

THE NEWSLETTER OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS' FEDERATION, INC.

WINTER 2012

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 3

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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Cover photo © Tamlyn Rhodes, 2008

The **Report** is the quarterly newsletter of Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. It is published each March, June, September and December. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Submission guidelines are available upon request. Send submissions to wizardwayne@juno.com

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DO NOT SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

Pati Stith

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When Life Gets in the Way

When I quit my job to pursue a writing career and moved back to Arkansas to be near family, I honestly had no idea what I was getting myself into. I could have developed a daily schedule that outlined the number of hours a day I'd spend helping my mother, driving to the nearest town for supplies (an hour away), feeding critters and writing, but I didn't. Why? Because I approach life the same way I approach writing—by the seat of my pants.

The “pantsing” method worked fairly well for a while. I dedicated four hours a day to writing. I'd wake up in the morning, drink something heavily caffeinated and then sit down at the computer. Stories flew out of my mind. My fingers flew over the keyboard as those tales were transcribed into works of literary genius. Anthologies published my short stories. Publishers clamored to buy my novels (okay, maybe not clamored). My writerly life was on fire.

Then... life happened.

I live on a farm. Not just any anywhere, but in the Ozark Mountains. Why is that different than say one in Kansas? There isn't a single building on this place that has a new piece of lumber or nail in it. “Buy a new hose? Are you insane? This one has been in the family for forty-three years.” “There's nothing wrong with rust, Patty. Just get a tetanus shot every ten years, you'll be fine.”

My dad bought the tractor three years before I was born. Fortunately, it's in better shape than I am, but like me, it has a hard time waking up in the morning and requires a great deal of pampering.

Not only do I live on a ramshackle farm, I live near my family. It took me three hours of quality time with my kin folk to recall my reason for moving five-thousand miles away in the first place. They're nuts!

Somehow, my writing time dwindled. Sure, I still had something heavily caffeinated in the morning,

but that is where the writing routine ended. Instead of sitting down to better the world with my prose, I was outside feeding chickens and planting gardens. Farm workers needed to be fed and guess who cooked lunch?

Frustration ruled. I decided to take my writing life back. God knows, the romance world would weep without a new release from Claire Croxton! I'm a project manager by profession. I know how to create spreadsheets and I'm a master of getting jobs done on time and under budget. It was time to apply my skills to my writing life. I made a schedule. Wake up, drink caffeine, ignore e-mails, don't answer the phone, hang a sign “I'm writing smut, stay out!” lock the door, write.

Then... life happened.

It's impossible to plan life. You can't predict accidents, injuries, sickness or death. It's impossible to know that your dad will die five days after being diagnosed with cancer. How do you schedule grieving time with your mother?

When your cousin calls and asks you to meet the ambulance at the hospital because her mother has been in a car accident, do you say “Sorry. I'm writing?” No. You go. Do you deny your mother's request for a ride to the hospital to sit with her sister? No. You go. Do you refuse to attend your favorite aunt's funeral because she's being buried three counties away and you have to finish chapter ten of your latest novel? No. You go.

You forget your projects and you focus on your family.

Needless to say, it's been a tough couple of years. Seems like every time I get back into the writing groove, something catastrophic occurs.

My mother, my greatest supporter, asked me the other day about my writing schedule. “Sugar dumping, how's that story, Loch Lonnie, coming along?”

(Continued on page 25)

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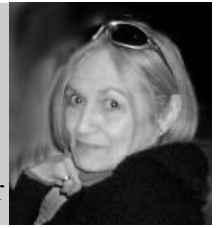
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Don't Miss This Book!

A Thousand Years Of Darkness

Annie Withers , Book Review Editor



A Thousand Years Of Darkness
by Charles W. Sasser
Deadly Niche Press, 2011
368 pages

On the front cover he writes, *“What if the President of the United States was trying to topple the nation and you found out about it?”* Now he swears this political thriller is fiction, but the characters, events, and context are so vivid I know I've seen them slithering across the evening news. Everyone who knows Chuck Sasser will agree he lives close to the edge, but this book takes him over the top.

In the first chapter, a neighborhood 'Micky D's' is the scene of a wild shootout. The Feds interrupt a meeting of a couple of blue-collar Tea Partiers, blasting one all over the parking lot. You know you're in for a wild ride and it's too late to back out.

This story has scenes that might have been copied verbatim from police reports Sasser filled out in his days as homicide detective in Tulsa or maybe in Miami, Florida. But the nail-biting realism doesn't stop there.

His rich, earthy voice makes you laugh as you cringe when a character fleeing from the cops “felt trapped in the sewer, like a coon in a creek with hounds baying on its tail.” Or when main character James Nail, Tulsa Police Detective, finally gets close to one of the killers, Sasser writes, “When Nail's eyes fixed on the 'Green Shirt' with the tattoo, the hate and fury was enough to peel paint off a new barn.”

As writers, we try to 'observe' the work as we read, but Sasser makes that hard as he drives us from page to page. He uses short chapters, changing POV characters or scenes or both, to ratchet up tension. All the while, he crams more data into our brain than it will hold, using newspaper headlines between chapters to inject even more layers of the complex plot.

When he senses you can't take any more, Sasser breaks in with down-home humor. During a period when Nail is hiding from authorities, he thinks to himself, “The problem with doing nothing is you don't know when you're finished.”

Still reeling from events flashing across the first

pages, we realize he's setting the plot for traitorous betrayal by people at the pinnacle of power as the scope spreads from Oklahoma to Washington DC, New York City, and back to Colorado.

Deftly foreshadowing the depth of the betrayal, one highly placed Chief of Staff peers through the window of his office overlooking peaceful protesters on the Washington Mall. When he sees their homemade signs, he thinks, “If they only knew what was really going on, they'd come armed with pitchforks and torches.”

I can imagine the fun Sasser had drawing characters – or perhaps more accurately 'caricatures,' like a cartoonist. I'll let you identify this guy with a thick German accent – “His scary-looking, dark gray brows arched like the overhang of caves inside which lurked dangerous, black eyes that coldly surveyed his surroundings like carnivores casting for prey.” Then he must have known I'd have fun trying to crack the code behind their names.

But if you think Sasser's books are full of adventure, you should try his bio. He has 50 books, fiction and non-fiction translated into six languages, 3000 to 4000 magazine articles and short stories, and he does regular articles as an investigative reporter.

He's a veteran of the Navy (correspondent, wounded in action) and the Army (Special Forces and Green Berets, of course) and former police homicide detective. He's been a college professor and lectured nationwide and, since 1979, a full-time freelance writer/journalist/photographer.

And I can't leave out his adventures – he's solo-canoeed the Yukon, solo-sailed the Caribbean, motorbiked across

(Continued on page 24)

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

10 Tips for Press Releases

Jen Nipps, Web Review Editor



As writers, at some point in our career, it is inevitable that we will need to write a press release, whether for a new book, a speaking engagement, or something else. Is this something you can do yourself, or do you have to hire it done?

You can certainly do it yourself. Here are a few things to keep in mind when you do:

1. Never write a release in all caps. That's just a rule.

2. Single words in all caps for emphasis are not generally used in journalism. Use italics for emphasis if you think it's really needed.

3. In a sentence, capital letters should only be used for proper names. Someone has to take time to go back and fix each letter that shouldn't be capitalized in the first place.

4. Time is always written as 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. Don't use double zeroes; it's just 9 a.m. not 9:00 a.m. Also, don't write AM and PM in caps. It is a.m. and p.m.

5. When you use phone numbers, (405) 555-1234 is the only way a phone number should be written for press. Don't separate number groups with periods.

6. Exclamation points should only be used once in a release. It's best if you don't use them at all.

7. Press releases are different from columns and commentary and should avoid the use of "we," "I,"

and "our" unless you are speaking for yourself and your name is included. (For the press releases you write, this will most likely be the case.)

8. When using commas in a person's title or description, use a semicolon before the next name.

9. If you send a copy of an event poster in .jpeg or .pdf format, all the information may have to be retyped into a text document, so your submission may

end up on the bottom of the pile until someone has time to do it. You're risking space being filled before the notice gets attention.

10. Remember to use spell check. Also, remember it isn't foolproof, so you still need to double check for things like

someone's name. If you don't catch it and correct it, some editor gets the blame.

It's never easy to write a press release. With these tips, maybe you can help the process be a little less painful.

If you send a copy of an event poster in .jpeg or .pdf format, all the information may have to be retyped into a text document, so your submission may end up on the bottom of the pile until someone has time to do it. You're risking space being filled before the notice gets attention.

Jen Nipps now lives in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where she writes press releases and maintains the social media presence for the Eureka Springs School of the Arts as well as editing press releases so they are fit for print for the Eureka Springs Independent. She is a member of the Web Writing Wonders and the McAlester McSherry Writers.

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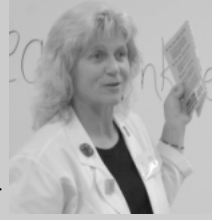


The Doctor is:

In**Out**

New Tricks

Robyn Conley, The Book Doctor



In less than two months, your Book Doc will turn 50. George Carlin used to compare the phrase “turning 50,” to how we say a food turns, meaning spoils, and how the term shed a subtle, negative reference for the half-century mark.

With the usual aches, eyestrain, and intermittent forgetfulness, I’m also fretting a bit more these days about “turning” fifty. Still, there are some pluses for writers who age.

