Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc.

Turning the Page

OWFI Report, Spring 2019

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Founded in 1968, the Oklahoma Writers'
Federation, Inc. (OWFI) is a non-profit federation
of writers' groups dedicated to promoting higher
standards for the written word. We believe that
the literary profession has come of age and merits
a fair share of the critical acclaim so generously
lavished on other worthwhile arts. OWFI shall seek
to coordinate and encourage professional writing
within and without its organization and promote
the recognition of outstanding contributions to
the written language.

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Shelley Pagach
Vivian Zabel

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Sponsor an OWFI Contest Category.

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From the President

Hello, OWFI!

The countdown to OWFI 2019 has begun! Can you believe there are only a couple of months left until the 2019 OWFI Turning the Page Writing Conference? OWFI is run entirely by volunteers, and I can't say enough how thankful I am for each and every one of you. By volunteering on various committees and on the board, I've developed lifelong friendships that I'll always treasure.

If you're an aspiring or established writer who would like to attend the conference, you still have time to register online at www. owfi.org/register/ or even at the door the day of the conference. Check out page 6 of this Report for more information.

Still on the fence? Here are three reasons why the OWFI conference will benefit you as a writer.

1. Learning

One reason to attend a writers conference is to learn. Whether you are a new author who is interested in craft or an indie author who wants to know more about marketing, we have a session for you. We also have sessions for our nonfiction writers, poets, and screenwriters. Six editors and agents will speak about the business of writing, and two will offer sessions with instant feedback on query letters and opening pages. These agents and editors also accept pitches from the attendees. The conference provides a wonderful opportunity to get your work in

front of a professional editor or agent. Even if you haven't completed your novel, make sure to sign up for a pitch session. It's a good learning experience, and you never know where it might lead. Many attendees have received contracts based on their pitch session at the OWFI conference!

2. Networking

The OWFI writing conference is a great place to network. As a freelance editor, I have made numerous contacts who have helped me grow my business. As an author, I have found my people - those who understand the isolation of working alone, the frustration of the revision process, the hurt of rejection letters, and the joy of finally being published.

Those who are new to the OWFI conference will be happy to know that OWFI conference attendees are some of the friendliest people around. Most of us are out of our comfort zone in large crowds, so we go out of our way to make sure you feel welcome and accepted.

We've allowed time on both Friday and Saturday for networking between the last sessions and the banquets. And of course, you'll want to hang around after the banquets for entertainment and chatting with your new friends.

Members-at-Large, the group of OWFI members without an affiliate group, will have their own meetup this year



spearheaded by Sabrina Fish.

3. Motivation

There's nothing quite like a writers conference to inspire and motivate. You will leave after hearing others who are struggling with the same issues and how they have overcome them. You will have new methods to implement and new ideas to tackle. But most importantly, you will be inspired to write.

See you in May!

Staci Mauney is the OWFI President for 2018-2019.



Flash Fiction Prompt



Read My Eyes

by Lisbeth L. McCarty, winner

Look closely. I'm not really smiling. I'm trying as hard as I can to signal that I need help because the man standing behind me is my kidnapper, and he's the one that told me to smile for the photo. I'm not some dumb kid who fell for a scam of a man asking me to locate a lost puppy. I was in my own neighborhood riding my bike when he just drove by, hopped out of his van, and grabbed me. Please, ignore my smile and read my eyes. I'm counting on you.

A Boy Called Hope

by Mary Main, runner-up

I run through the marketplace and many see me here and there. Some of the shopkeeperscall me thrifty because I buy so many things for so little money. My friends call me clever because I think of funny things to say and play tricks on them. My older sister calls me pestbecause I tease her when she tries to cook like mother. Neighbors call me friendly because I smile often. A beggar calls me rich because I put a few small coins in his basket. A man from some far land calls me foreign because I am different from him. The soldiers call me quick because I move in and out amongst their camps taking messages.



I Spy

by A. White

The sound of hooves startles me into alertness. I've been stalking these deer paths for the last hour. The patience of hunting

has never been my forte but my belly's rumbling could rival a dogs growl. My head jerks up as I see two does a few hundred feet away dash across the path and off to my left. I spurt into action and take off after them. I watch them disappear ahead of me and glance at my feet as I fly over branches and try to keep up. The forest gets dense as I go further in and the dark quiet starts to feel heavy and the hair raises on my arms. I stop and listen for the deer. I hear water and grin. Where there is water, there is game. I quietly pick a path towards the water. As I get to a ring of huge trees I have to squint as the sun impossibly blinds me as it glints off the water. I step around the base of the tree and I see...



Be inspired. Write. Enter.

owfi.com/report/prompt



2019 Keynote Speaker Meg Gardiner

Meg Gardiner is an Edgarwinning thriller novelist. Fastpaced and full of twists, her books have been called "Hitchcockian" (USA Today) and "nail-biting and moving" (Guardian). They have been bestsellers in the U.S. and internationally and have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Into the Black Nowhere, her current title, is the second novel in the UNSUB series, featuring rookie FBI agent Caitlin Hendrix. The Minneapolis Star Tribune calls it "thrilling and un-put-downable." Stephen King says, "Into the Black Nowhere. Excellent. You know the drill, bookstore near you. Buy now, thank me later." The first novel in the series, UNSUB, is nominated for a Barry Award for Best Thriller, and has been optioned by CBS.

Meg was born in Oklahoma City and raised in Santa Barbara, California. She graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School. She practiced law in Los Angeles and taught in the Writing Program at the University of California Santa Barbara. Later she moved with her husband and three young children to London, where her first novel was published.

