

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

WriteLine

**SEPT. 12TH MEETING**

Bill Williams on Mixing Photography & Writing

September 12th, 10 AM**Norman Public Library, Room A-B**

As a writer, have you ever wanted to use your talent as a photographer along with your writing? Or maybe you've just been curious as to how one can mix these two mediums. On Saturday, September 12, you will have the opportunity to hear and learn from one of Norman's talented photographers and artist, Bill Williams. Bill was born in Oklahoma and worked for the University of Oklahoma as the Art Director for the university's publications' office as a graphic designer, photographer and illustrator for many years.

Bill's photography is featured in two Mexico guide-books. His latest project is a series of eight photographic coffee-table books on the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. These are just samples of his many publications.

Though you wouldn't know it from his busy schedule, Bill is now retired. He devotes much of his time to travel, photography, painting, and gathering ideas for new books.

At our meeting on September 12, he will share his experiences and knowledge on how he utilizes his photography in his books, the design process and how he collaborates with the author who writes the text for the Chihuahua series.

Please join the Norman Galaxy Writers on September 12, at 10 a.m. in room AB at Norman Public Library.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. My phone number is 405-364-7818.

Sherry Bynum, Vice President and Program Chair

"The mind is like the stomach. It is not how much you put into it that counts, but how much it digests."

--A.J. Nock

AUGUST MINUTES—DION MAYES-BURNETT

August Indoor Picnic

Norman Galaxy of Writers met August 1st at the University Lutheran Student Center. President Madelaine Culp opened the meeting by introducing her granddaughter, Kylie Palmer and her friend, Courtney Black. Both were present to assist with the picnic following the meeting and member readings.

Madelaine presented a challenge of asking members and guests to come up with a story in a 6-word sentence. She would ask for those by the end of the meeting. It was moved by Dion Mayes-Burnett that we accept the minutes from last meeting and Mark Hardick seconded.

Lynn Wendlebo presented the treasurers report with an ending balance of \$1083.16, following expenses and new memberships.

Committee Reports were requested. Kathleen Parks reported that Friday Writers has continued to meet through the summer in Frances Searcey's absence, with 17 people in attendance last week in the basement of the Senior Citizen Center. Prompts are given by Madelaine Culp to provide ideas for stories.

Kathleen Park asked Vickey Malone Kennedy to remind members on how to access the Galaxy website. Vickey cited the website, www.nonprofitpages.com/normangalaxy (at top of *WriteLine* masthead). Also, simply Google "Norman Galaxy". Russ Long wondered whether we could just access it by typing Writeline.com, but Vickey explained that would require a domain name which would cost money, reminding members that our website did not cost anything. Russ also questioned if members new books could be advertised on the website. Vickey said we could advertise on the website, but cannot actually sell products.

There was no report on the *WriteLine* nor the Arts & Humanities as Helen Duchon was out of town. However, Ann Champeau asked if someone could attend the next meeting of the Round Table Aug. 3rd at 3:45 p.m. at the Norman Public Library in Helen's absence. Ruth Loeffler said she may be able to attend.

Marilyn Fleer said that the Norman Galaxy of Writers would be meeting at the Norman Public Library on

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MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU**Oh, for a Short Story Idea!**

Are you stuck? Have a blank mind? Rapping yourself up the side of the head trying to get a short story idea to fall out? Try these ideas:

1. Newspapers and magazines

Check the ads – a sleek black Mercedes. Is it stolen with two children in the back seat? Was it raffled and won by a couple on their last dollar? Lives changed?

How about that Letter to the Editor—the one where the writer is worried about crime at the park in his neighborhood? Does he say he's going to take care of the problem if the police don't act soon. In your short story, does he? What are the results?

Dear Abby-type columns can be treasure chests. Problems, problems, problems. You need in a problem to make the reader want to keep reading to find out how it is solved.

The entertainment section just oozes with ideas. The people involved don't lead ordinary lives. Does fame bring happiness? Or not? Keep an open mind while you read these publications because a sensational idea for a short story can just fall out of your paper.

2. Watch and listen around town

Take your notebook to Andrews Park. Watch and listen to the skateboarders. Grab a bench near two mothers discussing the adventures of raising children, their ways to save grocery money, how to plan a two-year-old's birthday party, then listen to the way they handle their children's' disagreements.

But wait, See that man watching the children? Is he planning to do some evil deed? Or is he distressed because he lost his job and he's finding his age a handicap? Or did his wife just hand him divorce papers? Or is he just tired? Tired of his job. Tired of his marriage. Tired of living?

