

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

# THE REPORT

SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 1



*Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.*

PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE WRITTEN WORD

in Oklahoma, the United States and around the world





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



Patty Stith

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The pressure is on. Not only is President Linda Apple a hard act to follow, it's the 45<sup>th</sup> annual OWFI conference.

When I attended my first OWFI conference in 2009, I knew nothing about writing. I'd been working with Dusty Richards's and Velda Brotherton's critique group for a few months and they still hadn't convinced me that adverbs were the devil. I'd just finished my first novel and was excited

about pitching it. I have to give the agent credit for his professionalism since he didn't laugh in my face.

I learned several things at my first OWFI conference. 1) Book doctors agreed with Dusty and Velda. It was time to take a scalpel to my manu-

script. 2) Even sessions that didn't pertain to my specific genre offered great advice. 3) Volunteering provided more access to speakers and agents. (Seriously, I'm not just begging for volunteers.) And, most importantly, 4)

**I learned several things at my first OWFI conference: 1) Book doctors agreed with Dusty and Velda. It was time to take a scalpel to my manuscript. 2) Even sessions that didn't pertain to my specific genre offered great advice. 3) Volunteering provided more access to speakers and agents. (Seriously, I'm not just begging for volunteers.) And, most importantly, 4) I learned that writers are the most supportive and helpful—along with being some of the strangest—folks on the planet.**

I learned that writers are the most supportive and helpful—along with being some of the strangest—folks on the planet.

I found my home.

When Linda Apple asked me to be her conference chair for the 2012 conference, I was flattered she wanted to work with me and thrilled to serve in an official capacity for the organization. Don't be fooled by Linda Apple's beautiful smile and sweet demeanor;

they hide her wicked, mind-bending skills. As much as I fought it, my head nodded when she asked me if I'd be interested in serving

as OWFI President in 2013

I have to admit that I'm honored. The past presidents have left a legacy of greatness that I hope to continue. The Board of Directors and I will work diligently to bring you an outstanding confer-

ence.

The theme for 2013 is **OWFI 45—Revive! Strive! Thrive!** Our goal is to have workshops that will inspire you to *revive* your writing and creativity, encourage you to *strive* for excellence so your writing careers will *thrive*.

We already have several speakers lined up for 2013 including New York Times Bestselling author, Jodi Thomas, Sci-Fi/Fantasy sensation and promoter extraordinaire, Lauri Owen, and memoir expert and nonfiction guru, Marilyn Collins. Rhonda Penders editor-in-chief of The Wild Rose Press will also be in attendance to take pitches and discuss the romance genre.

There were a couple of sessions at this year's conference that caused quite a buzz. The paranormal panel will return with tips on how to incorporate otherworldly forces into your writing and Yup'ik storyteller, Jack Dalton, will perform and provide workshops on storytelling.

I'm very excited about this year and look forward to working with everyone. Here shortly, you'll receive a Constant Contact e-mail with a survey for the 2012 conference. Please take the time to complete the survey and provide your suggestions. Together we can make the 45<sup>th</sup> annual OWFI conference the best yet.

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**Don't Miss This Book!****GOD'S LITTLE MIRACLE BOOK**

By Sally Jadlow

Annie Withers, Book Review Editor

**GOD'S LITTLE MIRACLE BOOK**

By Sally Jadlow  
Published 2010 by Buoy Up  
(AWOC.com)  
87 pages

Sally Jadlow's been writing a long time, but she would never have dreamed where her first few poems would take her. They would become *Sonflower Seeds*, a book she published herself, even doing the art, layout, and formatting from scratch. But she was stunned and delighted in 2002 when it won OWFI Best Book of Poetry. "A friend said, 'Don't despise small beginnings,'" she smiled.

*Late Sooner* (AWOC.com, Roots and Branches imprint), her next project, was historical fiction taken from a handwritten journal her great grandfather kept, entering one sentence per day from 1886 to 1896. He'd moved the family in the land rush from Northwest Missouri to Mulhall, Oklahoma, 400 miles on the train.

Together with publisher, Dan Case (AWOC.com) they burned night oil in 2006 to get it off the press in time for Oklahoma's Centennial celebrations in 2007. Jadlow wore out a whole set of tires

crisscrossing the plains from her home in Kansas City to events in Oklahoma – book signings, city libraries, country fairs, or anyplace with a crowd. In white apron over a crisp brown and blue cotton print dress with bonnet to match, her presentations were permeated with sweet-smelling homemade cookies.

Let's just say Jadlow never missed an opportunity to sell books. "Yet in the whole six years, I sold only 1200 hard copies," she

laughed. The two days Amazon offered it free, it downloaded 9300 times and the two months after that, 189 digital copies were sold.

So fast forward to 2010 when Buoy Up Press (AWOC.com imprint) published *God's Little Miracle Book*, a collection of 27 stories com-

posed with digital plans in mind. The week of this book's free download in March 2012, Jadlow scored first place in Amazon's Christian Devotional category, and has remained in the upper tenth since. "My rating was even higher than Max Lucado's for an hour," she said in ecstatic disbelief.

Though she gives such excellent effort to writing, publishing, and marketing books, she has a 'day job' - one that often gives her a

front-row seat to miracles. She's been a chaplain for Marketplace Ministries for eighteen years, a Christian organization that contracts chaplains to businesses across the US. Jadlow serves in the Kansas City area, circulating through offices and work stations to counsel employees.

Many stories come from her experiences, including a man who died three times after a horrible car wreck. That was ten years ago and he recently asked her to preach both his parents' funerals - two weeks apart, very complicated. And there are too many other tales to describe here so you'll have to get the book to see why it's red hot.

Jadlow has plenty of miracles left to tell. When her clients find out what she's writing, they call wanting her to include theirs. So this year, *God's Little Miracle Book II* is out, and *No. III* is in process.

We can't wait to see what she'll do next.

**There are several types of e-readers but it's not necessary to buy one to get free downloads. You can put them on your PC. Jadlow thinks it's definitely worth the effort to step into this opportunity.**



**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

# Five Facebook Groups and Pages to Like

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor

Despite rumors that have gone on for several years and all the changes that are being made, it appears Facebook is here to stay, at least for a while. It isn't just mindless fluff. There are some great resources for writers. If you go in and just type "writing" in the search bar, you will get a staggering amount of results. Over time, I have come up with five of the best.

1. OWFI on Facebook: I would be remiss if I didn't mention our own Facebook group. There are a few who are not OWFI members in the group because I opened it up to people who are also interested in learning more about us. Members post upcoming events, news, ask questions, share blog posts and quotes, and network. You can go directly to the group, if you've already signed up for Facebook, with this address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/91274374466/>

2. Authors, Agents, and Aspiring Writers: The group page describes it as "a group dedicated to excellence in writing while nurturing a greater sense of community among all members. We invite all writers of all genres to join us and discuss industry trends, share exciting news, organize workshops, and ask the hard questions." This is an active group. They aim to provide a place for

writers to get together in what can be a rather solitary pursuit. They have some associated sites that are listed on the group page's "About" section. Access them at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/204725947524/>

3. Writers & Authors: This page is maintained by Jo Linsdell. She started this page in 2010 as a resource for writers. She offers promotion days where fans of the page can post about their books. She has a linked blog that is updated daily with information and resources that are relevant for writers both in the United States and around the world. (She is based in Italy.) She also shares humor to help lighten the mood when we need a little sanity break before our sanity breaks. Find her page at <https://www.facebook.com/WritersAndAuthors>.

4. National Writers Union: This is the Facebook face for the NWU. They share news and updates more frequently than their website can be updated. You can "like" the page without being a union member. Their information says they are a non-profit organization "Representing freelance writers in all genres, formats, and media." Information about membership and eligibility is also found on their page. They are at <https://www.facebook.com/NationalWritersUnion>.

