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.
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.

~~ISBN numbers are free on Create Space
~~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.”

~~Sydney Smith

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

“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
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: 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.

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

“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 1st class mail (snail mail)  ☐ Email
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

Inez Phillips
6200 N. Quapah Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73112