

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

September Speaker:

Nikki Hanna

Topic: The Joy of Writing

When asked to describe herself in one sentence, Nikki Hanna said, "I'm a metropolitan gal who never quite reached the level of sophistication and refinement that label implies." The contradictions reflected in this description are the basis of her humorous prose.

After retiring from forty-some years in corporate America, Hanna became a writer and has formed her own publishing company. She describes her writing as, "rich with irreverent, quirky humor and peppered with strong messages." Her primary audience is women over fifty and writers. As an author, teacher, writing coach, and speaker, she is dedicated to inspiring others and offers workshops and presentations on aging, writing, leadership, and women's issues.

In addition to numerous awards for poetry, essays, and short stories, Hanna is the recipient of Oklahoma Writers' Federation's *Crème de la Crème* Award, Rose State College's Outstanding Writer Award, the National Indie Excellence Book Award, and the International Book Excellence Award. She is a finalist in the USA Best Book Award. Her books are available on Amazon and Kindle.

President's Message

by Shelley Pagach

I had a password security question one time that asked, what is your favorite movie? Seriously!?! I had to think how far back I had set the password and what movies may or may not have been on at the time. My favorite is usually the last best movie I've seen. IT CHANGES. Of course, I locked myself out of the website and had to seek tech support. When they reset my password, I found out my answer to the security question was "ALL OF THEM."

There was plenty of good writing advice listed in response to question posted:

- *Outline
 - *Write everyday
 - *Join a critique group
 - *Write what you know
 - *Write what you want to read
 - *Use writing prompts, or free write
 - *Figure out your stakes, then put a million pitfalls in the way
 - *The first draft is going to be crap, get it on paper and edit later
- Then, there were a several I had never heard before:
- *Don't let your grandmother's ghost look over your shoulder.
 - *Talk to your keyboard like you talk to a friend.
 - *Your first line should tell your story.

I don't have one "best" piece of writing advice, because each step of this journey has been built on advice I needed the moment that I needed it. So, I'd have to say the best writing advice I have received is "ALL OF IT."

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"When I graduated from high school I couldn't go to college, so I went to the library 3 days a week for 10 years."

—Ray Bradbury

## Member News

**Barbara Shepherd's** poem, "The Changing Face of War" was published in the anthology, *Ain't Gonna Be Treated This Way: Celebrating Woody Guthrie, Poems of Protest & Resistance*.

## Coming in October

Author/Editor Alicia Dean a.k.a. Ally Robertson will show us some simple, fun ways to promote ourselves and our books.

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Writers Symposium 2017

"A Celebration of Writers and Writing"

September 22-23, 2017

Organized by New York Times-bestselling author William Bernhardt, this conference will feature more than twenty writers, agents, editors, publicists, and other publishing professionals offering presentations, advice, and private consultations designed to help every participant achieve their writing dreams.

The symposium will include sessions on nonfiction, children's books, young adult, fantasy, mystery, history, novels, audiobooks, poetry, and songwriting, as well as programs and tutorials covering the business aspects of writing as well as emerging trends and innovations. All levels of writing skills are welcome to attend.

Contact Rose State College for enrollment information.

Conference registration: \$149

Time's Up

One of our speakers told us that she thinks of deadlines as elephants. They come toward her as time to finish her project grows short.

The deadline for our fall contest is this Saturday, September 16. You might say the elephant is whacking its trunk on the side of your house.

You can mail your entry to:
Marcia Preston
3800 Bonaire Place
Edmond, OK 73013

You may bring your entries to the September 16 meeting.

Remember—every entry must have an official coversheet, filled out and signed by the entrant. The coversheet can be downloaded from the internet or you can copy the one with the newsletter. A check for \$10 must accompany your entries.

The rules and categories are in the Membership Directory. If you have questions, you can call Marcia Preston, the contest chair at 348-3325.

Good luck! Winning is a wonderful thing.

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*“And what, you ask, does writing teach us? First and foremost, it reminds us that we are alive and that it is a gift and a privilege, not a right.”*

—Ray Bradbury

## OWFI Update

Celebrating Our Legacy: Forging Our Future is the theme of the May 4 & 5, 2018, Spring Conference. Since this is the 50th anniversary of the organization, the president and board are working to make this a special event.

The keynote speaker will be Jay Asher. His debut YA novel, *Thirteen Reasons Why*, is a #1 New York Times and USA Today bestseller. In 2017, it was released as a Netflix original series. His second YA novel, *The Future of Us*, was co-authored with Printz-honor winner Carolyn Mackler. His third YA novel, *What Light*, was released in 2016. And his first graphic novel, *Piper*, will be released on Halloween in 2017. His books are published in 40 languages.

Watch the OWFI website for more information about the conference.

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“No one put a gun to your head and ordered you to become a writer. One writes out of his own choice and must be prepared to take the rough spots along the road with a certain equanimity, though allowed some grinding of the teeth.”

—Stanley Ellin

“Easy reading is damn hard writing.”

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Failure is success if we learn from it.”

—Malcolm Forbes

“Good writing is rewriting.”

—Truman Capote

I
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Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, September 16, 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.

July Speaker: *Nikki Hanna*

Topic: The Joy of Writing

