

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

# WriteLine



## DECEMBER 13TH MEETING

### Galaxy Holiday Potluck

2nd Saturday, Dec. 13th, 11 AM

McFarlin Methodist Church, Room 209

(Park in lot on Apache St. Enter Atrium doors, elevator or stairs to 2nd floor, down hallway toward North, through frosted glass doors of Room 209)

We will have holiday readings to celebrate the reason for the season for Christians, Jews and Baha'is.

#### Potluck dish

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share: salad, veggie, casserole or dessert.

#### New Board

We will have a short business meeting for the "changing of the guard" new officers for Galaxy.

Current 2008 Officers: President, Mary Spaulding; VP, Kathleen Park; Treasurer, Vickey Malone Kennedy, and Secretary, Lynn Wendelbo.

New Officers for 2009: President Madelaine Culp; Vice-President, Sherry Bynum; Secretary, Dion Mayes; Treasurer, Lynn Wendelbo.

#### Contest Winners

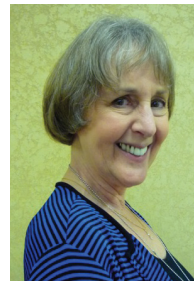
And then, drum roll please, Frances Searcey will announce the winners of the Galaxy Writing Contest for 2008.



## SPEAKER NOTES — HELEN DUCHON

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

**Ticking clocks, raising stakes, inviting discomfort and writing faster while writing better**



Christine Rimmer, romance writer, talked to a packed room at the Galaxy meeting, November 1st. She started with something she resisted for a long time and now swears by—

#### The Plot Group.

Her Plot Group meets in Las Vegas twice a year from Sunday to Wednesday to brainstorm stories. Two to six gals come with a germ of an idea to bounce around. They have two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. Two recorders are going and respect for the speaker is strictly enforced so that every word is clear on tape and backup tape. Back home, the tapes are transcribed and the writing begins.

Christine has found that the Plot Group Adventure speeds up her writing process and refills her creative well faster than working isolated on her own. She used to take three months to write a novel and two months to refill her creative well. Now she writes a book in two months and only needs one month to recover. It must work. So far, she's written over sixty contemporary romances for Silhouette, Harlequin and HQN Books.

#### At least three Turning Points

1. We get there is a problem. 2. Its worst than we thought. 3. Its hopeless. Escalating bad stuff. The character does this. There is a reaction. There are consequences. The heart of every story is **Conflict**.

Tension rises with a **Ticking Clock**, when time is running out. The Character has 24 hours to live. The bomb will go off in 30 minutes. The stakes are always rising. There can be lulls and resolutions, but they are just hints that something bad is about to happen.

Take any situation, give the Character impossible moral choices. Like in *Sophie's Choice*. Invite **Discomfort**. "Why is this bothering me?" Cause even more trouble for the characters. Have no sympathy for her suffering.

## MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

**While you're in the spirit.....**

While in the holiday spirit this month, jot down ideas for next December's articles, short stories, poems and markets. I call these little bits and pieces joggers -- like memory joggers. To get you started, here's a few:

1. "I Remember Mother's Christmas Dinner" -- perhaps for *Good Old Days* or the *Transcript* Christmas story contest.
2. Gift wrapping -- how-to article for cheap gift wraps (newspapers with big red ribbons, or brown paper bags with plaid bows, or the comics). *Family Circle* and *Woman's Day* run these kinds of articles.
3. Music -- an essay about the effect holiday music has on you. Write it for the back page "Chimes" of *Victoria* magazine.
4. Poetry -- when your feelings about the joy of Christmas overwhelm you, write a poem and send it to *CAPPERS*.
5. A holiday themed short story is always welcome at *ByLine*, or the Galaxy contest.
6. Decorations -- do you have original ideas for ornaments or table decorations? Check out *House Beautiful* or *Better Homes and Gardens* for a market.
7. Food -- the food editors must wrack their brains for new ideas for each December issue. Original recipes and presentations should be appreciated.
8. The *Writer* or *Writers' Digest* or *ByLine* is a good market for "How-to Market Holiday Articles."
9. It was once the norm to make most gifts instead of buying everything. Do you still do that? Do you make wooden frames, wooden toys, stuffed bears or dolls, red flannel pajamas, refinished desks and dressers, knitted scarves and caps, crocheted tablecloths or pot holders? Read your *Writers' Market* or go on line and Google "Craft Magazines." Again, these editors must have to scrounge for new ideas.
10. Going Green -- Christmas is certainly a time for these ideas. Do you use nature's dried plants for your house decorations? Do you use holly leaves and berries instead of a manufactured table centerpiece? This is the year for the "Going Green" articles.

