

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

# WriteLine

# Jan



## JANUARY 8TH MEETING

### Contest Winners will share their work and read their entries

Saturday, Jan. 8th, 2010; 10:00 a.m.  
University Lutheran Church  
914 Elm (park off College Ave.)

We will start with First Place Winners reading their pieces, Second Place, Third, etc. until we run out of time. Winners listed below, please bring your work. You can ask another member to read for you, if you prefer. Also, we hope you will share notes and suggestions by the judge. This is sometimes where the real learning is and a good reason to enter the Galaxy contest in preparation for the OWFI contest!

#### Nonfiction Article:

- 1st place: Neal Huffaker  
"More Light, Less Heat on Global Warming"
- 2nd place: Barbara Shepherd  
"You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down"
- 3rd place: Neal Huffaker  
"Democracy Run Amok"
- Honorable Mention: Barbara Shepherd  
"The New Vending Machines, Rx and Weed"
- Judge: Gordon Greene

#### Short Story (Fiction):

- 1st Place: Dion Mayes-Burnett  
"White Roses"
- 2nd Place: Darline Hobbs  
"A Job Well Done"
- 3rd place: Darline Hobbs  
"Aunt Josie"
- Honorable Mention: Barbara Shepherd  
"The Angler"
- Judge: Frank Steele

#### Rhymed Poetry:

- 1st place: Keith A. Eaton  
"Boys of Normandy"
- 2nd place: Neal Huffaker  
"False Idol"



- 3rd place: Jennifer DiCamillo  
"Upon My Mother's Passing"
- Honorable Mention: Darline Hobbs  
"The Old Tire"
- Judge: Linda Burkett O'Hern

#### Unrhymed Poetry:

- 1st place: Neal Huffaker,  
"Give and Take"
- 2nd place: Barbara Shepherd  
"Mountain Top"
- 3rd place: Ruth Loeffler  
"October Light"
- Honorable Mention: Neal Huffaker  
"The Bridge"
- Judge: Maria Veres

#### Nostalgic Essay (Personal):

- 1st place: Neal Huffaker  
"Stone Mountain Sweethearts"
- 2nd place: Darline Hobbs  
"Six Sisters"
- 3rd place: Jennifer DiCamillo  
"Grandpa Merrill's House"
- Honorable Mention: Neal Huffaker  
"Tidda Pup and his Boy"
- Judge: Paul Gaines

#### Children's Fiction (Ages 8-12):

- 1st place: Barbara Shepherd  
"Francisco and the Mayan King"
- 2nd place: Neal Huffaker  
"Gentle Magic"
- 3rd place: Jennifer DeCamillo  
"Punch Yourself in the Head"
- Judge: Jeannie Alford Hagy

#### Bonnie Speer Crème de la Crème:

- Dion Mayes-Burnett for Short Story  
"White Roses"

**MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU**

# The Bonnie Speer Award

The Crème de la Crème award is given in honor of Galaxy member Bonnie Speer.

She greatly influenced the Norman Galaxy of Writers and had much to do with putting it in the shape it is today.

Bonnie was a writer, a writing teacher, a judge, the instigator of this annual writing contest, and a dedicated member of our organization.

She came to the club in the 1970s when it was very small. At that time there were fewer than 20 members and they met on Monday nights in the basement of the Senior Citizens' Center.

In the 1980s Bonnie became president of Galaxy and saw the possibilities for growth that other members couldn't see. Her presidency brought new life to the club and the membership doubled. She changed the meeting from Monday nights to Saturdays at 10 A.M. and the meeting place from the Senior Citizens' Center to the Norman Public Library.

Among the many of her successes was establishing the first newsletter, serving as an early teacher of the Friday Writers class, and many times stepping in as an emergency speaker for Galaxy on such subjects as regional and historical writing, TV script writing, beginners' mistakes, and self-publishing.

