

The Owl's Hoop



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

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Editor's note: November 20, Friday night dinner \$17.00, Saturday, Nov. 21, Hot lunch \$8.00, these prices include tax, drinks & gratuity. Menus for both meals on page four (4). Pay by PayPal on website link, ozarkswritersleague.com, or mail check made out to OWL for \$25.00, to Karen Nelson at 818 Hwy O; Kissee Mills, MO 65680. Pay early to make sure your seat is reserved. For appointments to pitch your writing to Jeanie or Lisa email diane@dianeyates.com.

Voting for 2016 officers will take place at the OWL Saturday morning membership meeting; "You will have the opportunity to ask questions and get answers."

Volume 31, Number 4

1983-2015

November 2015

Writing Fiction & Pursuing Your Dreams.

Kathleen M. Rodgers



Kathleen appeared in anthologies published by McGraw-Hill, University of Nebraska Press/Potomac Books, AMG Publishers, and Press 53. In 2014, she was named a Distinguished Alumna from Tarrant County College/NE Campus.

Three of her aviation poems were featured in a new exhibit at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on Long Island, NY.

She is the author of the award-winning novel, *The Final Salute*, featured in USA Today, The Associated Press, and Military Times.

Her second novel, *Johnnie Come Lately*, won a 2015 award for literature from Military



Writers Society of America, and Readers Favorite awarded her a Bronze Medal award for women's fiction in the 2015 International Book Awards.

Johnnie Come Lately has been featured in Stars & Stripes, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Southern Writers Magazine, and on "The Author's Corner" on Public Radio.

She has two sons: Thomas, a graduate of University of North Texas and a working artist in Denton, Texas, and J.P., a graduate of Texas Tech University and a former Army officer who earned a Bronze Star in 2014 in Afghanistan. Kathleen and her husband, Tom, a retired USAF fighter pilot/commercial airline pilot, reside in Colleyville, Texas with their rescue dog, Denton. Kathleen is working on a new novel titled *Seven Wings to Glory*.

Writing for regional publications; How to approach newspapers and magazines.



Susan Varno is a contributing writer (over 50 feature articles published) for the *Three Rivers Edition* of the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. She co-wrote the "Not So Long Column" on local history for the *White River Current* newspaper (over 200 columns). She was a regular contributor, feature articles and humor column, to *Ozark Mountain News*.

Susan's articles were published in *Country*

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Magazine, Rural Arkansas, Ozarks Monthly Magazine, Marvelous Magazine, Mysteries of the Ozarks, Happiness Magazine, Ozark Senior Living, and various historical society journals. She also writes two columns a month for *Video Views* magazine.

JEANIE LOIACONO: A facilitator



of dreams, Jeanie represents over eighty authors. Her forte is mystery, romance, thrillers, historical/military/southern fiction, and she will also consider all quality fiction and nonfiction.

Her passion is to see her authors succeed. *“There is nothing more rewarding than to hold one of my author’s books and know I helped bring it to fruition. I am so blessed and privileged to be able to work with some of the most talented writers in the world.”*

Jeanie, President of Loiacono Literary Agency, will be taking pitches from authors at the OWL meeting. Contact President Diane Yates at Diane@dianeyates.com to schedule an appointment.

November Meeting Agenda

Friday Night: November 20

7:00 p.m.— The 2015 Writing Contest Awards Banquet.

Saturday General Meeting: November 21

8:30-9:00—Registration in the Cardinal Room.

9:00-9:15—Greetings, Announcements, Door Prizes.

9:15-10:15—General Membership Business Meeting, voting for 2016 officers, and an opportunity for questions and answers from OWL members and officers.

10:15-10:45—Break. Book Tables, Networking

10:45-11:45—Kathleen M. Rodgers/Writing Fiction & Pursuing Your Dreams.

11:45-1:15—Lunch, onsite or on your own.

1:15-2:15—Susan Varno/Writing Nonfiction & Regional Pubs-the Do’s and Don’ts.

2:15—Q & A Panel.

2:45 - General Membership Meeting Adjourned.

3:00—Board Meeting.

