

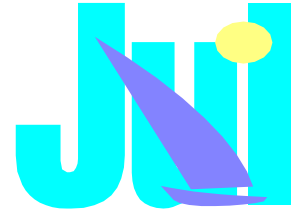
Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

WriteLine

**JULY 11TH MEETING**

Jim Marion Etter “Writers are different from other folks”

July 11, 2009, 10:00 A.M.

Norman Public Library, Room A-B

Jim Etter will talk about the relentless urge to communicate that he believes all writers, regardless of age and success, have in common – and which makes them unique. He also will discuss what he calls the “raw materials” for both fiction and nonfiction.

Jim Etter is both a writer and teller of stories, true and sometimes otherwise, mostly about his native Oklahoma. Jim is a retired reporter for *The Daily Oklahoman* and roams the state to write history and folklore.

WHAT A DIRTY SHAME! 100 Unforgettable Place Names of Oklahoma is his latest book. Others include *The Grains of Time* and *Oktaha, A Track in the Sand*. He’s among the authors in anthologies including “*New Trails*,” “*Daughters of the Land*,” “*Western Horse Trails*” and “*The Salt of the Earth*.”

He’s written for magazines including *American Cowboy*, *Western Horseman*, *Persimmon Hill*, *Desert Exposure*, *True West*, *Frontier Times*, *Cowboy*, *Western Digest*, *Route 66*, *Oklahoma Today*, *Country Discoveries* and *ByLine*; and newspapers. His news stories and features in *The Oklahoman* number in the hundreds.

Etter belongs to Oklahoma Writers’ Federation Inc. and Western Writers of America, and he’s won a few awards here and there.

BRAG SHEET, CONT. PAGE 3**Professional Activities**

ANN CHAMPEAU: Will do 9 sessions on **Journaling: A Boost for the Brain** throughout the Pioneer Library System in June and July. **July 17, 10:00 A.M.** she will be at the Norman Public Library, 225 N. Webster, Norman OK 73069; 405-701-2600. JUDGED: “*Creme de la Creme*” for OWFI contest.

ROBERT FERRIER: Judged the 2,000 words or less Short Story category for the OWFI contest.

JUNE PROGRAM REPORT —RUTH LOEFFLER

Reading the winners

The June program was readings by winners of OWFI Writing Contests, announced May 2. Kathleen Park read her 1st Place Feature Article: “The Voices of Canyon de Chelly.” Mark Hardick read Robert Ferrier’s 3rd place Short Unrhymed Poetry: “Einstein’s Unrest” and his 1st H.M. Unrhymed Short Poetry “Indian Ball Game.” Helen Duchon read for Dion Mayes-Burnett: Short Unrhymed Poetry, 6th H.M.: “Prolepsis”; Unrhymed Long Poetry: “Thief of Memories.” Mark Robinson read his Inspirational Prose, 3rd H.M., “Black Friday.”

Other OWFI winners who were not present: Frances Searcey: 3rd Place, Nostalgia Prose, “Aunt Beulah’s House”, Vickie Malone Kennedy, 2nd Place: Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Short Story “Inheritance”, and 4th H.M., Short Story Adult: “Borders”, and 3rd Place, Mazie Co Reid Column Award, “A Shot in the Dark--Tales of a Night Nurse”.

Galaxy members who chaired Categories were: Ann Champeau: Sci Fi/Fantasy/Horror Novel; Russell Long: Young Adult Book; Frances Searcey: Prose Humor, and Lynn Wendelbow: Confession Story.

