

In this issue - 2018 OWFI Contest Winners, Upcoming Virtual Workshop Details, Sneak Peek at the 2019 Conference, Flash Fiction Prompt Winners and more!

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
Staci Mauney
Sabrina A. Fish
Julia Mozingo
Kathleen Park
Maria Veres



Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI).

Save the Date! Virtual Workshop

Vickey Malone Kennedy (vck) won first place in genre fiction in the 85th Annual Writer's Digest Competition. She won a Darrell Award for Best Mid-South Short Story and she is an OWFI Crème de la Crème recipient.

She received a BA in theatre, acting/set design, from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, and continued her graduate studies in theatre, acting/light design, at Oklahoma State University.

She is a former editor-in-chief of 4RV Publishing, former president of Oklahoma Writer's Federation Inc., and a proud Yard Dog Press author.

A retired licensed nurse, vck is now a full time science fiction/fantasy and paranormal romance author, a full time Granny, and a part-time movie extra.



What is a Virtual Workshop?

Virtual Workshops are hour-long workshop sessions run by a diverse array of special guests on topics related to the mission of OWFI. Speakers will present for credit and will donate all the proceeds for their workshop back to OWFI. A total of five presentations will be held throughout the next year. Workshops occur on our Slack chat platform at owfi.slack.com or via the Slack app.

Registration

Registering for the next workshop is as simple as a click, and it's only \$5!

You can register for the July 2018 workshop online at www.owfi.org/virtualworkshops/

Past Virtual Workshops Include:

- •Marya Heidel "How to Filter the Good from the Bad in Cover Design"
- •Jennifer McMurrain "Confessions of a Contest Junkie"
- •Ben Montogmery "Sounding the Gong"
- •Bess Cosby "The Revision Process"



From the Past President

I'm so excited that OWFI's 50th Anniversary celebration turned out to be a huge success! Thank you to each and every person, organization, and sponsor who helped make it so! What an honor to be your president during such a monumental occasion. I truly enjoyed the experience...the ups and the downs.

As you know, we had a bit of wrench thrown in when circumstances beyond our control forced us to seek out a new keynote in the twelveth hour. Though it was a stressful situation, I must admit that I'm SO happy it happened. Michael Dahl proved even more amazing than I already knew him to be. What a fabulously motivating and encouraging keynote for our 50th year. Thank you to

my team for riding the waves of controversy with me, for having my back no matter the issue, and for making my time as your president a truly joyful experience.

Congrats to all our 2018 contest winners! The competition is fierce, so glory in your shining moment on top. I'm so excited to be among you this year. I think we can all agree that there is no better feeling than hearing your name called during the award presentation.

It's with a heart full of confidence that I hand the gavel over to our new President, Staci Mauney, as we transition into a new year of OWFI. She proved an invaluable asset to me as the 2018 Conference Chair and I have no doubt you'll reap

the extreme benefits of her experience and expertise for OWFI 2019.

Thank you for embracing me with open arms this year, for encouraging me when things didn't go smoothly, and for coming up to me during the conference to share with me all the things you were loving about this year's conference. Most of all, THANK YOU for being an amazing community of writers! There's no better organization than OWFI!

Sabrina Fish

Sabrina Fish is the *Past President, OWFI 2017-2018*.



Sabrina and Staci



From the President

Since joining OWFI in 2007, I've learned how much this organization does for the writing community. The strength of OWFI is found in its dedicated members – those who volunteer for any number of jobs that need to be done, both big and small, and who advocate for the advancement of the writing community.

I've always loved being part of this organization and sharing my dream of writing with likeminded people who understand both the joy and frustration that come with being a writer. I couldn't be prouder to be the president as we move into OWFI's 51st year.

Our 2019 theme is Turning the Page. As we build on the lessons and legacy of the last 50 years, we begin forging new paths. Our goal is to move into the future while keeping an eye on the past, never forgetting where we've come from, but continuing to strengthen the writing community in Oklahoma. Each one of us must do our part to invite others into this community, to encourage one another, and to build each other up. Writing is a solitary occupation, but we're always better together.

Recruitment efforts are underway to encourage students to join and become active in OWFI. We've also begun reaching out to local writing groups who may not be affiliate members. We want to share the benefits of OWFI with as many people as possible. If you are looking for a local affiliate to join, find more information about affiliates at www.owfi.org/affiliates/.

We are well on our way to having an amazing group of speakers lined up for 2019. See Shelley Pagach's speaker update on page 18 for a more in-depth look at whom we have enlisted so far. This is just the beginning, so check the website regularly for updates.

Changes are coming to the writing contest! Change can be scary, but it can also be good when it leads to improvements in the process. Know that your feedback about the writing contest has been heard, and details will be coming soon. An announcement will be made in the fall issue of The Report, but in the meantime, you can get updates on our OWFI Facebook group page. Just search for Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI).



Group costume from 2018 banquet.

The annual costume party will once again be held during the Friday night banquet. Start thinking of your favorite protagonists and antagonists because our theme is Good versus Evil. There are so many great choices! Dress up as your favorite character or partner with a friend to be a good versus evil team.

