November Speaker:
Marcia Preston

Topic: Novel Structure

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.

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The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

-Melody Beattie

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

-Arthur Ashe

President’s Message
by Shelley Pagach

Thank your so much for a wonderful two years. I might be a little biased, but I think we have the best writing group around. I've learned so much, and made many new friends. December is always a sentimental time for me. Goodbyes even more so. But this isn't goodbye. Not by a long shot. So, I'm wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and leaving you with a bit of fortune cookie wisdom: Laugh, and the world laughs with you. Snore, and you sleep alone.

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I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did. —Yogi Berra

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall'!

— Dave Barry
**Elected Officers**

President: Shelley Pagach, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com  
1st VP, Programs: John Biggs, 728-0198, johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com  
2nd VP, Membership: Traci Ison  
Schafer, 937-760-8446, traci1@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: Nelda Paden, 833-2611, neldapaden@aol.com  
Secretary: Lorelei Sawtelle, 317-7845, lsawtelle@cox.net

**Appointed Officers**

Newsletter: Inez Phillips, 946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net  
Publicity Chair: Peggy Farris, 203-0284, wwillows@pldi.net  
Webmaster: Lorelei Sawtelle & Bill Boudreau  
Nominating Chair: TBA  
Yearbook Chair: Shelley Pagach, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com  
Contest Chair: Marcia Preston, 570-3824, marcia@marciapreston.com  
Historian: Office of the President  
OWFI Reporter: TBA  
Workshop Chair: John Biggs, 728-0198, johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com  
Audio/Visual: Bill Boudreau, 946-6588, billboudreau@flash.net

**OWFI Delegates**

Linda Shelby, 390-1451, okielas@aol.com  
Shelley Pagach, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com

**OWFI Alternates:**  
Carolyn Leonard, 740-1632, buffalo234@cox.net

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Santa Claus has the right idea- visit people only once a year.  
–Victor Borge

The two most joyous times of the year are Christmas morning and the end of school.  
–Alice Cooper

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.  
–Mark Twain

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**2017 Contest Results**

**Humor:** Judge – Robyn Conley  
1st place, “Coon Hunters” – Gail Mattingly  
2nd place, “Are Men Necessary?” – Lynda Stephenson  
3rd place, “Lincoln Park” – Judith Rycroft

**Inspirational:** Judge – Melanie Hemry  
1st place, “Ann” – Judith Rycroft  
2nd place, “West Memphis” – Kathleen Listman  
3rd place, “Robin Redbreast Family” – Charles Richter  
HM, “A Colossal Mistake” – Sylvia Forbes

**Juvenile:** Judge – Gwendolyn Hooks  
1st place, “The Riddle of the Golden Kid” – Nda-jiya M. Suberu  
2nd place, “The Other Twin” – Mary Flowers Brannon  
3rd place, “Thirteen” – Vivian Finley Nida  
1st HM, “Oink! Chomp! Splash!” – Barbara Shepherd  
2nd HM, “My Earliest Fine-Art Memory” – Skye Brannon Lucking

**Essay:** Judge – Gordon Greene  
1st place, “A Skunk by Any Other Name Would Smell as Sweet” – Lynda Stevenson  
2nd place, “To Go or Not to Go” – Gail Mattingly  
3rd place, “Oscar Moments” – Mary Flowers Brannon

**Poetry:** Judge – Sandra Soli  
1st place, “Saffron” – Cynthia Boyd  
2nd place, “Instructions to the Reader: Herta Muller Intertwined in Brain Space with White Space” – Doris Beaton  
3rd place, “Whistle Blower” – Carol Muirhead

**Short story:** Judge – Jeff Spelman  
1st place, “Daffodil Waltz” – Barbara Shepherd  
2nd place, “Round Trip” – Lynda Stephenson  
3rd place, “Alli” – Kathleen Listman  
1st HM, “Eight Ball, Corner Pocket” – Lisbeth McCarty  
2nd HM, “Becoming Dr. Myra” – Onis L. Cox

( cont’d on page 3 )
**Flash Fiction:** Judge – Wayne Wyrick
1st place, “The Moment” – John Biggs
2nd place, “The Ram” – Barbara Shepherd
3rd place, “Glow” – Lisbeth McCarty

**Feature Article:** Judge – Lynda Haller
1st place, “Out for an Afternoon Stroll” – Sylvia Forbes
2nd place, “Blood Suckers” – Gail Mattingly
3rd place, “Why Appeal a Jury Verdict?” – Lisbeth McCarty
HM, “William Scott Receives Quilt of Valor” – Barbara Shepherd

**Nostalgia:** Judge – Nathan Gunter
1st place, “On Leaving the Freeway” – Kathleen Listman
2nd place, “Yellow Card Table” – Carol Muirhead
3rd place, “As We Become Our Mothers” – Lynda Stephenson
HM, “Madam” – Judith Rycroft
HM, “Buster Brown” – Vivian Finley Nida

**Adult Book:** Judge – Linda Apple
1st place, *The Murder House* – John Biggs
2nd place, *Galen’s Gift* – Paulette Henderson
3rd place, *The Bowels of Paris* – Kathleen Listman
HM, *Valor* – Margy Pezdirtz

**Juvenile Book:** Judge – Anna Myers
*Only four entries, so according to our contest rules, no cash was awarded, but the judge did name a first place.*
1st place, *Reinventing Maria* – Kathleen Listman

**Crème de la Crème Award:** Judge – Sonia Gensler.
“On Leaving the Freeway,” (Nostalgia category), by Kathleen Listman

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Kathy Gibbs** spoke on the history of the Chisholm Trail for a retired engineers group on Nov. 15. She gave an after dinner speech on the Battle of Franklin for her Civil War Round Table group on Nov. 16. Kathy had a book signing in Duncan on October 21.

A couple of years ago **John Biggs** liked a Facebook page. The Writer’s Block Radio Show sent John an invitation to do a radio interview. He had just released *Popsicle Styx* and was about to release *Sacred Alarm Clock*. The hosts sent a form to fill out that allowed them to hit all the high points the writer wanted brought up. They asked for copies of the book (or books) being discussed and, in John’s case, they actually seemed to have read them.

You can contact the show through Facebook. The programs are podcasts and the interviewees are given a link to use as promotional material. There is a call in feature on the show, but unless the writer has arranged for call ins, there probably won't be many.

**Barbara Shepherd** had an article, “William Scott Receives Quilt of Valor” in the *Stillwater News Press, Her blog “Vittles & Vignettes”, “Patchwork Skin”, and “Writing Tips” appeared on Prosateurs Blog*
Barbara’s book *River Bend* to be released December 6, 2017 as a mainstream historical novel published by The Wild Rose Press (print and digital)
Barbara presented a PowerPoint program at Mid-Oklahoma Writers – “Character Tailoring: From Covered Wagons to Corvettes – Making Your Characters Fit”
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

Name____________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________
City________________________________________ State_____ Zip______________
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Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, December 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.

December Speaker:  Marcia Preston

Topic: Novel Structure