

# The Owl's Hoot



A publication of the  
Ozarks Writers League  
501(c)(3)  
ozarkswritersleague.com

Editor: Jeanie Horn  
jeanhorn@windstream.net



Editor's note: Friday night dinner, \$14.99, deadline to make reservations, November 9th. Must be pre-paid by that date. Reserve online, ozarkswritersleague.com, or contact treasurer, Ellen Thompson, whalechaser@yahoo.com. Voting for 2015 officers will take place at the Saturday morning general membership OWL meeting.

Volume 30, Number 4

1983-2014

November 2014

## SHARING WRITING TIPS/TECHNIQUES FOR INSPIRATIONAL MARKET



**TRICIA GOYER;** USA Today bestselling author, Tricia has published thirty-three books to date. She is a two time Carol Award winner, as well as a Christy and ECPA Award Nominee. In 2010, she was selected as one of the Top 20 Moms to Follow on Twitter, by [SheKnows.com](http://SheKnows.com). She has written over 500 articles for national publications and blogs for

high traffic sites like TheBetterMom.com and MomLifeToday.com.

She wrote the novelization of the hilarious family comedy *Moms' Night Out*, that celebrates real family life—where everything can go wrong—and still turn out all right. One of her dreams came true, when the novel made it onto the big screen on May 9th!

Somewhere in the hustle and bustle of family life, Tricia finds the time to write fictional tales delighting and entertaining readers and non-fiction titles offering encouragement and hope. She volunteers around her community and mentors teen moms. She also hosts a weekly radio podcast, *Living Inspired*.

Tricia and her husband, John, are the parents of six, grandparents of two. They live in Little Rock, AR where she coordinates a Teen MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group.



## November Meeting Agenda

### Friday Night: November 14th

**5:30 p.m.**—Musical Entertainment, gathering at Ye Olde English Inn.

**6:30 p.m.**—Dinner

### MENU FOR FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Stuffed Manicotti;  
Gnocchi with a tomato or Alfredo cream Sauce;  
Caesar Salad; Garlic Bread  
Bread Pudding for Dessert  
Beverage, coffee or Tea

**7:00 p.m.**— Awards ceremony.

### Saturday General Meeting: November 15th

**8:30-9:00**—Registration

**9:00**—Welcome, Announcements, Door Prizes, Recognition.

**9:15**—2015 Officer Nominations & Member Vote

**9:30**—**Tricia Goyer:** Writing for the Inspirational Market: Expectations, Publishers and Secrets (part 1).

**10:15**—Break.

**10:30**—Writing for the Inspirational Market: Expectations, Publishers and Secrets (part 2).

**11:30**—Lunch

**1:00**—**Tricia Goyer:** How to Write a Great Christian Novel (auditorium).  
Manuscript Critique (Classroom).

**1:45**—Break.

**2:00**—**Tricia Goyer:** What it Takes to Write a Book Series.

**2:45**—General meeting dismissed.

**3:00**—Board Meeting.

Third Annual Author Book Signing Day

Kimberling Area Library,  
Kimberling City, MO  
Saturday, February 7, 2015  
9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

For details and an author application, e-mail Mary Plate at [mfplate@centurytel.net](mailto:mfplate@centurytel.net).

Applications are due November 1st. Come for a fun day of signing and selling your books, visiting with fellow authors and meeting area readers.

**Nominating Committee for 2015 officers is:**

**Pamela Foster:**

[pamelafoster2011@gmail.com](mailto:pamelafoster2011@gmail.com)

**Bonnie Tesh:** [bonkate@hotmail.com](mailto:bonkate@hotmail.com)

**Ronda Del Boccio:**

[profitableauthor@gmail.com](mailto:profitableauthor@gmail.com)

OWL members who wish to nominate anyone not listed can contact either of the three nomination committee members. Voting will take place during the November 15th, 2014 general morning meeting.

