



Oklahoma
Writers'
Federation
Inc.

The Report

All About the
2017 Conference
& Contest

Spring 2017
owfi.org

Oklahoma Writers

inspiration

WE ARE OWFI

OWFI Report, Spring 2017

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OWFI is a non-profit federation of writers' groups dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word.



From the President

Turning 49.

That's a number I'm good at. I've been 49 before. In fact, I'm going on five years now of being 49.

But turning 49 as an organization is a fantastic milestone. Especially when it is a volunteer run organization like the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.

As we celebrate our 49th year (for the first time) and start planning for our 50th, here are 49 facts about OWFI. (What Mari? I can't have the entire Report for my blog post?) Okay, so here are SOME FACTS about OWFI.

- OWFI was actually envisioned in Arkansas. That's right. On June 7, 1968, Charles Campbell was impressed with the Arkansas Writers Conference and wondered how to begin something comparable in Oklahoma.*
- Our first organizational meeting was in Stillwater in 1968 with members from Okmulgee, Ardmore, El Reno, Altus and other various city.*
- OWFI is the statewide organization made up of 30 local affiliate groups and members at large. Currently we have close to four hundred members.
- Our board and delegates representing our affiliate groups meet four times per year to hammer out all the logistics of running this organization.
- Our mission is to help writers help each other.
- One of our goals (We have quite a few.) is to always keep the cost as low, thus enabling as many writers as possible to come to our yearly conference. We have achieved this by running our organization by volunteer power. Be sure to register before March 15th and get the \$25 early bird discount. Also, if the cost is in anyway a hardship, apply for the scholarship. We never want someone to miss out due to finances.
- We have had an annual conference for the past 48 years. No exceptions.
- Our contest is the best bang for a buck of anywhere. For one entry fee you can

enter in up to 34 different categories. That's less than a dollar per category.

- This year we had over 180 people participate in the writing contest with more than 900 entries. Our Saturday night awards banquet is going to be a nail biter to see who will take away the awards.
- Planning for our yearly conferences starts 18 months in advance. For that reason, in December of each year we elect our next president, then the President Elect begins working on the next conference before the current conference is even underway. Our current President Elect is Sabrina Fish who is also our current Conference Chair. That lady is busy, but she's doing a fantastic job. She already has our keynote speaker for 2018 lined up, but we won't tell you who it is until Saturday night of the 2017 conference.
- At the end of every conference we take a survey to see what to keep, what to ditch and what to perfect. A few new "keepers" have been the Friday night costume contest, the central bookstore, and the add on luncheons. This year we

are adding on a Friday night mini-concert with Nathan Brown.

- OWFI strives to educate writing in every field from journalism to fiction, poetry to thrillers, and inspirational to erotica. If you write it, I'm sure there will be someone else at OWFI that is interested in your genre too.

• And.. (What Mari? Oh, I have to quit.)

It might not be a full 49 facts about OWFI, but hopefully if Charles Campbell and the original OWFI team are looking down, this will make them proud to see the little group that started out all those years ago to make an affordable and professional writers' conference in Oklahoma flourish has been successful. Here's to another 49.

* Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc., *The First 20 Years*, by Ernestine Gravley, Published by the Oklahoma Writer's Federation, Inc., May 1988

Christine Jarmola is the OWFI President for 2016-2017.

*Put on your pearls, white gloves and finest hat
and join us for luncheon* with Sonia Gensler*

Saturday, May 6th at noon

*Saturday Box Luncheon
Honing Your Writing Process to a T(ea)*

Sonia Gensler, published author and tea enthusiast, will share the evolution of her writing process during Saturday's "High Tea" luncheon. With honest discussion of what worked and what didn't, Sonia (a self-acknowledged process junkie) will review the strategies she's used for research, character development, story planning, and revision. Planners and "pantsers" alike will come away from this session with an arsenal of tactics for avoiding and/or breaking through writer's block.

*This event requires an addition \$25 fee and advanced booking when registering.

All About the 2017 OWFI Conference

VOLUNTEER

Want More from Your Conference? The people who get the most out of OWFI are our conference volunteers. Check the HOW TO VOLUNTEER section of this newsletter, then go to the VOLUNTEER link on the OWFI website to contact the committee you're interested in.

Any Questions? Check our website often at owfi.org to keep updated on conference news. We also have a very active Facebook group (search for "Oklahoma Writers' Federation"). If you have questions that aren't answered there, contact our president, Christine Jarmola, or conference coordinator, Sabrina Fish.

What to Wear

- There's no dress code, but usually business casual clothing.
- The Friday night banquet features a costume contest. If you'd rather not enter, slacks, a dress, or even nice jeans are OK.
- Attire for the Saturday night banquet is usually fancier. If you aren't into formal wear, business casual clothing is fine, too.

What to Bring

- Business cards, if you have them.
- Notebook and pen, for taking notes during the sessions. Laptops are welcome too, but many rooms don't have accessible outlets.
- A sweater or light jacket. The rooms can be chilly.
- Your ID, if you want to indulge during happy hour.

Other Tips

- During sessions, people often need to come and go due to pitching appointments or volunteer assignments. Please make sure the doors close gently behind you.

- Please silence cell phones during the sessions.
- Water is available in seminar rooms.
- If you have any questions, ask the folks at the OWFI registration desk or anyone wearing an Officer or Volunteer ribbon. We'll be glad to help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Be part of the action!!

The more you put into the OWFI conference, the more you'll get out of it. Volunteering is a great way to network, meet conference faculty, and grow your skills. Whether it's your first conference or your twentieth, there's a place for you on our team. There are many options listed below, so be sure to check out what the conference has to offer you—and ways that you can help! Contact the committee chairs listed below to sign up. Don't wait—the best jobs go fast!

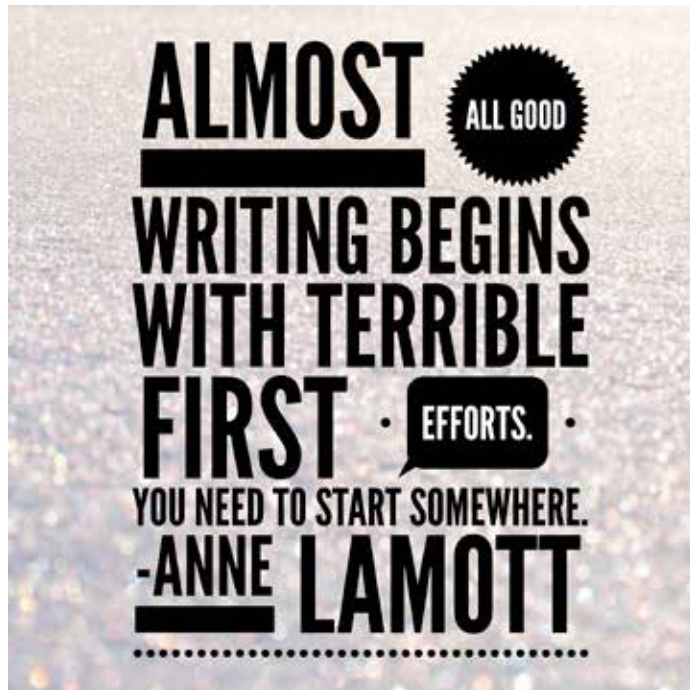
- Shepherds – Chair: Eric Reitan - Assist our conference speakers. You will introduce your speaker and help as needed during sessions. If another attendee doesn't ask them to lunch, you'll buy them lunch. Your duties may

also include picking speakers up from the airport and sitting with them at the banquets. If you want to spend one-on-one time with a publishing professional, this is your perfect chance. Go to the VOLUNTEER tab under conference on the OWFI website to contact the chair with your preference, if interested.

