

# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

## June Speaker~~Pam Foster

Topic: *Sense of Place and Characterization*

Twenty-one years ago Pamela Foster married her hero. The author's husband is a disabled Marine, Vietnam vet, and a man who would walk through fire for her without ever acknowledging that he ignited the flames.

Accompanying her hero on his quest to escape the dull gray of life-after-combat, Foster has lived in the redwoods of the Pacific Northwest, on the side of a volcano in Hawaii, in the Yucatan beside the Caribbean Sea, the stark desert of southern Arizona, the jungles of Panama, and the Ozark Mountains. Never a Dull Moment would be an appropriate title for a memoir of her life of loving this man living with raging Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Pamela Foster is the author of four novels, a humorous travel memoir, and a book of personal essays. Foster writes on a broad range of complex and, occasionally, controversial topics that range from Bigfoot, to post traumatic stress in combat veterans.

The author's historical fiction, *Ridgeline*, was released in June, 2014. She has followed that up with *Noisy Creek*, a sidesplitting yarn about family ties and a May/December romance in a tight-knit Southern town.

Her latest novel, *The Perfect Victim*, is a gritty psychological thriller that brings the reader deep into the life of a woman caught in a cycle of violence.



## Coming Soon

Jan Morrill will be speaking to our group in July on "Creative Characterization".

## MAY RAFFLE

**Congratulations to David Severe! He won the May raffle.**

## President's Message

by Dana Seaton

A few weeks ago I crossed another item off my bucket list, a visit to Ernest Hemingway's home in Key West, Florida, with my son and daughter. We began in Miami with an exciting jai alai match, followed by dinner and mojitos at a cozy Cuban restaurant and later an evening stroll along the lively streets of South Beach. Early the next morning, we headed for the Keys in our rented Mustang convertible, enjoying key lime pie and beautiful coastal scenery along the way. Upon arriving in Key West, we headed straight for Ernest's house, already teeming with visitors by 10 a.m. The property's friendly polydactyl cats were everywhere. After the tour, we roamed the grounds. I imagined Hemingway at his writing desk, producing his famous novels as he struggled with the severe depression that eventually claimed his life. I came away with a deep sense of the man's complexity, tortured personal relationships, and immense talent. As a footnote to my experience, in one of the home's many lush garden areas I met a young writer, Erika Robuck, who was promoting her latest novel. Ms. Robuck has written several stories based on Hemingway's life. In addition to reinforcing the bonds of love with my children, our Florida getaway provided time for reflection on my writing "career." I came away inspired to write and to incorporate personal experiences into my writing.

## Save the Date

Short Course on Writing  
at Rose State College,  
September 18 -20.



Bill Bernhardt is teaching one-day seminars for the first time, and some of our members have asked me to address these topics, so they might be interested. People can register by visiting his website (or calling/emailing him):  
[http://www.williambernhardt.com/writing\\_instruction/small\\_group\\_seminars.php](http://www.williambernhardt.com/writing_instruction/small_group_seminars.php)

All of the meetings will be held in the ParkLawn Office Park, Suite 400C, Midwest City.

**July 18, 2015**

Breaking into Traditional Publishing

**July 19, 2015**

Creating Character



## Member News

**Gail Mattingly** writing as Gail Lambert, "*Skunked*" in *Good Old Days*, March/April 2014 issue

**Terri Cummings** has been selected as one of the Woody Guthrie Poets for the 2015 Woody Guthrie

Festival in July. She will be one of the featured readers at the kickoff poetry event July 10, 7:00 p.m., The Paramount OKC, sponsored by The Village Books Press.

Terri's poem, "*Moore, Oklahoma, May 20, 2013*", is currently published in *Melancholy Hyperbole* ezine

Terri's flash fiction story, "*Faith in The Way*", will be published in August by Christian literary magazine, *Ancient Paths Online*.



## Fall Contest

Now that you have written your essay for the Fall contest, it is now time to work on your inspirational entry. Inspirational does not equal religious. An inspirational entry should concern a personal experience or struggle, which provides inspiration or hope to others. A profile or personal story should touch the reader in some way and/or impart a valuable message to the reader in some way. Not necessarily religious in nature, the piece should strive to inspire and motivate the reader. It may be a vehicle for presenting the author's opinion about a particular topic that has personally

affected him or her, and may also include a call to action. This does not only have to be an article, but it can also be a poem.

