

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

# WriteLine



## NOVEMBER 1ST MEETING

### Christine Rimmer with her Novelist's Tool Box and Tricks of the Trade

Norman Public Library, Room AB

November 1, 2008; 10 AM

Christine Rimmer, our speaker for November, has written over sixty contemporary romances for Silhouette, Harlequin and HQN Books. A reader favorite, Christine's stories consistently appear on national bestseller lists, including the Waldenbooks and *USA TODAY* lists. She has won *Romantic Times* BOOKreview's Reviewer's Choice Award for best Silhouette Special Edition. She has been nominated three times for the RITA and four times for Romantic Times Series Storyteller of the Year.

A California native who first longed to be an actress, Christine earned her theater degree from California State, Sacramento and then went to New York to study acting. Later, she moved to Southern California, where she began her writing career with short stories, plays, and poems. Her poems and short stories were published in a number of small literary journals. Her plays were produced at The Back Alley and Group Theaters in Southern California and have been published by Dramatists Play Service and West Coast Plays.

She now lives right here in Norman with her family and two very contented cats named Tom and Ed.

#### Tools, Tricks, Time and Tips

Christine always enjoys the chance to speak with us at Galaxy. This time, she's bringing her grab-bag of author tools and tricks. We'll talk about how to use a plotting group to bring your writing to a whole new level. We'll discuss ticking clocks, raising stakes, inviting discomfort and how to write faster while writing better. Also, Christine will have tips on how to break through writer's block and how to be more productive in your writing every single day. And she'll have pointers on ways to fill your own personal creative well. Come with your questions on anything that relates to your writing process. Christine loves a lively discussion.

—Kathleen Park, Vice President, Program

## SPEAKER NOTES — HELEN DUCHON

### Terrye Robins, Christian Mystery Writer



Terrye Robins, former teacher from Chelsea, OK, taught us how she learned to write books that sell when she spoke at Galaxy, October 4, 2008.

In three and a half years, she has written three novels, found a publisher, has two books in print and a third about to appear on the shelves; and learned a lot about marketing.

Owning a children's book store and adoring the Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew Mysteries of her youth, Terrye started thinking she could write. But she also wanted people to want to read her work. She made a "map" of her favorite story upon which to base a manuscript. She researched the web for how to write and find an agent. There, she stumbled upon the OWFI conference. She joined the Grove, OK Grand Lake Wordsmiths.

#### Some things she has learned

Mrs. Robins' goal is to write Christian mysteries that are romantic, humorous, uplifting and suspenseful. She gave us a list of 16 sub genres of mysteries and said that hers fall within the "caper" and "amateur sleuth" categories.

Place is a selling point. Her novels *Trouble in Paradise*, *Revenge in Paradise* and the new one, *Justice in Paradise* take place in Paradise, OK "40 miles from Tulsa" (we just don't know which direction) and in Hawaii where she lived after graduating from high school. The Oklahoma town ties in with the Route 66 niche. Hawaii is a favorite vacation spot some of us only dream about as evidenced by over 50,000 novels published with that location, according to Robins.

Her books are character driven. She starts with just one or two traits, weaving the rest in as she goes.

The narrative and dialog use humor, drama and suspense to solve a crime, not gory but an unusual crime.

Will Rogers said, "There are two ways to learn: reading and associating with people smarter than you." Terrye takes that to mean do your research, such as the Polynesian Cultural Center and Pearl Harbor Memorial. For "Write what you know" advice, she turns to her husband

Terrye Robins, cont. on page 3

## MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

## Norman is an Art Center

So, check out *AmericanStyle*, a magazine for people who love art. The guidelines say, "Our mandate is to nurture collectors with information that will increase their knowledge of and passion for contemporary craft and the artists who create it."

It publishes articles about all mediums including collector profiles, city/regional art tours; interviews with artists, museum curators and gallery directors; craft fairs, and annual craft events. About 70% are written by freelance writers.

