

SUMMER 2019

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The Report



OWFI Report, Summer 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.

Contributing Writers

- Jack Burgos
- Lisbeth McCarty
- Staci Mauney
- Connor Orion
- Shelley Pagach
- Kathleen Park

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Guest Column

Using Literary Devices in Your Writing

Using Literary Devices in Your Writing

You may not be aware of it, but you most likely use literary devices in your writing. Literary devices are narrative techniques used by writers to create a specific effect and elevate the art of writing. Classic storytellers such as William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, and Jane Austen are among the masters when it comes to the use of literary devices.

You don't have to write literary fiction or poetry to use literary devices. You can insert them into any writing project. When you know what literary devices are and how to use them skillfully, you can use them to take your writing to the next level. Some reasons to use literary devices include the following:

- To help your reader connect to your story on a deeper level;
- To help you make the purpose of your work clearer;
- To enhance the theme of your story or reveal character elements;
- To challenge your reader to think more deeply;
- To allow you as the writer to comment on controversial subjects; and
- To improve the reader's experience.

One of the best ways to learn how to use literary devices is to practice. Learn one technique at a time, and then introduce that new element into your writing. While you may not use each literary device you learn in your final manuscript, you can practice until you get the hang of it.

You can also read classic literature and parse it for the use of literary devices. When you learn to recognize literary devices in others' works, you'll feel more comfortable using them in your own work.

Two of the most well-known literary devices are simile and metaphor, but there are a host of other ones as well. Entire volumes have been devoted to cataloguing literary devices, and lists abound on the internet. Three of my all-time favorites and

their definitions include the following:

1. **Allegory** is a story with two meanings: the primary meaning on the surface and the secondary meaning underneath the surface. *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan and *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis are both examples of allegory.
2. **Alliteration** is a figure of speech in which consonants at the beginning of words are repeated throughout a sentence. The crispness of repeated consonants has long been one of my favorite sounds. Note the sounds of both the "p" and the "w" in the first line of *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe: "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary..."
3. **Onomatopoeia** is a figure of speech in which the word used imitates the sound it makes. I fell in love with the word *onomatopoeia* in junior high – it's so fun to say. It is used in specific situations to create a special effect. *Crackle*, *pop*, and *zoom* are all examples of onomatopoeia.

Literary devices add depth and richness to your writing. As with any writing technique, you will want to use them sparingly to achieve balance in your work. While it takes time and effort to learn this, the effect on your writing—and your reader—will be worth it.

Staci Mauney is the author of four devotionals and several short stories. Current OWFI Past President, she co-owns Prestige Prose, a professional editing and writing company. Visit her at prestige prose.com.

From the Past President

Thank you for the honor of serving as your 2019 OWFI president. We've completed another successful OWFI conference, and I want to acknowledge all the dedicated people who volunteered to make it happen. Thank you to each person, sponsor, and vendor who helped to make the conference a memorable experience.

Congratulations to all the 2019 writing contest winners! For the first time in almost 10 years of entering the contest, my name was called during the awards presentation. The competition was fierce as always, and I'm honored and amazed to be counted among you.

I'm excited to hand the gavel to Shelley Pagach, 2020 OWFI President. Shelley and

I worked so closely together that at one point, our minds melded, and we finished each other's sentences. I have complete confidence in Shelley's ability and expertise to lead OWFI.

I feel privileged to join the ranks of previous OWFI past presidents. OWFI members, you are an amazing group of writers, and I'm so thankful to be part of this organization!

Staci Mauney is the Past President, OWFI 2018-2019



Staci and Shelley

SAVE THE DATE

09 08 19
SUNDAY

FALL BOARD MEETING
AFFILIATE DELEGATES & MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

From the President

I first ventured into the world of OWFI in 2007. A petrified newbie sitting in the back row of every session, I prayed nobody could tell that I didn't belong. A few years later, I worked up the nerve to go back. Still a stranger in a strange land, I figured out I wouldn't be swallowed whole. I even survived my first pitching session.

Then in 2012 I sat alone, minding my own business, when a perky, dark-headed girl with a sweet Okie accent popped over and introduced herself. You may know her as our 2018 president, Sabrina Fish.

That moment taught me the most important lesson so far: BE CAREFUL WHO YOU SPEAK TO AT OWFI.

Twelve years later, I am on the lookout for all the newbies sitting by themselves, hoping no one notices them. I introduce myself and ask the one question that will crack even the hardest shell... *So, what do you write?*

The 2020 OWFI conference

theme is Bridging the Gap. I had originally thought of "building bridges" until I learned the difference between the very similar phrases. Where building bridges means to improve the relationship between people who are very different or do not like each other, Bridging the Gap means to connect two things or to make the difference between them smaller.

Bridging the Gap follows close behind my all-time favorite OWFI hashtag: #weareOWFI. Christine Jarmola reminded our organization of this concept at a time when we needed to pull together. That's when I knew OWFI was for me.

For the past several years, it has been our goal to reach younger writers. This year I want to continue that goal, but also extend it to new writers no matter their age, location, or genre.

I only know so many people, so I am going to take a tip from my friend Sabrina Fish and voluntell you to get out there



and represent OWFI. Look around, reach out to the young and old, even the neighbor who's been thinking about writing that Amish erotica novel, and tell them all about OWFI.

Here's to Bridging the Gap in 2020!

Shelley Pagach is the OWFI President for 2019-2020

Be a Bridging the Gap Sponsor!

