

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with  
Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

# WriteLine



## DECEMBER 8TH MEETING

### It's a Pahr-tay!

Saturday, December 8th, 2012; 11 am—1:15 p.m.  
University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm  
(park in rear off of College Ave.)

Our December 8 meeting at University Lutheran Church is our annual holiday bash, so bring your friends, your sweetie, your best holiday dish, and prepare to congratulate our contest winners and welcome next year's officers.

Those stalwart servants are  
Tom Barczak, President  
Betty Robbins, President-elect  
Susan Cogan, VP for programs  
Mary Payne, Secretary  
Linda Basinger, Treasurer

Come ready to clap, smile, and eat at 11 a.m. You may thank Ann Champeau and Ruth Loeffler (and probably some others) for decorations and paper goods, and Ruth Castillo for all her hard work for the contest.

If you can, please bring a package of **diapers** and/or a **children's book** to donate to CCFI (Center for Children & Families, Inc.)

—*Kathleen Park, President*

### Big Thank YOU to our 2012 Officers & Board!



**Kathleen Park**, President, Grammar Column, OWFI Rep  
**Tom Barczak**, President-elect  
**Andrew Horton**, VP-Program  
**Sherry Bynum**, Secretary, OWFI Rep  
**Linda Basinger**, Treasurer  
**Helen Duchon**, *WriteLine* Editor, Roundtable Rep  
**Ruth Castillo**, 2012 Contest Chair  
**Ann Champeau**, Markets Columnist, Cheer  
**Mary Spalding**, Recruitment  
**Marilyn Fleer**, Meeting Location, Telephone, Refreshments, PR  
**Mary Payne**, Friday Writers  
**Cindy Noble**, OWFI Rep

## SPEAKER NOTES BY KATHLEEN PARK

### Would we be better off buying a Lottery Ticket?



Michael Mares, Ph.D. at OU (biology), was and is again the director of the Sam Noble Museum. As such, he became “Czar of Sam Noble Museum of Natural History,” overseeing the building of the museum, which took 17 years. He wished he could say it was easy and fun. It was neither. Many times he expected to be fired; even wrote five letters of resignation. He told the story of Woodrow

Wilson, who, on becoming the U.S. president, was asked how he would handle the politics of Washington. Wilson said after being president of a university and enduring university politics, there was no politics in Washington.

Mares' own background and expertise is South American mammals, about which he's written several books “that nobody reads.” While in Barcelona giving a series of lecture on mammals, he learned about the architect Antoni Gaudi, who was regarded as a hero in Spain. Between lectures, Mares and his wife took a tour and saw Gaudi's famous buildings. As he learned about Gaudi's genius and his famous church, Sagrada Familia, Mares made



up a story on the spot and told it to his wife. She cried, and told him to write it as a screen play. Mares didn't know anything about writing a screenplay, doubts he'd ever read a screenplay at that point. He was 60 or so when he decided to write “God's Architect.”

Mares did a great deal of research. He had learned something about architecture in the time he oversaw building the museum. He learned that Gaudi had to overcome enormous difficulties and opposition. Mares knew how Gaudi felt, he said.

A three-day, intensive course in screenwriting with Robert McKee was Mares' only formal training. He researched for about a year, then started to write. When he finished, he needed to know if it was any good. He entered some contests and requested coverage—a critical reading for a fee. By the time it was entered in the Holly-

*Michael Mares, cont. on page 3*

## MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

## Calling inquisitive minds

**Adbusters** at [editor@adbusters.org](mailto:editor@adbusters.org) publishes “the most provocative, emotionally stirring and heretical ideas in the geopolitical, environmental, psychological, activist and social arenas.”

The editors say they are “looking for the radical transformations needed for a collective future...a future that computes at an economic, ecological and spiritual level. Critical perspectives on the fate of modernity, the spell of reason and mental environmentalism are encouraged. Writing with a right cortex spark and a broad stroke of irrationality is given extra close attention. Essays, poems, rants, articles, features, spoofs, art, photos, designs, graffiti, scribbles, jams and mind-bombs – all forms welcome.”

They continue, “Imagine your ideas on the newstands throughout the English speaking world – America, Canada, India, South Africa, Australia, Britain and a few other rebel outposts in Latin America, Europe and Asia. Strut your stuff alongside today’s leading revolutionary intellectuals and imaginative writers, John Ralston Saul, Chris Hedges, Susan George, Bill Mckibben, Margaret Atwood, Simon Critchly, Antonio Negri. Use your words and give the world an epiphany it hasn’t yet heard.”

Adbusters distributes worldwide. The theme and thrust of your piece should apply beyond your own backyard. Pitches, drafts and completed works are welcome. They read all submissions and will contact those whose ideas fit the bill. Email to [editor@adbusters.org](mailto:editor@adbusters.org).

—Ann Champeau, *Markets*

### MINUTES OF NOV. 10, 2012, CONTINUED

brought books and diapers to the Holiday Luncheon which were donated to Center for Children and Families. Mary Payne moved we bring books and/or diapers. Linda Basinger seconded and the motion passed.