So, jot those ideas down. Write your articles stories and poems when the snow and ice keep you housebound, then sent them off. Early. December issues are sometimes worked on all year.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

**It's not what you find, it's what you find out.**

—Barry Clifford, on the Whyduh

## NOVEMBER MINUTES BY LYNN WENDELBO

**Minutes of November 1st**

Norman Galaxy of Writers met on November 1 at the Norman Public Library. The president opened the meeting by asking for visitors present. Ruth Castillo and Mark Hardick of Norman were present.

Announcements: Helen Duchon announced the Nov. 3 meeting of the Arts Council Roundtable at the Library on grant writing. She reported that Robert Ferrier was to be honored by Chamber of Commerce, at lunch, Nov. 6 and asked for reservations.

Madelaine Culp talked about the suggestions at Friday Writers group and a survey which she gave those present.

Minutes were approved as written in the *WriteLine*.

Stan Solliway gave the report of the nominating committee for next year's officers: President Madelaine Culp, Vice-President, Sherry Bynum, Secretary, Dion Mayes, Treasurer, Lynn Wendelbo.

Marilyn Fleeer talked about several who have health issues: Robert's wife Marsha Ferrier had surgery; Leona Huffaker has a brain tumor and is in Grace Assisted Living Center. Also, Dion Mayes was married on Halloween at the Firehouse Art Center.

The December annual holiday luncheon will be a potluck meal with members bringing vegetables, salads or desserts. President Mary Spaulding will provide the meat; Marilyn Fleeer, the punch; Ann Champeau, paper plates and eating utensils. Frances Searcey and Linda Basinger volunteered for clean-up. Contest winners will be revealed.

Mary Spaulding reported on possible new member recruitment ideas: more socialization time at meetings, a survey form provided to members, an updated membership list given to everyone twice a year. A committee was formed to investigate Web sites: Helen Duchon, Vickey Kennedy, Sherry Bynum, and Christine Rimmer. They will report at the January meeting.

Interim Treasurer Vickey Kennedy gave the treasurer's report. Current balance is \$1625.19 with 56 paid members, of which 43 also belong to OWFI.

Kathleen Park introduced our speaker, Christine Rimmer who has written over 60 romance novels.

—Submitted by Lynn Wendelbo, Secretary.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - VICKEY KENNEDY**

BEGINNING BALANCE: 10/4/08	\$ 1064.01
EXPENSES	
Terrye Robins, Speaker	\$ 35.00
Helen Duchon, Oct. WriteLine	12.82
Marilyn Fleeer, Snacks	5.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 52.82
DEPOSITS	
Dues, 23 NGW & 18 OWFI	\$620.00
CURRENT BALANCE: 11/1/08	\$ 1625.19

## BRAG SHEET

Sales and Acceptances

**ANN CHAMPEAU:** PUBLISHED: Poem, "Veteran's Day," November 2008 issue of *CAPPERS*. ACCEPTED: Mini-mystery accepted by *Woman's World*.

Melyn Johnson, editor of the *ArtSplash* newsletter, [Melyn@TravelOK.com](mailto:Melyn@TravelOK.com) "stole" (her word) my November, 2008 Market Column *AmericanStyle*. Wish she'd given me credit. Nevertheless, I am pleased she chose to put it in. This newsletter has lots of news about the artists, writers, museums, theater folks and events in Oklahoma. Try it. You may want to send her something about your readings, writings, shows, performances or book signings.

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* for Nov. **MIKE KRAWCZYK:** CARTOONS: 11/4 "John Daly, the Crazy Gugenheim of Golf" See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/John\\_Daly.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/John_Daly.html) 11/11 "Luckiest Golfer in the World A guy has 5 hole-in-ones in one week"

See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Curt\\_Hocker.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Curt_Hocker.html) 11/18 Deadly Argument Fells Football Fans LSU & Alabama fans get into it with gunfire. See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Deadly\\_Football\\_Arguments.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Deadly_Football_Arguments.html) 11/24 "Wolverine Stock Dropping Like Rock" [www.sillimanonsports.com/Wolverine\\_Stocks\\_Dropping.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Wolverine_Stocks_Dropping.html)

**ROBERT FERRIER:** All four of my novels, *The Virtual Guard*, *The Witchery Way*, *Dear Mr. Kapps* and *The Plot Squad*, are now available on the Kindle Reading Device at Amazon.com.

**RUSS LONG:** book review published in the *Oklahoma: Afternoon Tea*, by J. R. LaGreca (11/30/08).

Professional Activities

**ROBERT FERRIER:** Read a poem at reunion of Woody Guthrie Festival Poets, November 20, Benedict Street Market, Shawnee, OK.