Have your logo on the website, featured in The Report, on conference memorabilia, and on the Friday banquet slideshow!

For more details check out:
<https://www.owfi.org/sponsor/>

2019 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

CATEGORY 1

POETRY, UNRHYMED-SHORT

Category Sponsor: Norman Galaxy of Writers, in memory of Frances Searcey

Judge: Sharon Martin

Category Chair: Tamara Grantham

FIRST PLACE: "Sacrament" by Theresa Hupp, Kansas City Writers Group

SECOND PLACE: "Night Blessing" by Kristyn Reid, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Making Hay" by Jennifer Denslow, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Lost" by Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Honorable Mention: "His Last Words" by Roxana L. Cazan, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Honorable Mention: "A Wintersweet Song" by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville WordWeavers

4th Honorable Mention: "Equilibrium" by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

5th Honorable Mention: "Love Speaks" by Mary Ellen Main, Writers of the Purple Sage

6th Honorable Mention: "Totality" by Linda Reising, Member at Large

CATEGORY 2

POETRY, UNRHYMED-LONG

Category Sponsor: Scriblerus House

Judge: Grace Wagner

Category Chair: Susan Kite

FIRST PLACE: "The Coming of the Frost" by Molly Ervin, McAlester's McSherry Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Last Call for Superman" by Gregg Winkler, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Vigil, 3 a.m." by Marcia Preston, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention: "Moving Day" by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

2nd Honorable Mention: "I Call Them by Name" by Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Honorable Mention: "Cancer Aesthetics" by Roxana L. Cazan, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

4th Honorable Mention: "Brushing off the Sand" by Co Bauman, Kansas City Writers Group

CATEGORY 3

POETRY, RHYMED-SHORT

Category Sponsor: Enid Writers Club

Judge: Linda Boulanger

Category Chair: Darren Lyons

FIRST PLACE: "The Remaining" by Z Lee, Nevermore Edits

SECOND PLACE: "A Sand Decision" by Amy Saker, Nevermore Edits

THIRD PLACE: "Middle Age" by Jim Martin, Pen & Keyboard Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Helen" by Jude Bayton, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Precipitation" by Kelly Roberts, Member at Large

CATEGORY 4

POETRY, RHYMED-LONG

Category Sponsor: Jacque Graham

Judge: C. M. Healy

Category Chair: Jennifer McMurrain

FIRST PLACE: "Head Bowed, Eyes Down" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Unvanquished" by Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings

THIRD PLACE: "Final Emotions" by Darlinda Hagens, Pen & Keyboard Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Everyday Dragons" by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Only in Oklahoma" by Barbara Shepherd,

Mid-Oklahoma Writers

3rd Honorable Mention: "Becoming Fragile" by Kristyn Reid, Member at Large

CATEGORY 5

ESSAY

Judge: Eric Reitan

Category Chair: Connie Blaylock

FIRST PLACE: "Forgiveness: Not Always Black and White" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: "A Place of Remembering" by Beth M. Stephenson, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Endless Cycle" by Amy Saker, Nevermore Edits

1st Honorable Mention: "My Wife Is" by Michael Richard, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "From Weeding to Wisdom" by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

CATEGORY 6

TECHNICAL AND/OR HOW-TO ARTICLE

Judge: Amy Shojai

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

FIRST PLACE: "Tropical Milkweed: Monarch Friend and Foe" by Kimberly Toscano, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "How to Survive the Death of a Spouse" by Sally Jadlow, Kansas City Writers Group

THIRD PLACE: "How to Lose Your Family Gofer Job" by Renee' La Viness, Tulsa NightWriters

1st Honorable Mention: "Ten Tips and Tricks to Make Writing/Editing Easier Using Word" by Shannon Iwanski, Nevermore Edits

2nd Honorable Mention: "How to Flip a House Without Flipping Out" by Beth M. Stephenson, Member at Large

2019 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

CATEGORY 7

*FEATURE ARTICLE: NONFICTION
(ANY SUBJECT)*

Judge: Robin Patchen

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

FIRST PLACE: "Free Leonard Peltier?" by John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "The Magic of the Ozarks: Poppets and Spite Dolls" by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Virginia Hall, Pertinacious WWII Spy" by Mary Ellen Main, Writers of the Purple Sage

1st Honorable Mention: "When Genius Goes Wrong" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

CATEGORY 8

BLOG: NONFICTION

Judge: Maria Veres

Category Chair: Kelly Roberts

FIRST PLACE: "Battling the Winter Blues" by Staci Mauney, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Waving Around Your Backstory" by Shannon Iwanski, Nevermore Edits

THIRD PLACE: "Beneath Our Feet" by M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa NightWriters

1st Honorable Mention: "Things No One Told Me About Being on a Board" by Mary Moran, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Friendship Application With Instructions" by Eva Mahoney, Pen & Keyboard Writers

3rd Honorable Mention: "Flying Solo in the Kitchen" by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 9

INSPIRATIONAL ARTICLE

Judge: Julia Mozingo

Category Chair: Jennifer McMurrain

FIRST PLACE: "Butterflies: Heaven's Messengers" by Dion Mayes-Burnett,

Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: "Dreams of Sandy" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Tomorrow" by Jim Martin, Pen & Keyboard Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Never Too Late To Be A Star" by Jerry L. Davis, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "The Unwanted" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

3rd Honorable Mention: "For Sammi" by Susan Blumenthal Donchin, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 10

