

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

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THE REPORT



Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD

in Oklahoma, the United States and around the world



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**OWFI Conference
2009 Word By Word photos may
be seen and
downloaded
from:**

**[http://tinyurl.com/
ccrmbb](http://tinyurl.com/ccrmbb)**

[http://s268.photobucket.com/albums/jj28/
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Cover Photo ©Alistair Williamson 2007

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

Dan Case

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To the Moon, Alice.

On July 29th, 1958, President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act into law, creating NASA. As part of that act, NASA had eight very vague objectives. For instance, one of the stated goals was, "The establishment of long-range studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes ..." For the next three years, with no real direction for our space program, the United States fell further and further behind in the "space race" with the Soviet Union.

On May 25th, 1961, John F. Kennedy changed the course of our nation and the entire world with a speech before congress in which he gave NASA the very finite goal of, "before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth." We all know what happened in 1969... the moon.

Now that I've given you this history reminder, you may be wondering what this has to do with OWFI. Nothing, other than illustrating the importance of goal setting. Before I accepted the nomination to become President of OWFI, I thoroughly read the by-laws of our organization. (You can find

them on our web site.) Besides helping with the establishment of local writer's groups and producing a newsletter, OWFI accomplishes its mission each year by putting on our annual conference and writing contest.

I would hope that each of our affiliate organizations and each of us individually will be making specific goals for this year to take advantage of what OWFI provides. Here's what I would suggest.

Affiliate goal: We will set a goal that every member of our club will enter at least one category in the 2010 OWFI writing contest. We will also set the goal that every member of our club will attend the 2010 OWFI Writer's Conference. We will set a goal to raise \$105 to sponsor a category in the 2010 OWFI writing contest. (I snuck this one in on you... we DO need sponsors!)

How you accomplish these goals will be different for each affiliate. It may mean having book signings or bake sales to raise money for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to go, but what a reward! It may mean having a critique group every week in your home for those timid souls who may be just beginning to write and to enter contests. Imagine having every member of your club there at the awards banquet, cheering as one of your own wins an honorable mention or places in the

money. And the pride you will share together when you see your club listed as a sponsor of the 2010 writing contest!

Individual goal: I will set the goal that I will attend the 2010 OWFI Writer's Conference. I will set the goal that I will enter x number of categories in the 2010 OWFI Writing Contest.

You may need to set some sub-goals to accomplish these. For instance, you may set a goal of putting \$1 a day into a jar to save for the conference and contest fees. Or you might set a goal to write every week in a category outside your normal writing genre so that you can enter an extra category in the writing contest.

Participating in the OWFI Conference and writing contest will do as much or more to accomplish your writing goals than anything else. It's been proven time and again. Literally hundreds of writers have benefited in the past from these events.

Your journey to the moon starts today, by setting your goals now and giving yourself a deadline. I promise, as your OWFI president and representing all of the executive board members, to be there as you step from the Eagle and to present you with a great conference and writing contest in 2010.

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Read This Book!

WRITING FOR THE SOUL

by Jerry B. Jenkins

Published by **Writer's Digest Books, 2006**

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

"I had an invisible career in 1994. I was the most famous author no one had ever heard of," Jenkins said. He'd written over 90 books, mostly about famous people. He said he thought he was living the writer's dream, making a six-figure income. But that was the last time he wrote anything just to make money - before the amazing adventure of the last sixteen years. In 1995 he co-wrote the Left Behind series of Christian fiction books with Tim LeHaye, a respected theologian. The roller coaster ride of the Left Behind series was about to propel Jenkins into the stratosphere, selling a whopping 67,000,000 books to date.

The Left Behind series is the story of the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. It's told through the scholarship of LeHaye with Jenkins as the writer/storyteller. Because this Bible book is full of Jewish historical context, idioms, and imagery, there is disagreement about details, but there's no doubt about it's being a whale of a story.

Writing For The Soul is part memoir about Jenkins' career and part power-packed instruction for writers. He shows us his life behind the headlines.

As a boy of eight, he knew he would be a big league baseball player. But at thirteen, before reconstructive arthroscopic surgery, he injured his knee. Any future in baseball was gone. He tried to fill the gap by becoming a sports writer, covering his high school games for the local newspaper. "Before I was old

enough to drive, my parents drove me to the games, then to the newspaper office." Since then he's written in a variety of genre - nonfiction, children's fiction and nonfiction, biographies, etc., but his favorite is adult fiction.

In the first part of the book, Jenkins describes how his strong faith instructs his views, goals, and expectation of himself. But after he starts the writing lesson, about Chapter 5, the book is about technique and is full of advice from someone at the top of the writer's heap.

He tells how he prepares for a project, describing what to write, his writing space, then the value of reading and research. By Chapter 9, "Pace, Conflict, and Plot", he gets down to serious technique, wisdom that comes after years of perfecting his craft. We see a person with discipline and commitment to excellence and to his readers. It's a demonstration of what it takes to be ready should the opportunity come along to write books that will make us

famous and rich.

Things he wished he'd learned early in his career:

- 1) Short paragraphs - people like white space.
- 2) Simple writing makes a book more accessible - simple rather than compound words, tight dialog.
- 3) Perspective is the most important decision. The reader identifies with one of the characters so it will determine your audience.

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4) Chop, chop, chop until all the flab is gone - cutting words nearly always improves the final product.

5) Beginners' most common mistake is too many words; they often start scenes too early and end them too late.

6) Reread dialog aloud and listen for problems with cadence.

7) Clearly distinguish each character, clear voices, different mannerisms. Villains must be bad for good reasons.

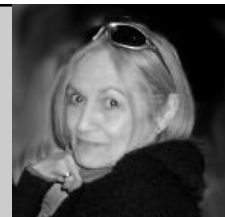
8) Knowing when to accelerate or let up on the action sets the pro apart from the amateur.

9) Get out of the way of the reader. They love to discover the story.

10) Break rules only on purpose.

There's a fascinating list at least that long about him as a person, unassuming and transparent. He tells how fun and how hard is to be very successful, like the shock of finding hundreds of people in airports around the world reading his books. After 35 years, he always tries to be better today than yesterday. He reads everything he can find on writing and includes a two-page list of books he likes best. His favorite is Dean Koontz's How To Write Best-Selling Fiction (1981) but it's out of print and copies sell for more than \$70 so lots of luck finding it.

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

ARE YOU "TWITTER" PATED?

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

Good Morning American, the *Today Show*, *CBS This Morning*, etc., have highlighted social media networks, particularly Twitter (www.twitter.com), recently. Many people have decided to completely avoid such sites because of that.

Before you decide to discount Twitter and not use it because of the increased publicity, think about what you might be missing out on.

Using a third-party client or web site, such as Tweetchat, TweetGrid, or TweetDeck, members of Twitter can participate in chats. These sites and applications post the chatted Tweets to the Twitter "stream" with a symbol known as a hashtag (#) that makes it easier to search for that particular term.

Some of the chats on Twitter are geared specifically for writers. Two of them are Journchat and Editorchat. There are more, but these are the most beneficial and best organized.

Journchat:

Started by Sarah Evans, a public relations professional, in November 2008, Journchat is a weekly discussion between writers/journalist and public relations professionals about how they can work better together. While many writers don't want or think they need to

know much about public relations, the fact is we have to sell our books, articles, etc. We have to know how to develop a relationship with the media. Journchat

will give you tips on how to do that. The chat meets every Monday at 7:00 CDT. For more information, check the "about" tab at www.journchat.info.

Editorchat:

Freelance writers Tim Beyers (of *The Motley Fool*) and Lydia Dishman used Journchat as an inspiration for starting Editorchat, which meets every Wednesday at 7:30 CDT. The focus is on "editors and those who work with them." Some noted editors who have participated in Editorchat include John Byrne of *BusinessWeek*, Jane Friedman of *F&W Publications/Writers' Digest Books*, and Julia Ang-

win of *The Wall Street Journal*. Complete transcripts of the chats are posted at www.editorchat.wordpress.com.

In order to make Twitter more functional during chats, there are other clients and sites known as applications. The three main ones to use during a chat are Tweetchat (www.tweetchat.com), TweetGrid (www.tweetgrid.com), and Twitterfall (www.twitterfall.com). All of them require your Twitter ID and password in order for you to participate in the chat. They all work similarly.

The chat tweets scroll down your screen in newest-at-the-top format. You

type your addition into the chat box and click "tweet" or "post." After a short delay, your comment is added to the queue with the hashtag.

The hashtag is the pound sign (#) that makes the tweets searchable. It's used for more than just chats. Anything someone posts that they want to be easily found can use this. The tag for the above-mentioned chats are #editorchat and #journchat.

For the most part, social networking sites get a bad reputation from antics people post on MySpace.com. However, if we take the time to learn a new system and what it already has in place to offer writers, we can benefit from them, particularly if they have helpful chats and other services available.

Why do so many people seem to like Twitter?

Simplicity has played an important role in Twitter's success. People are eager to connect with other people and Twitter makes that simple. Twitter asks one question, "What are you doing?" Answers must be under 140 characters in length and can be sent via mobile texting, instant message, or the web.

-From the Twitter web page
<http://twitter.com/about>

Jen Nipps is a member of the Tulsa Nightwriters, McAlester McSherry Writers, and Web Writing Women. She is on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jennipps. If you are a new Twitter user and have questions, you can e-mail her at jen@jenifernipps.com with "OWFI Twitter Help" in the subject line. Her website is www.jenifernipps.com.



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The Doctor is: **In** **Out**

Go Green for Greenbacks!

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

At each OWFI conference, folks ask me how they can become writers who make real money on a consistent basis. “Easy,” I smile. “Go green if you want to earn greenbacks for your prose.” Recycle, re-query, re-sell.

There are two easy ways to turn your writing into cash by recycling. The first is by selling an article, newsletter blurb, or short story for second or reprint rights after it's already sold for first rights and after you've waited the allotted time for the first rights expire. The second way to profit from recycling your writing is to sell a different version of the story to a non-competing market.

The main thing to keep focus on is how all stories harbor multiple angles. The more angles you mine for recycling, the more money you'll line in your pocket. Of course before you receive a mailbox full of checks, you must first send out a quality set of query letters. For example, after I sold the biography, *John Grisham*, to Lucent Books, I studied my research, combined Grisham's interest in baseball and his loyal Baptist background into a query letter emphasizing his love of America's favorite and his love of the Lord. Within a couple of weeks those queries landed a sale to The Fellowship of Christian Athletes magazine, *VICTORY!*

From the journaling classes I teach,

I incorporated different writing methods that help people overcome stress into the book, *What Really Matters to Me: A Guided Journal*. With that information

as the core, it was easy to adapt those methods into query letters to focus on specific, non-competing markets. For example: “Five Writing Tips to De-Stress Congregations,” hooked a bite from one of the top Christian magazines; “Five Writing Tips to Eliminate Stress in the Classroom” was requested by an educational trade magazine; “Five Writing Tips to Bring Families Closer Together” is currently making the rounds of parenting magazines. Even fiction writers can take the research they've invested in novels and short stories and work the

“recycle, re-query, re-sell” formula. While hanging out at the local mechanic's shop to research the main character for my novel, *Living the Rapture*, I learned a lot about car care. Pretty soon I was querying local papers, promising shade tree mechanic wisdom at prices they could afford.

All these little sales provide two main positive: they add to your track record as a writer; and with the extra money, you can save for those conferences where your agents and editors will be speaking.

The easy thing about submitting to multiple markets is that these query letters need only slight changes for each market. One minor twist will dawn a new horizon of potential sales.

All it takes is a pinch of imagination, a quick query alteration, and a heaping amount of good old-fashioned ambition. If you have those basics then you'll soon be able to recycle, query, and re-sell like the pros. And yes, this article is a prime example. Tweaked here and there, and reworked for a new market. You can do it, too!

As always, your friendly book doctor is “in” 24-7, at bookdoctor@earthlink.net

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The main thing to keep focus on is how all stories harbor multiple angles. The more angles you mine for recycling, the more money you'll line in your pocket.



