

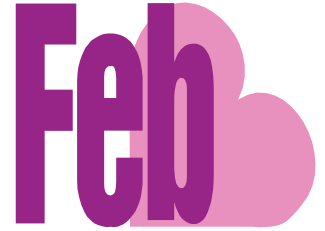
Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

WriteLine

**FEBRUARY 7TH MEETING**

The Novelist's Tool Box: Tricks of the Trade, Part Two

Saturday, February 7th, 10 a.m.

University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm (park in lot off College, south of Lindsey)

Christine returns as our February speaker to present Tricks of the Novelist's Trade, part two. Last time she spoke on how to use a plot group to write better stories faster, as well as on upping the emotional stakes of your story using tight pacing and deep point of view.

This time, she'll have a few more tips on the craft of writing. Then she'll move on to discuss ways to deepen and enrich your writing process. She'll give some pointers on how to break through writer's block and how to be more productive in your writing every single day. And she'll also offer a few ways to fill your own personal creative well. Come with your questions on anything that relates to your writing process. Christine loves to interact with fellow writers.

Why you need to hear Christine

Christine Rimmer 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.

2008 CONTEST WINNERS READINGS

Contest winners read their works: Dorothy Brinker, Marie Johnson, Keith Eaton and Mark Hardick, (winner of the Bonnie Speer Creme de la Creme Award.)

Contest Winners Read

1. Bonnie Speer Creme de la Creme Award

Winner: Mark Hardick

Short Story Fiction: The Last Indian War

2. Category 1: Nonfiction Article

1st Place: Russell L. Long

The Basis of the Crusades

3. Category 3: Poetry Rhymed

1st Place: Russell L. Long

March Lament

4. Category 4: Poetry Unrhymed

1st Place: Mark Hardick

The Lawn

5. Category 6: Children's Fiction

1st Place: Josephine Leslie

Dell's Dilemma

6. Category 3: Poetry Rhymed

2nd Place: Marie Johnson

The Story of the Centurion

7. Category 1: Nonfiction Article

3rd Place: Dorothy Brinker

Golden Age Gets Tarnished

8. Category 5: Nostalgic Essay (Personal)

2nd Place: Keith Eaton

My First Haircut

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

How to Write a Thriller

Steve Berry's 8 Rules of Writing (from Maui Writers Conference, Honolulu, September 2008)

1. There are **no rules**. You can do anything you want as long as it works.
2. **Don't bore** the reader. You can bore the reader in sentence, in a paragraph, by misusing words, poorly choosing words, using the wrong length, etc.
3. **Don't confuse** the reader. Don't misuse point of view. Don't do too much at once.
4. **Don't get caught writing**. Don't let you, the author, enter the story. (E.g., "And he never would see Memphis again.") How would anyone other than the author know that the character would never see Memphis again?"
5. **Shorter is always better**. Write tight. It makes you use the best words in the right way.
6. **Don't lie** to the reader. It's OK to mislead, but don't lie. If you say the character's motivation is A and it turns out to be B (and you haven't foreshadowed it at all), the reader will feel cheated.
7. **Don't annoy** the reader. Don't use names that are hard to pronounce or write choppy sentences throughout the entire book. It keeps people from getting close to your characters.
8. You must tell a good story. Bad writing can be forgiven with a good story. A bad story with the most beautiful writing cannot.

(Steve Berry is a bestselling thriller writer.)

Now, if you have followed all of his rules, send your thriller or horror story to: *Cemetery Dance Magazine*, Editor Richard Chizmar, P.O. Box 623, Forest Hill MD 21050

—Ann Champeau, Markets

Minutes of Jan. 3rd meeting, cont.

either the AB room of the Norman Library or at the Lutheran Student Center.

New Business: Vice President, Sherry Bynum asked members to let her know if we are interested in certain speakers or genre's. Sherry also announced that Christine Rimmer who was originally scheduled to speak at this January 3rd meeting, had to cancel due to a family emergency, but was looking forward to being our speaker next month.

Sherry Bynum announced that the contest winners that were present would be reading their favorite winning entries today.

—submitted by Dion Mayes-Burnett, Secretary

JANUARY MINUTES BY DION BURNETT

Minutes of Jan. 3rd Meeting

Norman Galaxy of Writers met on January 3rd, 2009 at the Norman Public Library. New President, Madelaine Culp-Havey, opened the meeting by introducing herself to the members and asking if visitors were present. Phil Kemp, Chris Burnett, and Diane Vanlandingham were welcomed to the meeting.

Announcements: Helen Duchon presented Friday Writer's Leader and 2008 Norman Galaxy Contest Chair, Frances Searcey, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions.

