

Norman Galaxy of Writers

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Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

WriteLine



JUNE 4TH MEETING

Barbara Yuill, Ph.D., J.D. “Copyright Law”

Saturday, June 4th, 10:00 a.m. until noon
University Lutheran Church, 901 Elm St.



Our speaker is Barbara Krebs Yuill, PhD, JD. Her subject will be an overview of copyright law, particularly as it applies to those seeking protection of their created writing works.

Dr. Yuill practices law in the areas of patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret law. She counsels clients in all aspects of intellectual property including patent drafting and prosecution, preparation of patent infringement and patent validity opinions; trademark clearance and registration; license preparation and negotiation; and copyright infringement defense and negotiation.

Dr. Yuill was selected by attorney peers for inclusion in *Oklahoma Super Lawyers—Rising Stars Edition* (2010). Barbara has her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from OU, and her JD from OCU. Prior to becoming a patent attorney, Barbara was a research engineer. She was an inventor, receiving a number of patents, while performing research for Atlantic Richfield (ARCO). Yuill continued her engineering career at Kerr-McGee where she prepared competitor technology assessments and identified research and development opportunities.

This particular session should be of great interest to our membership, particularly those in the process of seeking publication of their work.

Our meetings are free and open to the public and include an educational program on a subject of interest and importance to the writing community.

—Keith Eaton, VP-Program

SPEAKER NOTES BY KATHLEEN PARK

Jay Dew, acquisitions editor OU Press, May 14th “The Writer’s Game and the Editor’s Perspective”



The OU press is a scholarly press; it focuses on nonfiction, history of the American West and Native American studies, with some political science and zoology. Editors consider only limited fiction and almost no poetry. “I’m still looking for that Pulitzer-winning manuscript,” Dew said.

He made these four points:

1. Getting it down; research, writing, revision—getting it done. He said it’s the first important step and gave an example of a well-known writer (name withheld) who keeps promising, but doesn’t deliver. “Think about why you do it,” he said.

2. Getting it out there; submission. Know the market for your work and send it to the right place. . Have a good title. Study publishers’ guidelines. Look at OU Press website and study their catalog.

It’s best to say so if you’re sending simultaneous submissions. He mentioned the many steps, reviews; importance of financial angle—all a very lengthy process of consideration by OU Press. One author did not tell him she had another publisher interested. It wouldn’t have meant he’d have stopped the process, but if he’d known, might have worked things differently to win the book. Be sure to get your submission letter right—it’s your all-important first impression. But if rejected, don’t take it personally, don’t be defeated. Dew prefers “snail-mail” submissions. Expect two to four weeks for response. It’s okay to send a card to check on progress. He asks whether the book excites him and fits with the mission of the OU Press.

3. Getting together—your editor is your advocate, coach, champion. He or she is not your adversary. Dew doesn’t deal with agents; don’t be afraid to make personal connection. Send your book to someone down the line.

To Market, To Market

MIDWEST TODAY (ljordan@midtod.com or P.O. Box 685, Panora, Iowa 50216) has been publishing for more than 19 years and has had a number of their articles reprinted or referenced by big-league media, including CBS-TV, ABC Radio News, *Family Circle*, *Catholic Digest*, the *Christian Science Monitor* and more.

It is a quarterly “general interest” magazine covering a variety of subjects, including news, sports, politics, entertainment, the arts, religion, poetry, fitness, outdoors, travel, exclusive interviews with Midwest-born celebrities, people profiles, the environment, nostalgia, economics, agriculture, humor, consumer issues and more.

They are now considering short fiction pieces or short true-life stories (2,000 words max.) particularly those that are uplifting or inspirational, with a positive outcome and a storyline set in the Heartland.

They are willing to consider reprint submissions.

A brief query should outline your idea, explain why it's right for a Midwest audience and tell them something about yourself. They also like to see published samples of your work.

If you submit by mail, submissions cannot be returned.

Give them your daytime and nighttime phone numbers, or other ways to contact you and they prefer e-mail.

The length of articles are from a few hundred words to 10,000 words. No simultaneous submissions.

