
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

January Speaker --- Lara Bernhardt

Topic: *The Dramatic Rise in Author-Controlled Audiobooks--And How You Can Participate.*

Lara Bernhardt is an actress, audiobook narrator, singer, and writer. Her impressive stage credits include Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is also a professional audiobook producer and has read more than two dozen of them, including *A Run for Love* by Callie Hutton. Her first novel is titled *Shadow of the Taj*.



WE WILL BE MEETING IN ROOM 225 IN THE ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UNTIL THE END OF 2016.



I was taught to do math and read at the same time. So you're six years old, you're reading 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' and it becomes rapidly obvious that there are only two kinds of men in the world: dwarves and Prince Charmings. And the odds are seven is to one against your finding the prince. That's why little girls don't do math.

~~~Emily Levine

This is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.  
~~~seen on a New Year's sign

President's Message

by Shelley Pagach (pay-jack)

Happy New Year from Oklahoma City Writers! This is the time for fresh starts and new beginnings. I hope you've written down enough resolutions to keep you busy until at least the end of the month. That way when a few get broken you have a few to fall back on. At least that's my plan anyway.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the OWFI conference coming this May. Don't forget to enter the contest. The deadline is coming up!

I'm so excited to see what's in store for OKC Writers! We are already off to a great start. Lara Bernhardt is visiting this month sharing the wonders of audio books. I can't wait to learn more! Hope to see you all there!



Member News

Terri Cummings has selected to read her poetry at the Southwest Popular and American Culture Association in Albuquerque in February, and the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival late March/early April.

Barbara Shepherd won the following in the Norman Galaxy of Writers 2015 Contest:
 1st Place -- Short Story, "Ride the River"
 3rd Place -- Rhymed Poetry, "Falling 101"
 1st Place -- Unrhymed Poetry, "Power of a River Stone"

The television show *Forensic Files* ran the show about the murder of Rob Andrew. Featured was an interview with our **Judy Gigstadt**. The book, *Fatal Holiday: A True Crime Story* is her story about living next door to the murder.



An aged Christian, with the snow of time upon his head, may remind us that those points of earth are whitest which are nearest to heaven.

~~~Edwin Hubbel Chapin

## Opportunities for Writers

**Barbara Shepherd** is a sponsor for the Fiction Writers Retreat, June 4-5, 2016 at Tom Steed Community Learning Center, Rose State College in Midwest City. For more information, click on the Fiction Writers Retreat tab on [barbarashepherd.com](http://barbarashepherd.com)

**Carolyn Leonard** publishes the *Writers Reminder* with information about all things that matter to writers. You can find it by typing *Writers Reminder* in your search engine.

**Bill Bernhardt's** summer writing retreats are scheduled for:  
 May 18-22, 2016 Eureka Spring Retreat, The Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow  
 June 9-12, 2016 Nashua NH (Boston area) Retreat  
 June 23-26, 2016 Huntington Beach (Anaheim area) California Retreat  
 June 30-July 3, 2016 Durango Colorado Retreat  
 July 21-24, 2016 Oahu, Hawaii

For more information:  
[williambernhardt.com/red\\_sneaker\\_wc/writing\\_retreats.php](http://williambernhardt.com/red_sneaker_wc/writing_retreats.php)

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Each month Bill sends a free eNewsletter filled with tips and news for writers. To be added to the mailing list, sign up here: williambernhardt.com/red_sneaker_wc/

Coming Soon

Tom Barczak, an artist, turned architect, turned writer, will be our speaker in February.



OWFI News

The annual contest is open until January 31. To access the contest rules, categories, forms, and entry procedures, type OWFI in your internet browser.

The entry procedures have changed. It is still all electronic except for the published book categories. You won't have to fight with the drop box this time. You are encouraged to send your entries a week or two early so the category chair can contact you for corrections if they are needed.

If the entry procedures seem confusing, think about them for a while (a shot of tequila may help), then read them again. The contest gurus hope that they have worked out all the kinks that happened last year.

Now is the time to work on the entries you sent in to our fall contest, and enter them in the OWFI contest. It's a great ego boost to win and OWFI pays better.

Elected Officers

President: Shelley Pagach,
603-3903, shella.sp@gmail.com
1st VP, Programs: John Biggs
728-0198
johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com
2nd VP, Membership: Lorelei
Sawtell **Treasurer:** Ed Doney,
416-3439, eddoney@gmail.com
Secretary: Trina Lee

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
TBA
Yearbook Chair:
VP of Membership
Shelley Pagach
Contest Chair: Gail Mattingly
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,
shella.sp@gmail.com
2015 OWFI Alternates
Dana Seaton
Carolyn Leonard



“The road to hell is paved with works-in-progress.”
—Philip Roth

It’s That Time of the Year

Ed Doney, our treasurer, is collecting 2016 dues now. You can give it to him at the meetings or send your \$20 to him at his residence:

3608 Katherine Ct.
Edmond, OK 73013



If you won money in the contest, be kind to Ed, and CASH THE CHECK.



“I think we should model parts of the English language after the Inuits, who have 52 words for snow. Why don’t we have 52 words for love? Instead, I have to rely on metaphors like, Her love was as pure as yellow snow.”

— Jarod Kintz

“The snow doesn’t give a soft white damn whom it touches.”
— e.e. cummings

“A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.”

— Carl Reiner

“Advice is like snow - the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.”
---Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“I used to be Snow White, but I drifted.”
~~~Mae West

## December Meeting

The 2016 officers were elected by acclamation  
~President-Shelley Pagach  
~VP of Membership-Trina Lee  
~VP of Programs-John Biggs  
~Secretary-Lorelei Sawtelle  
~Treasurer-Ed Doney

Peggy Chambers, Enid Writers, spoke about the importance of setting to your story whether it is fiction or nonfiction. She said that you have to consider the time of the setting whether it is in the past, present or future as well as the emotions it evokes. If you haven’t been to a certain place, you have to invent it.

Peggy asked the members write four brief stories with different types of settings. Several people volunteered to read theirs to the crowd.



**Send you member news to inezbowman@cox.net**



“Resting on your laurels is as dangerous as resting when you are walking in the snow. You doze off and die in your sleep.”  
~~~Ludwig Wittgenstein

“Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere.”
~~~Carl Sagan

# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

**Time: 10:15**

**Date:** Saturday, January 16

**Meeting place:**

**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**

15th and Harvey

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Enter through the northwest door, take the elevator to 2nd floor,  
go to room 225

We will meet here until December 2016.

**December Speaker**~~Lara Bernhardt

**Topic** ~~ *The Dramatic Rise in Author-Controlled Audiobooks--  
and How You Can Participate*

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**Inez Phillips**

**6200 N. Quapah Avenue**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73112**