These articles are for readers who have considerable expertise and background knowledge of studio art and include:

**COLLECTOR PROFILES** - They are written in a lively, conversational style in 1000-1200 words with accompanying sidebars.

**ART TOURS** - One thousand words focused on art, artists, galleries, museums, art-oriented open studios, tours and events.

They include quotes from gallery owners, artists or museum directors about the city's growing appreciation, and what's new on the arts scene in the area.

**WALKS** - Readers are walked through an arts enclave, small town art center or a gallery district in 700-800 words. Included are addresses and phone numbers of each gallery mentioned.

**ARTIST PORTFOLIOS** - These focus on emerging artists and their work. Details about their backgrounds and education, ongoing editions of their work, gallery affiliations and museum representation are provided in 700 words.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS** - A clear, specific, concise outline of the topic should be submitted with an explanation as to why it would interest *AmericanStyle* readers, and reasons why you have the background or experience to carry out the assignment. Include subject, sources, projected length, types of interviews and clearly explained angle.

E-mail submissions generally assure a quicker response than one by regular mail.

E-mail: [hoped@rosengrp.com](mailto:hoped@rosengrp.com)

Hard copy should be mailed to:

Hope Daniels, Editor-in-Chief

*AmericanStyle* magazine

3000 Chestnut Ave., #304

Baltimore MD 21211

—Ann Champeau, Markets

### Galaxy's Writing Contest 2008 entries are due at this November 1st meeting!

Manuscripts must be mailed or handed to Frances Searcey no later than the end of the November 1, 2008, Galaxy meeting. (Frances Searcey, 1551 Bryant Circle, Norman OK 73026)

## OCTOBER MINUTES BY LYNN WENDELBO

## Minutes of October Meeting

Norman Galaxy of Writers met at the public library on October 4. Vice-president Kathleen Park opened the meeting by having visitors Jacquie Taylor and Mark Robinson introduce themselves. She said that on October 24, Mary Spaulding will be at Friday Writer's meeting to brainstorm ideas to increase Galaxy membership. The secretary's minutes were approved as written in the *WriteLine*. Treasurer's report was given by Vickey Kennedy who reported that the Galaxy club has 56 members, of which 46 are also OWFI members. The Galaxy treasury has a total balance of \$1064.01 currently.

### Announcements

Helen Duchon announced the Vacant Arts Festival will be held the weekend of Oct. 4-6. She also told of the Russian arts festival and exhibit at the OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art featuring Russian immigrants to America. The Arts in Business luncheon will be held on November 6 at the Oklahoma University ballroom at the student union. Galaxy member, Robert Ferrier, is one of the "know your neighbor" honorees. Fowler Holding Company is to be honored as Business of the Year and Shevaun Williams as Person of the Year in the Arts.

Linda Basinger announced OWFI convention will be held at the new Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman in May of 2009. Vickey Kennedy suggested the club rent a room at the hotel for the conference. It will be discussed at a later time. Linda also announced that Tess Garretson will be the keynote speaker at the convention.

Kathleen Park announced that Christine Rimmer will be the speaker at the November meeting.

### Program

Kathleen introduced Terrye Robins, Christian mystery writer as the guest speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,

—Lynn Wendelbo, Secretary

### TREASURER'S REPORT - VICKEY KENNEDY

BEGINNING BALANCE: 8/31/08	\$ 983.83
EXPENSES	
Barbara Yuill, Speaker	\$ 25.00
Helen Duchon, Sept. WriteLine	14.82
Roundtable yearly dues	25.00
Marilyn Fleeer, Snacks	5.00
Refund \$5 to 9 members	45.00
OWFI dues for 10 members	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 264.82
DEPOSITS	
Dues, 10 NGW & 10 OWFI	\$345.00
CURRENT BALANCE: 9/29/08	\$ 1064.01

**BRAG SHEET****Sales and Acceptances**

**ROBERT FERRIER:** PUBLISHED: Poem, "The Carnival of Poetry," selected for excerpts page on website of *Mobius, The Poetry Magazine*, 2008 issue. URL: <http://home.earthlink.net/~mobiusmag/excerpts2.htm#Ferrier>

**KATHLEEN PARK:** PUBLISHED: The Norman Baha'i Newsletter; two press releases; Work for Hire: web content for Vitruvia (an OKC medical practice) and an e-commerce customer of Merchant Metrix.

