



# Tulsa Night Writers

NightScripts

October 2010

Editor: Gloria Teague Shirley

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This Month – **Steven Hunt!**



By Jim Laughter

Do you enjoy getting lost in that magical place where you see the story unfold in your mind? Do you revel in the adrenalin rush as you participate in a suspense novel? Or are you someone who can share the emotion of the story's hero/heroine while they battle to obtain their objective? If any of these questions describes you, then you won't want to miss the October 19th meeting of the Tulsa Night Writers with special guest Steven Hunt.

Steven joined the Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Police Department as a police officer and was quickly promoted to Field Training Officer and then Sergeant. While attending Northeastern Oklahoma State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree, he worked as a SWAT team member and trainer for eight years, then was hired as a Deputy U.S. Marshal before joining the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office as an investigator. Steven's first novel, *Guardian of Light*, was published in 2007 which thrust him into the world of writing where he has been fortunate to teach classes on writing and the police procedure. He was voted as the Vice President of the American Christian Fiction Writers Association's Tulsa chapter of Writers of Inspirational Novels.

**The Prez sez:**



I saw a few of you at the recent Celebration of Books, and I'm sure if we all gave a report it would be like the blind men and the elephant — we would all have different perspectives. I'd like to share what I learned in the session on writing personal stories.

A memoir can be deeply personal and serious or light-hearted and entertaining. Transparency and honesty are essential, but should reflect the culture without the specificity of individuals. You may have to expose embarrassing things about yourself, but this leads to reader identification. Permissions should be obtained or you may consider changing the names to prevent embarrassment. Settings are paramount for the reader to experience the story with you. Occasionally this may be leading people to a certain feeling rather than a place.

The panelists' enthusiasm brought me to the conclusion that you should have a deep passion for the story you want to tell. Is there a memoir in your future? If you have an interesting story to tell that sheds light on the human condition, memoir writing may be just the genre for you. As for me, I'll continue as merely a fan. I'm just a saying . . .

## Our members have brags

**Carla Stewart** tells us: At the recent ACFW conference book signing in Indianapolis, I had the honor of sharing a table with James Scott Bell of Writers' Digest fame. My agent received the "Agent of the Year" at the awards banquet. I did a taped interview for Christian Retailing and connected with the owners of a book store chain on the East coast.

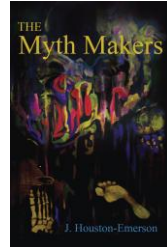


**Carolyn Steele** said, "I'm not a western writer, but on a whim I submitted a short story to Moonlight Mesa Cowboy Up Contest. Guess what....I'm a semi-finalist. And, they've asked to include it in a cowboy anthology due out next year."

**Bill Wetterman's** story, "Ignorance Isn't Bliss," has been accepted by *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Shaping the New You*. The book will be out December 2010.



**Sally Jadow** attended the Kansas Author's Club convention the first weekend in October and served as "The Poet in the Box." She sat in a large box while child authors fed her suggestions on sticky notes through a slot in the box on one side; she wrote a poem about the subject and handed it out a slot in the other side. She wrote 50 silly poems in 45 minutes; then staggered out of the box.



**Judith Emerson** will do a reading and a book signing at the Muskogee Public Library on 801 West Okmulgee for her debut historical novel *The Myth Makers* on Oct. 7 at six p.m. Her next scheduled reading and signing will be at Borders, 8015 South Yale Oct. 14 at six thirty pm.



**Peggy Fielding, Jackie King** and possibly **Chuck Sasser**, will sign their new book, *The Foxy Hens Meet a Romantic Adventurer* on Saturday, October 16, 1-3 pm at Steve's Books on South Harvard.



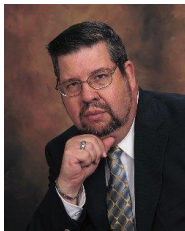
**Radine Trees Nehring** says, "Most fun: Spending the day at the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad booth at the Northwest Arkansas Train Show. And, sold a lot of *Journey to Die For* novels.

Most unusual: At Trolley Line Books' booth at the Northwest Arkansas Fall Bridal Show, selling *Wedding to Die For*. Not successful as a book selling venue.

