
OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

March Speakers:

*Lorilei Sawtelle, Shelley Pagach
Traci Schafer, Maria Veres
Linda Shelby*

Topic: Everything You Have Always
Wanted to Know About **Critique
Groups** but Were Afraid to Ask

OKC Writers Group is bringing four local authors together in a panel discussion on critique groups March 17, 2017. Moderator Lorelei Sawtelle will be joined by Shelley Pagach (Bethany, Oklahoma), coordinator of The Gypsy Writers critique group, Traci Ison Schafer (Moore, Oklahoma), founding member of The Plot Sisters critique group, Maria Veres (Edmond, Oklahoma), a member of The Dotted I's critique group, and Linda Shelby (Choctaw, Oklahoma), a member of The Tuesday Morning Critique group. Linda Shelby expresses the attitude of the group when she credits publication of her stories to a great critique group that doesn't hesitate to "murder my darlings." Between them, these authors hold several published novels, works of poetry, and electronic books. They are represented on the awards lists of multiple writing competitions and best seller lists. All are active in the Oklahoma writing community, including OKC Writers and OWFI.

LAST CALL

2018 Dues are due **now** if you want to be included in the Membership Directory and continue receiving the newsletter. You may hand them to Nelda at the meeting or mail your \$25 to:

**Nelda Paden, Treasurer
621 NW 32nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 20118**

President's Message

by Traci Schafer

Did you know?

At the University of Wisconsin, a group of men formed a writing critique group. They were brutal in their critiques of each other's work and even named themselves The Stranglers. At the same school during the same time period, a group of women also formed a writing critique group, naming themselves The Wranglers. Their approach, however, was different. Instead of being ruthless with their comments, they delivered them in a constructive and positive manner. When the university did a study on their alumni some twenty years later, they found that at least six of The Wranglers had found success in writing, with some even achieving national acclaim. How many of The Stranglers had achieve writing success?

None.

Remember this story when contemplating critique groups with us at our March meeting. See you there.

"I love criticism just so long as it's unqualified praise." --Noel Coward

"You can't let praise or criticism get to you. It's a weakness to get caught up in either one." --John Wooden

Elected Officers

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OWFI Alternates:

Carolyn Leonard
Marcia Preston

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.”

— Charles William Eliot

OWFI News

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. is an affiliate of OWFI. Affiliate memberships are \$25 and Members-at-Large are \$30. Students are free this year. We will sponsor a category in the contest and participate in the Basket Wars. Funds from the Basket Wars pay for scholarships.

The 2018 Spring Conference is Thursday, May 3 through Saturday May 5. The cost is \$200 after March 15. Depending upon pre-registrations, you may not be able to pay at the door. Registration is ongoing. The costs for extra meetings are:

~~\$125 per day

~~\$25 Thursday evening

~~\$25 for each lunch

50 Years of Characters is the theme for Friday night. Contest winners will be announced Saturday night.

Keynote Speaker Update

Michael Dahl is the author of more than 200 books for children and young adults. He has won numerous awards for his fiction and nonfiction books. He has written *The Everything Kid's Joke Book* and *Gotcha Covered!* (with Kathleen Baxter) on nonfiction books that get kids excited about reading. His Finnegan Zwake mystery series published by Simon & Schuster won rave reviews. *The Chicago Tribune* called it a “wisecracking riot” and “golden!”

He is the author of the bestselling *Bedtime for Batman* and *Goodnight, Football* picture books. His *Library of Doom* adventure series has been the number one hi-lo series read in US schools for years. His latest picture book *Sweet Dreams, Supergirl* was recently reviewed by *Booklist* as “a perfect introductory graphic novel for picture-book readers,” a “guaranteed bedtime favorite for your little supersleeper” and “as admirably diverse as the rest of the series.”

Member News

Traci Isen Shafer (aka Madame President) announced that her science fiction book, *The Anuan Legacy*, is now available on Amazon. She won multiple prizes with the manuscript.

Kathy Gibbs signed copies of her book, *The Last Cowboy*, at Full Circle on February 17.

February Meeting Notes

by
Lorelei Sawtelle, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on February 17, 2018 at 10:15a.m. in room 130. We will continue to meet at this venue on the third Saturday of each month through December of 2018.

President Traci Schafer called the meeting to order and introduced our guests and new members.

Old Items and ongoing items of Business were discussed as follows:
~Nelda Paden gave the treasurer's report. Our balance as of yesterday was \$3376.01.

~Get your 2018 dues paid.

~Traci introduced our guests and new members. We are so glad to have them with us.

~Milton Smith told us about Stillwater's play contest. SNOBIZ123@aol.com Town & Gown Theatre's Troupe d' Jour presents the 5th annual Stillwater Short Play Festival.

~John Biggs introduced our speaker, Bill Wetterman from Edmond.

He spoke on World Building. He encouraged us with wonderful nuggets

to use including, "Do not get discouraged about a review. Take your enthusiasm and run with it. Being a writer is not for the faint of heart. You will be criticized and won't make a lot of money. Writing what you know can get boring. Write what you like and research it. If it interests you, it may interest others. Even the best can improve. The heart of your world and the souls of your story is conflict. Internal and external tension are both important. Power corrupts, so people who are in charge are more likely to be unscrupulous. Majorities are silent; minorities are not. Wealth is never distributed equally. Human needs MUST be met, and humanity will find a way. Food and shelter. Security. Procreation. Happiness. A society that fails to deliver on these to all people will become unstable until the will to restore delivery of these needs across culture (though seldom equally) is regained. He explained about Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Air, water, food, and shelter are the most primitive needs."

In all except one novel my lead characters are female. They are strong, resilient, and tough. Men have power over women. No one is all good or all bad. The weather can be one of the main characters.

When you build your world, make it complex. Without passion there is no excellence.

Embed the word PLAUSIBLE in your mind. Your stories must be believable—not actual. Start with conflict.

Bill now has his own publishing company. *Wild Side Novels* is the name of that company. He does not take royalties, but does this to help other people get published. He continually writes.

Cecil Murphy is a Christian writer. He is a ghost writer. He is very successful writing other people's stories.

We adjourned at approximately 11:45. Several members headed to Hideaway Pizza for lunch.

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

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, March 17, 2018

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.

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