



January's Speaker is Dusty Richards

By Bob Avey



Are you interested in advancing your fiction writing skills? Then you need to come and hear what Dusty Richards has to say at the next Tulsa NightWriters monthly meeting, Tuesday, January 17.

For most of you, there's not much I could tell you about Dusty Richards that you don't already know, but let me give you an update. Dusty is currently working on two different book series (*The Chaparral War*, and the *Chet Byrnes*); he just sent off his 109th book for publication (*Dark Shadows in the Canyon*); and, his book, *Texas Blood Feud*, won the Will Rogers Medallion award, one of many accolades earned by his fiction through the years.

For me, attempting to comprehend how Dusty does what he does is like trying to wrap my head around the theory of relativity. The guy is amazing. I've known Dusty for many years, and I'm proud to call him a friend. He writes in the Western genre, so history is prevalent in his books. He extensively researches the era, using, whenever possible, primary sources, such as diaries and personal letters of the people involved. In his words, "Take some history, put your hero in the midst of it, and let him find his way home."

Dusty believes that fiction is fiction. In his words, "You simply change the sets, costumes and dialect."

When you get down to the mechanics, the bones, the structure of what makes fiction work, Dusty has it figured out. Whether you write about gritty cowboys or romantic vampires, he can teach you a few things.

The Prez Sez

by Carol Johnson



We've long had a rivalry with Oklahoma City Writers over who takes home the most prizes from OWFI for our writing. We used to kick their butts pretty regularly. I'm not sure how we're faring lately, but it sure would be nice if we put them to shame with our winning entries.

Any advantage they may have isn't because of a lack of talent in Tulsa NightWriters. A good number of us brought home prizes for our work last year. That doesn't mean we can rest on our laurels. Where we can rest is on our butts in front of that computer. We can be winners.

But you know who's never, ever going to bring home the certificate or the money or the plaque? People who don't enter. Or people who enter once and give up. Is that you? If it is, my question is "Why?"

You've already paid your dues to Tulsa NightWriters, and part of that money goes to OWFI anyway. Yes, you do have to pay the entry fee, and it is by no means chump change, but the amount you pay pales in comparison to the way you'll feel when they call your name at the conference banquet in May. And you can win.

Some years I've won and some years I haven't. What I know from winning and not winning is that the combination of entries and judges changes from year to year. Maybe you entered your very best work last year and got zip. Send it again. The dynamic of judge and entry changes every year, so somebody brand new is going to read your piece, and this judge may think it's the best thing since sliced bread.

Make this your year. Write something new or dust off something old, but enter something. It's like I always say—you can't win if you don't enter.

Oh. Wait. That was Ed McMahon. Still good advice.

Go, NightWriters.

Our members have brags



Carla Stewart will be attending the Pulpwood Queens Girlfriend Weekend from Jan 12 -15. This event draws book club members from across the United States and features a number of

authors throughout the weekend. Carla will be on an author panel on Friday and signing *Broken Wings*. Carla was honored that *Broken Wings* made three different "Top Five Reads from 2011" blog lists.



Gloria Teague's new book, *Safe in the Heart of a Miracle*, had its maiden voyage at Mannford Library last week. She had fun and even sold a few books. She will be speaking and signing

at the Sapulpa Library on January 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.



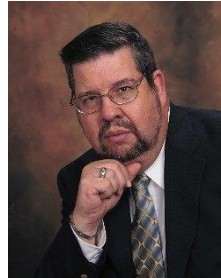
Deanna Ponder recently sold a manuscript titled "Down To Business" to Ellora's Cave. It will be released under her pen name, Dena Garson. She doesn't yet know the release date, but the

contract has been finalized and signed!



Michael Vance will have a new novel published in February, co-written with R. A. Jones and Mel Fox of Oklahoma. Released by Pro Se Publishing, *Global Star* is based on a simple premise: what if everything published in

the tabloids were true! In short, it is a satiric novel written for laughs!



Jim Laughter's children's book, *Strangers in the Stable*, has been nominated for the Predators and Editors best cover art category. The deadline to vote is January 10th. You can cast a vote for his book at this website:

<http://critters.org/predpoll/bookart.shtml>. Here's the trick, don't look for Jim's name. The cover artist is Aidana WillowRaven, so you'll need to scroll down the page and just look for the title, *Strangers in the Stable*. Also, Jim will be speaking and signing his books at the Tahlequah Public Library, 11 a.m. to 1 pm, Thursday, February 9th. Stop by and say hello!



Chuck Sasser's new book, *A Thousand Years of Darkness*, is now available at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and bookstores. Chuck is speaking at Romance Writers on Jan. 14, 1:00 p.m., and at the Executive Club of Tulsa on Jan. 20, 7:00

a.m. at the Marriott Hotel. He also has book-signings at Steve's Books in Tulsa on Jan. 28, 1:30-3:00, and at The Book Store in Wagoner, on Feb. 4, 1:00 p.m.



