
OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS INC.

July Speaker:

Jack Burgos

Topic: Anthologies 101: From Submission, Past Rejection, To Publication

Jack Burgos is a 34-year-old author of transgressive, speculative fiction living in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Jack has been storytelling since he could speak. In his early childhood, he plotted stories with his friends that they acted out during play. He wrote his first book, a horror-adventure story named *Shonkula*, in the fourth grade.

Jack co-founded the writing critique group Nevermore Edits in 2012, through which he continues to improve his craft. His work has been published in *Happy Days*, *Sweetheart*, *Beyond the Nightlight*, *Now Playing in Theater B*, *Dark and Dangerous Things III*, *The Book of Blasphemous Words*, and *Terror in 16-Bits*. He edited *Broken Worlds* and *The Misbehaving Dead* published by A Murder of Storytellers. His debut series Stormborn debuted on May 1, 2017, with its first novella, *13 Hearts to Start a Storm*. The second book in the series, *The Knave and the Fool*, comes out in June 2018.

Jack serves as the webmaster for the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. and as the Vice President for Nevermore Edits. When he isn't engaged in writing-related activities, Jack proudly works as a home-based counselor for a non-profit agency with at-risk youth.

President's Message

by Traci Schafer

If you feel like you're stuck in the editing process while all those around you are sailing through, think again. Editing is a long, arduous process for everybody. (If it's not for you then I want to meet you and get some of your pixie dust.) It can take month and even years to go from first draft to something even close to being worthy of publishing. You need eyes on your work-in-progress at every step of the way. Those eyes can include beta readers, editors, proof-readers and more, and the process can go around and around in a cycle of reviews and revisions for what feels like an eternity. But, hang in there and give your manuscript the time it needs to be something you'll be proud of when your finished book hits your readers' hands. You'll be glad you did!

Happy writing (and revising)!

- Dog Days of Summer - July 3 - August 11
- National Blueberry Month
- National Anti-Boredom Month
- Unlucky Month for weddings
- National Cell Phone Courtesy Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Ice Cream Month
- National Picnic Month
- Week 2 of July - Nude Recreation Week

Elected Officers

**President: Traci Ison
Schafer**, 937-760-8446,
traci1@hotmail.com
**1st VP, Programs: Laci
Liter**, 702-5042,
lacirai@gmail.com
**2nd VP, Membership:
Shelley Pagach**, 496-8749,
sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com
Treasurer: Nelda Paden,
833-2611,
neldapaden@aol.com
Secretary: Lorelei Sawtelle,
317-7845,
lsawtelle@cox.net

Appointed Officers
Newsletter: Inez Phillips,
620-7850,
inezbowman.cox.net
**Publicity Chair: Peggy
Farris**,
203-0284, wwillows@pldi.net
Webmaster: Lorelei Sawtelle,
603-8856, lsawtelle@cox.net
Nominating Chair: TBA
**Yearbook Chair: Shelley
Pagach**, 496-8749,
sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com
Contest Chair: TBA
**Historian: Office of the
President**
OWFI Reporter: TBA
**Workshop Chair: Paulette
Henderson**,
274-9192,
paulette@hendersonhouse.net
Audio/Visual: TBA, if needed

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

OWFI Alternates:
Carolyn Leonard
Marcia Preston

Member News

Shelley Anne Richter won the following in the Arkansas Writers Contest: First Place, Free Verse Poetry "Graveyard of the Blue and Gray"; First Place: Juvenile Short Story "Jim 'n' I"; Second Place, Humorous Rhymed Poetry, "Spring in Custer"; Second Place, Mystery Short Story "Five Claws of the Dragon." She sold a short poem to Mature Living for the September 2018 edition.

Opportunities for Writers

Oklahoma Festival of the Book will be held on Saturday, October 20th. The email address is www.okbookfest.org

Red Sneakers and Write Well Sell Well have merged and will be holding their conference August 31-Sept 3 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel.



Fall Contest

The deadline for the annual Oklahoma City Writers contest is bearing down on us. The contest chairs, Sandra Soli and Judith Rycroft, encourages us to submit our work for this year's contest. Entries will be accepted between August 8 and September 19. You may mail your entries to either of the contest chairs or bring the items to the August or September meetings. Your submission must be submitted with self addressed envelope (SASE), an official entry form, and a \$10 check. The contest is for paid up members only.

If you want your manuscripts returned by snail mail, you must include sufficient postage. The \$10 entry fee allows you to enter all of the categories. Be sure to check the **Contest Rules and Guidelines** in the membership directory.

June Meeting

by Lorelei Sawtelle, Secretary

Announcements:

1. OWFI's conference is the first weekend of May 2019. This year's theme is Turn the Page;The Next 50 Years. The theme for Friday night's costume contest is Good vs. Evil. (protagonist vs. antagonist). Contest opens 12-1-18, ends 2-1-19. There is a \$30 fee to enter an item in each category. You cannot enter any item in more than one category. They also have an INSTAGRAM contest. July 26, 7:00 online workshop, \$5 —Vic Malone Kennedy will be the speaker—SLACK. com. Non-affiliate membership is \$30; affiliate memberships are \$25. We still have our survey on the website—Please fill out the survey.

2. We have a new VP of Programming, Lacy Liter, introduced Kathy Gibbs.

Kathleen Gibbs writes historical fiction. Back in the cowboy days they had toilet paper called therapeutic paper. She says that one good thing about history is that it doesn't change.

She wrote her two published books about 30 years ago. She is a member of several writing groups. She's donated books for our soldiers who are serving overseas, to the Cowboy and Western Heritage Hall of Fame, to libraries. She also encouraged us to volunteer to be speakers for any group of which we are members. Several of her friends have helped hook her up with other people who helped her with her books and helped her find info for her books. She also belongs to the Indian Art Club. She donated a book there for a door prize.

Oklahoma Archeological Society is another of her passions. She has sold books to friends of friends. Other groups she belongs to are Civil War Groups and has sold to members. She is also a posse member of the Westerner Group. John Dwyer is a member here and is a history writer. He had her visit one of the classes he was teaching at Nazarene University. She's also joined the Western Writers of America. Casey Cowan with Oghma Creative Publishing is also a big Civil War fan. Casey introduced her to the possibility of Co-Publishing.

DON'T be afraid to give your books away. In the long run, getting out there is more important than the cost. Go on vacations and take your books. Take your books everywhere. Library Clubs, book clubs, civic organizations, museums, schools, writers' groups, churches, poetry readings, research facilities, work the room, friends and family, Twitter, Instagram, maybe even your YouTube channel are all good venues.

Kathy also suggested that you should enter every contest you can. Some things work and some don't. Get a blurb in the paper each time you give a talk.

Study authors who write in your genre and who are successful; their writing style, structure, characterization, and plotting. It's all there. You don't need to go four years to school for a degree in writing. Ernest Hemingway studied and used the style of Tolstoy. Thomas Wolfe delved into James Joyce. I used Alistair MacLean when I started out, eventually moving into my own writing style which is now copied by other authors.

~~~Clive Cussler

My experience is that there are people who, perhaps vaguely, like the idea of being writers, and then there are actual writers. The difference between these two groups is that the former can take it or leave it, depending on various circumstances; whereas the latter have no option but to write.

~~~Adam Roberts

Put down everything that comes into your head and then you're a writer. But an author is one who can judge his own stuff's worth, without pity, and destroy most of it.

~~~Colette

Writing and rewriting are a constant search for what it is one is saying.

~~~John Updike

July 2018

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

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, July 21, 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.

July Speaker: **Jack Burgos**

*Topic: Anthologies 101: From Submission, Past Rejection, To
Publication*