We’ve learned to be stubborn about submitting, even when rejected over our careers. We’ve learned to revise and we’ve learned to cross-market. We’ve learned to adapt.

Adapting as we age is a bit more difficult because we tend to settle into our comfortable ways of writing and selling. One thing I’ve opened up to lately is the new accessibility of what’s available to read. I’m enjoying my Kindle, even though I’m still a major fan of browsing through old books.

As a matter of fact, when Marilyn Gilbert Komechak sent a postcard about her recent book, *DEBORAH SAMPSON: The Girl Who Went to War*, I ordered the book to my Kindle. So there was something new I did, even as an aging writer/reader. First, I saved the card to tote from the post office to my desk (because all biographies intrigue me), and then, I checked out the book on Amazon. It was the combined use of old paper and new media that struck me, an aging writer.

Most recently this *old dog* chose an even greater *new tricks* path. When my latest writing book was rejected for not being a contender for the “...print market at this time” according to the Writer’s Digest books submission team, a light bulb lit in my noggin. Fine, I thought, with God as my witness, I will publish it in PDF and build a new web site to make it available as a download first.

Okay, so I can’t build a web site, but I know people who can, and by golly, with the help of those in

the know, many things can be downloaded from my web site now. And the money goes to me. Directly. True, no major advance came my way, but I never received a major advance in the past, even when writing for Scholastic or Writer’s Digest. Advances, yes, but nothing close to what Grisham, Rowling, or Paterson received.

On the new, improved site, you’ll find my weekly newsletter, *The Writer’s Chat*, as well as my latest book for kids: **THE COLOR ME BIBLE**, just in time for Christmas. **THE HEALTHY WRITER’S HANDBOOK** a resource for any writer hoping to have a successful, healthy writing career, is a downloadable PDF file. Of course the usual **Book Doc**, **Free Critiques**, and **Fees** info is also there. Or, if you just want to see a lot of gorgeous pine trees that still make an almost-fifty writer sigh with fresh, poetical thoughts, please feel free to meander about at www.robynconley.com.

Even this old writer is trying to learn a few new tricks for the modern age. You can, too, in 2013. When you do, drop me a line and let me know how you’re tackling today’s technology to your advantage. If you’d like to subscribe to the Writer’s Chat newsletter that comes direct to your email box each week, email me at bookdoctor@earthlink.net. Use the same email if you want to receive your FREE 10-page critique. Until next time, happy writing!

Robyn Conley, the book doctor, speaks and writes about writing, editing, and marketing what you write. Her latest books include: **THE HEALTHY WRITER’S HANDBOOK** – tips from writers commenting to Robyn’s popular “Writer’s Chat” newsletter; **INSIGHTS FROM THE JOBSITE** – devotions for blue collar workers; **THE COLOR ME BIBLE** – an overview of the Bible with full-page coloring book pictures; **PRAY THE BIBLE with Paper and Pen** - a guidebook to build conversations with the Lord; **BEYOND THE BRANCHES: Writing and Scrapping Your Complete Family Tree**; **BE YOUR OWN BOOK DOCTOR**; **WHAT REALLY MATTERS TO ME** - discover your goals and make them come true.

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MARKETING

Four Fundamentals for Marketing Your Own Work

Lela Davidson, Social Media Guru

You wrote something. Good for you. Now, who's going to read it? If you don't get your work out there for others to read (and purchase), you may as well buy some journals and call it good. Today's writers are marketers. I know many of you view this as an unfair burden. You're an artist, damn it! Leave the sales to those... salespeople. I hear your disdain. Get over it, or keep shoving those journals under the bed.

With hundreds of magazine pieces published, one successful essay collection, and another due out December 4th, I have learned a few things about marketing and promotion. Here are my fundamental rules. They are all low cost, apply to all genres and forms of writing, and you can do them all by yourself. In other words, there are no excuses not to do these things.

Be annoying

While you never want to annoy your audience, to be an effective marketer you must get comfortable with annoying yourself. People do not pay attention to all your cute marketing messages and pleas to *buy my book already!* They are busy living their own lives. And all of our lives are busier than ever. So, just because you posted something thirty-six times on Facebook doesn't mean anybody saw it. True story. Post it again. Be repetitive.

Know your people

You already know your audience, because you write for them. Flipping back and forth from creative to sales mode is simply a perspective shift. To market to your audience, you need to think outside the words on the page. What do these people do when they are not reading your brilliant musings? Where do they go? How do they read? What makes them buy? Get to the virtual and real world places you can go to be seen by your target audience, and then speak to them in their language. My audience of busy moms has about eight free minutes a day. I catch them where they spend it—in social media.

Branch out

Once you have penetrated your primary audience, reach out to related markets. An editor of a regional parenting magazine I work with also edits the local lifestyle publication. She recently asked to run an article of mine in their bridal issue. Aha! I suddenly realized there must be hundreds of bridal magazines across the country (or at least bridal issues of general interest magazines). I have dozens of essays about marriage. All I need is a list to submit to and I'm in business. This is a brand new market grown out of the existing audience of parents.

Become a local celebrity

Success starts at home. Work toward being known in as many places as possible in your local area. Speak at lunches, talk on the radio, appear on television. This is not as difficult as you might think. The trick is to start! Start small and don't be afraid to fail. It's not *Good Morning America*. You're in training. Make a list of all the possible "touch points" in your local area that you could come in contact with your audience. The key to this is consistency. Spend ten minutes a week reaching out to groups where your audience congregates. Public speaking is scary, you're right. So what? Do it anyway. Everything becomes easier with practice. Pretty soon you'll be recognized at every coffee shop in town and you can casually say, "Oh, you probably saw me on the news."

Lela Davidson is the author of *Blacklisted from the PTA* and *Who Peed on My Yoga Mat?* She has been coming to OWFI almost every year since 2007. She annoys people every day on leladavidson.com.



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OFFICIAL OWFI 2013 CONTEST COVER SHEET

Do not write in this space. For use of Category Chair only.

Poetry line count _____ Prose word or page count _____ Category Number _____
 Category Chair Initial _____ MS Number _____

WINNINGS	First	Second	Third	1st HM	2nd HM	3rd HM
-----------------	--------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

NO HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete all blanks, except those designated for the Category Chair. Please type or print legibly.
2. E-mail each entry to the appropriate Category Chair. **Do not** email entries to the **General Contest Chair**. Doing so will invalidate your entry.
3. Collaborators must be paid members of OWFI. A collaborative team is considered one entrant.
7. Entries must be postmarked by February 01, 2013.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mainstream Novel | 13. Poetry, Rhymed--Short | 25. Feature Article |
| 2. Contemporary Romance Novel | 14. Poetry, Rhymed--Long | 26. Western Article |
| 3. Historical Novel | 15. Flash Fiction | 27. Inspirational Article |
| 4. Mystery/Suspense Novel | 16. Short-Short Story (Adult) | 28. Column Award |
| 5. Western Novel | 17. Short Story | 29. Nostalgia Prose |
| 6. Sci-Fi/Horror/Fantasy Novel | 18. Juvenile Short Story | |
| 7. Nonfiction Book | 19. Young Adult Short Story | TROPHY AWARDS |
| 8. Picture Book | 20. Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Story | 30. Best Juvenile Book Award |
| 9. Middle Reader Book | 21. Prose Humor | 31. Best Nonfiction Book Award |
| 10. Young Adult Book | 22. Essay | 32. Best Book of Poetry Award |
| 11. Poetry, Unrhymed--Short | 23. Play, Film or TV Script | 33. Best Fiction Book Award |
| 12. Poetry, Unrhymed--Long | 24. Technical and/or How-To Article | |

Category	No.
Manuscript Title	
Author's Name	
Address	
City	State Zip
Phone	Email
Club Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large <input type="checkbox"/> Student

Entrant's Last Name:

OFFICIAL OWFI 2013 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

(Note: Writing teams *may not* enter works by one member of the team **on the same form**. Individuals must enter separately)



Name		
Phonetic Spelling of Name:		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email	
Club Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large <input type="checkbox"/> Student	

	Cat #	Category	Title
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

1. E-mail this form with your entries..
2. Entry fee must be received before February 1, 2013.
3. Use PayPal to enter. Fee of \$20 covers one entry in all 33 categories.
4. E-Mail ENTRY FORM to Sonia Genslar at: 1stvicepresident@owfi.org
5. Mail Entry Form via snail-mail to:
Sonia Gensler
349 St. Clair
Norman, OK 73072

You must be a paid-up member of OWFI or a full-time student to enter the contest. Membership fee is \$20 for club affiliate members or \$25 for members-at-large. Membership information is on the organization website at www.owfi.org

2013 OWFI CONTEST CATEGORY CHAIRS

The 2013 contest is a transition year. Both paper and electronic submissions will be accepted.

Complete, step-by-step directions for entering the contests will be available on the OWFI website. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/brr7fk2>. Once you pay entry fee (with PayPal) you will be directed to the category submissions page.

Formatting for the electronic entries will be the same as the paper entries.