Robyn Conley, the book doctor, speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write. Her latest book is *PRAY THE BIBLE with Paper and Pen*, a guidebook to help build intimate conversations with the Lord, for those who might be a bit shy about praying out loud. Her other books include *BEYOND THE BRANCHES, Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree*, as well as *BE YOUR OWN BOOK DOCTOR*, which gives a checklist of editing tips for writers, and *What Really Matters to Me*, a journal that helps people discover their goals, and then offers practical tips to make those dreams come true. Her other published titles include a diversity of topics, such as the biographies: *John Grisham*, *Cartoonists*, *Alexander G. Bell*, as well as these juvenile reference books: *Meerkats*; *Depression*; *Motion Pictures*; and *The Automobile*. She has sold to major magazines, such as *The Writer*, *Writer's Digest*, *ABA: Student Lawyer*, and many others.

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Why We Write:

One Winner's Story

Nita Beshear, Features Editor

Stillwater writer, Judith Sexton is a winning writer. Over the years she has won several times in the OWFI contest, in various categories. In addition she has "won" in editorial offices having her work published in several Confession Magazines and anthologies.

How did she go from being a 'regular' person to a winning writer?

For Judith the transformation began on the lap of her favorite aunt. "One of

my very earliest memories is of an aunt reading to me before I was three years old," she says. Perhaps it was this love of the written work that spurred Judith to write. Like many writers she admits to a love of reading, "I read anything, and everything," she admits.

Judith's first writing began when, at age nine, she wrote a serial style story for her cousin and friends. The thrill she felt when they clamored for more of the story acted as more encouragement for her. That story was written in pencil on lined yellow paper.

Later, she took a creative writing class while a student at South Eastern College in Durant. Her professor, Dr. Dennis Letts, not only taught her some techniques to improve her writing, he acted as a mentor to Judith as a young aspiring writer. Today, Judith is a member of Stillwater Writers, OWFI and Pen Women of America. Each organization serves to support and encourage Judith in her writing pursuit.

The writing groups, classes, and editors who purchased her work all encourage Judith to continue writing. How-

ever, it's her love of reading that serves as her motivation to sit down at the keyboard, or with pen and paper, to create the story she wants to read. She writes to entertain herself first, her readers second.

She must be entertaining herself, because she keeps writing. The checks and awards attest to her ability to entertain others. She satisfies her readers by tweaking and reworking her entertaining prose.

In addition to her sells, Judith has won first place in the Adult Short Story Category and Confession Category in the OWFI contest. In 2006 she was the crème de la crème recipient for her Mystery/Suspense

novel, COLD BONES.

While COLD BONES hasn't found a publisher, yet, it's author continues to write and improve her writing skills. First she writes for her, to have something to read. It's not a bad reason to write. Why do you write?

"One of my very earliest memories is of an aunt reading to me before I was three years old." Perhaps it was this love of the written work that spurred Judith to write.

Nita Beshear is a member of McAlister-McShery Writers and Tulsa Nightwriters.

She has two blogs which can be found at"

www.roadtoscholarship.wordpress.com and www.nita-onewomans-view.blogspot.com.



STAN 'N' ISAAC by Jeff Swenson

updated weekly

stan-isaac.com

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Will Rogers

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Meet the New Boss(es) OWFI Officers 2009-10



Dan Case, President.

Dan Case is the owner of AWOC.COM Publishing and is the editor of their flagship publication, *Writing for*

DOLLARS! He is the co-author of *The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling Magazine Articles* and author of hundreds of articles and essays and writes regularly for the "How to Promote Your Book blog" at promote.blogspot.com. His cartoons have appeared in books, magazines, newsletters and in syndication both online and in newspapers. Dan lives on a "hobby" farm in Era, Texas (population 124) where he has his office in an old barn.

Inez Phillips, 1st V. P.

Inez Phillips is serving as the First Vice President for the 2nd time. She has won awards for fiction, non-fiction, screen writing, juvenile, and poetry. She has been published in educational and trade periodicals. She was made an Honorary Life Member in 2002.

A native Oklahoman from Vinita, she attended the University of Denver, NEO A&M, Central State College, Oklahoma State University, and Oklahoma University. Inez started out her teaching life in speech, drama, and English. She finished as a Reading Specialist. She retired after 38 years in the field. Now she spends her time writing, reading, cat sitting, and thrashing around in water aerobics.



Nita Beshear, 2nd V. P.

Nita Beshear is a member of McAlister-McSherry Writers and Tulsa Nightwriters. She is a Features Editor of the OWFI newsletter **Report** where she writes the "Why We Write" column, a look into the mindset of OWFI members.

She has two blogs which can be found at www.roadtoschoolship.wordpress.com and www.nita-onewomansview.blogspot.com.



Kathy Moad, Secretary



Kathy has OWFI served in many ways: President, Newsletter Editor, Secretary, and most of the volunteer and committees of the organization.

Deborah Bouziden, Conference Chairperson

Deborah Bouziden has been writing and publishing articles and books since 1985. She has had hundreds of articles published, ten books, and has contributed to seven others. She has served OWFI in numerous ways over the years by judging contest, speaking at the conference, serving as Vice President, President, and other positions. You can learn more about Bouziden by visiting her website at www.deborahbouziden.com.



Jen Nipps, Publicity Chair

Jen Nipps is a member of the Tulsa Nightwriters, McAlester McSherry Writ-

ers, and Web Writing Women. Jen writes the "Once Around the Web" column for the OWFI newsletter **Report**.

She is on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jennipps. If you are a new Twitter user and have questions, you can e-mail her at jen@jenifernipps.com with "OWFI Twitter Help" in the subject line. Her website is www.jenifernipps.com.



Barbara Shepherd, Treasurer

Barbara Shepherd is a public servant, business owner, volunteer, and award-winning artist and writer. She has won more than 190 writing awards, including



a Readers' Choice Award and American Christian Writers Writer of the Year (twice). She is an Oklahoma Poet Laureate Nominee and a Woody Guthrie Poet. She wrote

Patchwork Skin and contributed to *State Cops Cooking in the Heartland*, *A Centennial Collection of Oklahoma Stories*, *Voices in Time*, *Candle Flames* and other books and magazines.

Wayne Harris-Wyrick, Newsletter Editor

Wayne writes a monthly astronomy column for the Oklahoman, now going on 25 years. In his day job, he describes the wonders of the night sky in the Kirkpatrick Planetarium. He is also the proud father of a brilliant 2-year-old Azuranna Joy and stepfather of an even more brilliant 11.5 year-old son.



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Goodbye to the Old Boss

Nothing \$ucceeds Like Money

Marcia Preston

I had a great time at the May OWFI conference, and I felt good about the opportunities we'd offered to the attendees. I even managed to let a few complaints roll off, particularly if they came from people who only attended and didn't work hours behind the scenes like so many volunteers.

Despite a sense satisfaction (and relief) when the conference was over, I left the hotel feeling down. But it wasn't about the conference; it's because I recognize avoidance behavior when I smell it. I had thrown myself into working for OWFI *partly* because I was stalled out on my novel-in-progress. Maybe it was dissatisfaction with my publisher; maybe I was burned out from doing six novels in eight years. I had a sickening sense that my writing career was grinding to a halt. Sure, I knew how to organize a conference, but could I ever write another book?

The Best Fiction Book award for *Trudy's Promise* sure helped, thank you very much. But I was still doubting my future a couple of days later when I got an e-mail from my agent. She'd just received a *nice fat royalty check* on my behalf!

Nothing says "yes you can" like money, does it?

Immediately, I felt better. My career wasn't over, after all. Somebody out there was actually buying my work. I know—I'm crass and commercial and my values are in the wrong place. *Wahoo* anyway! I've never bought the idea that a writer must starve for his art. I'm not Joyce Carol Oates writing ponderous

times for an elite readership. I wanna sell books people like to read!

There are quite a number of things I actually care about more than money, but on that day, money was exactly the kick-start I needed. I nearly tripped racing back to the computer to start writing again. I renewed my vow to work regular hours; reminded myself that when the work is going well, I'm well all over. If it isn't going well, it's my own darned fault for not sticking with it through the rough spots. If I could just get the first, crappy version down on paper, I could make a book out of it. I'd done it before; the proof was in the dollar signs.

If you attended the conference, I hope you took away as much motivation from it as I did from that royalty check. OWFI is always a fun time to reconnect with writers you haven't seen in months and to meet the professionals who share their expertise as our speakers. Next year I'll even get to attend the sessions!

Meanwhile, thanks for letting me be your president. And here's a little news about money that should be important to *you*, as well as to me. At this writing we have settled the hotel bill, and though the final treasurer's report isn't quite finished, I can safely say that this year's conference finished up in the black. OWFI doesn't try to make money; we're a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our goal is simply not to go in the hole on a year-by-year basis. We've accomplished that again, and that means our new set of officers won't have to worry about red

ink when they start planning for OWFI 2010. Wish them luck, give them support, and volunteer to do whatever job you can handle.

But don't forget to write.

Marcia has twice been president of OWFI: 1992-93, our Silver Anniversary Year and 2008-09. Sandwiched between and around those



stints is a varied career: teaching public high schools for more than a decade; PR and publications director for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City; editor and publisher of *ByLine*, a trade magazine for aspiring writers. Marcia lives with her childhood sweetheart and first husband (it's the same guy) beside a creek in central Oklahoma, where she gardens and dodges tornadoes.

I left the hotel feeling down. But it wasn't about the conference; it's because I recognize avoidance behavior when I smell it. I had thrown myself into working for OWFI *partly* because I was stalled out on my novel-in-progress.

The number one complaint – every year – is that the contest judge didn't offer enough critique, or any critique. This is probably not something we can solve. We tell the judges that entrants would be extremely appreciative of constructive comments, but we can't guarantee they'll supply them. Do you want to thoroughly critique twenty-five to a hundred manuscripts, *pro bono*? It's not as if we pay the judges for their work.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2009 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS.

CATEGORY 1 – MAINSTREAM Judge:
Joan Upton Hall
Category Chair: Vickey Kennedy 28
Entries

1st Place JINGO STREET, Sharon Ervin,
McAlester, McSherry Writers
2nd Place SEEKING GRACE IN BEULAH
LAND, Lutricia Clifton, MAL
3rd Place I'LL FLY AWAY, Kristl Franklin,
The Write Ingredients

Honorable Mention

1st ADAM'S ALE, Martha Lea Bryant, The
Inklings
2nd WITHOUT WORDS, Vicki Melin
Schoen, Ol' Tascosa Word Slingers
3rd WHISPERS FROM A CHRISTMAS
SLEIGH, Eric Reitan, MAL
4th SALVATION, Dianne McCartney, MAL

**CATEGORY 2 - CONTEMPORARY RO-
MANCE**

Judge: Michele Bardsley
Category Chair: Janet Short
20 Entries

1st Place PUPPETEER, Sharon Ervin,
McAlester McSherry Writers
2nd Place RESOLUTIONS, Jennifer
DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers
3rd Place DEAR PRUDENCE, Ann James,
The Write Ingredients

Honorable Mention

1st WITCH'S TOUCH, Connie Blaylock as
Tabitha Shay, Green Country Ruff Writ-
ers
2nd UNDERTOW, Jonna Smith, The Write
Ingredients

CATEGORY 3 – HISTORICAL Judge:
Sharon Ervin

Category Chair: Jean Stover
23 Entries

1st Place THE WAR FOR FLORIDA, Ruth
Rakestraw, Arkansas Ridge Writers
2nd Place THE REVENANT, Sonia Gensler,
The Inklings
3rd Place CHILDREN OF THE BRIGHT
MOON, Cassandra A. Gibson, The Write

Ingredients

Honorable Mention

1st BENEN'S BURDEN, Jen Nipps, Web
Writing Wonders
2nd WHIRLWIND OF MY HEART, Mary Jo
Springer, MAL

CATEGORY 4 - MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Judge: Connie Blaylock
Category Chair: Judy Walker
31 Entries

1st Place A JOURNEY TO DANGER, Rad-
ine Trees Nehring, Arkansas Ridge Writers
2nd Place THE CROSSING: COMING
HOME, Sharon Owen, MAL
3rd Place DEATH'S SECRET, Jeanie Horn,
Arkansas Ridge Writers

Honorable Mention

1st MEMORY, Sharon Ervin, McAlester
McSherry Writers
2nd HEEL, TOE, DEATH-SI-DO, Tracy L.
Sutton, Kansas City Writers
3rd THE TIES THAT BIND, Ann James,
The Write Ingredients

