

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

It Is Not a Race

By OWFI President, Tony LoPresti

Writing is often compared to a foot race, a marathon (novel) or a sprint (short story, screenplay, play or other short work). While this metaphor may work for some people, for me, it does not. We each have to face the blank screen or page. Some of us are very good at opening lines, setting the hook so deep the reader can't help but continue. Other writers can write description first time, dead on. For some it is dialogue. We each have strengths and weaknesses.

To me, writing is like hiking in the wilderness. Sometimes the trail is flat, areas where we are good at our craft, but not the strongest. When the trail dives into a valley the going is easy. Strengths come into play and the act of writing takes us well beyond our earthly confines to another world we enjoy being in. The work is effortless. The trail turns up and the heavy lifting begins. I learned to write with screenplays and after spending 25 years working in film and theater, setting is a log line: Int. Living Room – Day. When I work on novels it is the same: Living Room. Yes, setting is the heavy lifting for me. Meanwhile, I know a young writer who can effortlessly, through setting, transport the reader to another world.

It is the path we each must take in order to produce a finished product. There is no “easy” way to write no matter what is being written. A “trashy” novel? For it to be successful it has to contain all the elements and structure of a great literary work or it will fail. The biggest difference between the two types of manuscripts is the audience. How we structure the sentence. What words we use. No matter what type of writing we do, the work must be tailored to the audience, but the elements, structure, of the story stay the same no matter the audience.

Therefore we need to take a new look at the racing metaphor. Writing is an art and a craft. Both elements need to be present for the story to resonate with the audience. Since we all have different strengths and weaknesses, the path is going to be different for each writer. We must each find the trail that leads to a completed story.

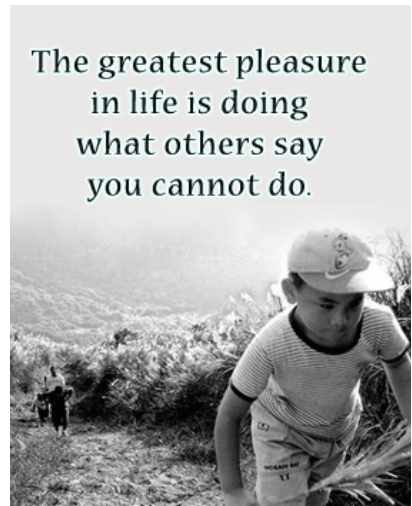
Listen and learn the craft from others, but remember, in a creative endeavor it is the person doing the creation who must find the path to travel.

Continued on page 3

What's Inside:

- 2 Meet the 2016 Conference Keynote Speaker
- 2 2015-2016 Officer roster
- 3 PR Tips by Heather Davis
- 4 “Watch Your Language” by Kathleen Norris Park
- 4 Upcoming Events
- 5 Advice from the Editor by Mari Farthing
- 5 Resource Guide
- 6 Renee Roberts interview by Tony LoPresti
- 7 2015 OWFI Contest Winners
- 10 Affiliate information
- 11 Membership Renewal form

The greatest pleasure
in life is doing
what others say
you cannot do.



Coming in May 2016: The OWFI Annual Conference



Meet Keynote Speaker Stephen James:

Steven James is a national bestselling novelist whose award-winning, pulse-pounding novels continue to gain wide critical acclaim and a

growing fan base.

Suspense Magazine, who named James' book The Bishop their book of the year, says that he "sets the new standard in suspense writing." Publishers Weekly calls him a "master storyteller at the peak of his game." And

RT Book Reviews promises, "the nail-biting suspense will rivet you."

With a Master's Degree in Storytelling, James has taught writing and storytelling around the world and is one of the seven Master CraftFest instructors at ThrillerFest, North America's premier training event for suspense writers.

His book on the craft of writing, Story Trumps Structure, received the award for Best Storytelling Resource from Storytelling World.

When Steven's not writing or speaking, you'll find him trail running, rock climbing, playing disc golf, or drinking a dark roast coffee near his home in eastern Tennessee.