Beyond writing, Meg is a three-time Jeopardy! champion and a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. She lives in Austin, Texas.



What's your favorite genre?

Crime fiction: suspense, thrillers, mystery.

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?
Sue Grafton.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten?

Create sympathetic characters and put them in jeopardy. (Mystery writer Leonard Tourney) Favorite thing about conferences? Spending all morning, afternoon, and evening talking with fellow writers.

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

Having a snappy comeback at the instant I need it, instead of ten minutes later (okay, this is a wish, not a superpower, but we all need goals).

What is one funny, strange, and/ or out-of-the box thing we should know about you?

In high school, I was a mime. That's more trapped-in-a-box than out-of-the-box, but, yeah. Mime.



We still have room for your logo on our 2019 conference swag as well as our OWFI website and in our conference program. The cost starts at just \$50. We'd love to see more of our affiliates step up.

YOUR LOGO

Sign up at www.owfi.org/sponsor/

All About the 2019 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 page, and then send an email with the area in which you want to volunteer to our president, Staci Mauney, at president@owfi.org.

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, Inc. (OWFI)" or find the link on our website). If you have questions that aren't answered there, contact our president, Staci Mauney, or conference chair, Shelley Pagach.

What to Wear

- There's no dress code, but most people choose business casual clothing for the daytime sessions.
- The Friday night banquet features a costume contest*. If you'd rather not enter, slacks, a dress, or even nice jeans are okay. *See the graphic on page 12.
- 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 sessions.
- Water is available in seminar rooms, and coffee can be purchased in the hotel restaurant.
- If you have any questions, ask the volunteers at the OWFI registration desk or anyone wearing an Officer or Volunteer ribbon on their badge. We'll be glad to help.

How to Volunteer

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, we have a place for you on our team. Many options are listed below. Be sure to check out what the conference has to offer you as well as ways that you can help in return. Contact the committee chairs listed below to sign up.



Don't wait—the best jobs go fast!

 Basket Wars | Silent Auction— Chair: Jayleen Mayes – Keep an eye on the basket area and help people place bids. Sign up for onehour shifts on the OWFI website.



- Registration Chair: Vickey Kennedy Greet conference attendees, hand out registration packets, and take payments. You can sign up for two-hour shifts on the OWFI website.
- Pitch Room Chair: Adrean
 Messmer Help with scheduling,
 time keeping, and ushering. You
 can sign up for 30-minute shifts on
 the OWFI website.
- Shepherds Chair: Gina Hoffman 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 sitting with them at the banquets. If you want to spend one-on-one time with a publishing professional, you may never have a better opportunity.

Meet the President - Elect

Meet your President - Elect: Shelley Pagach



Currently the OWFI Conference Chair for 2019, Shelley is the past president of the OWFI affiliate, Oklahoma City Writers Inc. (2016-2017) and the current 2nd VP of Membership. She has worked in the legal field for 28 years. Many of the tools she learned as a legal assistant and personal secretary she still uses in her writing today.

She won first place in the 2013 Oklahoma City Writer's annual contest with her novel,

The Queen and the Fiddler, which also won an honorable mention from OWFI in 2017. She recently

won an honorable mention in the 2018 Oklahoma City Writer's contest for her novel, *Broken Together.*

She loves to knit and crochet (there is a difference), watch TV with her family (everyone picks a character that represents themselves), go to the library (ever notice how books smell like chicken soup), or find some new craft project (because she loves gluing things).

2019 Conference Schedule Thursday, May 2nd

5:00 P.M.	Registration Opens		
LOBBY			
	Tamara Hart Heiner, Pre-Con Workshop		
	Writing Hard Topics for Teens While Avoiding the Smut		
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.	Real life teenagers deal with uncomfortable situations and topics on a daily basis. Literature is both an outlet and a learning tool, opening the eyes of those unaware of social issues and providing hope and light to those suffering. Discover what your end goal is and tackle the hard topics with class.		
	OPEN TO PUBLIC - \$20		
	(Not included in your conference registration. MUST purchase a separate ticket.)		
	Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. (Cash only at the door.)		



Don't forget

All schedules and up-to-date information pertaining to the 2019 OWFI Conference can be found on our website! www.owfi.org/

Registration (Lol				
	Registration (Lobby Area) 8:00 A.M 12:00 P.M.	P.M. Pitch Room 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.	Bookstore (Pre-Convene Area) 10:00 AM - 6:00 P.M.) 10:00 AM - 6:00 P.M.
	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30 A.M.		Opening Session - Opening Skit Welcome: OWFI President Staci Mauney	Opening Skit Ient Staci Mauney	
9:10 - 10:10 A.M.	Agents & Editors Ask our lineup of agents and	itors Panel and editors questions	Angela Archer Elements and Rules of Writing Historical Novels	Linda Boulanger Can I Really Create My Own Cover?
10:20 - 11:20 A.M. An Ir	Grace Wagner An Introduction to Poetry of Witness Documentary Poetics	Shannon Iwanski People First Language: Shaping Readers' Perceptions of Characters	Tamara Hart Heiner Writing Distinctive Voices with Multiple Points of View	CM Healy Being Self-Published, but Looking Professional
11:30 - 12:30 P.M.	Set up for Hawaiian Luau Luncheon	ר Luau Luncheon	Melissa A Instant Feedback on	Melissa Ann Singer Instant Feedback on Your Opening Scene
12:30 P.M.	Box Lunch Workshop with Robin F When Life Gets in the Way Room AB (Prior ticket purchase required	with Robin Patchen s in the Way ase required, no walk-ins)		
2:00 - 3:00 P.M. Strateg	Natasha Tinsley Beyond Inclusion: Intentional Strategies for Critiquing Race and Racism in Writing	Eric Reitan There's No Such Thing as Writer's Block	Rene Gutteridge Screenwriting for Novelists	Sabrina Fish Building an Author Platform
3:10 - 4:10 P.M.	Cecelia Wilson Back to Bremen Co-host with Edith Röpke Harris	Jennifer McMurrain All Things E-book	John Biggs Writing by the Seat of Your Pants	Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer Writing About Native Americans
4:20 - 6:30 P.M.		FREE TIME BEFORE BANQUET	RE BANQUET	
7:00 PM		Banquet Keynote: Meg Gardiner Inspiration, Craft, and Elbow Grease: A Writer's Journey	Meg Gardiner rease: A Writer's Journey	
~ 9:00 P.M.		Entertainment and Buzz Sessions (informal come-and-go talks) Locations and topics will be announced at the close of banquet	(informal come-and-go talks) inced at the close of banquet	

