

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

November Speaker:

Marcia Preston

Topic: Annual Contest Awards

Marcia Preston's career answers the burning question: What can you do with an English degree? She has edited two national magazines, taught high school English, served as PR director for a museum, and freelanced for a long list of publications. Her six novels have been published in at least seven languages and have earned a Mary Higgins Clark Award, an Oklahoma Book Award for Fiction, and four OWFI Best Book of Fiction awards. Her next, titled *The Spiderling*, is due out in 2018. She's a past president and honorary life member of both Oklahoma City Writers and OWFI, as well as a gardener, amateur lepidopterist and birdwatcher.



Good news! Shelley contacted St. Luke's and we are scheduled in the same room (130) for 2018.



President's Message

by Shelley Pagach

November is National Novel Writers Month, NaNoWriMo for short. It's when you set aside your life to write 50,000 words in 30 days. I have accepted this challenge for several years now, and have won at least twice. It's a great way to turn off your inner editor and just put words on a page.

At the same time, it can be very daunting. I'm struggling this year, because my plate is too full. I'm juggling too many balls to do the challenge justice. But... I now have a list of project ideas I've been wanting to flesh out. I have a complete outline for one of them, which I didn't have before. And I have almost 8,000 new words.

I'm finding moments to write, when I wouldn't normally think of writing. It's amazing how much you can get done when you only have a few minutes to spare.

This challenge shows how important it is to set goals, but it's also important to be proud of the effort even when you don't quite hit the mark. I may not end up with 50,000 words, but I'll have more new words than I did before I began. I can work with that.



Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good.

~~William Faulkner

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Shelley Pagach, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com

OWFI Alternates:

Carolyn Leonard, 740-1632, buffalo234@cox.net

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+++ Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. ~~Confucius

The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest."

~~William Blake

## Coming in December

**Marcia Preston**

**Topic—TBA**

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Once you receive the critiques for your contest entries, it is a good time to polish them for the OWFI contest.

Deadline for entries is February 1, 2018.

For rules and entry procedures, go to the OWFI website and click on the contest heading.

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Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.

~~Erma Bombeck

I like football. I find it's an exciting strategic game. It's a great way to avoid conversation with your family at Thanksgiving.

~~Craig Ferguson

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.

~~Albert Einstein

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

~~Oprah Winfrey

I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual.

~~Henry David Thoreau

## Member News

**John Dwyer** won first place in the national Will Rogers Medallion awards in the Western Nonfiction Category for his book, *The Oklahomans: The Story of Oklahoma and Its People, Vol. 1, Ancient to Statehood*. The Will Rogers Medallion Award recognizes excellence in western literature and media.

Charles Williams, Executive Director, while announcing the awards, described Dwyer's book as "One of the best books we've ever seen in any category of our competition."

**Maria Veres's** third poetry book, *Church People*, has been published. She spoke at Pen and Keyboard Writers in October on "Conquering the Blank Page." She is publishing monthly Q&A guest blog posts at [MakeALivingWriting.com](http://MakeALivingWriting.com).

**Shelley Anne Richter** won the following in the Ozark Creative Writers Contest: 1st place Middle Reader Book "*Bring On the Parade*"; 2nd place Inspirational "*A Dog Named Wide Load*"; 2nd place poetry "*My Life is Over...Poof! Just Like That*"; 2nd place Juvenile Short Story "*Bigfoot and the Latch-Key Kid*"; HM Essay "*Tough Enough*"; HM Article "*The Virtuoso*".

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At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

~~Albert Schweitzer

Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.

~~A.A. Milne

After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relatives.

~~Oscar Wilde

You may mail your \$25 dues to the treasurer or hand it to her at a meeting. Only dues paid **after** September 16, 2017 are counted as 2018 dues.

Nelda Paden, Treasurer
621 NW 32nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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How do you want your newsletter? _____ snail mail _____ email

November 2017

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

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, November 18, 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.

November Speaker: Marcia Preston

Topic: Annual Contest Awards Presentation

