

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.



WriteLine

DEC. 5TH LUNCHEON

Holiday Luncheon and Galaxy Contest Winners

Saturday, December 5, 11 A.M.

University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm (park in lot in back off of College Ave.)

Join us December 5 for the culmination of an exciting year with Galaxy of Writers at University Lutheran Church in Norman for our annual Holiday Potluck.

Our festivities will begin at 11:00 with setting your salad, side dish or dessert on the food table. Stan Soloway will read one of his Hanukkah stories and Mark Robinson will read one of his humorous Christmas letters. A prayer blessing will start the meal.

Mark Hardick, chair of the Norman Galaxy 2009 Writers Contest, will announce the winners after the luncheon.

Business meeting will only be election of officers for 2010 and honoring our current officers.

So, bring your favorite dish for our Holiday Potluck and plan on having a good time visiting and eating. After getting into the holiday spirit you just might update your Galaxy contest entries for the OWFI contest.

If you have questions, please call Sherry Bynum at 405-364-7818.

—*Sherry Bynum, Vice President & Program Chair*

A Big Welcome to our new members

Linda Joslin, Galaxy 2010 & OWFI 2010
Cindy Noble, Galaxy 2010 & OWFI 2010
Patricia Harvey, Galaxy 2010 & OWFI 2010
Charlotte Mast, Galaxy 2010 & OWFI 2010
Barbara Shephard, Galaxy 2010 (OWFI Treasurer)
Evelyn Jean Spear, Galaxy 2010
Neal Huffaker, Galaxy 2010

Let's Shine!

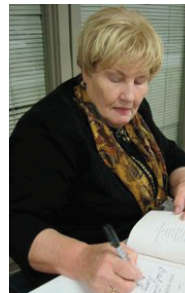
"People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

~Elisabeth Kubler-Ross



SPEAKER NOTES BY FRANCES SEARCEY

Anna Myers: "Words That Changed My Life"



Anna Myers said she's always wanted to write, and unlike most people, she started the year before first grade. She told a story to her sibling to write since she hadn't yet learned that skill. Her story went like this: I put a dollar on the step. When someone stooped over to pick it up, I kicked him really hard and collected a dollar from him and took the dollar from the step and headed next door to do it again. After her story was written, she charged a quarter to read it.

She was a stay-at-home mom until her third baby started school, then she began teaching eighth-grade English. She still knew that someday she'd be a writer.

Interested in writing for children, Myers joined the Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators. She sat by a lady who looked to be in her seventies. Myers asked her what she writes, and her answer changed her life, "I don't write but I'm going to *someday*." Myers knew she described herself the same way, so when she got home she wrote a short story.

Another life-changing experience happened when her sister told her about a writer's workshop where a well-known author would read a manuscript from all attending and tell what was needed to make each story better. He had read hers, and when she walked into the room, he announced, "If you want to see a writer, here she comes." She looked behind her to see the writer and there was no one there. She was told there was nothing to change in her manuscript to make it better, and he gave her the name of his editor. "She'll buy it and you'll win the Newberry." Seven years later she sold her first book.

Myers advised writers to write the first draft as rapidly as you can. She likened it to building a wall. After you complete the wall, then you add paint, pictures, etc. After the first draft is completed, you start a series of revisions, polishing it to make it the best you can write.

"You don't write a book to teach a lesson," Myers says, "but often lessons can be learned from the book you write. You write to tell a story that's deep within

Anna Myers, cont. on page 3

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

History for Outdoor Mags

Some outdoor magazines publish features on history and nostalgia. These topics could include the history of lure making, of a gun maker, the evolution of fishing tackle or game laws, changing duck migrations or a profile of a sportsman who lived long ago and left an indelible mark on the sport.

Suggested Markets:

AMC Outdoors, Put this on the subject line of your e-mail: Heather Stephenson, publisher, ancpublications@outdoors.org.

