

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

WriteLine



NOVEMBER 6TH MEETING

Sandra Dark, "Seizing Opportunities 101"

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010; 9:45 a.m.
Norman Public Library, Lowry Room



Sandra Dark will show how, over the course of two years, she got a bright idea, wrote and sold a nonfiction book, contributed a chapter to someone else's ground-breaking book, nearly lost her mind, and found it again in a novel. Along the way, there are important lessons to be learned about seizing opportunities in today's unsettled and often unsettling new world for both experienced and aspiring writers.

Vetted Veteran

Sandra Dark is a veteran freelance magazine writer, with hundreds of features and columns in dozens of national publications. She has authored ten published novels, and is coauthor of *Weatherproofing Your Landscape: A Homeowner's Guide to Preserving and Rescuing Your Plants*, which will be in bookstores in the Fall of 2011.

—Kathleen Norris Park, VP-Program

BRING WITH YOU

November 6th NGW Agenda

Turn in 2010 Writing Contest Entries

Vote on new Bylaws for Galaxy

Take notes on one of our favorite speakers

SPEAKER NOTES BY HELEN DUCHON

Warren Vieth "The Feature is the Future"



Warren Vieth, an 18-year veteran with the *Los Angeles Times*, returned to his home state to teach in OU's School of Journalism.

He told us October 2nd that his first editor, Covey Bean, told him that first week on the job 30 years ago, that "there are only two kinds of stories: news and features. News is published tomorrow and features can hold for the weekend."

Covey Bean added, "Good news reporters are a dime a dozen. Good feature writers are hard to find."

Vieth came with a list of 31 types of stories including Mood Pieces, Tick-Tocks and Thumb-Suckers. "But good writing is more important than the category," he said. Vieth "used a few trees" with the handouts he gave us to explain "Vieth's Six Secrets of Successful Feature Writing;" "Vieth's Top 10 Tips for Freelancers;" "They're Everywhere, finding great stories off the beaten path" by Gamino & DeGregory; "Structure Table w/ Anecdote on Top;" and four or five stories of his to illustrate it all.

Vieth's Six Secrets of Successful Feature Writing

1. To improve your writing, improve your reading. Vocabulary will expand; word craft will flow. Master the craft.
2. Great stories start with great ideas. Ideas trump writing. [He told how he got obsessed with finding if President Bush's ranch had any cattle. "No idea is too stupid."]
3. Great stories are based on great reporting. Research. The material matters most. Never settle for one or two sources. Do clip searches and find big-picture data.
4. Every story should answer two basic questions: What's the point? Why should I care? Summary and significance before the jump (to an inside page.)
5. Good writing connects with one of the big themes that resonate with readers: turning points; life & death; winning & losing; triumph & tragedy; heroism & villainy; epiphanies; love & loss; alienation & Reconciliation; underdogs & long shots; kids & animals.
6. Time management is the most important skill of all! Start now. It takes longer than you think.

Warren Vieth, cont. on page 3

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

Keep Truckin'

ROAD KING Magazine, Parthenon Publishing, 28 White Bridge Road, Suite 209, Nashville TN 37205. **Road King** is a monthly magazine that seeks to educate and entertain over-the-road truck drivers. It is distributed free of charge through the TravelCenter of America truckstop network. Readers are owner-operators and fleet truck drivers who average 23 nights a month on the road.

The publication covers new truck equipment, technology, finances and driving tips, as well as non-trucking issues such as health advice, sports, music reviews and hobbies. Take a look at a recent issue and make yourself familiar with the departments, which include "High Octane," "Great Box," and "Kickin' Back." (I'll bet they would look favorably on some humor.)

Query first. Include your resume and two to four writing samples.

Send proposals by email to <submissions@roadking.com> or by mail to the address above.

The editors ask writers to keep these key points in mind:

1. We focus on short stories packed with useful information for busy truckers.
2. We expect writers to double-check their facts and be able to vouch for every phone number, Web address and name spelling in a story.
3. We also request a list of sources with contact phone numbers, for fact-checking purposes.
4. We follow the *Associated Press Manual of Style* in most cases, with a few exceptions.

Payment is negotiable for articles but they pay \$50 for fillers.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

.....

Perhaps one of the most-told stories about the power of beliefs was provided by the great psychologist Abraham Maslow. A patient refused to eat because he believed that he was a corpse. In exasperation, the psychiatrist finally asked him if corpses bled. The patient said that he did not believe so. The psychiatrist then proceeded to prick him with a pin, after asking the patient's permission to do so. At which point, the patient started to bleed. In amazement, he declared, "Wow...corpses do bleed after all!"

Overcoming the Primary Obstacle to Speed Reading
— Ed Caldwell

10/2/2010 MINUTES BY DARLINE HOBBS

Oct. 2nd Minutes

Galaxy of Writers met Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the Baha'i Center on Flood. Sherry Bynum called the meeting to order at 10:00. She then welcomed members and guests. Visitors were Andrew Call, Sally Church, Ph.D., Mary Payne and Jeanne Flanigan.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended and written in **WriteLine**.