Don't miss Stephen at the 2016 OWFI conference, where he will be the keynote speaker on Friday evening and will host a box lunch Saturday.

Are you already looking forward to the 2016 conference or contest as much as we are? It's never too early to volunteer your time! Please contact Conference Chair Maria Veres (mariaveres@att.net) to let her know if you would like to be a part of the 2016 conference.

OWFI 2015-2016 OFFICERS

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Building Your Platform One Connection at a Time

By Publicity Chair Heather Davis

When should an author start planning their public relations approach to selling books?

When the dream of becoming a published author and selling millions of books is still just that—a dream. That's when you should start building your platform.

Public relations should start as soon as you decide to pursue your publishing goals.

First, make friends. As writers, we sometimes find ourselves moving in circles full of other writers. And while I'm partial to writers, you have to remember this: It's the readers who will buy your books. Figure out who your target audience is, visit their groups, read their blogs, reach out to those people who will love your books and eventually become your biggest cheerleader.

Second, interact. Thanks to social media, we have a far greater personal reach than we would have had just ten years ago. You do not need to be on every social media outlet you can find, but you do need to find a place where you are comfortable and then interact with your online (and real life) friends.

As writers, our main objective is to sell books, but we must remember that our readers have a whole life outside of our books. When you engage with readers, ask questions that aren't necessarily about your writing, respond to replies, and just get to know your readers. When you invest in their lives, they will certainly invest in your books.

Finally, think outside the covers of your book. Write articles for your local newspaper, volunteer for your favorite cause or attend social events. When you take yourself away from the computer (and your writing) and are active in other areas of your life, you are making connections that could result in book sales and your are, of course, gaining valuable experiences that could, in turn, become fodder for your own writing.

Regardless of how you plan to market your book, you have to have a public relations platform that will allow your sales to soar.

"Either write something
worth reading or do
something worth writing."

Benjamin Franklin

Continued from first page

Find your path. One of the best ways is to enter contests. Now is the time to tickle the keyboard, allow the marriage of creativity and craft to produce a world of words. Time to sharpen skills and tune the ones we are good with. Contests are one of the best ways to hone the skills sets we use every day. That said, don't forget to pull out your salt shaker. Contests are subjective. No matter how hard a judge tries, and I know for fact they try very hard, to be objective, they are human. What will appeal to one may not appeal to another. Therefore, I will here and now divulge how to win a contest.

Write well.
Write tight.

That is the secret. All of it. Want to win? Enter contests often including the same contest year after year. A manuscript that does not place this year may win the next year when the judge changes. This does not exclude a rewrite or two.

Work diligently to find your path. Writing is not a race. It is a creative journey the writer must take alone. Enjoy the journey.

*The Report is the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. It is published three times per year, in March, September and December. News deadlines are the first day of the month previous to publication (February 1, August 1 and November 1, respectively). Please send submissions or questions to OWFINews@gmail.com. Please send address changes to OWFITreasurer001@gmail.com. OWFI is a non-profit federation of writer's groups dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word. Find us online at www.owfi.org, **Facebook** at "Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI)" and Twitter @OWFI*

Watch Your Language: A Quick Dash

By Kathleen Norris Park, Norman Galaxy of Writers

You'll see them—hyphens, en dashes and em dashes—misused everywhere, often by writers who should know better. Here are some tips to help you avoid falling into that group—at least for the em and the en dashes.

The em dash, so named for its length—as long as the old printer's m—enjoys seven entries in the new Chicago Manual of Style (16th ed.). And that's only the single m. Chicago follows that with the 2-em and the 3-em as well, but I'll leave them for another day or your own investigation. The en dash is named for its length as well.

Here are the most common uses of the em dash, usually just called the dash, and the most frequently used (or intended, or hoped for, or trammed).