CATEGORY 5 - WESTERN NOVEL,

Judge: Dr. Bobby Weaver
Category Chair: Mary Ellen cooper 9
Entries

1st Place FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, Dale
Whisman, MAL
2nd Place ALLIE MCCRAE AND THE
WEST POINT HALF-BLOOD, Olyve Hall-
mark Abbot, Freelance Writers Network
3rd Place AUBREY ROBERTS' FIGHT,
Ruth Rakestraw, Arkansas Ridge Writers

**CATEGORY 6 - SCI-FI/FANTASY/
HORROR NOVEL**

Judge: Steve Wedel
Category Chair: Ann Champeau
21 Entries

1st Place TREASURE TRAITOR, Laura
Papp, Tulsa Nightwriters
2nd Place THE ORDER OF THE MALA-
CHI, John Grassi, MAL

3rd Place THE SYSTEM, James A. Wood,
Freelance Writers Network

Honorable Mention

1st THE SORCERER'S BLADE, Michelle
Pierce, Web Writing Wonders
2nd CATHETICS, Lee Landers, MAL

**CATEGORY 7 - NONFICTION
BOOK**

Judge: Deborah Bouziden
Category Chair: Sue McMurphy 23
Entries

1st Place I'M PROUD OF MY HERITAGE,
George Hubbard, Lone Star Nightwriters
2nd Place DEFENDING THE DREAM:
THE WRIGHT BROTHERS AND THE
FIRST DECADE OF FLIGHT, Doug Kelley,
Arkansas Ridge Writers
3rd Place THE TITANS AND OLYMPI-
ANS: UNDERSTANDING GRECO-
ROMAN MYTHOLOGY AND ITS INFLU-
ENCE ON OUR WORLD TODAY, Diana
Purser, Bartlesville Wordweavers

Honorable Mention

1st WHO'S YOUR GREAT GRAND-
DADDY? Carolyn Leonard, Oklahoma
City Writers, Inc.
2nd MURDER ON THE RUN, Jean Stover,
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 8 - PICTURE BOOK Judge:
Ivon Cecil

Category Chair: Nancy Vineyard 42
Entries

1st Place DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA:
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, Lila Guzman,
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
2nd Place HALOS, WINGS, AND OTHER
ANGEL THINGS, Kristl Franklin, The Write
Ingredients
3rd Place A LOUISIANA VALENTINE,
William T. Cherry III, The Write Ingredients

Honorable Mention

1st WHEN THE TREES FELL DOWN,
Janet Short, Green Country Ruff Writers

CATEGORY 9 - MIDDLE READER

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2009 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

Judge: Vivian Zabel

**Category Chair: Jacqueline King 24
Entries**

- 1st Place** BETRAYED, Gayleen Rabakkuk, MAL
2nd Place HANGING MISS LIBBY, Natalie Bright, Ol' Tascosa Wordslingers
3rd Place NATURE DETECTIVES IN THE CASE OF OXYMORON, Cynthia J. Wright, MAL

Honorable Mention

- 1st** SPINACH WARS, Lila Guzman, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
2nd UNDER A COMANCHE MOON, Pat Capps Mehaffey, MAL

**CATEGORY 10 - YOUNG ADULT
BOOK**

**Judge: Bette Ward Widney
Category Chair: Russell Long
21 Entries**

- 1st Place** DISPLACED PREDATORS: TIGERS IN THE UNITED STATES, Gayleen Rabakkuk, MAL
2nd Place BEHIND THESE EYES, Sara McAlister, MAL
3rd Place KNOWING STEVIE, Becky Eagleton, MAL

Honorable Mention

- 1st** THE GENERIC KID, Shelly Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
2nd RIPLEY, Cynthia J. Wright, MAL

**CATEGORY 11- POETRY UNRHYMED
SHORT,**

**Judge: Maria Veres
Category Chair: Martha Lea Bryant 92
Entries**

- 1st Place** FEATHER BED, Kristyn Reid, Oklahoma Write Now
2nd Place HERREGAARD, Eric Reitan, MAL
3rd Place ANCHORS WITH TONGUES, Michael W. Hinkle, Pen and Keyboard

Honorable Mention

- 1st** INDIAN BALLGAME, Robert Ferrier,

Norman Galaxy of Writers

- 2nd** WAIT, Lisbeth Mizula-Piper, The Write Ingredients
3rd PEELING CHESTNUTS, Alan R. Proctor, MAL
4th IN A LEATHERED WEB, Ron Wallace, Red River Writers
5th THE BEAST, Katleen Thomas, The Write Ingredients
6th PROLEPSIS, Dion Mayes-Burnett, Norman Galaxy of Writers
7th ON THE RELATIVITY OF MOTION AND THE SUPERIORITY OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, Gordon Greene, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
8th MAKING LONG-MARRIED LOVE, Maril Crabtree, Kansas City Writers
9th A REAL MIRACLE, BABY, Brandi Barnett, The Inklings

**CATEGORY 12 - POETRY UNRHYMED
LONG**

**Judge: Jennifer DiCamillo
Category Chair: Olyve Hallmark Abbott**

84 Entries

- 1st Place** A SIMPLE GAME OF GOLF, Arlene R. Graber, Kansas City Writers
2nd Place REQUIEM FOR JIM CROW, Nellie Perry, MAL
3rd Place JUXTAPOSITION, Debra J. Powell, McAlester McSherry Writers

Honorable Mention

- 1st** SHE'S GONE, Robert Chrisman, Kansas City Writers
2nd HEALING TOUCHES, Janet Short, Green Country Ruff Ritters
3rd JUST IMAGINE, Clark Elliott, MAL
4th FOR THE BIRDS, Karen Brewer, Arkansas Ridge Writers
5th GENTLE TRESPASS, Lowell Long, Writers of the Purple Sage
6th REFRACTION, Maria Rachel Hooley, Freelance Writers Network
7th DECEIVED BY ROSES, Alan R. Proctor, MAL
8th THIEF OF MEMORIES, Dion Mayes-Burnett, Norman Galaxy of Writers
9th THE PARAMEDICS, Barbara J. Power, MAL

10th REFLECTIONS OF HOME, Marianne McNeil Logan, Ol' Tascosa Word Slingers

**CATEGORY 13 - POETRY RHYMED
SHORT**

**Judge: Kristyn Reid
Category Chair: Jean Reed
59 Entries**

- 1st Place** CHIAROSCURO, Susan Peters, Kansas City Writers
2nd Place TAKING LIBERTIES, Sharon Martin, MAL
3rd Place EINSTEIN'S UNREST, Robert Ferrier, Norman Galaxy of Writers
Honorable Mention
1st WINTER WOES, Dee Ann Ritter, Just Write
2nd PERSPECTIVE, Sally Jadow, Kansas City Writers
3rd MORE ABOUT TREES (A "MAXINE" VIEW), Anna Farris, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

**CATEGORY 14 - POETRY RHYMED
LONG**

**Judge: Sally Jadow
Category Chair: Dianne McCartney 63
Entries**

- 1st Place** THE COMBAT VETERAN, Linda Gayle O'Hearn, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
2nd Place AN ODE TO DANIEL, Elizabeth Del Monico Bussey, MAL
3rd Place MENTAL ANGUISH, Labeth Nall, Ardmore Creative Writers

Honorable Mention

- 1st** THE HOTEL FROM...WELL, Lauren Gibson Gilroy, Tulsa Nightwriters
2nd THE HUNTER, Trina Lee, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
3rd ASSEMBLY LINE, Nita Buckley, MAL
4th WHY THE BRIDE WORE GRAY, Judy Goodspeed, PAWS
5th OH, WHAT A MESS I BE, Gil R. Alexander, Red River Writers

**CATEGORY 15 - SHORT SHORT
STORY**

**Judge: Robert Ferrier
Category Chair: Gayleen Rabakkuk 99
Entries**

- 1st Place** GOING PAST THE MAGIC, Karen Coody Cooper, MAL
2nd Place THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY, Becky Eagleton, MAL

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2009 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

3rd Place SWEET FEAR, Jackie Kramer,
Web Writing Women

Honorable Mention

- 1st** LATE NIGHT RENDEVOUS, Sharon
Koons, Grand Lake Wordsmiths
2nd GRANDMA'S CHRISTMAS, Mary
Aperauch, Write, Inc.
3rd ROAD TO DREAMLAND, Lisa Daly,
Kansas City Writers
4th THE SURVIVOR 1837, M. Carolyn
Steele, Tulsa Nightwriters
5th THE FIRE THIS TIME, Kathleen Tho-
mas, The Write Ingredients
6th JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OF-
FICE, Wiley Russell, MAL

CATEGORY 16 - SHORT STORY ADULT

Judge: Red Maier

Category Chair: Jody Karr

82 Entries

- 1st Place** TURNING OFF THE CHARM,
Eileen Ryan, Tulsa Nightwriters
2nd Place LOVE AND MARRIAGE, Gloria
Shirley, Tulsa Nightwriters
3rd Place LIFE EVERLASTING, Ann Hol-
brook, Arkansas Ridge Writers

Honorable Mention

- 1st** MOTHER'S DAY, Marjorie Bixler, Free-
lance Writers Network
2nd DANCE OF THE ANIWODI, Maggie
Ramm, Just Write
3rd DRIVING TO DES MOINES, Theresa
Hupp, Kansas City Writers
4th BORDERS, Vickey Malone Kennedy,
Norman Galaxy of Writers
5th SURVIVORS, Kelly Bristow, The Ink-
lings

CATEGORY 17 - JUVENILE SHORT STORY

Judge: Darleen Bailey Beard

Category Chair: Lisa Willis

40 Entries

- 1st Place** CAMP COCONUT, Maria Veres,
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
2nd Place THE CONTEST, Barbara Jones,

PAWS

3rd Place OUCH! Ralph Linscott, Freelance
Writers Network

Honorable Mention

- 1st** THE MIDNIGHT MONSTER, Julia
Mozingo, MAL
2nd KATE SKATES, Rhonda Leverette, The
Write Ingredients
3rd THE VALENTINE BOX, David C.
Roper, Mid-Oklahoma Writers
4th LAST INDIAN IN BROKEN BOW,
Kristl Franklin, The Write Ingredients

CATEGORY 18 - YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY

Judge: Anna Myers

Category Chair: Alberta Daw

24 Entries

- 1st Place** DARWIN HIGH, Brandi Barnett,
The Inklings
2nd Place THE BEST THANKSGIVING
EVER, Maria Veres, Oklahoma City Writers,
Inc.
3rd Place THE QUALITY OF SKY, Sonia
Gensler, The Inklings

Honorable Mention

- 1st** HOW CAN YOU SAY GOODBYE
WHEN YOU'VE NEVER SAID HELLO,
Maria Hooley, MAL

CATEGORY 19 - SCI-FI/FANTASY/ HORROR SHORT STORY

Judge: Carol Shenold

Category Chair: Sally Jadlow

28 Entries

- 1st Place** BLOOD ON TAP, Debra Gillette,
Freelance Writers Network
2ND Place INHERITANCE, Vickey Malone
Kennedy, Norman Galaxy of Writers
3RD Place DARGON, THE HUMAN
SLAYER, Laura Popp, Tulsa Nightwriters

Honorable Mention

- 1st** UNIVERSAL DONOR, Jackie Kramer,
Web Writing Wonders
2nd GOD'S PENNY, Kristl Franklin, The
Write Ingredients

CATEGORY 20 - PROSE HUMOR,

Judge: Mary Lane Kamberg

Category Chair: Frances Searcey

54 Entries

- 1st Place** THE DEVIL'S DUPLICITY, John
E. Keith, MAL
2nd Place MINUTES OF THE STATELY

OAKS HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION,
JULY MEETING, Murray Edwards, MAL
3rd Place ON THE CURB AND UN-
PLUGGED, Kelly Bristow, The Inklings

Honorable Mention

- 1st** LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD MEETS
DRACULA, Majorie Bixler, Freelance
Writers Network
2nd DOUBLE IN ENMITY: A CONFES-
SION, Kimberly Gluntz, SW Oklahoma
Writers League
3rd PRAYER FOR THE DEAD, Michael S.
Baumagin, MD, Freelance Writers Net-
work
4th GLORY, LOST AND FOUND, Jan
Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers
5th CARJACKED, David N. Walker, Free-
lance Writers Network

CATEGORY 21 - ESSAY

Judge: Gordon Greene

Category Chair: Connie Blaylock

57 Entries

- 1st Place** ATHIESM ON THE BUS, Eric
Reitan, MAL
2nd Place LIVING IN THE TIME OF MIRA-
CLES, Janet Short, Green Country Ruff
Writers
3rd Place BUILDING PURPOSE, Kelli
Reed, MAL