		OWFI CONFERENCE Saturday, May 4th	JCE th	
Registr	Registration (Lobby Area) 8:00 A.M 12:00 P.M.	P.M. Pitch Room 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.	M. Bookstore (Pre-Convene Area) 10:00 AM - 6:00 P.M.	10:00 AM - 6:00 P.M.
	ROOM A		ROOM C	ROOM D
9:10 - 10:10 A.M.	Ally Robertson Fine-Tuning Your Manuscript Before Submitting (Or Self-Publishing)	Cecelia Wilson How to Interview for Magazines and More	Amy Brewer Formula for Writing Romance	Paul Levine How to Go from Fingers on the Keyboard to Dollars in the Bank
10:20 - 11:20 A.M.	Rene Gutteridge The Screenwriting Life	Angela Archer The Best of Both Worlds: Being a Hybrid Author	Amelia Appel Instant Feedback on Query Letters	Sabrina Fish Fantasy World Building
11:30 - 12:30 P.M.	Set up for Galaxy Luncheon	ıxy Luncheon	Meg Gardiner Killer Plots: Building Tension & Creating Conflict in Fiction	rdiner & Creating Conflict in Fiction
12:30 P.M.	Box Lunch Workshop with John Biggs Let Magic Realism Work Its Spell on Your Fiction Room AB (Prior ticket purchase required, no walk-ins)	p with John Biggs Its Spell on Your Fiction ase required, no walk-ins)		
2:00 - 3:00 P.M.	Robin Patchen Small Edits, Big Impact: Literary Devices and Simple Tricks to Improve your Prose	CM Healy Self-Published Marketing: Doing It on Your Own	Jennifer McMurrain Book Cook	Natasha Tinsley Seeing is Believing: Strategies for "Showing" in Creative Writing
3:10 - 4:10 P.M.	Linda Boulanger Judging a Book by Its Cover	Grace Wagner The Technical Side of Poetry: An Introductory/Intermediate Workshop on Poetic Devices and Form	Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer My Thousand Mile Journey (Motivation, inspiration, and encouragement for writers)	Eric Reitan Openings That Don't Suck (But Do Suck You In)
4:20 - 5:00 P.M.		FREE TIME BEFORE MEETINGS & BANQUET	EETINGS & BANQUET	
5:00 - 5:20 P.M.	OWFI Board Meeting Officers and delegates, please attend.	d Meeting tes, please attend.		
5:00 - 5:30 P.M.	General Membership Meeting All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.	rship Meeting and encouraged to attend.		
7:00 P.M.		Banquet: Contest Results The 2020 OWFI Keynote Speaker will be announced.	itest Results beaker will be announced.	

2019 OWFI Conference Meet the Faculty

Do you ever get tongue-tied when you meet the conference speaker you've been looking forward to meeting? Sharing your work with an agent? Dazzling an editor with your wit? Have no fear and learn a little more about them—and what you may even share in common.

Tamara Hart Heiner

Pre-Conference



What's your favorite genre? Young Adult.

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? Janette Rallison.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Don't reread what you've written until the book is finished.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Networking.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Cleaning a whole house in five minutes.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe box thing we should know about you? I don't drink caffeine:).

Amelia Appel, Agent



What's your favorite genre? That's such a difficult question! Tamora Pierce has my heart, though, so I'll say YA fantasy.

What book have

you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? East of Eden. I have literally four copies on my bookshelf and still haven't gotten around to it.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Literally any of my clients. They're all amazing. But I'm a big David Foster Wallace fan, so I'd definitely be interested in hearing his other fans' thoughts on his works!

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Just write. It's so easy to get caught up in over-thinking and wanting the exact words you put down to be perfect and final, but editing is often so much easier than writing. Get the words down first – you'll be able to make them perfect later.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting new people! Editors, other agents, writers – everyone always has such interesting stories to share.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? What I hope it is: flight. What it probably is: stopping things from falling (buildings, people, keys down drains, etc.). I'm currently very good at dropping things, so I could really use this.

What is one funny, strange, and/or outof-the box thing we should know about you? I can juggle! Which I guess should be surprising given my previous answer, but I'm not bad!