LISA MILLER: Amphorae Business Manager; Publisher, Walrus Publishing, Lisa has a B.A. in English from the University of Baltimore and an M.A. in English from the University of Missouri-Saint Louis. She taught composition at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, Lindenwood University, and at Saint Louis Community College. She wrote an award winning essay *Still Falling Snow*, which appeared in *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors Vol. 3* and has one book published. She continues to teach in writing workshops and presentations. Lisa will be taking pitches from OWL members. Walrus is now accepting submissions in Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Romance, Regional, and Humor.



DUKE PENNELL, of Pen L Pub-



lishing, will be conducting pre-pitch sessions for our members’ benefit. Schedule your appointment to present your pitch to Duke. He will critique your presentation and offer vital recommendations to ensure your pitch is precise, informative, and enticing. Then you’re ready to talk to any agent, editor or publishing representative you may find yourself with, one-on-one, in the elevator, or wherever you happen to meet.

The President's Page

DIANE YATES

The African Violet, a Friend, and a Contract



I climbed into the passenger seat of Sylvia's van and we headed south to the OWL conference. Between the seats, I noticed a small, pink African violet. "I'm taking it to Kathy," Sylvia explained. "She really likes them." I nodded, but all I could think about was pitching my book to the visiting agent and quieting the butterflies in my stomach. That evening when Sylvia gave Kathy the flower, she invited us to visit her room. Who would have guessed that Kathy would be rooming with the one who was the source of my nervousness? This relaxed atmosphere allowed me to get acquainted and talk about my manuscript with both Kathy and the agent. Within three

months, I received a contract from the literary agency and ultimately a book deal with a publisher.

For years, OWL members have encouraged and mentored others, helping them on their journey to publication. For some of you, this may be your year! In an effort to help OWLs succeed, we have a cast of distinguished guests at our November meeting who are looking for new writers or have agreed to share some tricks of the trade. Jeanie Loiacono of the Loiacono Literary Agency and Lisa Miller of Amphorae Publishing will be accepting appointments for pitch sessions. Jeanie represents all genres and Lisa is looking for Sci-fi/Fantasy, Romance, Regional, and Humor for Amphorae's Walrus imprint. Email me at Diane@DianeYates.com to schedule your appointment.

As I stepped into the role of President, I received numerous emails, phone calls, and Facebook messages encouraging me. That's why I love OWL. We are a great group of writers and artists devoted to preserving the heritage of OWL and supporting one another in our individual endeavors. In keeping with the spirit of our beloved Ozarks, "friends helping friends" and "neighbors helping neighbors", when I asked for volunteers to assist at events and serve in some capacity, many of you offered to help. That's what sets us apart and makes us great. Look for some new and exciting events with the upcoming year.

The Board's focus is maintaining OWL as a successful and helpful organization for its members.

I hope you can join us for November's Conference on the 20th-21st. The event begins with our awards banquet Friday evening at 7 p.m. in the Cardinal Room of the Honeysuckle Inn. **This is a change from where the group has been staying the last couple of meetings.** The room rate is \$65.00, and both the banquet and the conference will be held in the Cardinal Conference Room. That means after you check into the hotel on Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, you don't have to leave for any of the events! See the Website (ozarkswritersleague.com) events section for directions, how to purchase meals, and other details. Make your reservation by October 29th to be assured a room at the \$65.00 rate, and mention you are with Ozarks Writers League.

At the banquet, we'll announce the winners of our 2015 writing contest. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning. I can't wait to see you all.

Interim President: Diane Yates

Owl News

FRIDAY AWARDS DINNER

Mixed Green Salad
 Glazed Ham or Beef Tips
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
 Green Beans
 Rolls
 Fruit Cobbler
 Choice of Drinks: water,
 coffee, or tea.

Both Friday night banquet & Saturday hot lunch meals catered by the Golden Corral. Reserve your seat by ordering your meals in advance.

\$17.00 pp includes gratuity

SATURDAY HOT LUNCH

The Home-style

Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Rolls
 Apple Cobbler

Aunt Bea Special

Fried Chicken
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Roll
 Cake

Healthy

Rotisserie Chicken
 Rice
 Steamed Broccoli
 Roll
 Fruit Cup

All meals served with a drink.