2015 officers now nominated are listed below;

**President: Casey Cowan**

**Vice President: Kay Lawson**

**Secretary: John Daleske**

**Treasurer: Angel Puckett**

Above are Board-approved nominees selected by the nominating committee. However, Per Bylaws Guidelines: *Nominations for any Board position may be made from the floor by any League Member, provided that anyone nominated from the floor shall be present and shall have consented in advance. Only League Members may be considered for positions on the Board.*

**LINDA APPLE:** Three books debuted; *Writing Life! Your Stories Matter*, by Birdsong Publishing; *POW Promises kept, The Inspiring Stories of Walter "Boots" Mayberry*, published by Pen-L Publishing; *Women of Washington Avenue*, published by Wild Rose Press.

**VELDA BROTHERTON:** *Beyond the Moon*, is the compelling story of two lost souls and their search for redemption that leads them beyond the pain, beyond the darkness, to find a love that binds them together forever.

**MARY NIDA SMITH:** EXHIBIT: Art & Photograph Palette Art Gallery (8-29/14): BOOK COVER: Photograph, Bill Rhodes book (9/14). LITERARY AGENT: Signed with Loiacono Literary Agent (8/12/14): BOOK CONTRACT: Skyhorse Publishing Inc.



Fundraising for OWL in 2014 was successful because so many members contributed good auction items and bought other good items. You all deserve a hearty thank you. On Saturday, November 15 we'll have a silent auction, so bring any items you have for that.

In 2015, with our fundraising goal of \$3,000, each member will need to participate as never before and it's not too early to begin searching for items to bring. In addition to the May auction there are many ways to participate, buy and sell raffle tickets, make cash donations, serve on the auction committee, bring items for each of the quarterly meetings and help when needed. You all know that to provide the quality programs we want, it takes money. If we all work together I am confident that we can have a great fundraising year for OWL.

~ Chet Dixon; auction chair.

CASEY COWEN introduced the inaugural issue of *Saddlebag Dispatches*, a new online magazine dedicated to the West, its history, heritage, culture, and even its fiction. Check it out at [www.saddlebagdispatches.com](http://www.saddlebagdispatches.com).

## The President's Page

**KAREN NELSON:** Greetings! It's hard to believe we have come to the end of 2014! As we approach our final meeting of the year, let's celebrate our accomplishments! Many of you will be winners in our writing contest, while others have crossed a major hurdle just to muster up courage to enter. Some have had publishing successes this year, and others have had breakthroughs in their process. Even more exciting is the growth we have seen within the organization itself. Each meeting has welcomed new members and proven that we are a lively bunch that can follow through with what our founders envisioned for the Ozarks Writers League.



We've been thrilled with the response to open-mic night and manuscript critique sessions, the enthusiasm for our mini-classes and workshops, and the appreciation for the variety of speakers we strive to bring to the area. This year we have seen topics in mystery, creative non-fiction, memoir, children's, inspirational, short story, and literary publishing, as well as networking and marketing skills for the real world and online. We have chowed down on box lunches and bar-b-que, listened to local talented musicians, applauded our visual artists, assisted students and aspiring writers in their educational goals, and shared a lot of laughs (and maybe a drink or two).

This year brought sadness, too, with the loss of some of our treasured members. Their contribution to our community cannot be underestimated, and their light will continue to shine as we build on their efforts. It is my sincere wish that we each learn to value one another and express that appreciation each time we meet. The days are long, but the years are short, and our time together is precious. It has been a whirlwind year, full of success stories, new techniques, connecting with friends, trying new things, and general good times. I want to thank the membership for their support and kind words, and hope that you are as gracious and positive with the new officers as you have been for me. I have enjoyed my time serving this remarkable organization and look forward to continue cheering you all on in your writing and artistic efforts! ~President, Karen Nelson

**Casey Cowen: Calling for submissions to the OWL Anthology**, of Ozark-centric short fiction and poetry under the prompt: *the people you meet along the journey*. Complete stories between 2,000 and 5,000 words on the theme put forth.