5. World Literary Café: This page bills itself as "A literary community that bridges the gap between readers and authors, supports bloggers and reviewers, and teaches authors to promote their work." They follow through on what they say. They have additional information on their website at [www.worldliterarycafe.com](http://www.worldliterarycafe.com). Their Facebook address is <https://www.facebook.com/WorldLitCafe>.

This does not even begin to scratch the surface of the writing resources that are available on Facebook. These are general groups. There are a lot of genre-specific groups as well. Be patient and find the one that works for you. However, be careful that you don't get too involved in the groups and pages that you neglect your own promotion efforts or your own writing.

Jen Nipps is a member of the McAlester McSherry Writers and Web Writing Women. Her books, *Get Twitter-pated: A Writer's Handbook to Twitter and Windsong & Other Poems*, are available on Amazon or directly through her. Visit her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/byjennipps>.



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The Doctor is:

**In***Out*

## Learning New Languages

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor

Over the past couple of decades I've attended dozens of OWFI board meetings as a delegate, and conferences as the book doc. One thing remains constant: I'm never surprised at how well this revolving group of officers and volunteers whips together such an informative and professional grade of speakers, workshops and extras; and I am always, always impressed.

One reason it's impressive is our solitary natures we writers require to surrender to our craft. We must journey inward, working alone. Even in crowded newspaper offices, each journalist must shovel into a quiet area of his or her own mind to tappeta-tappeta copy when crunch time looms.

Although we savor those private, necessary sessions during creative mode, we also enjoy sharing our experiences and ideas with other introverted scribes. This is good. It brings us to the essential second part of our writing lives: the business side.

Business is business. We sell words. We sell ourselves. Amy Shojai, a computer savvy and marketing whiz, helped me comprehend "media presence" when I asked her to describe her

"platform," a major buzz word all weekend at the 44<sup>th</sup> OWFI conference. She said she markets her platform of pet expertise, but her

known for her bling as much as her insight, so she markets that aspect of herself. Some folks call her the pet guru, and she wel-

**We old-timers shouldn't be afraid of the new verbiage. Show those agents and editors you can speak their language as you tell your best story in your best style. Vernacular—schmernacular, writers write, and writers sell. You can certainly do both. After all, those multi-decibel hums rising from happy hour tables and mega-chatting fests in hallways divulge something crucial. We may be introverts when in the zone, but we also share the gift of gab. Let's use it to our advantage.**

"brand" is her slant at how she shares that expertise. Amy is

comes that moniker as well, knowing first-hand the benefits of cross-marketing. She embraces all these brands when blogging, tweeting, and FB-ing her presence.

I bring this up because after overhearing sooooo many conversations in the one-on-ones about pitches and publicity, I realized the only thing



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

Her latest books are: **INSIGHTS FROM THE JOBSITE; Pray the Bible with Paper and Pen; and BEYOND THE BRANCHES: Writing and Scrapping**

**Your Complete Family Tree.** Other writing books are **BE YOUR OWN BOOK DOCTOR**, which gives a checklist of editing tips for writers, and **What Really Matters to Me**, a journal that helps people discover their goals, and then offers practical tips to make those dreams come true. Robyn's published titles include a diversity of topics, such as the biographies: **John Grisham, Cartoonists, Alexander G. Bell**, as well as these juvenile reference books: **Meerkats; Depression; Motion Pictures; and The Automobile.** She has sold to major magazines, such as **The Writer, Writer's Digest, ABA: Student Lawyer**, and a score of others

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## Book Doctor: Learning New Languages

*continued*

new is the *lingo* in which we describe our marketability.

We old-timers shouldn't be afraid of the new verbiage. Show those agents and editors you can speak their language as you tell your best story in your best style. Vernacular—schmernacular, writers write, and writers sell. You can certainly do both. After all, those multi-decibel hums rising from happy hour tables and mega-chatting fests in hallways divulge something crucial. We may be introverts when in the zone, but we also share the gift of gab. Let's use it to our advantage.

Speaking of taking advantage and learning new lingo... the opening chapter of my latest book, *INSIGHTS FROM THE JOBSITE*, features terms used on a construction jobsite, terms I learned as a roofing grunt for the Irishman. Here's a little excerpt, and yes, the book is available on Amazon, and yes, it would make a perfect Father's Day gift for any fella who's ever picked up a wrench or hammer (or the women who enjoy a good love story.) Thanks for looking and remember to send me any pitches you want to practice and polish. First ten pages free: New Courier font, 12-point, double-spaced. Email me at [bookdoctor@earthlink.net](mailto:bookdoctor@earthlink.net).

**Editor's Note:** Robyn sent a book excerpt to illustrate this concept.

**From the Book *Insights from the Jobsite* by Robyn Conley.**

**When Mr. O' first made a grunt (construction laborer) out of me, I had no idea that "grunt" was the first of many unique words these rugged fellas used when conversing with each other.**

**It only took a few days for me to pick up the new lingo. Plumb meant something was level. "Headache!" meant duck and run because someone had just dropped a hammer or screw gun off the roof and it was heading south fast. A chalk line wasn't a solid line, but rather a string on a spool inside a metal case known as a chalk box. When popped, the string leaves a red or blue chalk line as a guide for cutting. Of course sometimes the color turns purple if the new grunt doesn't pay attention to which spool she is refilling. And who would have thought a speed square is really shaped like a triangle? That little revelation certainly took this simple roofing grunt by surprise.**

**I think my favorite term, though, is the one Mr. O' uses**

**for a hammer when he needs to bend or shape the metal to make it fit better in a tight spot.**

**"Ms. Robyn," he'll holler after trying to work a length of purlin around a stubborn rod of rebar. "I need the persuader. This baby needs some massaging."**

**"Just like us, I say," bringing the monster hammer to him. "There are lots of times I feel like the Lord has to massage my spirit to clue me in on something."**

**"The trick is learning the language," he nods. "If I don't talk to my Father all day long, then I'm not ready to hear Him, either."**

**"Is that when He brings out the persuader and does the massaging?" I grin.**

**"Right. And we look better for it, just like this wall will stand straighter, but staying fluent in the language of the Holy Spirit keeps that process to a minimum."**

**I like that statement: *staying fluent in the language of the Holy Spirit*. Wow, if only I could learn that technique as fast as I picked up "Headache!" maybe my prayer life would be a lot more productive and my daily walk a lot more plumb.**

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**Report Photo Contest, Spring 2012**

# Obligatory Night Out

By Heather Davis

She told me it'd be fun. She told me I'd have a blast. She told me she'd pay for all the drinks, and that's what sold me.

Just to be a pain, I ordered a Crown & Coke, a scotch on the rocks, and a pitcher of Bud. If I was going to be out with her, she was certainly going to pay.

"Why are you being a jerk?" she questioned. "If you didn't want to come out with me, you could have just said so."

"I did," I reminded her then chugged a frothy mug.

"Well," she started. I could tell she'd be easy to beat down this evening, "You're here with me now, you might as well have a good time. Besides, there's not much else you could be doing."

I downed my scotch before cutting my eyes to her. "Really?" I asked. It was rhetorical for her, but I answered in my head.

I could be at the gym. Not that I'd been to the gym in months. I could be at Mark's playing Halo. Not that I'm any good at it since I'd started my new job. I could be at the movies. Not that there was anything worth paying \$10 a ticket for. I could be at the stadium, but

their losing season didn't make the trip through the traffic worth the effort.

I finished my scotch and then slammed the glass down on the bar. I heard her heave a giant, resigned sigh. "Fine," she said, and I was pretty sure I heard a familiar catch in her voice: The tears were on their way. "You don't have to be here. You can leave. I'll pay up, and find my own way home. I just thought we'd have a fun time tonight, ya know. Just the two of us. But never mind."

"Look," I said, feeling like the jerk that I really was, "I'm sorry. It's just that I'm not used to this."

"I know," she said, sniffling, "That's why we should do this. We never get to see each other."

"I've been in college!" I countered.

"And I've missed you," she whined.

"OK," I said, wondering if it'd be like this for the rest of our lives, "I'll stay. Anything you want. It's still weird, though," I said looking for that last dig, "You are my baby sister!"

