

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

WriteLine

Jan



JANUARY 9TH MEETING

Contest Winners Read Their Work

Saturday, January 9, 2010

Norman Public Library, Lowry Room

Winners of the 2009 Galaxy contest will share their winning words with us on January 9th, in the Lowry Room at the Norman Public Library. The meeting runs from 10:00 a.m., to noon.

If you won an award, including honorable mention, please remember to bring your manuscript on the 9th. If you know you won't be able to attend, please give your manuscript to someone to read for you. You can also email your winning piece to Kathleen Park <knpark@yahoo.com> or Helen Duchon <hduchon@cox.net>.

We'll hear all we possibly can in the time allotted.

—*Kathleen Park, VP-Program, 405-310-6512*



New Officers for 2010: Kathleen Park, VP; Vickey Malone Kennedy, Treasurer; Sherry Bynum, President and Darline Hobbs, Secretary.

President's Message

I believe every time I have served as president of an organization or in a position of leadership, I have been asked, "what are your goals?" I'm sure there are a few members who would like to know the answer to that question. I believe in keeping it simple. In other words, I want the goals to be achievable. So, here goes:

Goal 1: Increase membership by 10 per cent

WRITERS CONTEST BY MARK HARDICK



2009 1st Place Contest Winners

Darline Hobbs, Ruth Loeffler, Kathleen Park and Keith Eaton, Bonnie Speer Creme de la Creme award winner.

2009 Contest Statistics

Crème de la Crème Judges: Christine Rimmer, Robert Ferrier & Ann Champeau

Keith Eaton, Nostalgia Essay, "Pals in the Golden West"

Unrhymed Poetry Judge: Kristin Reid

1st, Kathleen Park, "Infinity"

2nd, Patricia Moore Harvey, "First Harvest"

3rd, Barbara Shepherd, "A Simpler Time"

1st HM, Patricia Moore Harvey, "My Sisters"

2nd HM, Barbara Shepherd, "The Weeping Woman"

3rd HM, Ruth Loeffler, "Morning of a Winter Moon"

Rhymed Poetry Judge: Maria Veres

1st, Darline Hobbs, "The Zircon Ring Speaks"

2nd, Neal Huffaker, "A Rhyme Too Late"

3rd, Darline Hobbs, "A Nature Walk"

HM, Neal Huffaker, "The Bridge"

Nostalgia Essay Judge: Donna Young

1st, Keith Eaton, "Pals in the Golden West"

2nd, Robbie Lamberson, "Wishes"

3rd, Barbara Shepherd, "Can You Can-Can"

HM, Robbie Lamberson, "The Summer of 1950"

Short Story Judge: Jim Etter

1st, Janie Turnbull, "My Romantic Hero"

2nd, Russ Long, "Casino Chip Exchange"

3rd, Evelyn Jean Spear, "What You Don't Know Won't Hurt You"

HM, Evelyn Jean Spear, "Rosco's Christmas Gift"

Nonfiction Article Judge: Gloria Shirley

1st, Darline Hobbs, "Superstition or Supernatural"

2nd, Neal Huffaker, "Evolution, Religion, & Education"

Contest Statistics, cont. on page 3

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

Confession is Good for the Pocketbook

The confession is a “slice of life” story which moves the reader to empathize with, identify with, and care about the person whose life she’s shared for a little while.

Anyone can write a confession by following these easy steps:

1. Have a sympathetic narrator, someone whom the reader can identify. She has flaws, weaknesses, even unlikable aspects; however these aspects must be balanced by good traits.
2. First person viewpoint. The narrator tells the story. Always.
3. Tone of voice. The tone is intimate and natural with convincing dialogue and good narration.
4. Texture and homeyness: Your heroine has friends, family, a neighborhood, past experiences, hopes, fears, etc. Weave them in for believability.
5. Open with a hook. Grab your readers attention. By the end of the first paragraph, the reader should know what the problem is.
6. Drama and conflict. The scenes should progress like stair steps to the crisis.
7. The narrator must act upon and solve whatever problem is facing her. No one else can. Ever.
8. Satisfying ending. Confessions have happy or upbeat endings.

Markets for Confessions:

True Confession for problems of today’s young blue-collar women.

True Experience for realistic stories on family life, love, courtship, health and religion.

Best of True Secret emphasizes family, home and love relationships.

True Romance stories are romantic and for young wives and singles.

True Story is for true stories.

All the above have the same address (215 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10016) but don’t send the same story to all of them.

One at a time. Don’t wait around bemoaning how long it takes to get an answer because it does take a long time. Just start on another story.

