



Our July Program: Poetry with Benjamin Myers

By Trudy Graham

For Tulsa NightWriters, Benjamin Myers has a special claim to fame. He is the son of our June speaker, Anna Myers.

Ben has quite a resume. He is Associate Professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University. His first book of poems, *Elegy for Trains*, was awarded the 2011 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry for the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

His poems appear in many journals of national significance, including *Measure*, *The New Plains Review*, *The Chiron Review*, and *Ruminate*. His work has also appeared in two anthologies: *Ain't Nobody that Can Sing Like Me: New Oklahoma Writing* (Mongrel Empire Press, 2010) and *Travelin' Music: A Poetry Tribute to Woody Guthrie* (Village Books Press, 2010).

Ben has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and he won the 1996 Byline Award for Poetry from *Byline Magazine*.

Ben's education includes a B.A. from University of the Ozarks, an M.A. from Washington University, and a Ph.D. from Washington University. His essays on poetry and poetics have appeared in several prominent scholarly journals and he has been presented at many academic conferences. As a teacher, in 2009 he was honored with OBU's "Promising Teacher" award.

He lives in Chandler with his wife and their three children.

His email is: ben.myers@okbu.edu.

The Prez Sez by Bob Avey



As I sit here on this hot Fourth of July, I am given to daydreaming, as I am wont to do. Between daydreaming and my never-officially-diagnosed attention deficit disorder, it's a wonder I ever get anything accomplished, or at least brought to fruition. The possibility that I have not is arguable.

Be that as it may, I am again taken in flight as to the future of writing and publishing. I've touched on this perhaps too much, but it is a source of worry for me.

The face of publishing has changed dramatically in the last few years, and I wonder where the changes will lead. Will the ever-increasing ease of self-publication be the liberator of artistic self-expression through the written word, or will it backfire and become a bane to writers and publishers, like an out-of-control anarchist movement, further hindering its proponents?

I suppose only time will tell.

I don't mean to be downbeat. Contrary to my wife's opinion, loving as it may be, I do not believe I am given to pessimism, but to realism.

On a lighter note, I hope everyone had a safe and happy Independence Day.

Our members have brags



Jackie King will be the speaker at the monthly meeting of Romance Writers Inc., next Saturday, July 9th at 1:00 p.m. in Room 110 of the North Conference Hall on the OSU-Tulsa campus.

She'll discuss "The Art of Writing Terrific Settings."



Carla Stewart had a busy June. On June 10, she was interviewed on Fox 23's Daybreak show. On June 20, she was hosted by Shellie Rushing Tomlinson on her fun podcast, "All Things

Southern." Carla's first novel *Chasing Lilacs* won 2nd place in RWA's Inspirational Reader's Choice Awards.

Her article on writing nostalgic fiction will appear in the July issue of *Christian Fiction Online Magazine* and her second novel *Broken Wings* will be featured in the character spotlight on Relz Reviewz, a popular blog in Australia, on July 4.



Sally Jadow will be teaching "How to Write Inspirational Essays" on July 23rd at Whispering Prairie Press's 2nd Annual Creativity Writers Conference on the KU Edwards Campus in

Overland Park, KS. For more information, visit www.kansascityvoices.com/.



Gloria Teague will be speaking to the Fellowship of Christian Writers on July 12, 7:00 p.m. at Kirk of the Hills in Tulsa.

Everyone is invited (and that terrifies her). Gloria

has been amazed by escalating sales of her book, *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*. It also has surprised her publisher who has asked her to write a sequel! Working title is *Safe in the Heart of a Miracle*.



Carolyn Steele won 1st place in the Short Story Category in the Frontiers in Writing 2011 contest at the Panhandle Professional Writers conference. Carolyn also won 1st Place in the Arkansas Writer's Conference 2011,

FWCA Short Story contest for her short story, "The Survivor, 1836." Another one of her stories, "Perils of Spring Time," won Honorable Mention in the Arkansas Writer's Conference 2011, Gale S. Gill contest (a contest with a designated first line).



Jim Laughter's new suspense, *The Apostle Murders*, will be released July 15th. His new book is the story of a modern-day minister who believes God has called him to recreate

the martyrdom of the original apostles of Jesus Christ, and the team of FBI agents who are hot on his trail, but running out of time before he kills again. Read an excerpt and order your advance copy at www.JimLaughter.com. The book will also be available on kindle and nook.

