



Five Reasons to Come to NightWriters to Hear Anna Myers

By Joan Rhine

We're all busy these days, but as writers we have to realize it's important to do things to help us creatively. And the June NightWriters meeting offers the greatest of opportunities. Need convincing? Here are five reasons to come:

1. Our speaker, Anna Myers, will tell us "The Five Most Essential Things to Do Before Writing Your Novel."
2. Anna is one of the best speakers I've ever heard when it comes to writing. She honed her teaching skills keeping 8th graders interested, and after retiring to write and speak full-time she's become a draw for audiences around the country.
3. She won the Oklahoma Book Award with her first novel *Red Dirt Jessie* in 1993, again bringing the award home in 2006 & 2009. Beyond that, seven of her other novels were finalists for the prize, and six other states have added their accolades to her awards shelf.
4. She's not only had the same New York publisher for all 19 novels, but with her latest, *The Grave Robbers Secret*, just released in February, Anna is happy to say she still has the same editor. How many authors do you know who can say that?
5. Finally, I really want you to be there. I may not write YA, but I always make sure to attend Anna's workshops. It doesn't matter what topic she covers—even if I've heard other authors cover the same subject numerous times before—I always walk away with something I either didn't already know, or that I suddenly understood in a new and better way.

Anna Myers is that good, folks.

The Prez Sez by Bob Avey That's Not the Way You Do It



With any worthwhile endeavor, following time-tested traditions is a good idea, if your goal is to achieve favorable results.

However, when it comes to writing and bowling, it seems that giving such advice is far easier than actually practicing it. Why is that?

After puzzling over this for years, I've concluded that perhaps writing properly is not a natural thing to do. It's the same with certain sports. I've used it before, but the analogy is so valid that I am compelled to repeat it. Those of you who have bowled, or played golf, tennis, or some other sport that requires finesse will readily grasp the point I'm trying to make. The first time you grab a bowling ball, grip a golf club, or grasp a tennis racket, chances are pretty high that you will do it wrong. You might manage to knock down a few pins, sink a ball or two, or get several balls over the net, but if your desire is to learn to play without embarrassing yourself, you will have to learn to do it in a manner that delivers results, which, in most cases, means going against your natural inclinations.

It's the same with writing. Our first attempts invariably involve using flowery words, adjectives, adverbs, passive voice, and static descriptions, when we should be using strong nouns and verbs, active voice, and concrete details.

And, just as good athletes rarely rest on their laurels, good writers rarely depend on writing well once. For athletes and writers, daily practice is really the name of the game.

Our members have brags



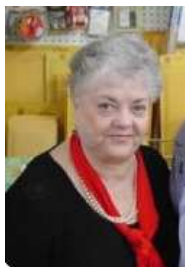
Carla Stewart's first novel, *Chasing Lilacs*, is a 2011 finalist in RWA's Inspirational Reader's Choice Award in Women's Fiction.

Her latest novel, *Broken Wings*, was released on June 3rd with a Twitter party, but the Tulsa launch and signing will be next Sunday, June 12th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 8620 East 71st Street, Tulsa. Snacks and prizes. She's hopes to see lots of friendly faces!



Sally Jadlow, who recently had two pieces accepted by *Focus on the Family* magazine, will have a book signing at Town Crier Bookstore in Emporia, KS, on June 18th. On July 23rd, she will be teaching "How

to Write Inspirational Essays" at Whispering Prairie Press's 2nd Annual Creativity Writers Conference on the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, KS.



Peggy Fielding's historical novel, *Scoundrels' Bargain*, and nearly all of her other books have been put on Kindle. Much cheaper to buy the books that way! Yay.



J. Houston-Emerson was the featured artist and held a book signing for *The Myth Makers* at the Sunflower Festival in Guymon on June 4th. While in "No Man's Land," she was interviewed

about her life as an artist and a writer on the local television station. Her next book signing will be in Oklahoma City at the Full Circle Bookstore on Saturday, June 18th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



J.P. Jones will be live blogging on

www.PolkaDotBanner.com

on June 7th. She'll discuss book marketing strategy and answer questions throughout the day. Also,

in May, *Writer's Digest* recognized www.ChristianStoryTeller.com (a Web site designed by J.P.'s company, collipsis.com) as one of the Top 101 Writer's Resources for 2011.