Sam Noble Museum of Natural History is filled with interesting conversations and people. Eavesdrop and watch. As folks leave, wonder where are they going? Do they gamble at Riverwind? Go bowling in a league of deaf friends? Go to night classes?

3. Look at old things for their new story ideas

Browse in an antique shop and mentally make up a story about the baby who wore the lacy christening dress. What was life like for the family in the old photo album? What were the challenges of the woman who cooked on the big, black cook stove? Or where was the cardboard suitcase taken and why?

4. OU campus is a place "to learn"

Sit on a bench on the OU campus. It's a place to anchor your character, an atmosphere for suspense, and historical buildings in which they can get lost.

Write your story and include it in your Galaxy contest entries.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

MINUTES BY DION MAYES-BURNETT**August Minutes, cont.**

the second Saturday in September, the 12th.

Ann Champeau, Cheer Chair, reminded members that if we knew of anyone who was ill or in need of congratulations or cheering, to let her know and she can send a card from Galaxy.

No current reports were available for OWFI or recruitment at this time. OWFI's next meeting should be this September.

Old Business

President Madelaine Culp-Havey addressed the need to purchase a microphone system for Galaxy meetings. She and her son went to Radio Shack and found that they could get what they needed for about \$300. Russ Long moved that we spend \$300 for a new mic system, and Vickey Malone Kennedy seconded. Motion was voted and passed. Madelaine also asked for volunteers to watch her son set up it up the first time so that they could do it themselves. Vickey Kennedy, Cindy Noble and Kathleen Park all volunteered.

New Business

V.P. Sherry Bynum was out of town, so no report on upcoming speaker was announced. Galaxy contest was discussed by Madelaine who stated all should enter as it is only \$2 per entry. She reminded members that if they do not get enough entries, a category may not make. She handed out a copy of the Contest rules to members and stated that the deadline would be at the Galaxy meeting on November 7th.

The business meeting was adjourned and then several members performed readings of their winning OWFI entries prior to the picnic.

*Respectfully submitted by
—Dion Mayes-Burnett, Secretary*

Question: Who writes books in 3 weeks or less?

Barbara Cartland – 8 days - holds the Guinness Book of World Records for 724 books

Janet Dailey – 7 days – a best-selling romance writer for about 4 decades

Danielle Steele – 12 days – reportedly for her 1st best seller

Sylvester Stallone – 3 ½ weeks to write "Rocky"

Anne Rice – 5 weeks to write Interview With A Vampire

Agatha Christie – 4 or less weeks to write her famous mysteries

Alexandre Dumas the younger – 3 weeks to write Camille (made into 4 movies, 2 operas)

—According to Ginie Sayles

BRAG SHEET**Sales and Acceptances**

ROBERT FERRIER: SALE: Two poems, "Getting There," and "Old Chemo Veins," have been accepted for publication in the 2009 journal of *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine*.

JAMIE TURNBULL: SALE: SHORT STORY: accepted by *True Romance Magazine*. "Treasure of the Heart" is scheduled for publication in the October 2009 issue.

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* and *Oh, for a Short Story Idea!*

JUDY HOWARD: PUBLISHED: *Thanking Our Troops—God Bless America Touring Quilts* 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.

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* **MIKE KRAWCZYK:** CARTOONS: The column is **seven years old!** It debuted in August 2002 and has produced over 350 columns with cartoons featuring the quirky side of the sports world. It is seen in newspapers all over the country. Their website, *Sillimanonsports.com*, reaches even more fans and archives past columns and cartoons.

7/21 Mark & Tom: Geezer Heroes Mark Martin won two NASCAR events since April, including the Southern 500 in July. Martin is a geezerish 50. That's 84 in NASCAR years.

7/28 Fans Go Crazy Debating BCS vs Playoffs "Silliman, read this! I'm not the only one calling for a college football play-off."

8/04 From Fullback to Figaro Keith Miller started three seasons as a fullback for the Colorado Buffaloes. He blocked away a Michigan rusher to help Kordell Stewart toss a 73 yard pass to Michael Westbrook for a touchdown with six seconds left for a 27-26 win in what has been called the greatest finish in NCAA history. Soon after, he went with a girlfriend to see Phantom of the Opera. From that point on Miller became interested in musical theatre.

8/12 Shaq vs Sanity Here's an image for you: Shaq walking on a California beach in a Speedo.

