December Speaker
Michael Frizell

Topic — The Arcane Art of Graphic Fiction: Writing Comic Books

Michael Frizell is the Director of Student Learning Services at Missouri State University and the immediate past president of the National College Learning Center Association, where he also serves as the editor of The Learning Assistance Review. Along with Laura Sanders and David Reedy, he served as the editor of NCLCA’s first book, Learning Centers in the 21st Century: A Modern Guide for Learning Assistance Professionals in Higher Education. He holds a BA in theatre from the College of the Ozarks, an MA in both theatre and creative writing from Missouri State University, and an MFA in creative nonfiction from the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

You can find his work on the National Gallery of Writing, in Red Ink Journal, The Moon City Review, and others, and his poetry featured as part of The Good Men Project. With Tidal Wave Comics, he writes comics based on the lives of the famous and infamous. Recent publications include profiles of Prince, Chris Pratt, Miley Cyrus, Hillary Clinton, Rand Paul, Guns N’ Roses, Donald Trump, and Elizabeth Warren. The Fantasy World of Bettie Page, a Cold War-era sci-fi action graphic novel featuring the authorized likeness of Bettie Page, and James Dean: Timeless, a sci-fi western.

He is currently writing the forwards to the re-releases of Harold Robbins’ novels for Oghma Creative Media, the publisher of his upcoming crime novel, Crowe’s Crossing. His graphic novel, Bender, about America’s first serial killer family of the same name from the Midwest, was serialized in Saddlebag Dispatches, where he now serves as editor-in-chief.

President’s Message
Traci Shafer

It’s been my honor to serve as your 2018 Oklahoma City Writers’ president. As I pass the torch on to someone who I know will be a fabulous president in 2019, Laci Liter, I want to leave you with one thought – YOU ARE AN AWESOME WRITER! How do I know that? Because, if you’re a part of this group, you have a passion for writing and you’re following that passion. So, no matter where you are in your writing journey, know that if you don’t give up on yourself, you WILL accomplish whatever writing goals you set for yourself (and may already have)!

We got to the moon on Christmas Eve 1968, at the end of a poor year for this country. We had Vietnam. We had civil unrest. We had the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. But we went around the moon and saw the far side for the first time. A script writer couldn’t have done a better job of raising people’s hope.

~~Jim Lovell
**Elected Officers**

President: Traci Ison Schafer, 937-760-8446, traci1@hotmail.com  
1st VP, Programs: Laci Litter, 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: Sandra Soli/Judith Rycroft  
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

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**Member News**

Kathy Gibbs announced that the third book of her trilogy was accepted for publication. *Spirit Journey: Sunshine’s Song* is filled with information about the life and culture of the Lakota people.

**2018 CONTEST WINNERS**

**CATEGORY 1 HUMOR**

JUDGE: William Bernhardt  
1st Place—Shelley Anne Richter  
“When Chi Chi Did the Cha Cha”  
2nd Place—Terri Lynn Cummings  
“Do Something”  
3rd Place—Lorelei Sawtelle  
“Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden”

**CATEGORY 2 INSPIRATIONAL**

JUDGE: Louise Tucker Jones  
1st Place—Susan Kite  
“Fire”  
2nd Place—Shelley Anne Richter  
“The Essence of Simplicity”  
3rd Place—Kathleen Listman  
“The Price of Miracles”  
HM—Susan Blumenthal Donchin  
“For Sammi”

**CATEGORY 3 JUVENILE**

JUDGE: Sharon Martin  
1st Place—Susan L. Kite  
“The Legend of Billy Bob Flybottom”  
2nd Place—Barbara Shepherd  
“The Noisy Peacock”  
3rd Place—Lisbeth L. McCarty  
“Eli Eats Eighty Eggs Every Evening”

**CATEGORY 4 ESSAY**

JUDGE: Dr. Constance Squires-Johnston  
1st Place—Susan Blumenthal  
“Building Towers”  
2nd Place—Barbara Shepherd  
“Keys to My Future”  
3rd Place—Shelley E. White  
The Yellow “One”  
HM—Kathleen Listman  
“Why Were They Laughing?”
Contest Results

(continued from page 2)

CATEGORY 5  POETRY
   JUDGE: Carol Hamilton
1st Place--Sylvia Forbes
   “Elegy for Norman”
2nd Place--Terri Lynn Cummings
   “First Loss”
3rd Place--Jody Karr
   “Soaking Up Summer”
HM--Lisbeth L. McCarty
   “The Choreography of Chlorophyll”
HM--Doris Beaton
   “No More”
HM--Barbara Shepherd
   “She’s Always Late”

CATEGORY 6    SHORT STORY
   JUDGE: Vickey Malone Kennedy
1st Place--Kristin Kaldah
   “A Dog’s Life”
2nd Place--Shelley E. White
   “Rumpled”
3rd Place--Gail Mattingly
   “Calvin”
1st HM--Laci Liter
   “Baking Bread”
2nd HM--Kathleen Listman
   “A Kind of Immortality”
3rd HM--Lorelei Sawtelle
   “In Defense of Fairies”

