

# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

December 2018

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:traci1@hotmail.com)

**1st VP, Programs: Laci Liter, 702-5042,**

[lacirai@gmail.com](mailto:lacirai@gmail.com)

**2nd VP, Membership: Shelley Pagach,**

496-8749, [sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com](mailto:sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com)

**Treasurer: Nelda Paden, 833-2611,**

[neldapaden@aol.com](mailto:neldapaden@aol.com)

**Secretary: Lorelei Sawtelle, 317-7845,**

[lsawtelle@cox.net](mailto:lsawtelle@cox.net)

## Appointed Officers

**Newsletter: Inez Phillips, 620-7850,**

[inezbowman.cox.net](mailto:inezbowman.cox.net)

**Publicity Chair: Peggy Farris,**

203-0284, [wwillows@pldi.net](mailto:wwillows@pldi.net)

**Webmaster: Lorelei Sawtelle,**

603-8856, [lsawtelle@cox.net](mailto:lsawtelle@cox.net)

**Nominating Chair: TBA**

**Yearbook Chair: Shelley Pagach, 496-8749,**

[sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:paulette@hendersonhouse.net)

**Audio/Visual: TBA, if needed**

## OWFI Delegates

**Traci Ison Schafer, 937-760-8446,**

[traci1@hotmail.com](mailto:traci1@hotmail.com)

**Shelley Pagach, 496-8749,**

[sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com](mailto:sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com)

**OWFI Alternates:**

**Carolyn Leonard**

**Marcia Preston**

## 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

1<sup>st</sup> Place--Shelley Anne Richter

"When Chi Chi Did the Cha Cha"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Terri Lynn Cummings

"Do Something"

3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Lorelei Sawtelle

"Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden"

### CATEGORY 2 INSPIRATIONAL

JUDGE: Louise Tucker Jones

1<sup>st</sup> Place--Susan Kite

"Fire"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Shelley Anne Richter

"The Essence of Simplicity"

3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Kathleen Listman

"The Price of Miracles"

HM--Susan Blumenthal Donchin

"For Sammi"

### CATEGORY 3 JUVENILE

JUDGE: Sharon Martin

1<sup>st</sup> Place--Susan L. Kite

"The Legend of Billy Bob Flybottom"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Barbara Shepherd

"The Noisy Peacock"

3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Lisbeth L. McCarty

"Eli Eats Eighty Eggs Every Evening"

### CATEGORY 4 ESSAY

JUDGE: Dr. Constance Squires- Johnston

1<sup>st</sup> Place--Susan Blumenthal

"Building Towers"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Barbara Shepherd

"Keys to My Future"

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Sylvia Forbes  
"Elegy for Norman"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Terri Lynn Cummings  
"First Loss"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Kristin Kaldah  
"A Dog's Life"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Shelley E. White  
"Rumpled"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Gail Mattingly  
"Calvin"
- 1<sup>st</sup> HM--Laci Liter  
"Baking Bread"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> HM--Kathleen Listman  
"A Kind of Immortality"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> HM--Lorelei Sawtelle  
"In Defense of Fairies"

### CATEGORY 7 FLASH FICTION

JUDGE: Harvey Stanbrough

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Susan L. Kite  
"Impasse"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Gail Mattingly  
"My Peculiar Night With a Pint of Punctuation"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Mary Flowers Brannon  
"Red Lips, Spike Heels, and Attitude"
- HM--Kathleen Listman  
"Reaching Home Base"

### CATEGORY 8 FEATURE ARTICLE

JUDGE: Karlie Tipton

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--John T. Biggs  
"Wounded Knee: the second time around"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Sylvia Forbes  
"Bassoon Man: Arizona Musician, Bill Schink"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Bradley Neece  
"LeBron James, Laura Ingraham, and the Importance of Knowing Your Audience"

### CATEGORY 9 NOSTALGIA

JUDGE: Louise Farmer Smith

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Marlys Gallagher  
"The Best Dog in the World"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Gail Mattingly  
"The Five and Ten Cent Stores"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Richard M. McClellan  
"Return to Rainbow Ridge"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Shelley E. White  
"Daughters of God, Daughters of Man"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place--Laurin Keller  
"The First World"
- HM--Shelley Pagach  
"Broken Together"

### CATEGORY 11 BOOK (Juvenile)

JUDGE: Nick Lyon

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Susan L. Kite  
"Moon Crusher"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place--Kristin Kaldahl  
"Aslan: Running Joy"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*. YouTube 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

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

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> and Harvey, Oklahoma City. Enter through the north door by handicap parking and go to Room 130.

**November Speaker:**    *Michael Frizell*

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