Some of the past winners have concerned the bonds of friendship, extending a helping hand to a dying woman, providing care and compassion for an autistic child, and friends saying goodbye to a brother who passed suddenly.

The is one of the categories that didn't make last year. Let's all get busy and be inspirational.

## Membership Directory

Shelley Pagach has the directories. You can pick up one at the regular monthly meeting.



Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut.

~~~Ernest Hemingway

All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*.

~~~Ernest Hemingway

There is no rule on how to write. Sometimes it comes easily and perfectly; sometimes it's like drilling rock and then blasting it out with charges.

~~~Ernest Hemingway

## Elected Officers

**President:** Dana Seaton,  
376-0762, dana.seaton1@att.net  
**1st VP, Programs:** John Biggs  
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**2nd VP, Membership:** Shelley  
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**Treasurer:** Ed Doney,  
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**Secretary:** Paula Severe,  
943-4338, paula12@cox.net

## Appointed Officers

**Newsletter:** Inez Phillips,  
946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net  
**Publicity Chair:** Barbara  
Shepherd, 478-0919,  
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**Webmaster:** Pam Morgan  
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**Nominating Chair**  
David Severe, 946-4838,  
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**Yearbook Chair:**  
VP of Membership  
Shelley Pagach  
**Contest Chair:** Inez Phillips,  
**Historian:** Office of the President  
**OWFI Reporter:** Wayne  
Harris-Wyrick, 603-6566,  
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**Workshop Chair:**  
TBA  
**Audio/Visual:**  
Bill Boudreau  
**2015 OWFI Delegates:**  
Bill Boudreau, 946-6588,  
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Linda Shelby, 390-1451,  
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Shelley Pagach, 603-3903,  
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**2015 OWFI Alternates**  
Dana Seaton  
Carolyn Leonard



## Opportunities for Writers

Carolyn Wall is two books ahead of her publishers, and has the summer open to help authors, and up-and-coming authors, perfect their work. Oh boy, listen up! DO NOT submit your writing *anywhere* — to local or national contests, as an entry to the Pulitzer Prize Committee, to be read at your grandmother's birthday dinner, or for independent or traditional publishing -- without a professional edit.

\*Discounts for members of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

\*Greater discounts if you've been in any of Carolyn Wall's 101 classes or seminars.

Contact Carolyn Wall at  
[Carolynwall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Carolynwall@sbcglobal.net),  
subject: edit.

As a last resource, you may call and leave a message at 842-8099.



The literary magazine, *Conclave: A Journal of Character*, has run strong for seven years. Managing Editor Savannah Thorne is at a point in her career when she decided to auction the magazine, including 8 unused ISBNs, the top 6 magazines and 4 selling books, access to 2,000+ contacts, unlimited aid from the submissions manager, and a month of assistance in transferring.

Website address: <http://conclavejournal.com/>  
Auction address: <https://flippa.com/4649086-pr-3-site-with-1-300-uniques-month-making-300-average-per-month>

"Beware of advice—even this."

~~~Carl Sandburg

"I would advise anyone who aspires to a writing career that before developing his talent he would be wise to develop a thick hide."

~~~Harper Lee

"The greatest part of a writer's time is spent in reading, in order to write; a man will turn over half a library to make one book."

~~~Samuel Johnson

"I still love books. Nothing a computer can do can compare to a book. You can't really put a book on the Internet. Three companies have offered to put books by me on the Net, and I said, 'If you can make something that has a nice jacket, nice paper with that nice smell, then we'll talk.' All the computer can give you is a manuscript. People don't want to read manuscripts. They want to read books. Books smell good. They look good. You can press it to your bosom. You can carry it in your pocket."

~~~Ray Bradbury

A blank piece of paper is God's way of telling us how hard it to be God.

~~~Sidney Sheldon

Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it short.

~~~Henry David Thoreau

# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

**Time:** 10:15

**Date:** Saturday, June 20

**Meeting place:** Across the hall from

**Full Circle Bookstore**

1900 NW Expressway in  
50 Penn Place  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Speakers:** Pamela Foster

**Topic:** *A Sense of Place and Characterization*

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**Inez Phillips**

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**Oklahoma City, OK 73112**