And more brags



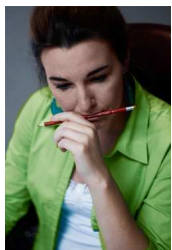
Radine Trees Nehring was named the 2011 inductee into the Arkansas Writer's Hall of Fame last month by the Arkansas Writers' Conference! She was also recently interviewed for the Ozark Harvest Radio Hour on station KTHS, Arkansas. The interview covered her own writing, as well as publishing today, research, the tug-of-time between writing and promotion, and a number of other topics of interest to many writers.

Listen to the program at: www.OzarkHarvestRadioHour.com/ .



Barbara Howell will be the featured author on July 30th at the Grey Gables Bed & Breakfast Inn in Rugby, TN. For the special event, the inn sells tickets, serves a catered lunch, and offers free one-night accommodations to the

author—a big win all around! After she speaks, Barbara will be signing books for the attendees. The event is titled, "Sweat, Tears and Splinters."



JP Jones' article, *10 Ways to Improve Your Author Website*, was chosen by Australian writer Suzannah Freeman to appear on her blog WriteItSideways.com, which publishes articles

related to writing and tips for authors. [Click here](#) to read the article. JP has another new article that features her garden, coming out this month in [De-Stress 4 Life](#), an online magazine based in Paris.

July's Featured Blog

The Chipper Muse: TNW member **Michele Chiappetta** started blogging in 2009 as a personal incentive to write consistently. In last month's "Meet TNW Member" article, Michele said, "Now the blog is growing into something more oriented toward others while still drawing on all the varied things that make me who I am." Check out her blog here:

TheChipperMuse.blogspot.com/ .

RWI Contest

TNW member **Linda Trout** wanted to let everyone know about the upcoming deadline for Romance Writers Ink's contest for unpublished romance writers (Where the Magic Begins Contest). First round judges are strongly encouraged to write comments on both the manuscript AND the score sheet. For contest details, and the phenomenal line-up of final round judges, go to RWI's website, www.rwimagiccontests.wordpress.com/. Hurry! Entry deadline is August 1, 2011.

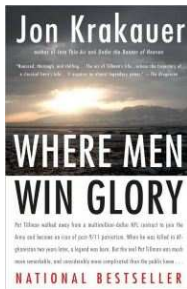
Ebook Reviews

TNW member **Carol Johnson**, recently heard from two writers who have spoken at OWFI and TNW's Bestseller's conference: novelist C. Terry Cline, Jr., and his wife, author Judith Richards. Terry and Judy are starting a new venture that may interest TNW members. They plan to review original ebooks that haven't been published in any other form (hardback, paperback, etc.) and put up the reviews on a Web site they are creating. If you're interested, their email is tcinejr@aol.com.



What I'm Reading

By Carol Johnson



Where Men Win Glory, by Jon Krakauer, is exactly the kind of thing I avoid. All I know about war is I'm agin it. However, being a card-carrying pacifist doesn't make me stupid, and I'm not idealistic enough to think that we can all play nice together. I just don't want to read books or watch movies about it. And football. I'm agin it, too. So until Pat Tillman's death, I knew nothing of his life.

As I learned in Krakauer's book, Tillman turned down a lucrative contract in order to become an Army Ranger. While in Afghanistan, he was shot and killed by American troops, and although all parties agree it was not intentional, the errors and misjudgments that led up to his death would be ridiculous had they not ended in such tragedy.

Krakauer makes it clear that in the heat of battle even the best make mistakes, but he spares no official, be it military or civilian, in the illumination of the misconduct following Pat Tillman's death by friendly fire.

After Tillman's death, the actions of Army commanders, aided and abetted by members of the Bush administration, bordered on the criminal as they went to extraordinary lengths to cover up the fratricide and use Tillman as a propaganda tool, an eventuality he had feared. Army regulations were flouted when Tillman's clothing and notebooks were burned. In addition, he was fast-tracked for a posthumous Silver Star, which, as Krakauer shows, was a fraud. Members of his unit were ordered to remain silent, even though they served every day with his brother, Kevin. Even part of Tillman's body disappeared.

Krakauer uses Tillman's journals, thousands of redacted documents, and interviews with Tillman's family, friends, and comrades-in-arms in writing this book, and his prose is, as always, lyrical and precise. A lot of reviews have said he could have written the story with a hundred fewer pages, but I'm assuming they meant leave out everything but the events after Tillman's induction into the army. While I do think the book could have used some tightening, the descriptions of Tillman's life before his enlistment are part of what made the book so heartbreaking and intense. Krakauer's deft portrayal of Pat Tillman as a man of great principle and honor, one who endeavored at all times to do the right thing, makes his death and the actions surrounding it all the more appalling.

While reading it didn't make me any more in favor of war or football, I feel like a better person for having done so.