**POETRY:** No more than three pages on the subject of the prompt, no style excluded.

**SUBMISSION:** All documents must be in Times New Roman, twelve-point font, double spaced, with one inch margins all around. Please do not include extra space between paragraphs. Do not write in all caps. Please avoid excessive use of Italics, bold, and exclamation marks. All files must be in .doc format. Submissions not following guidelines will be excluded from consideration. Submit documents as attachments to [greg.camp@oghmacreative.com](mailto:greg.camp@oghmacreative.com) with OWL Anthology in subject line. Include a short biography, preferred author name for publication, contact information, including telephone number and email address. All submissions must be sent by December 1st, 2014.

**Selection & Editing:** Selection for inclusion in the work will be made by the editorial staff of Oghma Creative Media. Manuscripts will be edited for clarity, spelling and grammar without notice to the authors. *Please note that upon selection all entries become the property of Ozarks Writers League, and will remain so until six (6) months after publication, after which all rights will revert back to the individual authors.*

**NOTICE:** Oghma Creative Media will send a notice via-email to those authors whose work is selected for inclusion no later than January 15th, 2015.

Send submissions for anthology by postal mail to: Pam Foster—226 Wedgeview Drive—Farmington, AR 72730. Or via email to: [greg.camp@oghmacreative.com](mailto:greg.camp@oghmacreative.com) (Put "OWL Anthology" in the subject line).

## OWL Minutes for May 2014

Submitted by Secretary Ellen Withers.

**Secretary's Report:** The third quarterly meeting of the OWL board for 2014 was called to order by Vice-President Jeanie Horn, acting for President Karen Nelson, at 3: p.m.. Karen attended the day's events but had to leave because of a personal matter. Board members Ellen Thompson, Ellen Withers, Sylvia Forbes, Beth Carter, Dusty Richards, Fred Pfister, and Chet Dixon were present. Jan Morrill, Brenda Black, Patty Stith, and Pam Foster were absent. Following everyone's review of printed minutes, reading of the minutes was dispensed. A vote to accept the minutes as written passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** The quarterly report was accepted as previously distributed to the board, reflecting a July 1st balance of \$ 5,474.00. the May auction brought in \$ 1,517 and the quilt raffle earned \$345.00.

**Membership Report:** OWL has 192 active members, 24 lifetime members and 6 honorary members, with 7 new members added at today's meeting.

**New Business:** Nominees for 2015 officers presented to the board: President; Casey Cowen—Vive-President; Kay Lawson—Secretary, John Daleske—Treasurer, Angel Puckett. The vote to accept passed unanimously. Ellen Withers proposed that OWL sponsor a writing contest at the 2015 Arkansas Writers Conference as a way to attract new members and to support writers who enter their contest. Motion was tabled for further discussion at November's board meeting. Chet Dixon presented a written handout with several fundraising ideas as a proposal for 2015. With the pending election of new officers, ideas proposed by Chet were tabled until November, except for silent auction. The vote to move forward with a November silent auction passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** None

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

## 2014 OWL OFFICERS

**President:** **Karen Nelson**  
818 Hwy O; Kisse Mills, MO 65680 417-546-4937  
dkaren@centurytel.net

**Vice-President:** **Jeanie Horn**

**Treasurer:** **Ellen Thompson**  
P.O Box 114; Farmington, AR 72703  
whalechaser@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** **Ellen Withers**  
lnwithers@yahoo.com (501) 329-7477

**Past-President:** **Jan Morrill**

**Past-treasurer:** **Brenda Black**

**Membership Director:** **Diane Yates**  
105 S. Williams; Fayette, MO 65248 660-728-3407  
Diane@DianeYates.com

**Historian:** **Fred Pfister**  
frpfister@suddenlink.net

**Board of Directors: Patti Stith; Pamela Foster; Beth Carter; Dusty Richards.**

Auction Chair-**Chet Dixon**

Hospitality Chair-**Sylvia Forbes**

Website - **Karen Nelson**

Publicity-**Casey Cowen**

Newsletter—Jeanie Horn; jeanhorn@windstream.net  
116 Duvall St., Marshall, AR 72650 870-448-2499

