

# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

## July Speaker: Bonnie Lanthripe

### Topic: Do as I say not as I do

Bonnie Lanthripe has a BA in Theater from University of Central Oklahoma and a Masters in Creative Writing, also from UCO.

She has been published in several inspirational anthologies and Daily Devotions for Writers.

Although she has been writing for a long time, Bonnie's book, *The Ringleader*, a MG/YA adventure mystery, was published as a result of her first ever pitch at the 2013 OWFI Writer's conference. Released in 2014, a set of bizarre circumstances led to an agreement with a screen writer in Los Angeles who is currently shopping a screen play to film companies.

*The Ringleader: Legend of Fury*, a sequel, was released on Christmas day in 2016. A third book is a possibility.

Bonnie is currently working on a historic romance novel.

Bonnie has also played starring roles in the local Jewel Box Theater, and other venues. Her latest role (that I am aware of) was Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

## President's Message: Shelley Pagach

I worked for a man who always set goals. Every task was a high priority. If one goal was reached, another one took its place. He never stopped to enjoy the successes. Always onto the next target. Exhausting. What a waste. I was twenty-something. I knew nothing.

Looking back, I understand his drive. You reach a place in your life where you realize time is short. As an expert procrastinator, I know this more than most, because I usually wait until the last minute to do things. Why? Partly fear, mostly habit. It's a choice. A poor choice, but a choice nonetheless. I'm better, but not completely. My president's message is still written the day it's due. Ah well, I at least keep Inez on her toes.

I set myself a writing challenge this last month. 30 days to rewrite my current project. I have two major changes and a lot of critiques to add. At my current pace, I was looking at six months, if I'm lucky. But, I'm ready to find an agent, and I can't do that if I can't say \*Why yes, my manuscript is complete\*. So, 30 days was set. As I write this message, I am at day 18 and well ahead of schedule. I'm excited to realize all it takes it to put my mind to something and I can get it done. I don't have to sit and ponder, wonder, wait, overthink, deliberate, weigh the outcome, nothing. I just open my file, find my place, and edit. You know what I'm going to do when I finish this challenge? Set another one. I don't know what it will be, but I have figured out if I don't have something to look forward to, I don't have the desire to do my best. Hmm...maybe my boss was onto something after all.

## May Meeting Notes

Lorelei Sawtelle, Secretary

### Business:

1. The yearbook is ready. Contact Traci Schafer or Shelley Pagach if you didn't get your copy in the mail. They are free with your paid membership.
2. Think about volunteering for an office or a committee position or board member. Please consider being an OWFI delegate. We also will be having a few offices open including programming VP, a full-time webmaster, and newsletter.
3. Sheila \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lawton Newspaper is here. If you plan a book signing in Lawton, contact her at least a month in advance; she can help.
4. Bill Bernhardt will once again orchestrate the Rose State Writing Conference in September. OWFI will have a new virtual workshop August 3, 2017 @ 7:00p.m. TOR Editor Bess Cozby will be the speaker.

### New or Continuing Items of Business:

1. Our next contest will be here before we know it. Start getting those entries ready. It starts in exactly 2 months.

John Biggs introduced himself as the June speaker. John Dwyer had an emergency and was unable to attend.

Magic Realism literature includes usually a single magic element in the narrative and everything else is realism. The magical element often has a non-magical explanation.

A good example of MR is Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Magical thinking comes naturally to children. Many of us had imaginary or invisible friends when we were children. PET scans have revealed that a criminal's mind has different parts that light up more when shown pictures or asked questions i.e. "How do you feel when you see \_\_\_\_\_?" Normal people sometimes experience neurological variants called synesthesia which causes "victims" to blend senses so that musical notes may have a taste or smell, numbers have specific colors, sounds may cause physical sensations. We all have a touch of it: **Hearing Touch Synesthesia**—certain sounds cause a goose bump feeling. **Mirror Touch Synesthesia**—is a form of empathy.

He also explained that many things differentiate the human race: tool making, ability to make fire, awareness of death, cruelty. One thing not normally considered is Magical Thinking.

Victims of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy have seizures during which they have deeply spiritual experiences. Many inmates have seizure disorders as do many great leaders. This region is often called The God Spot. Stimulating this region magnetically and electronically can reproduce brain activity similar to what occurs during meditation or when taking hallucinogenic drugs like psilocybin, LSD, or good old-fashioned peyote. Spiritual experiences are so consistent across cultures, across time and across faith, that it suggests a reflection of structures and processes in the human brain.

Humans are hardwired to believe in magic.

Psychoactive plants are in all his writing. In John's books, these plants aren't not used recreationally, but spiritually. When a Holy Man had a "patient" or "client" with a serious problem, the holy man took the drug to go to the spiritual world to see what the patient's problem was. He would get advice on the problem and or the solution and bring that solution to the patient.

The Native American Church started by Quanah Parker Comanche Chief. He became chief after the battle of Palo Duro Canyon where the military killed all their horses and forced them to freeze and starve.

If you are going to write magical realism, throw in some Native Americans. One of the things that you run across if you study Native American Magical Realism, is witchcraft. One of John's first experiences with a Choctaw about NA idiosyncrasy was with a man who asked about pics of owls in the office—who would not come in to be treated if there were owl pics.

A Choctaw belief is shape shifting. A belief among the Navajo is that there are people who turn into wolves or coyotes. Holy people of all tribes often had the ability to become invisible.

## **Elected Officers**

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## **OWFI Alternates:**

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## Member News

**Barbara Shepherd's** professional activities include co-hosting the Fiction Writers Retreat in Midwest City, Updating websites for Wordwrights-OKC Christian Writers and Fiction Writers Retreat. She is scheduled to read juried poems in July at IAO in OKC for Woody Guthrie Festival. Barbara won Second Place in Poetry for "The Greening" and Second Place in Short Fiction for "Painting on Safari" at the AR-NLAPW Arkansas Writers' Conference.

**Tracy Shafer** still Skypes with her critique group in Ohio. Her group called the Plot Sisters will be panelists at the Antioch Writers' Workshop taking place July 8-14, at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. We'll be discussing how to have a successful critique group.

**Gordon Greene** will be presenting a program for Sunday, August 6th at First Unitarian Church called "Ethics on Horseback: What I Learned from Hoppy, Gene & Roy." The program will be in lieu of the 11 A.M. Sunday Service.

### Gordon Is Back

It has been well over a decade since Gordon Greene has been active in Oklahoma City Writers. He served as president twice and led the fight against the IRS. They thought we should be paying employment taxes, Social Security, etc. on all our employees. He had to convince them that we pay no salaries.

Gordon is a past president of OWFI and an Honorary Life Member. He has written books and articles. He is a former professional actor, director and playwright.

I try to create sympathy for my characters, then turn the monsters loose.

– Stephen King

It is perfectly okay to write garbage—as long as you edit brilliantly.

– C. J. Cherryh

## Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, July 15, 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.

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