If being published is more important than a big financial reward, they would like to talk to you. (They didn't list what they do pay so from this statement, I'm assuming it is between low and nothing. You have to decide if being exposed to the “big league” and being published with your byline is more important than the money.)

They also have a 5-minute weekly radio program. The editors say they are always looking for people with good voices to do pieces for the show. It is based on the contents of *Midwest Today* articles.

—Ann Champeau, Markets

Galaxy May 14th Minutes

Norman Galaxy of Writers met on May 14, 2011, at the University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm. At 10:00 AM. President Sherry Bynum called the meeting to order.

Reports:

Minutes were approved as printed in the WriteLine. The Treasurer's report stood approved as read.

Marilyn Fleer, Publicity, said she has arranged for us to be listed on the Calendar of Arts.

Keith Eaton contacted KGOU radio station about placing a public service announcement on their web page.

Kathleen Park announced the Galaxy winners at the OWFI Conference: Our own Vickey Kennedy was a star, winning 1st place in the Western category and also the coveted Crème de la Crème award; Neal Huffaker took three 1st Places for Features Article, Long Unrhymed Poetry; and Children's Fiction; and Kathleen Park took a 3rd place for Young Adult and 1st place in Western Feature Article.

Frances Searcey reported that the Friday Writers group meets every Friday from 10:00 AM to noon at the Senior Citizens Center, and has two new members.

Helen Duchon asked for help with the August and September WriteLine newsletter since she will be traveling. Kathleen Park volunteered.

Old Business:

Keith Eaton, Chair of the Galaxy 2011 Writing Contest, made a motion, which was seconded by Robert Ferrier, that a writer submit only one piece of writing in each category. The motion carried. Keith asked that someone remind Vickey to add this update to our contest rules page on the website.

Speaker:

Program Chair Keith Eaton then introduced our speaker, Jay Dew, Acquisitions Editor at the University of Oklahoma Press, who gave us an entertaining and fact-filled look at the manuscript submission process from the editor's desk.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

—Ruth Castillo, Secretary

Some Links

<http://www.publishyourownebooks.com/convert-ebook-to-epub-format/>

Writing Ebooks and the Kindle

<http://www.publishyourownebooks.com/writing-ebooks-and-the-kindle/>

Obtaining ISBNs for Ebooks

<http://www.publishyourownebooks.com/isbns-for-ebooks/>

BRAG SHEET

Sales, Publications and Acceptances

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: PUBLISHED: Produced: "Norman Baha'i Cluster Newsletter"; wrote "Speaker Notes" column in May "*WriteLine*."

HELEN DUCHON: EDITED & DESIGNED: *University Womens Association Newsletter* (4/7/2011); May NGW *WriteLine* (4/30/2011); LWV Norman website updates; Morning Star Spiritual Center Facebook Group.

KEITH EATON: PUBLISHED: Article: "J. Don Cook, One Very Hip, Hip Shooter," *Distinctly Oklahoma Magazine*, (05/2011)

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS:

MIKE KRAWCZYK: CARTOONS:

Silliman On Sports, SillimanOnSports.com

Quote Loving Shake Smart Should Love Chaka Quotes (3-28-2011)

Master's To Chris "Boomer" Berman: Stay Away, Stay Far Away (4-05-2011)

NBA Floppers: To Flop Or Not To Flop (4-12-2011)

Mud Hens Muddied At Fifth Third Field (4-19-2011)

Also, ARTICLES at bleacherreport.com/stan-silliman.

Besides the columns I was also the top national joke writer last week on **Kwipster** with twice as many points (64.93 points) as Craig Ferguson (4th at 27.92). Ferguson was followed by Jay Leno, 5th (25.75). Stephen Colbert was tied for 7th with George Lopez at 23 points. Letterman had 22.92. Conan had 13.83 points. You can check out my "quips" at www.kwipster.com/user/StanSilliman

Contests

Professional Activities

ROBERT FERRIER: JUDGED: RHYMED POETRY—LONG CATEGORY, 2011 OWFI Writing Contest.

JUDY HOWARD: May 7, 10 am-4 pm, Judy Howard exhibited Food for Body and Soul Quilts and signed 1905 Cookbook during the Kolache Festival in downtown Prague, OK in Pavillion #2 across from the main grandstand.