MEMOIR/NOSTALGIA SHORT STORY

Category Sponsor: Green Country Ruff Riters

Judge: Cecilia Wilson

Category Chair: Myloe Yeager

FIRST PLACE: "Fish Tale" by Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings

SECOND PLACE: "Saturday at the Store" by Bob Hargrove, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Amazon.com: Hired, Tired, and Didn't Get Fired" by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: "Cycle of Life" by Mary Moran, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "But Honey, the Game is On" by Amy Saker, Nevermore Edits

3rd Honorable Mention: "Lessons From Mama" by Karen Evans, Enid Writers Club

4th Honorable Mention: "Ten Years Later" by Ryan C. Bradley, Nevermore Edits

CATEGORY 11

FLASH FICTION

Judge: Marla Jones

Category Chair: Eva Mahoney

FIRST PLACE: "A Voluntary Victim"

by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: "Drip" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: "The Microscopic Manipulator" by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Third Storey Window" by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

2nd Honorable Mention: "Road Rage to Tears" by Mary Moran, Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "Hanging On" by Dixie Maxwell, Tulsa NightWriters

4th Honorable Mention: "Freedom Flight" by Beverly Strader, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 12

*SHORT-SHORT STORY (ADULT):
FICTION*

Category Sponsor: Maria Veres

Judge: Natasha Tinsley

Category Chair: Kristi Hanson

FIRST PLACE: "A Lesson in Origami" by Linda Reising, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "Savory Tarts" by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Peppers and Salt" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "The Resistance" by Laura Atanacio Edington, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Nineteen Steps" by J. Allen Harris, Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "Negotiations" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

4th Honorable Mention: "The Kind You Can Ride" by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

5th Honorable Mention: "Rodeo (Not

2019 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

the Drive)” by Jude Bayton, Member at Large

CATEGORY 13

JUVENILE SHORT STORY: FICTION

Category Sponsor: Lisbeth L. McCarty

Judge: Wayne Wyrick-Harris

Category Chair: Connie Blaylock

FIRST PLACE: “The Stinky Cheese Incident” by Kimberly Toscano, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “Kate’s Best Character” by Jennifer Sneed, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “The Fat Black Cat” by Cathy L. Collar, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: “The Boy Who Wanted to Wash Dishes” by Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

CATEGORY 14

YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY: FICTION

Judge: Tamara Hart Heiner

Category Chair: Sharon Worthey

FIRST PLACE: “Supernova” by Jennifer Sneed, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “The Ginger Man” by Jeff A. Dosser, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “It Never Happened” by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: “Birthright” by Gene La Viness, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 15

SHORT STORY (ADULT): FICTION

Category Sponsor: Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Judge: Amelia Appel

Category Chair: Sharon Worthey

FIRST PLACE: “Alfalfa Blues” by Gregg Winkler, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “Comforting Lies” by Jeff A. Dosser, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “Forever Young” by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: “Undertow” by Haleigh Diann, Nevermore Edits

2st Honorable Mention: “Dead Armadillos” by Teresa Coffey, Member at Large

CATEGORY 16

SCI-FI/FANTASY SHORT STORY: FICTION

Category Sponsor: SoonerCon

Judge: Jack Burgos

Category Chair: Sharon Worthey

FIRST PLACE: “Treatment” by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: “Slaine Well” by Vaun Murphrey, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “The Choice” by Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings

1st Honorable Mention: “iFriend” by Jeff A. Dosser, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: “A Dog’s Life” by Kristin Kaldahl, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 17

HORROR SHORT STORY: FICTION

Category Sponsor: Phantasmagoria Books and Records

Judge: Melissa Ann Singer

Category Chair: Erin Cochran

FIRST PLACE: “Spirit Troubles” by John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: “Tornado Myra” by Jeff A. Dosser, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “Eye of the Beholder” Nicki Rycroft, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Monsters” by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: “A Sailor’s Nightmare” by Haleigh Diann, Nevermore Edits

CATEGORY 18

PROSE HUMOR:

FICTION OR NONFICTION

Category Sponsor: Nequita Hanna

Judge: Ally Robertson

Category Chair: Sharon Martin

FIRST PLACE: “Help! I’m Available” by Jude Bayton, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “Toddler Chili Bomber” by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: “Girl in the White Bathing Suit” by Fay Smalling Guinn, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Traffic Report From Checkout Line Four” by Russell Gayer, Ozark Mountains Guild of Writers

2nd Honorable Mention: “The One That Got Away” by Karla Hamlett Sullivan, Enid Writers Club

3rd Honorable Mention: “I Was a Male Red Hatter” by Gary Robert Pinnell, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 19

PLAY, FILM, OR TV SCRIPT

Category Sponsor: Ruth H. Weeks

Judge: Frank Steele

Category Chair: Maria Veres

FIRST PLACE: “The Mall-Teaser’s Flamingo” by Jerry L. Davis, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “Ned Christie” by Devon Mihesuah, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “Lady Trail Boss” Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

CATEGORY 20

PICTURE BOOK

Category Sponsor: 4RV Publishing

Judge: Vickey Kennedy

Category Chair: Evelyn Wilson-Martin

FIRST PLACE: *Dancing Kite, Laughing Wind* by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville

2019 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: *The Lion's Roar* by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: *Watch Night* by Sharon J. Wilson, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: *Princess of the Honeybees* by Zach Roberts, Tulsa NightWriters

2nd Honorable Mention: *The Bugahump* by Kathlyn Smith, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 21 MIDDLE GRADE BOOK

