

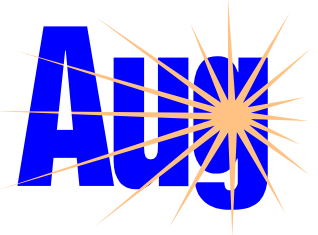
Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

WriteLine



AUGUST 1ST MEETING

Galaxy's Annual Picnic

Join in the fun at Norman Galaxy of Writers' Annual Picnic. You might have said, "Picnic?" "What if it rains?" This is one picnic which you don't have to worry about rain. Why?

It's not at the park.

It's not in the dark.

If it's not at the park

And it's not in the dark

Where is it?

When is it?

It is going to be indoors at the University Lutheran Church on August 1st at 10 a.m.

We are going to have two special treats. Our OWFI Contest winners who were unable to read their winning entries at the June meeting will have the opportunity to share their entries at our picnic. We are also going to hear from members of the Friday Writers.

A picnic isn't a picnic without food. Please plan on bringing your favorite finger food or dessert.

While writing this article, my brain went into overdrive and I came up with an idea. I think it might be fun to share recipes. If you would like to share your recipe, just make about 30 copies and bring them with you. At the end of the picnic, everyone will leave with their hunger satisfied and with an assortment of recipes. Who knows, maybe this will be the beginning of a new Galaxy tradition.

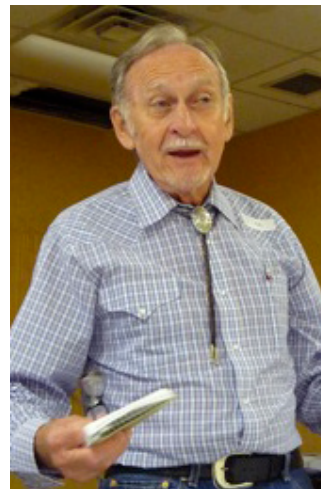
The Norman University Lutheran Church is located at 913 Elm. If you are giving directions to a prospective new member, remember to tell him/her to enter the parking lot from College Street.

Since I am in Washington D.C., I won't be able to join in the fun. I will have to make copies of those fabulous recipes when I return. I hope everyone has a great time.

Sherry Bynum, Vice President & Program Chair

JULY SPEAKER NOTES — HELEN DUCHON

Jim Etter, "Writers are different from other folks"



At the July 11 Galaxy meeting, Jim Etter told us that we writers look at things differently than most folks. "We're a little different from 'normal' people. Our thoughts and feelings need to be communicated. There are things we just gotta tell," he said.

Years ago, Jim wanted to write the Great American Novel, but he took Journalism 102 and became a newspaper reporter for *The Oklahoman*. Just the facts and non-fiction is what he learned to do very efficiently. "Fiction is a bigger

challenge," he said, "but a lot more fun!"

Now retired, he roams the state to write ory and folklore. Besides books and articles, his stories have been included in anthologies "*New Trails*," "*Daughters of the Land*," "*Western Horse Trails*" and "*The Salt of the Earth*."

Raw Materials: memories, ancestors, libraries

Etter starts with facts triggered by raw materials, like a lady who makes quilts or a man who fought in World War II and collects old cars; then adds feelings, memories and perhaps regrets to tell a story that is "mentally digestible."

Jim remembered an old shoe cobbler in his town of Oktaha, who was kind to him when he was a 6- or 7-year old kid. The man finally took Jim fishing. Jim said he was 68 years old when it occurred to him, "Why didn't I go back to thank the cobbler for his kindness?" This led to the question, "Can we communicate with the dead?" That idea led Jim to write a Western short story about Bill Hook, the repentant outlaw, called "The Last Holdup."

This approach helped Jim Etter to write many short stories and books including his latest, *WHAT A DIRTY SHAME! 100 Unforgettable Place Names of Oklahoma*.

—Helen Duchon, Editor

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

Non-fiction Article

Yes, contesting should be a big part of your marketing program. And what better contest to enter than the annual Galaxy contest? It's close to home. It's inexpensive.

First, what is a non-fiction article? You'll find them in magazines about people, problems, situations and adventure. You'll find them in newspapers about places, politics and weather. They can be based on the past, present or future.

BUT... and this is what makes them different than fiction.... you cannot alter the truth to enhance the story. **NOTHING CAN BE MADE UP.**

Now for some ideas for you to write about. Some are as close to you as the Galaxy member sitting next to you the first Saturday of each month.