Biggest Deal: An Arkansas and Missouri Railroad Passenger Excursion round trip from Springdale to Van Buren titled "Read and Ride with Radine." Fall color, copy of *Journey to Die For*, book talk, signing, answering questions, etc. October 10."



**Mike Koch** Just in time for Halloween, Mike has two short stories that have been accepted for publication in Static Movement's anthologies; "Creepy Things" and "Oh, the Horror." Both are selling for \$16.99.



**Jim Laughter's** west coast trip to participate in the dedication of the Steven Stayner and Missing Children's Memorial in Merced, California in conjunction with the release of his latest book *From Victim to Hero -- The Untold Story of Steven Stayner*, was a tremendous success. While in California, Jim appeared on several television and radio shows, as well as newspaper interviews. Jim will be guest speaker at the Bristow, Oklahoma library at noon on Monday, October 18th after appearing on KREK radio at 11am. Jim also recently received news that a children's book he authored, *Strangers in the Barn*, has been recommended for a publishing contract with 4RV Publishing.

**Dale Whisman** is offering critique services:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/writerscritiqueservice/>

### And Another Thing...

I'm still having a problem with some members not following guidelines. C'mon people, you have to do this for the "real" editors. Brags have to be shorter, no more than 75 words. It needs to be written the way it should appear in the newsletter. That means don't send an email that says "I won first place in XXX contest." Instead "Your Name won first place in XXX contest

which came with a cash prize of \$5000.00." (Hey, we can dream!) Text should be TNR 12, SINGLE space, THREE space indention for each paragraph. For SPEAKER ARTICLES: include speaker's photo, keep the article 175 words max. If you've sent me something and most of it was deleted, you know it was much too long. I want everyone's brags but won't have enough room if some of you send me 200 word brags.

### YOUR OFFICERS

The 2010 TNW officers are: President **Carla Stewart**, VP **Valerie Gawthrop**, Treasurer **Brad Smith**, Greeter **Joyce Ross** and Editor **Gloria Teague Shirley**.



### **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

What did the baby ghost eat for lunch?  
 A boo-logny sandwich

What do you get when you cross a were-wolf with a drip-dry suit?  
 A wash-and-weresuit.

What did Daddy Ghost say to baby ghost in the car?  
 Fasten your sheetbelt.

What is a witch with poison ivy called?  
 An itchy witchy.

What do you call serious rock?  
 Grave stones.

## Allow me to introduce you to TNW member



**Vickie McDonough**

My close friends won't be surprised at all by this confession, but I was a rather ornery kid. I remember stories my mom told about how she had to tie me in a chair with a venetian blind cord when I was a toddler so I'd stay out of trouble long enough for her to feed my little sister. When I think of my mom back then, I picture her in bed with a damp cloth on her forehead suffering from a migraine—probably my fault.

At three, I nearly drowned in a swimming pool at my dad's summer office picnic. Mom had sat me in a lawn chair and told me not to move while she went in and put on her bathing suit. The water was just too inviting and a non-threat to a determined youngster.

When I was nine-years-old, my mom was a counselor at a Brownie's day camp. I normally rode in the car with her, but on the last day, I wanted to ride the bus back to the scout office. She said I could and to run and put my fishing pole and the old coffee can of bacon I'd use for bait in our car. I ran—and tripped on a rock. The rim of the coffee can broke off, leaving an edge as sharp as a razor blade. I covered my eyes when I fell, and if I hadn't, I'd have been blinded. The can slit open the arm covering my eyes, and I have a six-inch scar today.

There were more traumatic events. I nearly broke my neck jumping my horse over fences and logs. I came inches from crashing my motorcycle, which I bought when I was fourteen, into the back of a car. I look back at all this and think two things:

1. God really protected me and must have something in this world He wants me to do.
2. He well-prepared me to be the mother of four boys, now all safely grown—thank you, Lord—but not without a couple of broken bones.

People sometimes ask me if I see myself in my characters. Normally, I'll tell them not-so-much, but in my *Texas Boardinghouse Brides* series there's a young girl a whole lot like me in many ways. Jacqueline—or Jack as she insists—is a tomboy who prefers worn overalls to dresses, fishing with her friends instead of school, and avoiding anything her ma wants her to do. (Tugging at my collar now. Sounds a lot like me, although I preferred horses to fishing)

My website is: [www.vickiemcdonough.com](http://www.vickiemcdonough.com)