- Pitch Room – Chair: Traci Schaffer – Help with scheduling, time keeping, and ushering. You can sign up for 30 minute shifts on the OWFI website.
- Registration – Chair: Adrean Messmer – Greet conference attendees, hand out registration packets, and take payment. You can sign up for 2 hour shifts on the OWFI website.
- Basket Silent Auction– Chair: Shelley Pagach – Keep an eye on the basket area and help people place bids. Sign up for 1 hour shifts on the OWFI website.
- Center Pieces – Chair: Peggy Chambers – Arrange centerpieces for display during the conference and move them to tables before the Friday and Saturday night banquets. Visit the OWFI website VOLUNTEER link to contact the committee chair to sign up for 30 minute shifts before and after the banquets.



All About the 2017 OWFI Conference



Pitch Sessions

Sign up online at www.owfi.org/conference2017/pitchroom
Sessions will be available on both Friday and Saturday as follows:

- Friday 2:00–5:30pm
- Saturday 8:30–10:30am & 1:30–4:00pm

Agents:

- Sam Morgan, Jabberwocky
- Lauren Spieller, TriadaUS Literary Agency
- Hannah Fergesen, KT Literary

Editors:

- Bess Cozby, Tor/Forge
- Ann Leslie Tuttle, Harlequin Books
- Rhonda Penders, Wild Rose Press
- Ally Robertson, Wild Rose Press
- Vivian Zabel, 4RV Publishing

Conference Book Doctor

Feeling stuck? Need feedback on your work, an honest opinion about story development, language use, grammar, characterization, dialogue or something else? Make an appointment with the OWFI Conference Book Doctor for a manuscript review. There will be a limited number of appointments available at the conference!

Submit up to 25 pages of your manuscript and a short synopsis of your work and our Book Doctor Mari Farthing will review your work, addressing any issues or concerns you might have and offering suggestions and feedback.

This year, you can sign up and submit all online, whether you want to submit your work pre-conference (from March 1–31 for \$50) or at the conference (\$75). Check out www.owfi.org/conference2017/manuscriptreview for all the details!

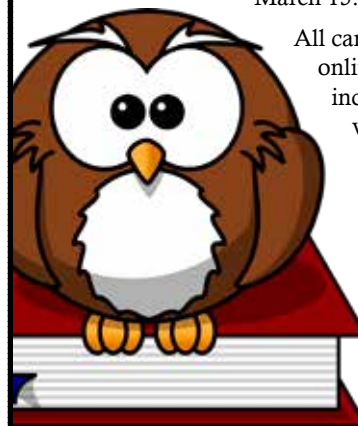


Conference Scholarships

Full (two-day) and Partial (single day) Conference Scholarships are available for qualifying applicants. Lodging and extra tickets, lunches, or additional workshops are not included. Membership in OWFI is not required, but suggested. Applications for scholarships must be received not later than March 1, with notification of selection by March 15.

All candidates must complete the online application form and include a statement saying why they would like to attend. Previous scholarship recipients will be considered, if funding is available after new applications have been reviewed.

Visit www.owfi.org/conference2017/scholarships to apply today.



Why Structure Matters Part III

I don't know why some people avoid—sometimes I think even fear—outlining.

Has the whole “pantser” movement sprung from people looking for excuses to avoid outlining? Sure, it's a chore, but common sense alone should tell you that preplanning will produce a better first draft. Would you start building a house without first designing it? Would you give a speech without first thinking about what you want to say?

Here's how you start. Get sixty index cards (or do it virtually). Break it up into three acts, 15/30/15. Each card should contain one scene. Each scene should contain five or six beats.

Notes about Act 1

The inciting incident takes place early in Act 1. The protagonist must be introduced. The antagonist should probably be introduced. All viewpoint characters typically will be introduced. Perhaps a subplot or two will be initiated. Supporting

characters may be added. The Act will end with the first major Turning Point, which sets the protagonist decisively on the journey.

Notes about Act 2

A character-based turning point (a glimmer of an indication that the character will change) should appear mid-Act 2. Plot twists are recommended to keep the story from losing energy and sagging in the middle. The main plot and subplots should be advanced. Viewpoint characters should be carried forward, as well as any other important supporting characters. The protagonist should be faced with progressively more difficult obstacles or challenges. Act 2 ends with the second major Turning Point, the “dark moment” or “crisis” where the conflict has escalated to its highest point.

Notes about Act 3

The protagonist undertakes difficult actions to overcome the obstacles or challenges. The climax is a large sequence, the largest in the book, and appears toward the end of Act 3. The denouement follows to wrap up any loose ends or character business.

Type up your index cards. Look! You've got an outline.

Having trouble creating all those scenes? Here are some (non-mandatory) suggestions.

1: Introduce main character

2-7: Introduce other main characters, inciting incident, background info

3-14: Aftermath of inciting incident develops, characters develop, problems/conflicts increase and info is collected

15: Hero is pulled out of the everyday world—the game-changer, the journey begins

16-29: Conflicts worsen, hero has setbacks, more info is gathered, subplots develop

30: Hero has long hard look at self, begins to change

31-40: Hero engages opposition, may have small victories, but conflict worsens

41-44: Major action that looks like hero might win, but doesn't

45: Dark moment, conflict becomes personal and grim, looks like situation is hopeless

46-53: Nonstop clash between hero and opposition, no release of tension, roller-coaster ride, chase/pursuit

54-58 Climax—the ultimate clash between hero and opposition

59-60 Denouement, hero returns to his world, subplots resolve, character journey ends

William Bernhardt is the author of over forty books, including the bestselling Ben Kincaid novels and the Red Sneaker series on writing which features Story Structure: The Key to Successful Fiction and Excellent Editing: The Writing Process.

FRIDAY LUNCHEON: CASUAL Q&A WITH EDITOR ANN LESLIE TUTTLE*

Are you considering traditional publishing? Do you wonder if editors contracted with publishers take on side work for indie authors? Do you want a chance to ask any questions you might not get to during your pitch session with Ann Leslie Tuttle? Well then, join us for a casual Q & A box lunch for a chance to ask all your questions.

*This event requires an addition \$25 fee and advanced booking when registering.

2017 OWFI Conference

We're glad your path has led you OWFI, and we can't wait to see you at our 49th annual conference in May.

We've put together an amazing faculty of agents, editors, and best-selling authors that you won't want to miss. Whether you're a brand-new writer or an experienced professional, you'll find many opportunities to learn, network, and grow in your craft.