Throughout the year, we have activities and events to help our membership stay connected. These include Instagram challenges and virtual workshops. I joined Instagram for the specific purpose of participating in the December 2016 OWFI Instagram challenge. Instagram is now one of my favorite social media platforms for both personal and business items. If you're not already on Instagram, I challenge you to join and participate in the **#OWFIsummerfun Instagram** challenge. Bonus – you could win a \$10 Amazon gift card!

It's not too early to start working on your entries for the writing contest. Challenge yourself this year and enter a new category or two. In 2018, I entered poetry and was pleasantly surprised at how well I did. For 2019, I'm challenging myself to write a short horror story and perhaps a fantasy story. If you start now, you can take advantage of entering as many categories as you want for only one low entry fee. See how many categories you can enter in January!

We hope you'll join us on this fun, wild ride over the next ten months as we start Turning the Page into OWFI's future!

Staci Mauney is the OWFI President for 2018-2019.

CATEGORY 1 POETRY, UNRHYMED-SHORT

Category Sponsor: The Inklings

Judge: Jacque Graham

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

FIRST PLACE: "Choice" by Jennifer DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Three Reasons" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: "Wind" by Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Storm" by Vivian Zabel, Pen & Keyboard Writers

2nd Honorable Mention: "Graveyard of the Blue and Gray" by Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Honorable Mention: "Nocturnal Journey" by Regina Philpott McLemore, Tahlequah Writers

4th Honorable Mention: "Sunsets" by Una Belle Townsend, Hunt & Peck

5th Honorable Mention: "Dying Wish" by Natasha Tinsley, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 2 POETRY, UNRHYMED-LONG

Category Sponsor: Norman Galaxy of

Writers

Judge: Mariana Llanos

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

FIRST PLACE: "Road Trip to the Panhandle" by Michelle Hendry, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Instructions to Reader: Herta Muller Intertwined in Brain Space with White Space" by Doris Beaton, Oklahoma City Writers,

THIRD PLACE: "As We Become Our Mothers" by Lynda Stephenson, Ozark Mountain Guild of Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Some Thoughts While Driving Home From School" by Sharon Edge Martin, Member at Large **2nd Honorable Mention**: "What It Sounds Like" by Katy Mullins, Nevermore Edits

3rd Honorable Mention: "Country, Broken" by Nancy Scott Hanway, Member at Large

4th Honorable Mention: "Just North of Abilene" by Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 3 POETRY, RHYMED-SHORT

Judge: Maria Veres

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

FIRST PLACE: "Mesa Wind" by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "And I Haven't Been Swimming Since" by James C.

Arnold, Enid Writers Club

THIRD PLACE: "Blest Be" by Judith S. Rycroft, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention: "What'll They Say Someday" by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville WordWeavers

2nd Honorable Mention: "Last Look" by Billie Hollady Skelley, Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "The Blessing" by Regina Philpott McLemore, Tahlequah Writers

CATEGORY 4 POETRY, RHYMED-LONG

Judge: Erin York

Category Chair: Carol Johnson

FIRST PLACE: "The Parting" by Gail Mattingly, Oklahoma City Writ-

ers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Sacred Night" by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Wild-eyed, Honeyeyed, Blurry-eyed Sun Child" by Kimberly Toscano, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Kimba's Day" by Meg Welch Dendler, Ozark Mountain Guild of Writers

2nd Honorable Mention: "Pet Peeve"

by Billie Holladay

Skelley, Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "The Revenge of the Leaves" by Inez Phillips, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

4th Honorable Mention: "Mix Max" by Jodi Heaton Hurst, Pen & Keyboard Writers

CATEGORY 5 ESSAY

Category Sponsor: Jan Morrill

Judge: Linda Apple

Category Chair: Connie Blaylock FIRST PLACE: "The Essence of

Bravery" by Ruth Weeks, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "Woman Vs Woman" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: "Would You Do It Again?" by Cindy Molder, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: "A Special Table" by Susan Blumenthal Donchin, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Childhood Magic" by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "The List" by James C. Arnold, Enid Writers Club

CATEGORY 6 TECHNICAL AND/OR HOW-TO ARTICLE

Judge: Wayne Harris-Wyrick Category Chair: Marcia Preston

FIRST PLACE: "Property Values Stigmatized by Death" by Marty Ludlum, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "How to Keep Your Teeth" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

THIRD PLACE: "How to Survive a Siege" by Josh Hutchins, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Smoking in the Slow Cooker" by H.B. Berlow, Rose Rock wRiters

2nd Honorable Mention: "Sleep, Pray, Love, and Of Course, Laugh" by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville Word-Weavers

CATEGORY 7

FEATURE ARTICLE: NONFICTION (ANY SUBJECT)

Category Sponsor: Carolyn Leonard Judge: Tara Lynn Thompson Category Chair: Michelle Hendry FIRST PLACE: "Helen at Hallett" by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: "But Son, You Don't Need a Pierced Ear" by Mary Flowers Brannon, Norman Galaxy of Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Cemetery Ghoul" by Regina Philpott McLemore, Tahlequah Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "The Devil's Music" by Inez Phillips, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 8 BLOG: NONFICTION

Judge: Heather Davis

Category Chair: Shannon Iwanski

FIRST PLACE: "When Your Day Job Sucks You Dry" by Maria Veres, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "10 Fictional Careers I'd Be Great At" by Marisa Mohi, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "A City Girl's Dream" by Kristin Kaldahl, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention: "A Promise to Keep" by M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa NightWriters

