

# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

## May Speaker: MARY COLEY

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

Mary Coley wrote her first 'book', a spy novel in the eighth grade. That one wasn't published, but it clearly wasn't going to be her last effort. Her first published book, *Environmentalism: How You Can Make a Difference* won the OWFI award for Best Juvenile Book of 2009 (published). She followed that with two adult collections of short stories, *Naked Ladies* and *Beneath a Wild Sky* in 2013. Mary has four published novels—*Cobwebs* (2014, Wheatmark) a New Mexico Arizona Book Awards finalist, *Ant Dens* (2015, Wheatmark) a New Mexico Arizona Book Awards finalist & Oklahoma Book Awards finalist, *Beehives* (2016, Wheatmark) a New Mexico Arizona Book Awards finalist, and *The Ravine* (2016, Wild Rose Press).

## 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:

\* 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 cliché, 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."

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**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 censors 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!"

## Elected Officers

**President: Shelley Pagach,**  
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## Appointed Officers

**Newsletter: Inez Phillips,**

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**Publicity Chair: Peggy Farris,**

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**Webmaster: Lorelei Sawtelle &  
Bill Boudreau**

**Nominating Chair: TBA**

**Yearbook Chair: Shelley**

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**Historian: Office of the President**

**OWFI Reporter: Wayne Harris-**

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**Audio/Visual: Bill Boudreau,**

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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

**John J. Dwyer's** book one of *Shortgrass* will be 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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

**Inez Phillips**  
**6200 N. Quapah Avenue**  
**Oklahoma City OK 73112**

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