- Conference Registration begins Thursday at 5:00pm. The registration desk will also be open Friday and Saturday mornings. We accept walk-in registrations, but we recommend signing up in advance.
- Thursday Evening Pre-Con. Ben Montgomery, a NY Times bestselling author and Pulitzer prize finalist reporter for the Tampa Bay Times, presents *DIRTY LITTLE NARRATIVE*. How to make your true short stories for magazines and newspapers sing. He'll share tips on how to report for narrative and breathe life into your words. An extra charge applies. Full-time students may attend this session free as space allows.
- Friday and Saturday: Breakout Sessions, Pitches, and More! From marketing and legal issues to poetry, world building, and screenplays, we'll offer more than 35 sessions covering just about every aspect of writing. Some presentations are geared toward beginners and others target experienced writers, but you're welcome to attend any session you want. Our faculty members are experienced authors and publishing professionals who will be available throughout the conference to network with you.
- Got a manuscript that needs a home? Shop it to agents, publishers and editors during the pitch sessions. If your manuscript isn't quite there yet, get an expert critique from our book doctor, Mari Farthing. Between sessions, check out our bookstore or support OWFI scholarships by bidding on the gift baskets displayed in the atrium.
- Have Lunch with Harlequin Editor, Ann Leslie Tuttle on Friday or a tea lunch with Author Sonia Gensler on Saturday. You must register for the box lunch workshops in advance. Grab your tickets early before they're gone. Lunch is also an ideal time to get to know our speakers. There are several restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. Find a speaker and a few friends, and enjoy the fellowship.
- Got Book? Get Promoted. Authors have several ways to promote their work at OWFI. Make and donate a table centerpiece that relates to your book, sell your work in our bookstore and see your name in lights at our Famous Authors Banquet on Friday. Check our website for more details about these opportunities.
- For the Friday night Famous Author Banquet, we're bringing back the popular costume contest. Dress as your favorite book character and compete for fabulous prizes. Kelley Armstrong will present our keynote address on "Coping with the Unanswerable." After the banquet, stick around for live music by song writer, Nathan Brown, and hang out with our faculty at the informal buzz sessions.
- As always, we'll wrap things up on Saturday night with our contest awards. Wear your glamorous best and bring your party horns. Note: The 2018 Keynote speaker will be announced at the end of the night.

Conference Schedule: Thursday, May 4

5:00pm Lobby	Registration Opens
6:30–8:00pm	<p>Ben Montgomery Pre-Con Workshop</p> <p><i>DIRTY LITTLE NARRATIVE</i>: How to make your true short stories for magazines and newspapers sing. Ben Montgomery, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in local reporting and Dart Award winning reporter for the Tampa Bay Times, shares tips on how to report for narrative and breathe life into your words.</p> <p>OPEN TO PUBLIC - \$20 (Not included in conference registration, must purchase separate ticket)</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door (Cash only at the door).</p>

2017 OWFI Conference Schedule

Friday, May 5

	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30am	Opening Session—Opening Skit: Amy Shojai / Welcome: OWFI President Christine Jarmola			
9:10-10:10am	Agents & Editors Panel Ask our lineup of agents & editors questions		Jennifer McMurrain Indie Strong	Joan Stewart How to Become an Expert in Your Topic & Promote Your Expertise
10:20-11:20am	Sam Morgan Publishing Math	Ally Robertson Plotting Your Way to a Solid Outline	Sonia Gensler Writing Horror with a Heart	Jason Hough Scrivener Boot Camp
11:30am- 12:30pm	Lauren Spieller Strategies for Writing a Successful Query	Tamera Grantham Writing a Series Character	Amy Collins How to Get Noticed on Amazon	
12:30pm	Box Lunch Workshop with Ann Leslie Tuttle—Casual Q&A with the Editor Room CD (prior ticket purchase required, no walk-ins)			
2:00-3:00pm	Nathan Brown The Art of Songwriting	Dr. Marty Ludlum Should I incorporate my writing business?	Ruth Weeks Things that go Bump in the Night	Heather Davis Writing for the Love: Inspirational Writing
3:10-4:10pm	Cara Brookins #RaiseMyRoof		David Christopher Building a Marketing Platform for your writing	Amy Shojai Blog-icity: why most blogs suck & how to make it work
4:20-5:20pm	Ben Montgomery Go Long: 10 secrets to reporting, pitching & writing nonfiction books		Lance Hawvermale Poetry for Daredevils	Judith Briles What Publishing Option is Right for you and your book?
7:00pm	Banquet Keynote: Kelley Armstrong—Coping with the Unanswerable			
approximately 9:00pm	LIVE MUSIC with Nathan Brown (9:00-10:00pm) Buzz Sessions (informal come-and-go talks) Locations and topics will be announced at the close of the banquet			

Famous Authors Banquet

Are you an OWFI member? Have you published a book since the OWFI 2016 conference? Then we want to celebrate you at our Famous Authors Banquet on Friday night. All books published, traditionally or independently, between May 2016 and May 2017 are eligible to be featured if you are an OWFI member. Please send the following information to Jennifer McMurrain at JenniferMcMurrain@gmail.com by April 21, 2017:

Your name or pen name (however you want to be introduced)

Title of your book

Date your book was published

Tag line or short blurb, limited to 50 words.

.JPG or .PNG of your book's cover

April 21st is a hard deadline, so get that information in today!! If you have any questions feel free to e-mail Jennifer at JenniferMcMurrain@gmail.com.

Note: Hours of operation for Conference Areas are as follows:

- Registration, lobby area, 8:00am-noon
- Pitch Room, 2:00-5:30pm
- Bookstore, Pre-convene area, 10:00am-6:00pm

2017 OWFI Conference Schedule

Saturday, May 6

	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30-9:30am	Sam Morgan Tales from the Slush Pile	Rhonda Penders The Business of Writing	Dr. Marty Ludlum Legal Issues for Writers	Jason Hough Writing Kick Ass Action Scenes
9:40-10:40am	Hannah Fergesen Stakes	Bess Cozby The Revision Process: First Draft to Final Book	Joan Stewart How to Generate Fun Ideas for Book Publicity	
10:50-11:50am		Leslie Ann Tuttle The Inside Scoop on Publishing with Harlequin	Kelley Armstrong Page Turning Fiction	
noon	Box Lunch Workshop: Tea with Sonia Gensler—Honing Your Writing to a T(ea) Room CD (prior ticket purchase required, no walk-ins)			
1:30-2:30pm	Ruth Weeks The Stage and the Page	Heather Davis Once Upon a Time There was Me (Writing Your Story)	Nathan Brown Why Prose Writers should Read and Write Poetry	Tamara Grantham 5 Best Books on Writing
2:40-3:40pm	David Christopher Write More, Write Better	Judith Briles How to Avoid Book Publishing Blunders, Bloopers & Boo Boos	Joan Stewart How to use Email to Create Superfans who Help you Sell	Amy Shojai Scripting Nekkid: The Playwright's Life
3:50-4:50pm	Amy Collins How to get your books in bookstores	Lance Hawvermale Getting Published... the Hard Way	Jennifer McMurray Contest Junkie	Cara Brookins Writing in Multiple Genres without Killing your Career
5:00-5:20pm 5:20-5:30pm	OWFI Board meeting: officers & delegates General Membership Meeting: all welcome			
7:00pm	Banquet: Contest Results (2018 keynote speaker will be announced)			



2017 OWFI Conference

Do you ever get tongue-tied when you meet the conference speakers you've been looking forward to dazzling with your wit? Come learn a little more about them—and what you may share in common with them.

Kelley Armstrong

What's your favorite genre? Thrillers. There isn't a genre that I don't read, but I'm partial to thrillers, especially dark ones.



Reading guilty pleasure? To me, guilty

pleasure implies there's something lowbrow or embarrassing about a choice. I'm omnivorous when it comes to reading, and I don't feel the least bit of guilt for any of my choices!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Moby Dick*. I have shelves of classics that I've read, often multiple times, and yet I cannot get through *Moby Dick*. No idea why.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Stephen King.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Just keep going. Whether it's struggling to finish a book or struggling to get published, just keep going.

Favorite thing about conferences? The opportunity to learn. It doesn't matter how many books I've published, I can still learn from others and improve my craft.

Cara Brookins

What's your favorite genre? Everything. I tend to read different things during different times of day. Business and nonfiction during the day, or a more serious drama.