She taught article and fiction writing at Moore-Norman VoTech and was an instructor of writing for OUs Correspondence Studies.

For years Bonnie represented Galaxy at the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, was constantly asked to judge their contests, teach sessions at the annual conference, and through the years, won in nearly every contest category. She was rewarded with Life Membership status.

Bonnie was also Galaxy's representative on the early days of the NAC when it was called Norman Arts and Humanities Council. She insisted that Galaxy have a float in the 89er Day Parade which we built in her driveway. We won a first place!

So, it is fitting for this award given to the best of the First Place winners to be given in honor of Bonnie Speer.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

.....  
Dec. Minutes, cont.

ter; Ann Champeau for Markets Column and Cheer Chair; Marilyn Fleer for publicity, refreshments and securing meeting places; and Darline Hobbs, our secretary.

Sherry Bynum ended the meeting with a thought for the holiday season from the book *The Velveteen Rabbit* about basically being worn out but loved and real, which is all that matters.

—Ruth Castillo, Secretary

**12/4/2010 MINUTES BY RUTH CASTILLO**

# Dec. 4th Minutes

Galaxy of Writers met December 4, 2010, at the University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm, at 11:00 AM for a gala holiday luncheon. Sherry Bynum, president, called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

**Reports:**

Minutes were approved as printed in the *WriteLine*.

Treasurer's report stood approved as read. Sherry Bynum said the committee reports were being dispensed with because the purpose of this meeting was to eat and enjoy the fellowship.

New Business: The slate of officers was nominated and approved; Sherry Bynum noted that the newly approved by-laws say that the President-Elect will automatically step into the President position next year :



- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| President:         | Sherry Bynum   |
| President-Elect:   | Kathleen Park  |
| Vice Pres-Program: | Keith Eaton    |
| Treasurer:         | Vickey Kennedy |
| Secretary:         | Ruth Castillo  |

**2010 Norman Galaxy Contest Winners:**

The meeting was turned over to Frances Searcey, acting chair for the Galaxy Writers writing contest, to announce the winners in each category. (This year's contest co-chair Keith Eaton will chair the contest next year.) Every category had at least 12 entries and it was a difficult decision for the judges to make. Frances announced the 24 winners. Keith helped with the certificates which were made by Helen Duchon.

**Program:**



Ann Champeau read a piece she wrote about why we honor Bonnie Speer with the name of the Creme de la Creme Award given to the best of the 1st Place winners of the six categories.

Sherry Bynum said this year was the first time we had a workshop, which was Robert Ferrier's excellent workshop on poetry writing. New Program Chair Keith Eaton said he would like everyone's input as to what programs should be planned for 2011.

Helen Duchon handed out certificates of appreciation to members who did a great deal of work for Galaxy in 2010: Frances Searcey for chairing the writers' contest; Sherry Bynum for her service as president; Kathleen Park for her service as vice-president and program chair; Vickey Kennedy for her service as treasurer and webmas-

**BRAG SHEET**

**Sales, Publications and Acceptances**

**KEITH A. EATON:** Magazine Article; "One of Our Own": *Distinctly Oklahoma*; January 2011.

**JUDY HOWARD:** Published: 1905 Cookbook-- Food for Body and Soul debuts at the OKC Winter Quilt Show January 13-15, 9-5 at the Cox Convention Center. Judy Howard will sign all five of her books and exhibit 100 patriotic quilts from her Thanking Our Troops--God Bless America Touring Quilts.

**FRANCES SEARCEY:** Wrote a report for the *Norman Transcript* of Galaxy contest winners, their winning entries, and the judge for each category.

**KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: PUBLISHED:** copy-edited December *Moore Monthly Magazine*; produced "Norman Baha'i Cluster Newsletter"; wrote "Watching Your Language" column in "*WriteLine*."