1. Interview and write a profile article about the dual personality of Stan Solloway (owner of Regency Steel) and Stan Silliman (the humorist).
2. Ask Robert Ferrier where his poems come from.
3. Norman's Medieval Fair and medieval times are Marilyn Fleer's specialty.
4. You've read the negatives about the Norman Veteran's Center in the *Transcript* or the *Oklahoman*. Get the positive picture from Dorothy Brinker. She's out there 3 times a week spending time with her husband, Paul.
5. What do you learn by being a host family to foreign students? Helen Duchon and Claude have been opening their home to them for years.
6. Are you considering a retirement home? Rose Ferrier can tell you what its like.
7. Frances Searcey is the person to tell you how it is to move to Wyoming every Memorial Day then move back to Norman every Labor Day.
8. Want to write about the excitement of living all around the world? Ask Russ and Nell Long.
9. Get the ins and outs of teaching on an Indian reservation from Kathleen Park.
10. What's necessary to be involved in an art show? Ask Laura Flood.
11. You've gotta be a very special person to work with children who have been traumatized. Lynn Wendelbo can tell you.
12. Is Hollywood all its cracked up to be? Madeline Culp is the one to ask.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

Thank you Marilyn Fleer:

The meeting ended with a thanks to Marilyn for advertising Galaxy and reserving our meeting place each month. And then diving into the butterscotch birthday cake she brought to celebrate her 78th birthday.

—Ruth Castillo, Interim Secretary

JULY MINUTES BY RUTH CASTILLO

Galaxy Minutes, July 11, 2009

The meeting was opened by president Madeline Culp.

Vistor Cindy Noble and former members Tom Barczak and Barbara Nesbitt were welcomed and encouraged to join.

Announcements

Dave Klumpp left several dozen books on writing, since he and his wife are moving to Austin, TX to be near grandchildren. What was left was donated to the library.

Mary Spaulding has been invited by Moore-Norman Vo-Tech to inform the writers workshops about Galaxy.

Ruth Leoffler left several copies of *Soupstone Anthology*, work contributed by Norman High School students, for sale for \$10.00 This is a good way to find out what our youth are writing.

The "Friday Writers" have been invited to speak at the Senior Luncheon at the YMCA in Norman.

Ann Champeau's course, "Journaling--a Boost for the Brain," will be taught on July 17 at 10 AM at the Norman Public Library.

Russ Long, invited everyone to submit poetry to *Aging Today*. The most recent copy has poems by our members Joe Bennett, Ann Champeau, and Russ.

Those of us who write children's books are reminded that a wonderful conference is scheduled in Arlington, Texas on Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Madeline reminded us to enter as many contests as we can because we want to be an award-winning group—in fact we already are!

Madeline moved acceptance of the Minutes from the June meeting as written in the *WriteLine*. Her motion was seconded and approved.

Lynn Wendelbo gave the Treasurer's Report with a Balance of \$1,072.90. It was accepted.

The Friday Writers reported that they meet from 10 AM to noon at the Senior Citizens Center on Peters and "(e)verybody writes. That's the best I can tell you."

Helen, member of the Public Art Board, discussed raising money for the East Main Street Roundabout. \$60,000 is needed for a wonderful sculpture entitled, "Indian Grass." You can support it by adding a donation to your monthly water bill or a tax deductible gift to the Norman Arts Council, P.O. Box 85; Norman, OK 73070.

Business, Old & New:

We are still looking at purchasing a microphone and speaker system. Our August meeting was voted to be an in-door picnic, where everyone brings finger-food to eat and their writing to read aloud. It will be an "Open Mic".

Program:

Sherry Bynum, VP, introduced our speaker, the marvelous raconteur Jim Marion Etter who entertained us with stories from his childhood and research of Oklahoma history and turned them into stories that sell.

BRAG SHEET**Sales and Acceptances**

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services recently published their 2009 Poetry Contest winners in "AGING TODAY." Norman Galaxy members published were: **JOE ELLEN BENNETT**, "Way to Go," (a poem about travel by ship); **ANN CHAMPEAU**, "Nature's Promise," (watching for her garden to spring to life in summer); and **RUSS LONG**, "Fightin' Leatherneck," (a sad tale of a Marine to the tune of Jimmy Crack Corn).

ANN CHAMPEAU: PUBLISHED: Marketing articles in Norman Galaxy of Writers' newsletter *WriteLine*. They were *Prompts for Poets; What's Waiting for You at the OWFI Conference; Think Like a Kid; Nostalgia for the Galaxy Contest*.

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

KATHLEEN PARK: WROTE grammar column and article for *WriteLine*, SOLD Article to *The Journal Record* on risks of starting a business; PRODUCED monthly Norman Baha'i newsletter.

JUDY HOWARD: PUBLISHING: *Thanking Our Troops--God Bless America Touring Quilts* to the printer for layout and graphics. It will be released 3rd week of August. All profits from the books and \$100 quilt exhibit rental fees (free to military and veteran groups) go to provide quilts for wounded troops and families of the fallen.

FRANCES SEARCEY: Two poems, "Improving Vision" and "Surgery Waiting," have been accepted for the 2009 journal of *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine*.