When I'm walking I'll put on a thriller or mystery audiobook. Late at night maybe YA fantasy, Sci Fi, or something with witches and Voodoo. Told you: everything!

Reading guilty pleasure? This is my late night reading, something supernatural all the way from Stephen King to a light young adult version.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Moby Dick*.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Stephen King. Or maybe Anne McCaffrey. Or Nelson DeMille. (Just One??)

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Put in your 10,000 hours. Then get started on the next 10,000. (That last part came from me after I finished the first part.)

Favorite thing about conferences? The relief of settling in among people who just get my silly, curious self all the way through.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Nelson DeMille's John Corey. Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum. And I just realized I must have a thing for Plums! Plum Island, Stephanie Plum....hmmmmm

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I'm definitely going to fly—and not just sometimes. My feet will never touch the ground again. From floating to soaring, I'm up there. Ironically, I'm afraid of heights and suffer from extreme motion sickness. Someone analyze that please.

Ben Montgomery

What's your favorite genre? Literary non-fiction

Reading guilty pleasure? Harry Crews

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Moby Dick*



Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Martin McDonagh's

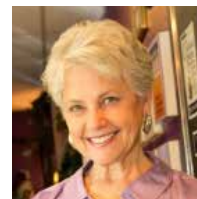
Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Save the cat: open a piece of writing with your main character doing something cool that earns the loyalty of the reader.

Favorite thing about conferences? The time at the bar with other writers when the conference has ended for the day.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Andrew Henry from *ANDREW HENRY'S MEADOW*, by Doris Burn

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The ability to ask the right questions at the perfect time.

Judith Briles



What's your favorite genre? Political thriller, mystery

Reading guilty pleasure? Any book that when I open it, I fall in. Pistachio gelato, Movie and TV

marathons, Cooking and entertaining

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? Robert Lewis Stevenson's, *Some of Mark Twain's*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Pat Conroy, David Baldacci

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Embrace ruthless editing

Meet the Speakers

Favorite thing about conferences?

Schmoozing, networking, learning

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show?

Seabiscuit, Brad Pitt in *Benjamin Button*, currently Elizabeth in *The Crown*.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower?

Unlimited Brain / energy and the ability to wiggle my nose to fix/transform anything a la *Bewitched*

Nathan Brown

What's your favorite genre?

Gotta go with poetry. When it's on target, there's just so much punch for your page. So much power in the brevity of it.



Reading guilty pleasure?

Charles Bukowski. It's like "buttah..." only, angry butter.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have?

The Great Gatsby. (That one will likely draw fire.)

Whose author fan club would you be the president of?

The poet, Stephen Dunn, if poets had fan clubs.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten?

Leave as much time and space as possible between the initial writing of a piece and the eventual editing of it. The more time you give it, the better you will see how ridiculous you were being in that one section.

Favorite thing about conferences?

The eating, the drinking, and the general hanging out. That time when you "actually" get to know people.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show?

Very tough. At the moment, I will go with Adam (husband of Eve) on the TV series *Northern Exposure*. Part Bigfoot... part world-class chef... part conspiracy theorist... and total asshole, among many other incredible traits.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower?

I'm impervious to the side-effects of margaritas.

David Christopher

What's your favorite genre? When I was a younger, more pretentious man, I loved literary fiction. Now that I work all day and



have kids I spend my time reading books that I actually enjoy. For me that's genre fiction (sci-fi, speculative, fantasy), but I still take it with a literary edge.

Reading guilty

pleasure? My reading guilty pleasure is the local satirical blog *The Lost Ogle*. Now that's a guilty pleasure!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have?

Considering *Middlemarch* is one of my all-time favorite books, you'd think I'd make the effort to read something else by George Eliot.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of?

Leonard Cohen or Charles Bukowski. Cohen's book *Beautiful Losers* spoke more intimately to me than any book before or since. Bukowski is beautiful and real, like a bird trapped in an art gallery; he makes everything else on display seem flat and lifeless.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten?

"Action is character" - F Scott Fitzgerald. (Also holds true in life)

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show?

The character F from Leonard Cohen's book *Beautiful Losers* lives somewhere inside of me.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower?

Focus. Kids are my Kryptonite.

Amy Collins



What's your favorite genre? Historical Fiction

Reading guilty pleasure? YA Fantasy

What book have you not read even though

it's a classic and you probably should have? Most of Shakespeare. I just.... Can't.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Terry Pratchett

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Write every day. Even if it is a little.

Favorite thing about conferences? Having a hotel room and a bed to myself that I don't have to share with 2 dogs and complete control of the remote. (Oh, you probably did not need that level of honesty...)

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Morgan, sister of King Arthur

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Teleportation.

Bess Cozby

Reading guilty pleasure? I have recently been reading a lot of historical non-fiction—particularly David McCullough. It's not directly relevant to my job so it makes me feel guilty! Not that that stops me.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have?

Despite multiple attempts and an occasional longing to pull a Thoreau and live off-grid in an adorable tiny house, I've never made it through *Walden*.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Treat writing like a job.

Favorite thing about conferences? Meeting new people! I've met some very dear friends and colleagues through writing conferences. Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone!

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Aragorn, son of Arathorn, who was also called Strider, Estel, Elessar and many other awesome names.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Shape-shifting!



2017 OWFI Conference

Heather Davis



What's your favorite genre? I love nonfiction and memoir. It's like being a voyeur into someone's life.

Reading guilty pleasure? Smutty memoir. Ha! I also

delve into good realistic YA if I need to escape.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? It's a play. It's Hamlet. I've successfully written two *literary* analyses on it—One A and one B.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Celia Rivenbark or Jen Hatmaker. I want to have a grown up slumber party with them and stay up late taking about stuff.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? To just do it.

Favorite thing about conferences? Meeting people. Also the amazing gravy that they put on the meats during the banquets.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Lenny from *Of Mice and Men*. I just. Gosh! He breaks my heart from the get-go every time.

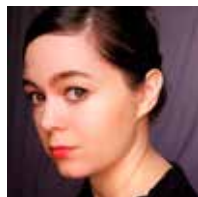
You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The ability to go days on end without sleep and still function. Technically, I can do without the sleep; it's that functioning part that's tricky.

Hannah Fergesen

What's your favorite genre? Literary Fantasy and/or anything in the New Weird. They often go hand in hand.

Reading guilty pleasure? Pretty much the genres I represent!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should



have? Oh dear, this is a longer list than I'd like to admit.... *Ulysses*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *1984*, *The Jungle*... please, don't make me go on!

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Cathrynne Valente or Victoria Schwab

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Just write the damn thing. Don't worry about perfection in a first draft. Otherwise you'll never finish!

Favorite thing about conferences? Meeting people! The slush pile can become monotonous, but seeing writers and answering their questions one on one puts everything into perspective.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Buffy or Mal from *Firefly*. Flawed, strong, vulnerable, sarcastic, the best puns.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Time manipulation—I'd love to be able to slow time down every now and then, or speed things up (like the next 4 years)!

Sonia Gensler



What's your favorite genre? Probably mystery—cozy, historical, gritty contemporary, police procedural, etc. I just love a good mystery.

Reading guilty pleasure? I try not to feel guilty about any of my reading. Almost every story teaches me something about plot, characterization, pacing, etc. (even if it's what not to do).

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Maybe Kate Atkinson? She wrote the Jackson Brodie mysteries and the historical novels *Life after Life* and *A God in Ruins*. Or it might be nice to start a fan club for Penelope Lively's children's books, as they are not so well known in the U.S.

Best writing-related advice you've ever

gotten? It's okay to write a crappy first draft. (I learned this from Anne Lamott, and yes I softened her language a bit.)

