

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.



# WriteLine

## MAY 12TH MEETING

### LINDA KENNEDY ROSSER “Books on Oklahoma Culture, from Cooking to Biography”

Saturday, May 12th, 10 am—noon  
University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm Ave.  
(park in back off of College Ave.)



Linda Kennedy Rosser has written and published works about Oklahoma through her company, Bobwhite Publications. Works include *Christmas in Oklahoma*, *Pioneer Cookery Around Oklahoma*, *Apple Cookery Round & About*, *Memory Album of A Territorial Lady*, *Oklahoma Trivia Game*, and an historical monologue, *Silhouette of a Territorial Lady*, which she performed for 10 years all over the state of Oklahoma. The sale of her books and games totaled more

than 55,000 copies over a twenty-year period.

Rosser has won many awards recognizing her significant volunteer work in the community. She is a native of Oklahoma City with a BA in Language Arts from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Liberal Arts with emphasis on Film from Oklahoma City University, where she has been an Adjunct Professor in the Moving Image Arts (film) Department.

—Andy Horton, VP-Program

### Member Moments

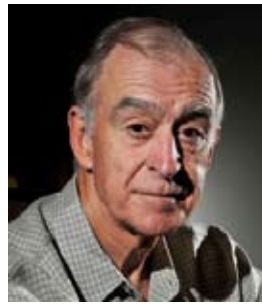


Member Cindy Noble (Did you know she holds a Ph.D. in Meteorology?) will teach us about the all-important scene and sequel, which novel writers must learn to handle well. Cindy is completing a science fiction novel called *Worldmakers*, in which a scien-

tist wakes an alien machine that unleashes monsters upon the galaxy, and his teenaged son, Darryn, must set childish things aside and fight for the survival of his family.

## SPEAKER NOTES BY RUTH CASTILLO

### Kent Frates--“Try It All! Novels, Poetry, Screenplays, Newsletters, Newspapers & Non-Fiction Books”



Kent Frates, author of everything from a movie script about cockfighting to a coffee table book about courthouses was the speaker, Sat., April 14 at the Norman Galaxy of Writers.

Frates, an Oklahoma attorney, collaborated with photographer David G. Fitzgerald, and wrote the essays for their book, *Oklahoma*

*Courthouse Legends*. Frates said he is now working on a book about Oklahoma’s most notorious court cases, which will be published by the OU Press. He said he got the idea from his *Courthouse Legends* book. He emphasized that even if you’re not a non-fiction writer, you can find exciting ideas for your fiction from the news.



*Thurgood Marshall in Oklahoma before he became U.S. Supreme Court Justice, in Frates’ book*

Frates showed slides of photos from his book and recounted some of the stories associated with each courthouse. For example, talking about the Choctaw County Courthouse, he told how the first Black lawyer to appear in court in Oklahoma showed up in the Choctaw courthouse to defend a Black man charged with murder. The courageous lawyer was none other than the esteemed

Thurgood Marshall, who went on to become a Supreme Court justice.

Frates said to research his book, he found the internet to be virtually useless. Instead he used archived

newspapers and best of all, Oklahoma oral historians. Frates said that in every county there is someone who makes it his or her mission in life to collect the county’s history and these people are invaluable. Frates encouraged us to use the news that’s happening around us or that is already a part of our Oklahoma history to add spark to our writing.

—Ruth Castillo, Speaker Notes

## Manuscripts of Mystery

The editors of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* (AHMM, 267 Broadway, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10007) say, "Finding new authors is a great pleasure for all of us here, and we look forward to reading the fiction you send us. There is no need to query first, because we read every manuscript."

### Crimes but not actually

They are interested in nearly every kind of mystery, stories of detection of the classic kind, police procedurals, private eye tales, suspense, courtroom dramas, stories of espionage, etc. They sometimes accept ghost stories or supernatural tales, but those must include a crime.

Stories should not be longer than 12,000 words, but most are considerably shorter than that. Do not send stories based on actual crimes or other real-life events.

### Format

Manuscripts should be typed on plain white paper (not erasable paper) and double-spaced with your name and address at the top of the first page. The title of the story as well as the byline you want to use should be on the first page of the story (no title page.) Every page of the story should be numbered, preferably in the upper right-hand corner. Do not use italic, large-size, or boldface characters. Underline words to indicate italics. Indent each paragraph. Mail the stories flat, bound with a paper clip only, not stapled or enclosed in a binder. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your manuscript returned. If not, a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope will do. They do not accept electronic submissions. No disks or e-mail attachments unless specifically asked for.

The editors say they give each submission thorough consideration before responding but their reply may take from three to five months.

So, mystify them, fill them with suspense, and scare the living daylights out of them. They'll love it.