In each issue, two compelling features tell stories about people and place that stimulate readers' curiosities. These are determined 6 months before publication date. Please request editorial calendar. The editors want stories "...that feature people of diverse backgrounds and ages...and their connection to the outdoors and recreation." Features range from 2,000 to 2,500 words and often include sidebars. Query.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, 4200 Smith School Road, Bldg. D, Austin, TX 78744. E-mail: magazine@tpwd.state.tx.us. Legend, Lore and Legacy Departments runs profiles of people who've left a legacy on the Texas outdoors. "Readers love to learn about a hunter or fisher who is/was passionately interested in wildlife...or other outdoor-related activities."

Turkey Country, gpowers@nwtf.net. Greg Powers, managing editor. "Our readers enjoy articles easy to read. Feature stories are typically supplemented with sidebars, bulleted lists, subheads and other graphic-friendly elements."

Hooked on the Outdoors, "the ultimate backyard travel...magazine...has a multi-sport focus, stressing accessible adventure for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and levels of expertise." Features, running from 1,200 to 5,000 words, include profiles. Send query to features@ruhooked.com.

Outside is dedicated to covering the people, sports and activities, politics, art, literature, and hardware of the outdoors. Send queries to Editorial Department, Outside Magazine, 400 Market St., Santa Fe, NM 87501.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

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 present, wished to step down as a delegate. Patricia Harvey volunteered and Vickey Kennedy was also recruited to attend the OWFI meeting at the Embassy Suites on Meridian.

Nominating committee: Madelaine, chair and Marilyn Fleer, Vickey Kennedy, and Patricia Harvey volunteered.

V.P. Sherry Bynum: **Programs**: January, Contest Winners; February, Author William Bernhardt; and March, Author Mel Odom. She also stated that we would need to define the current By-Laws of Galaxy in order to apply for 501-3(c) status for grants. She introduced the guest speaker Anna Myers.

—Dion Mayes-Burnett, Secretary

MINUTES BY DION MAYES-BURNETT

November 7th Minutes

Norman Galaxy of Writers met in the Lowry room of the Norman Public Library. The meeting was brought to order by President Madelaine Culp. She welcomed new member Neil Huffaker, and introduced her daughter Lynn Ines and her son, Greg (who sets up the new P.A. system).

Announcements

Ann Champeau, Cheer Chair, passed a card for Jill and David Brown to send our love and prayers for David's recovery.

Madelaine announced that she had a tumor in her right upper arm and would begin chemotherapy Monday. She won't be able to write for a while and will step down as President of Galaxy next year. She thanked Sherry Bynum, VP, for being so helpful and supportive.

Ann Champeau asked if someone else could do decorations of the tables at the December Luncheon this year. Ruth Loeffler, Josie Leslie and Shannon Tan volunteered.

Madelaine asked if anyone had completed the next paragraph for the "hook an editor" writing assignment. Two people had completed and handed in for her to judge and read.

Russ Long announced that November 11th was Armistice Day, the day the Peace Treaty was signed to end WW2. We gave applause and recognition for all who have served.

Reports

Ann Champeau move that we accept the **Minutes** as written in the *WriteLine* and Sherry Bynum seconded.

Treasurer Lynn Wendlebo gave her report with the final balance of \$1074.28. She reminded us that OWFI dues increase from \$15 to \$20 dollars after November 30th. On prorating membership fees, the officers determined that it was too difficult without a membership chair & software.

Mark Hardick collected contest entries for the Norman Galaxy 2009 **Contest**. Galaxy dues must be paid to enter.

Committee Reports:

Frances Searcey: **Friday Writers** are going strong with 13 at the last meeting and several entering the Galaxy Contest for the first time. Next assignment was columns with maximum of 600 words for the OWFI contest.

Helen Duchon: **NAC Roundtable** met at the Sam Noble Museum. Sherry Bynum was accepted on the Grants Panel for the Norman Arts Council and would receive training. Jaci Williams, nominated Person of the Year, and Café Plaid, nominated Business of the Year, were honored at Chamber Arts luncheon, Nov. 5. A new group, Song Writers Association of Norman (SWAN), is meeting at Café Plaid. Helen also announced several community arts programs which were being presented.