1. Mainstream Novel

Julia Mozingo
P.O. Box 8217
Altus, OK 73522-8217
580-482-8376
category1@owfi.org

2. Contemporary Romance Novel

Julia Mozingo
P.O. Box 8217
Altus, OK 73522-8217
580-482-8376
category2@owfi.org

3. Historical Novel

Julia Mozingo
P.O. Box 8217
Altus, OK 73522-8217
580-482-8376
category3@owfi.org

4. Mystery/Suspense Novel

Julia Mozingo
P.O. Box 8217
Altus, OK 73522-8217
580-482-8376
category4@owfi.org

5. Western Novel

Julia Mozingo
P.O. Box 8217

Altus, OK 73522-8217
580-482-8376
category5@owfi.org

6. SF/Fantasy/Horror Novel

Julia Mozingo
P.O. Box 8217
Altus, OK 73522-8217
580-482-8376
category6@owfi.org

7. Nonfiction Book

Arlene Graber
110 South Oakwood Street
Wichita, KS 67218-1728
316-684-3029
category7@owfi.org

8. Picture Book

Nita Beshear
7972 East 150 Road
Calvin, OK 74531-5053
972-780-8218
category8@owfi.org

9. Middle Reader Book

Nita Beshear
7972 East 150 Road
Calvin, OK 74531-5053
972-780-8218
category9@owfi.org

10. Young Adult Book

Nita Beshear
7972 East 150 Road
Calvin, OK 74531-5053
972-780-8218
category10@owfi.org

11. Poetry Unrhymed Short

Maria Veres
6804 Applewood Drive
Edmond, OK 73034
405-330-1267
category11@owfi.org

12. Poetry Unrhymed Long

Sharon Worthey

4202 Emerson Dr.
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
817-727-2863
category12@owfi.org

13. Poetry Rhymed Short

John Morris
9 SW 50th Street
Lawton, OK 73505
580-248-0552
category13@owfi.org

14. Poetry Rhymed Long

Sharon Worthey
4202 Emerson Drive
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
817-727-2863
category14@owfi.org

15. Flash Fiction

Jenn Nipps
142 Frontage
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
580-559-9622
category15@owfi.org

16. Short-Short Story (Adult) Fiction

Adrienne Crezo
4304 NW Floyd Avenue
Lawton, OK 73505
580-830-0310
category16@owfi.org

17. Short Story (Adult) Fiction

Diane McCartney
225 Sherry Lane
Burleson, TX 76028
817-426-3343
category17@owfi.org

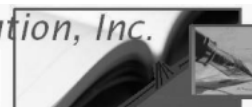
18. Juvenile Short Story: Fiction

Jan Morrill
19035 Stout Mountain Road
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-643-3449
category18@owfi.org

(Continued on page 19)

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Full and partial Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc. Scholarships are available for qualifying applicants.

Scholarships are not limited to OWFI members. Applications must be **received before Feb 1, 2013**. Recipients will be notified by March 1, 2013. All candidates must complete the following form and include an essay. (Scholarships do not include the Extra Workshops, or banquet only tickets.)

Submit application to:

**Vickey Malone Kennedy
721 E Boyd Street
Norman, Ok 73071**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Web-site: _____

Are you applying for a full or single day scholarship? _____

(see registration form to determine request www.owfi.org)

Are you an OWFI member? _____

If yes, for how long? _____

Are you an officer or delegate of OWFI? _____

Are you a member of an OWFI affiliate? _____

If yes, which ones? _____

Are you a student? _____

If so, indicate institute, classification, and major: _____

Have you ever attended an OWFI conference? _____

Have you ever received a scholarship to attend an OWFI conference before? _____

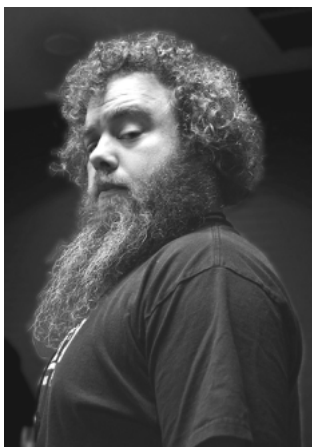
If so, when? (Indicate if you have received a scholarship more than once) _____

Include a 1000 word (or less) essay explaining how you would benefit from receiving an OWFI scholarship and how you plan to contribute to, and participate in, OWFI in the future.

2013 CONFERENCE FACULTY

2013 Conference Keynote Speaker

After nine years at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, **Patrick Rothfuss**, 2013 Conference Keynote Speaker, found he had accidentally earned enough credits to graduate with an English degree. He then went to grad school. He'd rather not talk about it.



In April 2007, *The Name of the Wind* was published and met with surprising success. In the years since, it has been translated into 30 languages, won all manner of awards, and become a bestseller in several countries.

After a great deal of work and a few raised eyebrows from his patient editor, *Wise Man's Fear* came out in March 2011, immediately hitting #1 on the New York Times Bestseller list.

When not working on the third book of the series, Pat plays with his baby, makes mead, and runs Worldbuilders, a geek-centered charity that has raised more than a million dollars for Heifer International.

2013 Speakers

Jodi Thomas is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling novelist who has written 35 books and 11 anthologies. She is also a 5 time RITA award winner, the coveted recognition from the Romance Writers of America. Thomas is a marriage and family counselor by education, a background that enables her to write about family dynamics. Jodi inspires and encourages writers to have courage and "put feet to your dreams."



Avon/Harper Collins launched **Jordan Dane's** debut suspense novels in Spring 2008 after buying the 3-book series in auction. Ripped from the headlines, Jordan's gritty plots weave a tapestry of vivid settings, intrigue, and dark humor. *Publishers Weekly* compared her intense pacing to Lisa Jackson, Lisa Gardner, and Tami Hoag—"romantic suspense that crosses over into plain thriller country with tight plotting and exceptional male characters, both bad guys and good."



Sandra Mitchell is an author of YA novels including *Shadowed Summer*, *The Vespertine*, *The Springsweet*, the forthcoming *Aetherborne* and *Mistwalker*. She's also the editor of the forthcoming YA anthology, *Defy the Dark*.



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Marilyn H. Collins is an award-winning author of nonfiction books and—as both editor and freelancer—over 100 magazine/newspaper features. Collins is a frequent conference speaker, editor of the online newsletter *Proficient Writer NEWS*, and author of a new series, *Step-by-Step Writing*

Guides. The guides include: *Memoir Writing Guide*, *You Can Write a Book about Your Family*, and *The Art & Business of Writing Local or Regional History*. Her workshops are practical, hands-on, with opportunity to share.

She is also author of three history books published by Arcadia Publishing. She teaches online classes for Story Circle Network and is a writing instructor for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—Univ. of AR). Collins is also a contributing writer for *2Njoy Magazine*, a state-wide lifestyle magazine. Her professional background includes positions with the Washington National Cathedral Association, Beaufort (NC) Historical Association, and the American Association of University Women. She was owner of Wilson Collins Marketing & Management Consultants and is the current owner of CHS Publishing (www.chspublishing.com).



Jane Friedman is the web editor for the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, where she oversees digital content strategy and online marketing/promotion. Before joining VQR, Jane was a full-time assistant professor of e-media at the University of Cincinnati and former publisher

of *Writer's Digest*. An active blogger for more than a decade, Jane's current blog was named one of the Top 10 Blogs for Writers in 2011-2012. Her Twitter activity is often cited as a model for those seeking to use social media effectively.

Lauri J Owen is the author of *The Embers Series*, a fantasy trilogy set in Alternate Alaska: a majestic land where those born with the power to control the elements rule as nobility over those who cannot. It's a land of luxury and loss, of secrets and lies, of decadence and fear, of love and sorrow. More: it's a place of mages, magic and shape-changers.



Desiree Holt's writing is flavored with the rich experiences of her life, including a long stretch in the music business representing every kind of artist from country singer to heavy metal rock bands. For several years she also ran her own public relations agency handling any client that interested her, many of whom might recognize themselves in the pages of her stories. She was twice a finalist for an EPIC E-Book Award, a nominee for a Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award, winner of the first 5 Heart Sweetheart of the Year Award at The Romance Studio as well as twice a CAPA Award for best BDSM book of the year, winner of the Holt Medalion, multiple winner of the Whipped Cream Book of the Week Award and is published by five different houses. *Romance Junkies* said of her work: "Desiree Holt is the most amazing erotica author of our time and each story is more fulfilling than the last." You



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can find her at www.desireeholt.com.



Ron Fortier is a graphic novelist primarily known for his *Green Hornet* and *The Terminator* comic books and his revival of the pulp hero, Captain Hazzard. In 2006, along with artist Rob Davis, he started Airship 27 Productions, a production company devoted to publishing new adventures of

classic pulp heroes. In 2011, Twilight Star Studio and Redbud Studio Comics began publishing Ron Fortier's *Tales of the Macabre*. Fortier has also co-written three novels with noted science fiction author Ardath Mayhar.

Rob M. Davis's first hit comics work was on the adult-oriented comic book *Scimitar* from Malibu Comics. Rob penciled and inked the historic fantasy character Merlin and the fill-in work for the new series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. Rob worked on an issue of *Maze*



Agency (a critically acclaimed Mystery -Detective series) for *Innovation Comics*. He has drawn *Quantum Leap*, based on the TV series DC Comics' two *Star Trek* comic books (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Star Trek* with *Kirk*, *Spock*, *McCoy*, and the original *Enterprise* Crew). Rob and Ron Fortier have collaborated on the graphic novel entitled *Daughter of Dracula* and designing and illustrating a number of prose novels for Airship 27.

Tammi Sauer is the author of several children's books including *Mostly Monsterly*.