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

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

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

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

## CATEGORY 1 ~ MAIN-STREAM NOVEL ~ 27 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Northwest Arkansas Writers Workshop,

in honor of Velda Brotherton and Dusty Richards

**Judge:** Dianne McCartney, Award-Winning Author, Burleson, TX

**Category Chair:** Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers

FIRST PLACE: "Whittaker" by Sharon Ervin, McAlester McSherry Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Broken Dreams" by Jan Morrill, Arkansas Ridge Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Easy Money" by Dixie Maxwell, Tulsa NightWriters

1st HM: "Adam's Ale" by Martha Lea Bryant, The Inklings

2nd HM: "Limited Visibility" by Pamela Foster, Arkansas Ridge Writers

3rd HM: "Gabriel Hounds" by Lisa Willis, Rose Rock wRriters

## CATEGORY 2 ~ CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE ~ 18 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Ally Robertson, The Wild Rose Press, Moore, OK

**Category Chair:** Lela Davidson, Writers' Guild of Arkansas

FIRST PLACE: "Wild" by Connie Blaylock, Green County Ruff Rriters

SECOND PLACE: "The Christmas Husband" by Sue McMurphy, Writers of the Purple Sage

THIRD PLACE: "Do-Overs" by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st HM: "The Rune Master" by Hazel Hart, Kansas Writers Association

## CATEGORY 3 ~ HISTORICAL NOVEL ~ 18 ENTRIES

Category Donor: Fort Worth Writers

**Judge:** Mark Stepp, Old American Publishing, Tahlequah, OK

**Category Chair:** Dee Dee

Chumley, The Inklings

FIRST PLACE: "The Heart Stays People" by Ruby Murray, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Cowboy" by Gwendolyn K. Cook, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "The Legend of Dixie Dandelion" by Ruth Weeks, Arkansas Ridge Writers

1st HM: "The Spanish Captain's Daughter" by Caroline Castillo Crimm, MAL

## CATEGORY 4 ~ MYSTERY/SUSPENSE NOVEL ~ 23 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Marion Moore Hill, Member at Large

**Judge:** Jen Talty, Who Dares Wins Publishing, Fairport, NY

**Category Chair:** Tom Barczak, Norman Galaxy of Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Strange Liaisons" by David W. Bahnks, Arkansas Ridge Writers

SECOND PLACE:

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

"Deadlines" by Amy Shojai,  
MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Portrait of  
Conspiracy" by James M.  
Davis, Arkansas Ridge Writ-  
ers

1st HM: "Hell or High Wa-  
ter" by Marsha Lytle, Mid-  
west Pen & Ink

2nd HM: "The Drought of  
Sam Dakota" by Dawn Allen  
Midwest Pen & Ink

## CATEGORY 5 ~ WEST- ERN NOVEL ~ 12 EN- TRIES

Category Sponsor: Buffalo  
Industries—Carolyn Leonard

**Judge:** Duke Pennell, Pen-L  
Publishing, Fayetteville, AR

**Category Chair:** Julia Moz-  
ingo, Lone Star NightWriters

FIRST PLACE: "On the  
Outlaw Trail" by Inez Phil-  
lips, OKC Writers

SECOND PLACE: "The  
Last Hand" by Everett

Robert, Kansas Writers As-  
sociation

THIRD PLACE: "Temporary  
Insanity" by Judy  
Goodspeed, MAL

1st HM: "Red Barricade" by  
Lowell Long, Writers of the  
Purple Sage

## CATEGORY 6 ~ SF/ FANTASY/HORROR NOVEL ~ 21 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Vickey Malone Ken-  
nedy, 2011 Crème de la  
Crème winner

**Category Chair:** Wayne  
Harris-Wyrick, OKC Writers  
FIRST PLACE: "Sovereign"  
by E. R. Arroyo, Rose Rock  
wRiters

SECOND PLACE: "A New  
and Better Man" by Jerry  
Goodnight, Tulsa NightWrit-  
ers

THIRD PLACE: "Parallax"  
by Jere Ellison, MAL

1st HM: "The Carvers" by  
Nancy Keel, Ol' Tascosa  
Wordslingers

2nd HM: "Lake People" by  
Peggy Chambers, Enid Writ-  
ers Club

## CATEGORY 7 ~ NONFIC- TION BOOK ~ 18 EN- TRIES

**Judge:** C. Hope Clark,

Funds for Writers, Chapin,  
SC

**Category Chair:** Arlene  
Graber, Kansas Writers As-  
sociation

FIRST PLACE: "Aunt  
Lucinda's Civil War" by Les-  
lie Daugherty, Fort Worth  
Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Relax  
and Give" by Barbara Pear-  
son, Arkansas Ridge Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Float Our  
Boat / Sink Our Life" by  
Marcia Feldt Bates, Writers  
of The Woodlands

1st HM: "Against All Odds"  
by Jean Stover, OKC Writers

## CATEGORY 8 ~ PIC- TURE BOOK ~ 29 EN- TRIES

**Judge:** Janet Fox, Children's  
Book Author, Livingston,  
MT

**Category Chair:** Charlotte  
Lanham, Duncanville, TX

FIRST PLACE: "Herding  
Guineas" by Sharon Martin,  
MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Stella  
Bella and Her Mismashed

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

Shoes" by Angie Kay Dilmore, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "A Walk with Mother Nature" by Heather Davis, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st HM: "There's a Tiger in My Garden" by Sylvia Forbes, Arkansas Ridge Writers

## CATEGORY 9 ~ MIDDLE GRADE BOOK ~ 19 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Nancy Jurka, Author and Educator, Palmer Lake, CO

**Category Chair:** Jenna Klein, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Dying in the Hard Moon" by Stephanie Theban, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Silver Belle's Train Caper" by Natalie Bright, Ol' Tascosa Wordslingers

THIRD PLACE: "The Book of All Time: The Secret of Cleopatra's Tomb" by Scott M. Wright, MAL

1st HM: "Phoebe Fogg and The Lost Library" by

Gayleen Rabakukk, MAL

## CATEGORY 10 ~ YOUNG ADULT BOOK ~ 27 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Bartlesville WordWeavers

**Judge:** Anna Myers, Four-Time Oklahoma Book Award Winner

**Category Chairs:** Tawnya Hobbs York and Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

FIRST PLACE:

"Institutionalized: I'm not Crazy" by Valerie Lawson, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "Where Home Is" by Hazel Hart, Kansas Writers Association

THIRD PLACE: "Accepting Ellie" by Jenna Klein, MAL  
1st HM: "On the Run" by Dawn Allen, Midwest Pen & Ink

2nd HM: "Forever, Rose" by Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville WordWeavers

## CATEGORY 11 ~ PO-

## ENTRY UNRHYMED SHORT ~ 73 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Maril Crabtree, Kansas City Voices magazine  
**Category Chair:** Linda Joyce Clements, Kansas City Writers Group

FIRST PLACE: "Caress" by Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

SECOND PLACE: "Takeoff" by Ryan Neighbors, writing as R. C. Neighbors, Student

THIRD PLACE: "The Critic" by Lynda Stephenson, OKC Writers

1st HM: "Migration" by Eleanor Forfang-Brockman, MAL

2nd HM: "Antique Shop, Civil War Section" by Marilyn Gilbert Komechak, Fort Worth Writers

3rd HM: "Unfruitful" by Kelly Bristow, The Inklings

4th HM: "Touch and Go" by Neal Huffaker, Norman Galaxy of Writers

5th HM: "Leftovers" by Keli Wright, Arkansas Ridge Writers

6th HM: "Death of a Dear

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

Wife" by Carolyn Wall, OKC Writers  
7th HM: "Daydream, 1980—Helga Series" by Victoria Hermes-Bond, Kansas Writers Association

## **CATEGORY 12 ~ POETRY UNRHYMED LONG ~ 74 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Benjamin Myers, 2011 Oklahoma Book Award Winner