Vickey Kennedy gave the treasurer's report. Moved and passed to accept the report. Vickey reminded the group that 2011 Galaxy and OWFI dues are due by the next meeting, November 6th.

Committee reports:

Norman Arts Council Roundtable. Helen Duchon reminded us to take books to the library for the Friends of the Library Book Sale, Oct. 21-23.



WriteLine. Helen Duchon. Helen asked that someone do the November Speaker Notes as she will be celebrating her 50th anniversary in Austin, TX.

Publicity: Marilyn Fleer

Cheer: No report.

OWFI: Sherry Bynum and Vickey Kennedy announced the May 6-7 OWFI conference and recommended it as excellent. It was mentioned that writer's "brags" need to be faithfully reported to OWFI.

Recruitment: Mary Spaulding

Friday Writers: Frances Searcey encouraged all writers to submit to the Galaxy of Writers contest. She reported that the Friday Writers were working on their entries, which are due at the November 6th meeting. She encouraged every member to submit at least one entry.

Old Business:

Sherry reminded the group that the revised Galaxy Bylaws appeared in the September **WriteLine** and were attached to the October meeting email as well. This fulfills the requirement that bylaw changes need to be reported thirty days before a vote. They will be voted on in the November meeting.

Rober Ferrier was thanked and applauded for his excellent poetry seminar.

Galaxy contest rules were reviewed.

The November 6 Galaxy meeting will be at the Public library in Lowery Room.

December meeting will be at University Lutheran Church off of Elm and Lindsey. The group was reminded that Galaxy contest winners will be announced and celebrated at the December meeting.

Discussion took place about the most desirable place to schedule meetings. To be continued. Meeting Adjourned.

Sherry Bynum introduced the speaker, Warren Vieth, OU journalism teacher with vast experience in feature writing. He gave us many handouts and great advice.

—Darline Hobbs, Secretary

BRAG SHEET**Sales, Publications and Acceptances**

KEITH EATON: ARTICLE: "Harold Hamm: All Cattle and No Hat", *Distinctly Oklahoma*, (11/6/2010).

JOCELYN PEDERSEN: ARTICLE: *Silk Magazine* Published Nov./Dec. Issue.

HELEN DUCHON: NEWSLETTER: Produced the UWA Newsletter, (10/18/2010). See online at <http://www.uwa.ou.edu/pdf/UWA%20Newsletter%2010-10i.pdf>. WEB SITE: Appointed web master for League of Women Voters of Norman. Added "Judicial Retention Ballot"; "11 State Questions"; and "Candidates for State Legislature." See: <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org/>.

STAN SOLLOWAY: *Silliman on Sports* columns.

Read online at <http://www.sillimanonsports.com>

Not only have we been submitting *Silliman on Sports* to the various newspapers, I've been writing sports articles for an on-line site called *Bleacher Report*. *BR* is the largest on-line sport site and belongs to CBS Sports. From Sept 25 to Oct 25, I wrote 25 humorous sports articles: <http://bleacherreport.com/users/71418-stan-silliman/archives/newest?rel=nofollow>

BR allows me to embed photos, cartoons and videos into my story. *BR* has also linked my stories to other on-line sites such as *USA Today*, *Forbes.com*, *LA Times*, *NY Daily News*, *Washington Times*, *India Times* and many others.

Contests

BARBARA SHEPHERD: (POEM) Won 1st Honorable Mention for "The Auction" in National Poetry Day Contest at Poetry Society of Oklahoma.

Professional Activities

BARBARA SHEPHERD: (ART) Writing Collage, "Dear Mary or Jari," accepted in gallery show at a.k.a. Gallery in The Paseo. Show will continue through October, then original works will be assembled into a book to present to the "First Female Governor of Oklahoma."

STAN SOLLOWAY: I'm in a national Stand-up Comedy Contest in Indianapolis Nov 3 to 7th (Trial by Laughter) to be filmed by Comcast TV. On the evening of the 7th I'll be in Norman to be part of a comedy event at the **Sooner Theater to benefit Food and Shelter for Friends.**

Member News

ANN CHAMPEAU and her husband Bob celebrated their 60th anniversary and Bob's 80th birthday, the week of Oct.ober 11-16th. Best Wishes!

HELEN DUCHON and her husband Claude are celebrating their 50th anniversary at daughter Lisa's in Austin, TX, Nov. 5 & 6, the official day is Dec. 26.

SPEAKER NOTES BY HELEN DUCHON**Warren Vieth, Features, cont.****Vieth's Top 10 Tips for Free lancers [my Favorites]**

8. Look for adventures, advancers, profiles and trends. Most features tend to be human interest narratives, advance stories on upcoming events, bios on people in the news, and stories that connect the dots between multiple events with anecdotal examples and big-picture context.
9. Write to length. If editor asks for 750 words, don't give her 1,000. She doesn't know the story and might cut the wrong stuff. And it is time-consuming work.
10. Learn AP style. Don't make your editor fix your comma splices, spell out your numerals below 10, etc.