Among other awards, Tammi won the 2010 *Scholastic Parent & Child Best Book of the Year* and was the 2011 Winner of the Oklahoma Book Award and 2011 Winner of the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award



She lives with her family in Edmond, Oklahoma, with one dog, two geckos, and a tank full of random fish.

Amy Shojai has been reinventing herself for years. She's a certified animal behavior consultant, and the award-winning author of 24 best selling pet books that cover furry babies to old-fogies, first aid to natural healing, and behavior/training to Chicken Soup-icity. She is the Puppies Guide at puppies.About.com, the cat behavior expert at cats.About.com, and hosts a weekly half hour Internet Pet Peeves radio show. Amy has been featured as an expert in hundreds of print venues including *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Family Circle*, as well as national radio and television networks such as CNN, Animal Planet's DOGS 101 and CATS 101. She's been a consultant to the pet products industry and a host/program consultant for select "furry" TV projects. Amy brings her unique pet-centric viewpoint to public appearances, writer conferences key notes/seminars and thriller fiction in her debut novel *LOST AND FOUND* that includes pet "voice"--of course!



Amy Lillard is the award-winning author of *Saving Gideon*, the first in a series of "Amish romances filled with humor, whimsy and grace." She was born

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2013 CONFERENCE FACULTY CONTINUED

in Mississippi but moved to Oklahoma when she was seventeen, where she met and married Rob, her husband of 20 years.



Of herself, Amy says "I love homemade tacos, shoes, and romance novels--not necessarily in that order. I'm a big fan of country music, a staunch proponent of saving the Oxford comma, and I'm shamefully obsessed with all things Harry Potter."



Alex Miner is a shadowy figure. No one knows who invited him to OWFI, what his qualifications are, or why he chose to speak. When the man presents in public, he is exceptionally loud, and that is perhaps the only sure data anyone has on him.

Rumors place Miner at the University of Oklahoma from 2004 to 2007 (as a grad student or loiterer, no one is certain), after which he fled the state of his supposed birth to teach English in Seattle, rural Japan, and who knows where else. He currently works for a Pacific Northwest company as a designer of English curricula, but not even his employers know how he got there.

Wherever Miner goes, he starts up fiction writing groups and seems to fancy himself a Johnny Appleseed of workshops. When pressed about his credentials, he spouts off details that change with each telling. Our own interviews with Miner are confusing to say the least; he calls himself an educator and an "aspiring novelist" with three books under his belt, but as far as we can tell, he is simply loud.

Our point is, folks, if you choose to attend his presentations, we *can* guarantee that you will walk

away with a story to tell, but we *can't* guarantee what will happen otherwise.

Yup'ik Storyteller Jack Dalton returns by popular demand. A professional storyteller, writer and teacher, Jack has been honored by the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education as a Distinguished Dignitary, and considered by many people around the world, to be "The Storyteller." He's created and produced five theatrical works of storytelling, written a book, several plays and created curricula used in all levels of education. At residencies in schools across the country, he teaches the importance of storytelling to the continuation of all cultures and works with students to create their own stories, thus, continuing the tradition.



Social Media Guru (or is it Goddess?) **Lela Davidson** is the author of *Blacklisted from the PTA* (Jupiter Press, July 2011). She is a regular contributor to the *Today Show Moms* blog, Brooke Burke's *Modern Mom*, and featured parenting blogger for Lifetime Television's morning show, *The Balancing Act*. She is the Managing Editor of Parenting Squad, a website that receives nearly 100,000 pageviews per month. Her humor essays have been published in dozens of parenting magazines throughout the United States and Canada, and in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: New Moms* (March 2011).



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Dennis Palumbo, M.A., MFT is a writer and licensed psychotherapist in private practice, specializing in creative issues. His novel *Mirror Image* (Poisoned Pen Press) is the first in a new series of crime thrillers. The sequel, *Fever Dream*, is on sale now. He's also the author of *Writing From the Inside Out* (John Wiley), as well as a collection of mystery short stories, *From Crime to Crime* (Tallfellow Press). Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter, his credits include the feature film *My Favorite Year*. He was also a staff writer for the ABC-TV series *Welcome Back, Kotter*. His first novel, *City Wars* (Bantam Books) is currently in development as a feature film, and his short fiction has appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *The Strand*, *Written By* and elsewhere.



Jim McCarthy is a literary agent and vice president at Dystel & Goderich Literary Management where he has worked his entire professional life since he started as an intern back in 1999. Jim focuses on adult and young adult fiction across categories from cozy mysteries and paranormal romance to literary fiction and some deeply quirky comedies. He is a frequent guest at writers' conferences nationwide. His clients include *New York Times* bestsellers Richelle Mead, Juliet Blackwell, Alyssa Day, and Victoria Laurie, who was the second client he ever signed on back in 2003.

Rhonda Penders—Editor-in-Chief *The Wild*

Rose Press, which started in 2006 as a small press and e-publishing company. The company is now home to over 1200 romance titles published in both electronic and print format. The company was built on the belief that a publishing contract is a team effort between editor, author and publisher. Her writing background includes everything from small town newspaper reporting to writing confessionals for Dorchester magazines. She has several full length novels and short stories published under the name Roni Adams.



Other speakers attending the conference for whom there is no information or photographs as of press time include **Amie Louellen, Cindy Davis, Denise McGill, Frank Danna, Mark Coker, Matilda Butler, Kendra Bonnet, Mendy Knott, Paul Levine, Romney Nesbitt, and Ruth Weeks.**

Other agents and editors attending — but not presenting at the conference — for whom there is no information or photographs as of press time include **Jim McCarthy, Paul Levine, Jennie Goloboy, Sara D'Emic, Paul Lucas, and Carly Watters.**

**For a long time now I have
tried simply to write the
best I can. Sometimes I
have good luck and write
better than I can.**

Ernest Hemingway

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Conference 2013 Book Doctor, Cindy Davis

Just prior to college graduation, Cindy started working for a small, local magazine, learning everything from typesetting, layouts, formatting, interviewing and writing. She wrote stories about local history, people and events, which evolved into a monthly column that has since been compiled into two books.



After six years, Cindy left the company and began free-lancing, publishing 150+ articles and four novels over the next three years. She wrote a column for the local newspaper, a tongue-in-cheek piece about living with children in the 90s, soon to be compiled and published as a book *Are We There Yet?*

In 1999, Cindy began a quarterly fiction magazine called *PEEKS & Valleys*, which spun off “*Characters~Kids Short Story Outlet*.” In 2003, she teamed up with fantasy author John Richters, to pen a Young Adult fantasy trilogy *Desert Magic*. She also edits for three publishing houses and has a free-lance critiquing service.

Conference attendees can sign up for the book doctor appointments at the same time they sign up for agent/editor appointments. They will have 10 minute sessions and will need to bring in 5 pages in standard MSS format: 1” margins, 12 pt font (Times New Roman or Courier). This is free.

The second option is an in depth MSS review. People will send 25 pages (standard, MSS format) by April 1st. This is a \$50 charge. This is limited to the first 25 requests.

To Submit a MSS for an in-depth review, email the properly-formatted manuscript (maximum 25 pages) to OWFI President Patty Stith at pstith216@gmail.com. Submissions for in-depth review are accepted in electronic form, only. Deadline is April 1, 2013.

Conference Banquet Table Reservations

Table Reservations

1. Reserved tables are meant to assure that your group has a table where you can all sit together without having to push through a crowd. ***It does not assure you the “perfect” table at the front of the room.*** The seating plan from Friday to Saturday night will be alternated in an attempt to let everyone have a “better” table for one night, but with such a huge group to accommodate, some tables will be better than others.

2. Any person who walks with a cane, walker, or is in a wheelchair will be ***admitted twenty minutes early*** so that you can avoid any difficulties.

3. ***Reservations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.*** We hold twenty tables for reservations, which usually leaves twenty open for our other members.

- Tables cost twenty dollars, per table, per night.
- Each table holds ten people.
- You can’t reserve a partial table.

4. ***We are asking that each group send a representative to be admitted to the banquets twenty minutes early.*** The representative can then monitor their table to assure only invited guests sit at that table. This has the added advantage of helping your tablemates find their way.

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2013 Contest Sponsorship

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

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

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

To sponsor one category, please contribute

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

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

Mail checks to:
Barbara Shepherd, OWFI, PO Box 54302,
Oklahoma City, OK 73154
owfiwriters@gmail.com

Name to appear on sponsor list: _____

Contact person, e-mail and phone: _____

Check one: Full category, \$105 Two categories, \$210 Thanks!