- Em dash as substitute for commas, colons, and parentheses: Because we hadn't brought umbrellas—let alone hats and boots—we were soaked before finding a taxi.
- As explanation or a break in thought. Use a dash or a pair of dashes to indicate a sudden break in thought or interruption in dialogue: Her small dog—Pedro, if I remember right—could dance to a tune. Never use a dash or pair of dashes within another; use commas or parentheses instead: The

meeting—which most board members (some who rarely appeared) opposed—started late.

- Em dash to mark an interruption in dialogue: "Oh! I wish you would—" she began, but he cut her off.
- Em dashes to set off an amplifying or explanatory element, and in that sense they can function as an alternative to parentheses. The students—ten freshmen and eight sophomores—met in the library.

The most common use of the en dash is to connect numbers. With continuing numbers—such as dates, times, and page numbers—it signifies up to and including (or through). For the sake of parallel construction, the word "to," never the en dash, should be used if the word from precedes the first element in such a pair. The same goes for "and," never the en dash, if "between" precedes the first element.

- The years 1997–2002 were spent in Arizona.
- Chapters 25–28 are the hardest.
- We'll meet Monday, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. for lunch.
- He lived there from 1998 to 2001 (not from 1998–2001).
- Rose worked here between June and December (not between June–December).

Upcoming Events

September 12

Edit Your Fiction Story

1:30-4:30PM, \$35

Broken Arrow, OK

<http://jespiddlin.com/designingtheworldwithwords>

September 29

Elements of a Query

7-8:30pm, free

SW OKC Library

Panel discussion: learn the elements of writing a successful query letter.

October 13

A.G. Howard Presents

7-8:30pm, free

SW OKC Library

New York Times bestselling author presents "Engage Your Readers Using the TEAMS Writing Strategy."

October 31

Renew your OWFI Membership by the end of October and be entered to win a free conference (meals not included)!

November 10

Self-Publishing Basics

7-8:30pm, free

SW OKC Library

Learn basics of self-publishing your manuscript.

May 12-14, 2016

OWFI 2016 conference

Plan to be there!

Advice from an Editor: Follow that Dog!

By Mari Farthing, Newsletter Editor

People watching is good, clean fun--and good practice for a writer.

Say you're at the park with the kids. It's a new park downtown, with plenty of room and green spaces and seating and art. There are all sorts of people around, both with and without kids.

Two old men sit on a bench, angled away from one another... Three teen girls lay in the grass with their heads together, legs splayed out like spokes in a wheel, their hands in the air as they emphatically make their points... A young couple chases after a toddler who runs through the columns of an interactive fountain, squealing with delight... A dog wanders down the path, stopping to sniff at random bushes, carefully chosen.

That's what you see when you look. But don't just look; use this bucolic scene as a writing exercise.

Two old men sit on a bench, angled away from one another (what does their body language tell you? What

can you hear in what is unsaid?)... Three teen girls lay in the grass with their heads together, legs splayed out like spokes in a wheel, their hands in the air as they emphatically make their points (what plan are they hatching?)... A young couple chases after a toddler who runs through the columns of an interactive fountain, squealing with delight (Are they happy? Is that their child? Does he have a brother or sister?) ... A dog wanders down the path, stopping to sniff at random bushes, carefully chosen (Where is that dog going?).

I challenge you to follow the dog. Look beyond what you're seeing and develop subtext. Every person has an interesting story. Every person will surprise you with a true tale of their own antics, but what stories can you create when you look around?

Give them story lines filled with the stuff your own writing is made of—conflict, mystery, intrigue, romance, pain, compassion, redemption—you never know where that dog will take you.

