

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

Norman Galaxy of Writers



# WriteLine

## MARCH 7TH MEETING

### Jim Chastain: A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

March 7, 2009 10 A.M. Speaker will be first!  
University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm Street,  
Norman (park in the back, off College Ave.)

*Jim Chastain has survived cancer. He even wrote a book to prove it. But the disease came back. Doctors now tell him that he has "months" to live. He and his family are facing now what we all eventually will face. And he's sharing his journey with the world. Jim Chastain is dying. He is living to tell us about it.*

*Jim Chastain has many things: a loving wife, a daughter who will soon graduate from high school, a son who is a gifted musician, a great job at the Capitol, a large home in Norman, a growing literary reputation and a large circle of friends. What he doesn't have is time. "The doctors have told me that I have months left, not years," said Chastain, 44.*

—[NewsOK.com/jimchastain](http://NewsOK.com/jimchastain)

Jim Chastain, a prolific author will be our speaker for March. He will share his expertise on writing memoirs, poetry, journaling, film criticism, and health. Though he says he rarely speaks on marketing, he has a lot to say on the subject.

He will spend a short time on each topic, but the majority of his time will be in interacting and answering your questions. Hopefully, he will read a selection from his new poetry book, *Antidotes & Home Remedies*.

This is a meeting you will not want to miss. You will have a rare opportunity to ask questions from someone with knowledge in several genres. Jim likes to interact with his audience.

**Jim has to leave for another speaking engagement, so he will begin speaking at 10 a.m.** Please be on time. We will have our business meeting following his presentation.

You'll want to remember two important things for the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. First: **Come early.** You won't want to miss one minute of this unique program. Second: **Come with questions.**

—*Sherry Bynum, VP-Program*

## SPEAKER NOTES BY KATHLEEN PARK

### Christine Rimmer with Tricks of the Trade, Part 2

Christine Rimmer talked about the writer's life, kick-starting your work, about building and developing your life as a writer, ways to awaken and cue your subconscious, ways to build writing habits, ways to refill your creative well when the work is not coming.

#### Ways to awaken and cue your subconscious

Writer Jennifer Crusie says when she starts a book she panics, says, "I can't remember how I did it before! The book is going to be a disaster! My career is over!"

But Crusie found a new way to kick-start a book: she made a collage of the story. Collages can be a revelation. She got ideas from the process. She picked up certain items from the Salvation Army because she knew those were in her story, but found herself attracted to some watches and just grabbed them. Turned out the book was about time. ([www.jennycrusie.com](http://www.jennycrusie.com)).

With your story in mind, tear out magazine picture. Paste them on poster board. Be open, let it happen. It's a way to play and forget about things that stop you. Jill Barnett found the process gave her subplots, themes, emotional dilemmas, sharp visual focus, even her title.

Christine does a character board, pins up pictures of people she thinks look like her characters; even does floor plans. It helps you know what's in a scene. Your story is like an iceberg; what's below the story is so much bigger than what the reader experiences. Your research and ways of waking your subconscious inform the story.

Music is important to many. C&W songs work as inspiration because they're a story. "I scoffed at first," Christine said, "but the last story I wrote had a Latina heroine. When I'd lose track, I'd play a video by Shakira."

Use all your senses—scent, especially. Smell is the most immediate of our senses; it instantly brings back memories.

#### Building writing habits

To be a writer, you write. You must set aside the time. Figure out a comfortable goal and do that every day for at least a month. Or six months. You'll soon be able to write more, faster, and better. Susan Mallery found that her 10-

## MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

## PROMPTS FOR POETS

**1. Read widely.** By reading and absorbing the words of others, you build on the skills you've already developed.

**2. Imitate.** Not plagiarism but imitating works you admire helps to develop your own style, and as your confidence grows, so does your individuality.

**3. Avoid clichés.** Images and themes that have been overused lose their power and beauty.

**4. Make each word count.** Poetry is a spare form of writing, requiring each word to pack a punch. Use action verbs and concrete nouns, avoid the passive and the abstract.