Half category, \$52.50 Other \$ _____

Crème de la Crème \$500

Special instructions? _____

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Contest Category Chairs

(Continued from page 10)

19 Young Adult Short Story: Fiction

Jan Morrill
19035 Stout Mountain Road
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-643-3449
category19@owfi.org

20 SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Short Story: Fiction

Sylvia Forbes
P.O. Box 522
Fayette, MO 65248-0522
660-248-345
category20@owfi.org

21 Prose Humor

Janet Bradburn
6066 Anahuac Street
Fort Worth, TX 76114
817-738-9582
category21@owfi.org

22 Essay

Arlene Graber
110 South Oakwood Street
Wichita, KS 67218-1728
316-684-3029
category22@owfi.org

23 Film, Play, and Television Script

Sylvia Forbes
P.O. Box 522
Fayette, MO 65248-0522
660-248-3455
category23@owfi.org

24 Technical/How-To

Arlene Graber
110 South Oakwood Street
Wichita, KS 67218-1728
316-684-3029
category24@owfi.org

25 Feature Article: Non-Fiction

DesJean Jones
600 NW 116th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-7911
405-507-6242
category25@owfi.org

26 Western Article: Nonfiction

DesJean Jones
600 NW 116th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-7911
405-507-6242
category26@owfi.org

27 Inspirational Article

DesJean Jones
600 NW 116th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-7911
405-507-6242
category27@owfi.org

28 Column

Debbie Smart
2406 Quail Run Ct
Ardmore, OK 73401
405-779-8950
category28@owfi.org

29. Nostalgia Prose

Ginny Greene
P.O. Box 1067
Shoshone ID 83352
325-201-8530
category29@owfi.org

30. Published Juvenile Book

Patty Stith
356 Madison 6445
Wesley, AR 72773
479-456-2338
category30@owfi.org

31. Published Nonfiction Book

Patty Stith
356 Madison 6445
Wesley, AR 72773
479-456-2338
category31@owfi.org

32. Published Book of Poetry

Patty Stith
356 Madison 6445
Wesley, AR 72773
479-456-2338
category32@owfi.org

33. Published Fiction Book

Patty Stith
356 Madison 6445
Wesley, AR 72773
479-456-2338
category33@owfi.org

Spreading the Word

By Gayleen Rabakukk,
Public Relations

About a year ago I had somewhat of a surreal experience when I got an email from a grad school friend who teaches creative writing in New Hampshire. He had forwarded me a link to a writing contest he thought might interest me. You guessed it – it was the OWFI contest.

That incident clearly illustrated to me just how far-reaching the network of writers can be – someone 1,700 miles away knew about our contest and was passing it on to other people. For many years we've had lots of contest entries from Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and Missouri, but that list of states is now even longer. Between Facebook, Twitter and other emerging social networks, our community is growing by leaps and bounds and has the potential for even more. When you mention the OWFI contest or conference in your status posts you are doing more than just sharing your personal goals or accomplishments – you are building and strengthening this organization. According to one advertising theory, people have to be exposed to a product at least three times before they will even consider it. That means our organization needs to connect with new conference attendees several times between now and May 2, 2013 – a pretty tall order. But given that we now have the potential to get thousands to visit the OWFI website, just by including that link when we're booking or tweeting – it doesn't seem as daunting.

So, how did my New Hampshire friend find out about the OWFI contest? After writing a picture book featuring a cat, he joined the Cat Writers Association. Our own pet writer Amy Shojai serves on their Council of Directors and posted the OWFI contest information on their listserv. Don't be shy about posting a link to the OWFI website on other writing forums – other writers will be happy to have the information and you'll be spreading the word.

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BOOK ROOM GUIDELINES FOR 2013 OWFI CONFERENCE

Doug Kelley, 2013 OWFI Book Room Chairman

As in past years, there will be a “Book Room” available where books by attending authors and speakers will be available for sale, as well as a large selection of books pertaining to the writing craft. Best of Books of Edmond will once again operate the Conference Book Room. All OWFI members and conference speakers are eligible to participate. Authors who want their books available for sale must conform to the following guidelines.

Authors (or publishers) must notify Doug Kelley, the book room chairperson, by **April 8, 2013** of any title(s) they want included in the book room inventory, choosing one of the three options below. Due to limited space, non-speaker titles will be limited to 5 copies on display at any one time. Also, authors of multiple books will be limited to no more than 5 titles on display. (You may, of course, restock as sales warrant.)

Option No. 1: Best of Books will order your books from Ingram or your publisher **if** they are returnable and the bookstore receives the standard retailer discount. Best of Books will not purchase books via the Internet, self-published books, or electronic books. (See Options 2 or 3 for books published by those methods.) Best of Books will split profits of this option with OWFI. Neither Best of Books nor OWFI will assume responsibility for delays in shipment, short ships or publisher/shipper errors.

Option 2: Authors provide the books to be sold by Best of Books. Books will be sold at retail price, which will be provided by the author, along with quantity delivered, author name, address, and return shipping information. Of this retail price, the author will receive 70% and Best of Books will

collect 30%, of which 10% will go to OWFI. Those using this option should bring in their books to the book room starting Thursday evening (during Best of Books’ set-up time) or Friday morning or whenever you arrive at the conference. Unsold books must be picked up at the end of the autographing session Saturday afternoon. If the remaining books are not picked up, the author will be billed shipping to have them returned.

Option No. 3: Authors provide and sell their own books from a table provided in or near the book room, conducting all sales and providing their own change. Best of Books will have no involvement in these sales, and neither they nor OWFI will receive any portion of the receipts of those sales.

Authors may ship their books directly to the Embassy Suites to arrive between **April 21 through May 1**, addressed to: OWFI Book Room, Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK 73069. The hotel phone number is 405-364-8040.

Do not contact Best of Books directly. Contact me, and I will coordinate it: Doug Kelley, 2500 Barnes, Pocola, OK 74902, Phone: 918-436-7103 (home) or 479-459-2429 (cell), E-mail: dougkjas@yahoo.com. Send the following information: Author name; Title; ISBN; Publisher; Release date

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

See you in May.

BASKETWARS 2013

What is BasketWars? Affiliates and/or individuals create a “basket” (can be any kind of container) with books or items a reader or writer could use (imagination needed). At the OWFI Conference, the basket is checked in with Vivian Zabel. A silent auction then earns money to help with the conference expenses/scholarships. Individuals or affiliates may donate more than one “basket.” Last year, we brought in over \$1,000 with 28 “baskets” to be used for this year’s scholarships.

Includes 2 divisions: A division for large baskets includes containers with 15 or more items; a division for small baskets includes containers with 14 or fewer items. There will be special recognition for:

Large basket by an **individual** which brings the highest bid in the auction.

Small basket by an **individual** which brings the highest bid in the auction.

Large basket by an **affiliate** which brings the highest bid in the auction.

Small basket by an **affiliate** which brings the highest bid in the auction.

Guidelines for entering baskets/containers:

1. If people notify me that their affiliates, or they individually, are bringing a basket or baskets by April 15, 2012, I can have paper work ready and know how many tables to have available.

2. Be creative. Be as generous as possible, but remember this is a voluntary project.

3. **Please be sure that the name of the individual or affiliate and size division is attached to the basket (container) when it is checked in**

at the conference. Check in times: Thursday night and Friday morning.

4. The silent auction ends **Saturday at 11:00 AM.**

The results of the silent auction will be posted by the tables where the baskets are displayed, and baskets must be paid for before 12:15 Saturday.

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

Information needed: when you notify me of a basket that will be donated, please send the following:

1. Name of person or affiliate,
2. Name of contact person for an affiliate,
3. Email address of person to contact.

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

Also, I hope people go by the bidding guidelines posted by the tables of “baskets” at the conference. We have tight time schedules.

A GOOD NOVEL TELLS US THE TRUTH ABOUT ITS HERO, BUT A BAD NOVEL TELLS US THE TRUTH ABOUT ITS AUTHOR.

Gilbert K. Chesterton

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2013 Contest Eligibility Requirements and Entry Procedures

2013 OWFI CONTEST RULES GENERAL INFORMATION

The 2013 contest is a transition year. Both paper and electronic submissions will be accepted. Complete, step-by-step directions for entering the contests will be available on the OWFI website. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/brr7fk2>. Once you pay entry fee (with PayPal) you will be directed to the category submissions page.

Formatting for the electronic entries will be the same as the paper entries.

The annual OWFI contest is open only to paid OWFI members and full-time students. For information on joining OWFI, see the Membership section of the web site.

The contest offers cash prizes in 29 unpublished manuscript categories, and trophies in 4 published book categories. Unpublished manuscript prizes are \$50 for first place, \$35 for second place, and \$20 for third place in each of the 29 categories. All entries are judged by published authors, agents, editors, or other publishing professionals. Judges are asked to provide feedback on each entry, either by completing score sheets or by making written comments.

For each entry, contestants must include a self-addressed envelope (9 x 12 or larger for unpublished manuscripts), and an official OWFI cover sheet. Contestants must pay careful attention to format and word length. To facilitate fair judging, entrants' names **MAY NOT** appear on the manuscript.

Entries, entry fee, and official entry form must be postmarked on or before February 1, 2013. Contestants are urged to mail entries at least two weeks before the deadline to allow time for any rule violations to be corrected. Mail entry form and fee to the General Contest Chair at the address listed on the entry form. Mail each individual entry, with cover sheet, to the appropriate category chair (addresses are on the website and in the newsletter).

Please read all rules carefully before entering!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Entrants must be paid-up members of OWFI or full-time students. Students must provide verification of student status. Membership dues are \$15 per year if paid before November 30th (\$20 if paid after November 30th) for affiliate club members and \$20 per year if paid before November 30th (\$25 if paid after November 30th) for members-at-large.
2. No manuscript that has won a cash prize (1st, 2nd or 3rd) in a previous OWFI contest may be entered again — EVER.
3. Contestants who win first place in an OWFI contest category may not enter that same category the following year.
4. Unpublished entries must be unaccepted for publication at the time of submission. Scripts cannot ever have been optioned. (If accepted by a publisher after entry, the submission will be considered valid.) Works that have been posted on a blog, web site, or other online venue, except works posted for critique purposes, are considered published and are not eligible to be entered in Unpublished Manuscript Categories 1-29.
5. Electronically published novels for the trophy awards must be hard copied before being sent to the category chair.
6. Judges may not enter the category that they are judging.
7. Category Chairs may not enter the category they chair.

