



## AND THE WINNER IS ...

by Valerie Gawthrop

Time to toot our own horns, blow out all the stops, and pat ourselves on the back until carpal tunnel sets in.

May is the month the club members gather to compare notes (*gossip*) on the OWFI conference and most importantly the contest results. It's the one month out of the year devoted to acknowledging the talent and perseverance of the Tulsa NightWriters. For all of you contest winners out there, don't miss the accolades. Don't be shy. Come let us congratulate you on your success.

For those who didn't win an award or didn't even enter the contest, don't let that keep you from attending the May meeting. You could be the one in the winner's circle next year, especially after hearing from the winners and finding out what the judges had to say about their entries and why they stood out from the other manuscripts.

So strike up the band and join in because the winner is each and every NightWriter who supports their fellow writers.

When: Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Martin Regional Library  
2601 South Garnett Road, Tulsa

## The Prez Sez by Bob Avey



### Spatial Distortion

Have you ever gathered the entire contents of your house, deposited them in a rental house, and left your old life behind—all in just three days? And did you do all that knowing you were only going to be in that rental for six months, but you thought it was worth it in order to give your significant other a dream home?

I just did.

Now I have a storage unit full of Stuff. A two-car garage full of Stuff. Several rooms in the rental full of Stuff. And I'm mystified. How did we manage to hide all that Stuff in a 1,750-square-foot house? We totally have too much Stuff.

But it's the OWFI conference, you know, and here I sit at a desk in my room at Embassy Suites, exhausted, confused, writing this column while Dan Case is no doubt going crazy, wondering where I am.

And I know that it will all be worth it. My wonderful wife will have the house she's always wanted—and totally deserves. We'll still have way too much Stuff, but everything will have its place.

## 2011 OWFI Writing Contest

The results of the OWFI writing contest were announced at the conference over the weekend. Congratulations to all the winners! Tulsa NightWriters were well-represented!

- **Chuck Sasser** was given an Honorary Lifetime Member award.
- **Carla Stewart's** novel *Chasing Lilacs* won Best Fiction Book.
- **Carol Johnson's** novel *Silk and Ashes* won 1st Place in the Mainstream Novel category.
- **Pamela Wetterman's** novel *Butterfly, It's Time* won 3rd Place in the Contemporary Romance Novel category.
- **Bill Wetterman's** novel *Room 1515* won 1st Place in the Mystery Suspense Novel category.
- **Jim Laughter & Victor Bretthausen's** novel, *First Contact*, won 1st Honorable Mention in the Sci-Fi/ Fantasy/Horror Novel category.
- **Carolyn Steele's** short-short story, "No Good Deed Goes Unrewarded," won 3rd Honorable Mention in the Short-Short Story category.
- **Carol Johnson's** short story, "Listen to the Silence," won 1st Place in the Short Story category.
- **Carolyn Steele's** short story, "The Rescue," won 2nd Honorable Mention in the Short Story category.
- **Richard Beaty's** short story, "In The Silence After Battle," won 2nd Place in the Sci-Fi/ Fantasy/Horror Short Story category.
- **Richard Beaty's** story, "Operation Jolly Nuts," won 1st Place in the Prose Humor category.
- **Corrie Lynne Player's** story, "Who Put Carrots in the Heater?" won 2nd Place in the Prose Humor category.
- **Corrie Lynne Player's** article, "Attachment Makes The Difference," won 3rd Place in the Technical/How-To Article category.
- **Amy Beth Dobbins'** article, "Yesterday's Shadows," won 1st Place in the Inspirational Prose category.
- **Doris Wheelus'** article, "Be Careful What You Pray For Because You Might Just Get It," won 2nd Place in the Inspirational Prose category.
- **Corrie Lynne Player's** article "Life is a Test for Personal Change"" won 3rd Honorable Mention in the Inspirational Prose category.
- **Pattie Grice's** article "Big Shoes To Fill" won 4th Honorable Mention in the Inspirational Prose category.
- **Gloria Teague's** story "Sex Paid For My College Education" won 2nd Place in the Confession Story category.
- **Bill Wetterman's** story "On The Streets" won 3rd Place in the Confession Story category.
- **Gloria Teague's** story "Mirror, Mirror" won 2nd Honorable Mention in the Nostalgia Prose category.

## Our members have more brags



**Lynette Bennett's** one-woman show, "Will Rogers' Romance with Betty and America" will be broadcast on OETA, Oklahoma PBS, on Saturday, May 21, at 8:00

pm and rerun on Sunday, May 22, at 6:00 pm. OETA filmed the live performance at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center's Williams Theatre on January 26. If you miss the broadcasts, DVDs of the performance are also available!



**Sally Jadow** has been very busy. She recently sold a poem to *Live Magazine*. She won 1st Place in the Missouri Writers' Guild President's Contest and 1st Honorable Mention in the Nostalgic Article category.

In addition, she won 3rd Place in a Bad Writing Contest.



Los Gatos Press has accepted **Carol Snow's** poem "Spring" for their Texas Poetry Calendar 2012. Carol's poetry also won eight awards at the Poetry Society of Oklahoma spring banquet, and she was runner-up for

the club's PSO Poet Laureate Award. Another of Carol's poems won 2nd Place in the Published Poets category of the Tulsa Library contest.



**Gloria Teague** will be a featured author at the Northern Oklahoma Literary Arts Book Festival this Saturday, May 14th, which will

take place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Marland Grand Home in Ponca City, OK.



