

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

December 2019

December Speaker~~~ Dayna Dunbar

Topic: Autobiographical fiction--
Weaving real life experiences into
your fiction

Dayna Dunbar is a novelist published by Ballantine Books. Her first novel, *The Saints and Sinners of Okay County*, which is set in 1976 in a fictional town that looks suspiciously like her hometown of Yukon, won the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Book Award. Additionally, she has given writing workshops all over the country and in Mexico. As memoir ghostwriters, Dayna Dunbar author books based on our clients' life. More than merely transforming interviews into narrative, she helps shape the way the narrative is told.



"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

~~Dr. Seuss

President's Message Laci Liter

Just like that, the year is drawing to a close. How far we have come in 11 short months. There is equilibrium in all that has changed and stayed the same. We have transformed from the person we were in January 2019 into who we are now, in December. We have all learned something new about ourselves and settled further into something we have been all along. We are all another year older.

If you've somehow been able to avoid this whirlwind of time, how on Earth did you do it? I don't mean to bemoan the passing time, actually I couldn't be more happy to be looking back on another year. I'm alive and well enough to be feeling nostalgic. I have thoughts in my head, food on my plate and friends who are my community.

For my final message of the year, I'd like to simply say thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the president of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc this year. My greatest hope is for a cheerful and merry December for each of us.

Best wishes and happy year!



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,

Shelleywhite74@yahoo.com

Contest Chair:

Roxana Cazan, roxanalcazan@gmail.com

Historian: Office of the President

OWFI Reporter: TBA

Workshop Chair: Kathleen Listman

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



Member News

Judith Rycroft presented a poetry reading at the Second Sunday Poetry on December 8 at The Depot. She read from her British poetry collections, "Ashes of Song" and her American publication, "Colored Leaves."

John Dwyer signed books Saturday, December 14, 1:00 to 4:00, at Best of Books, 1313 E. Danforth Road, Edmond, OK.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2020 are due now. A form is added to the end of this email. You may mail your dues to the treasurer or hand them to her at the meeting.



Contest Results

Humor:

1st place - Dee Dee Chumley

2nd place - Lisbeth McCarty

3rd place - Judith Rycroft

Juvenile:

1st place - Lisbeth McCarty

2nd place - Susan Kite

3rd place - Barbara Shepard

Essay:

1st place - Nicki Rycroft

2nd place - Shelley Ann Richter

3rd place - Mary Flowers Brannon

Poetry:

1st place - Judith Rycroft

2nd place - Lisbeth McCarty

3rd place - Paul Wesselhöft

Flash Fiction:

- 1st place - Susan Kite
- 2nd place - Barbara Shepard
- 3rd place - Lisbeth McCarty

Nostalgia:

- 1st place - Shelley Ann Richter
- 2nd place - Nicki Rycroft
- 3rd place - Lisbeth McCarty

Book (Adult):

- 1st place - Shelley White
- 2nd place - Shelley Pagach
- 3rd place - B.L. Mehnert

Short Story:

- 1st place - Gail Mattingly
- 2nd place - Dee Dee Chumley
- 3rd place - Lisbeth McCarty

Inspiration:

- 1st place - Dee Dee Chumley
- 2nd place - Lisbeth McCarty
- 3rd place - Shelley White

Book (Juvenile):

- 1st place - Lorelei Sawtelle
- 2nd place - Nikki Davis

The Crème de la Crème will be announced at the December.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the contest a success. Congratulations to Roxana for chairing the contest and giving birth at the same time. What a woman!

OWFI Meeting Report

Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc. board of directors met Sunday, December 8. President Shelley Pagach reported on plans for the 2020 conference. The event will be May 1-2 at the Embassy Suites Hotel on South Meridian. Nineteen speakers have been confirmed, including two editors and one agent, with more possibilities pending. Pitch sessions will be available. Keynote speaker is Alton Carter, author of several novels for young people. Full weekend registration, including two dinners, is \$175 for members or \$200 for

non-members. You may register on the website at www.owfi.org.

Entry period for the OWFI contest, open to members only, is January 1 through February 1. Rules, eligibility requirements, categories, and entry procedures are also on the website. All entries are electronic, so writers should pay close attention to file preparation requirements. An entry fee of \$25 covers one entry in any or all of the 34 categories. Cash prizes are awarded at the banquet Saturday night. One category has notable changes this year: In the published book category, only electronic entries will be accepted even for print-published books. Also, books with either a 2018 or 2019 release date are eligible.