**Category Chair:** Laura Cundiff-Martin, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "After the Bomb: A Poem of Fragments" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers  
SECOND PLACE: "The Summer of Our Discontent" by Lynda Stephenson, OKC Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Note from the Riverside #21" by Sandy Carter, Writers of The Woodlands

1st HM: "The Opossum" by Carl Wade Thompson, Student

2nd HM: "Bandit" by Ron

Wallace, Red River Writers  
3rd HM: "Morning of a Winter Moon" by Ruth Loeffler, Norman Galaxy of Writers  
4th HM: "A Study in Blue" by Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

## **CATEGORY 13 ~ POETRY RHYMED SHORT ~ 48 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Kristyn Reid, Award-Winning Poet, Choctaw, OK

**Category Chair:** Linda Basinger, Norman Galaxy of Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Tryst at Gibeon" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers  
SECOND PLACE: "Family Ties" by Lowell Long, Writers of the Purple Sage

THIRD PLACE: "Rango Starr" by Sally Jadow, Kansas City Writers Group

1st HM: "The Ancestors" by Judith Durbin, Mid Oklahoma Writers

2nd HM: "So Silently" by Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

3rd HM: "Pie" by Carrie Os-

terman, Writers of The Woodlands

## **CATEGORY 14 ~ POETRY RHYMED LONG ~ 57 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Sharon Martin, Pushcart Prize Nominee, Oilton, OK

**Category Chair:** Sharon Worthey, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "I Will Look for You" by Ron Wallace, Red River Writers

SECOND PLACE:

"Homeplace" by Lowell Long, Writers of the Purple Sage

THIRD PLACE: "Miscommunication" by Sylvia Forbes, Arkansas Ridge Writers

1st HM: "Moonlit Moment" by Theresa Hupp, Kansas City Writers Group

2nd HM: "Early Morning at Pebble Beach" by Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

3rd HM: "Unbroken Hearts" by Kristyn Reid, OK Write Now

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

4th HM: "Battle Under Wraps" by Frances Wykes Searcey, Norman Galaxy of Writers

5th HM: "Westminster Crabby" by Gary Cummings, Kansas Writers Association

## CATEGORY 15 ~ SHORT-SHORT STORY ~ 85 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: The Inklings

**Judge:** Sandra Soli, Oklahoma Book Award Winner

**Category Chair:** Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

FIRST PLACE: "The Day The Snake Got Killed" by Nancy Hartney, Arkansas Ridge Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Colder Weather" by Pamela Foster, Arkansas Ridge Writers

THIRD PLACE: "The Detour" by Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Fort Worth Writers

1st HM: "Summer Without Rain" by Charlotte Anne Smith, Tulsa NightWriters

2nd HM: "Dance Lessons"

by Rita Durrett, Bartlesville WordWeavers

3rd HM: "Winter Rescue" by Sylvia Forbes, Arkansas Ridge Writers

4th HM: "Cajun Cleats" by Michael H. Lang, MAL

5th HM: "The Box" by Marsha Lytle, Midwest Pen & Ink

6th HM: "Winter of My Heart" by Leora Bridgewater, Writers of the Purple Sage

7th HM: "501 Baby Names" by John T. Biggs, MAL

8th HM: "Heart Sticker" by Shelley Anne Richter, OKC Writers

## CATEGORY 16 ~ SHORT STORY ~ 80 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Kansas City Voices Magazine, published by Whispering Prairie Press

**Judge:** Brenda Black, Award-Winning Author, Prairie Grove, AR

**Category Chair:** Carol Johnson, Tulsa NightWriters

FIRST PLACE: "Twenty

Percent Off" by John T. Biggs, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "The Stoooper" by Nancy Hartney, Arkansas Ridge Writers

THIRD PLACE: "A Woman to Die For" by James M. Davis, Arkansas Ridge Writers

1st HM: "The Do-Gooders" by Cynda Thomas, MAL  
2nd HM: "The Train" by Lisa Willis, Rose Rock wRiters

3rd HM: "Venture" by Ron Richardson, Lone Star NightWriters

4th HM: "St. Tropic, Oklahoma" by Doug Kelley, Arkansas Ridge Writers

5th HM: "The Sign" by Paula Esposito, Tulsa NightWriters

6th HM: "Henry and the Snowman" by Janet Bradburn, Web Writing Wonders

7th HM: "Maudie May Mulberry, the Divine" by Barbara L. Clouse, Member at Large

8th HM: "My Daddy's Hands" by Ryan Neighbors, writing as R. C. Neighbors, Student

## CATEGORY 17 ~ JUVENILE SHORT STORY ~ 26

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

## ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Carolyn and Gary Wall

**Judge:** Susan York Meyers, Children's Book Author, Yukon, OK

**Category Chair:** Adrienne Crezo, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "One Sister, Cheap" by Jennifer DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Precious Present" by Angie Kay Dilmore, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "The Japanese Gardener" by Ruth Loeffler, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st HM: "Taylor Sue's Badi-tude" by Inez Phillips, OKC Writers

2nd HM: "Closet Monsters" by Marsha Lytle, Midwest Pen & Ink

## CATEGORY 18 ~ YOUNG ADULT STORY ~ 18 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Carolyn Wall, Award-Winning Novelist

**Category Chair:** Nita Bes-

hear, McAlester McSherry Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Virtual Charlatan" by Brandi Barnett, The Inklings

SECOND PLACE: "Zombie Kibosh Crew" by Natasha Hanova, Midwest Pen & Ink

THIRD PLACE: "The Hunter and the Feast" by Dewey L. Coffman, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st HM: "Music Box" by Leatrice McKinney, Midwest Pen & Ink

## CATEGORY 19 ~ SF/FANTASY/HORROR STORY ~ 35 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Rose Rock wRiters

**Judge:** Greg Camp, Northwest Arkansas Community College

**Category Chair:** Sally Jadow, Kansas City Writers Group

FIRST PLACE: "Wicked Down Below" by Susan Brassfield Cogan, Norman Galaxy of Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Nesting Dolls" by John T. Biggs, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "The Selkie" by Marsha Lytle, Midwest Pen & Ink

1st HM: "Best Laid Plans" by Sharon Martin, MAL

2nd HM: "A Little Help" by Richard Beaty, Tulsa Night-Writers

3rd HM: "Blood and Ochre" by Tom Barczak, Norman Galaxy of Writers

## CATEGORY 20 ~ PROSE HUMOR ~ 51 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Sisterhood of the Traveling Pen

**Judge:** Carol McAdoo Rehme, Author and Editor, Loveland, CO

**Category Chair:** Sharon Martin, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Ol' Roscoe" by Fred Causley, Sr., Stillwater Writers Group

SECOND PLACE:

"Trimming the Fat" by Katherine West, Norman Galaxy of Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Honor Thy Neighbor" by Dawn Allen, Midwest Pen & Ink

1st HM: "The Riddle of Eight Lemons" by John T. Biggs, MAL

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

2nd HM: "A Day in the Brick House" by Ledia Runnels, Writers of The Woodlands

3rd HM: "Dead Dog Barking" by Vickey Malone Kennedy, Rose Rock wRiters

4th HM: "I See Farm People or Thanks for the Mammories" by Gary Cummings, Kansas Writers Association

## CATEGORY 21 ~ ESSAY ~ 51 ENTRIES

**Judge:** SuzAnne C. Cole, Essayist, New Braunfels, TX  
**Category Chair:** Sue McMurphy, Writers of the Purple Sage

FIRST PLACE: "Kingdom of the Grownups" by Martha Heady, MAL

SECOND PLACE: "The Courageous Middle" by Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings

THIRD PLACE: "Peeves I Like to Pet" by Russell Gayer, Arkansas Ridge Writers

1st HM: "All Vegetables Are Not Created Equal" by Rita Durrett, Bartlesville Word-

Weavers

2nd HM: "The Marlin Perkins Theodicy" by Terry Mirl, MAL

3rd HM: "Who Is A Sir?" by David Severe, OKC Writers

4th HM: "In the Garden of My Gall Bladder" Diane McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