OWFI Resource Guide

Peter Biadasz, Total Publishing and Media
TotalPublishingAndMedia.com, 918-624-9300 / *Professional services include author development, design, editing and marketing.*

Michele Chiappetta, The Chipper Muse
chippermuse.wordpress.com,
chippermuse@gmail.com, 918-407-7476 / *Writing, editing, proofreading, ghostwriting and more.*

Shayla Eaton, Curiouser Editing
curiouserediting.com / *Expert editing, book development, and one-on-one consulting.*

Mari Farthing, Mari Edits /
Mari.farthing@gmail.com (include
"editing query" in subject line / *Writing, proofreading and editing services.*

Karen Marie Graham, Books-A-Daisy
Publishing, books-a-daisy.com / *Offering traditional publishing services and*

professional a la carte services for self-publishers.

Marisa Mohi & Kathryn Trattner,
Dominion House Lit,
dominionhouseelit.com / *Digital literary magazine publishing flash fiction.*

Jan Morrill, Connect with Jan
connectwithjan.net, jymorrill@gmail.com
/ *Assistance with setting up a blog or website and understanding various social media platforms.*

Jennifer McMurray, LilyBear House
lilybearhouse.com / *A traditional publisher, currently looking for new authors.*

Jodi Thompson, Submission Services
thejodithompson.com,
jodi_thompson@yahoo.com (include
"submission services" in subject line.) / *Query makeovers, agent and market research, formatting, manuscript*

submission, social media assistance, and more.

Maria Veres, mariapolsonveres.com,
mariaveres@att.net / *Available to speak to writers' groups about writing, poetry, and creativity.*

Brandy Walker, Sister Sparrow Graphic
Design / sistersparrowgraphicdesign.com,
sistersparrowdesigns@gmail.com

This resource listing is by and for OWFI members with writing and editing related services. If you want to be included in a future listing, please send your information to OWFINews@gmail.com with "Resource Listing" in the subject line.

Meet Renee Roberts, OWFI's Crème de la Crème winner 2015

Interview by Tony LoPresti

I meet Renee at the awards banquet with the knowledge she wouldn't have for three hours. She may have known who I was, 1st VP and General Contest Chair, I'm not sure, but I introduced myself to this vivacious woman because I wanted to meet the Crème de la Crème winner. An award only 47 people had won before her. Not an easy accomplishment.

The Crème de la Crème award is not an ordinary award. Three judges need to agree on it. In Renee's case the judges agreed unanimously on the winner. It didn't take them long.

The woman who won it is as extraordinary as her writing. Renee is the mother of six, ages 9-21. She manages a 21 unit apartment complex, volunteers at her church, works one day a week in her husband's medical practice, is an avid reader, loves travel, and this amazing woman still finds time to write award winning short stories and work on her young adult novel, *Gypsy Moon*.

The Soul of a Cheetah, set in Africa, started with an image Renee had of a young girl sharpening her fingernails on a gravestone. The image gave her a start point for a girl who lived outside her social structure yet still felt attached to her people. In 700 words, Renee takes the reader to another world and gives them a story not soon forgotten.

"I like to create characters that inspire people to rise above themselves. My goal with this story was to depict a young girl who was brave and strong and able to defend her people." Renee told me during the interview. "At first, I had no idea where I'd go with it. I knew she was a free spirit and existed outside the social structure expected in her culture. She reminded me of a feral cat. So I decided to create a mystical connection to cheetahs."

She went on to say the first draft took a seat-of-the-pants approach. After that the real work began "I can't even tell you how many times I rewrote it. I did the editing myself. My first draft went through several revisions until January 2014. At that point, I felt it captured the essence of the spirits and mysticism in Africa."

After entering contests and submitting to publishers with no happiness coming her way. Renee continued working. "I layered in better structure and metaphors, building a stronger plot while deepening the imagery. I added



evocative details of African culture and plant life. I changed the name of the main character to Duma, a tribal name, which means "Cheetah." I cut enough nonessentials that the word count did not go up despite all I added."

Think the first line is not important? Renee knows it is. She rewrote the opening line 15 times before scraping it and starting from a different angle.

Being envious of her win, I couldn't help but ask her how she did it. "The secret to winning? Well, that's a tough one. I think the first step is to write, write, write and never give up. If you're not writing and submitting, you don't have a chance to win or be published. And just because a story hasn't done well in the past doesn't mean it can't be polished into something wonderful."