**ANN CHAMPEAU** received notification from *The Writer* magazine that they are holding her 700 word article "Before Your Memories Fly Away" until "a slot opens up for it."

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* for Sept. **MIKE KRAWCZYK:** CARTOONS: 9/29/08 **Nigerians to Take Over Newcastle** Nigerian businessmen to buy a British soccer team In this cause they offered me a SPECIAL opportunity [www.sillimanonsports.com/Nigerians\\_Take\\_Over.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Nigerians_Take_Over.html) 10/6/08 **What Happened to Hanson Brothers?** From the movie "Slapshot" see at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Hanson\\_Brothers.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Hanson_Brothers.html)

10/14 **OJ Trial: A Mastercard Moment** The Las Vegas robbery trial See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/OJ\\_Trial.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/OJ_Trial.html)

10/21 **Bosox Fan Can't Escape the Haters** The top Red Sox in North Carolina comes home to find his condo vandalized... by a Yankee fan See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Red\\_Sox\\_Haters.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Red_Sox_Haters.html)

**Professional Activities**

**FRANCES SEARCEY:** JUDGED: Poetry category for the Oklahoma City Writers' writing contest.

**JACK WILLIS:** ARTICLE: "The Journey from a Different Perspective" by Kent Anderson, photos by Tim Swann in *Norman Living*, (9/08) about his book *Saving Jack* and his recovery from cancer.

**Club News**

**ROBERT FERRIER** is one of five persons selected by the Norman Chamber of Commerce for accomplishments and contributions to the arts. A "Do You Know Your Neighbor" luncheon to honor those selected will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 6, at the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom, University of Oklahoma Memorial Union. Reservation information and additional details are available from the Chamber of Commerce at (405) 321-7260.

**Contests**

**MADELAINE CULP:** Oklahoma Romance Writers Chapter "Finally a Bride" Contest, (open only to those manuscripts that had finalized or placed in other RWA contests), a judge for my short contemporary scored me 100 points out of a possible 100 points! I was so thrilled.

**SPEAKER NOTES BY HELEN DUCHON****Terrye Robins, cont. from Page 1**

who was in law enforcement and her experiences in Hawaii and small town Oklahoma.

Keeping Marketing in mind, Terrye's Main Character Allison's mother owns Paradise Petals, a garden supply shop that caters to Red Hat Society ladies. She is a member of the Red Hat Society Pryor Chapter and attends other conventions of Red Hatters to sell her books.

She markets to church groups, too. Her books are clean and Christian with a moral thread and upstanding church members as characters.

Robins is also marketing to public libraries in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma to "get as many people as possible to read my books," she said.

**Terrye Robins' Four D's**

**Dedicated.** Faithful to your writing, purpose and goal.

**Disciplined.** Write at a certain time each day of the week. She writes from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

**Determined.** Follow through. Write. Find a publisher. Market your book.

**Devotion.** Fall in love with being a writer. Now, with speaking and publishing chores, Terrye says she is missing her characters. "What's Ally going to do now?" she wonders.

—Helen Duchon, Editor

**State of Art Criticism**

Dr. Richard Vine, managing editor of *Art in American*, author of *Painting in China*, spoke at the OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Oct. 16, 2008. He talked about how to be a real art critic who actually looks at real art.