Sally Jadow's latest book, *God's Little Miracle Book II*, is available in paperback and e-book at [Barnes & Noble](#) and [Amazon](#). She'll be teaching a creative writing class at the Matt Ross Center in Overland Park in January and has a

story in the new Bylines 2012 Writer's Calendar (www.bylinescalendar.com). Sally wanted TNW members to know entries are now being accepted for the 2013 calendar. For details: <http://www.bylinescalendar.com/guidelines.php>.

And more brags



Carolyn Steele's hint on writing (along with a photo she thinks is "frumpy") has been included in the Bylines 2012 Writer's Desk Calendar. The calendar is an essential weekly planner for writers. It contains 53 stories of inspiration and encouragement along with mileage and purchase tracker pages, goal and task check-list for each month, a listing of literary holidays, and a listing of web sources. Carolyn shares the honor with Tulsa NightWriter **Carol Snow** who submitted a great poem (and photo that Carolyn likes better than her own)!



Barbara Howell recently received a telephone call from a producer in Hollywood who is busy pitching a new TV show. The show will feature women who have been successful in male-dominated businesses. The producer mentioned that they had heard about Barbara and her story and they want to feature her in an upcoming episode! Details are still in the works—but it gave a new meaning to "don't call us; we'll call you!"

Byline2012 Writer's Desk Calendar

Several TNW members have stories or poems in this year's Bylines Writer's Desk Calendar. You can get more information about the calendar here: www.bylinescalendar.com. The cost for the calendar is \$14.95 plus postage. **Carol Snow** has offered to order copies for TNW members at half price (\$7.50 plus postage). Please contact Carol Snow directly at clsnow108@gmail.com.

OWFI Contest

The OWFI Contest is open for entries. The entry deadline is February 1, 2012. Remember each entry must be mailed separately to the correct category chair. One \$20 entry fee allows you to enter as many categories as you want. Check the OWFI website for the [rules](#) and detailed [category information](#). If you have any questions about the contest, please contact First VP Maria Veres or Second VP Sonia Gensler.

Friends of the Library Contest

January 31, 2012 is the deadline for entering the 35th annual Adult Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries. Entries should be unpublished works in one of four categories: short story, children's fiction, informal essay, and poetry. Submit a separate entry form and a \$6 entry fee for each category entered. Call 918-549-7408 or find the Rules and Official Entry Form online: <http://www.tulsalibrary.org/friends/contest.php>.

January's Featured Blog

The featured blog for January is [kristin nador writes anywhere](#)—the blog of TNW member **Kristin Nador**. Kristin spoke at TNW's November meeting about "Blogging Strategies to Strengthen Your Author Platform" and her presentation inspired many TNW members to spruce up their blogs or to start blogging for the first time. Kristin is currently posting a series on sharpening your blogging habits. You should definitely check it out: [Sharpening Your Blogging Habits](#).

Christmas Party Fun

The TNW Christmas party was a great time to see and visit with TNW friends. Bob Avey introduced and installed the TNW officers. Val Gawthrop announced that Jackie King was being honored with the Tulsa NightWriter of the Year 2011 award. (Jackie wasn't able to attend the party and will be given her award at the next TNW meeting.) Mike Koch announced the winners of the Warm-Up Contest: 1st Place, Bill Wetterman; 2nd Place, Kristin Nador; 3rd Place, Donna Le; and Honorable mention, Kristin Nador. Many thanks to Kathlyn Smith for hosting the party at her beautiful home!

TNW Officers for 2012

President **Carol Johnson**
president@nightwriters.org
 Vice President **Richard Beaty**
vicepresident@nightwriters.org
 Treasurer **Bill Wetterman**
treas@nightwriters.org
 Greeter **Joyce Ross**
 Editor **Jane Green**

The deadline to send your brags and/or announcements to be placed in *NightScripts* is the first Sunday of each month. Please limit your brags to 25-30 words and email them to Jane Green, jgreenwrite@gmail.com.

TNW Membership Dues

Forgotten your **TNW membership fees** for 2012? OWFI now requires everyone—new or renewing members—to complete a Membership Form. You'll find the form and other information about the dues online here: <http://www.nightwriters.org/join.html>. Send your dues with the completed form to TNW's new treasurer, Bill Wetterman:

Tulsa NightWriters
 4029 W. Roanoke St
 Broken Arrow, OK 74011

A Few Party Photos



Bob Avey, Carol Johnson, Richard Beaty, Bill Wetterman, and Joyce Ross



Mike Koch and Bill Wetterman, who won 1st Place in the Warm-Up Contest



Mike Koch and Kristin Nador, who won 2nd Place and Honorable Mention awards in the Warm-Up Contest