\$8.00 pp — must pre-order

OWL OFFICERS

Interim President: Diane Yates

105 S. Williams; Fayette, MO 65248
 660-728-3407 diane@dianeyates.com

Vice-President: Beth Ulrich; 2016 nominee

Past Vice-President Jeanie Horn

Treasurer: Ellen Thompson; 2016 nominee

Secretary: Jessica Nelson, 2016 nominee

Membership Director: Diane Yates

Historian: Fred Pfister

frpfister@suddenlink.net

Board of Directors: Pending 2016 elections.

Director—Pam Foster

Auction Chair—**Chet Dixon**

Hospitality Chair— pending 2016 election.

Website - **Karen Nelson**

Newsletter—**Jeanie Horn;** jean-horn@windstream.net

or: jeanie71@hotmail.com - 870-448-2499

116 Duvall St., Marshall, AR 72650

Hotel Accommodations & OWL Meeting Place

The Honeysuckle Inn & Conference Center

3598 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson, Missouri, is the feature hotel for OWL events! Conveniently located on Shepherd of the Hills Expressway between the RFD-TV Theater and the IMAX Complex. Mention you are with Ozarks Writers League for the special OWL Rate - **\$65. + tax;** Includes complimentary breakfast. Directions & map to the hotel on the website, ozarkswritersleague.com

TELEPHONE: 1-417-335-2030

Email: reservations@honeysuckleinn.com

Website: HoneysuckleInn.com

Registration in the Cardinal Room at the Honeysuckle Inn starts at 8:30 a.m.

Cell Phone Courtesy to our speakers, **turn off** cell phones, or set on vibrate during the meeting. **Please,** no conversations in the meeting room. Use the lobby.



THE WRITERS LIFE & KUDOS

RUSSELL GAYER: Ozark Creative Writers — 1st place, Showcase Award: *The Battle of Gardenville* — 1st HM, Search for Excellence Award: *Christmas Charade* — 1st HM, University Press Fiction Award: *The Backside of Knowledge* — 2nd place, Flash Fiction: *Lucy in the Sky*.

MEG WELCH DENDLER: Released a new book, *At the Corner of Magnetic and Main*, through Pen-L Publishing, Duke & Kimberly Pennell, info@Pen-L.com.

MADISON WOODS: Began online nature sketching journal and released a corresponding sketch book/nature journal on October 3rd, and is doing a Goodreads Givaway on the book beginning Oct. 15 - ending Oct. 31. The winner gets a copy of the journal with an original journal entry and nature sketch by Madison.

DIANE YATES: New book published by Deer Hawk Publications, *Pathways of the Heart*, release date November 1st, 2015. This is the story of a spunky daughter of a judge who falls in love and marries the son of a Missouri Ozarks schoolteacher, a story of love, tragedy, heart-break, and redemption.

GARY R. HOFFMAN: Recently had a selection from one of his short stories about World War II published in 2007 used by a text book company in Japan.

CAROLYN BOYLES: is a freelance Content Editor for three Christian publishing companies; Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas, Firefly Southern Fiction, and Prism Book Group.

SUSAN CROCE KELLY (KIRKPATRICK): *Father of Route 66, the Story of Cy Avery*, the biography of the early highway promoter, University of Oklahoma Press, was a finalist in the OK Book Awards, winner in the Best-Nonfiction Book of 2014, Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. Won the Williams Award for Major Work Worthy of Special Recognition from the Missouri Guild; and Finalist in Indiefab Biography Awards. Susan also received Springfield's John T. Woodruff Award for her longtime contribution to the history of Route 66.

CHET DIXON: Recently signed a contract with Oghma for three of his poetry books.

JOYCE ZELLER: Published *Love Out of Time* in June 2015. *The Haunting of Aaron House* was released by Rogue-Phoenix Press in October 2015. Her new novel, *Love in a Small Town*, a romance set in Eureka Springs, AR will be released in February 2016.

FREE Table at the OWL Meeting

Do you have a book coming out? Is your group sponsoring a writing contest? Will you be speaking somewhere soon about writing? Do you have some literary journals you're finished reading, and would like to find them a new home? At each meeting, we set up a FREE table. You can set out your bookmarks, postcards, flyers, handouts, business cards, and even literary journals you're done reading and want to give to someone else. Bring any items; don't forget to set them on the table before the Saturday morning meeting. Be sure to take a look at what others have brought to give out, too!