Judge: Jere Ellison

Category Chair: Evelyn Wilson-Martin

FIRST PLACE: *Bray* by Sharon J. Wilson, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *Kimba's Christmas* by Meg Welch Dendler, Ozark Mountains Guild of Writers

THIRD PLACE: *The Pink Sneaker Club* by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: *The Legend of Billy Bob Flybottom* by Susan Kite, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 22 YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

Judge: Amy Brewer

Category Chair: Ariel White

FIRST PLACE: *The 7th Lie* by Tamara Grantham, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *Off with Their Heads* by Vickey Malone Kennedy, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: *Western Skies* by Haleigh Diann, Nevermore Edits

1st Honorable Mention: *Web of Deceit* by Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

CATEGORY 23 MAINSTREAM NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Carol Johnson, in Honor of Kirk Bjornsgaard

Judge: John Biggs

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson

FIRST PLACE: *This Is Why We Sing* by Belinda Bruner, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *Wish You Were Here* by Dixie Maxwell, Tulsa NightWriters

THIRD PLACE: *The Girl Left Behind* by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: *What Swims Below* by Marcia Preston, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 24 ROMANCE NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Sharon Sala

Judge: Jennifer McMurrain

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson

FIRST PLACE: *Fear the Night* by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: *Crushed Promises* by Linda Trout, Tulsa NightWriters

THIRD PLACE: *Unleashed* by Vickey Malone Kennedy, Rose Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: *What Will Samantha Do Next?* by Shelley Pagach, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 25 HISTORICAL NOVEL

Judge: Jacque Graham

Category Chair: Inez Bowman

FIRST PLACE: *Kassandra* by Sharon J. Wilson, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *Plagues and Princes: The One True Prince* by Thomas F. Schultz, Kansas City Writers Group

THIRD PLACE: *Finding Joy* by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 26 MYSTERY/SUSPENSE NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Marcia Preston

Judge: Shannon Iwanski

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson

FIRST PLACE: *H.I.P. in Prague* by M. Edward Jones, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *Chameleon* by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: *Blind Shott* by Gordon Kessler, Kansas Writers Association

1st Honorable Mention: *The Lottery Winners* by Staci Mauney, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Honorable Mention: *Rapier Wit* by Jennifer Denslow, Member at Large

CATEGORY 27 SCI-FI/FANTASY NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Rose Rock wRiters

Judge: Lisa Willis

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson

FIRST PLACE: *The Wages of Sin* by Shannon Iwanski, Nevermore Edits

SECOND PLACE: *The Mutant Frequency* by Jerry Hanel, Tulsa NightWriters

THIRD PLACE: *The Stars, the Gods* by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: *The Lost Palace of D'Nanitra Val* by Keith H. Maxwell, Member at Large

CATEGORY 28 HORROR NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Susan Spess Shay

Judge: Nick Lyon

Category Chair: Erin Cochran

FIRST PLACE: *Shattered* by Jeff A. Dossier, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *The Daughter of the Sun and Moon* by Debra Dockter, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: *Dante's Freak Show Carnival* by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock

2019 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

wRiters

CATEGORY 29 **NONFICTION BOOK**

Judge: Dianne McCartney
Category Chair: Erin Cochran
FIRST PLACE: *Indie Strong* by

Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville
WordWeavers
SECOND PLACE: *Plant Noir* by
Kimberly Toscano, Member at Large
THIRD PLACE: *Every Ten Years* by
Carolyn B. Leonard, Oklahoma City
Writers, Inc.

2019 OWFI Contest Winners - Published Book Trophies and Crème de la Crème

CATEGORY 30 **BEST JUVENILE BOOK**

Judge: Meg Dendler
Category Chair: Sabrina A. Fish
FIRST PLACE: *Suki and Sam* by Dr.
Lisa Marotta, The Inklings

CATEGORY 31 **BEST YA BOOK**

Category Sponsor: Write Schtuff
Coaching
Judge: Vivian Zabel
Category Chair: Sabrina A. Fish
FIRST PLACE: *Ned Christie: The
Creation of an Outlaw and Cherokee Hero*
by Devon Mihesuah, Member at Large

CATEGORY 32 - BEST **NONFICTION BOOK**

Category Sponsor: Dianne McCartney
Judge: Marcia Preston
Category Chair: Sabrina A. Fish
FIRST PLACE: *Betrayal at the Buffalo
Ranch* by Sara Sue Hoklotubbe, Tulsa
NightWriters

CATEGORY 33 **BEST BOOK OF POETRY**

Category Sponsor: LilyBear House, LLC
Judge: Sabrina A. Fish
Category Chair: Sabrina A. Fish
FIRST PLACE: *Beneath Irving Island* by
Sue Cory Person, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 34 **BEST BOOK OF FICTION AWARD**

Category Sponsor: Sandra Soli
Judge: Dion Mayes-Burnett
Category Chair: Sabrina A. Fish
FIRST PLACE: *Not a Prodigal* by
Sharon Edge Martin, Member at
Large

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

All first-place entries were read
anonymously during the judging process for
this award.

Sponsor: Marcia Preston
Trophy Sponsor: Bartlesville WordWeavers
Judges: Venessa Cersale, Casey Cowan,
and Michael Frizell

CONGRATULATIONS!

"Spirit Troubles" by John T. Biggs,
Oklahoma City Writers



To view more photos from the conference, go to the Gallery nested under the Conference heading on the website.