Madelaine Culp discussed her goals for the group survey she presented during the November Galaxy meeting. 1) All Chairpersons and Officers to write a job description of what they do during the year, and 2) Information about the members of Norman Galaxy to share in an information booklet. She then provided more surveys to those present at the meeting.

Frances Searcey moved to accept the minutes of the November meeting which was seconded by Ruth Loeffler.

Reports: Lynn Wendelbo presented the Treasurer's Report with a current balance of \$1296.20, which was accepted by the membership. Frances Searcey announced that Friday Writer's had resumed meeting in the basement of the Senior Citizen Center on Fridays, 10am-12pm.

Helen Duchon announced that the Arts and Humanities Round Table did not meet in December, but to watch the newspaper as many activities are planned. Helen also requested a volunteer to put out the April, and possibly the February Writeline as she will be out of town. Kathleen Park agreed to do the February issue.

Marilyn Fleeer continues to place meeting announcements in the Norman Transcript. She announced that she and Recruitment Chair, Mary Spaulding, who was not present, were working on a plan to possibly invite OU School of Journalism students to a meeting in March.

No OWFI delegates were present to report on recent plans for the upcoming conference, however Ruth Loeffler did announce that the keynote speaker was to be Tess Garrison, author of numerous successful Medical Thrillers and that this would probably be the only year the Conference would be held at the Norman Embassy Suites due to the cost of the rooms. The president and Frances Searcey encouraged all to attend the Conference, May 1st & 2nd injecting the many advantages of attending.

No old business was presented.

Kathleen Park asked that we keep one of our members in our prayers. Josie Leslie's husband, Lance recently suffered a heart attack and had emergency surgery. He is currently in ICU at the OU Heart Hospital. His prognosis is guarded. Cards and best wishes can be sent to 1012 Greenway Circle, Norman, Ok. 73072.

Marilyn Fleeer announced that she was working on the location for our next Galaxy meeting which would be in

BRAG SHEET**Sales and Acceptances**

FRANCES SEARCEY: PUBLISHED: 3 poems in *Aging Out Loud*, a compilation of poetry written by seniors throughout the state. The poems were "Debtor," "Vicissitudinous Christmas," and "Confessions of a True Senior." The book was compiled and published by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

RUSS LONG: PUBLISHED:, Book reviews in *The Oklahoman* for *Battleship Oklahoma BB-37* by Jeff Phister, Thomas Hone and Paul Goodyear (University of Oklahoma Press; \$39.95 hard cover) and for *Sheltered in His Arms* (Granny's Books Publishing House \$29.99) by Correna F Wilson Pickens and Farah Bazzrea, the story of Wilma Norris Knight, mother of Chuck Norris of the TV series "Walker, Texas Ranger."

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* for Jan. **MIKE KRAWCZYK:** CARTOONS: **Jan 5 Granddaddiest Parade Too Successful** The Rose Parade can be funny See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Rose_Parade.html

Jan 12 Ode to a Bad NBA Contract Poetry about pro basketball See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Bad_NBA_Contract.html

Jan 20 The Coach, The Wife and the Taxi Driver Hard to describe See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Coaches_Wife_Sues.html

Jan 27 Hying the Super Bowl It's a recession. Silliman helps See at www.sillimanonsports.com/Hying_Super_Bowl.html

Professional Activities

FRANCES SEARCEY serving as a judge for OWFI Writers Contest 2009 for the Prose-Humor category.

Club News

JOSIE LESLIE's husband, Lance recently suffered a heart attack and had emergency surgery. He was in ICU at the OU Heart Hospital more than a month. He is home now with nursing care. Cards can be sent to 1012 Greenway Circle, Norman, OK 73072.

DOROTHEY GRIFFIN's husband Wayne passed away December 22, 2008. Wayne had a life threatening illness in 1991 and suffered renal disease from medication to cure Histoplasmosis. He was born Jan. 26, 1935 in Morris, Okla. He and Dorothey celebrated 55 years of marriage September 5, 2008. Her address is 3003 River Oaks Dr. #153; Norman, OK 73072.

RUSS LONG and his wife Nell just returned from a celebration of their 63rd anniversary on a game drive and champaign "sundowner" on the Namib Desert of Namibia along the Skeleton Coast of Southwest Africa. An article about them was in the Sunday *Transcript*, 1-25-09. Congratulations!

STAN SOLLOWAY: His company, Regency Steel, did all the handrails, planter boxes, bar rails, etc in the Norman Embassy Suites. He says, "Hope you enjoy them when you go to the OWFI convention May 2-3."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**Goals for 2009**

Welcome to a New Year for Norman Galaxy of Writers. I am honored to serve as your president for the year 2009. These are my personal goals for the membership during this year.

