

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

February 2019

February Speaker

Chad Reynolds

Topic ~~*In the Great Green Room:
Some Thoughts on Writing and
Publishing for Kids*

Chad Reynolds is the co-founder of Short Order Poems and Penny Candy Books. A graduate of the MFA program at Emerson College in Boston, he has published five poetry chapbooks.

Penny Candy Books is an independent children's book publishing company based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Savannah, Georgia with a mission is to publish children's literature that reflects the diverse realities of the world we live in, both at home and abroad.



President's Message

Laci Liter

The days are growing longer. Daffodils brave the bitter temperature to bask in the new sun. There is hope! Winter won't last much longer. Sleepy perennials will soon join the daffodils in the stretch for sunshine, and soon enough we will be fanning hopelessly at a scorching Oklahoma summer.

It's easy to wish for, when the buds of new leaves are coated in ice – I certainly did this morning when I went to wheel my trash can to the curb in the bitter cold and found the lid frozen shut – the dark season. Quiet mornings and evenings for reflecting, warm meals in a cozy home, unhurried conversations...those modesties that can make winter seem bland are really gems, rough and uncut, waiting to be discovered and made to shine.

My hope for this next month is to savor the subtleties and relish the inconspicuous pace of winter. Perhaps when I have slowed my pace I will find my next gem to polish. Happy writing!



OWFI Honorary Life Member Nominations Sought

The 2019 Honorary Lifetime Membership Committee is looking for nominations. Please send your nominations to 2kwl2bagirl@gmail.com before March 30, 2019.

In your nominations, please include the persons full name, their contributions to OWFI and why you think they should be awarded the 2019 Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.



Elected Officers

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Workshop Chair: Kathleen Listman

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OWFI Delegates

Laci Liter

702-5042, lacirai@gmail.com

Marcia Preston. 570-3824,

marcia@marciapreston.com

OWFI Alternates:

Carolyn Leonard, 720-2324,

carolynleonard@me.com

Member News

Carolyn B. Leonard will be featured at the Enid Author Fest 2019 in the Enid Public Library on March 2 at 1 p.m. The festival a great opportunity for authors to network with others and to show and sell their work.

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The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.  
—D. Seuss

## Opportunities for Writers

Companies like Blue Mountain Arts regularly seek out short poetry and prose to be published in greeting cards or books. Writers can submit material to Blue Mountain either by mail or online. The company pays \$300 per poem for worldwide, exclusive rights to publish it on greeting cards and other products and \$50 per poem for one-time publication in a book.

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The Arkansas Writers' Conference entry information and contests are available on their website. The deadline the April 20 and they do not return manuscripts. The winners list is published of their website. Entry fee of \$20 enable one to enter all contests. Out-of-state entrants are limited to 10 contests.



Love is much nicer to be in than an automobile accident, a tight girdle, a higher tax bracket or a holding pattern over Philadelphia. —Judith Viorst

I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon -- *Author Unknown*

"All readers come to fiction as willing accomplices to your lies. Such is the basic goodwill contract made the moment we pick up a work of fiction."  
—Steve Almond

"We create our work for children not because they're "cute," but because they're human beings, deserving of respect."  
— Mo Willems

# January Speaker Notes

By Lorelei Sawtelle

**Lou Berney** he spoke on November Road and the process of research and writing. He writes crime novels which require quite a bit of research. “What if?” is an important question that starts most of his novels.

His research had two major components:

1. The voice of a particular era is important. He had to talk to people who were adults during the Kennedy era. (1963) He bought many copies of magazines circa 1963 from Playboy to Good Housekeeping. The letters to the editors gave him a window into the lives of people from that time. It took him about 1½ years to do the research and become fluent in 1963-speak.

2. The Kennedy assassination. He used the assassination as a jumping off point for his characters. His theory of the assassination HAD to be plausible. There are thousands of books about the Kennedy assassination. Jack Kennedy “frolicked” with many women. Many. Many. Women.

Carlos Marcello was the crime boss in NOLA, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and part of Mississippi. Cleveland, Chicago, Miami, New York all had crime bosses. The desert around Las Vegas is peppered with shallow graves because back in the fifties and sixties the rule was: No one gets whacked in Las Vegas. The mob (collective) were concerned that killings would scare off the tourists and their \$\$\$.

There is no one-size-fits-all way to write. Planning, outlining, or flying by the seat of your pants are all viable. For him a 5-act process is most effective. He

does a lot of research and tries to make his historical figures as true to their known history as possible.

Lou says, “I am better at making stuff up than looking stuff up.”

**Carlos Marcello’s had a sign in his office. “Three can keep a secret if two of them are dead.”**

50% of the revisions that Lou does have to do with the timeline.

Barb asked, “How do you know when you’re done?”

Her question was met with a collective groan. We’ve all run into that wall repetitively. His advice was, “Editing is a rabbit hole that we all fall down.” and, “Remember that it is about the forest not the trees.”

Someone else asked about critique groups and beta readers. He paused before answering, “I’m better without a lot of outside voices. There’s nothing more dangerous than a good comment that’s not the right comment.”



Q: Why did Shakespeare only write in ink?

A: Pencils confused him — 2B or not 2B?

Q: How many mystery writers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two. One to screw the bulb almost all the way in, and one to give a surprising twist at the end.

Q: What should you say to comfort a grammar Nazi?

A: “There, their, they’re.”

“Don’t just teach your children to read...

Teach them to question what they read.

Teach them to question everything.”

— George Carlin

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## **Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.**

**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

**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.

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