Amy Brewer, Agent



What's your favorite genre? Romance. I love any version of it I can get my hands on. Angst is my favorite emotion and I love to get "the feels" from reading a well

written almost kiss.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I have never read *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. I've always wanted to, but I just never got to it.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Nora Roberts. I have read every book she has ever written. My best Christmas gift this year was a signed set of her Gallaghers of Ardmore series. She is incredibly talented, and I am such a fan-girl.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Write what you read. I repeat those wise words to authors every day.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? I love meeting new people and talking with them about books. It is my favorite thing to do, in conferences or out.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I'd like the power to manipulate time and space like Dr. Strange. I like that time is arbitrary and space is based on perception. Mucking about with both sounds like fun.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe box thing we should know about you? I do most of my literary work and reading with my little terrier Lucy on my lap. She is my constant companion.

Shannon Iwanski, Editor



What's your favorite genre? I love sci-fi and dystopia. These two genres tend to focus on the interactions between people and/or species. There's something

about that I find fascinating.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? To Kill a Mockingbird. Every time I go to the book store, that title typically pops into my mind. No idea why. Maybe one of these days I'll finally read it and put that tiny, nagging voice in my head to rest.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Kevin J. Anderson. He has written some great sci-fi and fantasy novels. His collaboration with Brian Herbert to continue and expand Frank Herbert's Dune universe is some of my favorite works of his.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? My junior high English teacher was friends with author Robert Cormier, who wrote, among other things, *The Chocolate War* and *I Am the Cheese*. She told him about me wanting to be an author, and he wrote a note to me that said (paraphrased), "Stick with it and don't give up." I was young, so of course I didn't give that note the reverence it was due and no longer have it. However, I think about it from time to time, and it gives me the impetus to continue on.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting and talking to writers and authors. I greatly enjoy the "Aha!" moments where a speaker or fellow attendee says something simple or in a different way from how others say it, and it makes the concept click for me. It's like they've seen into the dark recesses of my mind and discovered exactly how to reach out to me.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Telekinesis. The ability to move things with my mind would be helpful and fun. Also, thank you for assuming I would be a superhero and not a supervillain.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe box thing we should know about you? While I write and read horror, I don't like to watch horror movies unless it is sci-fi horror. My criteria is the more potential it has to be real or plausible, the less likely I am to watch it. If an alien is eating people, sign me up. If a person is killing other people, I'm out.

Ally Robertson, Editor



What's your favorite genre?
Mystery/Suspense/
Thriller.

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

Prejudice (or any Jane Austen, for that matter).

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Michael Connelly

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? When an entire novel seemed too overwhelming, I was told, "Then write one scene at a time."

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Connecting with authors.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The power of healing (or, if that's too Jesus-like, LOL, I suppose I'd

want invisibility, but I'd rather be Samantha Stephens than a super hero, please and thank you.).

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe box thing we should know about you? I love "bad" weather and would be content to live somewhere with constant rain, snow, storms, etc, as long as I had power.

Melissa Ann Singer, Editor



What's your favorite genre? I don't have one. I'm fairly omnivorous when it comes to fiction. I have a huge tilt in favor of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, but I also read

mysteries, domestic suspense, historical fiction, various kinds of romance, and westerns. I've edited all those genres and a few more, except for traditional romance. If a book has a good story and interesting characters, I'll read it!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I don't believe in books I "should have" read, sorry. I've read some books that are classics in the sense of being part of the so-called Western literary canon, but I feel no regrets about the ones I haven't read. I've read a number of books considered "modern classics" and I've read a lot of the "classics" of speculative fiction and mystery. The older I get, the less I believe there are books "everyone" should read.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? There are writers whose works I like a lot and whose new books I buy the minute I lay eyes on them, but I'm far too aware of how much work running a fan club is to want to be in charge of anyone's!

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Not applicable as I am not a writer.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Talking about books and writing, doing editing-on-the-fly and helping people figure out what will make their book better.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Flight, so I can visit my daughter in England more regularly.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? Unexpected: I find chickens fascinating. More expected: I would happily live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Vivian Zabel, Editor



What's your favorite genre? To read, my favorite genre is mystery or suspense. For submissions, I like anything that's well-written except graphic violence or sexual activity.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I've never read *War and Peace*, and at this stage of my life, I doubt I will.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Where do I begin? I have several authors that are my favorites, and I would gladly be president of their fan clubs: J.A. Jance, Carolyn Hart, William Bernhardt, Merline Lovelace, Stuart Wood, and new favorite author Meg Gardiner.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? I have been giving writing-related advice for so many years that I have to go back in my memory a long way. An English teacher from long, long ago told me that since I planned on being a writer, I needed to know grammar thoroughly. I was amazed anyone knew my "secret" ambition, but I took her advice to heart.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? My favorite thing about conferences is meeting and visiting with people, new friends and old. However, I always learn at least one new writing idea at each conference.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? My superpower? I guess at this stage of my life my superpower is facing a new day and accomplishing something positive. Even super heroes slow down.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I hate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. I like peanut butter. I like jelly. I don't like them together, never have.

Angela Archer, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? I prefer historical and contemporary romance, but it depends on the heat level of whether or not I'll pick a book up.

Meet the Faculty continued on pages 12-15

Angela Archer, Continued

I tend to stick to sweeter and cleaner stories. There have been a few exceptions, but not many.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Pride and Prejudice* and also *Gone with the Wind*. *Gasp. I know, I know. How on earth am I a historical romance author and have never read either of those? It's a goal I

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Diana Gabaldon.

have to get to them someday.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Never give up. You will face set backs and hardships and you will find at times that you will sit in front of your computer, wondering why you continue with this insane dream, but no matter how impossible it feels and no matter how much you want to quit, don't. Never give up.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? I love meeting new people and seeing old friends.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Living on a farm where I have to move bags of feed and hay bales, plus muck out stalls and bucket sometimes in the winter, I would love super strength and speed.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I wish that Stars Hollow was a real place, I lived there, and I was best friends with Lorelai and Rory Gilmore.