Favorite thing about conferences? Hanging around people who live and breathe story.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Harriet Vane from Dorothy Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries. She's an Oxford alum, published author, and a budding sleuth with a very strong independent streak.

Tamara Grantham



What's your favorite genre? Fantasy

Reading guilty pleasure? Anything by Ilona Andrews

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Moby Dick*, although I did get about halfway through.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Ilona Andrews (I'm seeing a pattern here...)

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Keep writing no matter what.

Favorite thing about conferences? Getting to meet new people.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Captain Picard from *Star Trek TNG*

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Healing powers. It would be nice to save a few people who have to go too early.

Lance Hawvermale



Whose author fan club would you be the president of? I have written exactly one piece of fan mail in my entire life, and that was to Mr. Ray Bradbury.

Meet The Speakers

He was kind enough to reply. I would not be a writer today had I not read *Something Wicked This Way Comes* my freshman year in high school.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? "People do not talk to each other; they talk at each other." As soon as I realized how to apply this to my characters' dialogue, I landed my first publishing deal. It's that important.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Buffy Summers is the most well-developed, dynamic, nuanced character ever written. I will defend that statement either in oral debate or in combat with wooden stakes as weapons.

Jason Hough



Reading guilty pleasure? I guess I have to say audiobooks in general. The only chance I get to read for pleasure these days is via audio, and I'm extremely grateful to

that entire section of the industry for that.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I haven't read the Harry Potter books. I know, know... but I've got a decent excuse: I've been waiting until my kids are old enough so I can read the series with them. Soon!

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? "There are no rules, only tools." - Matthew Pallamary

Favorite thing about conferences? The random connections made and people met. The most interesting and lasting friendships are never the ones you expected.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? At a glance I can make anyone relax and act reasonably.

Dr. Marty Ludlum



What's your favorite genre? Mystery and Suspense

Reading guilty pleasure? Anything by Janet Evanovich...

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Metamorphosis* by Kafka. It has been on my "to-do" list for years. My copy is gathering dust.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? James Patterson or John Grisham.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? I would offer two: Read the Red Sneakers series and First drafts stink, always.

Favorite thing about conferences? Everything. Sharing ideas, supportive writing environment, always something to learn. And the baskets. Really like the silent auction baskets. Please do not bid against me. Please.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Hanibal Lecter. Brilliant but tortured. He can talk about Florence one moment, Marcus Aereilius the next, and complete the conversation talking about cannibalism. I think the interview took a violent detour to the creepy side.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Sarcasm champion of the world. Really. Sarcasm is just one of the services I offer. You are welcome.

Jennifer McMurrain



What's your favorite genre? Romantic comedies

Reading guilty pleasure? Harlequin Western Romance

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *A Tale of Two Cities*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Janet Evanovich

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? There's no such thing as writer's block. Even if you get stuck, you write through it and the answer will come. Believing in writer's block is about believing in the impossible, not believing in writer's block is believing in the possible.

Favorite thing about conferences? The people!

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Pinky Pie from My Little Ponies ... she finds the fun in everything

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The ability to stop time and still get things done while the world stands still. I would never miss another deadline. :)

Rhonda Penders



What's your favorite genre? Romance.

Reading guilty pleasure? *People Magazine* or when flying I indulge myself in *The National Enquirer*.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Pride and Prejudice*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Jodi Thomas and Susan Wiggs

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? If you write one page a day, in a year you will have a full novel

Favorite thing about conferences? Meeting people and talking writing

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? *Long Island Medium*—Theresa Caputo—she's warm, genuine and has an amazing gift

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Teleporting so I could travel without having to fly in airplanes

2017 OWFI Conference Speakers

Amy Shojai



What's your favorite genre? I love love LOVE thrillers and suspense! If it's got animals in it, all the better (as long as the dog/cat/hamster/whatever does NOT die and isn't simply a prop for the human characters. Harrumph!)

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *The Great Gatsby*. *Moby Dick*. I just checked the Goodreads list of "popular classics" and was surprised at how many I actually had read. Note: you didn't say "enjoyed."

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Dean Koontz. I mean... the guy has written wonderful thrillers/suspense and many include DOGS!
swoon Have you read *Watchers*? Go—go read it now!

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Give yourself permission to write crap. Everything is edit-able.

Favorite thing about conferences? The networking can't be beat at a conference, making connections (and re-connections). Conferences are a way to recharge the writing batteries.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Animal magnetism--ability to communicate on a mental and empathetic level with non-human animals. (That might even include book critics, LOL!)

Lauren Spieller

What's your favorite genre? That's a tough one, but I'll go with Contemporary Fantasy

Reading guilty pleasure? Anything that isn't for work!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *WAR AND PEACE*



Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Maggie Stiefvater

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? It takes the time it takes.

Favorite thing about conferences? Meeting new people!

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Hermione. Always and forever. Smart, driven girls who save the day not because they have to, but because it's the right thing to do.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The ability to eliminate all fake news from the world. Does that count? No? Then I'll go with telekinesis.

Joan Stewart



What's your favorite genre?

Self-help, especially business books

Reading guilty pleasure?

NationalEnquirer.com.

First, it keeps me up to date on celebrity news. Piggybacking onto celebrity news is a fabulous way to generate publicity. Example: When Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie divorced, that would have been the perfect opportunity for an author who writes about healthy relationships to give advice on "What what to do if your spouse is a pothead."

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Lord of the Flies*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Judith Briles, one of the other speakers at OWFI. She has written more than 30 books, most of them for authors.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Write like you talk.

Favorite thing about conferences? A chance to meet authors and other speakers whose tips and success stories I can write about for my twice-a-week email tips, my blog, my info products, and articles I write for other publications.

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Barney Fife from *The Andy Griffith Show*.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I am able to overcome and slay every technology problem put in my path.

Ruth Weeks

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *A Tale of Two Cities*. (I think it would be boring)



Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? If you have a problem of jumping out of point-of-view, write in first person. The ego very rarely allows you to head-hop. After the first draft is finished, if you wish, you can go back and put it in third person.

Favorite thing about conferences? Laughter, laughter, and laughter. Being with positive, upbeat creative people. Did I mention laughter?

Favorite character from a book, movie, or tv show? Scout from *To Kill a Mockingbird*—In a High School Drama Class I did a reading as Scout and was called Scout until I graduated.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? With a wave of my hand I could heal all sickness, physical, emotional, and mental and bring peace, joy, and laughter to the world as the good Lord intended.

Thanks to all of our great speakers for playing along!
See you at the conference!

There's an App for That!

Use technology to improve your writing with a few great apps.



Quizzitive

A vocabulary building game with multiple levels to test and improve your vocabulary. Available for Apple products, free version and paid version (\$1.99) available.



Agent Obvious

This free app is full of useful and funny advice for writers from literary agent Laurie Abkemeier. Available on the Apple App store—or visit agentobvious.tumblr.com.



The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Keep a full-service portable dictionary at your fingertips. Free version (with ads) or \$1.99 for annual ad-free subscription. Available for both Apple and Android platforms.

Have a favorite writing or editing app you'd like to share? Send it to owfinews@gmail.com.

The Doldrums

The doldrums are defined as a time of inactivity, stagnation, or depression. After a long holiday season or a long break of any kind, there comes a time when things need to get back on track and work has to be done. If someone is holding a regular job, there is a lot of built-in motivation to get moving and get the job done—it's either that or the boss can find a replacement with very little effort.

doldrums:

plural noun *dol•drums* \dōl-drəmz

a spell of listlessness or despondency

a state or period of inactivity, stagnation, or slump

How does this apply to writers? After a long break, it can be hard to get back into the rhythm of writing, and a writer may be stuck in the doldrums. This is *not* writers block, where the writer is unable to generate new ideas.