## Motel Accommodations

**Ye Olde English Inn**, downtown Hollister, MO provides a special rate for OWL members, \$59 + tax. **The Homestead Motel**, 1024 West Main, Branson, MO. (888-875-1568) will give a special rate, \$44.99 + tax for 1-2 people (outward facing ground floor rooms, microwave & refrigerator in room). Identify yourself as an OWL member to get the discounted rate when making reservations. Check their websites for directions and descriptions.

Ozarks Writers League meets in the Plaster Auditorium at College of the Ozarks. Drive through the entrance, follow Opportunity Ave. to Plaster Auditorium, the 3rd major building on the right. **Cell Phone Courtesy** to our speakers, **turn off** cell phones, or set on vibrate during the meeting. **Please**, no conversations in meeting room. Use the lobby.

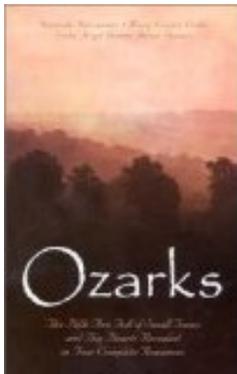
## THE WRITERS LIFE

VEDA BOYD JONES

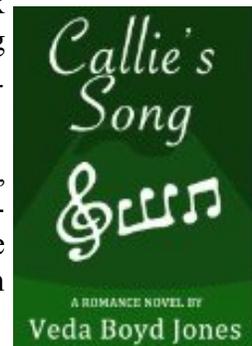


**When did you decide to be a writer and why?** Although I was editor of my high school newspaper, I didn't decide to try my hand at creative writing until I read some romances in the '80s and said, "I can do better than this." Turns out I couldn't. I wrote four complete romances before the fifth one sold. By then I'd learned how to write. I went back and revised the first four and eventually sold them, too.

**What kind of writing do you do?** I started with romances, but did a lot of magazine work before I sold a book, and I still write for a few magazines. I switched to children's writing when our three sons were young and have kept that interest going with historical novels, lots of nonfiction books, picture books, and even a coloring book. Now that I've gotten the rights back to my out-of-print romances, I'm revising them, adding laptops and cell-phones, and putting them up as e-books. I'm trying to adapt to new technology.

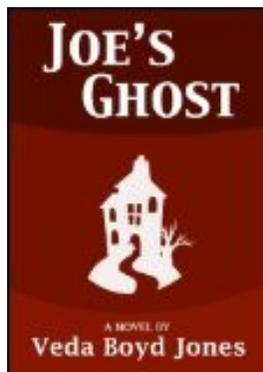


**What inspires you to write?** When the boys were young, I wrote at naptime, just so I was doing something for myself instead of laundry and cooking and cleaning. Since then, it's become a habit. I guess I like the high I get from selling my work.



**What, or who, has been the most helpful to you in your writing?** My husband has been most supportive of my writing efforts. I once

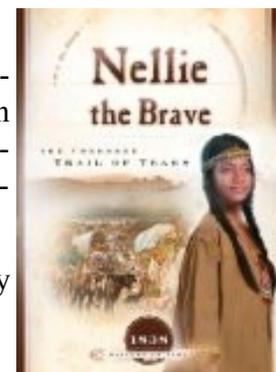
asked him to read a summary and tell me what he thought. He gave constructive criticism, but I couldn't take it. I wanted him to say I was the most brilliant writer he'd ever read. Of course, that wasn't so. Now he reads what I write after it's published. I took a course in writing before I sold a book, and it was helpful. I've learned something from every writing conference I've attended.