Honorable Mention

- 1st** WEST NILE MEMOIRS, Alan R. Proc-
tor, MAL
2nd THE MYTH OF THE PERFECT
MOTHER, Dianne McCartney, MAL
3rd SHERDS AND FLAKES, Mark S. Dar-
rah, Tulsa Nightwriters
4th MANUFACTURED MALADIES, Leora
Bridgewater, Writers of the Purple Sage

CATEGORY 22 - PLAY/FILM/TV SCRIPT

Judge: Lou Mansfield

Category Chair: Lori Shenold

15 Entries

- 1st Place** SKUNKS, TRUNKS, AND
PEDRO, Maria Hooley, MAL
2nd Place TERMINATOR; THE SARAH
CONNOR CHRONICLES, "TWO CITIES",
Paula Esposito, Tulsa Nightwriters
3rd Place DREAMIN' COUNTRY, Kristl
Franklin, The Write Ingredients

CATEGORY 23 - TECHNICAL/HOW-

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2009 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

TO ARTICLE

Judge: Nancy Beverage (Annie Withers)

Category Chair: Mary Ann West

35 Entries

1st Place 10 WAYS TO GET A DIVORCE WITHOUT HAVING AN AFFAIR OR BEATING YOUR SPOUSE, Shel Harrington, The Inklings

2nd Place SET THE TABLE FOR SUCCESS, Gloria Shirley, Tulsa Nightwriters

3rd Place THE MEAT OF THE MATTER, Leslie Daugherty, Freelance Writers

Honorable Mention

1st BACKPACK CHECK, Dan Case, Lone Star Nightwriters

2nd DEVOURING CRITIQUES: SEVEN WAYS TO NOURISH YOUR WRITING, Dawn Downey, Kansas City Writers

3rd THE HOW TO OF FASTING AND PRAYER, Sally Jadow, Kansas City Writers

CATEGORY 24 - FEATURE ARTICLE

Judge: Amy Shojai

Category Chair: Inez Phillips

30 Entries

1st Place THE VOICES OF CANYON de CHELLY, Kathleen Norris Park, Norman Galaxy of Writers

2nd Place MY SCRAPBOOK, Martha Lea Bryant, The Inklings

3rd Place AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDERS, Joan Rhine, Tulsa Nightwriters

Honorable Mention

1st PRIVATE THOUGHT AND PUBLIC TECHNOLOGY, James A. Wood, Freelance Writers Network

2nd POEMS FOR PROFIT, Barbara Shepherd, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd DIGGING UP PRINCE CHARMING, Linda Austin, Freelance Writers of Fort Worth

CATEGORY 25 - WESTERN ARTICLE

Judge: Dusty Richards

Category Chair: Betty Hatcher

15 Entries

1st Place FARRINGTON CARPENTER'S ROLE..., George U. Hubbard, Lone Star Nightwriters

2nd Place THE CHOCTAW NATION: JUSTICE – INJUSTICE, Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Freelance Writers Network

3rd Place CATTLE DRIVES NORTH, Jeanie Horn, Arkansas Ridge Writers

Honorable Mention

1st GREAT WESTERN TRAIL DRIVE OFFERS TASTE..., Gayleen Rabakuk, MAL

2nd FROM OPEN RANGE TO CENTENNIAL RANCH, Vivian Gilbert Zabel, Pen and Keyboard

CATEGORY 26 - INSPIRATIONAL PROSE

Judge: Mary Ellen Cooper

Category Chair: Katey Johnson

55 Entries

1st Place YUPIK WISDOM, Sara Hoklotubbe, Stillwater Writers

2nd Place TAKING A DREAM BY THE HORNS, Jim Etter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Place ROCKING WITH PARKINSONS, Nellie Perry, MAL

Honorable Mention

1st LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM A THREE LEGGED CAT, Alma Blair, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd THE DECISION, Gloria Shirley, Tulsa Nightwriters

3rd BLACK FRIDAY, Mark Robinson, Norman Galaxy of Writers

4th LESS THAN AN EAGLE- MORE THAN A DUCK, Mildred Dennis, MAL

5th SIXTY YEARS REMEMBERED, Bill Van Osdol, Pen and Keyboard

CATEGORY 27 - MAZIE COX REID COLUMN AWARD

Judge: Wayne Harris-Wyrick

Category Chair: Mary-Lane Kamburg

20 Entries

1st Place BEST MOM EVER, Lela Davidson, MAL

2nd Place VIEWING LIFE THROUGH TRIFOCALS, Frances Wykes Searcy, Norman Galaxy of Writers

3rd Place A SHOT IN THE DARK: TALES OF A NIGHT NURSE, Vickey Malone Kennedy, Norman Galaxy of Writers

Honorable Mention

1st OUT ON A LIMB, Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Freelance Writers Network

2nd CAMPUS CODGER, Shelley Ann Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 28 - CONFESSION STORY

Judge: Peggy Fielding

Category Chair: Lynn Wendelbo

6 Entries

Unfortunately, there were not enough entries to make the category.

CATEGORY 29 - NOSTALGIA PROSE

Judge: Gloria Teague

Category Chair: Gerald Hibbs

62 Entries

63

1st Place THE PEPSI GENERATION, Donna Young, PAWS

2nd Place TREAD LIGHTLY, Tracy L. Sutton, Kansas City Writers

3rd Place AUNT BEAULAH'S HOUSE, Frances Wykes Searcy, Norman Galaxy of Writers

Honorable Mention

1st A SMALL TOWN'S SPECIALTY, Sharon Koons, Grand Lake Wordsmiths

2nd THE CAT FOOD STORY, Robert O'Hearn, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd AN ORDINARY MAN, Mildred Dennis, MAL

CATEGORY 30 - BEST JUVENILE BOOK

Judge: Carolyn Wall

Category Chair: Shelly Ann Richter

9 Entries

SPY! Anna Myers, Tulsa Nightwriters

CATEGORY 31 - BEST NONFICTION BOOK

Judge: Inez Phillips

Category Chair: Barbara Shepherd

12 Entries

A PIONEER LOVE STORY: THE LETTERS OF MINNIE HOBART, Priscilla H. Wilson, Kansas City Writers

CATEGORY 32 - BEST BOOK OF POETRY

Judge: Sandra Soli

Category Chair: Maria Veres

4 Entries

I COME FROM COWBOYS...AND INDIANS, Ron Wallace, Red River Writers

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CATEGORY 33 - BEST FICTION BOOK

Judge: Julia Mozingo

Category Chair: Frank Steele

12 Entries

TRUDY'S PROMISE, Marcia Preston, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Judges: Kathryn Fanning, Russ Long, and Ann Champeau

THE PEPSI GENERATION, Donna Young, PAWS

2009 JUDGES BIOS

Category #1 MAINSTREAM NOVEL, Judge Joan Upton Hall. Former English teacher, Joan Upton Hall, is now an author, editor, instructor, and speaker. See her books and more on website: www.JoanUptonHall.com.

Category #2 CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE NOVEL, Judge Michele Bardsley. Michele is a published author who currently writes paranormal fiction. She writes the Broken Heart, Oklahoma vampire series.

Category #3 HISTORICAL: NOVEL, Judge Sharon Ervin. Sharon Ervin has eight published novels and a ninth in the process. She has a degree in journalism, is married, and has four grown children.

Category #4 MYSTERY SUSPENSE NOVEL, Judge Connie Blaylock. Connie is a published author and writes under two pen names, Tabitha Shay and Jaydyn Chelcee. Recently her books became available in print at Amazon.com.

Category #5 WESTERN NOVEL, Judge Dr. Bobby Weaver is the author of a dozen or so books and more than 100 articles on the American West

Category #6 SCI-FI/FANTASY/HORROR NOVEL, Judge Steve Wedel. Steven E.

Wedel is the author of The Werewolf Saga books, among others. He also works as a high school English teacher in Oklahoma City.

Category #7 NONFICTION BOOK, Judge Deborah Bouziden. Deborah has been writing and publishing for over 23 years, and has had hundreds of articles published, in addition to over ten books. To learn more about Deborah and her work, visit her website at www.deborahbouziden.com

Category #8 PICTURE BOOK, Judge Ivon Cecil. Ivon Cecil, author of children's picture book *Kirby Kelvin and the Not-Laughing Lessons*, has been a youth librarian and a columnist for *Byline Magazine*.

Category #9 MIDDLE READER, Judge Vivian Zabel. Vivian Zabel taught writing for 27 years. She edited manuscripts and judged for over 30 years, as well as writing her own books, including three published juvenile novels.

Category #10 YOUNG ADULT BOOK, Judge Bette Ward Widney. Bette Ward Widney is an honorary life member of OWFI, and has been a board member for over a decade. A Crème de la Crème winner, she writes young adult and middle reader novels, plus inspirational non-fiction.

Category #11 POETRY UNRHYMED SHORT, Judge Maria Veres. Maria has been writing most of her life, and has published fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in magazines for adults and kids.

Category #12 POETRY UNRHYMED LONG, Judge Jennifer DiCamillo. Jennifer is a published author. One of her credits is *Big Boys Playing with Babies*.

Category #13 POETRY RHYMED SHORT, Judge Kristyn Reid. Kristyn Reid has published in print and online. She has been featured at poetry readings in the area and has won yearly OWFI awards

Category #14 POETRY RHYMED LONG, Judge Sally Jadow. Sally Jadow writes poetry, devotionals, and short stories, and is the author of *The Late Sooner*, a novel of early Oklahoma.

Category #15 SHORT-SHORT STORY, Judge Robert Ferrier. Robert Ferrier is the author of four published novels. His poetry has appeared in ten literary journals. His collections, *Rhythms* and *Ambient Light* each

won Best Book of Poetry trophies from OWFI. In 2006 Robert was one of 13 writers nominated as Oklahoma Poet Laureate.

Category #16 ADULT SHORT STORY, Judge Red Maier. Ron Maier is an award winning writer. An aircraft mechanic, design engineer and horse trainer, he has been writing all his life.

Category #17 JUVENILE SHORT STORY, Judge Darleen Baily Beard. Darleen has a BA in Professional Writing from OU. Her books have received starred & boxed reviews, Junior Library Guild Selection, Best Book of the Year by Bank Street College of Education, Amelia Bloomer Award, and seven state nominations for children's choice awards, Gamma State Author Award, & the Oklahoma Book Award.

Category #18 YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY, Judge Anna Myers. Anna Myers is the author of eighteen novels for kids, all published by Walker Books, NY. Her honors include many national and state awards.

Category #19 SCI-FI/FANTASY/HORROR SHORT STORY, Judge Carol Shenold. Carol Shenold is a freelance writer, writing teacher, and registered nurse who has published three nonfiction and four fiction books. She writes mystery and fantasy fiction and lives in Oklahoma with her daughter and two cats, Punky and Poppy.

Category #20 PROSE HUMOR, Judge Mary-Lane Kamberg. Mary-Lane Kamberg's award-winning humor pieces have appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Kansas City Star*, and *Johnson's County Gazette*.

Category #21 ESSAY, Judge Gordon Greene. OWFI past president Gordon Greene is the author of 5 books including *Reflections from the Heartland: Essays for People Who Never Liked Essays*.

Category #22 PLAY/FILM/TV SCRIPT, Judge Lou Mansfield. Lou Mansfield's play *Reel to Real* was produced in a Norman theater. A past officer in various writing organizations, she has two mystery dogs: Agatha and Christie, and a wonderful husband named Bob.

Category #23 TECHNICAL HOW-TO ARTICLE, Judge Annie Withers. Annie mostly writes profiles and book reviews and finally has a whole pile of publications.

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2009 OWFI CONTEST WINNERS

She's starting to write the fiction she loves to read.

Category #24 FEATURE ARTICLE, Judge Amy Shojai. Amy D. Shojai, CABC (past president of OWFI) is an award-winning author of books, columns and articles, and hosts a weekly radio show and twice monthly TV segment. Learn more at <http://www.shojai.com>

Category #25 WESTERN ARTICLE, Judge Dusty Richards. Dusty Richards writes under his own name and pseudonyms. He has sold 72 novels, umpteen short stories, hundreds of articles and columns.

