN: SPEAKER: One of four authors participating in a panel discussion presented at the Regional Librarians Conference, Muskogee, OK (10/24/13); Presentation for the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System



Affiliate News

Continued

Staff Development Day on same day (10/24/13); Guest speaker at the Eufaula Friends of the Library Christmas luncheon, Eufaula, OK (12/11/13).

TAMMY HINTON: SPEAKER: Edmond Genealogy Society, Edmond, OK (12/16/13).

MARY ANN KERL: Begins PhD studies.

OL' TASCOSA WORDSLINGERS

Acceptances and Sales:

Natalie Bright: ARTICLE "A Cowboy's Life," *Appleseeds Magazine* (3/14).

Phyllis Miranda: E-BOOK: *The Troubled Texan*, Kensington Publishing (3/14). NOVELS, Book #2 and #3 of the Kasota Spring series, Kensington 2014.

Cheryl Pierson: NOVEL: *The Half-Breed's Woman*, Prairie Rose Publications (3/14).

Novels & New Books:

Natalie Bright: SHORT STORY: "A Cowboy's Christmas Blessings," *West Texas Christmas Stories*, Abilene Christian University Press (10/14).

Nandy Ekle: ANTHOLOGY: "Miss Bitsy," *The Least He Could*

Do and Eleven Other Stories, StoneThread Publishing (07/31/13).

Rory C. Keel: ANTHOLOGY: "The Challenge," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Writers*, (10/13).

Linda Broday, Jodi Koumalats (Thomas), Phyllis Miranda: ANTHOLOGY: *A Texas Christmas*, Kensington Re-release (11/13).

Linda Broday, Phyllis Miranda, Cheryl Pierson: ANTHOLOGY: *Wishing for a Cowboy*, Prairie Rose Publications (11/13).

Linda Broday, Phyllis Miranda, Cheryl Pierson: ANTHOLOGY: *Hearts and Spurs*, Prairie Rose Publications (1/14).

Cheryl Pierson: ANTHOLOGY: *Wolf Creek: O Deadly Night*, Western Fictioneers (11/13). E-BOOK: *The Keepers of Camelot*, Western Trail Blazer (11/13).

Dianne Sagan: NOVEL: *Miriam's Room (Women of the Bible)*, Buoy Up Press (01/14).

Honors & Awards:

Jodi Koumalats (Thomas): AWARD: *A.C. Greene Award Distinguished Texas Author*, West Texas Book Festival, Abilene, Texas (10/13).

Professional Activities:

Rory C. Keel, BOOKSIGNING, *Chicken Soup for the Soul* (2/14).

Phyllis Miranda, GUEST BLOG, Nook Blog, special promo for *The Tycoon and The Texas*, Kensington, (3/14). GUEST BLOG, Kensington Publishing Website Blog (3/14).

WRITERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

Acceptances and Sales:

MARY ELLEN MAIN: ARTICLES: "Postcards From Abroad: Night Bus to India and My Suspicious Name," *The Herald-Democrat* (01/02/14); "Postcards From Abroad: London on a Shoestring," *The Herald-Democrat* (01/09/14); "Postcards From Abroad: Say What You Mean," *The Herald-Democrat* (01/16/14)

Novels and New Books:

JESSIE VANDERPOOL: CHILDREN'S BOOK: *Little Rose Becomes a Hunter*, Publish America (2013)

Professional Activities:

JESSIE VANDERPOOL: BOOK SIGNINGS: Laverne Library (10/13); Alva Library (10/13); Waynoka Library (02/14)

LEON BEALL, MECHELLE ANDREWS, GWEN HEWITT, SUE MCMURPHY and DICK WILKERSON: Participating in **Just Fiction II**, an Advanced Novel Building Workshop Series offered by OSU Arts and Sciences Outreach, taught at Stillwater by best-selling author William Bernhardt.

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Affiliate News

Continued

WRITERS' GUILD OF ARKANSAS

Professional Activities:

MARILYN H. COLLINS:

LAUNCHED *Mentors for Writers* (www.mentorsforwriters.com) (01/14), online four-week, writing courses/individual coaching. Spring sessions now open. March 10, 17, 24, 31: "Spin Your Ideas into Magazine Articles;" "Begin Your

Memoir Today," or "Organize and Structure Your Memoir."

