August Speaker~~

William Bernhardt

Topic ~~ The Paths to Publishing

Bernhardt discuss the realities of each path to publication to help you discover the path that will lead to the greatest success—and fulfillment—for you.

Bernhardt is the author of forty-eight books, most recently Court of Killers (#1 Bestseller flag on Amazon), the second book in his new Daniel Pike legal thriller series. His previous works include 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.

In addition, Bernhardt founded the Red Sneaker Writers Center to mentor aspiring writers. The Center hosts an annual writers conference, small-group writing retreats, a monthly newsletter, a phone app, and a bi-weekly podcast. More than three dozen of Bernhardt’s students have subsequently published with major houses. He is also the owner of Balkan Press, which publishes poetry and fiction as well as the literary journal Conclave.

Bernhardt has received the Southern Writers Guild’s Gold Medal Award, the Royden B. Davis Distinguished Author Award (University of Pennsylvania) and the H. Louise Cobb Distinguished Author Award (Oklahoma State). He has won the Oklahoma Book Award twice. In 2019, he received the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

President’s Message

Laci Liter

Today my kids went back to school and every year around this time I come down with a terrible case of nostalgia. That’s not what I’ve planned on writing about today, but being that it’s inspired my New Year’s Resolution, I figured it’s worth a mention.

I know it’s August. It’s so hot the sycamores are dropping leaves. So why didn’t I make a New Year’s Resolution in January like a normal person? Because I didn’t have one in January and I’m a strong believer in making a resolution that matters. I don’t want to resolve to worry about the little stuff; I crave meaningful resolutions.

This resolution came to me in an epiphany on a walk around my neighborhood. I forgot to put on my good bra and so when I walked I lacked the (continued on page 2)
President’s Message
(from page 1)
support that would have given me the confidence to walk fast and not jiggle. Then I looked at my sweet baby daughter and wondered why the hell I was worried about it at all. She should never worry about jiggling too much or not enough, so why am I?

So here it is; I want to be the person I am in the center of my heart. Not the person who feels obligated or fearful or ashamed. I want to be the person who sparkles and loves without fear.

Happy New Year, fellow writers.
Jiggle away!

Member News

Barbara Shepherd won: HMs in National Federation of State Poetry Societies for an anaphoric, "Why Not?" and a trimeric, "Incarcerated" Also won HM for "Incarcerated" in Poetry Society of Oklahoma Summer Contest.

Barbara’s mountain landscape and a portrait (oils) are being shown in the Integris 25th Annual Celebration of Life Art Show through the month of August.

Judith Rycroft will be signing her poetry book, Colored Leaves, Monday, August 11 from 6 to 8 pm, at the Will Rogers Senior Activities Center in Will Rogers Park.

✔✔✔✔ Send your news to inezbowman@cox.net
Not that we are nosey, we just want to know what you are writing, where and when it’s published, sold, if it won a prize, etc.

Elected Officers

President: Laci Liter
568-9525, lacirai@gmail.com
1st VP, Programs: Kathleen Listman, 682-225-9604, knlistman@gmail.com
2nd VP, Membership: Shelley Pagach, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com
Treasurer: Nelda Paden, 833-2611, neldapaden@aol.com
Secretary: Lorelei Sawtelle, 603-8856, lsawtelle@cox.net

Appointed Officers

Newsletter: Inez Phillips, 620-7850, inezbowman.cox.net
Hospitality: Kevin Sawtelle
Publicity Chair: Peggy Farris, 203-0284, wwillows@pldi.net
Webmaster: Shelley Pagach
Nominating Chair: TBA
Yearbook Chair: Shelley White, shelleyewhite74@yahoo.com
Contest Chair: Roxana Cazan, roxanalcazan@gmail.com
Historian: Office of the President
OWFI Reporter: TBA
Audio/Visual: TBA, if needed

OWFI Delegates

Laci Liter
568-9504 lacirai@gmail.com
Marcia Preston. 570-3824, marcia@marciapreston.com

OWFI Alternates:

Carolyn Leonard, 720-2324, carolynleonard@me.com

“I would not employ an author to referee a Ping-Pong match. By their very nature they are biased and bloody-minded. Better put a fox in a henhouse than to ask an author to judge his peers.”
— Jack McClelland

“Content is King. Promotion is Queen”
— Jayce O’Neal
Member

Attorney Daniel Pike knows the dire consequences of crossing the government. So when rising political star Camila Perez faces charges in a gruesome quadruple homicide, his instincts sense a frame by powerful rivals. But Dan and the Last Chance Lawyers may have a hopeless case when the police discover damning evidence scrawled at the crime scene in blood...