2nd Honorable Mention: "Depression Lies" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

3rd Honorable Mention: "Investing in the Future" by Dianne McCartney,

Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 9 INSPIRATIONAL ARTICLE

Judge: Rachelle Gardner Category Chair: Maria Veres FIRST PLACE: "Buttons for Christmas" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

Category Sponsor: Linda Apple

SECOND PLACE: "Choosing to Believe" by Heather Davis, Bartlesville WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: "The Widow" by Sally Jadlow, Kansas City Writers Group

1st Honorable Mention: "Robin Redbreast Family" by Charles R. Richter II, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "What Happened in Mount Ida Before Zeus Was Born" by Carolyn Wall, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 10 MEMOIR/NOSTALGIA SHORT STORY

Category Sponsor: Oklahoma City

Writers, Inc. **Judge**: Frank Steele

Category Chair: Sharon Martin **FIRST PLACE**: "Sauerkraut" by Teresa Coffey, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "Adventures in Camping" by Russell Gayer, Ozark Mountain Guild of Writers

THIRD PLACE: "Mama's Treadle Sewing Machine" by Jeanie Horn, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Meeting Grandfather" by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers

2nd Honorable Mention: "The Farewell Tour" by Biruta S. Harris, Pen & Keyboard Writers **3rd Honorable Mention**: "Tea is Ready" by Marisa Mohi, Member at Large

4th Honorable Mention: "A Patch of Sky" by M. Carolyn Steele, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 11 FLASH FICTION

Category Sponsor: Enid Writers Club

Judge: Bill Berhardt

Category Chair: Sharon Worthey FIRST PLACE: "Loneliness" by Mary Ann Kerl, McAlester's McSherry Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Sandy" by H.B. Berlow, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: "Mopar" by Chris Kelsey, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Red Lips, Spike Heels, and Attitude" by Mary Flowers Brannon, Norman Galaxy of Writers

2nd Honorable Mention: "The Choker" by Josh Hutchins, Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "The Rain" by Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

CATEGORY 12 SHORT-SHORT STORY (ADULT): FICTION

Category Sponsor: Tulsa Nightwriters,

in honor of Peggy Fielding

Judge: Mark Alpert

Category Chair: Shannon Iwanski **FIRST PLACE**: "Ghost Maker" by

Pepper Hume, Bartlesville

WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: "God and Moses... A Deleted Scene" by Josh Hutchins, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "The Hold-Up" by Nick Lyon, Rose Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: "God at the Beach" by Nancy Scott Hanway, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Unnoticed" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

3rd Honorable Mention: "Facially Gifted Queen of Denial" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers **4th Honorable Mention**: "Through My Child's Eyes" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 13 JUVENILE SHORT STORY: FICTION

Judge: Melissa Edwards
Category Chair: Connie Blaylock
FIRST PLACE: "Wesley Whistled
While Working" by Lisbeth L.
McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers
SECOND PLACE: "Candy Cane
Jane's Special Place" by Cathy L.

Collar, Bartlesville WordWeavers
THIRD PLACE: "Space Invasions"

by Renee' La Viness, Tulsa
NightWriters

CATEGORY 14 YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY: FICTION

Category Sponsor: Ruth Weeks Judge: Courtney Knight Category Chair: Nick Lyon FIRST PLACE: "The Angler" by Barbara Shepherd, Mid-Oklahoma Writers

SECOND PLACE: "I Never Danced for Chairman Mao" by Carolyn Wall, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: "A Rare Find" by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "The Games Boys Play" by Nancy Harmon, Member at Large

CATEGORY 15 SHORT STORY (ADULT): FICTION

Category Sponsor: Pen & Keyboard Writers
Judge: Samantha March
Category Chair: Savvy Thorne

FIRST PLACE: "Love in the Time of Scurvy" by Jere Ellison, Member at

Large

SECOND PLACE: "The Countdown Diary" by Patrick McCully, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Daisies and Roses" by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 16 SCI-FI/FANTASY SHORT STORY: FICTION

Category Sponsor: SoonerCon and

Sharon Worthey **Judge**: Jack Burgos

Category Chair: Inez Phillips

FIRST PLACE: "Hypothesis of Self" by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "The Egg" by Jennifer DiCamillo, Arkansas Ridge Writers

THIRD PLACE: "They" by R.A. Hogan, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Homecoming" by Jeff Dosser, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "What Happens Before the End" by H.B. Berlow, Rose Rock wRiters

3rd Honorable Mention: "Two Wishes" by Regina Philpott McLemore, Tahlequah Writers

CATEGORY 17 HORROR SHORT STORY: FICTION

Category Sponsor: Richard Thomas

Judge: CJ Miles

Category Chair: Erin Cochran
FIRST PLACE: "Welcome to the
Masquerade" by Z Lee, Nevermore

SECOND PLACE: "Creepy Crawly" by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Change of the Guard" by Cary Osborne, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention:

"Consequences" by Cathy L. Collar, Bartlesville WordWeavers **2nd Honorable Mention**: "The Demon in the Mirror" by H.B. Berlow, Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 18 PROSE HUMOR: FICTION OR NONFICTION