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

6/29 Free Reign Heavy, Heavy Metal Three Dallas Cowboys offensive linemen – Marc Colombo, Leonard Davis and Cory Proctor – make up three-fourths of the metal band Free Reign which just signed a record deal with Riot Entertainment of Australia. http://www.sillimanonsports.com/Free_Reign.html

7/6 Chestnut Bests Koby @ Nathan's Again The Nathan's Hotdog eating contest at Coney Island in Brooklyn is a popular July 4th event. So popular that when the governor of Alaska was told she couldn't travel to the event on state funds she resigned. www.sillimanonsports.com/Nathans_Hotdog_Contest.html

7/13 British Open Site of Memories This year the British Open is in merry ol' Scotland – Turnberry to be precise, and it dredges up a wee bit of pleasant memories, of an old world, a world in which the King of Pop was still among us, an auld lang syne, if you will. www.sillimanonsports.com/British_Open_2009.html

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO

BEGINNING BALANCE: 6/6/09	\$ 1098.50
EXPENSES	
Write Line, June—Duchon	\$20.72
Write Line, May—Parks	4.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 25.60
DEPOSITS	
None	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 0.00
CURRENT BALANCE:7/1/09	\$ 1072.90
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CURRENT BALANCE:7/1/09	\$ 1072.90
EXPENSES	
Write Line, July—Duchon	\$12.60
Speaker—Jim Etter	25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37.60
INCOME/DEPOSIT	
4 Galaxy memberships	\$60.00
CURRENT BALANCE:7/23/09	\$ 1095.30

Professional Activities

ANN CHAMPEAU held Journaling, *A Boost for the Brain* sessions in 6 libraries in July. They were at Blanchard, Moore, Newcastle, Tecumseh, Norman and McLoud.

Club News

MIKE KRAWCZYK & BILL TRUMLEY brought home gold medals from the Veterans Golden Age Games in Birmingham, AL last month. Mike, 60, won two golds for 25- and 50-meter free style swimming; Bill won one for discus throwing. Bill, 87, wore his army uniform, so was a big hit with interviewers. Mike wrote "Ballad of the Oklahoma Rattlers" to sum up the adventures of the 14 contestants who went from here.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

ROBINSON, Mark 2009 Galaxy, 2009 OWFI
 ASHLEY, Vickie, daughter Elizabeth, 2009 Galaxy, 2009 OWFI
 LAMBERSON, Robbie, 2009 Galaxy
 RAUNIG, Colin, 2009 Galaxy
 NOBLE, Cynthia, 2009 Galaxy

Renewing members

Tom Barczak, 2009 Galaxy
 Dorothy Griffin, 2009 Galaxy
 Barbara Nesbitt, 2009 Galaxy
 Leslie Bohon-Bothwell, 2009 Galaxy, 2009 OWFI

GRAMMAR BY KATHLEEN PARK

Onesies, Twosies, Part One

The old umbrella rule about singular and plural does hold: The singular subject takes a singular verb (predicate); the plural subject takes a plural verb. Most of the time that's easy enough. But wait, there's more.

Parenthetical expressions, for instance. The number of the subject and verb is not affected by words attached to a subject by such connectives as **accompanied by, along with, as well as, including, in addition to, no less than, plus, together with, with,** and similar expressions. Here are some examples: 1. Calling for a rent strike, Smith said that inadequate heat, in addition to the owner's failure to make needed repairs and to maintain the halls, has made the building almost uninhabitable. 2. The load of ore, together with the consignment of pig iron, was delivered on time. 3. The farmer's happiness, as well as his profits, arises from being a part of a neighborhood instead of being merely a resident in it.

My own simple-minded trick to quickly identify subject and predicate (and teach students to do it) is this little "Silly Questions" routine: **Ask yourself, Who or what did (does, will do) what?** The answers will yield your main clause in the blink of an eye.

Prepositional phrases will fall away together with adjectives and adverbs.

Then there is the situation of plural form/singular meaning. Nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning usually take singular verbs. Examples: 1. Physics has fascinated me for months. 2. Statistics is an interesting subject. 3. Statistics are often misleading. In this case **statistics** means many individual facts or bits of data.

Relative pronouns: When the relative pronouns **who, which,** and **that** are used as subjects, use a singular verb when the antecedent (word referred to) is singular, a plural verb when the antecedent is plural. Examples: 1. They are the employees who deserve praise. 2. The book that was lost belonged to the library.

Note that the phrase **one of the** frequently causes problems. Examples: 1. He is one of those men who talk much and think little. (More than one man does that.) 2. Ask one of your classmates who knows the correct forms to listen as you read. (One who knows.) 3. Smith is one of the council members who oppose the plan (Several members oppose it.) 4. Smith is the only one of the council members who opposes the plan. (Only one who opposes the plan.)

—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

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