**FRANCES SEARCEY:** Chaired the 2008 Norman Galaxy of Writers contest.

Club News

**ROBERT FERRIER** was one of five persons selected by the Norman Chamber of Commerce for accomplishments and contributions to the arts. He received a medallion and certificate and much thanks November 6 at the luncheon at OMU. Seven Galaxy members helped him celebrate including his mother Rose.

**DION MAYES** married James Christopher "Bird" Burnett on Halloween. It was "a hauntingly exquisite costume wedding" held at the Norman Firehouse Art Center. They met at the FAC, so the location seemed an ideal choice for the nuptials. Douglas Shaw Elder, Director of the Firehouse, said, "The Firehouse has never hosted a wedding before." Dion, 45, is an RN at the Norman Specialty Hospital, and "Bird" Burnett, 47, of Norman, is an Artist/Instructor at the Firehouse Art Center.

## SPEAKER NOTES BY HELEN DUCHON

**Christine Rimmer, cont. Page 1**

Conflict happens in dialog. Write the story just in Dialog with no cues. There is an argument whether a good story is Plot-driven or Character-driven. "Someone drops a spoon and worlds collide," Christine quoted.

**A Character that carries the Conflict**

Christine warns against writing about the Main Character from the Omniscient View, as God would see it. "Only James Mischner is allowed to use Omniscience," she quipped.

Rimmer says to master the "Deep Point of View" DPV is 3rd person, he, she, through the eyes and feelings of one person's five senses.

You cannot know more than the Character. Don't write judgments, "She was scared." Write, "Her heart was beating wildly and she was sweaty." Let the Reader draw his own conclusions from the visceral description.

The Deep Point of View Character wouldn't use her own name. Drop tags like, "he said angrily," in dialog. Talk the way he or she would talk.

Before you start, play Twenty Questions with your Main Character. Find out that dirty little secret that is the worst thing he/she has ever done; the thing that she wouldn't want her mother to know, for sure! You don't have to use it in the story, but it is in the background. Seek emotional honesty. "Readers smell dishonesty like skunk on a dog," Christine says.

—Helen Duchon, Editor

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

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## GRAMMAR BY KATHLEEN PARK

## Little Things Mean a Lot

Consider space. Not interstellar space, but the space between words. Or the lack thereof. That tiny area can change your meaning altogether.

For example, everyday is an adjective: your **every-day** routine, **everyday** clothes, **everyday** duties. But “**every day**” is a phrase with an adjective and a noun. “**Every day** it rains I cry.” “Lulu whistles **every day**.” And they aren’t interchangeable, you legion of over-paid ad-makers!

Such is the case with **any**. **Anytime is an adverb**: “Come see us anytime.” Other adverbs are anyhow, anyway, anymore. But you’d say “Do you have any time left for play?” Or “Is there any one color you like better than the others?” Or “Is there any way out of here?” In these examples, **any is an adjective**. Such forms as **anybody and anything are pronouns**.

Other tiny spaces have distinct meanings as well. The **hyphen** is commonly used to join words in what are called **unit modifiers** or temporary forms. Let’s say you invent a unit modifier like “taffy-colored” or “urn-shaped” or “top-rated” before a noun. The hyphen signals the reader to read it as an adjective. Another note about the hyphen: don’t use it in a unit modifier in the subjective complement position follow-

ing a form of the “to be” verb. Say “He is a well-known man.” But not “He is well-known.” Write instead “He is well known.” This is a good place to say that certain forms must always be hyphenated, no matter their position. Semi and half and self are examples: “semi-circle,” “half-witted,” “self-explanatory.”

Taking up a bit more space than a hyphen is the **en dash**, used to show range: “1983–1987,” “100–500.” And here, according to the Chicago Manual of Style, you don’t put spaces before and after. Longer still, the length of two hyphens, is the **em dash**, which shows a sudden interruption in the flow of a thought, or a strong break: “Lulu likes Jojo—except when he barks or jumps—and will say so.” “Don’t touch that knife, you crazy—” It can also act as a colon to indicate an explanation or example coming: “Lulu has three brothers—Clem, Fauntleroy, and Bubba.” Again, don’t insert spaces before or after the adjoining words. The en and em dashes are so named for a printer’s measure. An en (n) is shorter than an em (m). In case you wonder, here’s how to find those dashes in Microsoft Word. Go to Insert in the toolbar, then to Symbol, then to Special Characters. You can even assign your own short-cut keys to them if you like.

**It’s the little things**—and this is only a drop in the ocean of your well-written prose—that mark you as careful and concise writer.

—Kathleen Park, 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



Dec. 6, 2008

11:00 AM

Univ. Lutheran Church

914 Elm, Norman, OK

Holiday Potluck

2008 Contest Winners