Category #26 INSPIRATIONAL PROSE, Judge Mary Ellen Cooper. Mary Ellen (M.E.) Cooper lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She has published fourteen books, appeared on a national TV show, and has been a speaker at writers conferences in OK, TX, AR, KS, NE, CO and OR.
27 Category #MAZIE COX RIED COLUMN AWARD, Judge Wayne Harris Wyrick. Wayne is newsletter editor for OWFI's THE REPORT. He's had articles published in such prestigious magazines as Science News.

Category #28 CONFESSION STORY, Judge Peggy Fielding. Peggy writes both fiction and nonfiction. She has published hundreds of articles and short stories, several nonfiction books and has sold both contemporary and historical romance novels. Under her tutelage, her former students have gone on to write and publish more than 350 books.

Category #29 NOSTALGIA PROSE, Judge Gloria Teague Shirley. Gloria Teague Shirley is editor of TNW Night-Scripts and is published in fiction, nonfiction in books, articles and short stories. To see her work go to www.gloriateague.com

Category #30 BEST JUVENILE BOOK, Judge Carolyn Wall. Carolyn Wall is the author of *Sweeping Up Glass*. Her short stories, articles and photographs have appeared in over 100 publications. She has been Senior Staff Writer for *Persimmon Hill*, chief

A very special thank you to the Crème de la Crème sponsor:



writer for a children's magazine, and served as Fiction Editor and columnist for *ByLine* magazine.

Category #31 BEST NONFICTION BOOK, Judge Inez Phillips. Inez Phillips has won awards for fiction, nonfiction, juvenile, and poetry. She has been published in educational and trade periodicals. She was made an Honorary Life Member in 2002.

Category #32 BEST BOOK OF POETRY, Judge Sandra Soli. Sandra's poetry has been featured on NPR and appears widely in literary journals, has been the setting for a ballet. She is a *Highlights Magazine* award winner, and Eyster Poetry Prize recipient. Sandra was columnist and poetry editor for *ByLine* magazine for nine years

Category #33 BEST FICTION BOOK, Judge Julia Monzingo. With twenty-plus years of writing experience, Julia Monzingo has won awards, placed in contests, and published articles, poems, fillers, and an USA Today Best-selling novel.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME JUDGES

Judge Kathryn Fanning. Kathryn is a writing and publishing professional. She has taught, led workshops and written for many years. She is a past editor of *Byline Magazine*.

Judge Russ Long. Publications include short stories, feature articles, columns, poems, and many contest awards. Past President of the Norman Galaxy of Writers. Edited and published *The Writeline* for five years.

Judge Ann Champeau. Ann Champeau won the 1994 Crème de la Crème award, won over 400 other awards and has been published in more than 50 publications.

A special thanks to all contest sponsors:

Linda Basinger
Ann Champeau
Peggy Fielding
Sue McMurphy (In memory of James McMurphy)
Marcia Preston
Bette Ward Widney
Freelance Writers Network
Green Country Ruff Rriters
The Inklings
McAlester McSherry Writers OKC Writers, Inc.
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OWFI BOARD AND ANNUAL MINUTES

OWFI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

Saturday, May 3, 2009

Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman, OK

Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman, OK

Call to Order:

OFFICERS: President: Marcia Preston
(present)

1st Vice President: Sarah
Basore (present)

2nd Vice President: Inez Phil-
lips (present)

Secretary: Kathy Moad
(present)

Treasurer: Linda Basinger
(present)

Conference Co-Chair: Linda
Shelby (present)

Publicity Director: Deborah
Bouziden (present)

STAFF: Editor: Wayne Harris-
Wyrick (present)

Old Business--- OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS:

President, Marcia Preston—reports
conference is moving along. Request
officer reports.

Treasurer, Linda Basinger-- reports
375 registered attendees for the confer-
ence. Famous Author brought in
\$425.00. Basket Auction: \$840.00.
Grants and sponsorships had an all-time
high of \$9815.00--good work Gayleen
and Marcia!

Wayne Harris-Wyrick--chairing the
committee that is looking in to ways to
expand the officer pool for future Nomi-
nations Chairs. That committee in-
cludes: Vivian Zabel, Jackie Graham,
Gerald Hibbs. One early tentative rec-
ommendation is to access people NOT
on the board. Another is to figure out a

way to tap the huge Member at Large
pool. More on this matter will be in the
July newsletter. Final committee report
forthcoming.

New Business---New Officers for 2010:

President--- Dan Case
1st Vice President and General
Contest Chair--- Inez Phillips
2nd VP---Nita Beshear
Secretary---Kathy Moad
Treasurer---Linda Basinger
Publicity ----Jen Nipps
REPORT EDITOR Wayne
Harris-Wyrick

Meeting adjourned.

~Kathy Moad
OWFI Secretary

OWFI EXECUTIVE BOARD MEET- ING MINUTES

Saturday, May 3, 2009

Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman, OK

Call to Order:

OFFICERS: President: Marcia Preston
(present)

1st Vice President: Sarah
Basore (present)

2nd Vice President: Inez Phil-
lips (present)

Secretary: Kathy Moad
(present)

Treasurer: Linda Basinger
(present)

Conference Co-Chair: Linda
Shelby (present)

Publicity Director: Deborah
Bousziden (present)

STAFF: Editor: Wayne Harris-
Wyrick (present)

Roll call performed; motion
made and seconded to accept minutes
from last board meeting.

Old Business--- OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS:

President Marcia Preston reports good
feedback for the hotel. Two other hotels

have our 2010 date held for us, in case
we decide Embassy Suites Norman is
not feasible for next year. OWFI is
looking in to ways to expand the officer
pool, chaired by **Wayne Harris-
Wyrick**, committee including: Vivian
Zabel, Jackie Graham, Gerald Hibbs.
One early tentative recommendation is to
access people NOT on the board. An-
other is to figure out a way to tap the
huge Member at Large pool. More on
this matter will be in the July newsletter.
Final committee report forthcoming. On
the website: still no webmaster. Taking
bids on revamping website and staffing
it. So far, \$4000.00 to \$6000.00 is the
projection. Marcia is slated to assume
committee chair position on this matter
and further study and collect information
to present to the board at a latter date.

Treasurer, Linda Basinger reports 375
registered attendees for the conference.
Famous Author brought in \$425.00.
Basket Auction: \$840.00. Grants and
sponsorships had an all-time high of
\$9815.00--good work Gayleen and
Marcia!

CONFERENCE CHAIR REPORTS-- -- (New Business):

Nominations Chair, Dusty Richards
announces slate for 2010 officer list:

President--- Dan Case
1st Vice President and General Contest
Chair--- Inez Phillips
2nd VP---Nita Beshear
Secretary---Kathy Moad
Treasurer---Linda Basinger
Publicity ----Jen Nipps (by proclama-
tion)
Conference Co-Chair (was latter filled
by) **Deborah Bouziden**
REPORT EDITOR (will once again
be) **Wayne Harris-Wyrick**

Officer list voted on and seconded. Slate
passes.

Meeting adjourned.

~Kathy Moad
OWFI Secretary

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Remembrances

OWFI: THE EARLY YEARS

Nellie Perry

Editor's Note: Nellie Perry told me she attended the 2nd ever OWFI conference. This sounded like a story I wanted to hear, so I asked her to send it to me. This is her story. Some of the characters are still around; many I remember from my early days on the organization.

Peg Fielding said she has known me for 35 years. That sent me digging through musty files, reading yellowed bits of paper that crackled in my searching hands. Pack rat that I am, I save Xerox copies of every writing-income check.

I found the one I sought. It was dated May 2, 1970, for "3rd place award – Novel div. entry: "Reap the Whirlwind." That estab-

lishes the year of OWFI's founding as 1969 because I recall that my first meeting was the second annual conference. We met at Lake Murray Lodge near Ardmore. **Ed. Note:** The first statewide gathering of Oklahoma writers actually took place in 1968, an informal event that may not fit the epithet "conference." See Sidebar

The miniskirt was in its heyday and I wore my daughter's. As I sashayed to the podium to accept my prize, a blue-haired lady muttered, "Your skirt is too short."

I paused to make an exaggerated curtsy and say "thank you." Later I learned my critic was Gracie Slaughter, patron and mentor to such budding authors as Weldon Hill (Bill Scott), Clifton Adams, Bob and Wanda Duncan, Vera Holding, Al Dewlen, Jack Bickham and Dwight Swain.

Those names don't carry the magic

today that they held then, because of the passing of time. *Saturday Evening Post* and *Collier's* bought short stories from fledgling writers in Oklahoma, making the Forties the real "good old days."

In those post-World War II days, the returning veterans studied the craft of fiction with Stanley Vestal (Walter S. Campbell) and the legendary William Foster-Harris at the University of Oklahoma's school of professional writing.

Then they banded together to chart their own course as Oklahoma Writers'

They banded together to chart their own course as Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc., and the annual OWFI convention claimed the writer's attention. It was Shangri-La, Brigadoon and Ulalume – the stuff of dreams.

Federation, Inc., and the annual OWFI convention claimed the writer's attention. It was Shangri-La, Brigadoon and Ulalume – the stuff of dreams. At the 1970 conference, I met Ann

Lacy and we hosted many a party in the years to come. I like to think our parties were the beginning of the present-day buzz sessions with writers, editors and agents.

I met Mary Alexander and Charlotte Anne Smith from Nowata in those early days. I made "same time next year" friendships with Kathryn Fanning and Katherine Hurst.

In this 40th anniversary year of OWFI, I pause to reflect. I did not sell a novel, but I wrote five of them and am still showcasing one. I did not win a Pulitzer but I won my entry fees back in OWFI contests. I did not win a Crème de la Crème but I won two firsts, three seconds and a host of Honorable Mentions.

I won happy memories and moments of joy. I won friends and the satisfaction of finishing what I write.

Last but not least – there's still next year.

Nellie Perry has attended OWFI since its second annual meet. She sold more than 20 confession stories before entering OU Law



School at age 50. Recently retired after a busy practice in farm bankruptcy, she has completed a novel. Her most recent sale is a feature story to *The Washington Post*. She lives in Stillwater, and writes a weekly column for the *Hobart Democrat-Chief*.

HISTORY OF OWFI

While at an evening reception for speakers of the Arkansas Writers Conference (AWC), held in Little Rock on the upper deck of the home of Ruth Leveck on June 7, 1968, Charles C. Campbell had an epiphany. He was so impressed with AWC, Mr. Campbell recruited Ernestine Gravley, Glenn Shirley, Maj. Charles Dutreau, Col. Charles Mooney and several others to "do the same thing in Oklahoma."

Several of these folks had already helped groups across the state to organize their own writers clubs, each with its own charter and slate of officers. So these movers & shakers of the writing community traveled to Tulsa, Stillwater, Enid, Lawton, Okmulgee, Ardmore, Ada, Shawnee and El Reno to meet with key people.

Approximately 100 people gathered at the Dutreau home in Stillwater on that September afternoon in 1968. That day, Oklahoma Writers Association was born. The organization was later renamed Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. OWFI.

Amy Shojai

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

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Writing in a Flash

by Jonna Smith, The Write Ingredients

Our club meets every Monday night. To keep things from becoming stale, we try news things off and on. A few months back we started Flash Writing Exercises. There was a three-fold purpose to the exercise: to introduce people to different genres, to get them writing (after all we are a **writers'** workshop,) and networking. There was an added benefit, the stories turned out to be highly entertaining.

The tools needed are simple: seven or eight legal tablets, a three-minute egg timer and a group of writers with pens in hand. On the first page of every tablet is a sentence---the same sentence on all of them. On the inside cover of each tablet is a genre with its definition. I used the OWFI contest guidelines for these.

For the exercise, we break into groups of three or four in up to eight groups. When all the groups are settled I hand out the tablets. They read the sentence and check their genres to see if they are writing a mystery, sci-fi, fantasy, horror, romance, western, suspense or confession story. I turn over the egg timer to give them three minutes to prepare then it's time for the first writers to begin.

At the end of each three minutes, the pad is passed to the next person in the group until all have had an opportunity to add to the story. Then, the pads are passed clockwise to the next group. After a few minutes to read, each group must finish the genre story begun by the previous group.

After this round is completed, the stories are read aloud. Due to the issue of penmanship, each writer reads his own contribution. Some have difficulty getting through due to his or the audience's howls of laughter.

Flash Writing has become a popular exercise with our group. Why don't you

try it and let us know how it worked for you.

Jonna Smith writes for children and the young-at-heart. She hopes to combine her two loves of writing and photography. A native Texan, Jonna enjoys her annual trip to Oklahoma for the OWFI conference.