John Biggs, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? I prefer to read things written in literary style, but my taste in genre is eclectic. I go through periods where I spend a lot of time drifting

back and forth between mysteries, science fiction, and historical fiction. I'll always gravitate toward mixed genre when I can.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? Gone With The Wind.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Robert A Heinlein's.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Develop your writing skills on short fiction.

What's your favorite thing about



conferences? I always come away with a few new ideas and a new contact or two.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Invisibility. That is a recurring theme in my fiction--not the standard H.G. Wells invisible man type of invisibility, but the phenomenon we all experience from time to time--going unnoticed.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? My first date with my wife of 50 + years was at a family picnic in a graveyard.

Linda Boulanger, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? When wearing my author hat, I would have to say romance. More specifically, medieval and ancient world. Throw a little

fantasy in there by adding a dragon and I'm hooked (whether I'm reading it or writing it). As a cover designer... well, the answer doesn't change. Although I design in all genres and believe each has its own rewards, I have a penchant for those swoon worthy covers that are all romance.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Not only does this completely appall both my oldest daughter and my bestie, but especially as a romance author and reader, I believe this book above all others should have found its way into my hands.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? This has to be the hardest question asked! Although I would love to be a member of many fan clubs, I don't know if I could ever choose just one, and without doing so, I don't think I could do the job justice. I think that may be a pseudodrawback of work.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Slow and steady wins the race. That line was provided by a bestselling author, who also happens to be my real-life friend, Andrew E. Kaufman. It is something I have had to remind myself over and over not only with each book I have written, but with cover designs as well. I don't and won't rush anything, but if I work diligently, everything gets done and is done better. One other thing he told me: learn all the rules, and then break them. He's done this in his books better than anyone I know, and it has worked. Just pick one up and read it and you'll know exactly what I'm talking about.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Mingling with others who have similar interests and goals is probably the best thing about conferences. Getting to discuss books, authors, covers... all things inside the world of publishing with others who completely "get it" and don't tire of hearing about such things is an amazing experience. The information interchange is also absolutely unequaled.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I need two! As an author, I want to fly, so I can fly with my dragons. It would also help me get around to do all the things I need to get done so I will have extra time. When I'm in cover designer mode, I want to be able to read minds.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the-box thing we should know about you? I'm going to have to go with the fact that I... hoard tables. Big, small, antique, new... doesn't matter. I've inherited a few, bought a few, but if I like it, I never let it go. My daughter recently moved into her first apartment and asked if she could have one of my tables. With furrowed brows, I took her hand and we went out and bought her a new one. Some things are simply not negotiable.

Sabrina Fish, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? Romance, especially of the fantasy or paranormal flavor, because I get a guaranteed happy ending.

What book have

you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Moby Dick.* A tale about a man and a whale just never enticed me to give it a try.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Nalini Singh. Her Guild Hunter series and her Psy Changling series are so amazing that I can't help but "fan girl" on her.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? I was struggling with the stigma of writing fantasy romance over straight romance and was afraid to be pigeon-holed or judged as an inferior writer just because I like happy endings and sexual content. I went to a conference and a speaker told us not to worry about what is popular or well thought of. We should write what we love. She finished by joking that IF we were going to write in a genre based on popularity, then to choose romance because it is the genre that sells. So I decided to ignore the snooty, judgy critics and do just that.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Socializing with other writers and industry professionals.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Anyone who's read my Shine novellas will already know this one: invisibility/control of sight.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the-box thing we should know about you? I own a trophy company. During the end-of-school awards season in April and May, I don't have time to eat or sleep properly and writing comes to a screeching halt. Apparently, my characters take exception to this and decide to harass my poor husband once we manage to fall exhausted into bed each night. He claims I sleep-talk so much when I'm not getting enough writing time that he looks forward to ushering me toward my writing desk as soon as the last order is filled for the season.

Rene Gutteridge, Speaker

What's your favorite genre? A tie between suspense and narrative non-fiction.

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

have? I've read nothing by Jane Austen... don't shoot me!



Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Erik Larson.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Write for yourself, not for an audience. Your

audience will find you if you stay true to your heart and your voice.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting other writers!

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? A sharp mind without the aid of caffeine.

What is one funny, strange, and/or outof-the-box thing we should know about you? My guilty pleasure is watching police pursuits. I've watched hundreds.

C.M. Healy, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? Geez, why don't you ask what my favorite movie or music is? :-P Well, if I HAVE to pick. Sci-fi/fantasy.

What book have you not read even

though it's a classic and you probably should have? A Christmas Carol (although I'm pretty sure I know the ending).

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Colleen Hoover, because she's a hoot.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Write something every day (even though I don't do that and I should).

What's your favorite thing about conferences? All the different workshops to choose from.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Super speed. Think of all the books I could read (and my nickname is Flash.;-)

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I can whistle four different ways without using my fingers.