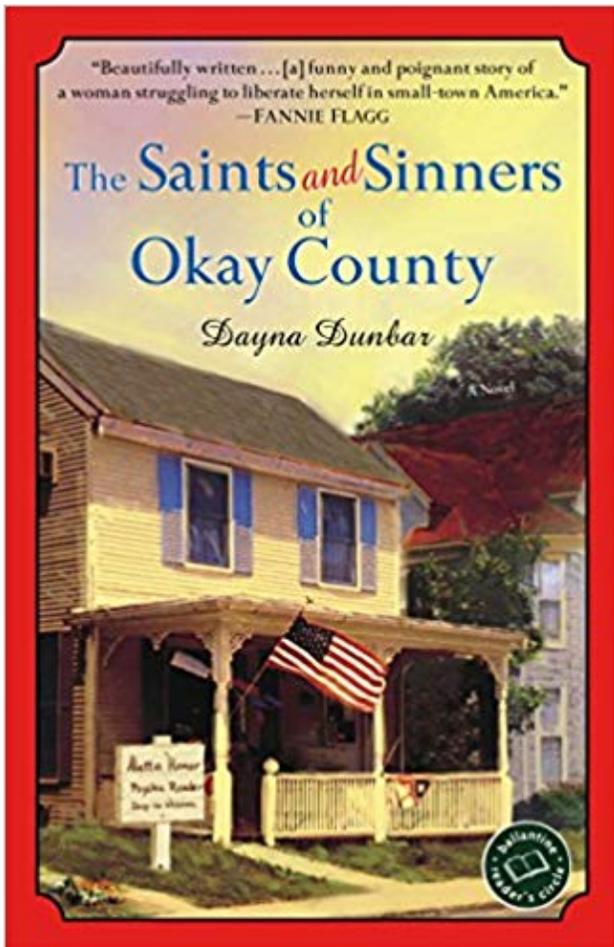
In other news, OWFI has added four new affiliate clubs this year. The treasury is happily in good shape. Volunteers are need for many jobs at the conference; find these listed on the website. Affiliate clubs and solvent members are asked to donate \$105 to sponsor prizes for one contest category.

OWFI also sponsors a slate of virtual workshops. See the website for dates and topics. The next one slated will be about using the writing software, Scrivner.

Aleasha Shelnutt, who currently serves as conference chair, was elected president for year June 2020 through May 2021.



"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"
—Bob Hope



It's the summer of 1976, and it seems like the entire state of Oklahoma is celebrating America's bicentennial. But in the small town of Okay, Aletta Honor has much more on her mind than flags and fireworks. She's pregnant with her fourth child and hasn't seen her husband, Jimmy, in weeks.

Flat broke and desperate for some cash, Aletta decides to set up a food stand on the front lawn during the Okay Czech Festival. But when a woman touches her hand in sympathy, Aletta is completely unsettled. She never touches anyone outside her family—if she does, she gets overwhelming visions of their lives and futures. It started when she was a young girl and has scared her ever since. Now Aletta immediately sees the woman in a tragic accident, and gives her a warning that will save her life. When the woman returns the next day to thank her, Aletta figures out how to save her *own* life.

With all the courage she can muster—figuring the townsfolk will most likely think she's nuts—she puts a sign in the front yard: ALETTA HONOR. PSYCHIC READER.

DROP-INS WELCOME. But doing readings for people opens a door she thought she had locked long ago, as memories of a terrible event come flooding back. She may not be able to see into *her* future, but she realizes she must face the demons in her past if she's going to make a new life for herself and her kids. First, though, she'll have to tell a few fortunes. .



✓✓✓ **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.

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**

OCWI Member Renewal

You may mail your \$25 dues to the treasurer or hand it to her at a meeting. Only dues paid **after** September 14, 2019 are counted as 2020 dues.

Nelda Paden, Treasurer
621 NW 32nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New Member _____



Poets & Writers

The information about the Oklahoma writers' opportunity will be sent in a separate email. It would be great if one of our members won.



"People can't concentrate properly on blowing other people to pieces properly if their minds are poisoned by thoughts suitable to the twenty-fifth of December."— Ogden Nash

Roses are reddish,
Violets are bluish.
If not for Christmas, we'd all be Jewish.

"Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered. What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day."

--Phyllis Diller

"Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice." — Dave Barry

"The worst gift is a fruitcake. There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other." --Johnny Carson

"Do give books – religious or otherwise – for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal."

– Lenore Hershey

Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the wind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.

--Plato



Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year!