Is there a future for features?

"There have been lots of changes in our industry (newspapers). Some people are pretty discouraged. I'm not," Warren Vieth said. [At this point, I raised my iPad with Kindle and iBooks and daily *NY Times* feed.]

"I'm convinced that: the need for good reporters and writers will increase; the demand for good story-tellers will grow; and feature writing will remain the highest form of our craft."

"Stories are the running narratives by which we make sense of our lives," Vieth declared. [Amen to that!]

—*Helen Duchon, Speaker Notes*

TREASURERS REPORT OCT. 19, 2010

PREVIOUS BALANCE, 9/19/10	\$1,059.57
---------------------------	-------------------

Deposits:

Dues NGW -20; OWFI-12	\$485.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$485.00

Expenses:

Helen Duchon, October	
WriteLine, Bylaws, Name Bags	\$35.87
Mary Ellen Grady, Refund	5.00
OWFI Dues, 12 members	180.00
Warren Vieth, Oct. Speaker	25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$245.87

CURRENT BALANCE, 10/19/10	\$1,268.70
---------------------------	-------------------

Current # of NGW members	72
--------------------------	----

Current # members also OWFI members	52
-------------------------------------	----

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

CHURCH, Sally, 2011 Galaxy, 2011 OWFI
 DiCAMILLO, Jennifer, 2011 Galaxy
 PAYNE, Mary, 2011 Galaxy, 2011 OWFI
 PEDERSEN, Jocelyn, 2011 Galaxy, 2011 OWFI
 SPEAR, Evelyn, 2011 Galaxy, 2011 OWFI
 WEISS, Jessica, 2011 Galaxy
 WEISS, Laura, 2011 Galaxy

WATCHING YOUR LANGUAGE BY KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK

Between the Two of Us

Have you read or heard sentences like these actual examples?

- Please leave two spaces between each item on the list.
- Put the basketball on the floor next to you between every player.

Does something sound a little funny here? Maybe you recall a teacher somewhere back there, pounding on the correct use of *between* and *among*. “*Between* two, *among* more than two!” I seem to remember having that drilled into my head. In fact, I was certain of it until I started hunting for good examples. Yes, those two sentences above are definitely wrong. You must have two items or players in order to use *between*. So *every* or *each*, meaning only one, blows *between* out of the water. Substitute *after* for *between* in the first sentence: “Leave two spaces after each item.” And “Put the ball between players” or “between you and the next player.”

Now comes the hard part. According to usage guru, Roy Copperud, “The proper use of *between* does not depend on the number of objects but on whether they are being considered in pairs. Even this is open to

question as an absolute rule. The OED (Oxford English Dictionary) specifies that *between* may be used of relations between two or more things.”

The venerable OED says that *between* is still the only word available to express the relation of a thing to many surrounding things generally and individually; *among* expresses a relation to them collectively and vaguely. Try these examples:

- “Agreements were reached between six nations.”
- “Our airline will soon establish new routes between several cities.”
- “The contest between all the teams in the league will begin in June.”

You can envision that the flights must go between two cities at a time, and that two teams take the field together, not six or so at a time.

Of course, the sloppy “between you and I” or “between you and he” is still a blunder, but for a different reason. *Between* is a preposition and takes the accusative or objective case. Say “between you and me” or “between you and him.”

—Kathleen Norris Park, *Grammarians*

CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

@ Norman Galaxy of Writers, 2010

2011 Dues for Galaxy are \$15
2011 Dues for OWFI are \$15
Mail to Vickie Kennedy, Treasurer
721 E. Boyd St.
Norman, OK 73071

Sandra Dark
“Opportunities”
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010
9:45 a.m.
Norman Public Library
Lowry Room



President	Sherry Bynum	405-364-7818
VP-Programs	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
Secretary	Darline Hobbs	405-321-8304
Treasurer	Vickie Kennedy	405-447-3623
Editor	Helen Duchon	405-329-2485
Cheer	Ann Champagne	405-364-0232
Friday Writers	Frances Searcy	405-321-6404
Markets	Ann Champagne	405-364-0232
Publicity/Memb.	Marilyn Fleer	405-321-8834
Grammarians	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
NAC Roundtable	Helen Duchon	405-329-2485
Recruitment	Mary Spaulding	405-364-6428
OWFI Delegate	Dion Mayes	405-321-4506
OWFI Delegate	Patricia Harvey	719-287-1670
OWFI Delegate	Vickie Kennedy	405-447-3623

WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers
Helen Duchon, Editor, 405-329-2485
747 Nancy Lynn Terrace, Norman, OK 73069
E-MAIL: hduchon@cox.net