Sorting through incriminating clues in the horrifying murders, Dan pieces together a dark conspiracy. But just when it seems he might have a rebuttal, a social media leak sparks a nationwide outcry for conviction.

Can Dan foil the vicious scheme before Perez and her career go up in flames??

This a sequel to *The Last Chance Lawyer*, the first Daniel Pike novel.

Publications

*Colored Leaves* is a journey through my experiences and thoughts. Writing is how I process life and preserve memories, so my poems are about travel, love, loss, hope, faith, family. This is the first time I have stopped to pull the pieces of the past and present together and offer them as a collection.

Please send information about your new publications to inezbowman@cox.net so they can be featured in the newsletter.

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
If you have a favorite website and would like to share it with the group, please send it to Inez.

kennethjorgensen.com/worldbuilding/resources
This is a large list of worldbuilding resources including climate and ecology, demographics, flags, language, and more.

https://writersedit.com/fiction-writing/the-ultimate-guide-to-world-building-how-to
--another interesting and useful site

Opportunities for Writers

Writer Con August 30 – September 1 at the Skirvin Hilton in downtown Oklahoma Cit. For conference information and registration details, go to writercon.org

ENTRIES FOR THE FALL CONTEST WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM AUGUST 17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21. The rules and entry form are included in this newsletter.

“You can't judge a book by it's cover but you can sure sell a bunch of books if you have a good one.”
— Jayce O'Neal

“Confidence is going after Moby Dick in a rowboat and taking the tartar sauce with you.”
— Zig Ziglar

“A person who publishes a book willfully appears before the populace with his pants down. If it is a good book nothing can hurt him. If it is a bad book nothing can help him.”
— Edna St. Vincent Millay

“Anybody can write a book. But writing it well and making it sell - that's the hard part.”
— Jay Taylor

“Getting blurbs is one of the most time-consuming, difficult parts of the job. If I could have one wish about publishing it would be to banish blurbs. Then I'd have so much more time to spend on everything else.”
— Lee Boudreaux

‘If you wrote something for which someone sent you a cheque, if you cashed the cheque and it didn't bounce, and if you then paid the light bill with the money, I consider you talented.”
— Stephen King

“If the novel is dead, I'm a necrophiliac.”
— Tiffany Madison

“Publication is a marathon, not a sprint. Writing the book is only the start.”
— Jo Linsdell

“Good cover design is not only about beauty... it’s a visual sales pitch. It’s your first contact with a potential reader. Your cover only has around 3 seconds to catch a browsing reader’s attention. You want to stand out and make them pause and consider, and read the synopsis.”
— Eeva Lancaster
Oklahoma City Writers Incorporated conducts an annual writing contest for its members only. All entries should be e-mailed to the Contest Chair, Roxana Cazan at roxanalcazan@gmail.com, or brought to the September meeting on September 21, 2019. The deadline for all submissions in September 21, 2019. For all submissions, please follow the general contest rules and submission guidelines below.

In order to qualify for a cash prize, a category must have at least five (5) entries. A category with fewer than five submissions will still be judged, but no cash prize will be awarded to the first place winner.

Contest winners will be announced at the November meeting, on November 16, 2019. First, second, and third place winners in all categories will receive certificates and a cash prize (if the category qualifies as per stated above). The awards are as follows:

- First place receives $40
- Second place receives $25
- Third place receives $15
- The Crème-de-la-crème award is given to the best of the best submissions overall. This prize comes accompanied by a $50 cash award.
- Honorable mention awards may be awarded at the judges’ discretion, but will not receive a cash award.

Judging: The club will not pay any monetary stipend or payment for services of judging entries in the Oklahoma City Writers Inc. contest. All judging is done on a volunteer basis. We appreciate and thank our judges.

Contest Chair: The Contest Chair is appointed by the President and, at the President’s discretion, a Co-Chair may also be appointed. No one working on the contest, including the chair and the Co-Chair, are permitted to enter the contest.

Cover sheet: A typed cover sheet should accompany every entry. The cover sheet should include the title of your submission, a 50-word author biography, and contact information (address, phone, and e-mail address if you have one). The cover sheet will be removed by the chair before the entries are sent to the judges, and retained for identifying the winner when the manuscript is returned.