**NEAL HUFFAKER:** Christmas story (nostalgic): "Prosthetics for Snowy," *Norman Transcript*; (12/21/2010).

**JOCELYN PEDERSEN: ARTICLES:** "Holiday Gala Saturday," *The Norman Transcript*: (12-1-10) "Noble Ready for lights contest," *The Norman Transcript*: (12-1-10). "New Noble event, Holiday Showcase, set for Dec. 11," *The Norman Transcript*: (12-4-10).

**"The gift of a lifetime: Mayor Gary Hayes donates kidney,"** *The Norman Transcript*: (12-11-10). "Holiday Showcase set for today in Noble," *The Norman Transcript*: (12-11-10). "Noble names first female superintendent," *The Norman Transcript*: (12-18-10). "Noble residents welcome new gourmet business" *The Norman Transcript*: (12-1-10)

**RUSS LONG: ARTICLES:** Christmas Story in *The Norman Transcript* (12/21/2010).

**STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS:** *Silliman On Sports*, [SillimanOnSports.com](http://SillimanOnSports.com)

"Iron Mike Tyson Says Eat Your F\_\_\_ing Veggies!" 11-22-2010

"Phil Jackson Mind Tricks Pat Riley and the Heat" posted on 11-30-2010

"Cam Out Of Jam? Reflections On Our Favorite Newton" posted on 12-07-2010

"Mets Mixed In Madoff Mess: What's In A Name" posted on 12-13-2010

"Favre's Legacy: Streak, Packs, Passes, Picks, Pics, Implosion" posted on 12-20-2010

"Jeff Capel Should Hire Kareem Abdul-Jabbar As Coach" posted on 12-28-2010

I also wrote 10 articles for *Bleacher Report* in the past month. They received 9300 registered reads on BR but were also linked to *USA Today*, *LA Times*, *India Times*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Washington Times* and *NY Daily News*. You can read these by going to [bleacherreport.com/stan-silliman](http://bleacherreport.com/stan-silliman).

**Contests**

**ROBERT FERRIER: PHOTOGRAPH:** "Bound,"

**MORE BRAGS**

Honorable Mention, Norman Park Foundation Tree Photo Contest, November, 2010.

**Professional Activities**

**JUDY HOWARD:** Sixty Thanking Our Troops--God Bless America Touring Quilts quilts are cheering troops at Camp Striker Stables in Baghdad through December.

Northpark Mall will exhibit JUDY HOWARD'S Thanking Our Troops--God Bless America Touring Quilts through January 10th, 2011 at 12201 N. May, OKC.

**JOCELYN PEDERSEN:** GRADUATED with Master of Professional Writing Degree, Dec. 18, 2010. *Congrats!*

**Member News**

**HELEN DUCHON** and her husband Claude celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Dec. 26th. They were married in 1960 in Seattle, Wash. The party was Nov. 5-7 in Austin, Texas.

**TREASURERS REPORT - VICKEY KENNEDY**

**Previous Balance, 11/22/10\*** **\$ 1372.83**

**Deposits**

Castillo, Ruth; DuesNGW&OWFI(CK)	\$ 35.00
Coffman, Dewey; DuesNGW&OWFI(CK)	35.00
Dikeman, Jordan; DuesNGW(CK)	15.00
Trumbly, Bill & Ann; DuesNGWx2 (Ck)	30.00
Church, Sally; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	6.00
Coffman, Dewey; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	8.00
DiCamillo, Jennifer; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	24.00
Hobbs, Darlene; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	24.00
Howard, Judy; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	8.00
Huffaker, James; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	24.00
Kennedy, Vickey; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	10.00
Loeffler, Ruth; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	4.00
Long, Russell; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	26.00
Mayes, Dion; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	12.00
Shepherd, Barbara; Contest Entry Fees(ck)	22.00
Unknown; Cash	<u>6.00</u>

