

# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

## March Speaker~~Lori Ericson

Topic: *Creating Fiction From Real Events*

After twenty years of “sticking to the facts” as an award winning journalist Lori Ericson quit her job and started writing fiction. She has mastered the fine art of blending truth and imagination into narratives that leave her readers wondering, “Did that really happen?”

Lori Ericson grew up in a cemetery and spent years covering local government as a newspaper reporter. She’s not sure which experience helped more to shape the dark stories she churns out as a fiction writer.

After twenty years in journalism, she resigned in order to concentrate on fiction. For her day job she went to “the dark side,” as reporters would say, becoming a city planner in northwest Arkansas. In the past several years, she’s published a number of short stories in regional anthologies. Her first novel *A Lovely County* was released in January. She recently signed a contract to produce two more novels in the series. *A Lovely Murder* is set for release in early 2016, followed within a year by *A Lovely Grave*.

*A Lovely County*, then named *Arkansas 309*, won first place in the High Hill Press Award, Next Great American Novel Contest at Ozark Creative Writers 2010 Conference.

Lori is a member of Northwest Arkansas Writers Workshop, Ozark Writers League, and Ozark Creative Writers.



The March meeting will be in  
our regular space across the hall from Full  
Circle.

## The President's Message

Everyone's a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day. I wear green, enjoy a glass of Guinness, even hum a few bars of The Rose of Tralee, even though I don't have a drop of Irish blood. When I think of Ireland, I'm reminded of the many fine Irish writers I've enjoyed over the years -- James Joyce, Maeve Binchy, Frank McCourt, to name a few. New authors on the horizon include Lean Cullinan (*The Living*) and Daniel Seery (*A Model Partner*). Ireland's culture is enticing, its history fascinating, making for a rich literary experience. Indulge your "Irishness" with a look at the new Irish writers. I believe you'll be glad you did!

~~~~~  
A Few Irish Toasts

I drink to your health when I'm with you,  
I drink to your health when I'm alone,  
I drink to your health so often,  
I'm starting to worry about my own!

~~~~~  
May you have food and raiment, a soft  
pillow for your head. May you be forty  
years in heaven before the devil knows  
you're dead.

~~~~~  
May you live to be a hundred years,  
with one extra year to repent.

~~~~~  
As you slide down the banisters of life  
may the splinters never point the wrong  
way.

~~~~~  
May your troubles be as few and as far  
apart as my Grandmothers teeth.

## February Speaker

by

*Paula Severe, Secretary*  
Our speaker Bill

Wetterman emphasized the importance of learning about technology—the internet, marketing, technical aspects of book publishing, and speech to text. It is important to learn the craft by going to conferences, reading about writing, and networking with other writers who are interested in your genre. Bill recommended AllTops.com as an excellent place to go to find information on almost any topic you can name.

After you have written something worthwhile, go to a professional who will sit down and discuss your work with you. This is worth paying for. Another way to improve your craft is to enter contests. When you win, the literary world is telling you that you are ready to publish.

Bill said his first book was never published. After numerous rejections, he looked into self-publishing. Vanity publishing can be extremely expensive. He looked into SmashWords first but it was too complicated. Bill chose Create Space because it is simple and connected to Amazon. Create Space is an arm of Amazon as is Kindle.

The costs of publishing on Create Space are negligible.

~~Copyright – go to US.gov and follow the prompts

~~ISBN numbers are free on Create Space3

~~Shutter Stock has royalty-free artwork where you can select cover art

~~J. P. Jones is at Page1Media if you need help with your photographs

Never leave the cover to chance. It is almost as important as the hook on the first page and the blurb on the back cover.

When deciding how much to charge for your book, it is important to know that people will pay \$3.99 as often as they will pay 2.99. These are considered invisible prices.

A good place to begin marketing is to attend a seminar hosted by Lela Davidson. You need to market to your audience not just to other writers. Blogging is one of the best ways to reach your market. Join groups about your subject.

The self-published author is the CEO of your company. You are responsible for all aspects of publication. We have a responsibility to produce gems!



“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.” ~~~Sylvia Plath



## Member News

**Sandy Soli** Sandy Soli has been judging competitions and serving as copy editor for clients. Her recent publications include *Cybersoleil Journal*, *Red River Review*, and *The Long Island Quarterly*, in the poetry column founded by Walt Whitman.

**Barbara Shepherd** had her book signing on March 7 at Best of Books in Edmond.

**Dana Seaton** has the starring role in a memorial gardens commercial.



**MMMMore**

## Member news needed

Email it to

[inezbowman@cox.net](mailto:inezbowman@cox.net)

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“In composing, as a general rule, run your pen through every other word you have written; you have no idea what vigor it will give your style.”