Several suggested Dion’s poem should be published for the 4th of July. Here it is:

“Thief of Memories” by Dion Mayes-Burnett

Young boys once running through six foot ears of corn,
diving into sun-speckled ponds from old tire swings,
pulling pigtails of girls with fresh freckled faces,
innocence turning to talk of war.
Boys, now men at fourteen, fifteen, sixteen,
their lives led high in cumulous clouds,
swift steel birds descend,
dodging swarms of metal sleet,
serving country, nations, men.
Knee deep in seeping, frigid mud,
on missions unbeknownst to most,
dreams of medallioned heroes dashed
as explosive bursts of green/orange light surrounds.
Fear escapes on silent, frosty, wisps of breath.
Friends, brothers, fathers,
bleeding, broken, lost,
seeking comfort with memories of home.
A reign of terror ends as men and women,
limbs and lives gone, spirits broken,

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

Nostalgia for the Galaxy Contest

Most nostalgia judging is recognizing the gold mine sitting inside the writer. It's about understanding that your story is worth telling, and that you are willing and courageous enough to write it.

The judges look for:

Strong characters.

A grab of emotion from the first paragraph to the last.

The absence of the author interpreting the story by telling too much, instead of making the reader see it.

Dialogue that advances the story and shows the character.

A title appropriate for the piece or one that tickles curiosity.

Distinctive voice.

Stories that stay on a single incident and don't splinter off in several directions.

Other suggestions for writing nostalgia:

Read your work aloud.

Write specific words -- ambled, plodded, instead of walked.

Close your eyes and look with your mind at what you want to write.

Present your manuscript in the same manner as you would if you were sending it for publication except don't put your name on it. In other words, use the correct margins, drop 1/3 to 1/2 down on the first page before typing the title.

On all pages after the first, put the title in the upper left 4 lines down from the top, and the page number on the right on that same line. Then drop down four lines and continue the story.

Writing nostalgia is a continuing process and this process has nothing to do with selling or commercial success. It has everything to do with getting those priceless stories recorded. We are each one of a kind, exquisitely unique and our uniqueness needs to be preserved. Real history comes from these personal stories. Not from text books. Keep writing them and enter one of them in the Galaxy contest this November.

—Ann Champeau, *Markets*

Kathleen reported about next month's speaker, Jim Etter, and his "History and Tall Tales," stories from Oklahoma, July 11.

The program was readings by winners of OWFI Writing Contest. Kathleen Park read her 1st Place Feature Article, "The Voices of Canyon de Chelly." Ann Champeau judged the "Creme de la Creme" and Robert Ferrier judged the Short Story category.

—Ruth Loeffler, *Substitute Secretary*

MAY MINUTES BY DION MAYES-BURNETT

Galaxy Minutes, June 6, 2009

The meeting was opened by Madeline Culp.

Helen Duchon showed the certificate she made for Julie Cook, long time treasure for Galaxy. It declares her a "Lifetime Member" per the motion made by Ann Champeau last month. Mary Spaulding will hand-deliver it to Julie as her health prevents her from attending.

Helen also announced activities of NAC Roundtable and handed out summer library activity magazines.

Ann Champeau is teaching a course "Journaling--A Boost for the Brain" on July 17, 10 am at Norman Public Library and seven other libraries during June and July.

Helen Duchon made name tags for members, the stick-on type. Members seem to prefer permanent pin-on tags.

Helen and guest Barbara Schindler are on the Public Arts Board and reported the status of selecting among 62 entries for a sculpture on the new East Main Street Roundabout. Three finalists have models are on display at the Norman Public Library, where citizens can choose their favorite. Members are also encouraged to mark their Norman Utilities bill to contribute to the Public Art Fund.

Inviting NHS writers in Soupstone and the winners of that Writing Contest was discussed. Ruth Loeffler will call Sherry Bynum to find out when they can be our program.

Madeline announced a Non Fiction Writing Conference, in Dallas, TX.

Ann Champeau moved acceptance of the Minutes from the May meeting. All voted "Yes" to accept.

Lynn Wendelbo gave the Treasurer's Report with a Balance of \$1098.50. It was accepted.

Kathleen Park gave a report from Friday Writers. June 5th, there were ten people, including three new writers. Kathleen encouraged other writers to come and explained the system of having prompts.

Helen Duchon reported on our newsletter "Writeline" and asked for helpers. Kathleen Park volunteered.

