

2011

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

EDITORS/PUBLISHERS

Lynda Burch

Lynda Burch is the sole owner and publisher of Guardian Angel Publishing. Her publishing goals are to "lovingly create fun, affordable, and educational print books and ebook computer experiences for preschoolers and primary age children." Guardian Angel books are rated for age 0 to 12 years old. Burch states, "Our hope is that the seeds of the influence from our books will live longer than we do where a harvest of knowledge and vibrant faith will help transform a time we may never see."

Burch is also an author of both adult fiction (writing as Lynda LaPorte) and the inventor/author of children's musical ebooks. Burch lives in St. Louis.

Trent C. Butler

From the Nashville area, Trent C. Butler has a Ph. D. in biblical studies and linguistics from Vanderbilt University and has done further study at Heidelberg and Zurich, and has participated in the excavation of Beersheba. He served ten years on the faculty of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and for twenty-two years as editor and editorial director for Holman Bible Publishers. Currently, he is a retired freelance editor. Butler has had experience in editing Bibles, academic religious books, devotional books, religious leadership books, coaching books, and nearly anything else in a religious publisher's line. Some of his editorial projects include *Holman Bible Dictionary*, *Holman Bible Atlas*, and the *Experiencing God Bible*, the *Disciple's Study Bible*. He also served on the editorial committee for the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation.

Butler is also an author with many publications including commentaries on both Old and New Testament texts and articles in numerous journals.

Jamie Johnson

Jamie Johnson has been writing most of her life. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and she has had several short stories and poems published, winning awards for her work. In addition to being the poetry editor for *Storyteller Magazine*, Johnson owns a webpage design company.

Louella Turner

Louella Turner has had scores of short stories, essays, and articles published starting with her first publication 10 years ago in *Country Almanac*, a national magazine with three quarters of a million subscribers, to the latest which was a 3 page article with her own

photography for *Ozark Magazine*. She has also seen her fiction appear in 14 published anthologies and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Louella and her husband started a new business nearly 4 years ago called High Hill Press. To date they have published more than 40 books. Several of their authors have won some hefty prizes with their books, including being short listed for book of the year with *Forword Magazine* which garnered them an invitation to the London Book Fair, the Atlanta Book Fair, and the Chicago Book Fair. They have managed to have many of their books reviewed in several major newspapers and book sales are brisk. Louella has been on the board of many writers organizations and has organized workshops throughout the mid-west.

Regina Williams

Regina Williams is an author, poet, and Editor/Publisher/Founder of *The Storyteller Magazine*. Her career path has included being a DJ,

law secretary, Arkansas State Parks Interpreter, and staff writer for a local magazine. She has been accepted into the 2002 edition of *Who's Who in U. S. Writers, Editors, and Poets*. Williams has publication credits in *Smile: American Short Humor*, *Black Powder Annual*, *Rural Arkansas*, *Black Petals*, *Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine*, *Ozarks Monthly*, *Fiction Addiction*, *Dead Mule*, *Writing on Walls Anthology I & II*, *Echoes of the Ozarks Anthology I, II, & III*; *Tales of the South Anthology*, *Shadows After Midnight Anthology*, and *Voices Anthology I & II* as well as online at *Fiction Addiction*.

No stranger to writing conference competitions, she has earned awards from Heartland Writers Guild, Ozark Creative Writers, and Arkansas Writers. Her sci-fi novel captured first place at the Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. She has also won awards for her poetry. Williams currently has a suspense novel with an agent and is a frequent presenter at writing conferences. She lives in Maynard, Arkansas and also spends time in New Jersey.

Authors/Speakers

Tim Morgan

Tim Morgan is an expert hand writing analyst and forgery analyst. He is presently a consultant for criminal profiling with a number of private investigators in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee, gleaning character profiles from hand writing samples. Morgan has also performed forgery determinations for private investigators in Missouri. He is also a certified hypnotherapist. Morgan is the current president of Heartland Writers Guild. He lives the Cape Girardeau, Missouri area.

Dakota Banks

(AKA Shirley Kennett)

Dakota Banks, a St. Louis author, admits the “growing up in a converted turn-of-the-century funeral home, complete with blood gutters and a drain in the basement floor” may have “warped my mind.” She notes, however, that she did undertake “a relatively normal life.”