Lifetime Member Award Winner



A few years ago, I commiserated with some of you about how OWFI could stand to be a little more technology friendly. I was asked if I would be willing to do the website. I laughed and laughed and threw my best friend under that bus.

Since then, **Jack Burgos** has pulled us, occasionally kicking and screaming into the Internet Era.

He has shirked other duties and responsibilities to work on stuff for OWFI. He has, annoyingly, told me to leave him alone so he can work. And he has poured so

much of his soul into a job that's easily pushed aside as being not necessary.



But thanks to his work, we are more connected than we've ever been. Out of ones and zeroes and Javascript, Jack has built us a strong spine.

Vinita told me I should plan to talk for three minutes. But I've been keeping this secret from the person I tell everything too long

to keep stalling.

I finally get to give my sib from another crib verifiable proof that he is seen. That the things he's done have not gone unnoticed. And that he is appreciated more than he allows himself to believe.



Connor Orion

Vinita Eggers, who presented this award, was the 2018 Lifetime Member Award Winner, below pictured in the middle



Guest Column

Watching Your Language by Kathleen Park

The Case for *Me*, *Myself*, and *I*

You've undoubtedly heard this blooper. I hope it wasn't coming from your own lips. It goes something like this: "Mike Jones, Mrs. Samuels, and myself accomplished all our monthly goals."

But *myself* cannot be a subject. It is not in the nominative case. (Latin and English.) This error probably comes from a misguided attempt by the poor speaker and the hundreds like him to be proper and avoid saying *I* or *me*. Then, to either distance it further, or maybe dress it up a bit, he inserts *myself* instead of the plain and correct *I*.

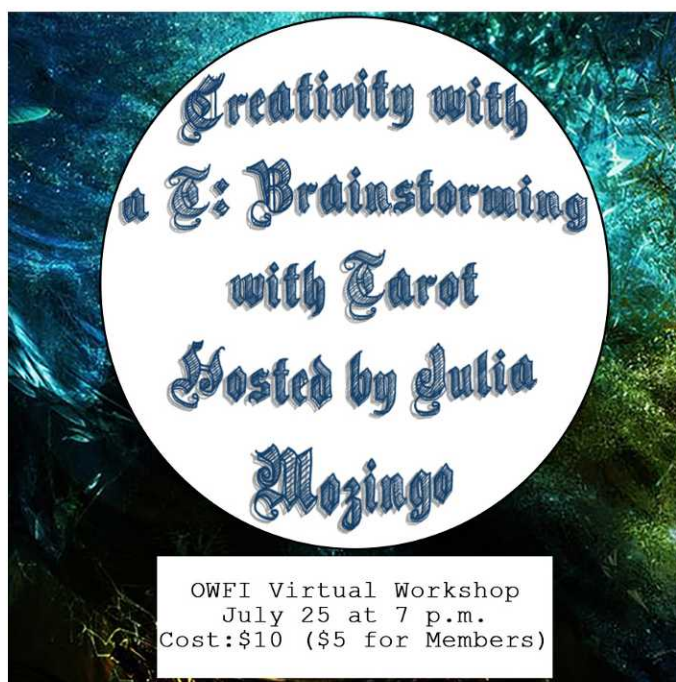
The aforementioned awkward speaker is also likely to say, "The boss asked Joe and myself to take on the project." But *myself* doesn't work there as a direct object. It should be "The boss asked Joe and me . . ."

Myself does work in this construction: "I give myself to you" or "I cut myself peeling potatoes." It can also be the object of a preposition: "I bought a present for myself" or as an indirect object: "I bought myself a present."

Myself can be used as an intensifier: "I, myself, will never accept it" or "I will do it myself."

An even more common and painful error is "The boss asked Joe and I to take on the project." Here comes my pet theory as to why such errors are so abundant, even among otherwise educated people. It grew from our early training by mommies and teachers who corrected "Me and Joey played ball" with "Say 'Joey and I,' honey. Always put the other person's name first." (That, and the subsequent failure to teach or learn noun cases.) Try my simple Quick Trick to Fix—Separate and Test. The guy who said, "The boss asked Joe and I" would never say, "The boss asked I." He'd correctly say, "The boss asked me." Thus, "The boss asked Joe and me."

Kathleen Park, MA, calls herself an escaped English teacher and a forever lover of words. Send her your grammar-related questions: katie.talks@gmail.com



Creativity with
a T: Brainstorming
with Tarot
Hosted by Julia
Mozingo

OWFI Virtual Workshop
July 25 at 7 p.m.
Cost: \$10 (\$5 for Members)



Affiliate Spotlight: Tulsa NightWriters Club

One of the benefits of OWFI are the many affiliate groups that are associated with us. This month, we're taking a closer look at the Tulsa NightWriters Club.

Tulsa NightWriters Club

FB Fan Page:

www.facebook.com/TulsaNightWriters/

Twitter: @TulsaNightWrite



OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active and how often do you meet?

Tulsa NightWriters: Active for over 65 years. We are the oldest writers' group in Tulsa.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Martin East Regional Library auditorium, 2601 S. Garnett, Tulsa. On average, 25-35 members attend our informative and inspiring monthly meetings, which feature speakers from Tulsa and the surrounding areas. We also hold our annual Craft of Writing Conference, which is free to the public, every fall.

OWFI: What is your mission statement?