—Ann Champeau, Markets



Keith Eaton, Creme de la Creme winner for Nostalgic Essay, “Pals in the Golden West”.



MINUTES BY DION MAYES-BURNETT

December 5th Minutes

The Norman Galaxy of Writers met on December 5th, 2009 at the University Lutheran Student Center for its annual Holiday Luncheon and Announcement of Contest Winners and New Officers. The meeting was opened by Sherry Bynum, V.P. as Madeline Culp-Havey our current President was unable to attend due to hospitalization.

Updates on Madeline’s health were given by Ann Champeau, our Cheer Officer, who stated that Madeline was currently at Integris Hospital, which was taking good care of her. She will be going to a skilled nursing facility to help her recover, but says she’s in good spirits. Ann asked that we think of her today and if we would like to send words of encouragement or cards that her home address is as follows: Madeline Culp-Havey, 625 Woodbriar Rd., Noble, OK 73068.

Sherry asked if there were any new members, there were none present, but there were 3 guests. Announcements were then requested.

Bill Trumbly gave his thanks for all our support during his surgery, and Dorothy Brinker thanked the members for the poinsettias that were sent to her following the death of her husband.

Ann Champeau, who was on the nominating committee for new officers, announced the nominees: Sherry Bynum for President, Kathleen Parks for Vice President, Vickey Malone Kennedy for Treasurer, and Darline Hobbs for Secretary. Frances Searcey moved that we accept the nominees as presented, seconded by Robert Ferrier. All members present voted yes and the motion passed.

Sherry Bynum, VP, then concluded the meeting by thanking the outgoing officers, Madeline Culp-Havey, President, Lynn Wendlebo, Treasurer, and Dion Mayes-Burnett for their service, as the new officers were welcomed. Helen Duchon presented certificates of appreciation to the outgoing officers, plus Ann Champeau, Markets, Kathleen Park, Grammar and Marilyn Fleeer, Publicity & Refreshments, and Mark Hardick, 2009 Galaxy Writers Contest Chair.

The holiday program then followed with a Hanukkah story by Stan Solloway, a Christmas letter by Mark Robinson, a Baha’i prayer by Kathleen Park and a blessing by Darline Hobbs.

After enjoying a large variety of holiday food brought by the members, Mark Hardick, chair, announced the winners of the Galaxy 2009 Writers Contest.

Respectfully Submitted
Dion Mayes-Burnett, Secretary



Mark Hardick, Contest Chair and Patricia Harvey, new member, 2nd Place, Unrhymed Poetry.

BRAG SHEET

Sales and Acceptances

ROBERT FERRIER: PUBLISHED: Poems, “Getting There” and “Old Chemo Veins,” 2009 Journal, *Blood & Thunder, Musings on the Art of Medicine*, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. (12/09).

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK SOLD: Three articles to *JOURNAL RECORD*, OKC. Publish dates are Dec. 22, 29, 2009, Jan. 5, 2010. My titles are usually changed, so I can’t say now what they are, but all three are about new businesses in the Moore-Norman Technology Business Development Center.

FRANCES SEARCEY: EDITED: Advent devotional booklet for the Norman First Baptist Church.

Wrote and sent article to the *Norman Transcript* about the winners of the 2009 Galaxy Writing Contest.

BARBARA SHEPHERD won 2 Honorable Mentions, 2 Third Places, a Second Place, and a First Place in Oklahoma City Writers’ Annual Contest. She had 5 poems and a full-page bio published in the book, *Poetry is For Everyone*, edited several chapters of a non-fiction book for another writer, and was elected for the ninth year as Treasurer of Wordwrights-OKC Christian Writers.

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

STAN SOLLOWAY & MIKE KRAWCZYK: Comedy Empire Press has PUBLISHED two new books: *Golfreaks* and *Sports Fans are Crazy* which includes my articles about wacky sports fans and cartoons by Mike Krawczyk.

Also this month we’ve published 5 *Silliman on Sports* columns: (click “Articles” @ sillimanonsports.com)

12/1 “Blindsided by the Blindside” (Read this one @ our Galaxy party, Dec. 3rd)."

12/7 “Tiger’s Crash and Fall” Did you know about the Church of Tiger Woods?

12/14 “Dartmouth Squash Hecklers” Heckling in the Ivy League

12/21 “Crass Commercialism” A sports humor columnist blatantly pushes new book

12/28 “Twelve Months of Sports Year” Recounting the year to the “Twelve Days” tune

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

DOROTHEY GRIFFIN, our friend, passed away Dec. 27, 2009. She was a loyal member of Norman Galaxy and at one time a member of the Friday Writers. She will always be appreciated for arranging for the no-cost printing of the Friday Writers’ book, *Pas-time for Past Times*, in 1991. Back then she worked

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE, CONT.

