President’s Message
Shelley Pagach

The OWFI conference has come and gone once again. I still haven’t recovered. I think this is the best one so far. The Basket Wars went off without a hitch. Thank you to Lorelei Sawtelle, Linda Shelby, Jane Wood and everyone who donating to the OCWI baskets. We were well represented! Traci Schaffer did a bang up job coordinating the pitch room, offering worry stones and chocolate—a great combination. I was also proud to hear so many OWCI members win in the contest. I'm proud to say OWCI brought home 24 awards this year. Congratulations to all of our fine winners!

Here are just a few of the quotes I marked down throughout the weekend:
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* Writing is never wasted, because writing is like a muscle, it must be exercised.

* Don't let your characters go to sleep at the end of a chapter, because your reader will think they can go to sleep too!
* The Cliche shelf—don't take the first thing that comes to mind. Start with the cliche, then change it!

* People need to know where they are in time and place—remember: what it looks like, smells like, and who's sleeping with whom :)

* Quote attributed to Elmer Leonard: When asked why his books are so popular, he answered, "I don't write the parts people skip."

April notes by Lorelei Sawtelle

Chuck Sasser’s passion for freedom of speech was obvious in his presentation. According to the World Press Index, the U.S. ranks 46th in the world. The pressure from the politically correct left censures us to the degree that we begin to self-censor.

Nowhere is the First Amendment under greater threat than on our colleges and universities when it comes to freedom of speech. Two-thirds of U.S. colleges have enacted strict speech codes which specify which types of “free” speech are permitted and which may be offensive and therefore proscribed. We are now a nation of hyper-sensitive extremists who cannot tolerate any opinion differing from our own? Our Freedom of Speech is only one of the basic freedoms that is being eroded away.

According Dr. Benjamin Franklin said, "If we do not hang together, we shall most assuredly hang separately!"

May Speaker: MARY COLEY

TOPIC: Writing Suspense. How to keep the reader turning pages

Elected Officers
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2016 OWFI Alternates:
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Member News

John J. Dwyer’s book one of Shortgrass will released nationally, Thursday, May 25 at the Full Circle Bookstore.

John Biggs won The Metro Library’s contest. Two of his stories will be featured in the first issue of their new Literary Magazine.

Kathleen Listman had two flash fiction pieces accepted for the Doorknobs & Bodypaint 86 anthology which will be published at the end of May.

Kathy Gibbs’s Journey of the Cheyenne Warrior was chosen by Barnes & Noble for its 2nd Annual Local Authors Showcase book signing May 6. She has been invited to speak on the role of the Cheyenne women in the 1800’s at the Black Kettle Museum in Cheyenne, OK, On June 4. Kathy spoke about Varina Howell Davis, wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis at the Civil War Roundtable club.

Barbara Shepherd will be hosting the Fiction Writers Retreat in Midwest City on Saturday, June 17th, in the Tom Steed Center, Midwest City. She had poetry readings in Shawnee and the Oklahoma Poetry Society. Barbara won a first place, a citation, and 3 HMs at the Poetry Society of Oklahoma.

“‘The first time I read an excellent book, it is to me just as if I had gained a new friend. When I read over a book I have perused before, it resembles the meeting with an old one.”

~~ Oliver Goldsmith

I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book.

~~ Groucho Marx
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, May 20, 2017
Coffee at 9:45    Meeting at 10:00
We meet in the St. Luke’s Methodist Church at NW 15th and Harvey, Oklahoma City.
Enter through the north door by handicap parking and go to Room 130.

May Speaker:     Mary Coley

Topic: Writing Suspense: How to keep the reader turning pages
OWFI 2017 Awards

CATEGORY 1 – POETRY, UNRHYMED-SHORT
3rd HM: "Season's Grace" by Terri Lynn Cummings

CATEGORY 2 – POETRY, UNRHYMED-LONG
FIRST PLACE: "To Whom... etc." by Judith S. Rycroft
THIRD PLACE: "How to Leave" by Maria Veres
3rd HM: "Martha, I am Sorry" by Robbie White

CATEGORY 4 – POETRY, RHYMED-LONG
FIRST PLACE: "Sunday Suppers on the Farm" by Shelley Anne Richter
THIRD PLACE: "Wayward Bloom" by Judith S. Rycroft
1st HM: "Miscommunication" by Julia Harmon

CATEGORY 5 – ESSAY
THIRD PLACE: "On Taking Ourselves Less Seriously" by Maria Veres

CATEGORY 6 – TECHNICAL AND/OR HOW-TO ARTICLE
SECOND PLACE: "Beans: A Healthy Cook's BFF" by Maria Veres

CATEGORY 11 – FLASH FICTION
SECOND PLACE: "Aphrodite's Tears" by Brenda Clark Thomas

CATEGORY 12 – SHORT-SHORT STORY (ADULT): FICTION
3rd HM: "Dodging Death" by Gail Mattingly

CATEGORY 15 – SHORT STORY (ADULT): FICTION
THIRD PLACE: "Anatomy of a Divorce" by Mariana Llanos
1st HM: "Settling Up with Shirley" by Gail Mattingly

CATEGORY 17 – HORROR SHORT STORY: FICTION
FIRST PLACE: "The Surrogate" by Brenda Clark Thomas
1st HM: "The Dark Inside" by Shelley Anne Richter

CATEGORY 18 – PROSE HUMOR: FICTION OR NONFICTION
1st HM: "The Proofreader" by Shelley Anne Richter

CATEGORY 21 – MIDDLE GRADE BOOK: FICTION OR NONFICTION
SECOND PLACE: Writing Prompts Through the Year by Maria Veres

CATEGORY 23 – NEW ADULT NOVEL
FIRST PLACE: The Anuan Legacy by Traci Ison Schafer

CATEGORY 24 – MAINSTREAM NOVEL: FICTION
2nd HM: Undelivered Letters by Linda Shelby

CATEGORY 29 – HORROR NOVEL
THIRD PLACE: And It Was Night by Joe Jared

CATEGORY 30 – NONFICTION BOOK
SECOND PLACE: The Miscarriage Survival Guide by Maria VeresInc.

BEST FICTION BOOK
A Splinter in Time by Linda Shelby