8/18 Badwater Baddest of Them All A column should serve a purpose, if for nothing else, make all my readers feel cooler. From where I write this, in Oklahoma, the temp topped 102 degrees this week and if I can make you feel cooler, if only by comparison, I've performed a service.

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO

CURRENT BALANCE:7/1/09	\$ 1072.90
EXPENSES	
Write Line, July—Duchon	\$12.60
Write Line, Aug—Duchon	\$12.16
Speaker—Jim Etter	25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$49.76
INCOME/DEPOSIT	
4 Galaxy memberships	\$60.00
 CURRENT BALANCE:7/26/09	 \$ 1083.16
No transactions occurred during August	

Professional Activities

ANN CHAMPEAU presented "Journaling, a Boost for the Brain" to the Cancer Support Group at Norman Regional Hospital.

JUDY HOWARD has many book signings for *Thanking Our Troops—God Bless America Touring Quilts* and shows for some of the 200 quilts in the book.

Contests

RUTH LOEFFLER won 2nd Hon. Men. in the Arkansas Writers' Conference, Poetry, "Voices International Award" category for poem "Solstice Morning".

Member News

JILL BROWN's husband David had an accident Aug. 11, bicycling in their new hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Jill's first email (via Kathleen Park) explains: "Please pray for us. Yesterday (8/11/09) David collided with another cyclist on the bike path and was thrown headfirst onto a rock. He has 2 broken vertebrae in his neck, swelling just below them that keeps him from moving his arms; broken ribs; another broken bone in his back. No brain injury, thank God. The people who heard the accident and ran over, found him with no pulse, did CPR and brought him back. When they took him into the ER his blood pressure was too low and kept falling; the doctor came to tell us, said, "We're losing him. Let's pray." We did pray with him, and just then his blood pressure rose and has been at safe levels.

"He's in a halo to protect his neck. He's responsive, blinks appropriately when asked yes/no questions, is partly breathing on his own as opposed to yesterday when the ventilator breathed for him all the time. Much is unknown, such as how much movement he'll regain in arms and legs. We'll learn that as time goes on."

Jill posts Updates on David's progress and friends can leave notes @ www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidlbrown

DAVE KLUMPP and Marion moved to Austin, TX last month to be grandparents. They took care of 2 yr. old Jonas while Joel & Kay's little girl arrived August 18, 2009 at 7:23 p.m., 8 lb. 5 oz. "Is she ever cute—but I may be biased" he wrote. [Ed. Note: To me, he will always be Pastor Klumpp, long-time pastor at University Lutheran. Galaxy members will remember him as the one who gave the Christmas reading at our December Holiday Luncheons for many years.]

GRAMMAR BY KATHLEEN PARK

Onesies, Twosies, Part Two

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. And most of the time that's easy enough. But wait, there's more.

Appositives: An appositive does not change the number of the subject. Examples: 1. Our side, the Tigers, is ahead. 2. Her nemesis, the final two chapters, was haunting her.

Company names: Company and organization names are singular in American usage. Examples: 1. Smith, Clark, Rosen & Bradshaw is handling the legal aspects of the merger. 2. Sandia National Laboratories is an important employer in New Mexico.

Predicate nouns: A verb should agree with its subject, not with its predicate noun or complement. Examples: 1. My reason for opposing the poll tax is the many underprivileged voters. (reason is.) 2. The first item on the list is the suggestions from the committee. (item is.) 3. The suggestions from the committee are the first item on the agenda. (suggestions are.) 4. Neither of the disinfectants is safe. (Neither is.)

Indefinite pronouns: The indefinite pronouns all, any, most, more, none, and some may take either a singular or a plural verb depending upon the noun they refer to. When all means everything or the only thing, the verb is singular. Examples: 1. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth. 2. The building has burned, and all are lost. 3. I failed to save my draft online, and all is lost. 4. None of the volcanoes in Chile are active. 5. France has maintained the principle that none of her forces are permanently committed to European defense.

What: As a pronoun, what takes a singular verb when it means that which or the thing that; what takes a plural verb when it means those which or the things that. Examples: 1. What you called diamonds are only rhinestones. 2. Comanche scouts traveled through what is now the Dakotas. 3. What I remember is the music and poetry that characterized his earlier work. 4. What are better than M & M's are these chocolate truffles.

—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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CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED



September 12, 2009

10:00 AM

Norman Public Library

**Bill Williams:
Photography
& Writing Mix**