**Is there anything about your writing that you're particularly excited about?** I've written a mainstream novel that I'm revising, and I'm working on an MFA in creative writing at Stonecoast, the low-residency program at University of Southern Maine. I go East for ten days to kick the semester off with morning to night lectures and readings, then come back to Missouri to do the hard work. I'm a lowly second-semester in a two-year degree program, so I have lots of reading and writing ahead of me. It's exciting to learn more about metaphors and similes and theme.

**What do you usually read?** I'm in two book clubs, which read literary fiction and mainstream nonfiction. I write reviews for *Publisher's Weekly* in the mass market category, which includes romance, mystery, westerns, sci-fi. That keeps me up to date with what's out there. I also read and write papers on two literary novels/month for school. I read a lot!

**What do you want to be doing ten years from now?** Cashing big royalty checks! And working on a new book manuscript.



**RUTH WEEKS:** ~**R.H. Burkett** — “There are two reasons why I wrote *Daughter of the Howling Moon*, to answer a dare and to let my dark side come out and play.



*Daughter of the Howling Moon* is not for the faint of heart.

“The story is a gritty hard look at what I consider the worst evil ever—crimes against children. Jedidiah Wayne is a backwoods Louisiana preacher man, as vile as the serpents he lets slither and crawl around his neck at prayer meeting. Bethany Ann is a daughter of Howling Moon, a demon fighter brought down from heaven to protect all that is good and holy in this world.”



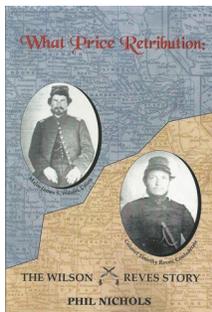
*Born with the gift of second Sight, Bethany Ann is half spirit/half human and is able to walk through dimensions, shape-shift, control rain and wind, and much more. But for all her powers, she's still human and fragile as glass. At those times she calls out to deputy sheriff, Benjamin Sol. He has lost his faith in the power of The Word but stands steadfast in his believe in the power of the law. Together he and Bethany Ann can bring Jedidiah to justice. But it isn't justice Bethany Ann has in mind.*

*Daughter of the Howling Moon* gives a new twist on the battle of good versus evil. Which one will prove the most powerful?

Published by Duke Pennell, Pen-L Publishing,  
also has online magazine [Frontier Tales ezine](#).



In search of a country way of life, **PHIL NICHOLS**, an Iowan by birth, immigrated from Bellevue, Nebraska in 1982 to southern Missouri with his wife and daughter. They set up housekeeping on an old Ozarks poverty farm and never looked back. The tale of their transition can be found in Phil's first book *Ozarks Bound: Surviving the Transition from City to Country Life*. A thirteen-month tour in Viet Nam, with the U.S. Navy Seabees during 1968-1969, left Phil with some very strong opinions concerning patriotism, conservative vs. liberal culture, and government intrusion into the lives of everyday Americans.



Over many years he graduated from editorializing those opinions, to writing a variety of magazine articles, to authoring books.

*What Price Retribution* grew out of a fascination with Missouri's rich Civil War history, fueled by a \$17.00 auction purchase of a first edition set of W. O. Blake's *NATIONAL RECORDS AND AMERICAN REBELLION*. As Phil studied the Missouri sections of these volumes, a Confederate General named Sterling Price, kept coming to the fore. While following Gen. Price from one battlefield to the next another story began to emerge. A story of two common men who chose opposite sides in the conflict and became enemies as they rose through their respective ranks. Theirs was a prolonged bloody conflict that would end in death.

**RADINE TREES NEHRING** is continuing her support of Arkansas' special places by participating in the Fall Festival at Hobbs State Park east of Rogers, Arkansas on October 5 from 1-5. Many wonderful events for children and adults are planned throughout the park (Arkansas' largest) and in the expansive visitor center. Radine will be there at a table promoting her novel *A FAIR TO DIE FOR*, set partly at Hobbs during the fall craft fair season. For more information about festival events e-mail [Steve.Chyrchel@arkansas.gov](mailto:Steve.Chyrchel@arkansas.gov) or phone 479-780-5000.