Ann Champeau moved a free Galaxy membership be given for the president for the year he/she serves and for the newsletter editor. Because it may mean a change in the by-laws, Neal Huffaker moved that we table until the next meeting. The Executive Committee will report back at the Dec. meeting.

Sherry reminded members we need volunteers to arrive early to decorate for our luncheon, Dec. 8th.

Business meeting was adjourned.

**Member Moments:** Linda Basinger and Sherry Bynum shared moments from the Killer Nashville Conference which they attended in August.

**Program:** Betty Robbins, subbing for Andy Horton, introduced our guest speaker, Michael Mares.

—Sherry Bynum, *Secretary*

## MINUTES OF NOV. 10, 2012—SHERRY BYNUM

## Nov. 10, 2012, Minutes

Norman Galaxy of Writers met on met on 11-10-12, at the Norman Public Library Room A/B 10:00 A.M. President Kathleen Park called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Guests and new members were welcomed and introductions were made.

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

### Committee Reports:

**Friday Writers:** Mary Payne reported that Friday Writers continues 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 their work.

**Publicity:** Marilyn Fleeer announced that our annual Holiday Luncheon will be on Dec. 8, at the University Lutheran Church at 914 Elm Ave., in Norman at 11 A.M.

**Newsletter Editor:** Helen Duchon asked that someone take speaker notes. **The Arts:** Helen also announced that there would not be a Norman Arts Council Roundtable meeting. They are having a training for representatives of non-profit organizations submitting grants for consideration by the Norman Arts Council.

**Recruitment:** No report

**Announcements:** William Bernhardt asked President Park remind Galaxy members that they can still receive a \$100 price reduction for his five-day intensive course.

### Old Business:

Ruth Castillo, Contest Chair announced she was accepting contest entries and entries postmarked November 10, 2012 would be accepted. Contest winners will be announced at our December meeting.

### New Business:

President presented the nominating committee’s proposed 2013 slate of officers: President, Tom Barczak; President Elect-Elect, Betty Robbins; VP for programs, Susan Cogan; Secretary, Mary Payne; and Treasurer, Linda Basinger. Frances Searcey moved that the slate of officers be approved, Keith Eaton seconded and the motion carried.

Sherry Bynum asked for members to consider a \$50 donation to the University Lutheran Church for their kindness in allowing Galaxy to use their facilities free of charge. Ann Champeau moved we donate \$50 to the University Lutheran Church and Frances seconded. Motion passed

President Park opened the discussion concerning contest chair. She suggested that we have a committee of two or three instead of the winner of the Crème de la Crème or one person serving as contest chair. Ruth Castillo stated that she thought it was a good idea. It was recommended that we postpone the discussion to another meeting due to time restraints.

Sherry also reminded members that last year we

**BRAG SHEET****Sales, Publications and Acceptances**

**ROBERT FERRIER:** PUBLISHED: Two poems, “Crab Nebula,” and “European Starlings.” *MOBIUS*, The Poetry Magazine, November, 2012, Flushing, NY.

**STAN SOLLOWAY:** NEW COLUMN, “2016 Border Wars, Really” @ Humor Outcasts, <http://humoroutcasts.com/2012/the-border-war-really-2016/> Here it is with **MIKE KRAWCZYK**’s cartoon: [http://sillimanonsports.com/2016\\_Border\\_War.html](http://sillimanonsports.com/2016_Border_War.html) Also check [www.sillimanonsports.com](http://www.sillimanonsports.com) for other recent articles.

November 2nd, Mike and I displayed 5 cartoons in an art show called “HORSE” at Downtown Sound in Norman. Nov. 9th, I did two shows @ Funnies in Stillwater.

**Contests**

**MARSHA FERRIER:** First American Bank photo contest. PHOTO selected to appear on the bank’s debit card.

**Professional Activities**

**ANDY HORTON:** Jeanne H Smith Professor of Film & Media Studies at OU was an invited guest speaker in Athens, Greece, on Nov. 19th on “Homer, Humor and Hollywood: The Coen Brothers’ O Brother Where Art Thou?” and an invited keynote speaker for the Sydney Australia Greek Cinema Conference, December 7th on “The Angelopoulos and the Cinema of Contemplation.”

**JUDY HOWARD:** December 1, 9-4; autograph *1905 Cookbooks* and sell Food for Body & Soul Quilts and vintage kitchen textiles to feed needy children at the Minco Honey Festival, 205 Main St., Minco, OK

December 5, noon; present OK Pioneer Cookbook and Civil War Quilt program and autograph books at the Penn Book Review Club at Twin Hills Country Club, NE 36 & I 35, Oklahoma City.

Dec. 6-8 p.m. Judy Howard will autograph *1905 Cookbooks* at the Food for Thought Learning Institute Fundraiser at Blackbeard Gastropub on Campus Corner in Norman

**Member News****Club News**

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

See video tour of the Sagrada Familia on that Facebook page. Here is one of the hundreds of photos I took when we were there May 16, 2012.

