



Kristin Nador - November Speaker

By Jackie King



These days writers must do more than tell stories on paper, they must also promote their published work. The wisest authors are learning the importance of creating and maintaining an online presence. To assist us in developing these skills, Kristin Nador will discuss “Blogging Strategies to Strengthen Your Author Platform” on November 15th at 7 p.m.

Kristin had her first taste of being published in Mrs. Canfield’s journalism class in the seventh grade in St. Louis. Her review of the television mini-series ‘Roots’ made it past all the hardened reporters of the eighth grade to be published in the Hixson Junior High Newspaper. After that first thrill Kristin dabbled with writing short stories and poetry but life intervened and she found herself writing lists, checks and lesson plans as a military wife and homeschool mother to three children.

After her children started college, Kristin began exploring her love of writing again. She took writing classes with some encouraging teachers (and fellow Tulsa NightWriters) and joined a critique group. She is a member of Tulsa NightWriters and OWFI. Kristin had a confession story published in a national magazine this year, has written several short stories and is currently working on two novels: one historical fiction and one a young adult thriller.

Kristin has been involved in online communication since the late 1980s when Bulletin Board Systems were the mode of electronic expression. She has had three blogs, her latest being [kristin nador writes anywhere](#), where she posts three times a week and loves meeting other writers journeying through the blogosphere.

The Prez Sez by Bob Avey

Another Chapter



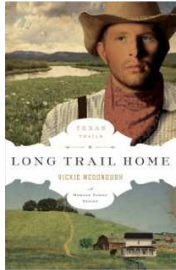
I had considered recapping the monumental club-related events that transpired during my reign as President, but lately I have trouble remembering what happened last week. Allow me instead to jumble through the latest incidents that have contributed to my continually deteriorating mental awareness. Keep in mind that this will be a bit like attempting to drain a swamp with a Dixie cup, and it goes something like this.

For several years, my wife, Kathi, had been gently trying to convince me that we needed a larger house. I could see her point. But, I was comfortable with what we had and, considering that the accelerated payment plan I’d instituted was nearing fruition, I was looking forward to retirement in a few years. However, I finally gave in. We put our house on the market and it sold in eight days.

Not to make things too easy, though, the buyers had trouble qualifying. First, it was a no-go, then it was a go-go and, due to extenuating circumstances, we ended up moving twelve years of living in three days. Hundreds of sore muscles, a lacerated head, a rented storage garage, and thirty-six hours later, we spent the night in a foul-smelling rental house with bad vibes. I’m sensitive to such things. After making friends with the neighbors, I learned that the prior occupants of the house fought with one another constantly, breaking furniture, feelings, and finally their marriage. I prayed for God to bless the rental, and we survived it for six months while Kathi battled daily with the builders of the new house.

We’re here now, in our new home. I hope things settle down so I can finally get back to writing.

Our members have brags



Vickie McDonough's new novel *Long Trail Home* has been released by Moody Publishers. In *Long Trail Home*, a soldier returns from the War Between the States to discover his parents dead, his family farm in shambles, and his fiancée married. A pretty, blind woman reaches through his scarred walls, but will the secret she holds ruin all chances for a future filled with love, faith, and family?



Dos Gatos Press accepted one of **Carol Lavelle Snow's** poems for their Texas 2012 Calendar and, on Nov. 4th, Carol read three poems at a special event in Dallas, TX, promoting the calendar!



Bill Wetterman was notified by *Chicken Soup for the Soul* that his story, "Don't Try to Act Twenty-One When You're Not," has been accepted for publication

in *My Aching Back: Stories of People Fighting Back Problems*. This is his fourth story accepted by *Chicken Soup*. Also, Bill's story, "The Family Tree," placed eighth in the Genre Short Story Category in this year's Writer's Digest competition! His story will be published in a winner's compilation book, coming out early in 2012.



Carol Johnson also learned last month that one of her short stories had had won an honorable mention in the Writers' Digest 80th annual competition!