With the doldrums, the writer knows what has to be done with the writing, editing, or proofing of their manuscript. The challenge is getting it done. Turning on the computer, having buttocks meet chair, and allowing fingers to dance across the keyboard.

To overcome the doldrums one first has to recognize one is in the doldrums. There are many things we can tell ourselves, the grocery shopping has to get done, the kids have to get to school, the dishes need to be washed, and yes, the toilet really needs to be cleaned. One of the hardest things with the doldrums is realizing they have descended and are interrupting writing time, creativity, and caring about the project currently in the forefront. The care may be there, but if no work is getting done on it, who cares?

How does one get out of the doldrums? Good question. The short answer: Discipline. It could be started with turning on the computer one day, rewarding yourself for getting that far and eating a cookie. The next day, turn on the computer and then go jogging because the reward didn't stop with one cookie. This will go nowhere fast.

The alternative is to turn on the computer. Open Word or whatever program you use for writing. With great effort keep posterior in contact with the chair and start reading your project. This is important. Once the review starts, things will start flowing. Edits will be spotted, corrected, and the process will go on.

It will be difficult for the first couple of days, but with each passing day the computer comes on and work is done, it will become easier until normal working sessions have returned. Good luck and happy writing.

Tony LoPresti is a writer, an active member and former President of OWFI.

Watching Your Language: Hyphens

This might be a little more than you ever wanted to know about hyphens.

Odd little buggers, hyphens. And they can drive you nuts. Here are a few finer, but important, points that you, the careful writer, need to know. I have stolen shamelessly from the Los Alamos National Laboratory's writer-editor training material, which takes *The Chicago Manual of Style* as its standard. And this isn't even all of the hyphen rules in this grammar-refresher workshop.

- Unit modifiers, also called temporary forms, are phrases that you make up to fit your purpose at the time. Most, but not all, do the work of an adjective: Marley was a well-known singer. Bob is a part-time worker. But do not put the hyphenated phrase in the position of predicate adjective: Marley was well known. Bob works part time.
- Self-, all-, and half-. Hyphenate adjectives using these words whether they precede or follow the noun: The politician was self-confident, but his ideas were half-baked. An all-inclusive plan.
- Do not hyphenate quasi compounds: We negotiated a quasi contract. He was called a quasi professor.
- Beware of permanent compounds like selfless, halfhearted.
- Do hyphenate high- or low- compounds in any position: high-flying clouds; the clouds were high-flying.
- Notice words hyphenated as an adjective, but not as a verb: The company's locked-in discount was great. The company locked in the discount. Our agreed-upon price was not met. We agreed upon a price.
- Retain the hyphen if two or more hyphenated compounds have a common basic element used as the last term: The long- or short-term event; the gold- or silver- or nickel-plated frame.
- Hyphenate between a single letter and a participle: T-shaped—and between a single letter and a noun: H-bomb.
- Use a hyphen between two nouns if it increases clarity: cream-peach mixture.
- Use a hyphen in a unit modifier consisting of a noun and an adjective: smoke-free room, cost-free vacation.
- Do not hyphenate a modifier consisting of a number followed by a possessive noun: 1 day's pay, 14 days' pay.
- Use a hyphen if the first element of a two-word modifier is a comparative or superlative: better-sewn tent; largest-sized shirt.

*Yes, you do capitalize longer (four-plus letters) prepositions in a title.

Kathleen Park, M.A., calls herself an escaped English teacher and a forever lover of words. .

Here's what the Chicago Manual of Style says about...

Em Dashes: — an alternative to parentheses, used to set off explanatory information in text

En Dashes: – used primarily in number ranges and not with text

OWFI CONFERENCE NEWS

MAKE YOUR WRITING SING AT THE PRE-CON WORKSHOP! *

BEN MONTGOMERY'S DIRTY LITTLE NARRATIVE THURSDAY PRE-CON WORKSHOP
Learn to make your true short stories for magazines and newspapers sing. Ben Montgomery, a prize-winning enterprise reporter for the Tampa Bay Times, shares tips on how to report for narrative and breathe life into your words.

* 7:00-9:00pm, \$20 fee and advanced booking when registering

Affiliate News & Updates

Green County Ruff Rriters

Erman Sands will be speaking at the Green Country Ruff Rriters monthly meeting on February 11, 2017 at 2pm at the Patrick Lynch Public Library in Poteau, OK about how to hook readers and editors alike with The First Fifty Pages.

Connie Blaylock, 2016 OWFI Creme de la creme winner, will be speaking at the Green Country Ruff Rriters monthly meeting on June 10, 2017 at 2pm at the Patrick Lynch Public Library in Poteau, OK about World Building.

McAlester McSherry Writers

Sharon Ervin: Book sale: Cozy mystery, MEMORY will be released in late February or early March by Wild Rose Press. Book sale: cozy myster, JACK SPRAT, has been accepted by Wild Rose Press

Kathy Akins: Short story, THUNDER MOUNTAIN, published in anthology, BLACKBIRDS.

Professional Activities

Kathy Akins: Named 2016 writer of the year for McAlester McSherry Writers. Tammy Hinton: Book, JUDAS STEER, on the short list for the 2016 Laramie Awards. Teaching creative writing to the students at the McAlester Library. Sharon Ervin: Received Lifetime Achievement Award for the McAlester McSherry Writers. Mary Ann Kerl: Received Lifetime Achievement Award from the McAlester McSherry Writers.

Nevermore Edits

Acceptances and Sales

Multiple shops in the Broken Arrow and Tulsa area have books from Nevermore authors displayed in their local author collections including Mammoth Comics and 1907.

New Books & Novels

The newest A Murder of Storytellers anthology, "The Book of Blasphemous Words", was released on January 31st. It was edited by CJ Miles IV and features stories by Jack Burgos, John Biggs, and Shannon Iwanski. Inkubus Publishing's Gio Lassiter will release "Rhett Dane: Adicked Part 3" on March 1st. Inkubus's second anthology "Fairy Tail" will be available on April 1st. Party Now, Apocalypse Later Industries is currently in pre-production of a radio series "The Fourth Wall." The third novel in Mac Boyle's Orson Welles trilogy "The Once and Future Orson Welles" will be released later this year.

All books are or will be available in print through Amazon as well as electronically on most ebook platforms.

Nevermore Edits also printed their first quarterly

newsletter (the Corvidae Courier) in January.

Professional Activities

On February 7th Nevermore Edits will beginning a partnership with Youth Services of Tulsa to do a bi-weekly writing workshop with at-risk youth. They are also going to do a book donation campaign titled "Indie Books for Kingfisher" in an effort to gather independently published novels which will then be taken to the county jail in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. This campaign will run through the month of February though they are considering doing another indie book drive for then jail later in the year. Nevermore Edits is also going to have a booth at the upcoming Underground Monster Carnival at the OKC Fairgrounds on March 4th.

Club News

Elections were held for the 2017 calendar year. President - Shannon Iwanski. Vice President - Adrean Messmer. Treasurer - Jack Burgos. Secretary - CJ Miles IV. Historian - Samantha Free. Public Relations - Jessica Coplen. Recorder - Kaz Kirkpatrick. Furthermore, Nevermore Edits is also in the process of applying for nonprofit status. The critique group meets every Friday evening at 7 p.m. at Mammoth Comics in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Acceptances and Sales:

MARSHA FERRIER: COVER PHOTO: "Icy Reflections," Dragon Poet Review (Winter 2016/2017); PHOTO: "Frozen Canopy," Dragon Poet Review (Winter 2016//2017).