CATEGORY 7    FLASH FICTION
   JUDGE: Harvey Stanbrough
1st Place--Susan L. Kite
   “Impasse”
2nd Place--Gail Mattingly
   “My Peculiar Night With a Pint of Punctuation”
3rd Place--Mary Flowers Brannon
   “Red Lips, Spike Heels, and Attitude”
HM--Kathleen Listman
   “Reaching Home Base”

CATEGORY 8    FEATURE ARTICLE
   JUDGE: Karlie Tipton
1st Place--John T. Biggs
   “Wounded Knee: the second time around”
2nd Place--Sylvia Forbes
   “Bassoon Man: Arizona Musician, Bill Schink”
3rd Place--Bradley Neece
   “LeBron James, Laura Ingraham, and the Importance of Knowing Your Audience”

CATEGORY 9    NOSTALGIA
   JUDGE: Louise Farmer Smith
1st Place--Marlys Gallagher
   “The Best Dog in the World”
2nd Place--Gail Mattingly
   “The Five and Ten Cent Stores”
3rd Place--Sylvia Forbes
   “Every Day is a Nature Day”
HM--Vivian Finley Nida
   “Indian Territory”
HM--Terri Lynn Cummings
   “Muse”
HM--Barbara Shepherd
   “Rag Rugs”

CATEGORY 10    BOOK (Adult)
   JUDGE: Marcia Preston
1st Place--Richard M. McClellan
   “Return to Rainbow Ridge”
2nd Place--Shelley E. White
   “Daughters of God, Daughters of Man”
3rd Place--Laurin Keller
   “The First World”
HM--Shelley Pagach
   “Broken Together”

CATEGORY 11    BOOK (Juvenile)
   JUDGE: Nick Lyon
1st Place--Susan L. Kite
   “Moon Crusher”
2nd Place--Kristin Kaldah
   “Aslan: Running Joy”
3rd Place--Kathleen Listman
   “Fleeing the Sunset”

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME
   JUDGE: Carla Walker
   Awarded to
   Kristin Kaldahl
   for her short story
   “A Dog’s Life”
Whew!
Notes from OCWI Contest Co-Chairs

Thanks to everyone who entered the 2018 writing contest. It was a great success, and not only for those who received certificates; a number of judges gave such helpful feedback that we made copies for the benefit of everyone in those categories. Their advice will help you prepare for the OWFI contest, future OCWI entries, and for submissions to real-world editors.

We received 137 entries from 36 members, most of whom followed all the rules. As your Co-Chairs, we offer ten tips for future entrants based on our experience with this year’s entries. In no particular order:

- If possible, turn in your entries before the deadline. One person forgot to sign a cover sheet but sent entries early, allowing notification so that a corrected cover sheet could be submitted in good time. Contest chairs were impressed by John Biggs, who entered on the contest’s opening day. Hooray for John! Judges do not award extra points, but you do get a safety net by entering early.

- Use a fresh ink cartridge. If the manuscript is hard to read, the judge will not be impressed. Quality shows. So does carelessness.

- “Editor-Ready” means exactly that. Use formatting standard for the genre you are submitting. Many websites offer specific guidelines, including writersdigest.com. You-Tube videos abound, and books are available at the library.

- Paginate your manuscript. Three entries forgot page numbers.

- Two entries correctly put the title on the cover sheet, but nowhere on Page One. OCWI’s contest rules cannot mention specifics for every genre due to space limitations. Check excellent resources available to you; contest chairs are available in case of questions.

- Be sure you enter the correct category. Several judges commented that a different category would have been more suitable for several entries they were reading.

- Fiction book entries must have a synopsis. A preface is not a synopsis. Nonfiction books may use an outline. Websites such as writersdigest.com offer a lengthy list of articles to assist you.

- Think positively about winning the contest. Seriously! There is no rule about length of titles, but think Certificate; think book cover! If you have written a wonderful feature article entitled “An Astounding Revelation Regarding Reality Shows’ Appearance Bonuses,” you might consider doing the certificate-maker and your magazine layout editor a favor by condensing your title.

- If you happen to overlook a typo, you are often forgiven. Sometimes not. Just be sure you do not misspell something in the title! Reminder: you can’t rely on spellcheck!

- One last thing. If you can barely squeeze all your entries into the manila envelope, there will be no room for feedback pages from judges. And if you need your entries returned by mail, there will be no room for certificates and checks if you are a winner. Use an envelope with plenty of room and allow plenty of postage.

You are ALL winners in our book! Cheering for you as you prepare your OWFI entries and again in next year’s OCWI writing competition. And along the way, for your submissions to editors! Thank you, Nelda Paden, for all your assistance on the contest; and thank you, OCWI members, for trusting us with your work. As someone said on Facebook, “Go do your words!”

2018 Contest Co-Chairs Sandy Soli and Judith Rycroft
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.
Saturday, December 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.

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