**5. Imagery.** Appeal to the reader's senses.

**6. Write naturally.**

**7. Enjoy yourself.** Let go and write for the sheer pleasure of it.

Submit up to 3 poems to *Open Spaces*, a quarterly for thoughtful, intelligent, widely-read readers.

[www.open-spaces.com](http://www.open-spaces.com)

e-mail: [info@open-spaces.com](mailto:info@open-spaces.com)

Open Spaces Publications, Inc. PMB 134

6327 S.W. Capitol Hwy.

Portland OR 97239-1937

—Ann Champeau, *Markets*

## Minutes of Feb. 7th meeting, cont.

Day at Reeves Park. Mary Spaulding, Jill Brown and Paula Harris helped last year. This year, the festival is Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> with set up at 12:30 and ends at 5:30 pm. Helen asked for volunteers to set up and staff our table as she would be out of town. Kids make cheer cards for patients at Norman Regional Hospital. NRH has donated art supplies and Helen will have the cards printed with credit to Galaxy on the back.

The OWFI Conference is May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Norman Embassy Suites. Medical Mystery Author, Tess Garison will be the Guest Speaker. Robert Ferrier said he has taken a tour of the facility and that the Banquet rooms were very nice and that the tables hold 8 people per table. Madelaine suggested reserving a couple of tables for Galaxy members who would like to sit together. Russ Long was put in charge of finding out details and reserving the tables for us. Ann Champeau volunteered to stand at the door and check if entrants have banquet tickets.

The business meeting came to a close. Sherry Bynum introduced our speaker Christine Rimmer who continued with Part 2 of her talk begun in November on "The Novelist's Tools of the Trade."

—Dion Mayes-Burnett, *Secretary*

## FEBRUARY MINUTES BY DION BURNETT

Minutes of Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Norman Galaxy of Writers met on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the University Lutheran Student Center. President Madelaine Culp-Havey opened the meeting. New members and visitors introduced themselves: Shannon Tan with interests in novels and screen plays; Leslie Bohan-Rockwell, children's books; and Vickie Ashby, Romance Writing. All are joining Galaxy.

## Reports:

A motion was made by Ann Champeau to accept the January minutes as written in the WriteLine, which was seconded by Ruth Castillo.

Lynn Wendelbo's Treasurer's report stated that on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> there was a balance of \$1296.20. There was one new member and expenses of \$79.98, leaving a new balance in the amount of \$1258.22.

VP Sherry Bynum announced that our March 7<sup>th</sup> Galaxy meeting will be at University Lutheran. The speaker Jim Chastain, will speak at 10 before the business meeting.

Helen Duchon, our representative on the Norman Arts Council Roundtable, announced several upcoming events in Norman, such as the Firehouse Art Center Chocolate Festival on February 7<sup>th</sup>, a Foreign Policy Association Discussion Series entitled "Great Decisions" on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Norman Public Library, the Medieval Fair on April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, Black History Month Read-In, and the The Crowns Tea catered by Legends. Helen is also a docent at Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art which is adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and so all exhibits are in the new wing. Current exhibit is "Borderlands: Images of the American West."

## Announcements:

Madelaine Culp encouraged all members to complete Information Survey for a future club directory. She also reminded officers and committee members that she wants a job description of duties to pass on to new officers.

She also announced that Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, the Young Adult Romance Writers Oklahoma Outlaws meet and that she would sponsor anyone who wished to go. Her granddaughter will be on the panel.

Dion Mayes-Burnett announced that member Vickey Kennedy was now the proud grandmother of a 7-lb., 19-inch, red-headed little girl. Her name is Rhylee. Congratulations! Also a reminder that Leona Huffaker's Memorial Service would be held Sunday at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum Auditorium at 2pm. She will be missed.

Frances Searcey said Friday Writers is currently working on contest entries for the Arkansas Writers Contest.

## New Business:

Helen Duchon said that she would need someone to produce the *WriteLine* for May and possibly June as she is scheduled to be out of town. Kathleen Park volunteered.