SPEAKER/EXHIBITOR: "Create a Family Legacy," "Author Book Signing Day," Kimberling City, MO (02/14). PUBLISHED "Create a Family Legacy," Proficient Writer NEWS (www.proficientwriter.com) (01/14)

NANCY HARTNEY: PARTICIPANT: Kimberling Area Library Author Book Signing, Kimberling, MO (02/14)

LINDA LEAVELL: INTERVIEWED: "Writing Out Loud," about her book on Marianne Moore, Oklahoma Public Television, (01/14)

Acceptance and Sales

MARILYN H. COLLINS:

"Overstreet's Jewelry: Memory-Maker Store for 65 Years," "Mr. Ralph Overstreet: A True Gentleman," *2NJOY Magazine*, (12/13)

Contest Winnings

NANCY HARTNEY: Ozarks Writers League WESTERN SHORT STORY, 2nd place, "Ephraim's Birthday, (11/13)

LINDA LEAVELL: National Book Critics Circle Award, BIOGRAPHY, Finalist: *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*

NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales:

LISBETH MCCARTY: ARTICLE: "Pocket Speech" accepted for publication in "Toastmasters International" magazine; STORY: "The Big Christmas Secret", The Norman Transcript (December 22, 2013).

JOCELYN PEDERSEN: FEATURE: "Ruddy Ducks Injured During Weekend Winter Weather," picked up by the state AP wire(12/13).

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER: ARTICLE: "Princess in Purple," Lutheran Mission Digest (2014 Edition).

ROBERT FERRIER: POEM: "The Violin Maker," literary E-zine: thexzbt.com (01/14).

Novels and New Books:

ANDREW HORTON: BOOK: Screenwriting, is coming out next year, to be published with Rutgers U Press.

Professional Activities:

ROBERT FERRIER: published "Advent 2013: One Candle Is Lit," Christmas Devotional Booklet, First Christian Church, Norman, OK, December, 2013.

MIKE KRAWCZYK: has been nominated to the Oklahoma Cartoonists Hall of Fame.

LISBETH MCCARTY received a Best Speaker ribbon at Sooner Toastmasters for her speech, "Maryanne, Stop It!"

LISBETH MCCARTY and **MARY PAYNE:** presented a Youth Leadership Program for local Girl Scout Troop 247 on January 9, 2014.

Contest Winnings:

JOCELYN PEDERSEN: Oklahoma Living Magazine's 2013 Okies competition, BEST FEATURE COMMUNICATING A CO-OP PRINCIPLE, Award of Excellence.

SHELLEY ANNE RICHTER: OKC Writers Contest, NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 1st place, "Autumn in Eureka"; POETRY: HM, "Iron Spirit"; BOOK CATEGORY: HM, "The Essence of Firelight."

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Arkansas Writers Conference Contest, INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR POEM: 1st Place, "Letter from a Young Patriot"; CHRISTIAN POETRY AWARD, 2nd Place "The Shadow of Fear"; Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, NON-FICTION ARTICLE: 2nd place, "How to Tell if Your Doc-

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Affiliate News

Continued

tor is Drifting;" RHYMED POETRY: 1st Place, "Legacy;" UNRHYMED POETRY: 1st Place, "Wind;" ADULT SHORT STORY: 3rd Place, "Zihanna's New Tribe;" CHILDREN'S FICTION: 2nd Place, "Trudy's Trip to China."

MARY BRANAN: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, NON-FICTION ARTICLE: 1st Place, "The Champ with a Secret;" RHYMED POETRY: "Murrah is Gone."

: HM, "Sounds Delicious;" CHILDREN'S FICTION: 1st Place, "Musikazoo."

NEAL HUFFAKER: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, RHYMED POETRY: 2nd Place, "Longevity;" NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 2nd Place, "Peaks of Exaltation;" CHILDREN'S FICTION: HM, "Tattle-tale."

SALLY CHURCH: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, UNRHYMED POETRY: 2nd place, "A Life Unlived."

LISBETH MCCARTY: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, UNRHYMED POETRY: 3rd Place, "Confound the Moon;" ADULT SHORT STORY: 2nd Place, "The Green-Eyed Monster Had a Black Heart;" NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 1st Place, "At Night I Dreamed of Heaven;" BONNIE SPEER CREME DE LA CREME AWARD: for Nostalgic Essay, "At Night I Dreamed of Heaven;"

Norman Transcript 2013 Christmas Story Contest, 1st Place, "The Big Christmas Secret."

SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, ADULT SHORT STORY: 1st Place, "The Clockwork Heart."

MARY SPAULDING: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 3rd Place, "My Most Unforgettable Character."

BETTY ROBBINS: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, NOSTALGIC ESSAY: HM, "Why I Can't Read Larry McMurtry."

MARY PAYNE: Norman Galaxy Writing Contest, CHILDREN'S FICTION: 3rd Place, "Lyncoya's Mysterious History."

BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

Acceptances and Sales

C. L. COLLAR: BOOK: "The McCory Chronicles: Katie McCory and Destiny's Diamond," accepted for publication by LilyBear House (12/14).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: NOVELLA: "The Looking Glass," accepted for publication by LilyBear House (6/14).

Novels & New Books

C.L. COLLAR: ANTHOLOGY: *Finding Fey*, LilyBear House (2/14).

HEATHER DAVIS: ESSAY: *Blue Waffles*, Chicken Soup for the Soul: Multitasking Mom (3/14).

RITA DURRETT: RECIPE BOOK: *Meals and Memories with the Burnett Family*, Gilcrease Publishing (1/14).

C.D. JARMOLA: ANTHOLOGY: *Kill the Cat*, Tubbs Publishing (2/14).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: ANTHOLOGY: *Amore*, LilyBear House (2/14).

BARBARA SHOFF: NOVEL: *A Community of Butterflies: Chrysalis*, LilyBear House (3/14).

Professional Activities

Heather Davis is co-producing Listen to Your Mother – Oklahoma City for the second year. The Listen to Your Mother show will be May 4, 2014.

Jennifer McMurrain has been nominated for a Creative Women in Oklahoma award for her historical fiction novel, *Quail Crossings*.

Club News

The WordWeavers have changed their e-mail address to bville-wordweavers@gmail.com. The WordWeavers of Bartlesville meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Bartlesville Public Library.

MID-OKLAHOMA WRITERS

Acceptance and Sales

DAVID ROPER: Two Stories and a poem originally in *Highlights* magazine: Reprinted by educational publisher Rally! Edu-

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Affiliate News

Continued

cation - Poem: "Don't Eat the Giggleberries." Stories: "The Dishonest Merchant," and "The Year the Pilgrims Stepped on Governor Bradford." A volume in the Truth for Today Commentary Series recently published: "Romans, 1-7." Accepted for printing in April in, *Highlights* magazine: "The Three Little Worms to the Rescue!"

Contest Winnings

TERRY MIRLL: Writers' Digest Genre Fiction Contest (SCIENCE FICTION CATEGORY): First Place - "Astrafugia." Art Affair Annual Contest: Honorable Mention: SHORT STORY, "The S. Templeton Welby Simian Detective Agency." Mid-Oklahoma Writers 2013 Annual Writing Contest: 3rd Place - NON-FICTION, "Just So: How Continental Drift Invented the Cuddly Koala." Third Place - FLASH FICTION, "Between the Lines."
CHARLES VASSEL: Art Affair Annual Contest: Honorable Mention: WESTERN SHORT STORY, "The Lawyer, The Doctor, and The Lady." Honorable Mention: SHORT STORY, "Love Thy Neighbor."

CATHERINE "KATEY" JOHNSON: Mid-Oklahoma Writers 2013 Annual Writing Contest: 1st Place: POETRY, "Fire." Art Affair Annual Con-

test: Three Honorable Mentions: POETRY, "Fire," "Loaned Twenty-twos," and "Montana Memory."

JEANNE C. SHIRLEY: Mid-Oklahoma Writers 2013 Annual Writing Contest: 1st Place: NON-FICTION, "The Tale of the Heir's Hair." Art Affair Annual Contest: Honor

BETTY PERSONETTE: Mid-Oklahoma Writers 2013 Annual Writing Contest: 3rd Place: POETRY, "Faith."

MARGARETTE MALONE: Mid-Oklahoma Writers 2013 Annual Writing Contest: 1st Place: FLASH FICTION, "Once Upon a High Note," 2nd Place: FICTION: SHORT-STORY, "The Grinding Wheels."

BARBARA SHEHERD: Mid-Oklahoma Writers 2013 Annual Writing Contest: 2nd Place: NON-FICTION, "How To Tell If Your Doctor Is Drifting." Norman Galaxy of Writers annual contest: 3rd Place: SHORT STORY, "Zianna's New Tribe," 1st Place: RHYMED POETRY, "Legacy," 1st Place: UNRHYMED POETRY, "Wind," 2nd Place: CHILDREN'S FICTION, "Trudy's Trip to China," and 2nd Place: NONFICTION ARTICLE, "How to Tell if Your Doctor is Drifting."

Club News

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month. At the February 11th meeting the club will host Carolyn Leonard as the guest speaker. Members are excited that Mel Odom will bring his wealth of knowledge to our

March 11th meeting. In April Carl Sennhenn, former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma, and long time writing teacher will share information, truths, principles, and insights learned throughout a lifetime of writing.