ROBERT FERRIER: POEM: "In the Next Universe," and POEM: "On Surrendering Season Tickets After 50 Years," Dragon Poet Review (Winter Issue: January 13,2017).

LISBETH McCARTY: POEM: in Voices Israel Anthology (2016); NONFICTION STORY, COVER PHOTO, and three other PHOTOS: in mPhoto; POEM: Limerick, Mensa Bulletin; STORY: "Scar-Face," Story Circle Journal (2016/12).

SYLVIA FORBES: ARTICLE: "Cilantro: Brighten up every day dishes with this zesty herb," Missouri Gardener Magazine (Jan/Feb 2017).

Professional Activities:

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: Produced/edited "WriteLine" newsletter for January and February, 2017. Entered 2017 OWFI Writing Contest. Auditing Debbie Chester's class in Novel Writing at University of Oklahoma.

Contest Winnings:

LISBETH McCARTY: OKC Writers Group 2016 Contest, NOSTALGIA: 3rd Place; FEATURE ARTICLE: 3rd Place; 2016 Norman Galaxy of Writers Contest, CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:

2nd Place; RHYMED POETRY: 3rd place; Richard Lederer Limerick Contest, LIMERICK: HM. MARY FLOWERS BRANNON: 2016 Norman Galaxy of Writers Contest, SHORT STORY: 2nd Place, "But Son, You Don't Need a Pierced Ear"; POETRY: 2nd Place, "All's Roswell that Emails"; RHYMED POETRY: 2nd Place, "Ode to a Football Widow". SKYE BRANNON LUCKING: 2016 Norman Galaxy of Writers Contest, CHILDREN'S FICTION: 3rd Place, "My Earliest Fine Art Memory"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 3rd Place, "Midnight Potato Salad"; NONFICTION ARTICLE: 2nd Place, "Bag Man". SYLVIA FORBES: Ozark Creative Writers, Inc. 2016 Annual Contest, MIDDLE GRADE FICTION: 3rd Place; TELL ME A CHILDREN'S STORY: 3rd Place; SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD: 1st HM; ESSAY CONTEST: HM; TRAVEL ARTICLE: 3rd Place; Oklahoma City Writers Inc. 2016 Annual Contest, FLASH FICTION: 1st Place; FEATURE ARTICLE: 2nd Place; JUVENILE STORY: 3rd Place; ESSAY: 3rd Place; HUMOR: HM. BARBARA SHEPHERD: Oklahoma City Writers Inc. 2016 Annual Cotest, FLASH FICTION: 2nd Place, "Summer Bliss"; JUVENILE: 1st Place, "Web of Deceit"; 2016 Norman Galaxy of Writers Contest, UNRHYMED POETRY: 3rd Place, "The Journey"; NONFICTION ARTICLE: 1st Place, "How to Turn Ninety in Style"; CHILDREN'S FICTION: 1st Place, "Granny's Gift"; NOSTALGIC ESSAY: 1st Place, "Fighting Wildfire"; SHORT STORY: 1st Place, "Daffodil Waltz"; BONNIE SPEER CREME DE LA CREME AWARD: "Daffodil Waltz".

Awards and Honors:

SYLVIA FORBES: Greater St. Louis Sisters in Crime - Certificate of Appreciation for "valuable contributions to the group in 2016."

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

A Splinter in Time by Linda Shelby was released December 12, 2016. It is a historical romance published by Wild Rose Press. In the December 25th edition of the Daily Oklahoman it was listed in a three-way tie for number 10 on the Oklahoma Best Seller list.

Pen and Keyboard Writers

Pen and Keyboard Writers changed officers the first of the year. The new president is Dianna Street. Vice president is Jodi Brungardt, while Eva Mahoney holds the secretary position and Vivian Zabel has the job of treasurer. Darlinda is reporter.

Recent special speakers have included Janet Brown and Carolyn Leonard. Janet spoke on adding more interest to writing, and Carolyn about writing about families.

Affiliate News & Updates

Jodi Brungardt signed a contract for her children's book *One Wild Wind*. The tentative release date is Summer 2018.

April 8, the group will host a writing workshop, sanctioned by OWFI. The workshop is open to anyone high school age or older. Vivian Zabel, who taught writing for nearly 30 years and is president of 4RV Publishing, will be the main presenter.

Tulsa NightWriters

Acceptances and Sales

CYNTHIA BARNES: ARTICLE: "An Interview with Cynthia Barnes," NightScripts, TNWC (01/17). J. L. BROOK: ARTICLE: "An Interview with J. L. Brook," NightScripts, TNWC (02/17). DEBORAH CAMP: ARTICLE: "Memories That Last Like Horehound Candy," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16). JOSHUA DANKER-DAKE: ARTICLE: "The Beacon," NightScripts, TNWC (01/17); ARTICLE: "Changes. And Legos." NightScripts, TNWC (02/17). MARION GRACE: ARTICLE: "2016 TNWC Flash Writing Contest Results," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16). NIKKI HANNA: ARTICLE: "Nik's Piks: A Site for Finding Writers Contests," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16); ARTICLE: "Nik's Piks: February 2017 Recommendations," NightScripts, TNWC (02/17). SALLY JADLOW: INSPIRATIONAL STORY: *Abba's Promise: 33 Stories of God's Pledge to Provide*, (11/16); ARTICLE: "Writing with Humor," NightScripts, TNWC (01/17). DONNA WELCH JONES: ARTICLE: "Get Ready," NightScripts, TNWC (01/17); ARTICLE: "It's Time!" NightScripts, TNWC (02/17). JULIE KIMMEL-HARBAUGH (AKA J. A. KIMMEL): ARTICLE: "Three Pebbles, Many Ripples—A Tribute," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16). JIM LAUGHTER: ARTICLE: "The Rest of the Story," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16). DUSTY RICHARDS: ARTICLE: "Just 'riting Around," Second Quarterly Installment, NightScripts, TNWC (12/16). CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: Why 'write it right?'" NightScripts, TNWC (12/16); ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: Comma Splices (Part 1)," NightScripts, TNWC (01/17); POEM: "The Call of the Running Tide," *Dragon Poet Review*, (Winter/17); POEM: "Shut Out," *Dragon Poet Review*, (Winter/17); ARTICLE: "Writing by the Rules: Comma Splices (Part 2)," NightScripts, TNWC (02/17). M. CAROLYN STEELE: ARTICLE: "An Interview with M. Carolyn Steele," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16). BILL WETTERMAN: ARTICLE: "My Last Two Topics on the Craft of Writing," NightScripts, TNWC (12/16).