Jim Laughter was recently featured in an online blog interview concerning a new book he is working on. [Click here](http://pcofftherails101.blogspot.com/2011/11/online-interview-with-oklahoma-sci-fi.html) to read the blog or just copy and paste this link in your browser <http://pcofftherails101.blogspot.com/2011/11/online-interview-with-oklahoma-sci-fi.html>.

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Chuck Sasser's new novel, *A Thousand Years of Darkness*, is being released this month. It's a political thriller based on the premise "What if the President of the United States was trying to topple the nation--and you found out about it?" Chuck also

signed a contract for new military nonfiction with St. Martin's.



Mary Ann Kerl has been selected to develop a new journalism course for the University of Phoenix, where she teaches online communication

courses. This will involve Mary Ann developing and writing assignments for a textbook that she selected for the course.



Gloria Teague will be signing books on Nov. 19th at The Boarding House Bookstore in Claremore during Dickens on the Boulevard. She also has a short story, "Too Hot to

Dance," that has been chosen to be read on Suspense Radio (date to be announced). Her book, *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*, is currently #1 on her publisher's best sellers list, and her new book, *Safe in the Heart of a Miracle*, should be released this month.

TNW Membership Fees

TNW membership fees for 2012 are due by Nov. 30. The \$30 fee will go up to \$35 after the Nov. 30 deadline. OWFI now requires everyone—new or renewing members—to complete a Membership Form. The form is available at TNW monthly meetings or online at <http://www.nightwriters.org/join.html>. Give Brad Smith the completed form and your \$30 check payable to “Tulsa NightWriters” at the next meeting or mail both to:

Brad Smith, Treasurer
Tulsa NightWriters
5319 South 77th East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74145

Please don't send your dues to OWFI!

Warm-up Contest

The deadline for this year's warm-up contest is December 1st. Last year's 1st place winner, **Mike Koch**, has agreed to coordinate the contest and wanted members to know the contest is for short stories consisting of no more than 500 words. Stories must start with “**At the stroke of midnight ...**” then continue about any subject matter. Each story will be judged by an independent (blind judging) writer from Oklahoma, who's not a member of our group.

Submit your story with your name and address on a separate cover sheet. The entry fee is \$5 per story; you can enter as many stories as you like. Make the entry fee check payable to the Tulsa NightWriters. Bring your story to the next meeting or mail it and the entry fee to:

Mr. Mike Koch
11274 So. 275th East Avenue
Coweta, OK. 74429

Winners will be announced at the Christmas party on December 20th. (Only TNW members are eligible.) Contest details here: <http://www.nightwriters.org/index.cfm>.

Obituary

Dick Donley, a long-time Tulsa Nightwriter, died on October 8, 2011. He was 85. Besides his career as a petroleum geologist, Dick was a talented and active writer, most interested in mystery and adventure stories for young boys. His fiction and nonfiction appeared in such publications as *Woman's World*, *Highlights for Children*, *Tulsa Architect*, and *Tulsa Magazine*. In addition, his name was a familiar one as contest winners were announced at past OWFI conferences. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marie Ann Clem Donley, three children, as well as six grandchildren and one brother.

TNW is on Facebook

Join other TNW members—Bob Avey, Joan Rhine, Brad Smith, Mike Koch, Jim Laughter, Gloria Teague, Carla Stewart, Bill and Pam Wetterman, and many more—on Facebook. You can find out what other members are up to and let them know about your events, classes, book-signings, blog posts! Be part of the conversation! It's easy! It's free! It's fun! Login to Facebook and search "Tulsa Nightwriters" or click here: www.facebook.com/groups/65584661400/10150363947316401/.

Christmas Party

Please save the date for this year's Christmas Party! It's planned for Tuesday night, December 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Kathlyn Smith has very graciously offered her home, located near 101st & Mingo. Please plan to bring your favorite holiday snack to share! Details will follow. (Warm-up contest winners will be announced at the party!)