Jennifer McMurrain, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? My favorite genre to read changes all the time. I go through phases. Sometimes it's horror, sometimes it's romance. I love cozies,

biographies, YA, fantasy. I really do try to read everything I can. As Stephen King said, "If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot." My favorite genre to write would be family sagas, whether it's historical fiction, like my Quail Crossings series, or something more contemporary. I love writing about family and how it evolves over time. But kind of like my reading phases, I do love to write in multiple genres. That's why I call myself a storyteller more often than a writer.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I am trying to remedy the fact that I've read only a few classics. Those were usually for school assignments and so I wasn't reading to enjoy the story. I would say most people would be surprised that I've never read *Pride and Prejudice* or *Jane Eyre*. They are on my to-read list though, but we won't talk about how long that list is.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? The famous author answer would be either Stephen King or Nora Roberts. I love the way Stephen King weaves a story together, and I'm in awe of how Nora Roberts just bangs one book out after another, and they're good! They don't feel rushed. If I'm being honest.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? The best writing advice I've ever gotten is to not give up. It's so easy to get discouraged, but it can happen for you. The other best piece of advice I could give would be to find the right path for you when it comes to writing. It might be traditional or it might be an independent route, but keeping your options open increases the chance for success.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? My favorite thing about conferences is most definitely the people. Especially at OWFI, I just love sitting down and talking with other writers. I love giving advice, brainstorming together, complaining about our frustrations ...

Meet the Faculty continued on pages 12-15

Jennifer McMurrain, Continued

writing is very solitary, so being around others who know what it's like and can relate, well that is my favorite part and each and every person I talk to energizes me to keep going.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? If I were a super hero, my superpower would be to be able to be in more than one place at a time and enjoy each activity my "clones" are participating in. There are so many things I want to do, stories I want to write, time I want to spend with my family.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the-box thing we should know about you? Every time I get this question I wonder what tidbit I should share. The fact is I've lived multiple lives during this one. While searching to find myself, I've done a lot of odd jobs, and I'm not talking little jobs, I'm talking literally odd. I'm not sure if it's the fact that I was a bear researcher or a certified snake wrangle that shocks people more. I've had many adventures, all that have made me not only the person I am today, but that will continue to influence every story I write.

Robin Patchen, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? I love to both read and write suspense. I love to read women's fiction and literary fiction.

What book have you not read even though it's a

classic and you probably should have? I'm embarrassed to admit this, but I've never read a Charles Dickens novel. I was going to read *A Christmas Carol* in December, and I even started it. But I couldn't get through it, perhaps because, like just about every grown up in America and England, I know what's going to happen.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Charles Martin. He's my favorite author.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Polish your first book as well as you can, pitch it to agents and editors if you want, and then put it away and start writing your second book. You'll become a better writer through the process of writing.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting and hanging out with other writers.

You're a super hero. What is your

superpower? I wish my superpower were to fly—that's the one I'd choose. For some reason, I ended up with a superpower for grammar.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I didn't read for pleasure until my late teens. Although I always wanted to be a writer, I didn't start writing fiction or even consider writing fiction until I was forty years old.

Eric Reitan, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? I fell in love with epic fantasy when I read *The Lord of the Rings* in grade school, and for many years you could usually find me with my nose

in a good fantasy novel. My love for fantasy persists, although my tastes have both broadened (to more diverse kinds of stories) and narrowed (if the writing isn't first-rate, with at least some literary sensibilities, I tend to lose patience even if the plot is engaging). My favorite recent reads include Tremblay's A Head Full of Ghosts, Nina LaCour's We Are Okay, Erin Morgenstern's The Night Circus, John Green's Turtles All the Way Down, and Anthony Doerr's All the Light We Cannot See.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I started Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, but I never finished it. Since I teach philosophy of religion, this classic in particular is one I really ought to have read, given how it narratively engages with and dramatizes issues in that field.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? I've read gobs of epic fantasy, so when I say that my favorite works in that genre are the first two entries in Patrick Rothfuss's Kingkiller Chronicles (*The Name of the Wind* and *A Wise Man's Fear*), it means something. Other than being an amazing writer.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? If you don't have a person with a problem, you don't have a story.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Connecting with old friends and making new ones.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I would, with just a few words, somehow be able to clear away the blinders and rationalizations and fabrications and partisan allegiances that keep us from clearly seeing what is good

and compassionate and just.

What is one funny, strange, and/or outof-the-box thing we should know about you? When I talk to my dog (in vaguely Yoda-like baby-talk), I tend to say things like, "We all know that you are a shnoogle, but do you know what makes you such a shnoogle? One might suppose it's your shnoogliness, but while technically correct this answer fails to fully capture the more profound truth. The deep truth is this: your shnoogliness is itself shnoogly. In fact, it's packed with such a high degree of shnoogliness that you have acquired a degree of meta-level shnoogliness, a layering of second-order shnoogliness atop the first-order shnoogliness, that is unprecedented in the history of shnoogles."

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? Historical fiction.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Brock and Bodie Thoene.

What's the

best writing-related advice you've ever received? Don't get caught up in everything related to writing and neglect the writing itself.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? The excitement of coming together with like-minded people to learn from and encourage one another.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The ability to travel back in time.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I tend to squeal when I discover an obscure historical tidbit about real people I'm researching, whether I'm online at home in my pajamas or in the National Archives in D.C. (properly dressed, of course).

Natasha Tinsley, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? My favorite genres are literary fiction and psychological thriller. I can't choose, and you can't make me.;)

What book have you not read even

though it's a classic and you probably

should have? I have never read *Frankenstein* (I know, I'm horrible).

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? I would be the president of fan clubs for Octavia Butler and Toni Morrison. Black Girl Magic!

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? William Faulkner- "Get it down. Take Chances. It may be bad but it's the only way you can do anything really good." (For me, it's always bad, but I write it anyway.)

