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# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

## February Speaker:

*Eric Reitan*

**Topic:** Wrestling with Big Ideas in Your Writing: Prospects and Pitfalls.

Eric Reitan is a philosophy professor by day and a father at all hours of the day and night. He also writes. Somehow. His short fiction has appeared in such venues as *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* and *Gamut* and has earned him numerous awards, most notably the Crème-de-la-Crème award of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. One of his nonfiction books, *Is God a Delusion?*, was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title of 2009. He blogs at [www.thepietythatliesbetween.blogspot.com](http://www.thepietythatliesbetween.blogspot.com).

## President's Message

Shelley Pagach

I am not a roller coaster kind of girl. Never have been. When I was six years old, I tried the kiddie roller coaster at the fair. The track went around in a circle at a slight angle. I screamed so much they had to stop and let me off.

I've had plenty of roller coasters in my life and not the kiddie kind. We all have them. You go up and down, twist and turn, loop-dee-loop, and even backward. Roller coasters can represent all sorts of events that take you out of your comfort zone, whether they are heartfelt or heartbreaking. The trick is to roll with it.

Whenever I feel my control slipping, I wonder if I can hang on while the roller coaster zooms forward. It always reminds me of the movie *Parenthood*. Steve Martin finds himself at his daughter's play, surrounded by chaos. His youngest son has stormed the stage, ransacking the props, and disrupting the play. You, the audience, hear the slow clank of a roller coaster as it climbs higher and higher, and Steve Martin endeavors to

handle the stress. Then you hear the swish as his roller coaster plummets down at neck-breaking speed. Steve Martin figures out how to accept the roller coaster for what it was: a frightening, scary, exciting thrill ride that makes life worth living.

So, the next time you hear the slow clank of the roller coaster, take a deep breath and let it out slowly. All that sound means is you are one step away from your next big adventure. You might as well hang on and allow yourself to enjoy the ride.

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### **Attention Paid OCWI Members**

If you have a presence on the Internet— website, blog, books listed in online book providers, publishers, etc., and you want OCWI website, "Member Links" to activate the link, please email URL address to Bill Boudreau, [billboudreau@flash.net](mailto:billboudreau@flash.net) and Lorelei Sawtelle, [lsawtelle@cox.net](mailto:lsawtelle@cox.net).

"Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy." ~Sir Isaac Newton

## Elected Officers

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## Appointed Officers

**Newsletter: Inez Phillips,**

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## 2016 OWFI Delegates

**Bill Boudreau,** 946-6588,

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**Linda Shelby,** 390-1451,

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**Shelley Pagach,** 496-8749,

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**2016 OWFI Alternates:**

**Carolyn Leonard,** 740-1632,

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## MEMBER NEWS

**Carol Krehbiel Muirhead,** new book, *You & Me - Me and You: A Diary of Love Poems*, is now available. Carol signed copies of her book at Best in Books of Edmond on Saturday, February 11.

**Carolyn Leonard** appeared, along with 40 other authors, at the Edmond Museum with free ancestor charts and worry stones. She also sold some of her *Who's Your Daddy?* and *To Israel, with With Love* books.

## Authors inventive Put-downs

Of Ernest Hemingway's short, simple sentences, William Faulkner said, "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." Hemingway replied to Faulkner in kind. "Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?"

Gustave Flaubert declared that George Sand is "a great cow full of ink." Gore Vidal once called Capote "a full-fledged housewife from Kansas with all the prejudices", and on hearing that his long-term foe had died, allegedly responded: "It was a good career move."

Jane Austen where Mark Twain was concerned, "Every time I read *Pride and Prejudice*, I want to dig her up and beat her over the skull with her own shin-bone." Said Evelyn Waugh of Marcel Proust, "Very poor stuff. I think he was mentally defective.

Oscar Wilde said, "There are two ways of disliking poetry; one way is to dislike it, the other is to read Pope".

After Mary McCarthy declared Lillian Hellman to be overrated, famously adding "Every word she writes is a lie, including 'and' and 'the'." Hellman sued her for defamation, but didn't live long enough face her in court.

You've been warned – never cross an author.

--Information gleaned from a Hephzibah Anderson article in BBC--

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## **Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

**Coffee at 9:45      Meeting at 10:00**

We meet in the St. Luke's Methodist Church at NW 15<sup>th</sup> and Harvey, Oklahoma City.

Enter through the north door by handicap parking and go to Room 130.

**February Speaker:** *Eric Reitan*

**Topic:** Wrestling with Big Ideas in Your Writing: Prospects and Pitfalls.

## January Meeting Notes

by Lorelei Sawtelle, Secretary

**The regular monthly meeting** of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on January 21, 2017, at 10:15 a.m. in room 130. We will continue to meet at this venue on the third Saturday of each month through December of 2017.

**President Shelley Pagach** called the meeting to order.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** were approved as published.

**Treasurer Nelda Paden** submitted her report for the previous month. Our balance is currently \$2473.16. It was approved as read.

**Old Items of Business were discussed as follows:**

**1. Not that it is exactly OLD business, but OWFI's 2017 contest is ongoing.** Get your entries turned in by January 31!

**2. Tracy Schafer** introduced our guests, there were several

**3. We need a contest chair for this year. Marcia Preston** volunteered for this labor-intensive position.

**4. OWFI conference is \$175 if paid before March 15<sup>th</sup>.** Scholarships are available. Apply between Feb 1 and March 15 for that scholarship. [WWW.OWFI.org](http://WWW.OWFI.org)

**5. OWFI is May 5-6, 2017, at the Embassy Suites on South Meridian in OKC.**

**6. Fiction Writers' Retreat June 17, 2017.** [www.fictionwritersretreat.com](http://www.fictionwritersretreat.com) It will be at Rose State Conference Center formerly known as the Tom Steed Center.

**7. At the Edmond Museum there will be a book show today from 1-3. Today (Jan 21) at the Old Armory.**

**8. Pray for Carol Muirhead's husband he has stage 4 cancer.**

**9. Marlys Gallagher is publishing a book called The Color Sable.**

**Items of new business were as follows:**

**John Biggs** introduced this month's speaker, **John Biggs**.

His presentation was titled The Oklahoma Book Awards. Everyone should pay the \$25 (and six copies) and send in a book if you get it published this year. Deadline is January 6, so you have almost a year to get it written, published, and submitted. There is a dinner where you meet other Oklahoma Book Award authors and sign your books—if you're one of the finalists. The book/author must have an Oklahoma connection.

Oklahoma Center for the Book was established in 1986. Their website is [WWW.ODL.state.ok.us/ocb](http://WWW.ODL.state.ok.us/ocb). This entity exists to connect readers with writers. The Friends of Oklahoma Center for the Book hosts events to promote books. The deadline to enter was January 6<sup>th</sup> for books published last year. The Library of Congress started the Oklahoma Center for the Book. The National Book Festival is the next step. He recommended that we try to get reviewed in the Library Journal. John also encouraged us to get our short stories published on DuoTropes.com. This is an excellent venue for getting short stories published. A copy of one of John's books is available on audiobook. (*Fallen Angels*).

*Zoetrope* is a short-fiction magazine founded by Francis Coppola.

Categories in the Oklahoma Center for the Book contest are: Children's books, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Young Adult, and Design Illustration.