Mary Spaulding, who is in charge of **Recruitment**, left Galaxy's new brochures with Janice Berry and Vickie Briggs, and the Library, and with Mel Odom at OU. Marilyn Fleer also interjected that she had left several brochures at the senior citizen center as well.

OWFI: Dion Mayes-Burnett, next meeting is Dec. 6th. Kathleen Park stated that Judith Evans, who could not be

BRAG SHEET

Sales and Acceptances

KEITH EATON: The December Issue of *Distinctly Oklahoma* will feature two of my articles. "Model Oklahomans" and "Hugo, The Five-Ring City". In the January issue I'll be supplying an article in support of "The Allied Arts" fundraiser kickoff.

NOTE: I hope many of you will consider subscribing to this unique and very professional publication as the articles are well written, (moreso than my own), and truly distinctly Oklahoman. (Contact: keaton1943@yahoo.com; 405-414-4019)

LISA WILLIS: PUBLISHED: My book *The First Miracle* is here in time for Christmas. It's published by 4RV publishing, illustrated by Aidana Willowraven, and is available in local bookstores. Free autographs for Galaxy members!

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: PRODUCED: The Norman Baha'i Newsletter for November, PUBLISHED article, "House Votes to Condemn Iranian Persecution of Bahá'ís," *The Norman Transcript*, 11/20/09.

HELEN DUCHON: PRODUCED: *UWA Newsletter* for University Women's Association, Nov.-Dec. 2009 and Galaxy's *WriteLine* for Oct., Nov, and Dec. 09.

FRANCES SEARCEY: PUBLISHED: Two poems, "Improving Vision" and "Surgery Waiting" were published in the 2009 Journal of The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, *Blood and Thunder*, Musings on the Art of Medicine. EDITED: 2009 Advent Booklet for members of First Baptist Church of Norman.

STAN SOLLOWAY & MIKE KRAWCZYK: Comedy Empire Press has PUBLISHED two new books: *Golfreaks* and *Sports Fans are Crazy*. *Golfreaks* came out in November and can be purchased at golf stores and pro shops in the area. *Sports Fans* came out in December in time to make great Christmas gifts for sports fans.

I also had four funny *SILLIMAN on SPORTS* columns in November, including one on Sarah Palin. These can be found on our website www.sillimanon-sports.com

Contests

RUSS LONG won First Prize in the Performing Art Studio's Depot Centennial contest, "Bicycling Past the Norman Depot," published in the *Transcript*. The prize was a trip for two on the Heartland Flyer to Ft. Worth, and overnight in the historic Ashton Hotel.

Member News

DOROTHY BRINKER's husband Paul passed on Nov. 24, 2009. His funeral was Friday, Nov 27, 2:00 pm at University Lutheran Church. Paul was OU professor emeritus of economics; worked for social & economic justice with farm workers, Native Americans and other groups; was a favorite teacher known as a "story teller." Ann Champeau gave Dorothy a gor-

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO

CURRENT BALANCE: 10/3/09	\$ 1165.17
EXPENSES	
OWFI dues	\$240.00
M. Culp, Sound System	\$300.00
M. Culp, Brochure printing	\$32.48
Helen Duchon, Oct. WriteLine	\$13.41
McFarlin room rental	\$50.00
Carol Hamilton, speaker fee	\$25.00
2 refunds	<u>\$10.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 670.89
INCOME	
Memberships	\$410.00
Memberships	\$95.00
Memberships	<u>\$75.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 580.00
CURRENT BALANCE: 11/7/09	\$ 1074.28

Anna Myers, cont.

your heart. A story that needs telling."

Asked where does she get her ideas—Not a problem. She gets ideas the same way Mary, mother of Jesus, did: "Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Graveyard Girl was set in Memphis (it's about yellow fever epidemic during Civil War). She had an offer to run it in Memphis newspaper as a serial. She agreed. They flew her out and put her on TV,

Unless you're writing humor, you need a bigger story. Something big has to happen to the characters. Reader has to feel an emotional impact. Especially for kids. You have to write better for kids. Don't write to teach kids a lesson. Write a story from your insides; if it's a good story, it might teach, but that's not the point. Writing to teach a lesson is the worst reason. Go teach Sunday school instead. She talked about *Tulsa Burning*, the most shameful event in OK history. That story needed to be told.