New Books

CATHERINE "KATEY" JOHNSON: CHAP BOOK: *Road Rage, A Collection of Haiku*, edited and published by Barbara Shepherd.

ENID WRITERS' CLUB

Acceptance and Sales

LUCIE SMOKER: ARTICLE: "Denise Duong: Playing Hide and Seek and That Feeling of Running to Home Base", Art Focus Oklahoma, November 2013. Ongoing contributor to ION OKLAHOMA and ART FOCUS OKLAHOMA. POEM: "Veils, Halos, and Shackles" Charles Fishman, SUNY.

Novels & New Books

PEGGY CHAMBERS: NOVEL: *Secret of Sandhill Island*, Wild Rose Press. GRAPHIC NOVEL: *Apocalypse Sucks*, Airship 21.

Professional Activities

MARSHA KAY OLDHAM: interview on Pegasus, Enid's local television station, about her discussion on poetry for The Story.

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OWFI 2014

Friday					
8:30		Opening Session - Welcome: Christine Jarmola			
9:00	Confessions of a Conference Junkie: How to get the most out of Writer's Conference Dawn Allen	How to Compete with the Big Publishers: Jerry Simmons	Querying: The Good, The Bad, The Really, Really, Redundantly Bad Tara Hudson	David Morrell	
10:00	Characterization: Using Letters and Photos to Bring Characters to Life Jan Morrill	X	Agent/Editor Panel Sue Brower, Amanda Luedeke, Maria Vicente, Mary-Theresa Hussey, Rhonda Penders, Dawn Hardy	Poetry: Nathan Brown	
11:00	The Best Little Blog In The Blogosphere: letting your blog work for you and your writing career Heather Davis	Mel Odom	Decisions, Decisions, Decisions: Publishing Options: Darlene Shortridge	Darlene Baily Beard	
12:00	X	Networking Luncheon (Prior ticket purchase required)	X	X	
1:30	Writing as a Career Christine Taylor-Butler	Interviewing Your Characters Jan Morrill	Making Your Fantastical YA Setting Believable Tara Hudson	So You Aren't Famous: Write Your Memoir Anyway Dawn Michelle Hardy	Welcome to the 21 st Century: How to submit online Jennifer McMurray
2:30	Trust me, I'm an Editor Mari Farthing	David Morrell	Mary-Theresa Hussey	Playwriting: Dan Gordon	
3:30	Critique Groups: Safe Harbor or Slaughter House Brandi Barnett, Marilyn Boone, Natasha Hanova	Darlene Baily Beard	The One Thing I Wish Someone Had Told Me About the Writing Life Donis Casey	Mel Odom	
			Bookstore Activities		

OWFI 2014

Saturday					
9:00	Pulling Back the Curtain: Demystifying the Author Agent Relationship - Leatrice McKenney	How to Spot Market Opportunities: Jerry Simmons	Keeping History Alive Through Fiction: Jan Morrill	Choosing to Self Publish: Now What Darlene Shortridge	
10:00	Genres: What are they and are they important Susan Brower	Easy to Read Hard to Write: Breaking into the Children's Market Christine Taylor-Butler	From Dinner Theater to Hollywood: Transitioning a play to a movie script: Dan Gordon	Poetry: Nathan Brown	Welcome to the 21 st Century: How to submit online Jennifer McMurray
11:00	Crafting A Successful Query - Maria Vicente	How to Commit Murder Donis Casey	Being EVERYWHERE--getting your name out there for all the world, including the World Wide Web Heather Davis	David Morrell	
12:00	X	Luncheon with Eloisa James (Prior ticket purchase required)	X	X	X
1:30	Mel Odom	The Plot Thickens Donis Casey	Live Query Letter Critique Rhonda Penders	Amanda Luedeke FINDING YOUR AUDIENCE ONLINE	Welcome to the 21 st Century: How to submit online Jennifer McMurray
2:30	Eliminating Passive Voice: Christine Taylor-Butler	Darlene Baily Beard	Poetry - Nathan Brown	Doing it all--finding balance in your life to do everything you want to do Heather Davis	
3:30	All Things Marketing: Jerry Simmons	FACE TIME: What if anything, do tours and signings do for you? Tara Hudson	Writing for Christian Women: Darlene Shortridge	Mary-Theresa Hussey	
			General Board Meeting		

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

If your dues are not paid up, this will be your final copy of the Report.



See page 18 for details.

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Wayne Harris-Wyrick
12116 Moon Beam Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

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All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer.
Barbara McMinn, c/o OWFI,
9800 South Highway 137
Miami, OK, 74354
barbowfi@aol.com

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