In high school and college, she wrote short stories, submitted them and received rejection letters. Her writing career took a positive turn in the 1990s when she published six books, all hard-edged suspense thrillers dealing with virtual reality, one of them set in a future world. None of these books were written in the Dakota Banks name. Even though she enjoyed the money that the books brought in and appreciated the 600,000 words under her belt, she decided to shift gears in her writing. So she went “back to the basement with a flashlight.” The result.....the Mortal Path series of supernatural thrillers published with Harper Collins Publishers.

Barri L. Bumgarner

Barri L. Bumgarner's “Preconceptions” appeared in *My First Year in the Classroom*. In 2010 she won honorable mention for stories in *Well Versed*, and wrote a cover story for MNEA's summer issue of *Something Better*. Her young adult novel, *Dregs*, was runner-up for the Walter Williams Major Work Award in 2008. Baumgarner's psychological thriller, *Slipping*, received MWG's Best Fiction 2006 runner-up and received rave reviews from national radio host Jim Bohannon and Washington Post's Tyrone Banks. Her short story “Retribution” appears in *Mysteries of the Ozarks, Vol. II*. Bumgarner's debut novel, *8 Days*, is currently in its second print-run. She has published over seventy articles and numerous short stories and poems.

A former junior high teacher, Bumgarner now teaches at the University of Missouri while completing her PhD. She received her Bachelor's from Missouri State University and her Master's from University of Missouri.

Stan Crader

Stan Crader was born and raised in Bollinger County Missouri. Coming of age in rural Missouri provided him the material for many of the rich characters in his two novels, *The Bridge* and *Paperboy* published in 2007 and 2010 respectively. *The Bridge* reached the bestseller list for Christian fiction at both barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com. Crader also won a Silver Quill award from the International Association of Business Communication.

Crader is a business executive, serving as president of a family business that sells Stihl chainsaws and power tools. Stan qualified as a finalist in Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year.

In addition to writing, Crader is passionate about flying. His longest flight was from Missouri to Athens, Greece, in a small Cessna. His articles about flying have been published in flying magazines and local newspapers.

Margo Dill

Margo Dill is a freelance writer, business writer, and elementary school teacher living in Mahomet, Illinois. She has had her own blog, “Margo Dill's Read These Books and Use Them”, since 2008. Her blog is monetized, unique, and has loyal followers. She also blogs for WOW! Women on Writing as part of the WOW! Team and also teaches two online courses for them. She has been writing posts on everything from social networking to children's writing to the writing craft for “The Muffin” since 2007. Besides blogging, Margo is a contributing editor, social media manager, instructor, and columnist for WOW!; book reviewer for *The News-Gazette*; writer for AOL's City's Best St. Louis and Bright Hub; and owns her own editing business—Editor 911.

Her work has appeared in *Grit*, *Pocket*, *Missouri Life*, *ByLine* magazine, *The Chicago Tribune*, *True Love*, and *The News-Gazette*. Dill's first book, a middle-grade historical fiction novel, *Finding My Place*, is scheduled to be published by White Mane Kids. Dill leads workshops in the Midwest for writers, children, and teachers.

Bobbi Smith

Bobbi Smith gave up on career security and began writing, selling her first book to Zebra in 1982. In the past 28 years, she has written over 40 books and six novellas. To date there are over five million of her novels in print. Smith has been awarded the prestigious “Storyteller of the Year” award from *Romantic Times* (New York) and has attained positions on the *New York Times* Best Seller List, the *USA Today* Best Seller List, the Walden's Best Seller List, and the Wal-Mart and K-Mart Best Seller Lists.

The foreign rights to Smith's books have been sold to China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Russia, and Sweden. She has written two faith-based contemporary novels—*Haven* and *Miracles* using the pseudonym of Julie Marshall.

Smith is a long time member of Heartland Writers Guild, efficiently organizing the writing competition at each conference. She is a popular presenter at writers groups and at writing conferences. Smith lives in St. Charles.

Linda Swift

Linda Swift obtained her first book publication with Zebra/Kensington and also acquired an agent at one of Heartland Writers Guild's Writing Conferences. Now a digital author, Swift is contracted with seven publishers. She has six ebooks of fiction (two also in print), a volume of prose poetry, and one short story available. Two books of fiction (ebook and print), a Haiku collection, and two short stories will be released in 2011. Swift will be discussing digital publishing in her conference presentation. She divides her time between her native state of Kentucky and Florida.