**Total Deposits** **\$ 289.00**

Sub Total **\$ 1661.83**

**Expenses**

Duchon, Helen; WriteLine, Certificates	\$ 30.17
Bynum, Sherry; Supplies for dinner	109.22
Contest Awards (Not listed individually)	180.00
Dewey, Coffman; Refund, dues OWFI	5.00
OWFI DUES, Castillo	20.00
OWFI DUES, Coffman(before 11/30)	15.00
Searcey, Frances; Contest expenses	36.43

**Total Expenses** **395.82**

**Current Balance 12/21/2010** **\$ 1266.01**

\*Note: Darlene Hobbs wrote check Directly to OWFI \$20.00

WATCHING YOUR LANGUAGE BY KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK

# Clarity Trumps Convention

“What’s really the right way?” That’s a question about style I often hear. Often there’s a definite answer. But sometimes, it depends. Truth is, punctuation, capitalization and spelling conventions didn’t come down the mountain engraved on stone tablets. In fact, you don’t have to look very far in the history of English to find that spelling was a matter of very personal choice; punctuation largely nonexistent or purely ornamental; and nobody thought much about rules. Standardization of conventions and their attendant rules grew from the need for clarity in communications as more and more people learned to read.

Many universities, institutions, and newspapers adopt manuals of style or style books or publish their own. Businesses, even small ones, may put together their own style sheets or at least a set of preferences.

Los Alamos National Lab editors, for example, are trained on the venerable *Chicago Manual of Style*. You might know the *Washington Post Deskbook on Style* or *The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual*. Your college writing efforts may have been aided by *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White or the Modern Language Association’s *The*

*MLA Stylesheet*. There are many style guides for particular disciplines such as medicine, physics, chemistry, or psychology.

Conventions for the lowly and often cursed comma—for only one example—can vary. *Chicago* prefers the serial comma: “In a series consisting of three or more elements, a comma is used before the conjunction.” The *Washington Post Deskbook* gives as rule 1, “Use commas in a series but not before the conjunction.” *The Elements of Style* agrees. But *The MLA Stylesheet* dictates: “Use them [commas] before ‘and’ and ‘or’ in a series of three or more.”

Having said all that, please don’t think rules and stylebooks are capricious. Often there are sound reasons for certain formats. Newspapers, for instance, must save space and write for an eight-grade reading level. Colleges and universities promote research and require students to follow strict guidelines. Scientific and scholarly journals develop their own styles as do magazines.

Clarity and consistency are the cardinal virtues of any writer. Three of the style guides cited here end their discussion of punctuation with this admonition. *Clarity should be the goal.*

—Kathleen Norris Park, *Grammarian*

## CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

© Norman Galaxy of Writers, 2011

2011 Dues for Galaxy are \$15  
2011 Dues for OWFI are \$20  
Mail to Vickie Kennedy, Treasurer  
721 E. Boyd St.  
Norman, OK 73071

**Contest Winners  
read their work  
Saturday, Jan. 8th, 10:00 a.m.  
University Lutheran Church  
914 Elm (park off College)**



President	Sherry Bynum	405-364-7818
VP-Programs	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
Secretary	Ruth Castillo	405-514-4168
Treasurer	Vickie Kennedy	405-447-3623
Editor	Helen Duchon	405-329-2485
Cheer	Ann Champagne	405-364-0232
Friday Writers	Frances Searcey	405-321-6404
Markets	Ann Champagne	405-364-0232
Publicity/Memb.	Marilyn Fleer	405-321-8834
Grammarian	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
NAC Roundtable	Helen Duchon	405-329-2485
Recruitment	Mary Spaulding	405-364-6428
OWFI Delegate	Dion Mayes	405-321-4506
OWFI Delegate	Patricia Harvey	719-287-1670
OWFI Delegate	Vickie Kennedy	405-447-3623

**WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers**  
Helen Duchon, Editor, 405-329-2485  
747 Nancy Lynn Terrace, Norman, OK 73069  
E-MAIL: hduchon@cox.net