Goal 2: Investigate other opportunities for recruitment and publicity

Goal 3: Appoint a committee to look at the possibility of having a one day Writers’ Workshop

Goal 4: Have name tags at every meeting

It is my belief that there are many individuals in Norman and in the surrounding communities who have an interest in writing. Norman Galaxy of Writers has a lot to offer. We have quality programs and we have several published authors who are willing to share their expertise... and we are friendly and make people feel welcome. So, let’s spread the word and invite others to join us. Invite someone to join us this Saturday, January 9, at 10 a.m.

I will look forward to seeing you.

Sherry Bynum, President

Contest Statistics, cont.

3rd, Darline Hobbs, “Going Green”

HM, Josie Leslie, “Holy Night”

Children’s Fiction Judge: Darleen Bailey Beard

1st, Ruth Loeffler, “The Japanese Gardener”

2nd, Barbara Shepherd, “Susan’s Search for the Flyin Pigs”

3rd, Lisa Willis, “Edgar, the Mighty Hunter”

1st HM, Lynn Wendelbo, “Sonya’s Worries”

2nd HM, Neal Huffaker, “Gentle Magic”

Statistics

Number of Entries: 110

Non-fiction: 13

Children’s fiction: 9

Rhymed Poetry: 18

Nostalgia Essay: 12

Unrhymed Poetry: 39

Short Story: 19

Total Number of People Entering: 25



for Southwestern Bell and persuaded them it would be a feather in their cap if they would print the book. They agreed. Her funeral was January 2 at Havenbrook. **Ann C MADELAINE (Havey) CULP:** Galaxy past president is undergoing chemo for cancer. Frances Searcey reported that on 1/2/2010, “She sounded like herself. She’s on a new medication and said she feels so much better. She still doesn’t have the strength to walk, but did sit in the wheelchair for quite sometime yesterday. She’s feeling encouraged. I told her I’d pass on her good report. She said she misses everyone and appreciates our prayers for her.” Kathleen Park has visited Madelaine and kept us up-to-date, also. Madelaine is at Manorcare; 2900 Parklawn; Midwest City, OK, 73110. Room, 450, direct phone line: 405-736-9004. Manorcare: 737-6601.

JILL BROWN’s husband David left rehab in Denver and moved back to their home in Colorado Springs in time for Christmas. David is making great progress, even standing. www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidlbrown

WATCHING YOUR LANGUAGE BY KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK

Squiggles and Dots

Trends in language come and go, less often—we hope—than fad words and phrases. Witness the strong trend towards fewer and fewer punctuation marks, sometimes to the detriment of clarity. And clarity is the writer’s first and foremost duty to his reader, in my opinion at least. Consider here the poor semi-colon. It is not, as you may have seen, an alternative choice for the colon. Use the semi-colon to separate items in a long or complex series, especially those with internal punctuation: “Membership of the committee was as follows: Lea County, seven; Dayton, Marley, Roe, Severe Counties, four each; McKinley County, five.” It is a coordinating function between clauses: “The paper was due Friday: he handed it in on Tuesday.” Use it before expressions like *that is*, *i.e.*, *e.g.*, and *namely* if the break in continuity is greater than a comma can convey and always before *however*, and *therefore*, (notice comma following each). Place the semi-colon outside quotation marks when using quoted material. Back to that trend: the hyphen in *semi-colon* itself is under attack, and newspaper style books leave it out; others keep it.

All that brings up a phenomenon lately noticed: putting all end punctuation outside the quotation marks, a la British usage. American English is a real and respectable entity, not somehow inferior to British. But I suspect such a preference isn’t even at play here—I’m afraid it’s pure ignorance and indifference. A roomful of college freshmen I challenged on the matter just shrugged. Correct usage dictates that only exceptions like the semi-colon and question mark should appear outside quotation marks—with the good reason that they aren’t part of the quote.

The colon marks a list or other matter that follows. You might say it’s just a shade less than the full stop a period signifies. The important point here is that it should never come between the subject and predicate or before the object or complement. We’ve become so lazy as to drop off phrases like “as follows” and to stick it where it doesn’t belong: “Members are: Joe and Lulu.” “Mix in: eggs and oil.” Try this simple trick: If you can use a period where you’re about to put a colon, fine; if not, don’t.

—Kathleen Norris Park, *Grammarian*

CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

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2010 Dues for Galaxy are \$15
2010 Dues for OWFI are \$20
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Jan. 9, 2010
10:00 AM
Norman Public Library
Contest Winners
will Read



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