Renee's advice: "Study craft. Read books and short stories in and out of your genre. Take note of what works well and how the writer captures your attention through plot, setting, character, and emotion-inspiring situations. Pay close attention to how they manage pacing and dialogue. Come to conferences. Learn every chance you can. Find honest critique partners whose skill is somewhere near your own. Keep a consistent, frequent writing schedule so your skills have a chance to develop. And above all, don't forget the reason you started writing."

Congratulations, Renee!

Contest Awards *Writing Zone: Craft From the Ground Up*

Congratulations to all winners listed here. For a full overview of contest categories, judges, chairs and more, visit the OWFI website (www.owfi.org) and click the "Contest" tab. Thanks to all who submitted and to all the judges and category chairs who made the contest possible. Special thanks to Marisa Mohi for conference photos.



CATEGORY 1 – Poetry, Unrhymed-Short

- 1st: "Thirty Miles East" by Kelly Bristow
- 2nd: "Haiku" by Judith S. Rycroft
- 3rd: "Spanish Music" by Laura Edington
- 1st HM: "Mon-A-Pause" by Lisa Marotta
- 2nd HM: "When Daffodils Bloom" by Karen Kay Knauss
- 3rd HM: "Single Home Improvement" by Katherine West

CATEGORY 2 – Poetry, Unrhymed-Long

- 1st: "Drishi" by Lisa Marotta
 - 2nd: "Where Angels fear to Slouch" by Eric Reitan
 - 3rd: "Pearls" by Katherine West
 - 1st HM: "Numbers Game" by Kristyn Reid
 - 2nd HM: "Upon Attending the Funeral of Your First Ex-Husband"
- By Lynda Stephenson
- 3rd HM: "Widow" by Sarah Lonelodge

CATEGORY 3 – Poetry, Rhymed-Short

- 1st: "Transplanted" by Dee Dee Chumley
- 2nd: "The Eclipse" by Abigail Singrey
- 3rd: "Impatience" by Mari Farthing
- 1st HM: "Icarus and Midas" by Adrean Messmer
- 2nd HM: "The Not So Great Outdoors" by Nequita Hanna



CATEGORY 4 – Poetry, Rhymed-Short

- 1st: "An Accident On Cobblestones" by Eric Reitan
- 2nd: "Ribbon about a Bomb" by Kristyn Reid
- 3rd: "Book of Job – Rapper Version" by James Graham
- 1st HM: "Moonrise" by Judith S. Rycroft
- 2nd HM: "Nature's Best" by Shelley Ann Richter

CATEGORY 5 – Essay

- 1st: "It's a Sickness" by Heather Davis

- 2nd: "You Can Go Home Again" by Carolyn Leonard
- 3rd: "What Am I Doing With a Gun" by Marlys Gallager
- 1st HM: "The Importance of Reading to the Young Child" by Una Townsend
- 2nd HM: "Calling All English Teachers" by Mary Ann Kerl

CATEGORY 6 – Technical and/or How-To Article

- 1st: "How to Turn Ninety in Style" by Barbara Shepherd
- 2nd: "Retreat on a Budget" by Maria Veres
- 3rd: "How to Capture a Life Story" by Nequita Hanna
- 1st HM: "Teens Join the Fight: Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Project" by Donna Welsh Jones

CATEGORY 7 – Feature Article: Nonfiction

- 1st: "Valor Proudly Sleeps" by Jeanie Horn
- 2nd: "Kidnaping at the Indian Meridian School" by David Roper
- 3rd: "Escape from Viet Name" by Carolyn Leonard
- 1st HM: "My Wish for Your" Nequita Hanna

CATEGORY 8 – Blog: Nonfiction

- 1st: "Permission to Piddle" by Dee Dee Chumley
- 2nd: "How to Describe Deep Emotional Pain" by Vivian Zabel
- 3rd: "Six Tips to Make Treasure at Your Yard Sale" by Brandi Barnett



