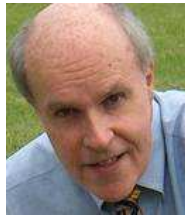


## Ignite Your Passion



with

### **Richard Kenney**

By Barbara Thomas

How often do all writers need to ratchet up their inspiration? A blank mind strikes us all at one time or another. Richard Kenney has not only gained thirty years of experience in the broad field of social work but has maintained another career as a columnist, journalist, and freelance contributor to newspapers across the land, including the Tulsa World. He is also available as a motivational speaker who believes that inspiration is a journey outside the boundaries of time leading to one's passions. So it is natural that he would write a book about inspiration, coining the word "inspirobics" for the title.

His educational background includes a Master's Degree from the University of Texas. He has also won a Creative Writing Fellowship from the Arizona Commission of the Arts. No wonder, for he is a most unique and creative wordsmith, as you may know from reading his book, *Inspirobics – Working out Your Inspirations*.

Come and enjoy this author's extraordinary talent for coining new terms. Join the Tulsa NightWriters at the Martin Regional Library, 26th and Garnett in Tulsa, February 15.

## The Prez Sez



You've just learned that one of your colleagues recently secured a multi-book publishing deal with MegaBucks Publishing, and even though only days ago you opened your mailbox to find yet another rejection, you smile and offer a congratulatory gesture, forever concealing the real gesture you'd like to extend.

I'm just being silly, of course, but I suspect we've all experienced similar feelings. We are, after all, competitive by nature. Webster's defines competition as a contest between rivals. Once I understood the word's precise meaning, I found the concept somewhat less distasteful. I must admit to having experienced the pangs of jealousy now and then, but I've never considered my writer acquaintances as rivals. That sounds almost warlike.

A good writer friend once explained that after years of beating herself up over comparisons, she developed a new strategy. Rather than holding up her success—or lack thereof—and measuring it against that of other writers, she would measure her current year's accomplishments against those she had achieved in prior periods. In many ways, her example is similar to the strategy employed by most golfers, who constantly remind themselves that they are not necessarily competing with one another, but merely playing the course.

Competitiveness is part of who we are and, kept in perspective, can be positive. If, however, you find that it is stifling your accomplishments, you might want to relax a bit and just play the course!

Bob Avey

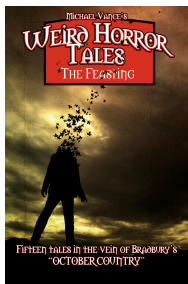
## Our members have great news!



The marketing and promotion conference where **J.P. Jones** was scheduled to speak last month was postponed due to inclement weather. *The Life after Publishing Conference* is now scheduled for March 5 in Branson, MO! There are new sessions and old favorites. If you missed the Tulsa event in August, be sure to register for Branson! [www.LifeAfterPublishing.com](http://www.LifeAfterPublishing.com).



**Sally Jadow's** book, *God's Little Miracle Book*, is the best seller for non-fiction from her publisher, AWOCbooks.com. Her devotional "Powerful Names" was published on Christian Broadcasting Network's web page. The link is [http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/Devotions/jadow\\_names.aspx](http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/Devotions/jadow_names.aspx) .



**Michael Vance's** *Weird Horror Tales: The Feasting* was recently nominated for two Pulp Ark Awards, in the categories of Best Book of 2010 and Best Cover Art. Awards will be presented at Pulp Ark, the Convention/Creators' Conference scheduled in Batesville, Arkansas, May 13-15. Pulp Ark Coordinator Tommy Hancock says ten awards will recognize excellence within the pulp field. Vance is the author of three books, hundreds of articles and interviews, several comic book titles, and two comic strips. Founder of the Oklahoma Comics Collection in Paul's Valley, Vance also helped create the "Okie Cartoonists" Exhibit at the Oklahoma Museum of History in Oklahoma City.



**Carolyn Steele** won Third Place with her short story, "The Soldier, 1836," in the Art Affair Annual Literary contest. The win came with a certificate and money. She was also awarded "Honorable Mention" for a western titled, "Waitin' for a Friend."





TNW member **Sara Sue Hoklotubbe** announces the upcoming release of *The American Cafe*, the second in the Sadie Walela Mystery Series. The official release date is April 14, but Sara's publisher, University of Arizona Press, is making the book available in late February for several events. On Feb. 23, Sara will be a guest on the national radio talk show, *Native America Calling*, based in Albuquerque, NM. Listeners who call in will have a chance to win a copy of *The American Cafe*. For a list of radio stations or to listen online, go to [www.nativeamericacalling.com](http://www.nativeamericacalling.com). Sara will also participate in panels at the Tucson Festival of Books in Tucson, AZ, March 12-13, and at The Big Chile in Santa Fe, NM, March 24-27. For more information: [www.hoklotubbe.com](http://www.hoklotubbe.com).



Love medicine, anyone? **J. Houston Emerson** read a selection appropriate for Valentine's Day from her historical novel *The Myth Makers* at Hastings Books in Muskogee on February 5th. A similar event will be held at the Tahlequah Municipal Library on February 10 at noon. Then, she anticipates a reading February 26 at the Bartlesville Hastings bookstore.

## TNW Loves Contests

Romance Writers Ink is accepting entries from published romance authors for the 2011 More Than Magic contest. The contest, judged by readers, requires a fee of \$25-\$27. Entrants must submit three copies of their print or e-book published, released, and/or printed in 2010. Deadline is March 1, 2011 and the Grand Prize is \$525.00. For details see [www.rwimagiccontests.wordpress.com](http://www.rwimagiccontests.wordpress.com).

The poets among us have an opportunity to shine in O, Oprah Winfrey's magazine when she teams up with guest with guest editor Maria Shriver for a poetry-themed April issue, which hits newsstands March 15. Find more information at <http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Maria-Shriver-Will-Guest-Edit-O-Magazines-April-Poetry-Themed-Issue>

As always, remember, you can't win if you don't enter!

## TNW Officers for 2011

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 Your Fellow TNW Member



### Michael Koch

By Carol Johnson

Ok, here's a riddle for you. What does a Cheese Head do, other than watch the Green Bay Packers? If you're Michael Koch, you achieve, then achieve some more. Oh. You don't think that's funny? Fine. No more riddles for you.

However, to be fair to those of you who deny my incredibly sophisticated humor, that wasn't so much a riddle as it was question and answer. Michael Koch, an avowed Cheese Head, is nothing if not accomplished. During his high school years in Madison, Wisconsin, he participated in football, curling, basketball, and golf, lettering twice in curling. (I don't know what it is, either, but it's impressive. Somebody go look it up.)

From there, he went on to obtain a degree in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. Following college, he began working for the F.B.I. as a fingerprint examiner. His curiosity led him to seek out the original files of some of Oklahoma's most infamous denizens, including Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd.

Koch moved to Tulsa in 1977, taking a position with the State of Oklahoma Department of Corrections, and eventually transferring to his current position as an investigator with the Pardon and Parole Board. He's just completed his 33rd year of service.

He's met with some success in writing, and he joined Tulsa NightWriters less than a year ago, hoping to gather more knowledge and skill in his own work.

While understandably satisfied with his own successes, he cites as one of his proudest moments an achievement of a different sort—his son's graduation from Oklahoma State University.

And that, my friends, is what a Cheese Head does. Go Packers!