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2013 Contest Eligibility Requirements and Entry Procedures

8. If entries are co-authored, all members of the writing team must be OWFI members. The team will be considered a single entrant and must pay a separate entry fee for their co-authored entries apart from any fees they pay for individual entries. Published anthologies and compilations of work by multiple authors entered in the Trophy Award categories are considered co-authored entries.

9. Persons, whether entering as a team or an individual, may enter a category only once.

10. No manuscript may be entered in more than one category.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

11. Entrants must pay a \$20 NONREFUNDABLE entry fee, which covers administrative costs and awards. This entitles participants to enter as many categories as they want (see restrictions in #8-10 above).

12. Manuscripts must be submitted to the appropriate Category Chair.

13. Entries must be postmarked by February 01, 2013. OWFI is not responsible for entries lost or delayed in the mail. The deadline will not be extended due to inclement weather.

14. All unpublished manuscript entries must be mailed flat, no folds. Folded manuscripts or manuscripts in envelopes smaller than 9" x 12" will be disqualified. Published books should be mailed in an envelope the correct size for the book.

MS PREPARATION AND FORMAT

15. All unpublished manuscripts must be editor-ready. This includes the following:

Typed or printed on one side of 8½" x 11" white paper, with 1" margins on all sides. Photocopies and computer printouts are allowed, but must be clear and easy to read.

Double spaced. (*Exceptions:* Poetry and book synopses may be single spaced. Spacing for book outlines, overviews, and tables-of-contents should follow industry standard.)

Place a header at the top of all pages except Page 1, listing the title and page number.

Use an easy-to-read 12-point font such as Times Roman or Courier that results in approximately 250 words per page (about 25 lines per page). Manuscripts using small print which violate these conditions will be disqualified. Fancy fonts other than italics are not allowed.

Play, film, or TV scripts should follow industry-standard formats.

For more information on manuscript formatting, consult a recent edition of *Writer's Market* (available at most libraries), or search "Manuscript Format" online.

16. For ALL ENTRIES in Unpublished Manuscript categories 1-29 (books, short works, and poetry): In the upper right hand corner of the first page, type the category number. Beneath the category number (upper right hand corner of the first page) type one of the following:

Number of lines (for poetry entries)

Number of pages entered (for book-length prose entries)

Word count for short works of prose (picture books, short stories, articles, etc.). Calculate using word processor word count or average 10 words per line, 25 lines per page.

For multi-genre categories (see category descriptions), it is highly recommended that entrants note the specific genre in the upper right-hand corner below the word count or page count.

17. Entries over the maximum length or under the

(Continued on page 24)

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2013 Contest Eligibility Requirements and Entry Procedures

(Continued from page 23)

minimum length will be disqualified.

18. No author's name, pen name or other author identification may appear on any manuscript page. Do not submit a manuscript in which your name is blacked out, whited out, cut out or covered with tape.

19. A completed copy of the 2013 Official Cover Sheet must be attached to each submission with a paper clip (do not staple). The sheet must include: Category name, manuscript title, name of club, author's name, address and phone number. If not affiliated with any OWFI club, check Member-at-Large box.

20. All entries must include a self-addressed envelope. For unpublished manuscripts, the envelope must be no smaller than 9" x 12". For published books, the envelope should be appropriately sized to fit the book. If you plan to pick up your entries at the conference, you may omit postage, but the self-addressed envelope is required. Use your own name and address for both addressee and return address on these envelopes. Paperclip the return envelope to each entry. Entries without the proper return envelope will be disqualified and destroyed. Entries without return postage, which are not picked up at the conference will be destroyed.

CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION

Entries or entry forms/fees postmarked after the February 01, 2013 deadline.

Contestants or entries fail to meet the Eligibility Requirements (see above).

Unpublished manuscript entries folded or mailed in envelopes smaller than 9" x 12" (See EXCEPTION for Published Book entries in Rule #14).

Entries sent to the General Contest Chair instead of the Category Chair, or sent to the wrong Category Chair, though authors may resubmit before the Febru-

ary 1 deadline.

Any manuscript that is not "Editor-Ready."

Handwritten manuscripts.

Manuscripts which use smaller type that allows more than 250 words on a double-spaced page (approximate).

Entries over the maximum length or under the minimum length.

Entries that contain any author identification (name, pen name, byline, etc.) any place other than the coversheet.

Entries without the proper return envelope (these will also be destroyed).

Trophy Award (Published Book) entries with a copyright date other than 2012.

Any manuscript found not to be the original work of an entrant. The Executive Board or its designated committee will screen all winning entries.

A Thousand Years Of Darkness, A Book Review

cont.

(Continued from page 4)

the continent, raced camels across the Egyptian desert, dog-sledged the Arctic, floated the Amazon, run with the bulls in Spain (we should have known), and guided missionaries into the Algerian outback. Finally, he set a world record by making the first transcontinental flight in an ultralite-powered parachute aircraft.

You think I'm finished? No – on top of all that (and much more that I left out), he's a regular actor in dinner theater productions starring as Felix in **The Odd Couple**, among other plays.

After I caught my breath, for a brief moment, I saw my own piddly little life as boring. Then, I quickly decided if he'll just keep writing about his, I'm happy just doing the reading. So keep 'em coming Chuck.

Sasser's January releases:

Back in the Fight, St. Martin's Press

Sanctuary (SciFi), World Nouveau Press

Available at your local bookstore or from www.Amazon.com

www.charlessasser.com (website and blog)

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President's Letter continued

(Continued from page 3)

“Not so well, Ma. I’ve been kind of distracted.”

She looked up from her knitting and said, “Call the Sisters.”

The Arkansas version of the Algonquin Round Table is comprised of brilliant novelists, poets, and inspirational speakers. We call ourselves The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pen. Every writer needs such a group of friends—people who understand your frustration and appreciate your creative process. Folks who will look you square in the eye and say, “That’s the stupidest thing you’ve ever written and you’ve written a lot of really, really bad stuff. I mean really bad stuff! And this takes the cake.”

Don’t get me wrong. I’m a strong believer in critique groups. I’m eternally grateful to Dusty Richards and Velda Brotherton for the Northwest Arkansas Writers Workshop. I’ll never forget the first time I read a passage at group. The stunned silence afterward wasn’t a good sign. Dusty telling me, “That ain’t bad for a government report, but this is fiction,” will forever ring in my ears. Their patience and guidance led to me becoming a published author. Critique groups are great, but they don’t know you viscerally.

Writers need to surround themselves with people who “get” them. That’s one of the great things about the OWFI Conference. Writers can meet likeminded individuals who understand what it means to spend hours in your head working out the dialogue to a love scene or devising the perfect way to kill your main character’s abusive boy friend and disposing of his body.

Mama was right—she always is—I needed the Sisters. One e-mail was all it took. Within minutes, messages of encouragement filled my inbox and our next meeting time was arranged. Over wine and pizza, the girls listened to my tales of woe. After a few minutes of commiseration, all their patience seeped from their bodies and they went into fierce-

encouragement mode. It is impossible to ignore four, strong, intelligent, talented women staring you down and doling out nuggets of wisdom.

I’ll spare you the tears and snark, and sum up their advice. It’s nothing new, but something I need to hear on a regular basis. Bottom line: Making your writing a priority is the only way you’re going to be a successful writer. Sure, life gets in the way, but you must always make time for your writing. It’s your job. It’s your outlet. It’s your reason for being on this planet. So, WRITE!

OWFI BOARD ACTION TAKEN

Affiliate Notice -- Official Notice -- Action taken at the September 9, 2012, Board of Directors meeting, effective May 2013: All affiliates must have a representative attend a minimum of one Board of Directors meeting per year to maintain status as an OWFI Affiliate. Otherwise, the affiliate will be automatically disenfranchised.

Rationale: Allows the Board of Directors to meet the Bylaws mandated quorum to conduct business.

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Affiliate News

ARKANSAS RIDGECRITERS

Novels & New Books

ANN HOLBROOK: E-BOOK and PRINT: *Overcoming: My Journey Through Ovarian Cancer*, (www.amazon.com/Overcoming-Journey-Through-Ovarian-ebook/dp/B008QOZ98U), Buoy Up Press (08/12).

JAN MORRILL: E-BOOK: *Doll in the Red Kimono*, Kindle (09/12); NOVEL: *The Red Kimono*, University of Arkansas Press (01/13).

DUSTY RICHARDS: NOVEL: *The Blue Roan Colt*, Cactus Country Publishing, (11/12); NOVEL: *The Chapparral Range War*, Berkeley Books, (01/13).

Honors and Awards

VELDA BROTHERTON: Guest on Panel: "Appearing on TV", Women Writing the West Conference, Oct. 19.

Professional Activities

VELDA BROTHERTON: Led Writer's Workshop, Ozark Folkways, Sept. 15; Led Promotional Class for NWA Writer's Workshop, August, September and October. **SYLVIA FORBES:** Attended the 2012 Missouri SCBWI Annual Conference in St. Charles, Missouri, and the 2012 Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers An-

nual Conference in Branson, Missouri.

JAN MORRILL: Attended Wild Rose Press Writers' Retreat, Bandera, TX, October 11-14; Conducted WordPress blogging workshop, November 13, Fayetteville, AR.