What's your favorite thing about conferences? The best thing about conferences is the opportunity to meet people who are struggling and doubting themselves just as much as you.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I would have wings and be able to fly. No doubt. Maleficent rules!

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I'm a writer. There is nothing more strange, funny, or out-of-the-box than that. :D

Grace Wagner, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? Poetry

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

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Margaret Atwood.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Have fun! Don't be too serious. Innovation comes from play.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Going to interesting sessions.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? My superpower is the ability to control time so that I can have more time to work and more time to sleep!

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-ofthe-box thing we should know about you? I collect teapots.

Cecilia Wilson, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? My favorite genre is non-fiction. After beginning as a fiction writer, I was hired as the feature writer for a magazine in central Arkansas.

After 15+ years interviewing people from all walks of life, I've found that "truth (really) IS stranger than fiction!" I am hooked and truly believe everyone has a story.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? Wuthering Heights or Jane Eyre. Notice they are both Bronte sisters' books.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Jane Austen. Though I love non-fiction, Austen's books give me a glimpse of my other favorite love: history. Through her stories, much can be learned about the time in which she lived and the societal norms of the day. It is fascinating to step back into.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever gotten? Write about what makes YOU most passionate. Because I love non-fiction and history, I find I do write about those topics with more interest, share those stories with more fervor. If I believe strongly in the story I'm writing, it will show in my words on the written page and in my voice when I speak to others about it as well. That makes the story more contagious.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Sharing my passion for my book and for writing. Sharing the backstory and reminding others to go find a story. There are so many out there!

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Time travel. Meeting those people I'm researching and asking the questions I missed asking when they were living. How many stories are gone because we didn't ask simple questions and discover tales untold?

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the-box thing we should know about you? As a singer, my sister and I occasionally enter some fun contest or other. (Ask me about the national contest in which we sang "Dancing Queen" for a trip to London!) In the 90s, we entered a contest at the Arkansas State Fair and had to "moo" a song during the rodeo finals. We were first-runners-up, but we were convinced we won the best prize: a year's supply of free dairy products delivered to our homes! Our winning song: "Mr. Moo-Man" to the tune of "Mr. Sandman."

Donate Books for Literacy

To help improve OWFI's approval rating for grants, we will donate books to the Salvation Army Shelter in Oklahoma City, which is a way to help literacy in our community as well as meeting an educational need in the community.

We ask anyone who will help to bring new or gently read books to the OWFI conference in May. We need books for children and adults.

Please don't take away from BasketWars because this project is different from giving items for the silent auction. Foundations want to give grants to organizations that provide education and help increase literacy in society. I not only challenge individuals and affiliates to donate books for this organization-wide project to be collected at our conference May 2-4, but for individuals and affiliates also to donate books to a local facility. For example, I will donate 10 children's books, five young adult, and five adult books at the conference, but I also donate at least 25 books twice a year to a local care facility for the elderly.

May 2-4, a large box or more than one box will be by the conference registration table for donors to place their books. Please help us help others as well as our organization.

Vivian Zabel, OWFI Grants Director

Spotlight Affiliates

One of the best benefits of OWFI is the many affiliate groups that are associated with us. This month, we're taking a closer look at the Stillwater Writers and Hunt and Peck groups.

Stillwater Writers

https://www.facebook.com/ Stillwater-OK-Writers-258927844739368/

OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active and how often do you meet? Stillwater Writers: As one of the two oldest writing clubs in Oklahoma, Stillwater Writers was instrumental in the founding of OWFI. Longtime member, the late Col. Charles Dutreau was honored as a founding member at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of OWFI. We meet every third Saturday of the month at10:00 AM at the Stillwater Library.

OWFI: Do you have a mission statement? Stillwater Writers: The mission of Stillwater Writers is to encourage, inform, and support writers.

OWFI: Who is your next speaker? Stillwater Writers: Stillwater Writers member Liz Tyner, who has published eight Harlequin Regency romances, will conduct a workshop on February 16 at 1:00 PM at Stillwater Library.

OWFI: Do you hold any annual contests? Stillwater Writers: We do! We are currently running a Flash Fiction contest. Entries are accepted through April 1. See our website/Twitter/ Facebook page for more details!

OWFI: What are the benifits of joining your group?

Stillwater Writers: I feel the primary benefit of Stillwater Writers is, like all writing clubs, the companionship of others who engage in the "loneliest profession." Only other writers truly understand the frustrations and the satisfaction of writing. Our club is fortunate enough to have experienced writers who are happy to share their expertise. We strive to keep members informed of programs, workshops, and trends in writing.

OWFI: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Stillwater Writers: We host an annual editor/publisher panel which is open to the public.

Thanks to Judith Sexton, President of Stillwater Writers, for answering our questions!

Hunt and Peck

OWFI: Do you have a mission statement? Hunt and Peck: Encourage one another in our writing and illustrating endeavors.

OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active?

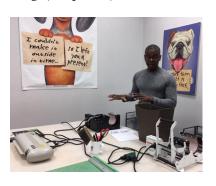
Hunt and Peck: 2017 and Fridays at 1:00.

OWFI: How many active members does your group have? Hunt and Peck: 5



OWFI: Convince us to join your group. Hunt and Peck: We are a varied group. We range in age from 50-something to 70-something. We have authors, illustrators, and poets in our group. We meet weekly, so even if a member has to miss once in a while, it's easy to always feel a part of the group.