TNW member **Michael Vance** and his co-authors R.A. Jones and Mel Fox have sold a novel to Pro Se Productions. *Global Star* is a humorous look at a world where everything in our

tabloids is commonplace and real! *Global Star* should be published early next year. Also, on the last Friday, Saturday and Sunday of June, Michael will be a guest at Trek Expo, a huge media convention held at the UMAC Arena.



Jim Laughter helped launch the summer reading program at the Kellyville Public Library on Friday, June 3rd. Along with promoting his book *From Victim to Hero—The*

Untold Story of Steven Stayner, he spoke to a crowd of around 70 people about the dangers of child abduction. Jim helped raise safety awareness of both the kids and parents at this especially dangerous time of the year. Oh yeah, he sold a boatload of books!



TNW member **Carol Lavelle Snow's** poem "Up to Speed" will appear in the summer issue of *WestWard Quarterly*.



Carol Johnson's awarding-winning novel *Everlasting* is now available from the Smashwords.com premium catalog. You'll find it here:

www.smashwords.com/books/view/27531.

Also, look for her essay titled "Poet Issues" in the June edition of *This Land*.

June's Featured Blog

Carla's Writing Café: Thirsty for the latest releases in Christian fiction? Ready for a peek into the world of publishing and writing conferences? Hungry for spiritual and real-life nourishment? Pull up a seat; you're in the right place....

carlastewart.blogspot.com/

SCBWI Conferences



Anna Myers, the speaker for TNW's June meeting, has two SCBWI conferences each year (in March and September). The fall conference is in Chandler on Friday night

and all-day Saturday, September 9th and 10th. At the Friday night event, Kathi Appelt (Newberry Honor author) will speak on character and plot with "Why in the World Would He Do That?" On Saturday, attendees will divide into six breakout sessions and a guided visualization session, all about putting emotion into your writing. For details visit: www.scbwiok.org/.

2011 TNW Officers

President **Bob Avey** (bob@bobavey.com)

VP **Valerie Gawthrop**

(VicePresident@nightwriters.org)

Treasurer **Brad Smith**

(Treas@nightwriters.org)

Greeter **Joyce Ross**

Co-Editors **Carol Johnson** and **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. Send **time-sensitive** announcements to nightwritersed2@gmail.com.



Meet TNW Member Michele Chiappetta



Italian Spoken Here—by One of Us, Anyway

By Carol Johnson

Sometimes being an Okie is a trial. It's hard enough if you were here before dirt and have that little bit of Creek/Choctaw/Cherokee/Osage etcetera that we all think/know/claim we have. But being an Italian transplanted from the east coast to the red dirt state is—well, as Michele Chiappetta puts it—“interesting, to say the least.”

Luckily, Michele is not an ordinary person. She's goal oriented, talented, and smart, smart, smart. A writer may not need all those traits, but they sure help. She writes a good deal in her day job as a PR/fundraising person at a local nonprofit and she also freelances.

“But,” she says, “Tulsa NightWriters is something I do for myself.” She's committed to finding success as a writer, and toward that end she sets goals for herself. She began blogging a couple of years ago in order to encourage herself to write consistently. It's apparently working. Michele says, “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.”

Who she is, besides a dedicated writer, is a musician, studying piano for six years. Although she took a break from playing, she's back at it now, playing for her church and in various church bands. She doesn't think that that experience will lead to her dream job of working with Jon Bon Jovi, but you never can tell. I'll ask Jon when he calls me. And he will. You know he will.

Michele also belongs to Mensa. Now that's intimidating, at least for me, but she says, “Smart people are just like everyone else. We like to eat, drink, and talk about ourselves.” Well, that's different. I like to do those things myself. Maybe Mensa wants me.

But Michele adds, “We're also likely to talk about the latest in particle physics.” Oh. Never mind. The only particles I know about are dust particles. My house is full of 'em.

If you see Michele at a meeting, stop and chat with her. She'd really like to know where to get that special thin crust pizza they serve back east.