Tulsa NightWriters: Tulsa NightWriters Club supports writers and soon-to-be writers on their journey to publication. The mission of Tulsa NightWriters Club is to provide a platform for writers of all levels and abilities to receive support, encouragement, and the tools to achieve their writing goals, whether for publication or personal enjoyment. We offer monthly informational and inspirational speakers, networking with other writers and publishing professionals, help with book promotion, and opportunities to achieve through local, state and

national writing competitions and conferences. We welcome writers of screen and stage plays, poetry, murder mysteries, science fiction, thrillers, romance, memoirs, fiction, non-fiction, historical, short stories, biographies, and every other genre.

OWFI: How many active members do you have?

Tulsa NightWriters: We have 90 active members.

OWFI: What are some benefits of joining your affiliate?

Tulsa NightWriters:

- Genre Focus Groups and Accountability Partner programs
- Newsletter (NightScripts) and Members' Book Catalog
- Group Book Signings and Networking Opportunities

OWFI: Who is your next speaker?

Tulsa NightWriters: Our July 16 meeting is the kickoff for our Genre Focus Groups program. Those in attendance will meet other members who write in their genres. The program is designed to help members create friendships and provide mutual encouragement and feedback. Our August speaker is bestselling author William Bernhardt.

OWFI: Do you hold any annual contests?

Tulsa NightWriters: The club holds an annual Flash Writing Contest for members, which is judged by an accomplished author from outside the club. Cash prizes are awarded to the winners.

OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member?

Tulsa NightWriters: Over the years, our club members have been involved with every aspect of the conference. We send many members to the conference every year, with dozens participating in the contest. We have been shepherds for out of town speakers. We have been

conference speakers and contest judges. We have sponsored many categories, including Crème de la Crème, and have volunteered in a myriad ways for many years. We always give baskets as a club and as individuals. We also encourage enrollment in OWFI, providing members and potential members with written information and application assistance at each monthly meeting.

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

Tulsa NightWriters:

- Bob Avey, *Identity Theft* (4th book in the Detective Elliot series), releasing 2019
- Deborah Camp, *Through Her Heart* (The Mind's Eye #6)
- Danny Carlton, *Earth Suit*
- Mary Coley, *Chrysalis* (Family Secret Series #4)
- Lori Ellis, *Trail of Deceit*
- Rex Griffin, *Autumn of the Wolf*, releasing fall 2019
- Jerry Hanel, *The Mutant Frequency*
- Sally Jadow, *Joshua's Journey: One Boy's Victory over Allergies*
- Donna Welch Jones, *Beautiful Bait*, releasing Fall 2019
- Tony LoPresti, *Storm Sentinel*
- Byrd Nash, *The Wicked Wolves of Windsor and other Fairytales*
- Rae Neal, *Daylight Melodies*, September 2019
- Sue Cory Person, *Beneath Irving Island*
- M. Carolyn Steele, *Outrun the Bullets*, releasing late summer 2019
- Bill Wetterman, *Tick Tock*
- Bill Wetterman, *Christianity Faces the 21st Century*, releasing summer 2019

Thanks to Joshua Danker-Dake with Tulsa NightWriters Club for answering our questions!

Affiliate Thunderdome

Welcome to the Affiliate Thunderdome

The Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI), is a federation of affiliated writers' groups. In 1968 the Oklahoma Writers Association (OWA) and the Enid Writers Club joined forces to become the organization that we have come to know as OWFI. Small but motivated, the nascent OWFI traveled Oklahoma helping writers set up their own local affiliate clubs, each with its own charter and officers. By 1988 OWFI had begun accepting affiliates from even bordering states, with one Arkansas and three Texas clubs affiliated.

OWFI is its affiliates. The motivation of these affiliates' and members'-at-large to engage in the business of OWFI has kept OWFI thriving since its inception. This is why we want to reward affiliates whose participation and contributions to OWFI continue to keep us going, over fifty years after that very special day in September 1968 when OWFI was officially born in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

With this in mind, I present the **Affiliate Thunderdome**. All affiliates enter—only one affiliate leaves the winner! **Members-at-large are invited to participate, too—as one very large affiliate club**. At every annual OWFI conference, the winner of the Affiliate Thunderdome will be rewarded for their activity. Last year was the Affiliate Thunderdome's first year, and we had a very good year, with many affiliates working very hard to earn points and win. In the end, however, there can only be one winner, and **Pen and Keyboard Writers** won that honor. Members-at-large were very, very close—failing to tie with Pen and Keyboard Writers by only one point.

This year, we've already got a strong competition going among most of our affiliate clubs. But you're probably wondering, *How do I get in on this?* Well, that's easy. We want you to participate in OWFI business and activities! Points are awarded throughout the year for different acts of participation. See the table below for more detail on each of the activities that are scored. At the end of the year, affiliate clubs may earn **up to 100 points**, simply for being involved. In addition, affiliate clubs have the chance to earn "**extra credit**" points by

paying attention to our Facebook, Slack, Twitter, and website for special updates, news, and events, but these are limited-time only—so you have to be watching for them.

*Point system on the opposing page and online at
<https://www.owfi.org/thunderdome>*

What happens if you don't win? Nothing, but we plan to reward you anyway. Points reset every year on the final day of the annual OWFI conference during the first Board meeting of the year where the officers for the following year are announced.

Every year that your club is an active affiliate of OWFI, your club increases in stature, and it accumulates **Years in Compliance**. Affiliate clubs will receive rewards after **5, 10, and 25 years** of compliance. After 25 years of this, your club will become recognized as a **Historic Affiliate** which will forever be remembered in the annals of OWFI, even if the affiliate club breaks up in the future.