In Memoriam

**KIRK
BJORNSGAARD**

April 29, 1951 - April 29, 2009

The OWFI world lost a good man and writer. OWFI member and 4RV Publishing author Kirk Bjornsgaard left us on his 58th birthday, April 29, 2009. His book *Confessions of a Former Rock Queen* made its debut in the OWFI Word by Word Conference May 1.

An acquisitions editor for University of Oklahoma Press, Kirk became a friend to many. People who knew him well knew he was a musician and he used his knowledge of music and rock 'n roll in his novel.

When cancer returned with a vengeance, he couldn't make revisions to his book. A push by his publisher resulted in fast revisions and formatting. His desire to see his book, to hold it, came to pass. *Confessions* was in his hands in less than a month after the company knew he couldn't finish, just weeks before he left us.

Kirk's death leaves a hole in lives and in the writing community. He was a lifetime member of the Religious Social of Friends (Quaker) and was a member of Norman Friends Meeting. He is survived by his wife, Noma Krasney; a son, Jordan Samuel Bjornsgaard, of Tulsa; a daughter, Kelsey Ruth Bjornsgaard, of Norman, one brother, David Shalit Bjornsgaard, of Doylestown, PA; a niece, Alyssa Dora Bjornsgaard Lewis, of Chalfort, Pa.,

Winners Speak, er, Write Out

ED. Note: Some of the winners of the 2009 contest describe their feelings on winning.

1st Adult Short Story, Eileen Ryan

"Turning Off the Charm" was first entered in the adult short story contest in 2008 and was the last thing I finished before sealing the envelopes and mailing them. I awoke a couple mornings before with a memory inexplicably lodged in my head....that of a last minute business trip to Chicago ten years ago. I traveled with a female co-worker. Between the two of us, on the day of our arrival, we encountered every possible annoyance, set-back, and discouragement imaginable. Enough people have experienced a similar episode, that I felt it would ring true, even if fictionalized. The humorous parts didn't seem so funny at the time, but as many writers have discovered, life's troubles make wonderful stories down the road.

I sent it off with high hopes, but the judge deemed other entries more worthy. When this year's contest rolled around, I hesitated before sending it, but my husband encouraged me to try again. With so many talented writers competing, I was thrilled with honorable mentions in 2007 and 2008, so nothing can describe my delight this year in getting word that

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this little story had won first place. *If at first you don't succeed.....*

Mainstream Novel, Sharon Ervin

I attended my first OWFI conference in 1996. Out of eight contest entries, I won a first honorable mention. Each of the next two years I entered five categories and won first honorable mentions. In 1999, I sent 10 entries and won one third place, first time in the money. That was the year I sold my first novel. It had not won anything at OWFI.

I complained to the much-published Velda Brotherton that it was hardly fair for a novice like me to compete against her. She said, "Who do you think you compete against in New York? If you can win here, you can win anywhere."

Ten entries in 2000 garnered a second, a third and an honorable mention. The HM sold that year. A second place was my only win of 16 entries in 2001. By 2002, I swallowed tears as I finally won a first place. I'd entered 12. Of 10 entries in 2003, I won two seconds and an HM. I smile looking at that list. Five of those have now been published. Judge's comments may have helped. The lone HM I received of seven entries in 2004--a short story--sold. I skipped 2005 nursing a bad attitude. That same attitude left me disheartened in 2006. First time, no certificate.

I read that attending the same conference every year could make a writer stale. I skipped OWFI the next two years, attended conferences in New Orleans and Texas. I missed old friends but the layoff cleansed my attitude.

This year I entered five categories at OWFI. I won two firsts and an HM. I now have eight published novels. A ninth, my newest contract, once won an HM at OWFI.

Velda was right. If you can win at OWFI, you can win anywhere.

Picture Book, Lila Guzman

What does a First Place Win in Picture Books mean to me? A lot.

About a year ago, I got a nudge from a friend who wanted me to write about Dr. Garcia because no one has written a children's biography about him. She

gave me the contact information for one of Dr. Garcia's daughters, Wanda, who was thrilled that I was going to write about her father's life.

His story is inspirational because he lived the American dream. When Dr. Garcia was four years old, his family fled the chaos of the Mexican Revolution and settled in Texas. He became a medical doctor, a decorated veteran of World War II, and the advisor to seven Presidents. After World War II, he founded the American G.I. Forum to help veterans and their families. President Reagan gave him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Garcia was the first Latino to earn this award.

At the present, I am shopping *Dr. Hector P. Garcia: Fighting for Justice* around to literary agents. A first-place win will help this manuscript find a home. Dr. Garcia's daughter and the friend who gave me a much-needed nudge were thrilled about the first-place finish. I hope that I will soon be able to email them and write: "Guess what? We have a contract!"

For me, a win tells me that I am on target with a story. It's nice to have someone read an entry and give completely unbiased feedback. That's worth a lot to me. My thanks go out to OWFI for giving this manuscript a boost!

Radine Trees Nehring, Mystery/Suspense Novel

Yes, my upcoming mystery novel (as yet unpublished) did win first place in this year's mystery novel contest at OWFI. On hearing the news I was at first stunned. Then, after about an hour, the shock wore off, elation set in, and that hasn't ended.

More about winning in a minute.

Because the award I remember most clearly came in 1992 at OWFI. I had entered my first book, the non-fiction *DEAR EARTH: A Love Letter from Spring Hollow*. When my name was announced for an honorable mention and I walked to the front of the room to receive my certificate the award might have been an Oscar, or even a Pulitzer Prize. That's how it felt. I know that for sure because today, seventeen years

later, I can still feel it.

Okay. This year's first. May I repeat in part what I said on DorothyL (Listserv for mystery fans), on my blog, and on the OWFI Yahoo list as quoted there by Pat Browning?

Winning an award for writing is a wonderful affirmation of skill and talent in the profession as well as a reward for hard work. Awards are encouragement to those who receive them, of course. I am always joyous for the winners, whether I have ever heard of them or not. The fact I may not know their names means nothing. This is a huge profession. And, just think, with the possible exception of the highest-ups in corner offices at publishing's conglomerate biggies (people who oversee more than "just publishing"), we work with folks like us who are interested in READING and in good writing to supply readers. That is just one of many great things about our profession.

Of course I rejoice for myself. But I also rejoice for all of us, whether we were fifteenth honorable mention, a nominee in some contest who didn't make the finals, or winner number one. We all matter.

Western Novel, Dale Whisman

One of the drawbacks of being a writer is that your work is constantly critiqued—sometimes by someone whose opinion you respect, sometimes by someone you've never heard of. Most often, our work is critiqued by ourselves, and judged to be inadequate. But to have your efforts recognized as worthy by another writer, and its acceptance broadcast in a room of four hundred of your peers, makes up for all the rejections we receive over the previous year and fuels our enthusiasm for the next story or the next novel.

For twelve months out of the year, many of us sit at our computers, isolated from real live people, functioning in a world of our own creation, interacting with characters we have created out of thin air, patterned possibly on people we happened to notice in a crowded shopping mall. These people like us, and we

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2009 First Place Winners

(Continued from page 19)

like them. Usually, they say the things we want them to say, experience the feelings we thrust upon them, and they exist only by our sufferance. How can you not like people as accommodating as that?

But we know in our hearts that world is not real, and we know that out there in that very real, frightening world, there are people who are not going to like us. They don't understand what we do. They think what we do is not work, not a real job. It is a hobby, and in their minds, a waste of time. So we keep trying, we revise, we discard, we write something else, hoping that someday, some real person from the real world will say, 'Hey, I liked that. Good job.'

Thank you to all OWFI members who make that moment a possibility.

Long Rhymed Poetry, Linda Gayle O'Hern

Winning First Place in the Long Rhymed Poetry category at the OWFI awards presentation May 2nd felt like satisfied exhaustion and when my husband Bob also won, that was the answer to my silent prayer, and that was elation. That Bob drove us home to Oklahoma City after the awards presentation was the best of childhood all over, my thoughts drifting through the headlights and street signs and the river of I-35 memories from my years at O.U. and the many decades since.

I resolved to repeat Ray Bradbury's pattern of sending off my writing no later than every Friday. So far I have done so. I still practice law so there are many other kinds of writings to organize and I am. Time is running even when I'm not and I'm not out of time yet.

I thought of Frank McCourt's book *Teacher Man*. He began his writing and submitting after he retired from teaching writing in a vocational school in New York. He has had some best sellers and a

Pulitzer Prize. It was the dream he wrote about that came to me at the OWFI awards presentation Saturday night. He had dreamed that he was at an awards presentation and that a young man stood on the stage holding a trophy and speaking into the microphone,

"I owe it all to my writing teacher, Mr. Frank McCourt".

In the past six months I have worked up, copyrighted and submitted a poetry book to a contest. My First Place OWFI Long Rhymed Poem had been tumbled and washed until it shone. I imagined, as I accepted my Certificate, that I had hit a home run with the bases loaded.

Mazie Cox Reid Column, Lela Davidson

Winning first place in the column category this year couldn't have been sweeter, and it couldn't have been possible without another OWFI contest four years ago. In fact, OWFI has had a huge impact on my entire writing life. In 2005 I took third place in the humor category for an essay I'd written about a disappointing date night with my husband.

Until then I'd pattered with words, taken a few classes, and started writing essays about family life. I barely considered myself a writer, but the 3rd place certificate kept me going. I continued to write essays and eventually found a home for them online. I soon learned that people actually had to write all that stuff on the Internet! Who knew? I picked up a few freelance clients, and voila – a 'real' writer was born.

Soon I was able to utter in public: I'm a writer. This led to a monthly column in Rogers, Arkansas, family magazine *Peekaboo*. The winning essay launched the column in the February 2008 issue. It's also been featured in *ParentWise*, *Austin* magazine. I wouldn't have had the courage to do any of it without that 3rd place confidence!

The win this year took me off guard, partly because the name of my column is actually *After the Bubbly*. (I apparently don't follow directions on paper work very well!) When I heard 1st announced as *Best Mom Ever*, I thought, that sounds like something I'd write!

If you're wondering if you should bother to enter the contest next time, do. OWFI encouragement pushed me over my fear and sent me rocketing forward. Now I'm busy with the work of writing - freelancing daily, agonizing over fiction, and of course writing the column.

Thanks OWFI!

(Continued from page 21)

Novels & New Books

ELYSABETH ELDERING: CHILDREN'S BOOK AGES 9-12, *State of Quarries*, Book 2 of Junior Geography Detective Series, 4RVPublishingLLC (Apr.'09), Illustrator Aidana Willow Raven.

Professional Activities

JACQUE GRAHAM, SUZY KOCH, DANA WARREN and VIVIAN ZABEL attended the Border Queen Book Festival March 7 in Comanche.

PAT BROWNING was guest speaker March 11 for the Creative Writing group at the Yukon Senior Center. In May, she was a judge for the Creative Writing segment of the Senior Games sponsored by Yukon's Parks and Recreation Department.

Club News

Pen and Keyboard has formed a committee for the Heartland New Day Bookfest, planned for April 9-10, 2010 in Edmond. The web site is at www.hndbookfest.com Keynote speaker will be **JORDAN DANE**, who presented the program at Pen and Keyboard's regular meeting May 9 and met with the committee afterward. Pen and Keyboard meets the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Edmond Library. The club web site is at www.pen-keyboard.weebly.com.

**A SINGLE QUESTION CAN
BE MORE INFLUENTIAL
THAN A THOUSAND
STATEMENTS.**

Bo Bennett

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Our Speakers Speak...About the 2009 OWFI Conference

Editor's Note: Many of the speakers at the 2009 *Word By Word* conference agreed to share their thoughts about what they experienced at the conference. If they share their enthusiasm for OWFI's conference with others, everyone will know as well as we do just how great our organization is!

Ken Sherman

[Ken@KenShermanAssociates.com]

It was a first-rate conference. The questions asked by the attendees were inquisitive, and open-minded and thoughtful. And the overall organization was remarkable.

Gretchen Craig [glcraig@verizon.net]

This was one of the best conferences I've been to. The hotel was super, rooms and halls both. The whole thing was well organized and ran smoothly. More agents/editors would be desirable.

Gordon Greene

[gordongreene@cox.net]

I've attended quite a few writing conferences over the years, and I think OWFI's 2009 conference was one of the most attractive and best organized events I've seen.