Disqualification: To protect the integrity of the writing contest, any manuscript that is not the original work of the author will be disqualified. The Contest Chair is required to disqualify anyone who is not adhering to the rules and submission guidelines (see below). An ad-hoc committee composed of the Contest Chair and President will convene to resolve any questions that may arise during the contest.
Oklahoma City Writers Inc. Contest Categories:

2. Inspirational: fiction, nonfiction, poetry. Maximum length 5,000 words.
3. Juvenile: juvenile fiction, nonfiction, poetry for readers 18 years of age or younger. Maximum length 3,000 words.
4. Essay: any subject that informs, entertains, or persuades. Maximum length 1,500 words.
5. Poetry: any length, style, or theme, traditional or free-verse.
7. Flash fiction: an extremely short but complete work of fiction for adult readers. Maximum length 500 words.
8. Feature article: nonfiction article on any subject. Maximum length 2,000 words.
9. Nostalgia: factual story or poem reflecting the past. Maximum length 1,200 words.
10. Book (adult): includes fiction and nonfiction for adult readers. Each entry should include only the first 25 pages (or less), and a separate document containing the book synopsis for fiction or outline for nonfiction, not to exceed 750 words.
11. Book (Juvenile): includes all juvenile fiction and nonfiction, middle-grade and up. Picture books should be included in Category #3: Juvenile. Each entry should include only the first 25 pages (or less), and a separate document containing the book synopsis for fiction or outline for non-fiction, not to exceed 750 words.

2019 Entry Deadline: The contest opens on August 17, 2019 and ends on September 21, 2019 (postmarked). If you choose to send your submission by email, you must do so before midnight on September 21, 2019. No entries will be accepted prior to August 17, 2019 or later than September 21, 2019.

The 2019 Contest Chair is Roxana Cazan, roxanalcazan@gmail.com.

General OCWI Contest Rules and Submission Guidelines:

In order to avoid disqualification, please make sure to follow the rules outlined below before you submit your manuscript(s).

1. Every entry must contain a cover sheet.
2. Only members of the Oklahoma City Writers Inc. can enter the contest. If entries are co-authored, both authors must be OCWI members. Dues must be current at the time of the contest.
3. You may enter only one (1) unpublished manuscript per category. The same manuscript cannot be entered in more than one category.
4. Any manuscript that has won a cash prize (1st, 2nd, 3rd place or Crème-de-la-crème award) in any previous Oklahoma City Writers Inc. contest may not be entered again. Manuscripts may have been submitted for publication, as long as they have not yet been accepted or published in any format.
5. The entry fee for the contest is a one-time payment of $10 dollars. Please make the check or money order payable to the Oklahoma City Writers Inc. and include it in the envelope with your entries. If you submit your entry/ies via e-mail, please bring the check to the August or September meeting and deliver it to the Contest Chair. Please also mention this in your cover letter.
6. All entries must be “editor ready” in proper manuscript format. This includes proofreading for grammar, spelling, or any other mechanical and stylistic issue that would cause points to be taken from the entry.
7. All manuscripts except the poetry entries must be typed on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper, double-spaced, and printed on one side only. If you submit your work in print, please use a paperclip (no staples) to hold all
8. In the upper right corner of the first page of each manuscript, please type:
   ● the category name and numbers
   ● the number of lines for poetry
   ● the number of pages for fiction or nonfiction
   ● the word count

9. If you are submitting a printed copy, please include in your envelope a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) so that your submission can be returned to you. If you plan to pick up your submission at the November meeting, please note so on the submission envelope. Please use a 9x12 inch envelope for your submission and a similarly large envelope for your SASE.

Please Note: Judges are not required to offer comments on the manuscripts they judge, but are encouraged to do so. Please use this feedback for revision purposes, and please consider submitting your revision to the Oklahoma Writers’ Federation, Inc. 2020 competition.

roxanalcazan@gmail.com
# 2019 OCWI Cover Sheet & Disclosure Statement

**IMPORTANT!** A signed copy of this form must accompany **EACH CONTEST ENTRY.** You may photocopy this page to use as many times as needed. (A copy of this page can also be downloaded from the website: www.okcwriters.org.) Example: If you enter four (4) categories, you need four (4) cover sheets.

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<th>MS NUMBER (Contest Chair will fill this in)</th>
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## ENTRANT’S DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1. This document is my original work.
2. It has not previously been optioned, published, or distributed by any means, including such methods as blog postings or other submissions on Internet websites, or emails to individuals or groups.
3. I understand that the only distribution exception accepted by OCWI is correspondence to members of critique groups or during agent/editor correspondence.

**This manuscript has not been awarded a money prize in any previous OCWI contest.**

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**Email entries to Contest Chair:** Roxana Cazan: roxanalcazan@gmail.com or drop off no later than the September 21, 2019 meeting.
“The road to publication can be rough, take snacks and a friend.”
— Elizabeth Hein