Judge: Sabrina Fish

Category Chair: Mari Farthing FIRST PLACE: "The Beaumont City Wedding of the Century" by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "The Living Dead" by Marlys Gallagher, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: "Getting Old is Not for Sissies" by Russell Gayer, Ozark Mountain Guild of Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Sweet Justice" by Cathy L. Collar, Bartlesville WordWeavers

2nd Honorable Mention: "Learning to Drive" by Gail Mattingly, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 19 PLAY, FILM, OR TV SCRIPT

Category Sponsor: Amy Shojai

Judge: Adriana Mather

Category Chair: Julia Mozingo

FIRST PLACE: Takeover by C.M. Healy, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: Road

Repairs by Carol Lavelle Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

THIRD PLACE: The Case of the Case Grocery Store by Lisbeth L. Mc-Carty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

CATEGORY 20 PICTURE BOOK

Category Sponsor: Creations By

Cathy

Judge: Stephanie Hansen
Category Chair: Sally Jadlow
FIRST PLACE: Lily and Buttons by
Meredith Fraser. Bartlesville

WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: A Dog Named Bill by Sandra Lawson, Hunt & Peck

THIRD PLACE: *Squircle* by Natalie Rebacz, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: *Eunice and Kate* by Mariana Llanos, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Honorable Mention: *If My Best Friend Were a Lion* by Heather Davis, Bartlesville WordWeavers

3rd Honorable Mention: *The Stinky Cheese Incident* by Kimberly Toscano, Member at Large

CATEGORY 21 MIDDLE GRADE BOOK

Category Sponsor: 4 RV Publishing

Judge: Myloe Yeager

Category Chair: Staci Mauney

FIRST PLACE: Coron Harrier and the Astral Flare by Jere Ellison,

Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: Destiny's

Diamond by Cathy L. Collar, Bartles-

ville WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: *Niko and the Frozen Kingdom* by Laura Atancio Edington,

Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: *The Pink Sneaker Club* by Jennifer McMurrain,
Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 22 YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Christina

Consolino

Judge: Eric Reitan

Category Chair: Staci Mauney

FIRST PLACE: Duck Soup by

Kimberly Toscano, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: Stormborn 2: The Knave and the Fool by Jack Burgos, Nev-

ermore Edits

THIRD PLACE: *Dead Doll* by Erin

York, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: *Sundancer* by Haleigh Diann, Nevermore Edits

2nd Honorable Mention: *Perceiver of the World's Sounds* by Erin Fuller, Member at Large

CATEGORY 23 MAINSTREAM NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Marcia Preston

Judge: Barbara McMinn

Category Chair: Jennifer McMurrain FIRST PLACE: Whittaker by Sharon Ervin, McAlester's McSherryWriters

SECOND PLACE: Welcome to Sanctuary by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock

wRiters

THIRD PLACE: *Wisteria* by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: *After We've Fallen* by Christina Consolino, Member at Large

CATEGORY 24 ROMANCE NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Rhonda Penders

Judge: Rhonda Penders

Category Chair: Shelley Pagach FIRST PLACE: Autumn's Kiss by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: *Stealing Second* by Heather Davis, Bartlesville Word-

Weavers

THIRD PLACE: *Diomere's Healer* by Sabrina Fish, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: Possession by Jaydyn Chelcee, Green Country Ruff Riters

CATEGORY 25 HISTORICAL NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Winona Bennett

Cross

Judge: Hannah Joy Wilkinson Category Chair: Sharon Worthey

FIRST PLACE: *The Baptist Bootlegger* by Nick Lyon, Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: Mail-Order-Bride, Plus Two by Emily Kaye Ash, Green

Country Ruff Riters

THIRD PLACE: *Liquid Grace* by Lutricia Clifton, Member at Large

CATEGORY 26 MYSTERY/SUSPENSE NOVEL

Category Sponsor: Kathlyn Smith

Judge: Ally Robertson

Category Chair: Sabrina Fish **FIRST PLACE**: *Chrysalis: A Race to Death* by Mary Coley, Tulsa NightWrit-

SECOND PLACE: *The Horned Owl: A Sam Chitto Mystery* by Lutricia Clifton, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: *A Whisper in the Dark* by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: Father of the Year by Sharon Ervin, McAlester's McSherryWriters

2nd Honorable Mention: *Dead Reckoning* by Susan Shay, Tulsa Night-Writers

CATEGORY 27 SCI-FI/FANTASY NOVEL

Judge: Joshua Danker-Dake Category Chair: Nick Lyon

FIRST PLACE: Owlhead Underground by Audra Williams, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *The Gynophobe and the Girl* by Jere Ellison, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: Fall of the Veil: Memories Under Water by Z Lee, Nevermore Edits

CATEGORY 28 HORROR NOVEL

Judge: Adrean Messmer

Category Chair: Shelley Pagach **FIRST PLACE**: *Bloodsong* by Jere

Ellison, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: *Neverland* by Jeff

Dosser, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: *Video Cops* by Jenova Shelter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 29 NONFICTION BOOK

Category Sponsor: Robbie White

Judge: Amy Shojai

Category Chair: Linda Shelby FIRST PLACE: *In Heistin's Skin* by

Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: When Elephants Roar by Marlys Gallagher, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: Pass the Pickles: The Sweet and Sour of the Sandwich

Generation by Heather Davis, Bartlesville WordWeavers

1st Honorable Mention: *I Freaking Hate Cancer* by Cindy Molder, Bartlesville WordWeavers