—Ann Champeau, *Markets*

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### New Business:

A list of the six proposed mini-workshops was given to members. They were asked to vote by rating each proposed workshop on a scale of one to five, one being low and five being high. The October and November mini-workshops will be announced at the May meeting.

### Member Moments:

Cindy Noble was unable to attend today but will speak at another time. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our President, Kathleen Park.

Meeting was adjourned.

—Sherry Bynum, *Secretary*

## April 14, 2012 Minutes

Norman Galaxy of Writers met on April 14, 2012, at the University Lutheran Church at 10:00 A. M. President Kathleen Park called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M. Guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

### Minutes and Treasurer's Report:

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved as printed in the *WriteLine*.

### Committee Reports:

Friday Writers' continue to meet at the Norman Senior Center, 329 S. Peters. Individuals who wish to receive feedback from group members are encouraged to bring copies of his/her work.

Marilyn Fleer announced that our next meeting will be on May 12, 2012, at the University Lutheran Church at 914 Elm Ave., in Norman at 10 A.M.

Andy Horton, VP-Program Chair, introduced our guest speaker, Kent Frates. Mr. Frates donated his book of poetry to Galaxy. He announced that Linda Rosser will be our May speaker. Her topic will be, "Books on Oklahoma Culture from Cooking to Biography."

Helen, Newsletter Editor, reported that she needs someone to help with the June issue of the *WriteLine*. Kathleen Park volunteered to help. She also stated that she would like to have an apprentice.

Helen also share that April 30th is Arts Day at the Capitol. Tom Barczak and Stan Solloway volunteered to perform. Our Galaxy brochure will be on NAC table.

NAC Roundtable report: Helen encouraged members to read Amy Tan's, *The Joy Luck Club*, if they haven't already done so and to consider attending "The Big Read" Brunch and lecture. Helen gave a copy of the book to guest Nancy Thompson, who had a number closest to 4.

Mary Spaulding, Recruitment Chair, reported that we will continue to use the rest of our brochures and she will place some of the brochures at coffee shops in Norman.

Announcements: Linda Basinger reported that we have reserved a table at the OWFI conference for those who those attending. Norman Galaxy of Writers is also sponsoring a category.

We wished Helen Duchon a Happy 74th Birthday.

Tom Barczak will have a book signing on May 12, 2012, at Hastings from 2-4 P.M.

### Old Business:

Mini-Workshop Chair, Sherry Bynum, and committee members, Linda Basinger, Dewey Coffman and Kathleen Park met and decided on six possible mini-workshops. The committee recommends that since we already have our June and August mini-workshops that we have our next two in October and November. Kathleen will present in June. Her topic will be, *Watching Your Language*, "A Cockeyed View of Grammar and Usage." Tom will present in August on *Electronic Publishing for the Beginner*.

**BRAG SHEET**

**Sales, Publications and Acceptances**

**KEITH EATON:** PUBLISHED: *Distinctly Oklahoma Magazine*, two articles, “Earth, Air, Fire and Water: The Citizen Potawatomi Nations’s Commitment to Thermal Energy Transfer” and “Three R’s of Higher Education: Rate of Inflation, Rate of Tuition and Fee Increases and the Rate of Interest on Student Loans” (April Issue, 2012)

**HELEN DUCHON:** PUBLISHED: *LWVN Voter* for Spring 2012. UPDATES: website and Facebook pages for three organizations: Morning Star, Galaxy and League of Women Voters of Norman. *Galaxy Write-Lines* for Jan, Feb., Mar., April and May.

**FRANCES SEARCEY:** Letter to the Editor (Norman Transcript) about a modern Good Samaritan

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** Find the latest “Silliman on Sports” columns and cartoons by **MIKE KRAWCZYK** on line, [www.sillimanonsports.com](http://www.sillimanonsports.com) and also at [www.humoroutcasts.com](http://www.humoroutcasts.com). Check out my Silliman on Sports columns at [www.sillimanonsports.com](http://www.sillimanonsports.com) and also at [www.humoroutcasts.com](http://www.humoroutcasts.com)

**Comedy performances** last month included

- 1) Conducted Joke Writing Workshop @ OCU on March 31
- 2) Opening for Moshe Kasher at the City Arts Center (a very fun event) on April 18
- 3) Performing (50 minutes) for American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life at OU Apr 21
- 4) Performed at Paseo Underground April 25
- 5) Performing during Norman Music Festival on April 26 at Tres’ Restaurant

**SUSAN BRASSFIELD COGAN:** PUBLISHED: Short story, “Violet Crime,” on Smashwords, April 22, 2012. For more information: [www.coganbooks.net](http://www.coganbooks.net)

**TOM BARCZAK:** PUBLISHED: *Awakening Evarun* Author & Illustrator. The Kindle Edition is online at <http://www.amazon.com/Awakening-Evarun-Part-VI-ebook/dp/> (4/2012). The paperback version is for sale in book stores, too. (4/14/12).