DONNA VOLKENANT: Interviewed for the feature "The Pen is a Mighty Sword" about Catholic Writers in St. Louis for "The St. Louis Review" (08/12). Presented a workshop on "Structuring Short Stories for Passion and Profit" during the Columbia Chapter of MWG "Write Direction" conference (11/12). Participated in "Chicken Soup for the Soul, Canned Soup for the Body" book signing at the Book House, Manchester, MO (12/12)

Contest Winnings

VELDA BROTHERTON: Write a Western in Four Sentences, sponsored by Brett Cogburn, WESTERN, Chosen for publication in Anthology by Highill Press, Untitled.

SYLVIA FORBES: 2012 Springfield Writers' Guild Contest: 2nd Place - Shakespearean Sonnet; 2012 Boonslick Area Art Guild's Preserving the Arts (Art) Show: 2nd Place in Show (photography).

JIM DAVIS: Ozark Creative Writers' Conference, HIGH HILL BOOK AWARD: 2ND HM, *Portrait of a Conspiracy*.

RUSSELL GAYER: Ozark Creative Writers' Conference, HU-

MOROUS SHORT STORY:

1ST place, "The Incident, or How I Discovered Home Project Shock Syndrome"; OZARK WRITERS LEAGUE AWARD; 3rd place, "The Perils of Heavy Thinking"; MIGHTY MO AWARD BY MUDDY CREEK WRITERS: 3rd place, "Much Nothing About Ado"; POET LAUREATE AWARD: 1st HM, "The Rose".

JAN MORRILL: Write a Western in Four Sentences, sponsored by Brett Cogburn, WESTERN, Chosen for publication in Anthology by Highill Press, Untitled.

Acceptances and Sales

VELDA BROTHERTON: ARTICLE: "A Day at the Snake House," *Tales of the South Anthology* (09/10); "My Mom was Rosie The Riveter," *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, Southeast Missouri State University Press (10/12).

SYLVIA FORBES: ARTICLES: "The Art of Ambiance" (11/12) in *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyle*; "Crete: Greek Isle in the Mediterranean" (09/12) and Encounters with Elephants (in Thailand) (11/12), *Prime Magazine*; "Preserving the Fall's Colors," online for *Missouri Gardener* (11/12); "A Greenhouse Full of Memories," *Howard County Electric Co-Op Newsletter* (10/12); "Forever Young: Bob and Marilyn Young and Happily Ever After in Howard County" Part I (8/29/12), Part II (9/1/12) and Part III (9/5/12), *The*

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Affiliate News

Continued

Fayette Advertiser.

JAN MORRILL: ESSAY:

“Unhyphenated American,” *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, Southeast Missouri State University Press (10/12).

DONNA VOLKENANNT: True story “Unexpected Joy” in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas* (10/12). Short story “Time to Get Your Jingle On” accepted for *Fifty Shades of Santa* anthology (11/12). Recipe “Hot Glow Wine” featured on the Panera Bread Company website (12/12). Interviewed Deb Marshall from Warriors Arts Alliance about the project: *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* anthology on <http://donnasbookpub.blogspot.com>

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Novels & New Books

HAZEL HART: E-Book: Suspense Novel, *Possessing Sara* released (9/12), available at Amazon.com. **ARLENE RAINS**

GRABER: *Angel on My Shoulder*, Christian Women’s Fiction published in paperback with CreateSpace, (11/12) and her E-Books are now available at Barnes & Noble for the Nook.

Professional Activities

Keyhole Conversations, a video vlog company owned by members **HAZEL HART** and **B.J. MYRICK**, Halloween Contest Winners are: **GORDON KESSLER**, First Place for his *Jezebel* book trailer, created by Goddess Fish. **SAMANTHA LAFANTASIE** for *Heart Song* book trailer, created by Makayla Yokley.

NORMAN GALAXY OF WRITERS

Acceptances and Sales

ROBERT FERRIER: Poem “Found Art” published *Crosstimbers Literary Journal*, USAO, Chickasha Fall/Winter 2011 issue (publication issued late.) Poem: “Bait Shop” accepted by *Oklahoma Today’s* future issue. Video “The Dante-Dreams-King Herod” on YouTube.com. Photograph accepted as cover art for *Diagnosis in Stasis, Blood & Thunder*, Journal of University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

STAN SOLLOWAY: “Silliman on Sports at <http://www.sillimansport.com>. New columns on www.humoroutcasts.com: Chick-Fil-A dust Up Reminds of 1990 Abortion Battle; chick-fil-a-dust-up-conjurs-old-abortion-amendment-squabble. Column on the two ladies admitted to Augusta National GC.

JOCELYN PEDERSEN: Sold articles: “Outdoor Cooking: A flavorful change of pace.” *Oklahoma Living Magazine*. *Norman Tran-*

script: Articles: “Farmers Market Adds More Products,” “Donation collection Points Open in Noble,” “Men Loses it all, finds Dog” “Woman Escapes Fire With Family,” “TeaLicious Treats,” “The Guest House Offers a Unique Experience,” “Man Saves Two Homes From Fire,” “Bean Dinner to Support Fire Victims,” “Noble Briefs Echoes to Play, Gray is the New Pink,” “Lebanese Luncheon set,” “Girl Survives Heart Surgery.” Articles for *Discover Norman*: “Emergency, What’s Shakin’,” “Time to Unwind,” “Water Fun,” “Norman Hangouts,” “Downtown,” “Campus Corner Then and Now,” “Careers. “Noble Getting Healthy,” “Free Food for Fire Families,” “Class of 1987 reunion Set.” Articles to *The Moore American*: “TeaLicious Treats.” Articles to *Oklahoma Living Magazine*: “Burn Barn.” To *Norman Transcript and Yahoo.com*: “Chester’s Drawers Poker Run Set Today,” and “Noble Officials Try to Quell Animal Shelter Closing Rumor.”

FRANCES SEARCEY: Poem: (untitled) sold to *LifeWay in Mature Living Magazine*, and Poem “Change,” published in *Secrets of Aging*, 2012 Senior Poetry Contest..

MARSHA FERRIER: Photo of a cross in the window at Norman’s First Presbyterian Church’s *Images of Faith, Catalog of Art Displays*. **SYLVIA FORBES:** Articles in *St. Louis Homes & Lifestyle*, “Rooftop Revolutionary,” “Man of Steel,” and “Concrete Connoisseur.” In *Prime Magazine*: “Alluring, Ancient Athens,” “A Tale of Three Cities,” “Captivating Keukenhof.” In *Mature Focus*, “Journey

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Affiliate News

Continued

to the Bottom of the Sea: A Titanic Adventure." In *Senior Beacon*: "A Titanic Plunge to the Bottom" In *Missouri Gardener* "Gardening Up High," and "A Stitch and a Story" in *Senior-wire*.

ROSE and ROBERT FERRIER read poetry at The Gardens at Riverview, Norman.

BARBARA SHEP-

HERD: Poem: "Freedom." Oil Painting: "Running Free" accepted for show/sale at Celebration of Life Annual Art Exhibit, Integris Cancer Center, OKS.

LINDA TREADWAY: Articles; "Line-X," "Wilshire Pennington," "OU Medical & DaVinci," and "OKC Pickleball Club" in *Edmond Onlook Magazine*.

JUDY HOWARD: Exhibit/Book Signing: August 17-19 at Rocky Mountain Quilt Festival. All proceeds feed needy children. Held at The Ranch, 1st National Bank Exhibition Hall, Loveland, CO.

HELEN DUCHON: Edited and designed: Friends of the Norman Library newsletter, *Among Friends*, and *Galaxy's Writeline*.

CAROL COLE-FROWE: Article in *Norman Magazine* "Professor Fun." Strung for *Bloomberg News* for the Chesapeake Energy shareholder lawsuits in federal court. Reported on Woodward, Oklahoma tomado for *New York Daily News*.

Contest Winnings

SYLVIA FORBES: Honorable Mention for Short Fiction in *Alabama Writers Conclave annual contest*. In the 2012 Writers-Editors Network International Writing Competition, Honorable Mention for Fiction-Short Story, NonFiction-unpublished, and Non-fiction-previously published.

NEAL HUFFAKER: *Arkansas Writers' Conference Contest*: 1st Place for a poem "Perilous Passage" in Lucille Longstreth Memorial Award; 2nd Place for Minute Award "Noise Abatement; 3rd Place in Pen Point Group Award (story) "Inspired by a Song; Can't take my Eyes off You;" 2nd HM in Mildred McKenney Award (essay) "Education and Citizenship."

Professional Activities

STAN SOLLOWAY: Performed at Joke Joint in St. Paul, MN; in World Series of Comedy Party for Professional Bowlers in Grapevine, Texas. In Assisted Care Center @ Emeritus @ Village: Cast Party Entertainment at Pollard Theater in Guthrie.

OKC WRITERS

Sales and Acceptances

SAVVY THORNE had a Halloween poem published in "Handful of Dust."

MARIA VERES had a poem accepted for publication in *Ars Medica*.

BILL BOUDREAU has a new book, *Wedgeport: Poems, Folklore, Images* available on Amazon

Professional Activities

SANDRA SOLI was the featured poet at Full Circle Books September 30.

Novels and New Books

WAYNE HARRIS-WYRICK has two new children's books, *A Is for Astronomy* and *Kimmy Finds Her Key* due out in March, 2013.

Acceptance and Sales

BARTLESVILLE WORDWEAVERS

HEATHER DAVIS: ESSAYS: "Bad Hair Day" and "I Don't Have to be Super Momma," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Parenthood* (03/13).