2018 OWFI Contest Winners -Published Book Trophies and Crème de la Crème

CATEGORY 30 BEST JUVENILE BOOK

Category Sponsor: Maria Polson Veres,

in memory of Kathryn Veres

Judge: Tony LoPresti

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson FIRST PLACE: Bianca: The Brave Frail and Delicate Princess by Meg Welch Dendler, Ozark Mountain Guild of

Writers

CATEGORY 31 BEST YA BOOK

Category Sponsor: LilyBear House,

LLC

Judge: Angela Christina Archer Category Chair: Jodi Thompson FIRST PLACE: Beyond the After: Princess Olivia by C.M. Healy, Member

at Large

CATEGORY 32 - BEST NONFICTION BOOK

Judge: Marla Jones

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson FIRST PLACE: Write Whatever the Hell You Want—How to Find Joy and Purpose in Writing by Nikki Hanna, Tulsa

NightWriters

CATEGORY 33 BEST BOOK OF POETRY

Category Sponsor: Sandra Soli

Judge: Vivian Zabel

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson

FIRST PLACE: Church People by Maria

Veres, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 34 BEST BOOK OF FICTION AWARD

Judge: Vickey Kennedy

Category Chair: Jodi Thompson **FIRST PLACE**: *Shiners* by John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CRÉME DE LA CRÉME

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

Sponsor: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pen and The Bartlesville WordWeavers Judges: Venessa Cersale, Casey Cowan, and Michael Frizell

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ghost Maker by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers











To view more photos from the conference, go to https://www.owfi.org/conference/archives/2018/gallery/

Lifetime Member Award Winner

All of the nominees are worthy and have contributed significantly to OWFI's strength and continued existence. Without volunteers such as these, OWFI wouldn't have continued to remain as a top notch, affordable conference in the geographical area.

Calls for help for volunteers oftentimes fall on deaf ears. People duck their head, break eye contact, and look anywhere except at the person requesting help. After all, you're surely not talking to them. You must be talking to someone else in the room. Not them. Never them. Let someone else do it.

Oftentimes, all it takes is a personal request letting the person know they are valued, that someone thought of them, and has confidence in them to do the job to the best of their ability with integrity.

The person I'm here to bestow the honor of Lifetime Honorary Member didn't shy away from volunteering, from giving of themselves. (Sorry about the error in number pronoun usage, you English teachers, but we lack a non-gender pronoun.)

This person possessed skills that could make or break OWFI. This person accepted the call, even as a newbie to OWFI,



Thank you to all who made the 50th year A SUCCESS!
OUR SPONSORS, CHAIRS, JUDGES, VOLUNTEERS, AND WRITERS!
We couldn't do it without you.

brought us through crisis, and kept us legal.

I barely knew this person, but I listened when they talked about giving back to organizations that help them.

This person answered the call. This person has bloomed since being planted in OWFI.

It is my pleasure and privilege to honor this person with OWFI's fifty year Honorary Lifetime Member achievement award: my friend and colleague, Vinita Eggers.

Julia Mozingo was the 2017 Lifetime Member Award Winner.

Thanks to Tamara Grantham for the photos.



Guest Column Watching Your Language by Kathleen Park

Some Sticky Wickets and How to Unstick Them

Oh, Dangle Me Not!

Anybody out there old enough to remember the big flap a few decades ago about "spy dust?" That was the undetectable-until-later tracking agent the Russians were accused of shaking around in the path of our diplomats and news correspondents. An NBC news story on the "Today Show" told it this way: "Sprayed on a doorknob or steering wheel, a diplomat can become an unknowing carrier . . ." I caught another station, KARK-TV in Little Rock, allowing a jewelry store to spew this one into the air waves: "Forced by the Bank of England to be sold, you can save a whopping . . ."

These ear-bangers are called danglers, or dangling modifiers, or simply, misplaced modifiers. In both these examples, the danglers happen to be participial phrases, but adjectives, adverbs, gerunds, and infinitives are often found dangling as well, whether alone or in phrases. Consider these: Round-cheeked and merry, Santa's bag overflowed with goodies. Thorough and hardworking, his CV showed Adam's skills to good advantage.

The problem here is one of positioning. The trick to remember is to put the noun or pronoun you mean the phrase to modify or describe *nearest* the modifier. Thus, you'll avoid such nonsense as spraying a diplomat on a doorknob. Or the misfortune of being sold by the Bank of England.

Double take

Another kind of misplaced modifier is known as the squinter. Here an element of the sentence seems to look both ways, causing the reader to do the same:

• Eating raspberries frequently causes red spots.

Is it <u>frequently eating</u> or <u>frequently causes</u> that we want to say?

• As soon as the boys formed a team, in spite of piles of homework on Monday, they returned to the field.

Did the boys form a team on Monday, in spite of piles of homework or did they return to the field on Monday, in spite of homework?

Recast the sentence to make your meaning clear by moving the confusing element closest to the word or words you mean to modify. You might also add a word, phrase, or punctuation that will clarify your meaning even more: Eating raspberries causes red spots often. [Too] often eating raspberries causes red spots.

Or divide a sentence to prevent misunderstanding. On Monday the boys formed a team, in spite of homework. Then they returned to the field.