Reminder

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.

Writer's Digest Contest

A prize of \$3,000 and second-place prize of \$1,500 are given annually for a short short story. Deadline is Nov. 15th; entry fee is \$20; 1500 word limit. Details here: www.writersdigest.com/competitions.

Election of TNW Officers for 2012

The election of officers for 2012 will be held at the November meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot. The following members have been nominated:

President	Gloria Teague and Jim Laughter
Vice Pres	Richard Beaty
Treasurer	Bill Wetterman
Greeter	Joyce Ross
Co Editors	Carol Johnson and Jane Green

Thanksgiving

I was googling for a Billy Collins' poem about Thanksgiving and came up empty-handed, but I did find an interesting article that seems really relevant today. —JG-

The first Thanksgiving Proclamation was given by the Second Continental Congress in 1777. The Declaration of Independence had been issued the previous year and it was a time of great peril for the newly formed United States of America.

Fighting for liberty against a professional British military power was a daunting task. Yet the members of the Continental Congress, including Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Samuel Adams, believed that our fledgling country had much to be thankful for.

These great men also prayed to God for inspiration with wisdom and fortitude for our military leaders in order to secure the blessings of independence and peace for this new country.



What I've Been Reading

By Carol Johnson

Good Lord, Lucy! The question is not “What have I been reading,” but “What haven't I been reading?” I'm almost finished with my first semester of this help-me-I'm-drowning MFA program, and my best guess is 20 books so far. Mostly novels, they range from William Kennedy's *Ironweed* to Harry Crews' *A Feast of Snakes*. However, I was assigned a few works about writing, and the one I'm most impressed with is an oldie but a goodie, John Gardner's *On Becoming a Novelist*.

This isn't the sort of book on writing I usually choose. I'm partial to the great how-to books, like Jack Bickam's *Scene and Sequel* or Dwight Swain's *Techniques of a Selling Writer*, which tell outright how we ought to be writing. Then I found myself needing less instruction and more validation that what I do—work really hard and earn little money—is important. For that I sought advice from books such as *The Eleventh Draft*, edited by Frank Conroy; *Creating Fiction*, edited by Julie Chekoway; and *The Writing Life*, by Annie Dillard.

A slim volume of 149 pages, John Gardner's *On Becoming a Novelist* falls somewhere between the how-to and the why-bother. Although Gardner states few “rules,” and, indeed, seems almost “anti-rule,” he talks about what it takes—other than persistence—to become a writer. Of the five or six characteristics he discusses, three were most important to me: verbal sensitivity, accuracy of eye, and a peculiar kind of intelligence.

He begins with “verbal sensitivity,” a quality, he says, that “may well be different from the usual ‘writer of good English.’” As someone who labors to teach students to use language properly and precisely, I cringe. However, I agree with Gardner's contention that street kids playing “the dozens” may be showing more ingenious uses of language than the most erudite of writers.

Another of Gardner's characteristics for a novelist is the ability to see things “sharply, vividly, accurately, and selectively,” or, as I tell my students, the facility to see details and then know which to put in and which to leave out. Failure to develop this trait, according to Gardner, leads to characters who appear to be manipulated, forced into actions that seem unrealistic. This, he says, is caused by seeing the fictional scene “imprecisely, failing to notice . . . a gesture that would in real life accompany some assertion by a character.”

Intelligence of a certain kind is Gardner's third characteristic of the good writer. Partly natural and partly trained, such intelligence would seem by its resultant actions—a little incivility here, a tendency to make irreverent connections there, and, among a host of like behaviors, “an inexplicable and incurable addiction to stories, written or oral, bad or good.” Although the plethora of traits listed between incivility and an addiction to stories sound like those of a crazy person, Gardner denies it, saying that writers can't be crazy. We're too psychologically complex.

I don't know about you, but I'm going with that.