C.D. JARMOLA: ESSAY: "Finding My Way," *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Angels Among Us* (01/13).

Novels & New Books

HEATHER DAVIS: E-BOOK: *TMI Mom Bites the Big Apple: Oversharing in NYC*, Buzz Books USA (<http://buzzbooksusa.com>) (09/12).

JENNIFER MCMURRAIN: E-BOOKS: *Thesis Revised*, (www.smashwords.com) (10/12), *Emma's Walk*, (www.smashwords.com) (11/12) and *Footprints in the Snow*, (www.smashwords.com) (12/12).

DIANA PURSER: BOOK: *Mythology Lovers Guide to Versailles Gardens*, Nutshell Educational Products (www.nutshellpuzzle.com) (9/12).

WORDWEAVERS: ANTHOLOGY: *Seasons Remembered: A*

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Affiliate News

Continued

WordWeaver Anthology,
(www.amazon.com) (11/12).

Contest Winnings

MARILYN BOONE: Southern Living White Cake Recipe Writing Contest: 2nd place, "Marbled Pumpkin Praline Cake."

Professional Activities

HEATHER DAVIS appeared on the *Dr. Oz Show* on September 26th, discussing her blog on oversharing and is co-producing Oklahoma's premier of *Listen to Your Mother* in Oklahoma City in the Spring. Misti Pryor and Julie Bohannon are the rest of the production team.

BARBARA SHOFF is now a Pundit Journalist on PolicyMic (www.policymic.com).

Club News

The Bartlesville WordWeavers meet at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Bartlesville Public Library, meeting rooms vary. Visitors welcome.

Novels & New Books

TULSA NIGHTWRITERS

GLORIA TEAGUE, LINDA TROUT, NITA BES HEAR, KATHLYN SMITH, M. CAROLYN STEELE AND LYNN SOMERVILLE: BOOK: *Ro-*

mance-the Spice of Life, November 2012, AWOC.com

DEBORAH CAMP: Signed an extension of an exclusive deal with Amazon to offer her backlist of novels for Kindle readers. About 25 of the titles will also be offered through Amazon's Audio Books.

Contest Winnings

CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: "Early Morning at Pebble Beach" was awarded Honorable Mention in the Rex Rogers Contest at *Kansas City Voices*.

M. Carolyn Steele placed third in the Published Authors Category of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors for her entry, "Civil War Perils of Springtime."

Honors & Awards

GLORIA TEAGUE: Article, short story and essay all appeared in one week in various media. Her Halloween story appeared in *lafolletnews.com*, her essay in *The Sapulpa Hereald*, and notice of a book signing in *The Tulsa World*.

SARA SUE HOKLOTUBBE: BOOK, *The American Café* is a finalist in the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. The winners will be announced Nov. 16 in Albuquerque.

Professional Activities

CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: spoke and read poetry at the fall meeting of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma on October 13th

GLORIA TEAGUE: book signing at Steve's Sundry in Tulsa, Nov 3.
SUPER SIX (LINDA TROUT, GLORIA TEAGUE, M. CAROLYN STEELE, LYNN SOMERVILLE, NITA BES HEAR AND

KATHLYN SMITH) will be speaking and signing at The Broadmoor on Dec. 5.

M. CAROLYN STEELE, LINDA TROUT, GLORIA TEAGUE and KATHLYN SMITH will be signing various books at Boarding House books, Claremore, OK during Dickens on the Boulevard celebration, November 16 and 17

FORT WORTH WRITERS

Professional Activities

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: Signing: Her four published paranormal books and her mystery novel, *TV-LIVE—or Dead*, at "Halloween City," Fort Worth, (9/12; 10/19; and 10/26/12); Speaking and signing: her five books, for the bi-annual "Haunts and Legends Conference," Jefferson, TX, 11/12).

Club News

OLYVE HALLMARK ABBOTT: Olyve was Runner-Up in the Ms. Texas Senior America Pageant, (9/12).

WRITER'S GUILD OF ARKANSAS

Novels and New Books

LELA DAVIDSON: BOOK: second essay collection, *Who Peed On My Yoga Mat? More Stories from a Perfectly Imperfect Life* (Jupiter

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Affiliate News

Continued

Press, Imprint of Wyatt-MacKenzie, 2012)

Professional Activities

MARILYN H. COLLINS: CONFERENCE SPEAKER: "Turn Memory into Story," White County Creative Writers' Conference; "Memoir Writing: Brighten Your Leaf on the Family Tree," Ozark Writers' Live; "Write Family Holiday Stories," Nightbird Books. Editor, *Proficient Writer NEWS*, published Sept., Oct. issues.

Acceptance and Sales

MARILYN H. COLLINS: Articles for *2Njoy Magazine* (Life Redefined/Arts/Culture/Entertainment). "Healing Power of Art," (Highland Oncology Center); ARTS2Njoy Feature, "Radine Trees Nehring: Author of the 'To Die For' Mystery Series; "George Dombek, Artist of the Unexpected;" "Marlon Blackwell: Architect Turns Reality into Dreams;" ARTS2Njoy Feature, "Pat Carr: Her Work, Her Wisdom."

Asking a working writer
what he feels about critics
is like asking a lamp-post
what it feels about dogs.

Osborne, John

PHOTO-PROMPT CONTEST

Wind-Pounded City

Karen Evans
Enid Writers Club

The afternoon sun glowed dim in the polluted sky over Baku as two young girls picked their way out of the Mahalla slum in Azerbaijan. They left the relative safety of their grandmother's hovel with its dirt floor and crumbling rock walls and now stumbled up a broken stairway, headed for home. The girls clung to each other. They were innocent but not ignorant of their surroundings.

Grandmother Eva worked at instilling wisdom into their pliable minds. The old woman and her husband were Ashkenazi Jews whose property had been confiscated during the Soviet reign. They were then "dislocated" to Mahalla. Twenty years ago the elderly couple had been mistaken for Armenian refugees and Grandfather was murdered, while his wife was stripped and branded with a crucifix. She would carry the scar to her death.

Now six-year-old Viktoriya touched one finger to her lips. "Shh...Nelly," she whispered to her four-year-old sister. "We are almost there."

The girls ran this gauntlet daily to visit their grandmother. They lived with their parents in a small apartment just a short distance away. Their father drove one of the purple "black cabs" that catered to the tourist section of the large city. Their mother worked as a hotelmaid.

The population of Baku topped three million people. The city sprawled on the western coast of the

Want to get your winning entry published in the Report? On the back cover of every issue there will be a photo. Write something based on that photo: a short story or the opening paragraphs a novel, a story/novel synopsis, an entire flash fiction story.

The only restriction is that you keep it under 400 words and give it a title.

The best one will be printed in the following issue of the Report (the decision of the judges is final). That, and a printed copy of the newsletter with your winning entry in it, will be your only reward.

It doesn't have to be a complete story. It can be a vignette, a slice of life, a dialogue — anything that fits with the photo. Send it to the editor at: wizardwayne@juno.com. Send it within the body of the email or as a TEXT or .RTF attachment. Entry deadline is February 1, 2013.

Caspian Sea and boasted a dry healthy climate with many hours of sunshine, but no one swam in the sea, and the salty sand on the beach was thick with oil that fueled the local economy. Like many ancient cities, Baku faced an inward battle between the old and the new. Mahalla lay at the center of it.

Viktoriya reached for Nelly as they arrived at the top of the stairway. The wind met them as they stepped out of the slum entrance onto the flattened area of a construction zone. A shout of pain broke the wind and the sisters stopped.

Shielding Nelly behind her, Viktoriya dared not move. Only her dark eyes darted to the place where a group of four Azerbaijani soldiers surrounded their victim. She stood like a tiny statue while the wind continued to blow. A strand of hair stuck between her lips, and the barrette in her hair threatened to fall free, but Viktoriya stood still. She and Nelly waited, praying for the moment of danger to pass.

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2013 Membership Form

Valid from October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

New members may join at any time of the year; however, dues are not prorated.

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

_____ **MEMBER AT LARGE - (MAL) \$25.00**

Gives you the status of an independent OWFI member.

\$20.00 - Discounted if paid *before* November 30, 2012

\$25.00 - If paid *after* November 30, 2012 (postmark date)

OR,

_____ **AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBER**

You will be a member of one of the many individual writers' organizations that have met specific requirements to be accepted into OWFI.

\$15.00 - Discounted if paid *before* November 30, 2012

\$20.00 - If paid *after* November 30, 2012 (postmark date)

Affiliate Club Name _____

What position do you hold (if any) in this affiliate? _____

Some affiliate clubs charge an additional membership. Check with the affiliate club's treasurer for more information. Visit the OWFI website for a list of affiliates: <http://www.owfi.org>

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your check or money order (made out to **OWFI**) to:

Barbara Shepherd – OWFI

P.O. Box 54302

Oklahoma City, OK 73154

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

New Membership [] or Renewal [] Is this an address change? Yes [] or No []

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Other): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Do you wish to receive the newsletter as: **Hard Copy** [] or **Email** []

WWW.OWFI.ORG

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



Wayne Harris-Wyrick
8704 NW 87 Terrace
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc

All address changes must be submitted to the OWFI Treasurer.

Barbara Shepherd, c/o OWFI, PO Box
54302, Oklahoma City, OK 73154

owfiwriters@gmail.com

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