Ann Champeau reported sending notes of condolence to members with health or grief issues. Kathleen reported that Josie's husband, Lance Leslie, is back at work. Helen expressed gratitude to Galaxy members for their help, support, and sympathy following the death of their son, Peter, March 23, 2009.

Mary Spaulding reported information from the Chamber of Commerce and the advantages and cost of membership. Dues for an organization are \$315. Construction on the new building will continue through November. Some helpful programs which Galaxy could use free are going to website and going to link to Newcomers to make newcomers aware of Galaxy of Writers. Mary also volunteered to go to Moore-Norman Technology's writing classes to give those writers information and applications for Galaxy. Ann Champeau moved that we drop the C of C membership. Marilyn Fleer seconded. The "Yes" vote was unanimous.

BRAG SHEET

Sales and Acceptances

JOAN TEMPLAR SMITH: EDITING: Proof read two books written by her son Blaine, which were published recently: *Concepts in Immunotherapeutics*, 4th ed., and *Concepts and Applications in Nuclear Pharmacy*. A third book, *The Pharmacist's Guide to Diagnostic Imaging*, will be published in Jan. 2011.

HELEN DUCHON: PUBLISHED: Facebook postings; Personal website with blog, http://web.me.com/helenduchon/Helen_Duchon/Blog/Blog.html: Editor of *WriteLine* for June and July.

ANN CHAMPEAU: PUBLISHED: *I Leave You a Legacy, A Journal for Writing Your Life Story* was featured in the June 16th Mom Audience Marketplace Bev@MomAudience.com.

KATHLEEN PARK: WROTE grammar column and article for *WriteLine*, short piece for Friday Writers; copy for client's brochure; website copy for client; INTERVIEWED two subjects for business articles; PRODUCED Norman Baha'i newsletter.

JOE ELLEN BENNETT: SALE: ARTICLE: *TravelTips Magazine* about trip we took with them - "Transatlantic and Baltic States Cruise" April/May 2009. Credit voucher to use on our next trip, plus a paid-up subscription to their magazine. I don't know the exact month it will be used, but I got paid!

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* **MIKE KRAWCZYK:** CARTOONS:

6/02 To Red Wing Fans: Curb Your Octopi! "Is that an octopus in your pants, or are you just happy to see me?" That's your typical greeting among Detroit Red Wings fans, now storming into Pittsburgh for the Stanley Cup finals. www.sillimanonsports.com/Detroit_Red_Wing_Fans.html

6/09 Baseball vs Hoops "Look what Obamaman done did." It is Lyle again, former neighbor and hater of the current president. www.sillimanonsports.com/Baseball_vs_Hoops_Presidents.html

6/16 Milton Bradley Still In Game, Chicago Cub outfielder Milton Bradley caught a deep drive to right field, posed for ten seconds and then turned and tossed the ball into the outfield bleachers. Only problem, there were still runners on first and third and the fly ball was only the second out. http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Milton_Bradley_Game.html

6/23 Lessons From 2009 NBA Finals The 2008 Finals showed us that three aging superstars could put away their egos and play as a team and bring the Celtics a championship. http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Lessons_2009_NBA_Finals.html

Contests

DARLINE HOBBS: WON: Arkansas Writers' contest, held in Little Rock Arkansas, June 5-6.
1st HM for #8, Gale Gill Award: "Shaggy Dog Story"
3rd HM for #20, Lovepat Award: Personal essay intending to persuade readers to change their minds.

THIEF OF MEMORIES, CONT.

return home to begin again.
Memories once comforting,
become tangled flashes of another time,
another place.
Moments fade as the silent stalker and
thief of memories takes hold
Full lives led, now forgotten,
lost in vacant eyes.
Remembrance, perhaps, of something or
someone special, but who you are or were...
son, sister, sweetheart, daughter, wife, nothing.
Ravages of war finally gone,
but good times too.
In it's place, the sweet silent smile
of an American Hero.