Helen also brought up that for the last 2 years Galaxy has sponsored a booth at "Kids for Kindness" on Earth

**BRAG SHEET**

**Sales and Acceptances**

**INGE BLANTON: PUBLISHED:** fourth book in the Antarean Odyssey series, called *Loss of Eden*. She had a book signing Saturday, Feb. 21 at Hastings.

**JUDY HOWARD: PUBLISHING:** Email your patriotic or military quilt stories of 100-700 words for a proposed full-color coffee-table book to Buckboard-Quilts@cox.net. Mail your quilt entries to 12101 N. MacArthur, #137, Oklahoma City, OK 73162 ASAP. See [www.HeavenlyPatchwork.com](http://www.HeavenlyPatchwork.com) for quilt photos, writing guidelines, entry and rental forms.

January 10, May 16, May 18, and June 1st are programs and book signings by Judy.

**HELEN DUCHON: PUBLISHED:** University Womens Association Newsletter, design & edit ( Feb. 2009)

**STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS:** *Silliman on Sports* for Feb. **MIKE KRAWCZYK: CARTOONS:**

**Feb.3 U.S.-Mexico Soccer Match VooDoo**

**Tinged** Mexican soccer fans buy voodoo dolls to hex our players See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Mexico\\_Soccer.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Mexico_Soccer.html)

**Feb. 9 G-E-I-C-O** The NBA changes H-O-R-S-E at All-Star game for money See at [www.sillimanbonsports.com/Geico.html](http://www.sillimanbonsports.com/Geico.html)

**Feb. 16 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Addition** I save my readers the cost of having to buy this addition by describing everything See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Sports\\_Illustrated.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Sports_Illustrated.html)

**Feb. 24 Mad Scientist gets Big Contract** Pirate crazed football coach See at [www.sillimanonsports.com/Mad\\_Scientist.html](http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Mad_Scientist.html)

**Professional Activities**

**ROSE FERRIER:** Read two poems during open mic at Benedict Street Market Place, Shawnee, (2/19/09).

**ROBERT FERRIER:** Read two poems during open mic at Benedict Street Market Place, Shawnee, (2/19/09).

**JUDY HOWARD:** "How do I love America? Let me quilt the ways" is the theme of her God Bless America 22" Quilt Contest with extended deadline of June 30, 2009. Quilts are touring the U.S. for three years with profits from the \$100/week-end exhibit rental going to provide quilts for wounded troops. To reserve your exhibit space, email [BuckboardQuilts@cox.net](mailto:BuckboardQuilts@cox.net).

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** Feb 26 was on the OklaTravel.net show with host Brent Skarky to promote a comedy festival in OKC to benefit the Bill Hicks Wildlife Rehab Facility. The comedy festival was Feb 26 & 27 in OKC at Uptown United. First show was sold out.

**Club News**

**LEONA HUFFAKER** died Jan. 24, 2009 and a celebration of her life was Feb. 8, 2009 in the auditorium at the OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Her husband Neal made a Curriculum Vitae of her life with fascinating details: 7/4/1989, suffered a seizure; Diagnosis was inoperable brain tumor. 2007: PETscan Diagnosis: Radiation necrosis.

**Christine Rimmer, cont.**

page goal grew to 20 pages. ([www.susanmallery.com](http://www.susanmallery.com))

**Your writing place, writing space**

Have a special place. When you go there, write. Malcolm Gladwell (*Outliers*) says it requires 10,000 hours of practice to mastery in any field ([www.gladwell.com](http://www.gladwell.com)).

Make priorities and allow no distractions. If you have trouble keeping "BOC-butt on chair," set a timer for 20 minutes. Don't have deadlines? Create your own.

If stuck, you may be cuing in your internal editor. Writing is a building-up process; editing is tearing down. Turn off the monitor; write in the dark. If you don't want to write a scene now, write, "battle scene here."

Go ahead and write the bad stuff; the muse will come out to play, and you'll get better. Nora Roberts: "You cannot fix a blank page." If five people tell you something doesn't work, it probably doesn't. "Kill your darlings."