May 27-30 Judy Howard exhibited quilts and signed books Monday, May 30th from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. at the 45th Infantry Museum at 2145 NE 36th in Oklahoma City

Memorial Day week-end. Signs books, May 30, 9-1. 2145 NE 36, Oklahoma City, 424-5313.

Member News



DOROTHY BRINKER: Celebrates her 90th birthday, June 27, 1921. Have a great day! You are such an inspiration for us. Thank you for your support of Galaxy and sharing your wisdom.

SPEAKER NOTES BY KATHLEEN PARK

Cont., Jay Dew, "Editor's PoV"

4. We all want the same thing: words of encouragement.

Dew discussed the big changes in the publishing industry with the advent of self-publishing: e-books, Print on Demand (POD), and the many ways of promoting your work. "Lots of things now shaking out," he said, and mentioned selling your books to Amazon; publishing on Kindle and other electronic readers. One writer published his science fiction [online] one chapter at a time; had a "tip jar" and made money.

—Kathleen Norris Park, Speaker Notes

Galaxy members win big in OWFI Contest



You might have heard **VICKEY MALONE KENNEDY** whoop Saturday night (May 7), all the way to Norman. Her entry "A Woman Alone" in the Western Novel category won not only first place, but the Creme de la Creme award. She said later she only wanted to put something in that category to help it make, since it sometimes doesn't. "Now I'll have to finish

it," she said.

Galaxy did well otherwise, too. **NEAL HUFFAKER** had three first-place honors for these entries: Feature Article, "Democracy Run Amok"; Long Unrhymed Poetry, "Give and Take"; Juvenile Short Story, "Gentle Magic." He took second place in YA Short Story for "A Flourish of Trumpets," and first honorable mention in the Long Rhymed Poetry category with "Fly the Flag."

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK took first place in Western Article for "The Single Action Shooting Society"; third place in YA novel for Trent Weaver's Justice; second honorable mention in Technical/How-to Article for "How to Germinate and Harvest Your Own Seeds"; and first honorable mention for "Word Watching" in the Mazie Cox Reid Column category.

New member, **JAN PRICE WARD**, won for her published book, Best Juvenile Book 2011, "*Smokey, the Gentle Guardian*."

—Kathleen Park, Reporter

"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

How Many, How Few . . . and How Many's None?

To finish up the discussion about amount and number, let's recall that amount refers to uncountable numbers or volume; number refers to distinguishable, countable items (like people). Now, how about the other side of the coin? Use fewer for countable objects; less for volume: fewer unbroken eggs; less scrambled eggs. Fewer people (persons is a bit precious) and less population. Less time but fewer hours. Number of pearls; amount of jewelry. And each takes a singular verb: The number of jaywalkers has risen. The amount of scrambled eggs is small.

All pretty straightforward, you say. Yup. But here comes none. According to Merriam Webster's Dictionary of English Usage, any question of noun-verb agreement is settled quickly: "Clearly, none has been both singular and plural since Old English and still is. The notion that it is singular only is a myth of unknown origin that appears to have arisen in the 19th

century. If in context it seems like a singular to you, use a singular verb; if it seems like a plural, use a plural verb. Both are acceptable beyond serious criticism." (664) How's that! Makes you retreat, mumbling apologies for even bringing up the "notion," doesn't it?

Even so, here are examples: Of all the stories of tragic love, none is more famous than "Romeo and Juliet." Of all our thirty-six students, none have failed that math test.

Send me your ideas for grammar/usage topics and especially your best pithy expressions, juicy sayings, and over-the-top superlatives. Here are a couple of examples: "I'm gonna whup you like a redheaded step-chile!" "Grinnin' like a jackass eatin' saw-briers." We might have a contest.

—Kathleen Norris Park, Grammarian

CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

@ Norman Galaxy of Writers, 2011

2011 Dues for Galaxy are \$15
2011 Dues for OWFI are \$20
Mail to Vickey Kennedy, Treasurer
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Barbara Yull, JD
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Sat, June 4th, 10:00 a.m.
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