## CATEGORY 22 ~ PLAY/ FILM/TV SCRIPT ~ 18 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: Maria Veres and Family

In memory of Monte Shepherd, son of Barbara Shepherd

**Judge:** John Carr, Independent Filmmaker, Eden Prairie, MN

**Category Chair:** Sylvia Forbes, Arkansas Ridge Writers

FIRST PLACE: "Vampyre Heat" by Tony LoPresti, Tulsa NightWriters

SECOND PLACE: "Sebastian Standiford, Stagecoach Driver" by Michael H. Lang, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "He Came from the Sky" by Cynda Thomas, MAL

1st HM: "Tattoo" by Inez Phillips, OKC Writers

## CATEGORY 23 ~ TECHNICAL/HOW-TO ARTICLE ~ 25 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Dionne Obeso, Author and Editor, Hollister, CA

**Category Chair:** Jeanne Shirley, Mid Oklahoma Writers

FIRST PLACE: "How to Tell If Your Doctor Is Drifting" by Barbara Shepherd, Mid Oklahoma Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Fertile Friendship" by Brandi Barnett, The Inklings

THIRD PLACE: "Five Steps to Writing Dialog That Sells" by Mary Ann Kerl, McAlester McSherry Writers

1st HM: "The Perfect Pie Crust" by Rita Durrett, Bartlesville WordWeavers

2nd HM: "SLAP Your Queries" by Jen Nipps, Web Writing Wonders

## CATEGORY 24 ~ FEATURE ARTICLE ~ 25 ENTRIES

**Judge:** Nita Beshear, Pub-

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

lished Feature Writer,  
McAlester, OK  
**Category Chair:** Ginny  
Greene, Shoshone, ID

**FIRST PLACE:** "You Can't  
Keep a Good Woman Down"  
by Barbara Shepherd, Mid  
Oklahoma Writers

**SECOND PLACE:** "Rocky  
Garnett: Steer Roping Cham-  
pion and Stock Contractor"  
by Judy Goodspeed, MAL

**THIRD PLACE:** "Say What?  
Wasei-Eigo" by Laura Popp,  
Tulsa NightWriters

1st HM: "The Virtuoso" by  
Shelley Anne Richter, OKC  
Writers

2nd HM: "Piojó" by Dana  
Dahl Seaton, OKC Writers

## **CATEGORY 25 ~ WEST- ERN ARTICLE ~ 12 EN- TRIES**

**Judge:** Ruby Murray, Au-  
thor, Cathalmet, WA

**Category Chair:** Martha  
Lea Bryant, The Inklings

**FIRST PLACE:**  
"Discovering the Messages  
of Acee Blue Eagle" by

Gayleen Rabakukk, MAL  
**SECOND PLACE:** "Pioneer  
Sculptress" by Nita Beshear,  
McAlester McSherry Writers

**THIRD PLACE:** "Black  
Slicker, Golden Heart" by  
Olyve Hallmark Abbott, Fort  
Worth Writers

1st HM: "Building a Centen-  
nial Icon" by Vivian Zabel,  
Pen and Keyboard Writers

## **CATEGORY 26 ~ INSPI- RATIONAL ~ 54 EN- TRIES**

**Category Sponsor:** Bylines  
Writer's Desk Calendar—  
Sylvia Forbes

**Judge:** Tess Almendárez Lo-  
jacono, Author and Teacher,  
East Aurora, NY

**Category Chair:** DesJean  
Jones, Member at Large

**FIRST PLACE:** "Passion  
Redefined" by DeeDee  
Chumley, The Inklings

**SECOND PLACE:** "Hugs  
from Heaven" by Cathy Col-  
lar, Bartlesville WordWeav-  
ers

**THIRD PLACE:** "The Long  
Walk" by Jennifer McMur-

rain, Bartlesville WordWeav-  
ers

1st HM: "Uncommon Cour-  
age" by Beth M. Stephenson,  
Red Dirt Writers

2nd HM: "Unsung Courage"  
by Cheri Lynn Quattrochi,  
PAWS

## **CATEGORY 27~MAZIE COX REID COLUMN AWARD~10 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Sylvia Forbes, Travel  
Columnist, Fayette, MO

**Category Chair:** Kelly Bris-  
tow, The Inklings

**FIRST PLACE:** "Gather  
Around the Cracker Barrel"  
by Shelley Anne Richter,  
OKC Writers

**SECOND PLACE:** "Favorite  
Firings" by Theresa Hupp,  
Kansas City Writers Group

**THIRD PLACE:** "Knitting in  
the British Isles" by Inez  
Phillips, OKC Writers

1st HM: "It's About Life" by  
Janet Bradburn, Web Writing  
Wonders

## **CATEGORY 28 ~ CON- FESSION STORY ~ 22 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Inez Phillips, Author,  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Category Chair:** Dion

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

Mayes-Burnett, Rose Rock  
wRiters

FIRST PLACE: "The Man I  
Loved Gave Me a Goose  
Egg" by Kathlyn Smith,  
Tulsa NightWriters

SECOND PLACE:  
"Grandma?" by Hazel Hart,  
Kansas Writers Association

THIRD PLACE: "Steamy  
Choices," Jennifer McMur-  
rain, Bartlesville WordWeav-  
ers

1st HM: "Spreading Himself  
Thin" by Marsha Lytle, Mid-  
west Pen & Ink

2nd HM: "Help!" by Mary  
Ann Kerl, McAlester  
McSherry Writers

## CATEGORY 29 ~ NOS- TALGIA ~ 66 ENTRIES

Category Sponsor: PAWS

**Judge:** Becky Haigler, Silver  
Boomer Books, St. Louis,  
MO

**Category Chair:** Janet  
Brown, Member at Large

FIRST PLACE: "Green,  
Glitter and Gold," Paula Se-  
vere, OKC Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Color  
My World" by Martha  
Heady, MAL

THIRD PLACE: "Bikini  
Summer" by Carrie Oster-  
man, Writers of The Wood-  
lands

1st HM "Dollar-A-Carload"  
by Sue McMurphy, Writers  
of the Purple Sage

2nd HM: "Skunk Grease" by  
Bonnie K. Tesh, Arkansas  
Ridge Writers

3rd HM: "Cloud Dancing  
with Snoopy" by "Sam"  
Chambers, Writers of The  
Woodlands

4th HM: "Uncle Matt and the  
Calf-Ride Caper" by David  
Severe, OKC Writers

## CATEGORY 30 ~ PUB-

*(Continued on page 18)*

**Maria Veres, her hus-  
band and daughter spon-  
sored a category this time  
in memory of my younger  
son who died suddenly on a  
beautiful April Sunday. He  
was buried on my birthday.  
Although that was four  
years ago, it seems like yes-  
terday. I miss him and his  
vibrant personality every  
day and each April, as I  
add another proverbial  
candle and face another  
Mother's Day shortly  
thereafter, my tears cas-  
cade in rivulets down my  
cheeks.**

**Maria's gesture  
touched me deeply. We  
chose the film category  
since Monte loved movies  
and TV.**

**Thank you, Maria, Mi-  
chael, and Marta for re-  
membering Monte. I'm  
sure that made an angel  
smile.**

**Sincerely,  
Barbara Shepherd**

**There is probably no hell for  
authors in the next world--  
they suffer so much from crit-  
ics and publishers in this.**

**Bovee (1820-1904)**

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# 2012 OWFI Contest Winners

(Continued from page 17)

## **LISHED JUVENILE BOOK ~ 7 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Sheila Wood Foard,  
Children's Author, Van Bu-  
ren, MO

**Category Chair:** Jen Nipps,  
Web Writing Wonders

### *Beyond the Farthest Star*

Dee Dee Chumley, The Ink-  
lings

## **CATEGORY 31 ~ PUB- LISHED NONFICTION BOOK ~ 8 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Amy Shojai, Author  
of 23 Nonfiction Books,  
Sherman, TX