**Fill your creative well**

*The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron helps wake up and encourage your creative self. Artist's date. Connect with your playful self. Follow your characters. In the zone, let it happen. Activity that ends in -ing is valuable: showering, knitting, walking, etc.

"Finally: Commit yourself to writing at least five days a week; set goals and figure out how to reach them. Take time to fill your creative well," Christine advised.

—*Kathleen Norris Park, Speaker Notes*

**WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS**

TAN, Shannon 2009 Galaxy, 2009 OWFI  
909 Andrea St. Norman, OK. 73072  
579-5550 E-mail: [stan10@cox.net](mailto:stan10@cox.net)

BOHON-BOTHWELL, Leslie '09 Galaxy, '09 OWFI  
4717 Lake Front Dr., Norman, OK 72072  
321-9899 E-mail: [mombo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mombo@sbcglobal.net)

**TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO**

BEGINNING BALANCE: 1/3/08	\$ 1296.20
EXPENSES	
OWFI, 2 dues	\$ 40.00
Helen Duchon, Jan. WriteLine	17.33
Helen Duchon, Feb. WriteLine	15.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 72.98
DEPOSITS	
Dues, 1 NGW & OWFI	\$35.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 35.00
CURRENT BALANCE: 2/7/09	\$ 1258.22

10/22/08 Auto accident. 10/30/08: Admission to Grace Living Center. She and Neal had two sons; Daniel who had a fatal accident Sept. 29, 2006 and Jacob who was married, June 21, 2008 to Amanda Parks.

Leona joined Galaxy October 1, 2005. She was also a member of UWA, LWV, Norman Jewish Assn., Norman Tennis Assn, AARP, Sierra Club and various PTAs.

GRAMMAR BY KATHLEEN PARK

## What Time Is It?

It's time to say it, isn't it? News reporters and weather guys and gals on TV and radio will be slapping our ears with it day and night as March 8 approaches. What are we ducking for? Daylight Saving Time, that's what. And won't nine out of every ten be calling it "Daylight Savings Time"? Like money in the bank. It was thrifty Benjamin Franklin who put forth the original proposal in a 1784 essay, "An Economical Project." The idea is that setting the clocks forward in the spring "saves" us daylight in the evening. Old Ben suggested only 20 minutes; we now do it for an hour. But it isn't and never was "savings" time.

The [U.S. Naval Observatory \(USNO\)](#), we're to understand, "... serves as the official source of time for the U.S. Department of Defense and a standard of time for the entire United States." Those admirable folks call it simply "daylight time" in lower case on their website. In some places on the globe, it's called "Summer Time."

Here are some twists of language that Theodore Bernstein calls "Curdled Clichés" in his *The Careful Writer*. A curdled cliché, according to Mr. B., is spontaneous as well as thoughtless, and not exactly a malapropism. A malapropism is a ridiculous misuse

of a word, as in "Our new executive was born in an orpheum asylum," one of many blamed on Samuel Goldwyn. The curdled cliché may be a malapropism, but it is often a different kind of distortion and results, Bernstein says, "from a single-barreled effort and a double-barreled deficiency." He collected the following beauties:

- I racked by brains back and forth over that problem.
- I was smoking like a chain.
- She blew the rug out from under my sails.
- They're trying to hurry to get under the gun.
- I'm not sure about his article, so look at it with a jaundiced eye, will you?
- They're riding on a tantrum bike.
- They're cutting my throat behind my back.
- The agency won't pay any attention to him; he's just a once-in-a-moon customer.
- Here's a line from a newspaper ad I cut out years ago. A small town south of Albuquerque was advertising for police recruits. Among the requirements of age and education was this warning: "Must never have been convicted of a felony or moral aptitude."

—Kathleen Norris Park, *Grammarian*

## WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers

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

**2009 Dues for OWFI are \$20**

Mail to Lynn Wendelbo, Treasurer  
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Norman, OK 73072

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**CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED**



**March 7, 2009**

**10:00 AM**

**University Lutheran**

**Jim Chastain**

**A Few of His  
Favorite Things**