

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

July Speaker~~Jan Morrill

Jan will be speaking on the topic of "Creative Characterization".

Jan Morrill was born and (mostly) reared in California. Her mother, a Buddhist Japanese American, was an internee at Tule Lake and Topaz during World War II. Her father, a Southern Baptist redhead of Irish descent, retired from the Air Force.

Jan's award-winning historical fiction, *The Red Kimono*, and other short stories and memoir essays, reflect growing up in a multicultural, multi-religious, multi-political background.

While working on the sequel to *The Red Kimono*, Jan enjoys conducting workshops on writing and speaking about the history of the Japanese American internment.

President's Message

by Dana Seaton

The next time you labor to produce a "rough draft," think of Thomas Jefferson. At the time he was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence, he was renting the second floor of a three-story house in Philadelphia. His quarters consisted of a bedroom and parlor with stairs and a passageway separating the two rooms. He wrote in the parlor, using a portable writing box that he designed himself. The box was built by a cabinetmaker from Jefferson's own drawing. Of the box, Jefferson later wrote, "It claims no merit of particular beauty . . . is plain, neat, convenient . . . and displays itself sufficiently for any writing." Of the draft, Jefferson said, "I did not consider it any part of my charge to invent new ideas altogether and to offer no sentiment which had ever been expressed before." Later he stated that his focus was not to "find out new principles, or new arguments never before thought of, not merely to say things which had never been said before; but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject." Jefferson used language regarded as "both simple and sublime." He first submitted his draft to Adams and Franklin because he especially valued their opinions. From the time Jefferson was named to the committee of five to write the Declaration to the time it was submitted to Congress took only seventeen days. The original or "rough" draft, as it was later known, remains a master copy on which all later changes were marked. Jefferson kept it all his life.

Coming Soon

Carolyn Leonard will be speaking to our group in August

Once upon a time a long long time ago... Bonnie Speer came all the way from the University of Oklahoma to the far northwest corner of Oklahoma to teach a writing class. A dozen members of that class - who were unpublished and had never met before - became forever friends and later formed the "Writers of Purple Sage" group which is still active.

Mrs. Speer changed our lives and showed us how to become SELLING writers with the magic formula: "Hey, You, See -So what?" And that is the secret I hope to share with OKC Writers in August.



Critique Group? Anyone?

If you are interesting in joining a critique group, there will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting. If you are unable to make it to the next meeting, you can contact Shelley directly at shelbell.sp@gmail.com to be added to the list. She will need your name, address, email, phone number, and genre.



The Contest Deadline Is Coming

September 19 is closer than you think. That is the day your contest chair is expecting every member of Oklahoma City Writers to enter at least one category in the annual contest.

The rules and categories are in the Membership Directory. If you need help formatting your entries or interpreting the rules, you can contact Inez Phillips at 946-0981 or inezbowman@cox.net.

Entry fees are \$10 regardless of the number of entries you send in. **BUT**, if you win, you can recoup your money. Prizes are \$40 for 1st place, \$25 for second and \$15 for third.

The judges comments are even more important than the money. We grow as writers when our manuscripts are reviewed and critiqued by a

different set of eyes. These comments will help you get ready to enter and win in the OWFI 2016 contest.

Winning is a great ego boost.



Member News

Shelley Anne Richter's contest winnings: The 2015 Arkansas Writers Conference Contest, INSPIRATIONAL, 1st HM "Wide Load." YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY, 2nd HM "Keys on Glass." SHORT STORY, 2nd HM "Courting Carnations." HUMOR, 2nd Place "Switched." INSPIRATIONAL, 3rd Place "Ryan Broyles is My Hero." SHORT STORY, 2nd Place "Death by a Bullet." SONG LYRICS, 2nd place "Break Away." ESSAY, 3rd Place "Joy of Country Living, Rural Life vs. City Life."



"There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts."

— Charles Dickens

"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."

— Louis L'Amour

Elected Officers

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2015 OWFI Alternates
Dana Seaton
Carolyn Leonard



Opportunities for Writers

Carolyn Leonard has published the *WRITERS REMINDER* e-zine since 1993. It has been sharing info on writing contests, conferences, publishing industry news, programs, speakers, letters, book reviews, website winners, story call-outs, writing opportunities, practically anything of interest to writers and her Blog.

Anyone who wishes to subscribe, just send an email to CarolynLeonard@me.com and say "Please put me on your Writers Reminder mailing list." Please also include your phone number and snail mail addy in case your email starts bouncing.

Carolyn does not share her email lists with anyone.

Save the Date

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



Membership Directories

Shelley Pagach has the directories. You can pick up one at the regular monthly meeting. She has sent them to the members with email addresses.



"No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader."
— Robert Frost

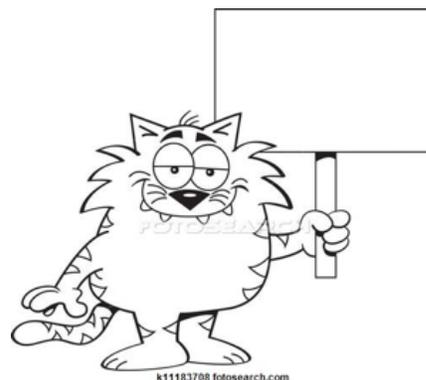
"Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass."
— Anton Chekhov

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."
— Winston S. Churchill

"The scariest moment is always just before you start."
— Stephen King

"We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down."
— Kurt Vonnegut

"So many books, so little time."
— Frank Zappa



OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

Time: 10:15

Date: Saturday, July 18

Meeting place: Across the hall from

Full Circle Bookstore

1900 NW Expressway in
50 Penn Place
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Speakers: Jan Morrill

Topic: *Creative Characterization*

Inez Phillips

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