

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

April 2019

April Speaker

Laurel Thomas

Topic ~~The Power of Vivid Imagery



In *Power of Vivid Imagery*, Laurel Thomas will walk you through the craft of building riveting and emotionally rich stories through effective imagery. Join us for interactive exercises that help build your own palette of sensory images that show instead of tell.

A former high school English teacher, Laurel Thomas has written for magazines such as *Guideposts*, *Mysterious Ways* and others. In addition to her first published novel, *River's Call*, Laurel has ghosted nonfiction and edited others. Check out her website at www.laurelannthomas.org



President's Message

Laci Liter

As of April 11, 2019, at 11:49 AM, I have not yet had my baby. As I wait, I've been doing a lot of thinking about my state of mind. Childbirth is nothing short of miraculous and terrifying. I am elated and scared. I fear the intensity of labor, the helplessness of a new baby, and the

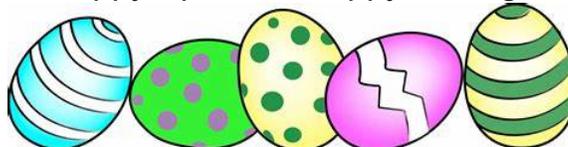
myriad of other challenges that come with parenting a newborn. But dang it if there isn't one thing that will inhibit a smooth labor...*fear*.

Labor isn't the only sensitive thing fear can hamper. Creativity is sensitive too. Many, *many* times I've found myself wondering if I am wasting my time writing a story that will never be published, or if my story is worth being told. When the voice of fear is strong and loud, what room does art have to be heard? It shies away like a timid cat. Like I said, creativity is sensitive.

So, my fears have squashed out any room for my creativity to bloom. Why do I come back time and time again to write? I suppose it's mainly that I can't stay away. A pit forms in my gut when it's been too long since I've created something. I simply must go back like I must breathe and eat. Because there is nothing better than sharing a story and connecting with another person on a level that otherwise might not be attainable. Maybe we share in some humanity, or in the excitement of an adventure, the thrill of suspense, the blood-pumping heat of romance.

When I ask myself, *why do I fear?* And the answer that comes back is, *to protect you*. Fear is my mind and body warning me that what I am doing is raw and wild. And isn't that how great creations begin? Write something raw and wild that makes you scared and gives you chills. That way you'll know you're doing it right.

Happy April and Happy Writing!



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“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” — Anne Bradstreet

“If winter comes, can spring be far behind?” — Percy Bysshe Shelley

Member Honored

Oklahoma Center for the Book will present the 2019 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award to award-winning novelist William Bernhardt of Choctaw, whom “Library Journal” has called “the master of the courtroom drama.”

Bernhardt is the author of 47 books, including the bestselling Ben Kincaid series; the historical novels “Challengers of the Dust” and “Nemesis;” two books of poetry (“The White Bird” and “The Ocean’s Edge”) and the Red Sneaker books on fiction writing.

Bernhardt founded the Red Sneaker Writers Center to mentor aspiring writers.



New Format

The officers voted to send all of the newsletters electronically as an austerity move. If you still want a paper copy, contact Laci at lacirai@gmail.com or Inez at inezbowman@cox.net.

Regardless of how the newsletter sent out, we still need your news. If you have a new book out, send a picture of the cover and a brief summary of the Book.



“I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

— Albert Einstein

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. meets in
St. Luke's Methodist Church at NW
15th and Harvey, Oklahoma City.
Enter through the north door by the
handicap parking and go to Room 130
Coffee at 9:45 Meeting at 10:00

Member News

Barbara Shepherd won a 2nd, a 3rd,
& three 1st Place awards at Poetry
Society of Oklahoma. She was also
awarded a plaque for literary excellence
and named the Poetry Society of
Oklahoma Poet Laureate 2019.

Kathleen Listman's play, *Lesson in
Assertiveness*, was accepted for
performance in the Town & Gown
Festival in Stillwater. and patrons will
get to vote for their favorite playwright.
The performance begins at 7 pm on
Saturday, May 19 and at 2.30 pm on
Sunday, May 20.

If you are interested in entering their
contest next year, the requirements
follow. All the plays are limited to five
actors and the set is restricted to four
boxes, two chairs and a table. All the
performers are Town & Gown regulars.
For more information, check their
website.

Kathy Gibb met Kevin Costner at the
Western Heritage celebration. Pictures
on the webpage.

Shelley Pagach announced
that the webpage has been
updated. It looks great!

March Meeting Notes

The monthly meeting is being
broadcast on Facebook. The page is
found under the name **Oklahoma City
Writers, Inc.** It is a good way to catch
the meeting when you can't attend.

Videos for recent meetings can be
accessed under the video tab.

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways
that won't work."

— Thomas A. Edison

"A mind needs books as a sword needs a
whetstone, if it is to keep its edge."

—George R. R. Martin

"There is no greater agony than bearing an
untold story inside you."

— Maya Angelou

"The character that lasts is an ordinary guy
with some extraordinary qualities."

—Raymond Chandler

April Celebrations

- International Twit Award Month
- National Card and Letter Writing
Month
- National Grilled Cheese Month
- National Humor Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Safe Digging Month
- National Soft Pretzel Month