**Category Chair:** Inez Phil-  
lips, OKC Writers

### *Blacklisted from the PTA*

Lela Davidson, Writers'  
Guild of Arkansas

## **CATEGORY 32 ~ PUB- LISHED POETRY BOOK ~ 3 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Vivian Stewart, Okla-  
homa Poet Laureate Nomi-  
nee, Oklahoma City, OK

**Category Chair:** Lisa  
Willis, Rose Rock wRiters

### *The Language of Small Rooms*

Judith Bader Jones, Kansas  
City Writers Group

## **CATEGORY 33 ~ PUB- LISHED FICTION BOOK ~ 13 ENTRIES**

**Judge:** Maria Rachel Hoo-  
ley, Novelist, Lawton, OK

**Category Chair:** Janet Short  
Bradburn, Web Writing Won-  
ders

### *Document of Expectations*

Devon Abbott Mihesuah,  
Member at Large

## **CRÈME DE LA CRÈME AWARD**

**Sponsored by The Oklaho-  
man In Memory of Bernice  
"Bunny" McShane**

**Judges:**

Kathleen Hamman, Plateau  
Books, Sewanee, TN  
Mary-Lane Kamberg, Co-

Leader, Kansas City Writers  
Eric Reitan, 2008 Crème de  
la Crème Winner

**"Twenty Percent**

**Off"** (Category 16: Short  
Story)

by John T. Biggs, Member at  
Large, Oklahoma City

This year's Crème de la  
Crème Award was presented  
in honor of Bernice (Bunny)  
McShane, a long-time staff  
writer for The Oklahoman.

McShane began her career  
with the Oklahoma Publish-  
ing Company in 1977, work-  
ing in the classified advertis-  
ing department. Over the  
years McShane held several  
positions with the paper, but  
became most widely known  
as a feature writer. Editor  
Diana Baldwin said she al-  
ways admired the rapport  
McShane developed with the  
people she interviewed. "It  
was like she was their long-  
lost best friend by the time  
she had written their story,"  
Baldwin said.

McShane retired from The  
Oklahoman in 1998, but con-  
tinued to write book reviews  
for the paper until 2008. She  
died in November 2011, at  
the age of eighty-four.

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## 2012 Conference Sponsor



### Contest Sponsors and Donors

*Crème de la Crème The Oklahoman*- honoring Bernice McShane

#### *Two Categories*

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

#### ***Full Category Sponsors***

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The Inklings  
PAWS  
Rose Rock wRiters  
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pen  
Tulsa NightWriters  
Norman Galaxy of Writers  
NW Arkansas Writers Workshop, honoring Dusty Richards & Velda Brotherton  
Buffalo Industries —Carolyn B. Leonard  
Bylines Writer's Desk Calendar—Sylvia Forbes  
Peggy Fielding  
Marion Moore Hill  
Kansas City Voices magazine, published by Whispering Prairie Press  
Clay McKinney, in memory of Scott Van Ashe  
Sue McMurphy  
Maria Veres and Family, in memory of Monte Shepherd  
Carolyn and Gary Wall

#### ***Half Category Sponsors***

Fort Worth Writers  
McAlester McSherry Writers  
Jeanne Shirley  
Sandra Soli  
Writers of the Purple Sage

#### ***Other Donations***

Pen and Keyboard Writers

***Thank You to all our Sponsors and Donors who helped make this conference possible!***

The **Norman Galaxy of Writers** sponsorship was inadvertently left out of the award book and was not mentioned during the awards presentation. We regret this omission.

# Affiliate News

## WRITERS' GUILD OF ARKANSAS

### Professional Activities

#### **MARILYN COLLINS:**

SPEAKER: "Memoir Writing," National Women's Memoir Writing Conference (04/14),  
SPEAKER: "Get More For Your Money from Writers' Conferences," Velda Brotherton/Dusty Richards Workshop (03/10), New Website:

[www.chspublishing.com](http://www.chspublishing.com) for writers of both nonfiction and fiction.

**LELA DAVIDSON:** Producer/Director/Speaker: "Listen To Your Mother," in Northwest Arkansas, one of ten cities nationwide hosting this live performance that gives Mother's Day a Microphone, Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR, (05/12).  
**RHONDA FRANZ:** Guest Blogger: "The New Year: You, Part II," Arkansas Women Bloggers [www.arkansaswomenbloggers.com](http://www.arkansaswomenbloggers.com) (02/12).

**BARBARA YOUREE:** spoke about her nonfiction book, *Courageous Journey: Walking the Lost Boys' Path from the Sudan to America*, University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, (04/12).

### Novels & New Books

**BARBARA YOUREE:** NOVEL: *Race to Glory: Olympics from the First Century* (04/12) came out in digital form (Nook, Kindle, etc) with Red Willow Press in March. It captures the thrills and struggles of competing in the Olympic Games plus a touch of romance, a prediction from the Delphi oracle, and a clash with young Nero Claudius.

### Honors & Awards

**LELA DAVIDSON:** Honored with Reader Views Reader's Choice for Best Humor Book of 2011 and Best Non-Fiction Book of 2011 for *Blacklisted From the PTA* (Jupiter Press, 07/12).

### Acceptance & Sales

**RHONDA FRANZ:** published "Knocking On Wood: A Young Child's Education in Home Improvement" with *About Families* (05/12), and *Parents & Kids* (04/12), accepted for publication with *Simply Family's* June issue.

## WEB WRITING WONDERS

### Professional Activities:

**CONNIE BLALOCK** Signed 11

new contracts with Secret Cravings Publishing to be released over the next three years.  
**JEN NIPPS:** Joined the National Writers Union. Spent two weeks at the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow (May 20-June 2).

### Books:

**CONNIE BLALOCK:** *Wind* will be released by Secret Cravings Publishing in October 2012.  
**JEN NIPPS:** *Windsong & Other Poems* was released in December 2011 by CreateSpace. *Get Twitter-pated: A Writer's Handbook to Twitter* was released in March 2012 by GenXt Press/CreateSpace.

### Short Stories:

**JEN NIPPS:** "Angel" will be published the *The World of Myth Magazine* in May at <http://www.theworldofmyth.com>.

## TULSA NIGHTWRITERS

### Acceptance and Sales

**DEBORAH CAMP:** BOOKS: Re-issued novels sold several thousand copies on Amazon this month.

**SALLY JADLOW:** BOOK: *The*





# Affiliate News

Continued

*Late Sooner*, Kindle version, rose to #1 in American History, 19<sup>th</sup> century, #24 in the overall Kindle store, and #25 in the paid Kindle store.

**DONNA JONES:** SHORT STORY: "Finders, Keepers," *Storyteller Magazine*.

**JIM LAUGHTER:** BOOK: *Polar City Red* released in conjunction with Earth Day (AWOC Books). Available in paperback and on Kindle.

**MIKE KOCH:** SHORT STORY: "Titus," published in *Static Movement's* anthology, *Carnival*. Available on Amazon.com.

**RADINE TREES NEHRING:** BOOK: *A Fair to Die For*, the seventh in the series featuring Carrie McCrite and Henry King, released nationwide (Oak Tree Press).

**DEANNA PONDER** (writing as Dena Garson): NOVELLA: *Down to Business* released and is available at *Ellora's Cave*.

**JOAN RHINE:** EDITING/ WRITING: Recently signed on a new editing client in London; completed editing a Young Adult suspense novel; with Bob Burke, co-authored the soon-to-be released Clem McSpadden biography; ABC affiliate KTUL.com has already posted a blurb about the highly anticipate work.

**CAROL LAVELLE SNOW:** POEMS: "The Camping

Song" (*Rhyme and PUN-ishment*), and "Tulsa on a Summer Morning" (*Step-Away Magazine*).

**CARLA STEWART:** BOOK: Third novel, *Stardust*, released (Faith Words).

**GLORIA TEAGUE:** BOOK/ STORIES: Paranormal Romance novel, *Through the Shadows*, released (AWOC Books); two short stories published in *The World of Myth*.