**Carol Johnson's** essay, "Poets and Writers and the Search for Lubricant," will appear in the upcoming issue of *This Land* in June.

## Writer's Academy

West Texas A&M University is hosting the 3rd annual **Writers' Academy, Writing to Sell: The Facts About Fiction**, June 20-24, 2011. It features award-winning Writer-in-Residence Jodi Thomas and offers daily classes, afternoon critiques and seminars, and more. A screenwriting course has been added, and students have the option of an in-depth manuscript critique by author, DeWanna Pace. The academy fee is \$495 by May 23, and \$550 after that date. For more information, please call (806) 651-2037 or visit the web site:

<<http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/continuing-education-writing-academy.aspx>>

## **Book Festival in Ponca City**

The **Northern Oklahoma Literary Arts Book Festival** is this Saturday, May 14th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Marland Grand Home in Ponca City. They offer live music, author readings, Oklahoma publishers, and Stagecoach BBQ for lunch! Thirty authors are featured, including Eyvonna Rains, Kim Brumley, Steve Newman, C.C. Brown, and TNW member Gloria Teague. You'll find more information at the Web site:

<<http://www.eyvonnarains.com/book-festival.php>>

## **Contests, Contests, Contests**

**Short Story Award for New Writers (Glimmer Train Press).** A prize of \$1,200 and publication in *Glimmer Train Stories* is given quarterly for a short story by a writer whose fiction has not been published in a nationally distributed publication with a circulation over 5,000. Submit a story of up to 12,000 words. Entry fee: \$15. Deadline: May 31, 2011. Visit the Web site for complete guidelines: [www.glimmertrain.org](http://www.glimmertrain.org)

**Pulitzer Prizes.** Three prizes of \$10,000 each are given annually to U.S. writers to honor books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction (including creative nonfiction) published in the United States during the current year. For books published between Jan. 1 and June 14, deadline is June 15, 2011 and the entry fee is \$50. The deadline for books published during the second half of the year is Oct. 1. Call, e-mail, or visit the Web site for the entry form and guidelines. Web site: [www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org)  
E-mail address: [pulitzer@pulitzer.org](mailto:pulitzer@pulitzer.org)

**National Book Awards.** Three prizes of \$10,000 each are awarded annually to honor a book of poetry, a book of fiction, and a book of creative nonfiction written by U.S. writers and published in the United States during the eligibility year. Four finalists in each category receive \$1,000. Deadline: June 15, 2011. Entry fee: \$125. Call or e-mail for the entry form and guidelines.

Web site: [www.nationalbook.org](http://www.nationalbook.org)

E-mail address: [nationalbook@nationalbook.org](mailto:nationalbook@nationalbook.org)

## **2011 TNW Officers**

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

VP **Valerie Gawthrop**

(VicePresident@nightwriters.org)

Treasurer **Brad Smith**

(Treas@nightwriters.org)

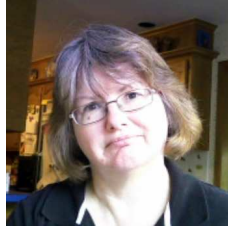
Greeter **Joyce Ross**

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](mailto:nightwritersed2@gmail.com).



## Meet TNW Member Joan Rhine



### If You're Waiting on Her, You're Backing Up!

By Carol Johnson

**Joan Rhine's** cat is one contented kitty, which, being a cat lover myself, I can say is how it ought to be. When Joan made her first sale as a freelance writer in 1998, she became available to open and shut doors, feed on demand, and provide a warm lap when needed. I can picture that cat's smile when Joan said "so long" to big business—at least to the part that dictated the inflexible schedule and long commutes. Today she's her own boss and chooses with whom she works. Sounds great, huh? Well, if you're reading this, you might be on the same track to success Joan took because, as she says, "Most of my early sales came via networking opportunities I gained through NightWriters."

In the beginning, she set a goal of writing five queries a week, hoping for at least one sale. Instead, she averaged at least three acceptances from the very beginning. In her first 18 months freelancing, she sold 124 articles. That's one two four. Some of us have never sold that many, not in our whole lives. Me, for instance. Today, Joan has passed the 1,000 mark. However, don't begrudge her that success, not one whit, because it wasn't easy.

According to Joan, "When the dot-coms crashed, so did a lot of my magazine and online writing markets." That doesn't mean she ran out and got herself another grueling job in oil and gas acquisitions. She worked with what she had at the moment and taught writing to junior high and high school homeschoolers, accepted freelance editing assignments, and soon began ghostwriting articles in trade magazines for professionals who lacked either the time or the expertise to do it themselves.

Joan doesn't let much slow her down. The failure of the stock market before the 2008 elections didn't. She saw the slipping economy as another opportunity to diversify, and she began working with a major textbook company. Even during her worst year, when her father was seriously ill and she was busy taking him to doctor appointments and sitting by his hospital bed, she grossed as much as an average Oklahoma teacher. She did it on her own and still managed time for her sick parent.

"It's all in keeping deadlines and looking for business at every turn," she says. "And yes, I did sell some articles from ideas that came from my father's medical ordeal." That's the strategic thinking and logic that has made her a success.

If she didn't have the tenacity and energy to do so, she'd still be behind a desk in the corporate world instead of the desk at home, where the rapid pace she keeps is her choice and not someone else's, and where the cat is always happy.