
OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS INC.

May Speaker:

Kathy Gibbs

Topic: The Journey of Kathleen Gibbs

Her topic is a play on the title of one of her books, *Journey of the Cheyenne Warrior* and covers her adventures in marketing her books across several states and several years.

Kathy has a Bachelor's Degree in language arts from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's Degree in Southwestern Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma. She was a high school teacher for 30 years, worked for the Oklahoma Historical Society in Photo Archives, and was State President of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. She is a member of Western Writers of America and lives in Bethany.

As a teacher, she taught English, German, ancient history, world and state geography, humanities, and journalism. Other endeavors include being an archaeologist, a traveler, writer, mother of three, grandmother of eight, and recently great-grandmother of one.

She bends many fascinating details with true historical events in her writings. Her first published historical novel, *Journey of the Cheyenne Warrior*, began her writing career and her second book, *Last Real Cowboy*, was recently published.

President's Message

by Traci Schafer

Between working a full-time job (for some of us), writing, marketing, and all those other things that come with a writer's life, we can sometimes get so consumed with it all that we forget to take a breath and enjoy the beauty of the world around us. With summer in full swing now, I wanted to remind everybody to take time to enjoy it. I think the following poem sums that up nicely:

Upon a nice mid-spring day,
Let's take a look at Nature's way.
Breathe the scent of nice fresh air,
Feel the breeze within your hair.

The grass will poke between your toes,
Smell the flowers with your nose.
Clouds form shapes within the skies,
And light will glisten from your eyes.

Hear the buzzing of the bees,
Climb the tallest willow trees.
Look across the meadow way,
And you shall see a young deer play.

Pick the daisies as they grow,
Watch a gentle cold stream flow.
Know the sounds of water splash,
Catch its glimmer in a flash.

When altogether all seems sound,
Lay yourself upon the ground.
Take a moment to inhale,
And listen to Nature tell her tale...

Nature's Way
© Heidi Campbell

No passion in the world is equal to the passion to alter someone else's draft. ~H.G. Wells

Member News

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Traci Ison Schafer, 937-760-8446, traci1@hotmail.com
Shelley Pagach, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com

OWFI Alternates:

Carolyn Leonard
Marcia Preston

Susan Kite's entry, *A Yankee in King Beauguard's Court*, was a winning entry in the 2018 Collection Contest, Volume 10, entitled *Where Does Your Muse Live?* Her entry will appear in the annual Florida Writers Association collection book.

Gail Mattingly's story "Jarvis and the Bird" won 1st place in the Nevermore Edits contest. The story may be published in an upcoming anthology.

Shelley Anne Richter won 1st place in the OWFI Nonfiction Book category with *In Heistin's Skin*.

Barbara Shepherd's winnings include:
—1st Place in YA Short Story for "The Angler";
3rd Place in Poetry, Unrhymed-Short for "Wind";
3rd HM in Flash Fiction for "The Ram" in the OWFI contest.
—The pitch contest at the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.
—placed in the Top Eight and won performance for stage play night with "Night of Terror," Stillwater Writers
—HM for "A Simpler Time"; HM for "Ravens," Poetry Society of Oklahoma
—1st Place in Short-Short Story for "Octavia's Secret"; 1st Place in Poetry for "Ravens"; 3rd Place in Non-fiction for "Midwife on Call," Mid-Oklahoma Writers.

Your eloquence should be the servant of the ideas in your head. Your rule might be this: If a sentence, no matter how excellent, does not illuminate your subject in some new and useful way, scratch it out. ~Kurt Vonnegut

Writing is rewriting. A writer must learn to deepen characters, trim writing, intensify scenes. To fall in love with the first draft to the point where one cannot change it is to greatly enhance the prospects of never publishing. ~Richard North Patterson

When your story is ready for rewrite, cut it to the bone. Get rid of every ounce of excess fat. This is going to hurt; revising a story down to the bare essentials is always a little like murdering children, but it must be done. ~Stephen King

May Minutes

by
Lorelei Sawtelle

Well, wasn't that awesome? I never contemplated the welfare of the German people who weren't Jews during WW2. My eyes were opened and my heart was saddened by my ignorance. I simply imagined that unless you were Jewish or Catholic, you were okay in Germany during "the war." Not so. Not one little bit true. If you met all those requirements, you might have

had little to fear from your own government, but much to fear from other governments' retaliation to your government's actions. Having Edith and her family with us certainly gave Cecelia Wilson's presentation an extra dose of wow factor. Cecelia put a human face to the pain and suffering that many German families experienced due to the actions of the Third Reich. If you haven't read *Back to Bremen* I encourage you to add it to your summer reading list. It is available on Amazon

1. In other business, yearbooks are here this month. (Go, Shelley! Good Job!)
2. Our contest starts in August. Eleven categories are available. Please consider entering each category. Sandra Soli and Judith Rycroft are our co-chairs for this contest.
3. We now have a vacancy 1st VP of Programming. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Traci Schafer.

Opportunities for Writers

The Red Sneaker Writers Conference has partnered with another major conference, Write Well Sell Well conference to make it the biggest and best conference yet. We pride ourselves in the opportunities available to ALL attendees, including add-day educational sessions, contests, and private meetings with agents, publishers, and writers. We do our best to make sure you get what you need. We also stay on top of all the latest developments in the writing and publishing world, so you can take advantage of what's happening today. This year the conference will include sessions on fiction, nonfiction, poetry, memoir, women's fiction, marketing, blogging, podcasts, comics and graphic novels, writing for computer games, screenplays, fan fiction, magazines and periodicals, travel writing, entering contests, WattPad, audiobooks, and much more. Everyone learns something--and everyone has fun in the process.

Surprising benefits to attending a writer's conference:

- A critique group in the making.** Receiving thoughtful feedback on our writing can be invaluable when it comes to improving our writing skills and honing our craft.
- Helpful hobnobbing.** Finding yourself seated next to an author, agent, editor or other industry professional could result in more than a pleasant conversation
- Attendee-only opportunities.** Often, attending a conference will gain you access to consideration of your writing project that non-attendees won't have.
- A confidence boost.** Fear of rejection can keep many of us from submitting work to agents and publishers that we would love to see published. By the end of a conference, you really understand that the distinct possibility of rejection is not to be feared, it's to be learned from.
- Motivation to write.** If you're at a writing conference, chances are good you want to write. But how strong is your motivation to sit down and actually write? The energy of being around so many other people who are excited about this process is absolutely contagious.

The Red Sneakers Conference will be from August 31 to September 3, 2018, in the downtown Oklahoma City Renaissance Hotel.

Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and, instead of bleeding, he sings." — Robert Benchley

Inez Phillips
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Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, June 16, 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.

June Speaker: **Kathy Gibbs**

Topic: **The Journey of Kathleen Gibbs**