Faddish vanquishes

In *The Careful Writer*, Theodore M. Bernstein called *prior* to a faddish affectation for *before* and asked, "Would you say '*posterior to*' in place of '*after*?'" Alas, poor Theodore, faddish has overtaken us, and now several dictionaries accept it without a blink. *Webster's* usage note does say this: "Sometimes termed pompous or affected, *prior to* is a synonym of *before* that most often appears in rather formal contexts, such as the annual reports of corporations." Would that it were thus confined! The 16th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* said, rather tersely, I thought, "Make it *before* or *until*"

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

Affiliate Spotlight:

Rose Rock wRiters and Bartlesville Word Weavers

One of the best benefits of OWFI are the many affiliate groups that are associated with us. This month, we're taking a closer look at the Bartlesville WordWeavers and the Rose Rock wRiters.

Bartlesville WordWeavers

FB Fan Page: https://www.facebook.com/ BartlesvilleWordWeavers/



OWFI: Do you have a critique group? Bartlesville WordWeavers: We do critique as a whole, but most of our members also have smaller critique groups that meet frequently. Members are able to submit short stories, poems, articles, or chapter snippets for the entire club to read and critique.

OWFI: Who is your next speaker/date? Bartlesville WordWeavers: We have speakers sporadically. The fabulous Pepper Hume will entertain us with a reading of her Crème de la Crème winning short story, "Ghost Maker," at our June meeting. When we don't have speakers, we have what's called free chat. It's an open table for anyone to ask questions, and we usually have great conversations, with lots of insight from our talented members.

OWFI: What are the benefits of joining? Bartlesville WordWeavers: The main benefit of joining the WordWeavers is that we are a super supportive group. It doesn't matter if you're just starting out or if you're a professional best seller. We know it's not a competition, but a place for encouragement. Other benefits include being published in our fundraising anthologies, which we produce every other year, and having

a resource when you're stuck with anything from a plot twist, to how to independently or traditionally publish, to marketing.

OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member? Bartlesville WordWeavers: The WordWeavers have been heavily involved with OWFI for at least the past eight years. We have sponsored categories, either half, full, or trophy for the past seven years, as a club and even had some individual members sponsor contest category and the conference itself. We've had a number of people on the executive board including Christine Jarmola as president and past president, twice, Jennifer McMurrain as public relations manager, twice, and Heather Davis as public relations manager. Christine, Jennifer, Heather, and Marilyn Boone have also been speakers at the conference as well as performed the opening skit for OWFI 2018 written by Christine. Jayleen Mayes has chaired the BasketWars for two years now and Jennifer continues to do the Famous Authors Banquet presentation. Countless other WordWeavers have been judges, shepherds, category chairs, and general volunteers. OWFI has set many of us on a successful path, and we're so thankful it's really easy to give back to the organization.

OWFI: Are there any titles or upcoming releases from your members? Bartlesville WordWeavers: I do hope people will enjoy our next anthology titled: Tea Cozies and Terabytes: People, release day November 20, 2018!!

Thanks to Jennifer McMurrian with Bartlesville Word Weavers for answering our questions!

Rose Rock wRiters

FB Fan Page: @RoseRockwRiters Twitter: @RoseRockwRiters

Our mission is to promote fellowship with, and encourage, our fellow authors in all their writing endeavors.

OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active and how often do you meet? Rose Rock wRiters: 2010. We are primarily an online group. We do not have official meetings with programming or agendas. Recently



we have been gathering to write, at the Norman Westside library, on

Friday mornings at 10 AM.

OWFI: Do you have a critique group? Rose Rock wRiters: We do not have an official critique group. However, some members are willing to critique one another's writing upon request.

OWFI: What are the benefits of joining? Rose Rock wRiters: We do not charge membership fees or dues to join. We welcome MALs looking for an affiliate home. Becoming a member of an affiliate group saves you money on your OWFI membership.

OWFI: How many active members? Rose Rock wRiters: We currently have over 60 Rose Rock Members. We recently partnered with Nevermore Edits. We are still two groups, but one big happy family. Like twin cities.

OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member?
Rose Rock wRiters: Some members are voluntold to help with banquet seating. Several members have held OWFI offices, volunteered as shepherds, contest category chairs, judges, speakers, and numerous other positions.

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

- •Amy Shojai *Fight or Flight* (September Day Thriller Series, #4) Releasing end of July.
- •H.B. Berlow Secrets of the Righteous: The Ark City Confidential Chronicles, Book Two
- •Cary Herwig for Cary Osborne *Oklahoma Winters: Saving Souls at Twenty Degrees*, third Sidney St. John mystery. Releasing this summer.

Thanks to vck with Rose Rock wRiters for answering our questions!

Spotlight Member at Large

Nicole Kraus McKirahan Member Since: 2016

OWFI: Have you been an OWFI volunteer/ sponsor/contest sponsor since you joined? In what ways?

McKirahan: This past year I volunteered to be a delegate for our Members At Large (MAL). This entails going to the board meetings and sending out pertinent information to the MAL. I plan to be a delegate again this year and hope to work with the board on ways to improve communication and outreach amongst our MAL.

OWFI: What advice would you give to other writers?