## Contests

**SARA SUE HOKLOTUBB:** Novel, *The American Café*, was a finalist in fiction for the Oklahoma Book Awards; the same novel is a finalist in the ForeWord Book of the Year contest. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting of the American Library Association in Anaheim, CA, on June 23.

**CAROL LAVELLE SNOW:** Won awards for nine of her poems at the Poetry Society of Oklahoma's Spring Banquet.

**CARLA STEWART:** Novel, *Broken Wings*, was a finalist in fiction for the Oklahoma Book Awards.

## Professional Activities

**DONNA JONES:** SIGNING: Signed copies of her book *Killing the Secret* at Steve's Sundry, at the Sapulpa Library, Muldrow

Library, Ada Library, and at Hastings in Muskogee.

**CARLA STEWART:** SPEAKER/SIGNING: Spoke to Fellowship of Christian Writers; spoke to school group and parents in Calument, OK; participated in the Stardust Blog Hop and Stardust Hometown Party, Perryton, TX; Participated in the Ladies' Lifestyle Extravaganza at the Claremore Expo; book signing, Barnes and Noble, Tulsa; author signing and book signing, Kaffe Bona.

**GLORIA TEAGUE:** SIGNING: Participated in the Ladies' Lifestyle Extravaganza at the Claremore Expo.

## Honors

**ANNA MYERS:** Received the Arell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

**CAROL LAVELLE SNOW:** Named 2012 Poet Laureate for the Poetry Society of Oklahoma.

## ARKANSAS RIDGEWRITERS

## Novels & New Books

**VELDA BROTHERTON:** E-BOOK: *Angel's Gold*, Kindle (04/12); E-BOOK: *Saddles, Spurs*

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# Affiliate News

Continued

and Sass, Kindle (04/12).

**RADINE TREES NEHRING:** MYSTERY NOVEL; *A Fair to Die For*, Oak Tree Press (06/01).

## Professional Activities

### **VELDA BROTHERTON**

(03/12) - Spoke at Northwest Arkansas Writer's Workshop Conference; Appeared at Harrison Book Club; Spoke to Crawford County Genealogical Society; Held two Workshops on Publishing to Kindle; Appeared on Triangle Radio Program. (04/12) Spoke at Springfield Writer's Guild. (05/12) Appeared on Triangle Radio Show.

### **RADINE TREES NEHRING**

(05/12) Spoke at BOOKS IN BLOOM, Arkansas's Spring Book Festival, Gardens of the 1886 Crescent Hotel, Eureka Springs, AR; Book signing at National Train Day in Van Buren, AR; Book signing at Charleston Booksellers, Branson, MO.

**DONNA VOLKENANNT:** Gave a presentation on, "Think Outside the Book: How Writing Short Stories Can Get Your Work Noticed," to St. Louis Chapter of Sisters in Crime on March 13, 2012.

## Acceptances and Sales

**DONNA VOLKENANNT:** AR-

TICLE: "Writing Tips from a Contest Judge," Walrus Publishing Blog (01/12); ESSAYS: "Take Your Clothes Off and Other Critique Group Advice," The Muffin (03/12); "The Magic of Writing" and "A Fine Day in November," Well Versed 2012 (05/12); "A Just Man," Life Lessons from Dads (06/12); SHORT STORIES: "Keeping Faith," Cactus Country II (04/12); "Look Back, but Don't Stare," Writing on Walls Anthology (Summer 2012).

## Contest Winnings

**DONNA VOLKENANNT:** Erma Bombeck Global Humor Writing Competition, ESSAY: First Place, "Honey, Can I Borrow Your Garter Belt?" (04/12). Missouri Writers' Guild President's Award, First Place, SHORT STORY: "Under the Bottle Tree" (04/12). Saturday Writers Chapter Award, FLASH FICTION: Second Place, "A Lovely Shade of Pink" (04/12). Kansas City Writers Chapter Award, Second Place: BLOG POST: "Writing Tips from a Contest Judge" (04/12). Coffee and Critique Winner-Take-All Writing Contest, SHORT STORY: First Place, "Sins of the Daughters" (05/12).

## Honors and Awards

**DONNA VOLKENANNT:** Read her first-place essay, "Honey, Can I Borrow Your Garter Belt" during the Erma Bombeck Celebration at the Washington Centerville Library in Centerville, OH, April 18, 2012. Honored as special guest attendee during the 2012 Erma Bombeck Workshop at the University of Dayton, Ohio, April 19-22.

(06/12) Arkansas Writers' Conference, Little Rock, AR.

## **OL' TASCOSA WORDSLINGERS**

## Awards

**Phyllis Miranda's** novella "Away in the Manger" from A TEXAS CHRISTMAS Anthology received a 2012 Award of Merit in the HOLT Medallion Contest, sponsored by the Virginia Romance Writers. Two of her novellas, "Away in the Manger" (from A TEXAS CHRISTMAS) and "Texas Flame" (from GIVE ME A TEXAS OUTLAW) are duel finalists in the Booksellers' Best RWA Award in the novella category.

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# Affiliate News

Continued

## NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

### Acceptances and Sales

**KEITH EATON:** Three articles in *Distinctly Oklahoma*, "Earth, Air, Fire, and Water: The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Commitment to Thermal Energy Transfer;" "Three R's of Higher Education: Rate of Inflation, Rate of Tuition and Fee Increases and the Rate of Interest on Student Loans;" "Harrington Living His Dream."

**BOB MAGARIAN:** Published his novel "72 Hours." Published "Bob Magarian's Writing Tips" in Galaxy's Newsletter.

**HELEN DUCHON:** Published *LWVN Voter* for Spring 2012. Updates website and Facebook pages for three organizations *Morning Star*, *Galaxy* and *League of Women Voters of Norman*.

**ANN CHAMPEAU:** Publishes *Markets Column* every month in Galaxy's newsletter *Writeline*.

**ROBERT FERRIER:** Published two poems in *Mobius Magazine*, "Birth of a Twister," and "Going Digital." Video poem "The Dante Dreams, Inferno: Benedict Arnold" on YouTube.

**RUSS LONG:** Published book reviews "Hell Above Earth" and "Enterprise" in *The Oklahoman*."

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** "*Silliman on Sports*," and

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

**MIKE KRAWCZYK:** Cartoons for "Silliman on Sports."

**TOM BARCZAK:** Published and illustrated "Awakening Evarun" (Part II, III, & IV of VI) online at <http://www.amazon.com/Awakening-Evarun-Part-VI-ebook/dp/> The paperback version is on sale in bookstores.

**FRANCIS SEARCEY:** Letter to the Editor of Norman Transcript about a modern Good Samaritan.

**SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN:** Published a short story "Violet Crime," on *Smashwords*.

**KATHLEEN PARK:** Publishes "Watching Your Language" every month in Galaxy's newsletter, WriteLine.

### Professional Activities

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** Conducted Joke Writing Workshop at OCU. Opened for Moshe Kasher at the City Arts Center. Performed 50 minutes for American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at OU;. Performed at Paseo Underground. Performed during Norman Music Festival at Tres' Restaurant. Featured speaker at USAO in Chickasha. Comedy

performance at Rivermont Retirement Home. Conducted a 100-105 minute workshop on cartoon gag writing during the "Creative Writing Festival" at OCU. Was roastmaster at Othello's called "The Roast of Adolph Hitler."

**ANN CHAMPEAU:** Judged the Nostalgia category for Oklahoma City Writers annual contest.

**INGA BLANTON:** A book signing at Hastings for her sixth book.

**JUDY HOWARD:** QSVX Expos, Food for Body and Soul Touring Quilts, OKC Winter Quilt Show, Cox Convention Center. Howard signed her 5 books. 1905 Cookbook program and exhibits for "Food for Body and Soul Quilts" at Peppers Ranch Orphanage Fundraiser in Guthrie and Old Town Plaza in Norman.

