
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

August Speaker~~Carolyn Leonard

Topic: "Four Secret Words to Writing Success: Hey, You, See -So what?"

Leonard said, "Once upon a time Bonnie Speer came all the way from the University of Oklahoma to the far northwest corner of Oklahoma to teach a writing class. Mrs. Speer changed our lives," Leonard said, "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. Please bring something you are working on, or a pencil & paper (or both). The lesson will be a little workshop, sort of, but will also be okay for those who don't want to work." Carolyn is author of the popular how-to book *Who's Your Daddy? A Guide to Genealogy from Start to Finish*. She is a former rural newspaper editor, winner of many journalistic contests, published in local, state and national publications, and contributed to the best-seller *In Their Name*, a state-endorsed book on the Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City.

Carolyn loves to travel and is currently looking for a publisher for her 80,000 word non-fiction illustrated manuscript, "To Israel, With Love," a travel and history book of that country which she has visited twice in reality and many times in her dreams. While there she rode a camel on a dare.

She is a commissioned writer for *Persimmon Hill* and has an article in the current *Oklahoma Today* magazine. She is an OWFI Honorary Life Member. Carolyn lives in Oklahoma City with her retired engineer hubby, Jon Heavener. She still operates the wheat farm in far northwestern Oklahoma where she grew up.



President's Message

"The Road Less Traveled"

by Dana Seaton

In October of 1997, I traveled to Nepal as member of a two-week study tour sponsored by World Neighbors, an Oklahoma City-based international development organization. The purpose of the trip was to learn about World Neighbors efforts in such areas as agricultural methods, water delivery systems, and women's craft cooperatives, and about Nepal's culture and its people. From the moment I arrived at Kathmandu's Tribuvan International Airport, I knew I had entered another world. If the passengers on the plane seemed a motley bunch—aged and aging hippies, white river rafting enthusiasts and mountain climbers—the pedestrians who thronged the narrow streets of Kathmandu were even more diverse. Through the van window on our way to the Hotel Harati, I saw a Nepali man wearing a tee shirt that read, "It takes balls to golf the way I do." I imagined a shipment of U.S. castoffs destined for the underprivileged had somehow found its way to a Kathmandu market.

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"The Road Less Traveled"
The Harati was a friendly small hotel in a busy section of Kathmandu whose beautiful rear garden was filled with dahlias as big as my head. After dinner in the hotel restaurant, we visited Durbar Square. In the fading early evening light, the square's Hindu temple was outlined against the sky, while several cows wandered over the small grassy area surrounding the temple. In the following days, the travel group took in a large number of sights and events: a cremation ceremony on the banks of the "holier than the Ganges" Bagmati River where onlookers included cavorting rhesus monkeys; a prop plane flight over Mount Everest; visits to several rural communities participating with World Neighbors in development projects; excursions to Kathmandu Hindu and Buddhist temples; camping along the banks of the swiftly flowing and noisy Melemche River surrounded by brilliant green rice fields. I will always treasure my two weeks in Nepal, especially in light of its recent catastrophic earthquake.



Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

~Author Unknown

July Speaker

Last month, OCW members and guests connected with the presentation of Jan Morrill as she passionately introduced her methods of preparing to write pov into her novels. She teaches six methods of creative characterization. Jan taught about interviewing the character, having us write an interview with a person in our book, listing certain questions to ask. Then she used a set of photos and art, asking us to describe one in our character's voice. The other four methods are all interesting concepts that would enter the lives of our book people and make them come alive. Her workbook, "Creative Characterization," was for sale after the meeting. She also authored *The Red Kimono*, *Doll in the Red Kimono*, and *Life: Haiku by Haiku*.

Paula Severe,
Secretary



Never use the word, 'very.' It is the weakest word in the English language; doesn't mean anything. If you feel the urge of 'very' coming on, just write the word, 'damn,' in the place of 'very.' The editor will strike out the word, 'damn,' and you will have a good sentence.

~William Allen White

Member News

Trina Lee placed third with her poem "Sidney" in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Annual Contest. There are 49 categories with a large number of entries in each. There were 270 entries in the category Trina's poem placed in.

Trina also placed First with "Foreclosure" in Pennsylvania which will be published in their anthology.

Carolyn Leonard sold an article to *Oklahoma Today*.

Bill Boudreau starred on a TV commercial for Hear Again hearing aids.

Savannah Thorne has struck out on her own as a freelance editor. Information is available at savannahthorne.com.



Equipment Needed

Carolyn is encouraging everyone to bring something they are working on or a pencil & paper (or both). Part of the lesson will be a workshop. Those who don't bring anything to work on will still learn a lot by listening.



[I]t's not a good idea to try to put your wife into a novel. Not your latest wife, anyway.

~Norman Mailer,

Elected Officers

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2015 OWFI Alternates
Dana Seaton
Carolyn Leonard



The Elephant is Coming

and it is going to be banging its trunk on the door in four weeks. In other words the contest deadline, September 19, is breathing down our necks.

The contest chair wants to have so many entries that she will lose sleep wondering why she would volunteer for such a job. So everyone get busy and enter something or a whole lot of somethings.

The winners will be announced during the November meeting. If possible, we will have the first place winners read their entries.



"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

— Groucho Marx

"Classic' - a book which people praise and don't read."

— Mark Twain

"Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you."

— Louis L'Amour

Save the Date

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

The sooner you register, the sooner you can sign up for one of the small group tutorials (limited to ten participants) and enter the contests. Here's a link to the site where you can get more info and register online:

<https://www.rose.edu/content/business-community/community-learning/adults-seniors/fall-writers-conference-short-course/>



"Be careful about reading health books. Some fine day you'll die of a misprint."

— Markus Herz

"Books are the perfect entertainment: no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each dollar spent. What I wonder is why everybody doesn't carry a book around for those inevitable dead spots in life."

— Stephen King

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

— Charles Dickens

"Speaking personally, you can have my gun, but you'll take my book when you pry my cold, dead fingers off of the binding."

— Stephen King

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

Time: 10:15

Date: Saturday, August 15

Meeting place: Across the hall from

Full Circle Bookstore

1900 NW Expressway in
50 Penn Place
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Speakers: Carolyn Leonard

Topic: Four Secret Words to Writing Success:

Hey, You, See -So what?

Inez Phillips

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