CATEGORY 9 – Inspirational Article

- 1st: "Meandering on the River Walk-With a Stick" by David Hughes
- 2nd: "Dragonflies From Heaven" by Cathy Collar
- 3rd: "The Best Antidepressant Has Four Paws and a Tongue" by Carolyn Leonard
- 1st HM: "Lessons Learned" by Rita Durrett
- 2nd HM: "Ann" by Judith S. Rycroft

CATEGORY 10 – Memoir/Nostalgia

- 1st: "I Remember" by Leatrice McKinney
- 2nd: "Comforting Eeyore" by Katherine West
- 3rd: "The Best of Care" by Jennifer McMurray
- 1st HM: "Meeting Grandfather" by Christine Jarmola
- 2nd HM: "I don't Want To Know" by Vivian Zabel
- 3rd HM: "Autumn In Eureka" by Shelly Ann Richter

CATEGORY 11 – Flash Fiction

- 1st: "Threading the Needle" by Eric Reitan

- 2nd: "The #2 Pencil" by Holly Jahangiri
- 3rd: "Modern Hook-Up" by Bill Wetterman
- 1ST HM: "Redemption" by Kelly Bristow
- 2ND HM: "Living a Lie" by Ruth Poovey
- 3RD HM: "Safe" by Dee Dee Chumley
- 4th HM: "Skin Deep" by Tracey Thompson

CATEGORY 12 – Short-Short Story (Adult): Fiction

- 1st: "Big Red Heart" by Pepper Hume
- 2nd: "Mystery Without Mozart" by Susan Cogan
- 3rd: "Send a Shout-Out" by Sandra Parsons
- 1ST HM: "Sitting at a Distance" by Katherine West
- 2nd HM: "The Hollow Man" by Eric Reitan
- 3rd HM: "Twisted Roots" by Jeanie Horn
- 4th HM: "Guess What's Coming to Dinner" by Mary Brannon



CATEGORY 13 – Juvenile Short Story: Fiction

- 1st: "The Soul of a Cheetah" by Renee Roberts
- 2nd: "Jake, the Barkiest Dog" by Jennifer McMurrain
- 3rd: "A Goat Named Fay Ting" by Una Townsend
- 1ST HM: "Trouble on the Trail" by Abigail Singrey

CATEGORY 14 – Young Adult Short Story: Fiction

- 1st: "Foolproof" by Jodi Thompson
- 2nd: "Sir William and the Dragon" by John Fowler
- 3rd: "Eye of the Beholder" by Jennifer McMurrain
- 1ST HM: "Paolo's Bull" by Abigail Sinrey

CATEGORY 15 – Short Story (Adult): Fiction

- 1st: "The Clockmaker" by David Hughes
- 2nd: "The Oregon Trail" by Dee Dee Chumley
- 3rd: "Chicken Skin" by Natasha Tinsley
- 1ST HM: "The Sacrifice" by Brenda Thomas
- 2ND HM: "What Was Hidden in the Watch" by Eric Reitan
- 3RD HM: "Bewildered Beloved" by Cindy Molder

CATEGORY 16 – Sci-Fi/Fantasy Short Story: Fiction

- 1st: "The Dog Who Shat Diamonds" by Katherine West
- 2nd: "Cookie-Cutter Man" by Eloise Needleman
- 3rd: "Formidable" by Patrick McCully
- 1ST HM: "Treatment" by Eric Reitan



CATEGORY 17 – Horror Short Story: Fiction

- 1st: "The Resurrection Game" by Eric Reitan
- 2nd: "Of Noble Blood" by Erin Cochran
- 3rd: "Death Canyon Road" by Kim Rogers
- 1ST HM: "Getting Wet" by Adrean Messmer

