**Q&A with the Author of *No Names to Be Given,* Julia Brewer Daily**

1. **Where do you get your ideas for a story?** Ideas come from questions—how would a person react in dangerous situations, or how do mothers cope with children’s illnesses? *In No Names to Be Given*, I lived the story as an adopted child, so the main idea of the story was from my own life.
2. **What is your writing process like?** I am half-way between a *pantser* and a *plotter*. I know the beginning of the story and how it ends, so I need to flesh out the middle. Then, I outline and tie loose ends together. I love to attend writer’s retreats where I have hours of time to compose without having to run the dogs or cook dinner. Having free-time is a gift to a writer.
3. **Do you have advice for other writers with debut novels?** It is a humbling industry—publishing. Be prepared to send out 100 query letters to agents and learn about marketing social media, and public relations. I am surprised how much time is spent on so many other things than writing. Finding a team of professionals to support you is important, too. Editors at every step of the way assisted me in tightening my story.
4. **If you could tell your younger writing-self anything, what would it be?** You should have begun a lot sooner! I knew I wanted to write this story 40 years ago, but I guess I am a late-bloomer. I ran my first marathon at age 60 and followed that with writing my first novel. I wish I could go back in time to begin writing and perhaps I would have 20 books to my credit by now.
5. **What does literary success mean to you?** Success is completing a novel and getting it published. It’s a small legacy I am able to leave my children and grandchildren, setting a goal and accomplishing it, and I am proud of the achievement.
6. **Do you have a first memory of writing?** I think I wrote my first story in the fifth grade. It was a western about a family with twelve children who were traveling with a wagon train on the Chisolm Trail. I was mainly interested in giving names to all those children!
7. **What were your favorite childhood books?** I enjoyed series so I could continue reading for a long time. I loved *The Bobbsey Twins* and *Nancy Drew Mysteries*.
8. **Does your family support your career as a writer?** 100%. My husband loves that I have a new career in my retirement and my children are so proud of my efforts and want to attend book festivals and author signings with me.
9. **Who would you cast to play your characters in a movie version of your book?**

I actually have given this a great deal of thought, but since I thought I was casting 40 years ago, the actresses are like me, too old to play the eighteen-year-old protagonists in my book. I will have to reacquaint myself with Hollywood’s newest crop if ever given the opportunity. This book would be great on the screen with fashions and hairstyles of 1960s, music and the scenery of the south. I visualize my scenes playing before me when I write.

1. **What is a favorite quote?**

*Don’t bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.* William Faulkner