My first goal is simply to continue the excellent meetings, friendships, sharing, and support of the writing interests of the members.

My next goal is to gather information from the membership about who they are and what they write to be made available to new members especially and/or other members to share writing interests.

At each meeting, I will pass out a general survey for members to fill out and return to me. If possible, we might arrange for special interests groups to meet privately, or even before our regular scheduled meetings to share information, expertise and advice. My survey also includes a section where you can express your ideas for what you would like to see our club do in the future. Hopefully, soon, these ideas can be discussed by our membership during a regular meeting.

My last goal is to gather job descriptions from officers and committee chairs to prepare a guideline to present to members in order to explain specific duties of these positions and ensure volunteers for the positions for the coming year.

All in all, I want to share information with writers, about writing, enjoy meeting and talking to like minded writers, and simply have fun.

—Madelaine Culp, President
405-872-8973; madelaine9@sbcglobal.net

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

BURNETT, Chris 2009 Galaxy 2009 OWFI
102 E. Hughbert St.; Norman, OK 73069

321-4506 E-mail: BirdBurnett@gmail.com

KEMP, Phil 2009 Galaxy 2009 OWFI

6600 E. Tecumbseh Rd.; Norman, OK 73072

3221-3512 E-mail: 2writingguys@gmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO

BEGINNING BALANCE: 12/13/08 \$ 1250.02
EXPENSES

Frances Searcey, Contest \$ 24.48

Helen Duchon, Certificates 29.96

Mary Spaulding, Turkey 127.64

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 182.08

DEPOSITS

Dues, 2 NGW & 2 OWFI \$70.00

Contest Entry Fees 112.00

Turkey purchases 46.26

TOTAL DEPOSITS \$ 228.26

CURRENT BALANCE: 12/31/08 \$ 1296.20

When Katie Met Oklahoma

When I was 19 and knew everything, I took on an insufferable scorn for all things Arkansas, especially the language. Oh, the ugly twang, the ignorant sayings, the general lowness of Southern speech—and let us not even consider the rude attempts at writing!

Now I collect and treasure the pithy expressions, the earthy sayings, the wisdom and humor in folk sayings. One of my recent treasures came from our own Linda Basinger, who stood surprised that I'd never heard it—and probably less than amused at my whooping in delight. Someone in passing had just earned her comment, “So dumb he wouldn't know Come-on from Sic-'em.” That's right up there with “dumber than a box of rocks.”

As I collect regional sayings and note differences in usage in the many states I've lived, I wondered about the origins of mistakes peculiar to place. And now, still fairly new to Oklahoma, I'm often puzzled by the common substitution of *whenever* for *when*. According to a not-too-old *Webster's*, the adverb *whenever* means *at whatever time; at any and every time*. But we continually hear phrases like these: “whenever I was in the third grade,” “whenever he died,” “whenever

my son was born.” *When* as an adverb means *at or during which time*. And this one is the correct usage. Unless, of course, you were often or repeatedly in the third grade. But I can't come up with justification for someone's dying or being born whenever.

When can also be a conjunction meaning *at or during the time that; while* (e.g., She learned how to dance when she was in the third grade; also *just at the time that*: Stop writing when the bell rings. It can even be a pronoun meaning *what or which time* (e.g., “in late 1981, since when he has been writing poems . . .”).

Even local TV and radio broadcasters regularly misuse *whenever*. Jewels like “whenever World War II ended” and “whenever Congress passed that bill in 2003” come to mind.

Since I've used *e.g.* here, maybe a refresher definition and usage note are in order. The abbreviation *e.g.* means *exempli gratia, for example* in Latin. According to my old *Chicago Manual of Style*, a comma is usually used after that and other such expressions (*i.e.*, *id est*, or *that is*, and *namely*). It's easy to forget that *i.e.* is singular; *e.g.*, however, can signal more than one example.

—Kathleen Park, Grammarian

WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers

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Grammarian	Jill Case Brown	405-447-0577
Grammarian	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
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OWFI Delegate	Judith Evans	405-329-4138
OWFI Treas.	Linda Basinger	405-366-0123

2009 Dues for Galaxy are \$15

2009 Dues for OWFI are \$20

Mail to Lynn Wendelbo, Treasurer
4103 Northhampton Dr.
Norman, OK 73072

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CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED



Feb. 7, 2009

10:00 AM

University Lutheran

Christine Rimmer
Tricks, Part 2