Writers at conferences can too easily become sorority-like cliques at the expense of those who have not yet had a chance to bond with the "in" crowd. I wonder if it might be time to consider some sort of shepherding of first-time attendees?

Pat O'Connell

[pat13X@sbcglobal.net]

I thoroughly enjoyed all the kind and colorful characters I met at the conference, and was honored to be able to present my workshops. I am impressed

at the caliber of writer that the OWFI attracts. Everyone seems to be quite serious and dedicated to their craft, hungry for new tools and tips.

Sandra Dark www.sandradark.com

I hadn't been to an OWFI conference in, oh, maybe two decades--and my, how things have changed. This OWFI conference had that classy and professional feel. And, of course, the facilities were superb.

Lynn Wiese Sneyd

[lynn@lwsliteraryservices.com]

You put on a wonderful conference. The hotel is marvelous. My only suggestion is that for the "take an editor, etc to lunch," have people sign up for that ahead of time.

I appreciate everyone's hard work. I know conferences require much time and energy to organize. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to be part of it.

Elaine English

[elaine@elaineenglish.com]

I had a marvelous time at the conference. I've never met such nice people with such interesting projects. I would also suggest you might try to find a few more agents to invite who do a broader range of general fiction.

Jodi Thomas Thomas,

[jthomas@mail.wtamu.edu]

I thought the conference was wonderful starting with the dinner Thursday night.

Everything was so organized and ran smoothly. Even the hotel men were there to check the audio when I got to my room to give the talk. I've been coming to OWFI since 1985 and this year may very well be the best ever.

Denise Vitola [dvitola@sbcglobal.net]

What I liked best about the conference was the comradeship among the members and the speakers. I enjoyed meeting writers so devoted to their art and who were so willing to share information, as well as sincere congratulations for each other.

Tess Gerritsen, [jogerrit@aol.com]

OWFI is the friendliest, most collegial writing conference I've ever attended! From the moment I arrived, I felt so welcomed and comfortable. I've been to many, many conferences around the country, and this ranks as one of my favorites. I especially liked the all-inclusive attitude toward all genres and all writers.

Affiliate News

Continued

(Continued from page 26)

microblogging for Torchlighter Toastmasters in Tulsa in April 2009. She is the new Vice President of Public Relations for the Torchlighter Toastmasters club in Tulsa. She will be teaching "Make Money Writing," a 5-week class at the Community Education program at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, through the month of June.

Club News

Web Writing Wonders is a web-based affiliate that meets via a group on Yahoo! Groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/webwritingwonders/>. They also get together after the Saturday night banquet at the OWFI conference each year.

PEN AND KEY-BOARD

(Continued on page 20)

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Affiliate News

ADA WRITER'S CLUB

Acceptance & Sales: Dorothy Milligan, "Area Briefs" column in *Ada Evening News*; 3/4/2009, "Does The Weather Make Us More Creative?"; 3/18/2009, "Byng Birds Have New Homes, Thanks to Gourd Crafts"; 4/1/2009, "Weather Has Powerful Effect On Moods"; 4/29/2009, "AARP Tax Aides Say They'll Volunteer Again". Aren Howell/Ken Lewis, "Area Briefs", *Ada Evening News*; 4/15/2009, "Ada Writer's Club Discusses Contest Entries".

Club News: The Ada Writer's Club meets at 2:30 on the third Sunday of each month at the Oak Avenue Baptist Visitor Center, 523 N. Oak. The club offers an hour of readings, critiques, and instructional programs for the art. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Green Country Rough Rriters

Professional Activities:

CONNIE BLAYLOCK AKA Tabitha Shay/Jaydyn Chelcee has a book signing scheduled for June 13, at Means Books & More by Norma in Poteau, Ok from eleven a.m. until five p.m. Connie also has a book signing and will be a guest speaker at the Buckley Public Library in Poteau, Ok. Oct. 30, from six thirty p.m. until nine.

GARY GREEN had a ventriloquist

show at the Coffee Cup in Poteau Oklahoma April 3, 2009. He wrote the script and preformed.

Club News

OWFI delegate, Connie Blaylock
Reporter, Gary Green
Secretary/Treasurer, Janet Short
President, Paula Gorgas
Member, Tom Long

Mid Oklahoma Writers

Honors and Awards

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Writer of the Year Award, *Christian Writers Conference*.

DAVID ROPER: Letter of Merit, *Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators*, for "The Year the Pilgrims Stepped on Gov. Bradford."

Professional Activities

JAN HALL will teach Romance Writing, Mystery Writing and Science Fiction Writing during the Rose State College Continuing Education Summer Semester.

BARBARA SHEPHERD: Presented the program at the March meeting of Mid-Oklahoma Writers, using setting to stimulate writing ideas.

Club News

Mid-Oklahoma Writers meets at 7pm, the second Tuesday of the month (except for July and August) at the Learning Resources Center, Rose State College, Midwest City, Oklahoma

NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

Sales and Acceptances

INGE BLANTON: PUBLISHED: fourth book in the Antarean Odyssey series, called *Loss of Eden*. She had a book signing Saturday, Feb. 21 at Hastings.

HELEN DUCHON: PUBLISHED: University Womens Association Newsletter, design & edit (Feb. 2009)

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS:

Silliman on Sports for Feb. **MIKE**

KRAWCZYK: CARTOONS:

Feb.3 U.S.-Mexico Soccer Match Voodoo Tinged Mexican soccer fans buy voodoo dolls to hex our players See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Mexico_Soccer.html

Feb. 9 G-E-I-C-O The NBA changes H-O-R-S-E at All-Star game for money See at

www.sillimanbonsports.com/Geico.html

Feb. 16 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Addition I save my readers the cost of having to buy this addition by describing everything See at

www.sillimanonsports.com/Sports_Illustrated.html

Feb. 24 Mad Scientist gets Big Contract Pirate crazed football coach See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Mad_Scientist.html

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: SOLD: Article to *Journal Record*,

"Location, Location, Location." PUBLISHED: Article "Who Will Speak for Them?" *Norman Transcript*.

WORK FOR HIRE: Several sales letters and a print ad for Happy Homesitters.

PRODUCED: Norman Baha'i Newsletter (2/09).

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Affiliate News

Continued

HELEN DUCHON: PRODUCED: University Womens Association Newsletters, designed & edited (Feb. & Mar. 2009)

ROBERT FERRIER: PUBLISHED: Two poems, "Comanche Code Talker," and "From Salt Licks to Lead," in current issue of *Crosstimbers Magazine*, Spring/Summer, 2009 issue. His four ebooks published through Synergy Books are for sale on Amazon.com for the Kindle electronic book.

ANN CHAMPEAU: PUBLISHED: Poem "Tornado in Oklahoma City" in *CAPPERS* March issue.

PUBLISHED: Columns in *WriteLine*, Galaxy newsletter: Prompts for Poets; New Year of Empowerment; How to Write a Thriller; What's Waiting For You at OWFI.

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* for March. **MIKE KRAWCZYK: CARTOONS:** **3/04 Aussie Swimmers Super Brave** Aussies swim with sharks See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Aussie_Swimmers_Brave.html

3/10 The Bold and The A-Rod A Poetic Soap Opera See at www.sillimanonsports.com/A_Rod.html

3/17 Colonel Sanders Recovered from River Japanese Baseball is weird See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Baseball_Colonel_Sanders.html

3/24 Lawyers: Clamp Down on March Madness Businesses be careful See at www.sillimanonsports.com/March_Madness.html

AMY TREADWELL: Sold "Audition for Evil" to an annual science fiction anthology, the 2009 Triangulation Anthology, Pittsburgh, PA.

FRANCES SEARCEY: Sold Untitled poem to *Mature Living*.

KEITH EATON: Sold short story to OCCC literary magazine in April the *Absolute 2009*.

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: Produced monthly newsletter for Bahá'ís of Norman; various work-for-hire pieces.

Professional Activities

ROSE FERRIER: Read two poems during open mic at Benedict Street Market Place, Shawnee, (2/19/09).

ROBERT FERRIER: Read two poems during open mic at Benedict Street Market Place, Shawnee, (2/19/09).

STAN SOLLOWAY: Feb 26 was on the OklaTravel.net show with host Brent Skarky to promote a comedy festival in OKC to benefit the Bill Hicks Wildlife Rehab Facility. The comedy festival was Feb 26 & 27 in OKC at Uptown United. First show was sold out.

ANN CHAMPEAU: Will do 9 sessions on *Journaling for Your Health* for Pioneer Library System in June and July. Served on the grants panel for the past three years for the Norman Arts Council. Category chaired Sci/Fi, Fantasy Book contest for OWFI.

Club News

LEONA HUFFAKER died Jan. 24, 2009 and a celebration of her life was Feb. 8, 2009 in the auditorium at the OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.

HELEN DUCHON: Her and Claude's son Peter died in Oceanside CA March 23, 2009.

RED RIVER WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales

MARILYN ALEXANDER: ARTICLE: "Stop Trashing Oklahoma," *Bryan County Star* (1/09).

MARION HILL: NOVEL: Death Books a Return. Pemberly Press, (09/09).

DIANE MAUCK: ARTICLE: "Where There is Charity," *Bryan County Star* (2/09).

RUTH WESTER: ARTICLE: "Ropin' the Dream," *A Cup of Cappuccino for the Entrepreneur's Spirit* (summer 09).

RON WALLACE: BOOK: *I Come from Cowboys...and Indians*. TJMF Publishing, Clarksville, Indiana (12/08).

Contest Winnings

RON WALLACE: New Mexico State Poetry Society bimonthly contest, POETRY: HM, "Embrace."

Professional Activities

MARION HILL: Book signings at Barnes & Noble in Wichita, Ks; Kansas City, MO; Florissant, MO; Cherry Hill, NJ, Deptford, NJ; at the Visitors Center, Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, PA, and College of William and Mary Bookstore, Williamsburg, VA. Panelist at Malice Domestic mystery convention, Arlington, VA; meeting with "Yours in Crime," mystery book club, B & N, Marlton, NJ.

RON WALLACE: Reader at the ECU Scissortail Writing Festival, Ada, OK (4/03); Reader at the Woody Guthrie Festival, Okemah, OK, 7/11/09; book signings in Durant, OK, 12/18/08, Reader at Texoma Arts Jubilee, (4/25/09) Durant, OK;

Club News

Travel writer Kim Mauck from *Oklahoma Today* presented a program on writing travel pieces at the April meeting.

Arkansas Ridge Writers

Acceptances and Sales

ANN HOLBROOK: STORY: "Then and Now," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Tough Times, Tough People* (05/09)

JEANIE HORN: ARTICLES: "From Dairy to Sales", "Agriculture's Youth", *Ozarks Farm & Neighbor* (1/09); "Farming Dad's Way", *OFN* (2/09); "Limousin Seedstock", "Living Heritage & History", *OFN* (3/09); "Cattleman and Representative", *OFN* (4/09); "Preserving a Rare Breed", *OFN* (5/09);

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Affiliate News

Continued

BOOK REVIEW: "The Sundown Chaser" by Dusty Richards, *Western Writers of America Roundup Magazine* (4/09). ARTICLE: "Night Riders," *Arkansas Encyclopedia* (5/09). ARTICLE: "Rodeo of the Ozarks: An Exciting Tradition," *Ozarks Mountaineer Magazine* (5-6/09).

DUSTY RICHARDS: CONTRACT: "North to the Salt Fork" A Compton Trail Drive series book, *North American Library Division Penguin Putnam*. (2009); SHORT STORY: "Tough Ride," *Saturday Writer's Curve River Review Volume 2* (4/09)

DOYLE SUIT: NONFICTION: "The Sleepy Old Mule," *The Quivre River Anthology* (04/09); "Grandpa's Possum," *My Dad is my Hero* (04/09); "A Doubtful Christmas," *Thin Threads* (04/09).

DONNA VOLKENANNT: SHORT STORY: "November Rose," *Voices* (Vol II) (04/09); FLASH FICTION; "Ida's Rocking Chair" and "Faded Roses," *Cuivre River Anthology* (Vol IV) (05/09).

Novels & New Books

LINDA APPLE: NONFICTION: *Inspire! Writing From the Soul. An instructional guide to inspirational writing*, AWOC.Com Publishing (5/09)

JEANIE HORN: ANTHOLOGY OF SHORT STORIES: *Memories and Make-Believe*, Litho Printers & Bindery in Cassville, MO (5/09).