Keep in mind that, in order to participate, your club *must* have at least five active members in OWFI. This is required as part of our OWFI bylaws to maintain your "active" status within our organization. If your membership lapses for a period of six months or more, your club will no longer be considered "in compliance," and you have to start your Years in Compliance count over. Please ask us for help if this starts to happen to your club—because we don't want it to happen either.

We are always considering new ideas to improve OWFI's relationship with its affiliate clubs, so please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, and we will happily consider them. You can always Contact Us via the OWFI website. Thank you, and good luck, affiliates!

Jack Burgos is the current Technology Director for OWFI and is the President of Nevermore Edits.

Thunderdome Point System

Points Awarded	Affiliate Expectations	Maximum Points Possible per Year
10 points	Updating your affiliate club's information on the OWFI website every 6 months. Points are awarded once between May 1 and November 1, and once between November 1 and May 1.	20 points
10 (5) points	Your affiliate group's full complement of delegates attends a Board meeting. (Only a fraction of your delegates attends a Board meeting.) <i>You must have at least one possible delegate</i>	40 points
8 (2) points	At least 5 of your affiliate group's members participate in the annual OWFI writing contest. (One of your affiliate group's members participates in the annual OWFI writing contest.)	8 points
5 (2) points	Your affiliate group sends at least 5 members to the annual OWFI conference. (Your affiliate group sends at least 1 member to the annual OWFI conference.)	5 points
5 points	Your affiliate group enters a basket into the Basket Wars auction held during the annual OWFI conference.	5 points
5 points	You have the appropriate number of delegates on OWFI's #delegates Slack channel at each check on May 1 and November 1.	10 points
1 point	Updating our Affiliate News section with news about your affiliate. <i>Maximum of one per month.</i>	12 points

Flash Fiction Winners



“One-eyed Whale” by Lisa Zarrella

It was slimy. It was corporeal.
It blinked!

Toby was stone washed. One white-setting load of laundry a week for years now and he'd automatically dumped the requisite cup of bleach in with his blue jeans and t-shirts – most of which had faded to disused, dusty impressions of themselves on closet hangers anyway. The eye saw him and laughed the only way an enucleated eye could, the same way it blinked with no eyelid. It was big enough to fit like a beach ball in a square of white Styrofoam upon a nest of coarsely crushed ice, staring at him with a look of indignation (quite a feat for a perfect sphere lying in a box).

The world felt gluey, sticky and stretchy like the uncooked bread dough that the prep cooks threw in handfuls against the back wall of the walk-in cooler, betting on which glob would stretch furthest down the wall before its elastic mooring broke and it squelched wetly to the floor. The coin-operated viewer near where Toby stood even

deigned to drop its gaze slowly as he, like that gloppy dough, slid down the brick façade against which he leaned to plop to his butt on the brittle grass. He hoped they set themselves on fire, the prep cooks, playing their game of shoot and singe: put your thumb against the head of a match on the scratch-pad and flick fire at the nearest white coat. If you left a sing, you'd get a mark docked in the big cutting-board. If on the off-chance you caught someone a-light or blew-up the deep fryer, kudos to you.

No matter how busy The Essex had been, there always seemed to be dishwashers and prep cooks smoking and cussing on the back dock, playing an improvised baseball game with rotten potatoes and a piece of two-by-four. When Toby came out of the kitchen that other night, leaving the line looking like the galley of a storm-tossed ship strewn with streaks of sauce and sprinkles of scales from the sea-bass, they'd been smashing the last bits of an ice-sculpture which had recently graced the buffet. Threading his way past them and lighting a much needed cigarette, Toby had clattered down the metal steps to the ally The Essex hid behind its back like a kid with dirty hands. He'd been running the film reel of preparation for the next day run through his thoughts:

*. . . pick up fresh lobsters . . .
airport at noon...* He'd pulled

another cigarette from the pack. *Need fresh chives . . . lit up... throw out the oysters... nicotine rush... fire the new kid... trip over the box...* “Shit!”



“Alone in Warsaw” by Mark Edward Jones

I am alone now. Five adults, eight other children, and that man. Gone. The planes came again after dinner, sooner than usual. The church had been spared so far, but the bombs found us this time. Each building on our block had its turn, the distant explosions thumping us with their power followed with a sound of thunder and bright light. Three blasts before our turn, plaster fell from the walls onto the floor of the emptied sanctuary, its pews long ago stripped for firewood. The next flash collapsed the theater across the boulevard, now littered with debris and bodies. The final burst before our turn hit the neighboring parsonage, blowing open our windows and shattering glass over my fellow sufferers.

Then it came. Our bomb. Oh, I know the soldier loading the plane didn't know that particular

Flash Fiction Winners & Fall Prompts

device would fall on a church. Bombs look the same after all, but each one caused its own mayhem when a house, hospital, doctor's office, or church collapsed, killing those inside, their hopes and memories lost forever. Our bomb fell on the rear of the sanctuary, striking near the column of marble where my family would sit each Sunday. My father was the best singer ...

I awoke near the small kitchen used by the priests, choking on the thick, gray dust filling the sanctuary. It was quieter now, the noise from the bombs far away and growing more distant. The voices of my friends had ceased. The orange glow of fire was all around us, but the church was not burning. There was the night sky where the roof had been, stars blinking through acrid smoke. A moan

from far under the rubble. Was everyone else buried? I couldn't remember their names now. They were nice and offered me food after I ran away from those soldiers. Those men took my parents and my brother and tried to get me, but I ran until I came to the church. I thought I would be safe.