**His Five Commandments for writing about art**

1. When in doubt, GO. He went to Poland and China.
2. Be Modest. "Invite them to tea." Andy Warhol
3. Be Honest. Understand artists on their own terms.
4. Be Clear. Like Freud, Abe Lincoln and Jesus.
5. Be Funny. Observe, analyze, think, stay alert.

Why be a critic? There is no money and little security; but lots of respect and good parties. First, love art, care passionately; have a desire to see an appreciation of art mature. Be in search of the good life. "I saw a sign, 'Breakfast anytime.' I ordered French toast in the Renaissance." As T.S. Elliot said, "There is no method, than to be very intelligent."

—Helen Duchon, Editor

**WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Joan Barker, 2009 Galaxy, 2009 OWFI  
2238 Ravenwood Lane; Norman, OK 73071-7427  
405-364-8105 Email: [joanandmarkbarker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joanandmarkbarker@sbcglobal.net)

Dr. Edwin Kessler, 2009 Galaxy, 2009 OWFI  
1510 Rosemont Drive; Norman, OK 73072  
405-360-2194 Email: [kess3@swbell.net](mailto:kess3@swbell.net)

## GRAMMAR BY JILL CASE BROWN

## The ' ,

For being so tiny, the apostrophe is too much for one grammar column. It could use a whole book of its own. Here I'll touch on the basics and tackle a few common mistakes, weirdos, and questionables.

## 1. Replacing a letter or letters (contraction)

*You'll, can't, I've, he's, they're,* and so on. Great for natural-sounding dialogue or narration, but for business letters it's best to write them out.

## 2. Showing possession

A singular noun almost always ends with apostrophe followed by s. Examples: *Jennifer's praise was generous. The writer's ego swelled.*

Exceptions: drop the final s for ancient names ending -es, -is, -us (*Moses' laws, Isis' beauty, Jesus' deity*). As for other names with a final s, the rule that used to insist on *Charles's manuscript* increasingly allows either *Charles's* or *Charles'*; you'll find much controversy on this.

A plural noun almost always ends with s followed by apostrophe. Examples: *The agencies' responses were not kind. They said the two writers' articles stank.*

Exceptions: plurals not ending in s (*the people's voice, our children's favorites*).

Common mistake: possessive plural of last names. *The Smith's* means it belongs to only one Smith; if it belongs to the whole family, it's the *Smiths's*. And when the name has a final s, like *Jones*, the family becomes *The Joneses*, and the possessive is *The Joneses's*.

The possessive pronoun has no apostrophe.

*His, hers, ours, theirs, yours, its.* Most writers do fine with that, except when it comes to *its*. *It's* is a contraction meaning *it is* or *it has* (*It's too late. It's already happened.*), and includes both subject and verb. *Its* is the possessive (*Its time has come.*).

Another common mistake confuses *your* and *you're*. Same principle: *You're* is a contraction meaning *you are* (*You're a great writer.*), and includes both subject and verb. *Your* is the possessive (*I love your book.*).

## Oddballs

Extended titles: *Sister-in-law's* (singular possessive); *sisters-in-law's* (plural possessive). *Maid of honor's* (singular possessive); *maids of honor's* (plural possessive)

## Joint ownership:

*Bill and Ted's excellent adventure* (same adventure) *Bill's and Jerry's excellent adventures* (two separate adventures).

## Time expressions:

*He was given one day's notice. He has six months' insurance.* The apostrophe replaces an imaginary *of*.

## Numbers and letters:

*Luxurious has three u's. You have a funny way of writing 7's.*

—Jill Brown, Grammarian

## WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers

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**DUES for 2009 are due**

**2009 Dues for Galaxy are \$15**

**2009 Dues for OWFI are \$15 (\$20 after Nov. 30)**

Mail to Vickey Kennedy, Treasurer  
721 E. Boyd St.  
Norman, OK 73071



Nov. 1, 2008

10:00 AM

Public Library, Rm AB  
Norman, OK

Christine Rimmer,  
Romantic Novelist

Tools, Tricks, Time & Tips