April at last! The month holds the potential for balmy weather, which means that after the 15th we can put new plants in the ground with a decent expectation they won’t freeze to death. Also after that date we can forget about income tax until next year. As I thought about what I would write for the newsletter, I wondered what else might take place in April. My research revealed some surprising information. In addition to April Fool’s Day and Easter, it seems that every day of April 2015 offers a chance to celebrate something. There’s International Tatting Day, National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, Tweed Day, Walk Around Things Day, Tell a Lie day, Go For Broke Day, Big Wind Day, Plan Your Epitaph Day, Take a Chance Day, and Blah, Blah, Blah Day, to name a few. Of special interest to writers are Children’s Book Day, Hug a Newsman Day, Tell a Story Day, Scrabble Day, Rubber Eraser Day, National Librarian Day, and Great Poetry Reading Day. In short, April has something for everyone. No excuse for not finding some fun, something interesting, something bizarre to ponder and perhaps write about. April can get our creative juices flowing.

My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog already thinks I am.

~~~Anonymous

When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

~~~Franklin D. Roosevelt

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April Speakers

Casey Cowan & M. G. Miller

Topic: Oghma Publishing

Casey Cowan is a writer, photographer, and graphic designer who has worked in and around the journalism, printing, and literary fields for twenty years. In early 2013, he and fellow member Patty Stith cofounded Oghma Creative Media, a Fayetteville-based renaissance press dedicated to rewriting the rules of the publishing industry. As President and Creative Director there, Casey helps brand, promote, and publish authors, illustrators, artists, and musicians nationwide. During the three minutes a day he’s not promoting other authors and raising his five rowdy teenage children, he also writes, and is currently in the process of penning his first novel, Tarleton’s Quarter. In November 2014, that three minutes was reduced by half when he was elected to serve as President of Ozarks Writers’ League for 2015.

Our second speaker for April will be G.M. (Mike) Miller. Mike will mostly be answering questions at the meeting about his experience with Oghma, publishing his last two novels: Bayou Jesus and Seven Devils. Mike describes himself as an avid cinephile of classic film and an aficionado of all things Verde. He lives in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and works at the University of Arkansas.

M.G. Miller is the author of numerous Southern Gothic novels ranging from literary fiction to psychological thrillers and horror. His work has received Best Novel awards from Arkansas and Oklahoma states, a Deep South Prize from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and an Arkansas Governor’s Award for Literature. M.G. is also Editor-in-Chief of “Into the Shadows,” a new magazine of speculative fiction.

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MAY RAFFLE

Bill Boudreau upgraded and has donated his unneeded Kindle Fire Oklahoma City Writers for a fundraiser. Raffle tickets will be $1 each or 6 for $5.00. The winner’s name will be drawn at the May meeting. The only catch—you have to be present to win. Since the Kindle is used, Oklahoma City Writers does not provide a guarantee. Its specs:

- Amazon Kindle Fire HD 7" Standing Leather Case, Onyx Black, Dolby Audio, Dual-Band Wi-Fi, 16 GB, includes charger and Stylus. Bought in 2013 Reason for upgrade: Using Windows 8.1 app to read Kindle downloads.
March Speaker
by
Paula Severe, Secretary

Lori Ericson spoke about the differences between fiction and nonfiction writing. She began her career as a newspaper reporter before moving into fiction writing.

She learned that the “just the facts” style of writing did not work when she started writing fiction. She had to develop her voice. Lori described voice as her personality as it is reflected in her writing.

Lori spoke about living next to the family owned cemetery. She read an article she wrote of the time the bleeding ghost broke into their home and tried to take a bath. She also shared a passage from one of her books.

Coming Soon
Jim Laughter will speak on finding time to write at our May meeting.

Member News

Trina Lee won Judge’s Choice at the Mid Del Art Guild Show.

M. J. Van Deventer-Shelton has two articles published in current magazines March issues.

She has the cover story in Oklahoma magazine, titled “Home & Garden ~ The latest trends in sustainable living.” Another article by M. J. is featured in the March/April issue of the Triple AAA Home & Away magazine ~ OK’s City on the Move ~ Muskogee.

M. J. returned to live in her hometown of Muskogee in October 2012, after marrying her grade school sweetheart. In the article she uncovers her hometown’s colorful past and bright future.

Lucinda Thierry-Riles announced that the new quarterly issue of her publication "The Written Word Magazine" is available online.

Anybody who doesn’t what soap tastes like never washed a dog.
~~~Franklin P. Jones

A goal without a plan is just a wish.
~~~Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Fall Contest

There are ONLY 23 weeks until your entries in the Oklahoma City Writers Fall Contest are due. September 19 is roaring toward us at an alarming speed.

Last year some of our categories did not make. The shame of it all! Since I, Inez Phillips, the contest chair, cannot enter, I expect all of the other members to submit an entry in at least one (1) category.

Consider yourselves warned. I shall nag, harass, bully, bedevil, pester, provoke, bother, hound, torment, bug, hassle, harry, and plague all of you until I get enough entries for every category to make.

Dues are Due

To be included in the 2015 Membership directory, you must pay your annual dues no later than May 1.

Membernews needed
Email it to inezbowman@cox.net

The difference between impossible and the possible lies in a person’s determination.
~~~Tommy Lasorda

Dogs come when they are called. Cats take a message and get back to you.
~~~Mary Bly

If not now, when?
~~~Talmud
Elected Officers

President: Dana Seaton, 376-0762, dana.seaton1@att.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: Shelley Pagach
Contest Chair: Inez Phillips, 946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net
OWFI Reporter: Wayne Harris-Wyrick, 603-6566, wizardwyane@juno.com
Historian: Office of the President
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

THE MYSTERY OF SHAKESPEARE
Tuesday, April 21, 2015
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
CCE Forum Building
1704 Asp Ave, Norman
Room A-Conference
$5

Gordon Greene will answer some of the questions such as why do we know so little about the man believed by many to be the greatest writer in the English language? How could a small-town boy with no more than a grammar school education have earned such a reputation?

Passages

Longtime Oklahoma City Writers and Poetry Society of Oklahoma member, Flo Mason, passed away Wednesday, March 18. Flo, an award-winning poet, was active in our group as long as her husband was able to bring her to the meetings.

Donations

Bring your donations for the OWFI Basket Wars to the meeting this Saturday. Suggested items include pencils, pens, paper, wine, books, note pads or anything else you think a writer needs.

Shelley Pagach is heading up our Basket Wars effort. Her contact number is 496-8749.

Board Actions

The board voted to sponsor a category in the OWFI contest. Oklahoma City Writers will reserve a table at the Saturday banquet for our members.

Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped.

~~~Elbert Hubbard

When Alexander the Great visited Diogenes and asked whether he could do anything for the famed teacher, Diogenes replied: “Only stand out of my light.” Perhaps someday we shall know how to heighten creativity. Until then, one of the best things we can do for creative men and women is to stand out of their light.

~~~John W. Gardner

If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.

~~~Stephen King
Time: 10:15
Date: Saturday, April 18
Meeting place: Across the hall from
Full Circle Bookstore
1900 NW Expressway in
50 Penn Place
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Speakers: Casey Cowan & M. G Miller
Topic: Oghma

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