McKirahan: Show up to the page, every single day. You don't have to be published or have a writing degree to be a writer. If you show up to the page and write, you are a writer. Don't let anyone tell you different! Don't be afraid to tell your story. As a writer of creative non-fiction, I struggle with sharing the "darker" experiences of life, but oftentimes I find sharing these hardships lets others realize they are not alone in their own personal struggles.

OWFI: Would you share a project you are currently working on?

McKirahan: As part of my mid-life crisis (ha ha), I decided to go back to school. While I like writing about my life experiences, I didn't fully understand the craft and structure of the creative nonfiction (CNF) genre. I am currently working on my thesis/final writing portfolio to complete my

MFA in creative writing at Oklahoma State University. The portfolio consists of personal essays and flash CNF focused on my childhood and explores topics related to poverty, race, mental illness, and faith.

OWFI: If you could meet any writer, who would it be??

McKirahan: My absolute favorite author is Michael Chabon, who I had the opportunity to meet and take a picture with! I was too star-struck and only managed to mumble something amazing like "I'm a big fan of your work." It was both a thrilling and humiliating experience. On a more serious note, after working and reading more in the CNF genre I would love the opportunity to meet CNF author Brenda Miller. Hopefully, I'd be able to carry on an actual conversation and ask her how she develops such well-crafted and fully-developed essays, especially her braided narratives.

OWFI: Tell me five things I'd see when I walk in your front door.

McKirahan: 1. Baby grand piano littered with sheet music and song books. 2. A sofa table covered in heart-shaped objects that I've collected over the years. 3. Shoes, shoes and more shoes. Most belong to my kids, but a pair or two might be mine. 4. Indonesian handi-crafts and fabrics that I purchased while living overseas. 5. A kitchen island filled with whatever my family walked with into the house: bookbags, a week's worth of mail, soccer cleats covered in mud, the list goes on.



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

McKirahan: I have lived in Oklahoma for five years, but still consider myself a newbie to the state. OWFI has made connecting with other writers easier, and through the annual conference OWFI has provided a place to learn more about the craft of writing as well as how to market my work (Well, I'm still working on that part!).

Thanks to Nicole Kraus McKirahan for answering our questions this month!

If you would like to be the next Member At Large in the spotlight, contact editor@owfi.org



Guest Column Why Volunteer at OWFI by Maria Veres

Why Volunteer at OWFI?

When I agreed serve as OWFI Second Vice President, I was a frazzled, under-employed mom who hadn't been VP of anything since my fifthgrade secret club. I thought they were crazy for asking me. But I've never regretted saying yes. It's not an exaggeration to say that being on the OWFI leadership team changed my life, empowering me to see myself as a professional and start acting like one.

I can't promise volunteering will change your life. But there are plenty of reasons to give it a try. Here are five of the best.

- 1. Networking Opportunities. Want to get your face in front of the agents? Become a shepherd or take a shift in the pitch room. Need more writing buddies? Work the registration desk or basket auction, and you'll meet dozens of fellow wordsmiths.
- 2. Confidence Building. Volunteering lets you stretch, develop new skills, and do things you thought you couldn't. I was convinced I stank at selling and fund-raising. Imagine my surprise when I made a gentle appeal for contest sponsors at a board meeting and five people opened their wallets. OWFI volunteer jobs give you a chance to practice scary stuff like talking to real live agents, supervising other volunteers, speaking in public, and yes, asking for money.

- 3. Learning. Get a behind-the scenes peek at a judge's feedback by serving as a contest category chair. Improve your social-media promotion skills by plugging a conference activity you're coordinating. If you want to explore grant writing, websites, publicity, or something else, just ask. We'll find a place to put you to work.
- 4. Leadership Development. Supervisory skills are in demand by employers. The experience you gain chairing a committee or heading up an activity can be transferred to your resume.
- 5. Goodies. Previous volunteers have scored candy, deluxe lanyards, exclusive receptions, keychains, and other surprise perks. There's no word yet on what 2019's rewards will be, but here's a hint: Traci Schafer, our new Second VP, likes chocolate.

Still not motivated? I'll close with a word of warning. If you hang around OWFI long enough without volunteering, you will be "volun-told." Avoid that fate and grab your first-choice 2019 volunteer slot now. The best ones go fast.

Maria Polson Veres is a former OWFI officer, perpetual volunteer, and conference groupie. She teaches creative writing and has published several books of nonfiction and poetry.



Flash Fiction Spring Winners



"Unpacking Secrets"
by Cindy Molder
We were playing in Daada Santosh's
old leather luggage in the attic. I
warned my sister, Rajah, about
playing rough with the antiques.

But, I was too late. The satin lining in the case ripped, and out fell a yellowed onion skin envelope. The letter inside was written in an old style cursive handwriting.

I didn't know what to do, we weren't supposed to be snooping around. Should I put it back in the suitcase or give it to my grandfather?

Why was this hidden for so long?

"Arjun, what are you going to do?" asked Rajah.

"I must give it to Daada, it belongs to him."

"Please read it to me before you take it downstairs," she begged.

"Let me think about it, I want to skim it first," said her brother. June 30, 1948 My Dearest Santosh,

Why do you linger in your homeland? The news abroad reported India's independence months ago. Your mother's last letter to me says she has not heard from you and she assumes you were killed in the riots of New Delhi. She mourns her only son.