Honors & Awards

2016 Tulsa NightWriters Club—MARION

GRACE: Golden Circle Award recipient, 12/16. REX GRIFFIN: NightScripts Contributor Awards, ARTICLE: 3rd Place, "Breakout Novel Intensive (BONI) Workshop." NIKKI HANNA: NightScripts Contributor Awards, Greek Corinthian Column Award of Excellence, A Salute to a Fancy Feast of Opportunities for Growth and Development, Nik's Piks; Golden Circle Award recipient, 12/16. SALLY JADLOW: NightScripts Contributor Awards, ARTICLE: 1st Place, "How to Write with Clarity." DONNA WELCH JONES: NightScripts Contributor Awards, COLUMN: Roman Composite Column Award of Excellence, A Salute to Pulling Together and Featuring TNWC Wisdom, "Words of Wisdom for Writers" and "Author Regrets"; Golden Circle Award recipient, 12/16. JULIE KIMMEL-HARBAUGH: Golden Circle Award recipient, 12/16. JACKIE KING: 2017 Tulsa NightWriters Club Hall of Fame Award recipient, 2/17. JIM LAUGHTER: NightScripts Contributor Awards, COLUMN: Greek Column "Alpha" Award of Excellence, Salute to Distinguished Column Writing Exhibiting Words of Strong Leadership, Guidance, Wisdom, and Encouragement, The Prez Sez. RENEE' LA VINESS: NightScripts Contributor Awards, ARTICLE: 2nd Place, "Self-Publishing? Do It Right." KATY MULLINS: Flash Writing Contest, FLASH FICTION: 1st Place, "Miscarriage." DUSTY RICHARDS: NightScripts Contributor Awards, ARTICLE: Honorable Mention, "Just 'riting Around—First Installment." CAROL LAVELLE SNOW: Flash Writing Contest, POEM: 2nd Place, "Renewal"; NightScripts Contributor Awards, Doric Column Award of Excellence, A Salute to Fabulous Nuts and Bolts Articles, Writing by the Rules. M. CAROLYN STEELE: Golden Circle Award recipient, 12/16. AARON STEINER: Flash Writing Contest, FLASH FICTION: 3rd Place, "Tweets in the Dark." BILL WETTERMAN: NightScripts Contributor Awards, Roman Tuscan Column Award of Excellence, A Salute to Highlighting Brilliance in Basic Craft, From the Desk of the Vice President; NightScripts Contributor Awards, Greek Ionic Column Award of Excellence, A Double Scrolls Salute to the Organization's "Driving Force," From the Desk of the Vice President, "A Letter from Your Vice President"; Golden Circle Award recipient, 12/16; Tulsa NightWriter of the Year Award, 12/16.

Professional Activities

DEREK BULLARD: book signing at Claremore's Dickens on the Boulevard, at Boarding House Books, in December. JOSHUA DANKER-DAKE: Spoke to the Tulsa NightWriters Club on "Improving Your Storytelling: How to Make the Most of the Stories That Are All Around You" on 2-21.

DONNA WELCH JONES: Spoke to the Tulsa NightWriters Club on "Author 2017: What is Success? What is Failure?" 1-17. RENEE' LA VINESS: "EZ-Write Your Life Story" workshop on 12-3; "Writing for Children" workshop on 12-10, both at Nienhuis Park Community Center in Broken Arrow; Will host a workshop, entitled "Meet the Publishers!" at Martin Regional Library, in Tulsa, OK, on 3-6, in conjunction with Designing the World with Words and Tulsa Area Children's Book Writers. TAMMY MULLINS: book signing at Claremore's Dickens on the Boulevard, at Boarding House Books, in December. CHARLES W. SASSER: Has been on assignment in Dallas and on a heavy contract deadline to novelize an A&E TV miniseries, scheduled to premiere in 1/17. CARLA STEWART: Participated in the Enid Author Fest in Enid, OK, on 1/14. LINDA TROUT: Participated in a book signing at Claremore's Dickens on the Boulevard, at Boarding House Books, in December.

Club News

THE TULSA NIGHTWRITERS CLUB installed five 2017 Officer Board members in December 2016. The newly installed officers were Joshua Danker-Dake, President; Donna Welch Jones, Vice President; Marion Grace, Treasurer; Maggie Villines, Hospitality Director; and Julie Kimmel-Harbaugh, Communications Director and Editor; Inducted Jackie King into the TNWC Hall of Fame in February 2017; Awarded Bill Wetterman the 2016 Tulsa NightWriter of the Year Award in December 2016; Awarded the Golden Circle Award to six members for being nominated as Tulsa NightWriter of the Year. The nominees were Marion Grace, Nikki Hanna, Donna Welch Jones, Julie Kimmel-Harbaugh, M. Carolyn Steele, and Bill Wetterman; Welcomed five new members from December 2016-February 2017. They were Kevin Goldsby, Olivia d'Rozario, Lucienda Denson, Michael Turturici, and Sally Fox Harris; Held a Christmas party on December 13, hosted at the home of Kathryn Smith; Announced the first- through third place winners of its annual Flash Writing Contest in December 2016. The winners were Katy Mullins (First Place), Carol Lavelle Snow (Second Place), and Aaron Steiner (Third Place); Announced first- through third-place winners, as well as one honorable mention winner, of its NightScripts Contributor Awards in December 2016. The winners were Sally Jadlow (First Place), Renee' La Viness (Second Place), Rex Griffin (Third Place), and Dusty Richards (Honorable Mention); Awarded six Column Awards of Excellence to five regular NightScripts contributors in December 2016. Jim Laughter, Bill Wetterman, Carol Lavelle Snow, Nikki Hanna, and Donna Welch Jones received the awards of excellence.

Recvd date _____ Check # _____ \$ _____ Full _____ PreCon. _____ F-S _____ F-L _____ F-B _____
S-S _____ S-L _____ S-B _____ \$ Due _____ Club _____ Initial _____


#WEareOWFI 2017
Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference
May 5 & 6
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME (type or print clearly) _____

STATUS (circle): ATTENDEE, JUDGE, SPEAKER, OWFI OFFICER, SCHOLARSHIP, VEGETARIAN MEAL

HOME PHONE _____ BUS. PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ AFFILIATION _____
Members at Large - Indicate (MAL)

FULL REGISTRATION (includes Fri/Sat seminars and both Friday night and Saturday night banquets)

Postmarked by 3-15-2017 @ \$ 175 each × _____ = \$ _____
Postmarked **after** 3-15-2017 @ \$ 200 each × _____ = \$ _____
Full-time Student with ID (25 years old or under) @ \$ 125 each × _____ = \$ _____

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS:

Friday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$ 50 each × _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Banquet (ticket name _____) @ \$ 50 each × _____ = \$ _____

SINGLE DAY SEMINARS (that day's banquet included)

Friday Seminars and Banquet. @ \$110 each × _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Seminars and Banquet. @ \$110 each × _____ = \$ _____

Extra WORKSHOPS (minimum 25 or up to 60 participants, NO WALK-INS)

Thursday 7:00-9:00 p.m. *Pre-Con Workshop (no meal)*
Pulitzer Nominated Journalist: Ben Montgomery @ \$ 20 each × _____ = \$ _____
Friday Box Lunch Workshop (*meal included*) - **Lunch & a Chat with Anne Leslie Tuttle** @ \$ 25 each × _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Box Lunch Workshop (*meal included*) - **Teatime with Sonia Gensler** @ \$ 25 each × _____ = \$ _____

Total amt. enclosed = \$ _____

Registration available at www.OWFI.org or
Mail completed form and check payable to **OWFI** to

2017 OWFI Conference Chair
c/o Sabrina Fish
2917 SW 136th Ter
Oklahoma City, OK 73170

Book your hotel room through www.OWFI.org to receive the preferred OWFI room discount.

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.
Vinita Eggers, OWFI Treasurer
Route 7, Box 51
Mena, AR 71953



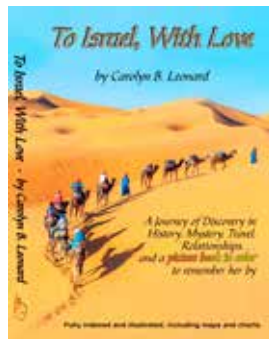
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