—Dion Mayes-Burnett

Dr. Ruth Loeffler, Former Teacher, Honored

Our own Ruth Loeffler was honored by her former colleagues at Norman High School by naming the most recent Writing Contest for the student anthology, *Soupstone*, for her. It is the Ruth Loeffler Writing Contest. Some 36 years ago, Ruth encouraged her home room class to write and produce the first anthology, which continues to this very issue. She retired in 2006, but Mark Levy, Freeda Richardson, and other NHS teachers and administrators have continued the tradition by raising money for cash prizes and honorable mentions.

Ruth has high praise for the current issue of *Soupstone*, which focuses on poetry, essays, art and photography, and urges us to buy (at NHS) and read it. One of the most remarkable pieces is the essay by Abby Barwick-Snell, "We All Share the Same Sky," about her experience working with orphans in Mozambique, how they, who had nothing, touched her heart with their generosity of spirit, and how emotionally connected she became with one little boy in particular.

"The quality of writing is marvelous," Ruth said, "far beyond what you might expect of high-school students. Amazing, too, is their interest and concern for issues in the world beyond their own experience."

—Kathleen Park, Reporter

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO

BEGINNING BALANCE: 5/9/09	\$ 1123.50
EXPENSES	
May Speaker:	
Mary Stanaszek	\$25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 25.00
DEPOSITS	
None	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 0.00
CURRENT BALANCE: 6/6/09	\$ 1098.50

GRAMMAR BY KATHLEEN PARK

Up with which I will not put

Theodore Bernstein, the delightfully irreverent author of half-dozen or so books on grammar and usage, also set up a fictitious teacher, Miss Thistlebottom, whose rules her students must never doubt or breach. No matter what ridiculous lengths those rules might take them to.

Miss Thistlebottom always insisted that no good writer would end a sentence with a preposition if he knew what was good for him. The truth, however, according to Bernstein's *The Careful Writer*, is that no good writer would slavishly follow Miss T's rule, although he might occasionally examine it to see if there was any merit there.

And, there's Churchill's famous complaint about such nonsense, "up with which I will not put."

Ending a sentence with a preposition can make it clumsy or weak. The end of a sentence can and should be a strong point. You don't want your sentence to just sputter to a finish, like "He felt it offered the best opportunity to do fundamental research in chemistry, which was what he had taken his Ph.D. degree in." Sometimes the verb carries what Bernstein calls "a low charge." It is the preposition itself that provides strength, and the idiom demands that the preposition

come at the end. Examples: "I didn't know what I was getting into."; "We weren't told what this lever is for"; "He doesn't know what it's all about."

Another good reason—again, not a rule—for not ending with a preposition is to avoid redundancy. "Where are you at?" is redundant. You don't need the "at" when you've already said "where." On the other hand, "What are you aiming at?" is a perfectly good sentence.

In most sentences ending with a preposition, the stress falls not on the preposition but on the word preceding it, and yet the sentences are still good. They work because they are idiomatic, a natural manner of expression. From Shakespeare's "We are such stuff as dreams are made on" to dozens more we say every day: "music to dream by"; "nothing to sneeze at"; "a man to count on." Woe to Miss Thistlebottom if she tries to "correct" these idiomatic constructions. She won't have a leg on which to stand.

Avoid twisting words out of their natural order and thus creating a pompous-sounding locution.

Note: I'd like to enlist your help with this column. Do, dear writers, send me your questions, comments, and especially your earthy sayings, from your family, work, region, or avocation.

—Kathleen Park, knpark@yahoo.com.

WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers

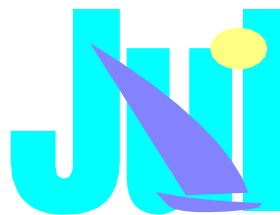
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2009 Dues for Galaxy are \$15

2009 Dues for OWFI are \$20

Mail to Lynn Wendelbo, Treasurer
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Norman, OK 73072



July 11, 2009

10:00 AM

Public Library Room A-B

Jim Etter

Writers are unique