My letters have been returned unopened and I have lost all hope of reaching you by telephone. This is my last correspondence for it is too painful to ponder your absence from my life. As I write, the shadows on the page are as long as the days and nights without you. I cannot spend another moment agonizing the unknowns of your demise.

The inkwell is dry but I will finish my writing in case this is discovered some day. The beautiful fountain pen you gave me will become the instrument of my final thoughts. It is easy to stab an artery with the nib, and the pain is minor compared to losing you. The drops left on the page are not ink rather my poured out waning existence. I dip, fill, drag, the final strokes; words written in blood.

Forever,

Elizabeth London, England

I knew Rajah was too young to understand. When I tried to put the delicate paper back into the brittle envelope, a faded photograph fell to the floor. Rajah sucked in her breath, "Who is that English lady? Do you think she was Daada's girlfriend before he married Nanni?"

I didn't wait to discuss it, "I think her name is Elizabeth and we need to take this to him now."

When Nanni was not around, we went to Daada. "Look what we found in the attic! Who is this woman?" I asked.

Our grandfather quietly shushed me, "Don't let Nanni hear us, this picture is difficult for her to see, and the letter might break her heart again."

"She knows about her?" I questioned.

"Yes, all families have secrets, some are happy, many are sad. But, if I hadn't met Elizabeth, I would have never known your Nanni."

I answered for Rajah and myself, "We promise we won't tell. We can keep a secret especially such a sad one."

Flash Fiction Spring Winners



"The Woman in the Woods" by Shannon Iwanski

You stumble upon the woman in the woods quite by accident. Frozen in place upon a rotting stump, one leg bent and extended out in front of her, she makes no noise. She stares up at the sky with eyes you can't be certain see anything. You approach her cautiously, not wanting to disturb or frighten her. She gives no indication that she's

aware of your presence. There's no movement, even though standing as she does must put a terrible strain on her muscles and endurance. A gentle breeze rustles the leaves above you, but it doesn't touch her red dress or her long hair. She is frozen in place completely.

You circle around, giving her a wide berth while observing her as closely as you dare. Perhaps she's a life-like carving left by someone playing a practical joke. Maybe she's just that good at pretending to be a living statue. Whatever the case may be, you dare yourself to move nearer and nearer.

You stop close enough that you can extend your hand, but you stop short of actual contact. Your imagination begins to play tricks on you, and you can almost imagine electrical impulses jump between your

outstretched fingers and her flesh. A muscle twitches in her arm. Her left eye—the only one you can see now—turns toward you. At first you think it's your imagination, but soon there can be no denying it. She is looking at you now.

You see the corner of her mouth begin to part. Her teeth show. Her lips begin to form words that issue forth in a long, drawnout near whisper that you have to strain to hear. It takes time for you to piece them together in your mind, but when you do, your blood runs cold. *It's behind you*.

Honorable mention

"Terse Declaration of Doubt" by Lisbeth McCarty Levitation, my foot!

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/





2019 OWFI Conference Preview



You're invited!
The 51st Annual OWFI
Conference will be
May 3 and 4, 2019.

Our keynote speaker will be Meg Gardiner, bestselling US and international author.



Edgar-winning novelist Meg Gardiner writes thrillers. Fast-paced 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 threetime *Jeopardy!* champion and a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. She lives in Austin, Texas.



Novels:

- •Into the Black Nowhere
- •UNSUB
- •Phantom Instinct
- •The Shadow Tracer
- •Ransom River

2019 OWFI Conference Preview

- •The Nightmare Thief
- •The Liar's Lullaby
- •The Memory Collector
- •The Dirty Secreets Club
- •Kill Chain
- Crosscut
- •Jericho Point
- •Mission Canyon
- •China Lake

Awards:

- China Lake won the 2009 Edgar Award for Best Paperback Original. Later it was a finalist for NPR's 100 Best Thrillers Ever.
- The Dirty Secrets Club was chosen one of the Top Ten thrillers of 2008 by Amazon and won the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award for Best Procedural Novel of the year.
- The Nightmare Thief won the 2012 Audie Award for Thriller/ Suspense audiobook of the year.
- The Shadow Tracer was named one of Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2013.
- Phantom Instinct was chosen one of "The Best Books of Summer" by O, the Oprah magazine.

•UNSUB is nominated for the 2018 Barry Award for Best Thriller.

Meg's topics will be:

"Inspiration, Craft, and Elbow Grease: A Writer's Journey"

Meg will talk about how she changed careers and became the author of 14 published thrillers.

"Killer Plots: Building Tension and Creating Conflict in Fiction"

How do you create compelling characters and put them in memorable conflict. Meg will talk about heroes, villians, the hook, and discuss techniques to ramp up the suspense and tension in your story.

A few other faculty and their topics are:

Robin Patchen, Speaker:

"Small Edits, Big Impact: Literary Devices and Simple Tricks to Improve your Prose" and "Writing when Life Gets in the Way"

Angela Archer, Speaker:

"Rules and Elements of Historical Fiction and Historical Romance" and "Being a Hybrid Author"

Gabrielle Piraino, Agent: "On Querying"

CM Healy, Speaker:

"What it Takes to Look Professional as a Self-published Author" and "Marketing Aspects for Being a Self-published Author"

This list of speakers, editors, agents and their topics are subject to change. For up to date conference information check out https://www.owfi.org/conference2019/



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

