November Speakers--

Kathleen Listman & Laci Liter

Topic ~~ Contest Awards

Contest co-chair Kathleen Listman and president Laci Liter will be presenting the contest awards during the November meeting.

Our October speaker cancelled at the last minute and Kathleen stepped up. Her topic was “Why Write Flash Fiction.” She explored the different types of flash fiction and read samples of each.

November 2019

President’s Message

Laci Liter

November is my month. It’s the month of changing color, the month we vote, the month we eat together and give thanks and the month that I was born. November is a passage of seasons; the warm days of October harvest is over, giving way to glimpses of winter snap. While our little home on the Earth leans away from the sun, other, personal seasons change: friends divorce, parents and children grow older and the cycles of life become more pronounced. What is it about a changing season that opens the door for all of life’s changes? Have we been waiting for an opportunity to act, to change, to evolve? Even if it does make me ache to think we won’t see green leaves on the deciduous trees until next April, the thought of the dynamic change of fall invigorates me. For all intents and purposes, our world as we know it appears to be dying. But, in order to be reborn, the Phoenix must first go into the unknown without knowing what lies ahead. Something deep shifts, a seed is frozen and transforms, an old way of thinking decays with the annuals and the leaves, Perhaps that uncomfortable shifting we experience around autumn is old bits of us dying so that we may be born again. My prayer to all of us is that we have the wisdom and joy to gather leaves in our arms and throw them to the sky

Happy Writing
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,  
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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

Workshop Chair: Kathleen Listman

Audio/Visual: TBA, if needed

2020 Program Planning

Kathleen Listman is seeking recommendations for next year’s speakers. As the Programming Chair for Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. she is looking for a few good presenters. If this piques your interest, please let me know. She will need to know something about you--such your contact information, proposed topic (with a one sentence description), and a short biography of your experience in the world of writing and/or publishing.

If you want to recommend someone else as speaker, you can send their information to Kathleen, but please ask them first!

These are the dates that are available in 2020. You may note that some of the months are already taken and others may disappear. So, let her know at least two times when you would be able to speak.

Feb.15, Apr. 18, May 16, Jun. 20,  
Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sep. 19, Oct. 17,  
Dec. 19

If you would be willing to participate in a panel discussion, the following subjects are currently planned:

- Law for authors (in spring)
- Children’s books (in summer)
- Self-publishing (in fall)

There are no set months for these yet, so let me know when you would not be available.

Happy Thanksgiving
Member News


✔✔✔ 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.

Coming Soon

Dayna Dunbar, author of The Saints and Sinners of Okay County and The Wings that Fly Us Home (Ballantine Books) will be discussing autobiographical fiction in Dec.

“I’m thankful for my sanity or whatever’s left of it.”
— Dominic Riccitello

“If you have any young friends who aspire to become writers, the second greatest favor you can do them is to present them with copies of The Elements of Style. The first greatest, of course, is to shoot them now, while they’re happy.”
— Dorothy Parker
“All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you: the good and the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse and sorrow, the people and the places and how the weather was. If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer.”

— Ernest Hemingway

On sabbatical in India, Leslie Matthews fights to rescue an orphaned girl from the dark world of human trafficking before the girl is forced into the sex industry. Forced to confront the guilt and shame that surfaces from the abuse she suffered in her past, Leslie resolves to rescue the girl from the brutal and sordid underworld, whatever the cost. In her fight to save another, she risks her safety, her marriage, and ultimately, her life.

Available on Amazon as a paperback and on Kindle.

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and it may be necessary from time to time to give a stupid or misinformed beholder a black eye.”

— Jim Henson

“The reason I talk to myself is because I’m the only one whose answers I accept.”

— George Carlin

“Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.”

— Erma Bombeck
Opportunities for Writers

The annual Fall Short Story Contest at the WRITERS magazine is underway! Submit your best fictional work in 2,000 words or less for your chance to win $1,000 AND publication in The Writer. Deadline is December 2nd. Any theme, subject, or genre is fair game, as long as it falls under 2,000 words. Go here to learn more about it: https://cdn.writermag.com/2019/10/Fall-Fiction-Contest-19-contest-rules-1.pdf

WRITERS DIGEST SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION
Entries must be submitted online (11:59 pm EST) or by December 16, 2019; all mailed should deliver within 5 days of the final deadline. Top Award Winners will be notified by mail before February 28, 2020.
FOR MORE INFO: https://www.writersdigest.com/writing-competitions-judging-and-notification?fbclid=IwAR33WSs44L-wl7JDI0YVlWiY5_jjNGkDuPpm_sxkdIGlNb07u-1-zBMOf5w

Thanks to Carolyn Leonard for including these in her Writers Reminder.

“After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations.”
― Oscar Wilde

"A book is made from a tree. It is an assemblage of flat, flexible parts (still called "leaves") imprinted with dark pigmented squiggles. One glance at it and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, the author is speaking, clearly and silently, inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people, citizens of distant epochs, who never knew one another. Books break the shackles of time — proof that humans can work magic."
― Carl Sagan

The first thing I do in the morning is brush my teeth and sharpen my tongue."
― Dorothy Parker

"So the writer who breeds more words than he needs, is making a chore for the reader who reads."
― Dr. Seuss