CATEGORY 18 – Prose Humor: Fiction or Nonfiction

- 1st: "The Coolest Conquest" by Cathy Collar
- 2nd: "Mama's Meds" by Dee Dee Chumley
- 3rd: "Lather Rinse Repeat" by Heather Davis
- 1ST HM: "At the Funeral" by Sally Jadlow
- 2nd HM: "Family Reunion at Razor Beach" by Marlys Gallagher

CATEGORY 19 – Play, Film, or TV Script

- 1st: "Good Fences" by Joshua Denker-Dake



CATEGORY 20 – Picture Book (for ages 1-8)

- 1st: "Miss Sallee Has a Zoolicious Adventure" by Laura Edington
- 2nd: "Mother Nature's Secret" by Cathy Collar
- 3rd: "Moxie May and Lulu Count the Days" by Brandi Barnett
- 1ST HM: "Digging Up Dinosaur Bones" by Rita Durrett
- 2ND HM: "Going to Babcia" by Christine Jarmola



CATEGORY 21 – Middle Grade Book

- 1st: “Doll Cemetery” by Cynthia Henzel
- 2nd: “Connie and the Underground Railroad” by Ruth Poovey
- 3rd: “The Dragon’s Lair” by Mary Coley
- 1ST HM: “Melvin the Mysterious” by David Roper

CATEGORY 22 – Young Adult Novel

- 1st: “Scars” by Erin Cochran
- 2nd: “The Summer My Life Went Up in Smoke” by Mary Coley
- 3rd: “Black as Fear” by Leatrice McKinney
- 1ST HM: “Ten Things to do Before I Die” by Kim Rogers

CATEGORY 23 – New Adult Novel

- 1st: “Coveted” by Leatrice McKinney

CATEGORY 24 – Mainstream Novel: Fiction

- 1st: “Unfinished Memories” by Jeanie Horn
- 2nd: “Holiday in Cambodia” by Jodi Thompson
- 3rd: “Sold” by Jennifer McMurrin
- 1ST HM: “Wish You Were Here” by Dixie Maxwell

CATEGORY 25 – Romance Novel

- 1st: “Tangled Promises” by Linda Trout

CATEGORY 26 – Historical Novel

- 1st: “Wolves at Their Heels” by Rex Griffin

CATEGORY 27 – Mystery/Suspense Novel

- 1st: “A Convenient Death” by Erin Cochran
- 2nd: “Enemy Within” by Evelyn Wilson-Martin

- 3rd: “Devil’s Plaything” by Eloise Needleman
- 1ST HM: “Bloodlines” by Lynn Lipinski

CATEGORY 28 – Sci-Fi/Fantasy Novel

- 1st: “Whereabouts Known” by Margaret Hrenchen
- 2nd: “The Dragon and the Golden Hammer” by Susan Cogan
- 3rd: “Fantasy Fiction Spin: The Tale of Rumpelstiltskin And the Miller’s Braver Daughter” by Katherine West
- 1st HM: “Grassland” by Joshua Danker-Dake

CATEGORY 29 – Horror Novel

- 1st: “Psychopomp and Circumstance” by Adrean Messmer

CATEGORY 30 – Nonfiction Book

- 1st: “The Story of My Two Lives” by Pat Kelley, Green

CATEGORY 31 –Best Juvenile Book

- “Muddy Madelieine Meets an Arach-a Doo” by Amanda Stone Norton

CATEGORY 32 – Best Nonfiction Book

- “Father of Route66: The Story of Cy Avery” by Susan Croce Kelly



CATEGORY 33 – Best Poetry Book

- “Re-Writing History” by Linda Neal Reising

CATEGORY 34 Best Fiction Book

- “Daughter of the Howling Moon” by Ruth Weeks

Crème de la Crème

- “The Soul of a Cheetah” by Renee Roberts

IT’S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please fill out the form in this newsletter and submit it before the end of October to be entered into a drawing for a FREE conference registration (meals not included).