Then he came. I saw him push through the broken wooden door. A skinny soldier wearing a helmet with that insignia, was a boy not much older than my brother. I hid in the kitchen, grabbed a butcher knife so large I struggled to keep it upright, and I squeezed behind the splintered pantry. The footsteps stopped and that face shoved itself into my hiding place. I screamed, struggled, and I yanked my sleeve away from his grasp, running into the sanctuary where our beds

had been. He yelled something I could not understand. I backed into a corner standing in shards of shattered stained glass, and I waited. He found me and smirked that awful smile. I pointed the knife and he laughed, still moving closer. And then ... I did it. The blade went smoothly into his gut and that smile disappeared. He dropped to his knees and fell at my feet. I am alone now.

Want your flash fiction to appear in *The Report*?
Check out the website for details and rules on how to enter.
<https://www.owfi.org/report/prompt/>



Guest Column

That's Puzzling by Lisbeth McCarty

Kyle and six friends (Lisa V., Lisa R., Dorit, Erica, Teddi, and Denise) decided to enter the LA Annual Writing Championship annual contest. Each entered in a different category (unrhymed poetry, rhymed poetry, short story, blog, horror story, children's story, and science fiction). They were all pleased to win either 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, 1st Honorable Mention (HM); 2nd HM, 3rd HM, or the Crème de la Crème award. Determine for each woman the category she entered, the title of her submission, both the negative and positive feedback she received, and the award she won. *Give yourself bonus points if you can name the TV show which stars all the women.*

1. Lisa V. and Lisa R. won a 1st place and a 2nd HM, in some order. The positive reinforcement for Lisa R. was that her rhymed poem was extremely creative. Lisa V.'s short story "Doggie Tails" was said to have great action.
2. The woman who entered the sci-fi category with "Alien Face Change" does not have a first name ending in a vowel. Teddi submitted a blog.
3. The 1st place prize did not go to a short story. Either Teddi or Denise won 2nd place.
4. The unrhymed poem won 1st HM. The rhymed poem was called "Pull No Punches."
5. Lisa V., Erica, and Denise received criticisms, in some order, of show, don't tell; too many adjectives; and the description of wallpaper was too long.
6. Kyle was told her entry had too many misspelled words. The 2nd HM submission used too many adjectives.
7. Erica's horror story "Too Rich" received 3rd place and was touted for being full of fantastic ideas.
8. Kyle did not enter the children's story category for her entry titled "Friend Lost", which won 1st HM. Denise and Teddi wrote "Blue Sky" and "Responsible", in some order. "Blue Sky" received the criticism of show, don't tell. "Responsible" finished 2nd place. Denise did not win the Crème de la Crème award, which was a submission praised for having wonderful descriptions.
9. "Responsible" and "Pull No Punches" were criticized for bad punctuation and lack of action, in some order.
10. One criticism was that an entry ended too abruptly.
11. The children's story was said to have relatable characters.
12. Teddi was told to watch her punctuation. One of the writers, but not Teddi, was recognized for astounding imagery. One positive note for another writer was that the submission was clever.

Writer	Category	Title	Negative	Positive	Award
Kyle					
Lisa V.					
Lisa R.					
Dorit					
Erica					
Teddi					
Denise					

Lisbeth L. McCarty. McCarty's books available on Amazon are: *The Mental States of Murderesses; I Cooked; Therefore, They Ran; Ours was the House; The Bitten Air; Scared Spell That Ends Well; Confound the Moon; Mustang Island; How the Worst was Dunn; Unicorn and Friends; and From the Heart of the Galaxy (an anthology).*

That's Puzzling Answers - Kyle: unrhymed poetry, "Friend Lost", misspellings, imagery, 1HM; Lisa V.: short story, "Doggie Tails", too many adjectives, great action, 2HM; Lisa R.: rhymed poetry, "Pull No Punches", lack of action, creative, 1st; Dorit: sci-fi, "Alien Face Change", ended too abruptly, wonderful descriptions, Crème de la Crème; Erica: horror, "Too Rich", too much about wallpaper, fantastic ideas, 3rd; Teddi: blog, "Responsible", bad punctuation, clever, 2nd; and Denise: children's story, "Blue Sky", show, don't tell, relatable characters, 3HM. BONUS: The women all appear on The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills.

2020 OWFI Conference Preview

You're Invited



The 52nd Annual OWFI Conference will be April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2020.

Our keynote speaker will be *Alton Carter!*



Alton Carter is the winner of the 2016 Oklahoma Book Awards for his autobiography *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*. In addition, Carter wrote *Aging Out*. Both books are about his life journey from foster care through adulthood. He has also written two children's books. He received his bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University and is using his story to inspire youth and adults to do all they can to "make the world a better place."

In 2015, Carter founded the Alton Carter Inspire Foundation with the goal of assisting young people who have lived in foster care, group homes, or DHS juvenile facilities in securing a college degree.

He makes his home in Stillwater, Oklahoma with his wife Kiristin and their five children.

Carter's Novels:

- *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*
- *Aging Out*
- *The Boy Who Dreamed Big*
- *The Boy Who Went to the*

Library



More conference information will be updated on the website as it is received. Check it regularly and check often. www.owfi.org



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