

Oklahoma City WRITERS INC.

September Speaker:

Tiffany Gobble

Tiffany Gobble (yes, pronounced like a turkey) is an avid reader (listener!) of thriller, suspense, mystery, romance, and crime novels. She is a wife, mother, army veteran, investigative reporter on EPH 511pm, encourager of fellow writers, and author of *Deadly Opposition*.

Tiffany holds a B.S. in criminal justice. Her background includes investigative positions at child-protective services, the Oklahoma County public defender's office, and the Oklahoma Innocence Project (OIP). Tiffany was born and reared in Oklahoma, currently residing in Yukon, with her husband, two children, and a dog.

As writers, rejection is a guarantee, but how we handle that makes all the difference. Many household names in this industry received more than their fair share of rejection letters. The first time we submit our manuscript, which we spent countless hours writing, rewriting, and editing, is terrifying. We bite our nails, compulsively refreshing our emails, while awaiting responses. Our pulse picks up when the first "RE:" enters our inbox. We breath a sigh and hit the email only to read, "I'm sorry but..." We have two choices from that moment. We can decide they're wrong because our writing is stellar and throw a pity party for ourselves. On the other hand, we can heed their advice, if they provided any, dust ourselves off, and try again!

I will go in-depth in ways we, as writers, handle the dreaded aspect of rejection! This can be a positive experience if we choose to make it that way!

President's Message

by Traci Schafer

Oklahoma has many excellent conferences and workshops throughout the year where writers have the opportunity to pitch their work to agents. Being a self-published author, I'm thankful to be one step removed from that anxiety, though I certainly feel for those who are brave enough to put themselves out there and pitch. I have been there, though, and thought I'd share my experience with my first face-to-face agent pitch with you.

My thoughts before the pitch: No big deal. It's one person, just one young agent. I've given briefings to rooms full of people, to colonels and generals. I've sat in front of firing squad boards, fielding questions flung at me in rapid succession, questions meant to judge my abilities. I certainly could have a coherent conversation about my book. It is my world after all. Who knows it better than me, right? It's not like I'd have a deer-in-the-headlights moment caused by some question for which I wasn't prepared. I figured I'd just picture myself in my familiar work setting presenting something—it didn't matter what—in our conference room, briefing charts displayed on the wall over my right shoulder, stern faces following my presentation. Not a problem.

My Reality: I walk in. Greetings are exchanged and I start talking about this alien. Alien? Really? Suddenly my briefing-in-the-conference-room image turns to security police escorting me to the funny farm and I realize, I'm not in Kansas anymore. I'm not presenting some mind-numbing information, cheat sheet within glancing distance on the screen behind me, to a room full of people paid to be there. I'm sitting in front of the gate keeper of my dream. At that moment—about 5 seconds into my pitch—my brain spins around within my skull and lands up-side-down, crushing its speech center and machine-gunning words out of my mouth in some not-so-coherent fashion. My shaky hands flail wildly as I try to use their power to coax out the proper words. At that point my goal turns from *land an agent* to *make it out of the room with some dignity*. By the end my brain had managed to somewhat right itself and my alien world didn't seem so crazy after all.

So, to all those writers out there with stories to be told. I feel your pain. But, you have to go for it! The world deserves to hear your stories! Just keep in mind, you WILL survive the experience.

Happy Writing (and Pitching),

Elected Officers

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Marcia Preston

Opportunities for Writers

It's here! The positively absolutely last date for you to enter the **OCWI Annual Writing Contest.**

You may hand your entries to one of the contest chairs at the meeting Saturday. Be sure to include the cover sheet, the \$10 entry fee, and a self-addressed envelope (for your returned manuscripts).

Midnight, September 15 is the cut off time and date. If you mail your entries to Sandra Soli, they ***MUST*** be postmarked no later than September 15.

Be sure to follow the rules laid out in the Yearbook and on the web site.

Red Sneakers and Write Well Sell Well

have merged and will be holding their conference August 31-Sept 3 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Downtown OKC.

Headliners include Dan Millman, author of *Way of the Peaceful Warrior*, noted literary agent Donald Maass, and three other agents. Pitch sessions available.

Here's a link: <http://www.redsneakerconf.com/>

Member News

Barbara Shepherd's short story "One Cold Night" has been chosen for the anthology, "The Untamed West" by Western Fictioneers.

Oklahoma Book Festival

On Saturday, October 20th, 2018, we will celebrate our first-ever Oklahoma Book Festival in Bricktown's Boathouse District. Honored guests will be award-winning authors David Grann (*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*); Sheldon Russell (*The Bridge Troll Murders* from the Hook Runyan series), pride-of-Oklahoma authors Donis Casey, Lou Berney, author-lecturer William Bernhardt and many others in all book categories.

Honorary Chairs for this mega event will be former Miss America Jane Jayroe, and historian and author Bob Burke.

Come browse among the tents and vendors, purchase signed books, hear presentations and visit with Oklahoma's authors.

Check website: www.facebook.com/okbookfest
or you can find us on Instagram at **okbookfest#OKBOOKFEST**

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It's an accepted fact that all writers are crazy, even the normal ones are weird.

~~William Goldman

Whoever invented the meeting must have had Hollywood in mind. I think they should consider giving Oscars for meetings: Best Meeting of the Year, Best Supporting Meeting, Best Meeting Based on Material from Another Meeting.

~~William Goldman

I have never listened to anyone who criticized my taste in space travel, sideshows or gorillas. When this occurs, I pack up my dinosaurs and leave the room.

~~ Ray Bradbury

Science fiction is any idea that occurs in the head and doesn't exist yet, but soon will, and will change everything for everybody, and nothing will ever be the same again. As soon as you have an idea that changes some small part of the world you are writing science fiction. It is always the art of the possible, never the impossible.

~~Ray Bradbury

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THE FALL CONTEST IS AFOOT

Be sure to bring your entries to the meeting this Saturday!

September 2018

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

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, September 15, 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.

September Speaker: Tiffany Gobble

Topic: Positive Responses to Rejection