Myers says that if you have the desire, you can learn to write. She says it is much more difficult to write a children's novel than an adult novel; and that's why she doesn't write picture books. They're even harder to write.

When she visits schools, she's often asked if she's rich. "I tell them, 'Yes,' I am rich because I'm doing exactly what I love doing."

—Frances Searcey, Speaker Notes



geous pointsettia on behalf of Galaxy members which was at the church. Send cards to 1309 Melrose Drive, Norman, OK 73069.

BILL TRUMLY had gall bladder surgery few weeks ago. **JILL BROWN's** husband David had an accident August 11, that broke his neck leaving him paralysed. Jill posts updates and friends can leave notes @ www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidlbrown. They are getting their house ready for David to leave rehab in Denver and go to their home in Colorado Springs.



We Careful Writers

Theodore M. Bernstein, the late English usage luminary, wrote several books about our language, including a standard on many fine writers' bookshelves, *The Careful Writer*. His thorough treatment of questions of punctuation, grammar, logical structure, meaning, precision, (and more) is rendered crystalline by his superb wit.

Here's what he says in a section called "INCOMPARABLES" about words that express absolutes—and the misuse by "the literary unwashed" in making comparative and superlative forms of them: "One need not go looking for absolutes, but when they are obvious, they should be inviolable." Case in point, the word *unique*. "If we allow the literary unwashed to determine that 'more unique' is correct usage, the meaning of *unique* becomes eroded. What word will we then have to convey the meaning of 'the only one of its kind'?" Bernstein thinks we'd have to coin another word for that meaning, but it wouldn't be long before the "unwashed" would stick *more* or *most* on

the new word, and then we'd have to coin another, etc. He says there aren't many words that "require conservation measures, but the few there are should be diligently protected against erosion." Among these few are *absolute*, *equal*, *eternal*, *fatal*, *final*, *supreme*, *total*, *unanimous*, *unique*, and *perfect* (the Constitution's "more perfect union" notwithstanding).

It would be nice to put all the blame on advertisers (chief among the literary unwashed, in my opinion) for polluting our language with such atrocities as "most unique." And let's not forget the gaggers "close proximity," which is like saying "close closeness," and "new innovation," literally "a new something new."

But truly, we, through our own carelessness or ignorance, pick up and use too many of these uglies. Now, before someone starts sharpening a point to say that at least one dictionary gives a third meaning for *unique* as *unusual*, let me say I saw it, too. But we, as careful writers, are going to rise above that, aren't we? Besides, the usage note finally comes down on Bernstein's side.

—Kathleen Norris Park, Grammarian

CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

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2009 Dues for Galaxy are \$15
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Mail to Lynn Wendelbo, Treasurer
4103 Northampton Dr.
Norman, OK 73072

Dec 5, 2009
11:00 AM
University Lutheran Church
914 Elm, Norman, OK
Holiday Luncheon
Contest Winners



405-872-8973	Madeline Culp	President
405-364-7818	Sherry Bynum	VP-Programs
405-321-4506	Dion Mayes	Secretary
405-364-7383	Lynn Wendelbo	Treasurer
405-329-2485	Helen Duchon	Editor
405-364-0232	Ann Champeau	Cheer/Members
405-321-6404	Frances Searcy	Friday Writers
405-364-0232	Ann Champeau	Markets
405-321-8834	Marilyn Fleer	Publicity
405-310-6512	Kathleen Park	Grammarian
405-329-2485	Helen Duchon	NAC Roundtable
405-364-6428	Mary Spaulding	Recruitment
405-321-4506	Dion Mayes	OWFI Delegate
405-364-0232	Ann Champeau	OWFI Delegate
405-329-4138	Judith Evans	OWFI Delegate

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