



# Tulsa Night Writers

NightScripts

September 2010

Editor: Gloria Teague Shirley

---

This Month – **Jodi Thomas!**



By Gloria Teague

Maybe because she's a fifth generation Texan, Jodi likes to set the majority of her novels in her home state. With a degree in Family Studies, Thomas is a marriage and family counselor by education, a background that enables her to write about family dynamics. Honored in 2002 as a Distinguished Alumni by Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Thomas enjoys interacting with students on the West Texas A & M University campus, where she currently serves as Writer in Residence, only the second one to ever be appointed.

The list of her books is a long one. A list of her short stories, anthologies, speaking engagements, and awards would be a much longer list.

Jodi's diligence is the reason she was able to leave her teaching job to write full time and make a living doing it, a dream that most of us share. That diligence included spending two weeks with homeless people in Austin to prepare for *Finding Mary Blaine!* Now that's serious research, something that few people will do. And because of that and a dogged work ethic, she's been on the NY Times and USA Today best seller lists several times over.

If you want to hear a master's advice, come to Martin Regional Library, 26<sup>th</sup> & Garnett in Tulsa on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

**The Prez sez:**



September has always signaled one of my favorite times of the year: Back to school. The smell of new pencils. Notebooks full of blank pages. A pristine 48-count box of crayons. Yes, I've always been a junkie for the "tools" of going back to school. It's like a fresh start, the beginning of another leg of the journey. Anything is possible with September.

So for just a moment, let's pretend it's a new year in your writing world. What are the tools you can't do without? Here's my list:

Laptop. I no longer even own a desk top. I can take my Mac wherever I go.

Flip Dictionary. For when you know what you want to say but can't think of the right word.

Dictionary: My preference is the Webster's Collegiate, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. It gives the date of origin of most words—essential for a writer.

Highlighters. Perfect for marking important passages in books on craft so I can find them later.

Sticky Notes. Whatever did we do before sticky notes?

Moleskin notebook (purse size)—to capture all my thoughts when I'm away from home.

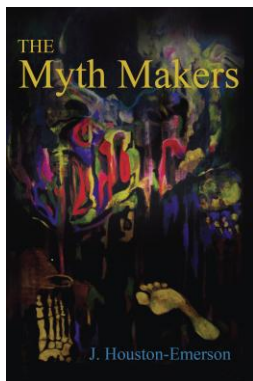
So what's on your list for your new season of writing?

Hope this is the best year ever!--Carla

## Our members have brags



Vickie McDonough's *Second Chance Brides*, *Texas Boardinghouse Brides*, book 2, releases Sept. 1 and *Christmas Mail Order Brides*, a novella collection, releases Sept. 1. She wrote *The Prodigal Groom*, one of the four novellas in this collection.



**Judith Emerson's** next signing will include a reading as well at Borders on Oct 16 followed by a dream come true...a reading and signing at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian, in New York this November. Book signing for her debut historical novel *The Myth Makers* was on Sept 4 at the Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah.



"I was an amateur 'wordsmith'.  
Then I turned semi-pronoun."



Barbara Howell's book, *Splinters*, was named Best Christian True Story for 2010 from [ChristianStoryTeller.com](http://ChristianStoryTeller.com). She has been busy speaking at Rotary & Kiwanis' Clubs across the state, and was honored to speak at the Tulsa New Comers club recently. She is booked to speak at the Sapulpa Sprit Bank in September among other engagements, ranging from schools to churches and everything in between. [www.SplintersBook.com](http://www.SplintersBook.com)



Radine Trees Nehring won the Silver Falchion award at Killer Nashville for *JOURNEY TO DIE FOR*. This national award is given for "best achievement in publishing to a Killer Nashville attending author as voted on by his or her peers." A radio interview with Radine can be heard on the Internet as aired on NPR station KUAF. <http://www.KUAF.com>. Click on *OZARKS AT LARGE*. Enter Radine Trees Nehring in the search and click APPLY. Then click the Radine Nehring right arrow and the program will start playing.

## Member blogs

Recently I asked if you'd share your blogs with us. Thank you for responding.

**Mark Darrah:**

<http://blog.xplana.com>

**Michele Chiapetta:**

<http://www.thechippermuse.blogspot.com/>

**Myra Johnson:**

<http://seekerville.blogspot.com/>

**Dan Case:**

<http://promotebooks.blogspot.com/>

**Corrie Lynn Player:**

[www.corriesstories123.blogspot.com](http://www.corriesstories123.blogspot.com)

**Dale Whisman** is offering critique services:

<http://sites.google.com/site/writerscritiqueservice/>

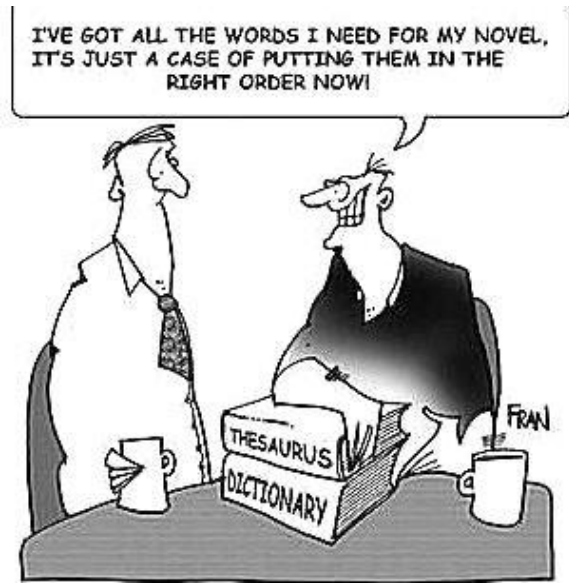
**And Another Thing...**

Here's a fun website. You type in part of your story and this will tell you what gender wrote it.  
<http://www.hackerfactor.com/GenderGuesser.ph>

Just to remind you that the Celebration of Books will begin on Friday, Sept. 24 with "An Evening with Sue Monk Kidd & Michael Cunningham." All Saturday events take place at the OSU-Tulsa campus. [www.poetsandwriters.okstate.edu](http://www.poetsandwriters.okstate.edu)

**YOUR OFFICERS**

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



There's nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein. ~Walter Wellesley "Red" Smith

You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you. ~Ray Bradbury

The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say. ~Anaïs Nin

Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia. ~E.L. Doctorow

A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket. ~Charles Peguy

And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt. ~Sylvia Plath