—*Helen Duchon, Editor*

**Michael Mares, Screen Plays, cont.**

wood Film Festival, it had been rewritten about 30 times and reduced to 111 pages. The process of reading and judging takes months. Mares said at his age he might forget submitting it. At the Hollywood Film Festival awards ceremony, he knew his chance of winning was one in 800 scripts. But “God’s Architect” did win. Validation, yes—but that doesn’t get it made into a film. It was put under option with Opus Pictures. They told him it would cost about \$30 million to make into a film.

He told the story of Gaudi, a national hero in Barcelona, who was even nominated for sainthood. Mares thinks he was indeed a genius, but also a little crazy.



He read a scene from “God’s Architect:” Gaudi develops a new technique by hanging little bags of sand from a frame to learn force lines. He studies the effects. “Your secrets are becoming visible—I can see your plans,” he says to God. He then hires a photographer to photograph the strings. The photographer clearly thinks Gaudi is crazy. The pictures, viewed upside down, reveal the skeletal structure of a church. They show

Gaudi what to build—God’s message to him in a dream.

Mares gave several examples of the overwhelming odds—like winning the lottery—against getting a screenplay made into a film.

—*Kathleen Park, Speaker Notes*

**TREASURER’S REPORT - LINDA BASINGER**

**PREVIOUS BALANCE: 9/17/2012** **\$ 837.21**

**DEPOSITS:**

Workshop by Sherry Bynum	\$ 50.00
Joan Smith 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Helen Duchon 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Neal Huffaker 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Kathleen Park 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Sherry Bynum 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Tom Barczak 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Cindy Noble 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Barbara Nesbitt 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Emilia Buchanan 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Marilyn Fleer 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	15.00
Robert Ferrier 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	30.00
Marsha Ferrier 2013 Galaxy	15.00
Dewey Coffman 2013 Galaxy & OWFI dues	35.00
+Total Deposits	\$ 450.00

**EXPENSES:**

SPEAKER: William Bernhardt (Ck #1031)	25.00
Cash refund: Coffman dues overpayment	5.00
Writeine Expenses (Ck#1030)	14.39
OWFI @ \$15 ea for 12 members* (Ck #1032)	180.00
-Total Expenses	\$ 224.39

**CURRENT BALANCE: 10/27/2012** **\$ 1,062.82**

\*J. Smith, Duchon, Huffaker, Noble, Park, Sherry Bynum, Barczak, Nesbitt, Buchanan, Coffman, R. Ferrier, Fleer @ \$15 each

MEMBER MOMENT BY MARY PAYNE

# Member Moments: From Body Farm to Printed Page

Mystery writers Sherry Bynum and Linda Basinger teamed up to bring **Killer Nashville**, the premier mystery writers' conference, to life at our November meeting.

Each year on the fourth weekend of August, mystery writers and fans from across the country converge on the Hutton Hotel in Nashville to absorb the latest in writing, publishing and forensics.

Robert Dugloni, an attorney and bestselling author, was the keynote speaker. His latest book, *The Conviction*, was released in June 2012. Dugloni reads a page of *The Green Mile* by Stephen King every morning, before he begins his own writing.

**Killer Nashville** included three tracks: writing track, forensic track and a fan track, but participants were not locked into one choice. They could pick and choose which sessions they wanted to attend. Many agents and editors were available and the first two pages of manuscripts were read in small focus groups.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation set up a dummy crime scene. Sketchy information about the crime was announced. Participants tried to solve the crime. Linda and Sherry heard talks about traditional

Whodunits, screen writing, romantic suspense and how to incorporate humor writing into a mystery.

Dr. William M. Bass, founder of the Anthropological Research Facility, or the "Body Farm" as it is called, brought slides of a crime scene from Webb's Bait Farm, where an explosion occurred. Dr. Bass explained the science and how the bodies were found. The blast was caused by an accident in the manufacture of fireworks.

Sherry reported that every writer who addressed the conference said they had a working regime schedule: a set time and place to write. Reading aloud is a great way to fine-tune your writing. Always do your homework and fact-check. Never send an agent or editor an attachment unless they ask for it.

Linda attended a session about using a samurai sword. She says it's harder than it looks. Exercise is important for writers to oxygenate the blood for maximum brain-power. A hand-out said that sitting a total of six hours per day will increase the risk of dying early by 40 percent. It recommended attaching a laptop to your stationary bike, or moving every 15 minutes. After all, Hemingway wrote standing up.

—Mary Payne, Member Moment Reporter

## CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED

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2013 Dues for Galaxy are \$15  
2013 Dues for OWFI are \$20  
Mail to Linda Basinger, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 517  
Norman, OK 73070

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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



TO:

*Bring a side dish, salad or dessert  
Bring diapers & a kids book for CCFI*

11 a.m.—1:15 p.m.  
Saturday, December 8th, 2012  
University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm  
(park in rear off of College Ave.)

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