
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

February Speaker ---Tom Barczak

Topic--- Building the Foundation of a Writing Career That Works Right for You

Tom Barczak is an artist, turned architect, turned writer, who finally got around to writing those stories he started dreaming about as a kid.

His work includes the illustrated epic fantasy novel, *Veil of the Dragon*, the Kindle serials, *Awakening Evarun* (Parts I-VI) and *Wolfbane* (Parts 1-2 of 3), along with numerous short stories and flash fiction, including those published in *Heroika 1 - Dragon Eaters*, *Nine Heroes*, *Terror by Gaslight*, and *What Scares the Boogeyman*, as well as two volumes of the award winning *Heroes in Hell* series, *Dreamers in Hell*, and *Poets in Hell*.

He writes because he can't not. He writes because he needs to tell the stories he started on way before, in his paintings, in his poetry, and even before that, sitting around a table with friends, slaying dragons.

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



February Monthly Observances

Adopt A Rescued Rabbit Month
International Hoof-care Month
National Haiku Writing Month
Spunky Old Broads Month
Pull Your Sofa Off The Wall Month
National Laugh-Friendly Month
Love The Bus Month
Library Lovers Month

President's Message

by Shelley Pagach

When I'm not writing, I crochet. Sometimes my cat ... eh ... "helps." Recently he seized a small foot of one the toys I was working on right out of my project bag. My sons tried to rescue it, but to no avail. Apparently, possession is 9/10th of the law, especially in the feline world. Whenever I have trouble figuring out what to write, I just have to watch him for a while and words just come.

To my absolute delight, I am happy to share that Barbara Shepherd has agreed to continue as publicity chair for 2016. Thank you Barbara! The next big thing to take care of is our yearbook. We want to include as many members as possible so PLEASE pay your dues as soon as you can. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to volunteer, please let us know! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!



Member News

Mariana Llanos Lopez Castilla's, new children's book is available in both English and Spanish on Amazon. The title is *A Super for Power Me*.

Barbara Shepherd won an Honorable Mention in the Mid-Oklahoma Writers Special Multi-Genre Contest for her flash fiction entry - *One Cold Night*.



Opportunities for Writers

A Fiction Writers Retreat will be held in Midwest City June 4-5. Speakers: Mel Odom, Bill Bernhardt, and Susan May Warren - with a special presentation by Lara Bernhardt. Details and registration form can be found at www.fictionwritersretreat.com



All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.

~~~Charles M. Schulz

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

~~~Andy Rooney

Half my life is an act of revision.

~~~John Irving

## OWFI News

The Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. Spring Conference, Pathways to Writing, will be held at the Oklahoma City Embassy Suites on May 12 to 14. Conference fees are \$175 before March 16, and, after that date, they are \$200. When you go to the website ([owfi.com](http://owfi.com)), you will find other choices such as single day attendance and optional workshops.

Conference Chair Maria Veres ([mpveres@yahoo.com](mailto:mpveres@yahoo.com)) is looking for volunteers for the pitch room, registration, Basket Wars, and shepherds.

If you are pinched for money, OWFI has a few scholarships available. Applications can be found on the OWFI website and must be received by March 1.

The keynote speaker, Steven James, is a national bestselling novelist whose award-winning, pulse-pounding novels continue to gain wide critical acclaim and a growing fan base. *Suspense Magazine*, named James' book The Bishop their book of the year, says that he "sets the new standard in suspense writing." Publishers Weekly calls him a "master storyteller at the peak of his game."

The speakers include:

~Agents: Ally Robertson, Noah Ballard, Uwe Stender

~Publicist: Stephanie

Barko

~Editors: Nathan Gunter,

Pam Johnson, Mari Farthing, Vivian Zabel

~Authors: Linda Apple, Larry Baker, Holly Jahangiri, Eric Reitan, Christine Butler-Taylor, William Bernhardt, Jan Morrill, Arlene Gale, Carol Shenold, Christine Jarmola and others



Oklahoma City Writers are sponsoring a category in the OWFI contest in memory of Dana Seaton. We are also reserving 2 tables each night for the banquets. Contact Shelley Pagach if you are going to the banquets.



There's no such thing as writer's block. That was invented by people in California who couldn't write.

~~~Terry Pratchett

Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them.

~~~Flannery O'Connor

There's no money in poetry, but then there's no poetry in money either.

~~~Robert Grave

You learn by writing short stories. Keep writing short stories. The money's in novels, but writing short stories keeps your writing lean and pointed.

~~~Larry Niven

First, find out what your hero wants, then just follow him!

~~~Ray Bradbury

Elected Officers

President: Shelley Pagach,
946-8749, shelbell.sp@gmail.com
1st VP, Programs: John Biggs
728-0198
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2nd VP, Membership: Lorelei
Sawtell, 603-8856,
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Treasurer: Ed Doney,
416-3439, eddoney@gmail.com
Secretary: Trina Lee, 728-7310,
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Appointed Officers

Newsletter: Inez Phillips,
946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net
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Webmaster: Pam Morgan
401-2019,
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Nominating Chair
TBA

Yearbook Chair:
Shelley Pagach, 946-8749,
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Contest Chair: Gail Mattingly,
494-7384, evamattingly@cox.net

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,
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2015 OWFI Alternates
Carolyn Leonard



January Notes

by
Lorelei Sawtell, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on January 16, 2016, at 10:15a.m. in room 225. We will continue to meet at this venue on the third Saturday of each month through December of 2016.

President Shelley Pagach called the meeting to order. **Minutes of the previous meeting** were read and approved.

Treasurer Ed Doney submitted his report for the previous year. It was approved as read. Our balance is \$3414.63

Old Items of Business were discussed as follows:

1. Call for a vote on whether to continue sending our newsletter as an email or to go back to only having it snail mailed. We will continue to do both, even though we can afford to mail them.
2. Dues are now due and payable. They need to be paid soon, so we can get our directory/handbook in a timelier manner.
3. OWFI contest is now open. February 1 is the cutoff date.
4. We need to prepare baskets for OWFI's basket wars. Contact Shelley for more information.
5. The publicity chair is open and needs filled. Please contact Shelley or David to volunteer for the position.
6. If you are planning or willing to hold summer workshops, please contact John Biggs so he can help spread the word.
7. The parliamentarian position is open. If you're interested, please contact Shelley.
8. Last month's minutes were read and accepted.

9. Table reservations for OWFI's dinner need to be made soon. Please contact Shelley if you're planning to attend so we can have sufficient tables together.
10. Plans are in the works to make sign-up sheets for critique groups. If you're interested in hosting a

group or being part of a group, contact Shelley.

Items of new business were as follows:

1. John Biggs' daughter Minna Biggs, her son August, and Casey Friedman are playing at Full Circle Bookstore from 7:30 to 9:30 on January 22, 2016. A selection of folk songs will be presented.

John Biggs introduced this month's speaker, Lara Wells Bernhardt. Her presentation was titled **Audiobooks and How to Make One.** It was interesting and timely. More audio books were sold last year than ebooks.

By unanimous acclamation we adjourned at approximately 11:30. Several members adjourned to Irma's Burger Shack for lunch.



People do not deserve to have good writing, they are so pleased with bad.

~~~Ralph Waldo Emerson

I have been successful probably because I have always realized that I knew nothing about writing and have merely tried to tell an interesting story entertainingly.

~~~Edgar Rice Burroughs



OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

Time: 10:15

Date: Saturday, February 20

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.

February Speaker~~Tom Barczak

**Topic ~~ *Building the Foundation of a Writing Career That Works
Right for You***

Inez Phillips

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