Please remind your fellow OWFI Members and Honorary Lifetime Members to renew—their renewal is free! It’s still a value at \$20 for affiliate members and \$25 for members at large.

Please note:

The following is from Article III of the OWFI bylaws:

Affiliate Membership. Affiliate members of OWFI shall consist of those local writing groups in Oklahoma and elsewhere which seek membership in OWFI and have at least five (5) members who are also individual members in good standing of OWFI (current in payment of annual dues). Any group may apply for affiliate membership if it consists of and maintains at least five OWFI members in good standing. Each affiliated member group of the Federation shall retain its own entity and be governed by its own constitution, bylaws or rules.

- **Affiliate News reports will now be online only.**

The Report will be printed three times per year; affiliate updates will be posted to the website six times per year. The request for updates will be posted on the Affiliate page link and also in the OWFI Facebook group. The Affiliate page link (and the Affiliate application PDF) will be available under the “Membership” tab on www.OWFI.org.

- **Affiliate events will be printed in future newsletters.**

The deadline for the next Report is **November 1, 2015**. If you have affiliate meetings or events—or any other writing-related events you would like to include in the event listing, please submit to OWFINews@gmail.com

- **Future issues of The Report will be mailed to you... unless...**

If you prefer to receive The Report in your “snail mail” box, you are in luck! Unless you opt out when you send your membership form in October, the report will continue to be mailed to you. If you prefer to access The Report online, The Report will be emailed to you. The website is still in progress and we hope to have the Member’s Only portion ready soon, where an archive will be available.

- **Do you have questions?**

Questions about your contact information or membership? Please see the roster of officers on page 2 of this newsletter for a list of applicable email addresses.

- **But, why isn’t [fill in the blank] in this issue?**

Please know that we are doing our best to ensure The Report is accurate, timely and informative!

If you note glaring issues or omissions, please email the newsletter editor as soon as possible, OWFINews@gmail.com.

COMING NEXT MONTH:

- **More about the 2016 Conference**
- **ALL ABOUT the 2016 OWFI Conference, including categories and tips for success!**

Oklahoma Writer's Federation, Inc.

2015 Membership Form

Valid from October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

New members may join at any time of the year; however, dues are not prorated.

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

_____ **MEMBER AT LARGE - (MAL) \$25.00**

Gives you the status of an independent OWFI member.

_____ **HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER- \$0**

Continues membership with no charge. Form must be completed each year to retain status.

_____ **AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBER \$20.00**

You will be a member of one of the many individual writers' organizations that have met specific requirements to be accepted into OWFI.

Affiliate Club Name: _____

What position do you hold (if any) in this affiliate? _____

Some affiliate clubs charge an additional membership. Check with the affiliate club's treasurer for more information. Visit the OWFI website for a list of affiliates: <http://www.owfi.org>

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your check or money order (made out to **OWFI**) to:

**Vinita Eggers
Route 7, Box 51
Mena, AR 71953**

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Other): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Website Address: _____

New Membership *or* **Renewal** Is this an address change? Yes *or* No

The Report will be online. If you need it in hard copy, check here ____.

**IF YOU PREFER TO RENEW DIGITALLY, PLEASE VISIT OWFI.ORG/MEMBERSHIP
AND COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM!**

Plan now to attend the 2016 OWFI Conference: **PATHWAYS to Writing, held on May 12-14, 2016.**

Why?

- Critically acclaimed writer **Steven James** (shown at right) is the keynote speaker.
- You will find **learning opportunities** for beginning, advanced, and professional writers.
- It's a great forum to **exchange ideas** about craft and best practices with colleagues.
- You will be able to follow a **learning path** tailored to needs of the writer.
- You will find **friends, fellowship, good food** with other writers, publishers, agents and writing professionals.
- It's the perfect environment to **create and renew networking connections** with other industry professionals.
- Catch up on the **latest news and trends** in the writing industry.
- It's right here in your back yard.
- Visit OWFI.ORG for all the details and updates as the conference date approaches.