RADINE TREES NEHRING: ANTHOLOGY: *The Writer's Journey Journal, Essays and words of wisdom from multi-published authors*, Wolfmont Press (05/09).

Contests

DOYLE SUIT: Missouri Writers' Guild Contest, 3rd Place, "It's A Cruel World."

DONNA VOLKENANNT: Pike's Peak NLAPW 2009 Annual Flash Fiction

Contest: Judge's Merit Award, "Picture Perfect," (03/09); MWG President's Award, ESSAY: 3rd Place, "Welcome Home," (04/09).

Honors and Awards

DONNA VOLKENANNT: Panelist, Saturday Writers Presents: "The First 300" Editors' Panel (05/09).

Professional Activities

LINDA APPLE: Panel speaker, Northwest Arkansas Fiction Writers, Springdale, AR.

JEANIE HORN: Speaker on a panel, Northwest Arkansas Fiction Writers, Springdale, AR. (3/09).

DUSTY RICHARDS: Interviewed by Gary Dobbs in Ponty Pridd, Wales, UK, archive.blogspot.com/2009/04/man-of-west-dusty-richards-interview.html and he also wrote a blog for Gary.

DONNA VOLKENANNT: Contest Chair, MWG/Saturday Writers Flash Fiction Contest (03/09); Book Signing, MWG Annual Conference (04/09); Co-editor, *Cuivre River Anthology* (Vol IV) (05/09); Host for Author Book Tours on Donna's Book Pub <http://donnasbookpub.blogspot.com> for Janice Lynne Lundy and Ruth Hartman (02/09), George Singleton and Dianna and Don Graveman (03/09), and Mindy Friddle (06/09).

Club News

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS WRITERS WORKSHOP hosted their seventh free writer's conference (3/09)

SATURDAY WRITERS

EVENTS: Jun 27: Mystery Writer Joanna Slan on "The Promotion Begins before Publication"; Aug 29: Spur Award Winning Writer Dusty Richards on "Developing Character and Setting"; Oct 24: Annual Workshop, featuring Pat Carr on "Vision, Voice, and Viewpoint" www.saturdaywriters.org.

ROMANCE INK

Acceptances and Sales

SARAH BASORE: SHORT STORY: "Harlequin," *Atrum Tempestas*, Black Hound Publications (05/09).

Professional Activities

SARAH BASORE will be June's Spotlight Scribe at www.choateroad.com.

Tulsa Nightwriters

Acceptance and Sales

CARLA STEWART: Two-book contract with Hachette/Faith Works

CAROL SNOW: Two movie producers are reading her book, *Gray Warriors*

RADINE TREES NEHRING: Her essay was accepted for *A Writer's Journey Journal*, Inspiration, Information, and Humor to help you find your way as a writer, Wolfmont Press.

MYRA JOHNSON: Received another assignment to write a series of 15 devotions for the Augsburg Fortress publication *Christ in Our Home*. The devotions will appear in the spring 2010 issue for the dates May 17-31.

JIM LAUGHTER: Pinnacle Books has asked to have first edit on his book, *From Victim to Hero*, a book about Stephen Staynor. The book will be part of monument dedication ceremonies in Merced, CA in April, 2010.

JEN NIPPS: Wrote 6 articles for 4HEALTH magazine, "Writing a Query in Four Easy Steps" and "5 Ways to Advertise without a Budget" published on TutorialBlog.org and "Devoted to Creating" for Dan Case/AWOC Books.

Novels and New Books

CARLA STEWART: NOVEL: *Chasing Lilacs*, Hachette/Faith Works: (Spring 2010).

JILL BYRNE: NOVEL: *Step on a Crack*, Wheatmark Publishers (Spring 2009)

VICKI MCDONOUGH: NOVEL:

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Straight for the Heart (June 2009) Final book in her historical North Dakota series.

MYRA JOHNSON: NOVEL: *Romance by the Book*, second in her Missouri-based series, Barbour Publishing.

MAXWELL LEWIS: NOVEL: *Consuming Entities*, Lachesis Publishing

JIM LAUGHTER: NOVEL: *The Horizon Experience*, AWC.com, released May 2009 and *Ghost in the Dark* (July 2009)

Contest Winnings

CAROL SNOW: Received two first place awards and four third place awards from the Poetry Society of Oklahoma at their annual Awards luncheon

SALLY JADLOW: At Missouri Writers' Guild took a second place for Best Poetry, and a 3 HM for another poem.

LAURA JANE POPP: First place in Tulsa Community College's writing contest

DAN CASE won Honorable Mention in the NCTC (North Central Texas College) Regional Short Story Contest. His story will be published in the school's literary publication, *The Perennial* next April.

Honors and Awards

RADINE TREES NEHRING: "Dying in a Winder Wonderland," the short story anthology from Wolfmont Press, has earned a top ten spot on The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association 2008 bestsellers list

Professional Activities

PEGGY FIELDING JACQUELINE KING: BOOK SIGNING at The Frugal Bookwork on March 28th for several of their books.

GLORIA TEAGUE SHIRLEY: Interviewed on Blog Talk Radio about her

new book, *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*, AWC Publishing.

VICKIE MCDONOUGH: Booksigning along with Margaret Daley, at the Edison Spring Market, an upscale arts and craft show.

Several TNW members, **BOB AVEY, ROMNEY NESBITT, PEGGY FIELDING, JACKIE KING, JIM LAUGHTER, MARY SUE LOPEZ, M. CAROLYN STEELE, VICKIE MCDONOUGH** and **GLORIA TEAGUE** were some of the many authors signing books at the Border Queen Book Festival in Comanche, OK on March 7.

M. CAROLYN STEELE gave a presentation on writing family stories to the American Indian Art Association on March 17.

LYNETTE BENNETT was the performer on April 27, part of Musical Mondays that Life Senior Services presented

LAURA JANE POPP hosted her own film presentation of Malawi, Africa missionary efforts at Circle Cinema in Tulsa on May 4.

DAN CASE has a new blog: <http://promotebooks.blogspot.com>

REQUEST

GLORIA TEAGUE SHIRLEY has started what she hopes will become a comprehensive calendar for writers. Events will be for any/all writers such as lectures, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. The calendar site is at www.okwriters.com and she asks you to submit writer events to her at gteague@cimtel.net.

Oklahoma City Writers

Acceptances and Sales

LUCINDA CARROLL KISER: ESSAY: "In Celebration of the Non-Nuclear Family", *Oklahoma City Community College Essay Contest* (03/09);

ARTICLE: "Lessons My Great-grandmother Taught Me", *Reminisce Magazine* (09/09)

DIXON HEARNE is one of fifty authors selected to appear in Woodstock Revisited: 50 Far Out, Groovy, Peace-Loving, Flashback-Inducing Stories From Those Who Were There, an anthology being released by Adams Media in June.

BERNADINE WELLS sold a short "Was My Face Red!" piece to *Woman's World Magazine*. It will be published on the "Love & Laughter" page in April, 2009.

CINDI KISER won a college-wide essay contest this month. She attends OCCC and the contest was open to all English students. Her submission, *In Celebration of the Non-Nuclear Family* won first prize! The awards ceremony is April 17th. Cindi also sold a piece about her great-grandmother, Lucinda Bynum Collins, to *Reminisce* magazine, which will be published in the fall.

Novels & New Books

JIM MARION ETTER has published the second edition of his "Thunder in the Heartland – Parables from Oklahoma," a collection of fiction stories based on fact, the subjects ranging from the Kiowa Indians in the 1860s to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. The new edition has some new chapters, plus old-time photos representing some of the true events cited in the stories.

MARCIA PRESTON is excited to announce the release of her latest book *The Wind Comes Sweeping* in April.

Professional Activities

JIM ETTER was interviewed about his book, "WHAT A DIRTY SHAME! 100 Unforgettable Place Names of Oklahoma" April 4, on the OETA public television channel.

CATHERINE JOHNSON AKA Kari Grant, had a one-person art show in conjunction with a concert by Horseshoe Road on April 30th. Catherine won 2nd Place in "Pioneer Spirit" at the National Art Show called *Oklahoma Friendly*. Her winning collage "Strolling 'Neath the oriental Moon Each Night You'll

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Find Me" was on display at City Arts in Oklahoma City.

MARIA VERES judged the Oklahoma Lore Youth Poetry contest, 7th Grade division. Also, her poem "Surprise Ending" was published in the *Spiritual Times Newsletter*.

FWN

Acceptances and Sales:

JULIE COSGROVE: ARTICLES: "How Can I Present Myself?" Alive Now (09/10-09); "Watch Who You Write For," incorporated in an editorial

Freelance Writers Network

in Cross & Quill (05/06-09) Julie will be a contributor to daily devotionals for christianwoman.com.

MARILYN KOMECHAK: POETRY: "The WPA Waltz," Dos Gatos Press for inclusion in their Texas Poetry Calendar ('10); SHORT STORY: "The Whole Enchilada," Westview: the Journal of Western Oklahoma (Spring/Summer '09).

Novels and New Books:

ROBYN CONLEY: Book: *PRAY THE BIBLE with Paper and Pen*, (Booklocker.com) ('09).

Contest Winnings:

EMILY TIPTON WILLIAMS: Abilene Writers Guild Contest, ARTICLE: 1st Place, "Canyon of the Eagles"; INSPIRATION: 1st Place, "My 'Wrinkle in Time' with Madeline L'Engle"; HM, "Doc"; MEMOIR/NOSTALGIA: 2nd Place, "The Little Church Around the Corner"; SHORT STORY: HM, "Dylan" (03-09);

Professional Activities:

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: Book signings at "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz" at Weatherford College, Weatherford, TX (03-09).

MARILYN KOMECHAK: Marilyn's poems were among those that actress Elizabeth Bontley included in the "2nd Tuesday Presents" program at Fort Worth's Benbrook Library (05-12); Marilyn will give a power-point presentation, "Painted Poems," for the Texas Poetry Society's Summer Conference in Fort Worth. The program of ekphrastic poems and short stories are paired with abstract paintings by daughter Kim Komechak in an Art Speaking to Art collaboration.

VIRGINIA BLACKMON: Book signing at "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz" at Weatherford College, Weatherford, TX (03-09).

NELL NOONAN: Speaking and Book Signing, *Not Alone: Encouragement for Caregivers*, St. Barnabas Methodist Church, Arlington, TX (05-09); Book signing at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Arlington, TX (05-09); Program/book signing at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, McKinney, TX (05-09); The Friends of the Arlington Public Library has selected Nell's book for their Books and Authors Luncheon, at which she will speak. The Friends will provide her books to all Arlington Public Libraries (05-29-09).

DEAN MAGDAL THOMPSON: Book signing at "Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz" at Weatherford College, Weatherford, TX (03-09).

Club News:

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT is a finalist in the Ms. Senior Texas Pageant in Dallas (05-15-09).

OTas

Acceptances and Sales

PHYLISS MIRANDA, JODI THOMAS, DEWANNA PACE, AND LINDA BRODAY have contracted Kensington Publishing for two new an-

Ol' Tascosa Wordslingers

thologies, "Give Me a Texas Ranger" due out summer of 2010 and "Give Me an Outlaw".

JODI THOMAS: WESTERN HISTORICAL ROMANCE: "The Lone Texan" Berkley (10/09); WOMEN'S FICTION: Contracted for four books series about Harmony, Texas.

Www

Acceptances & Sales

JEN NIPPS: ARTICLES: "7 Habits of Successful Freelancers," TutorialBlog.org, March 2009. "25 Ways to Find

Web Writing Wonders

Time for Creative Play," TutorialBlog.org, March 2009. "Writing a Query in Four Easy Steps," TutorialBlog.org, April 2009. "5 Ways to Advertise Without a Budget," TutorialBlog.org, April 2009. "7 Networking Opportunities for Freelancers," TutorialBlog.org, May 2009. "5 Ways to Build on Your Freelance Skills," TutorialBlog.org, May 2009.

Professional Activities

CONNIE BLALOCK: Will be having a book signing June 13, at Means Books & More by Norma in Poteau from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. The address is 1301 S. Broadway, Poteau, Ok. 74953 (918) 839-9110.

PAULA GORGAS: Will be having a book signing June 13, at Means Books & More by Norma in Poteau from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. The address is 1301 S. Broadway, Poteau, Ok. 74953 (918) 839-9110.

JEN NIPPS: Presented a speech about

(Continued on page 21)

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