OWFI: Who was your most recent speaker? Hunt and Peck: We went on a "field trip" to Danny Gordon's studio. We ate lunch together, then Danny shared about his business. Afterward, we had a "brainstorming" session as to how we could apply what we'd learned to our own businesses as authors and illustrators. It was a very productive meeting! (See photos)



OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member?
Hunt and Peck: Some of our members have been judges. Our members try to attend the annual conference and promote OWFI as an organization. We actively participate in the yearly contest.



OWFI: Are there any titles or upcoming releases from your members?? Hunt and Peck:

- I Spy Something Wicked by Susan York Meyers
- Ben and the Missing Pony, PB, by Una Belle Townsend

Thanks to Marla Jones with Hunt and Peck for answering our questions!

Spotlight Member at Large

Member at Large: **Glenda Buckmier** Member Since: 2004 Website: www.

ahor segoes to the store johnny bob advent u

resglendabuckmierauthor.com

FB Fan Page: Glenda Buckmier author

Twitter: gbuckmier

I keep a pen, pad, notecards with me always. Sometimes a thought will come when least expected.

OWFI: What are you reading right now? Glenda Buckmier: Children's classics such as The Secret Garden, Anne of Green Gables, nonfiction Grandma Gatewood's Walk, historical Patriot Priests, memoir The Well, fiction Ghost at Work, The Haunting Crescent Hotel, Capitol Offense, The Long and Faraway Gone, as well as gardening, cookbooks, and travel destinations.

OWFI: What is the best advice you've received since the beginning of your writing escapades?

Glenda: To believe in yourself, keep writing, attend writing conferences, and be involved in writing groups and stay close to your dreams.

OWFI: What advice would you give to other writers?

Glenda: Believe in yourself and write even when no one else believes in you or your writing. Write for yourself.

OWFI: When do you find time to write? Glenda: I keep a pen, pad, notecards with me always. Sometimes a thought will come when least expected. I carry a small journal book with me and jot down notes and thoughts in the book. I write in mornings and afternoons.

OWFI: Would you like to share a project you are currently working on? Glenda: I write the Johnny Bob Adventures along with my 8-year-old grandson, John Robert, who is the master storyteller. The first adventure, A Horse Goes to the Store, Johnny Bob Adventures was published in 2017.

OWFI: How has OWFI helped you in your writing endeavors?

Glenda: I have met many writers and learned so much about writing at the OWFI conferences. I have purchased books and writing material which have become part of my writing library.

OWFI: Please tell us what you write and a little bit about your writing journey. Glenda: I write children's story books and chapter books. My second manuscript is a chapter book which is part of the Johnny Bob Adventures. I have also written a draft work in progress historical fiction.



OWFI: If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to? Glenda: I would like to visit several time periods from the 1800s through the 1950.

OWFI: Tell me five things that we would see if we walked in your front door.
Glenda: I live in an historical preservation neighborhood, and my English cottage home was built in 1935. The living room includes a baby grand piano, family photographs, variety of books, writing desk, vintage family toys, tea service ready for tea, comfortable chairs in front of a fireplace where you can write, read, pray, and mediate as the sun streams into the room. A favorite place.

OWFI: Any titles or upcoming releases? Glenda: The second manuscript, How Tall Are You, Johnny Bob Adventures is under consideration with an agent.

Thanks to Glenda for answering our questions

LOOKING FOR NOMINATIONS

The 2019 Honorary Lifetime Membership Committee is looking for nominations. Please send your nominations to 2kwl2bagirl@gmail.com before March 30, 2019. In your nominations, please include the person's full name, their contributions to OWFI, and why you think they should be awarded the 2019 Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.

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Turning the Page 2019

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI) Conference

May 3 & 4
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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OWFI Mem	ber, postmarked by March	15, 2018	\$175 each	h ×	\$
OWFI Mem	ber, postmarked after Mar	rch 15, 2018	\$200 each	h ×	\$
Full-time St	udent with ID (25 years old	d or under)	\$125 each	h ×	\$
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Thursday 7:	00–9:00 p.m. Pre-Con Wo	rkshop (no meal)	\$20 each	h ×	\$
Friday Box l	Lunch Workshop (meal inc	luded)	\$25 each	h ×	\$
Saturday Bo	ox Lunch Workshop (meal i	ncluded)	\$25 each	h ×	\$

OWFI CONFERENCE TUMBLERS



Long day? Give yourself a boost with the Carmel 16-Ounce Travel Tumbler. Its sturdy construction allows you to enjoy your daily dose of caffeine on the go. Comes in green with the a "wintergreen" version of the OWFI logo prominently displayed.

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Wintergreen		\$12.00 each ×	\$

Total Amt.	Enclosed	\$

If you registered more than one person to the OWFI conference, please enter the names and affiliate clubs for each additional person you registered. At right, check the applicable boxes, marking what type of registration you purchased for that person as well as their meal preference.

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 $Full = Full \ Conference \ Registration \ (Member \ or \ Non-member)$ $FC = Friday \ Seminar \ \& \ Banquet \ only$ $SC = Saturday \ Seminar \ and \ Banquet \ only$ $FB = Friday \ Banquet \ only$ $SB = Saturday \ Banquet \ only$ $V = Vegetarian \ Meal$

Registration available at $\underline{www.OWFI.org},$ or mail completed form and check payable to OWFI to:

2018 OWFI Conference Registration c/o Vickey Malone Kennedy 721 East Boyd Street Norman, OK 73071

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

Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. Vinita Eggers, OWFI Treasurer Box 61 Heavener, OK 74937



Kathleen Patton











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