~~~Sydney Smith

“I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by.”

~~~ Douglas Adams

“Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window.”

~~~ William Faulkner

## Elected Officers

**President:** Dana Seaton,  
376-0762, dana.seaton@cox.net  
**1st VP, Programs:** John Biggs  
728-0198  
johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com  
**2nd VP, Membership:** Shelley  
Pagach, 603-3903,  
shelbell.sp@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Ed Doney,  
341-0031, cell 416-3439,  
eddoney@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Paula Severe,  
943-4338, paula12@cox.net

## Appointed Officers

**Newsletter:** Inez Phillips,  
946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net  
**Publicity Chair:** Barbara  
Shepherd, 478-0919,  
okcwriters@aol.com  
**Webmaster:** Pam Morgan  
401-2019,  
pamelanred@outlook.com  
**Nominating Chair**  
David Severe, 946-4838,  
dsevere@cox.net  
**Yearbook Chair:**  
VP of Membership  
Shelley Pagach  
**Contest Chair:** Inez Phillips,  
**Historian:** Office of the President  
**OWFI Reporter:** Wayne  
Harris-Wyrick, 603-6566,  
wizardwyane@juno.com  
**Workshop Chair:**  
TBA  
**Audio/Visual:**  
Bill Boudreau  
**2015 OWFI Delegates:**  
Bill Boudreau, 946-6588,  
bill@billboudreau.com  
Linda Shelby, 390-1451,  
okielas@aol.com  
Shelley Pagach, 603-3903,  
shelbell.sp@gmail.com  
**2015 OWFI Alternates**  
Dana Seaton  
Carolyn Leonard

## Save the Date

### OWFI SPRING CONFERENCE

May 1 – May 2  
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma  
City, Oklahoma

You can register by going to  
the website. Just type OWFI  
in your browser.

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### SHORT COURSE ON WRITING

September 18-20, 2015  
To be held in the Community  
Learning Center on the Rose  
State College Campus in  
Midwest City

\*\*\*\*\*

“If my doctor told me I had  
only six minutes to live, I  
wouldn't brood. I'd type a little  
faster.”

~~~Isaac Asimov

Therefore, since brevity is the  
soul of wit,  
And tediousness the limbs  
and outward flourishes,  
I will be brief.

~~~William Shakespeare,  
*Hamlet*

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“The most valuable of all  
talents is that of never using two  
words when one will do.”

~~~Thomas Jefferson

\*\*\*\*\*

I am returning this otherwise  
good typing paper to you  
because someone has printed  
gibberish all over it and put your  
name at the top.

~~~English professor at Ohio  
University, name unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cutoff date for inclusion  
in the membership  
Directory is April 1.**

## 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please fill out the following and mail it with your 2015 membership  
dues (\$20) to:

**Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.**  
**Treasurer**  
**3608 Katherine Ct.**  
**Edmond, OK 73013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you wish to have your newsletter delivered.

Regular 1<sup>st</sup> class mail (snail mail)

Email

# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

**Time:** 10:15

**Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2015

**Meeting place:** Across the hall from

## **Full Circle Bookstore**

1900 NW Expressway in  
50 Penn Place  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Speaker:** Lori Ericson

**Topic:** *Creating Fiction From Real Events*

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**Inez Phillips**

**6200 N. Quapah Avenue**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73112**