**BOB MAGARIAN:** Signed books of his latest thriller novel *72 Hours*, at Hastings.

**TOM BARCZAK;** Book signing at Hastings for *Awakening Evarun*.

**MARILYN FLEER:** Teaching writing classes in memorium to Creative Writing professors Foster Harris, Walter Campbell and Dwight Swain.

### Honors and Awards

**ANDREW HORTON:** Received the 2012 Distinguished service

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# Affiliate News

Continued

Award from the Oklahoma Film and Video Studies Society for service to cinema and film studies of Oklahoma.

## MID-OKLAHOMA WRITERS

### Acceptances and Sales

**JOHN PRIMO** (writing as Zax Primo): NOVEL: *Summit at Sunset*, (trade paperback and e-book) published by Rutherford Literary Group.

### Contest Winnings

**CHARLES VASSEL**: Art Affair Contest, WESTERN STORY: 1<sup>st</sup> place. "The Boston Kid" and FICTION: Honorable Mention, "The Oldest Man in the World," Mid-Oklahoma Writer Contest. CHILDREN'S STORY: 1<sup>st</sup> place "Mary and Albert," SHORT STORY: 2<sup>nd</sup> place An Hour of Terror, POETRY: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, "Goodbye Summer."

**JAN HALL**: Mid-Oklahoma Writer's Contest, NON-FICTION: 1<sup>st</sup> place, "Amore Eterno."

**BARBARA SHEPHERD**: Mid-Oklahoma Writer's Contest, POETRY: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, "Poet on the Prairie," SHORT STORY: Hon-

orable Mention, "Frontier Burial," NON-FICTION: Honorable Mention, "Sam Cooper."

**JEANNE SHIRLEY**: Mid-Oklahoma Writer's Contest, SHORT STORY: 1<sup>st</sup> place "The Violin Case." NON-FICTION: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, "Your Story or My Story," CHILDRENS STORY: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, "Kitty to the Rescue." **DAVID ROPER**: Mid-Oklahoma Writers Contest, NON-FICTION: 2<sup>rd</sup> place, "How Serious Writers ...". CHILDRENS STORY: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place "The Day Rusty ..." POETRY: 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention, "Too Many Hats."

**JUDITH DURBIN**: Mid-Oklahoma Writer's Contest, Poetry: 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention, "The Ancestors."

### Professional Activities

**JOHN PRIMO**: (Writing as Jax Primo) Book signing at Full Circle Bookstore for his novel "Summit at Sunset" (trade paperback and e-book) published by Rutherford Literary Group.

## MCALESTER'S MCSHERRY WRITERS

### Honors & Awards

**TAMMY HINTON**: Novel *Unbridled*, AWOC Books, (11/11)

selected as a finalist for Western Writers of America's Spur award. *Unbridled*, was also a finalist selection for the Western Fictioneers; winner to be announced June 1.

### Professional Activities

**MARY ANN KERL**: Selected as the "Subject Matter Expert" for a journalism course development team that created a new upper level journalism course, Journalistic Writing, for the University of Phoenix. Mary Ann teaches online communications courses for Phoenix as well as Argosy University.

### Acceptances and Sales

**MARY ANN KERL**: ARTICLE "How to Get Ideas—and Make Money!," to be published in *Writing for Dollars!*

## FORT WORTH WRITERS

### Professional Activities

**OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT**: SPEAKER/SIGNING: "The Golden Age of Television," Fort Worth Women's Club (3/12); Speaker/Signing for "Haunts and Legends," Jefferson's bi-annual conference, Jefferson, TX (4/12);

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## Affiliate News

Continued

**BOOK SIGNINGS:** Four paranormal books and TV-Live-or-Dead, a novel, for "Books 'n Authors 'n All that Jazz," Weatherford College, Weatherford, TX (4/18).

## BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

### Novels & New Books

**CATHY COLLAR, HEATHER DAVIS, RITA DURRETT and JENNIFER MCMURRAIN:** ANTHOLOGY: *Whispered Beginnings: A Clever Fiction Anthology*, TreasureLine Publishing (05/12).

**LISA ANNE NICHOLS:** NOVEL: *Once Upon a Wish*, Tate Publishing (2/12)

### Contest Winnings

**HEATHER DAVIS:** Bartlesville Creative Writing Contest, FICTION: 2nd Place, "Granny's Hands."

**C.D. JARMOLA:** Bartlesville Creative Writing Contest, DRAMATIC SKIT: 1st Place, "An Empty Stage."

**DIANA PURSER:** Bartlesville Creative Writing Contest, CHILDREN'S STORY: 1st Place, "Max's Big Fat Secret" and DRAMATIC SKIT: 2nd Place, "The First Storytelling Contest."

MATIC SKIT: 2nd Place, "The First Storytelling Contest."

## OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS

### Novels and New Books

**ROGER GREIDER** recently published five books on Smashwords.com: *Temporary Warrior* (non-fiction), *Moonfall* (fiction), *Time Tangle* (Fiction), *Time Ship* (fiction), *The Chicken Yard* (fiction).

### Sales and Acceptances

**SANDY SOLI** had poems accepted at *Parody Magazine*,

*Cross Timbers*, and *Umbrella Literary Journals*. Her profile was published in the USAO alumni magazine in Chickasha, though she is not a graduate there. She judged four writing contests in the past six months.

### Club News

Oklahoma City Writers congratulates member Barbara Shepherd on her being award the 2012 OWFI Honorary Life Member. Barbara is active in several Affiliate Groups and is the treasurer for most of them! Way to go, Barbara!



Pulp Fiction.

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# Thoughts from our Past President Linda Apple

**“Storytellers have as profound a purpose as any who are charged to guide and transform human lives. I knew it as an ancient discipline and vocation to which everyone is called.” — Nancy Mellon, *The Art of Storytelling***

Wow. What a year. It has been such an honor to serve as your 2012 president. I’ve enjoyed encouraging you as writers and storytellers.

I feel strong about the power of story. As Nancy Mellon says in the above quote, our writing can guide and transform human lives, no matter what

genre we write. Whether we weave a message in our writing or just offer a few hours of escape and pleasure, our readers

are the better for having read our work.

This year we tried new things at our conference from the suggestions you gave last year. Some things worked, others may not have. We need to hear from you. In the next couple of weeks we will be sending you an electronic evaluation form. Until then, please jot down some thoughts so you won’t forget.

Your thoughts are important. I’m still meditating on Steven James’ keynote address. When he encouraged us to *throw our hats over the wall* it really resonated with me. I looked up this reference and found that this story originated with the Irish writer, Frank O’Connor. As a boy, he and his friends jour-

neyed across the countryside until they came to an orchard wall blocking their way. It seemed too high, but they wanted to continue. Somehow, they came

up with the idea to throw their hats over the wall, as a way to committing them to overcome the obstacle and continue on their journey.

At the conference, we all journeyed across the countryside of writing with our friends. We’ve basked in the camaraderie of writers, been inspired by great information, and motivated by new ideas. But there will be a wall. There is always a wall. It may be a rejection. Maybe you didn’t place in a contest this year. It might be writer’s block. We may hit the wall of life, making it hard to find time to write. The wall of insecurity is a killer.

So what are you going to do? Lean against the wall and slide to the ground in defeat or throw your hat over the wall? I encourage you to commit to writing. Make the sacrifice and find time to weave your stories.

I look forward to seeing you again at the 2013 conference. Your new president, Patty Stith, is lining up a fantastic faculty! Great things are coming. Until then, it is my hope that all of you will have incredible successes, unmatched favor, and above all that you flourish as storytellers.

**This year we tried new things at our conference from the suggestions you gave last year. Some things worked, others may not have. We need to hear from you. In the next couple of weeks we will be sending you an electronic evaluation form. Until then, please jot down some thoughts so you won’t forget. Your thoughts are important.**

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# Barbara Shepherd receiving congratulations for winning DWFL's highest honor; Honorary Life Membership Award for 2012





**WWW.OWFI.ORG**



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**Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc**

All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer.

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