### **HILLBILLY DAZE ANTHOLOGY CONTEST**

Ronda Del Boccio & Oghma Creative Media are pleased to announce a contest to select pieces for a collection of hillbilly tales. For submission guidelines go to: [WtiteOnPurpose.com/hcontest](http://WtiteOnPurpose.com/hcontest)



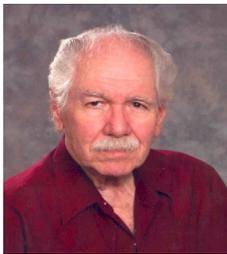
Sympathy goes from OWL members to the family of a treasured OWL member, Ellen Gray Massey, who passed away in July at the age of 92. Teacher, writer, editor, and mentor, Ellen wrote about the Ozarks, which was her passion, but also wrote about life in general in numerous short stories, books, magazine articles, and short-story anthologies. From her wealth of knowledge and information, she told her stories in books and shared them with her students. From 1973-1983, she created and oversaw the production and editing of Bittersweet, the Ozark Quarterly magazine, in which Lebanon, MO high school students interviewed older folks around the Ozarks in order to preserve, in writing and in pictures, stories that were dying off with their generation.

She was a charter inductee into the first Writers Hall of Fame of America. Ellen was one of five honorees inducted

on the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce's WALL OF HONOR, in Lebanon, MO.

A finalist three times in Western Writers of America spur awards, in 2014 she won the WWA Spur Award for her juvenile fiction book, *Papa's Gold*.

Her memoir, *Footprints in the Ozarks*, released February 2012, is dedicated in loving memory of her husband, Lane, the story of her arrival in the Ozarks in the mid-1940s, her marriage, and raising a family on an Ozark farm. She lived life to its fullest, touched many others in the process, and worked toward portraying the Ozarks in a positive light to the rest of the world.



(1933-2014) Condolences go out from Ozarks Writers League to the family of **Jory Sherman**, charter member, who passed away. His supportive attitude toward all OWL members will remain an important link in the chain that stretches from 1983 until now.

On 26 February 1983 a meeting made up of writers, artists, and photographers took place, and Jory was one of the authors there. Several people suggested they organize an Ozarks Writers & Speakers Guild. The purpose would be to preserve Ozarks history and heritage. At this meeting, Jory suggested they use the name "Ozarks Writers League" and the group agreed. Members would be known as OWLs, and the official emblem of the League would consist of a great horned owl clutching a quill and paint brush in its talons.

Charter member, Kathaleen McCrite said, "Jory was a generous mentor, willing to discuss an aspiring writer's dreams and goals. His advice could often be perceived as harsh, but that was only because he wanted new writers to learn to do their best."

*The Medicine Horn*, a fur-trade story, the first of a series he called The Buckskinners, won the Western Writers of America Spur Award. *Song of the Cheyenne* also won a Spur Award, as did *Grass Kingdom*. In 1995, he was inducted into the National Writer's Hall of Fame. In June of 2013 Jory received the WWA Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature.

"I first met Jory at the February 1985 OWL meeting," Dusty Richards said. "He gave me a WWA membership form, and I later joined as a member and that began my career as a western writer. I am so glad he received the Wister Award, he deserved it. His death leaves another hole in the ranks of western writers."

Jory traveled many places, lived many places, then spent the last two years of his life at his home on Cedar Creek in Taney County, MO. He painted images in words for over fifty years. His amazing body of work includes non-fiction books, poems, essays, articles, short stories, and over 400 novels.

Many readers will remember him for his efforts to keep the genre of western novels alive. Many OWL members will remember Jory as a mentor and teacher of all genres of writing. Of his numerous books published, one included is titled, "*My Heart Is In The Ozarks*".

