

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

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.



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 you 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.



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

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Workshop Chair: John Biggs, 728-0198, johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com

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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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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

## 2017 Contest Results

**Humor:** Judge – Robyn Conley

1<sup>st</sup> place, “Coon Hunters” – Gail Mattingly

2<sup>nd</sup> place, “Are Men Necessary?” – Lynda Stephenson

3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Lincoln Park” – Judith Rycroft

**Inspirational:** Judge – Melanie Henry

1<sup>st</sup> place, “Ann” – Judith Rycroft

2<sup>nd</sup> place, “West Memphis” – Kathleen Listman

3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Robin Redbreast Family” – Charles Richter

HM, “A Colossal Mistake” – Sylvia Forbes

**Juvenile:** Judge – Gwendolyn Hooks

1<sup>st</sup> place, “The Riddle of the Golden Kid” – Nda-jiya M. Suberu

2<sup>nd</sup> place, “The Other Twin” – Mary Flowers Brannon

3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Thirteen” – Vivian Finley Nida

1<sup>st</sup> HM, “Oink! Chomp! Splash!” – Barbara Shepherd

2<sup>nd</sup> HM, “My Earliest Fine-Art Memory” – Skye Brannon Lucking

**Essay:** Judge – Gordon Greene

1<sup>st</sup> place, “A Skunk by Any Other Name Would Smell as Sweet” – Lynda Stevenson

2<sup>nd</sup> place, “To Go or Not to Go” – Gail Mattingly

3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Oscar Moments” – Mary Flowers Brannon

**Poetry:** Judge – Sandra Soli

1<sup>st</sup> place, “Saffron” – Cynthia Boyd

2<sup>nd</sup> place, “Instructions to the Reader: Herta Muller Intertwined in Brain Space with White Space” – Doris Beaton

3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Whistle Blower” – Carol Muirhead

**Short story:** Judge – Jeff Spelman

1<sup>st</sup> place, “Daffodil Waltz” – Barbara Shepherd

2<sup>nd</sup> place, “Round Trip” – Lynda Stephenson

3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Alli” – Kathleen Listman

1<sup>st</sup> HM, “Eight Ball, Corner Pocket” – Lisbeth McCarty

2<sup>nd</sup> HM, “Becoming Dr. Myra” – Onis L. Cox

(cont'd on page 3)

**Flash Fiction:** Judge – Wayne Wyrick  
1<sup>st</sup> place, “The Moment” – John Biggs  
2<sup>nd</sup> place, “The Ram” – Barbara Shepherd  
3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Glow” – Lisbeth McCarty

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

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

HM, “Buster Brown” – Vivian Finley Nida

**Adult Book:** Judge – Linda Apple  
1<sup>st</sup> place, *The Murder House* – John Biggs  
2<sup>nd</sup> place, *Galen’s Gift* – Paulette  
Henderson  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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.*  
1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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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.

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**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”

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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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December 2017

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

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

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