**Professional Activities**

**ANDREW HORTON:** received the 2012 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD from the Oklahoma Film & Video Studies Society for service to cinema and film studies in Oklahoma.

**TOM BARCZAK** will have a book signing on May 12, 2012, at Hastings from 2-4 P.M., for *Awakening Evarun*, an illustrated sci-fi novel.

**JUDY HOWARD:** BOOK SIGNINGS/EXHIBITS/PROGRAMS: April 4, 1905 Cookbook program and exhibits the Food for Body and Soul Quilts; April 14, Peppers Ranch Orphanage Fundraiser, Guthrie, OK. May 10, 6:30-8pm. Old Town Plaza, Norman, OK.

**Club News**

**Galaxy has Facebook ‘Community.’** Post what you learned from speakers at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Norman-Galaxy-of-Writers/270487429638795>

**JUST FOR LAUGHS**

**Punology**

- I changed my iPod’s name to Titanic. It’s syncing now.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who’s addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I’d never met herbivore.
- I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can’t put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O. PMS jokes aren’t funny; period.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn’t like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.
- Velcro — what a rip off!
- A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.
- Venison for dinner again? Oh, deer!
- Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.

—One of those Internet thingies sent to the Editor  
Which pun is your favorite?

**TREASURER’S REPORT - LINDA BASINGER**

<b>PREVIOUS BALANCE: 4/3/2012</b>	<b>\$ 924.67</b>
<b>DEPOSITS:</b>	
FROWE, Carol Cole: NGW and OWFI renewal	35.00
Total Deposits	35.00
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$ 959.67</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
DUCHON, Helen: April Writeline (ck #1011)	\$ 14.08
FRATES, Ken, April Speaker (Ck ##1012)	25.00
OWFI dues for Frowe (ck #1013)	20.00
Total Expenses	59.08
<b>CURRENT BALANCE: 4/30/2012</b>	<b>\$ 900.59</b>

WATCHING YOUR LANGUAGE BY KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK

# Newsworthy Ouchies

Here are some errors too often given implicit approval by the media that many of us grew up accepting: “The news reporter said it, so it must be right.” Well, no. My near-rabid belief is that news reporters have at least a double responsibility to get it right. Their profession employs the medium of words, and thus professionals should be bound—wouldn’t you say?—to represent a standard of correct grammar and usage, one that not only schoolchildren, but the entire listening and watching public should accept as authoritative. To put it more bluntly, reporters take pay for using words. They should do it right.



Case in point: the distinction between amount and number. How many times in the last two weeks did you hear “amount of people killed in Japan”? Amount refers to volume, an uncountable number. Number refers to distinguishable, countable items—and certainly people. Say amount of water, but number of gallons;

number of individual eggs, but amount of scrambled eggs; number of bracelets, amount of jewelry; amount of crime; number of crimes.

The usual number of local broadcasters sailed blithely through “Daylight Savings Time” last week-end. I took the time to email one of them with “Saving, not Savings” and was rewarded with “Thanks for the correction.” The event was over before I went back to check whether he actually made it.

That faint encouragement fades in the face of lie and lay, however. You might wonder if some reporters consider correct usage somehow un-American. Will there always be bodies “laying in the street” or the lost child who “laid down under a bush” and thus missed detection for hours? All the elementary-school teachers who teased, “Did you lay an egg down?” developed ulcers from dismal failure, I’m sure. But the point remains: lay takes an object—an egg, say. The trouble, of course, is that lay is also the past tense of lie and the meanings are so close. Today you lie down for a nap; yesterday you lay down. Tomorrow you may lay your pen on your desk; yesterday you laid it there.

—Kathleen Norris Park

## CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

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2012 Dues for Galaxy are \$15  
2012 Dues for OWFI are \$20  
Mail to Linda Basinger, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 517  
Norman, OK 73070

President	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
Pres-Elect	Tom Barczak	405-364-7570
VP-Programs	Andrew Horton	405-364-8369
Secretary	Sherry Bynum	405-364-7818
Treasurer	Linda Basinger	405-366-0123
Editor	Helen Duchon	405-329-2485
Cheer	Ann Champagne	405-364-0232
Friday Writers	Russ Long	405-364-3137
Markets	Ann Champagne	405-364-0232
Publicity/Mem.	Marilyn Fieer	405-321-8834
Grammarian	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
NAC Roundtable	Helen Duchon	405-329-2485
Recruitment	Mary Spaulding	405-364-6428
OWFI Delegate	Kathleen Park	405-310-6512
OWFI Delegate	Sherry Bynum	405-364-7818
OWFI Delegate	Cyndy Noble	405-834-0921

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