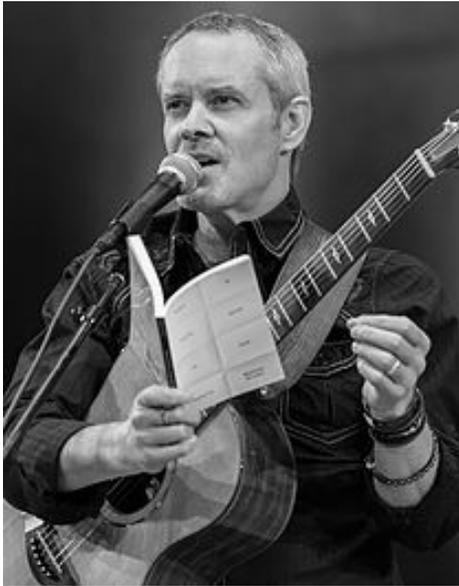


Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

September 2019

September Speaker~~

Nathan Brown



Topic ~~ Book publishing and promoting as a performance art

Nathan Brown is an author, songwriter, and award-winning poet living in Wimberley, Texas. He holds a PhD in English and Journalism from the University of Oklahoma where he taught for seventeen years. He served as Poet Laureate for the State of Oklahoma in 2013/14, and now travels full-time performing readings and concerts, teaching workshops and speaking on creativity, poetry, songwriting, and creative writing.

Nathan has published roughly nineteen books. Most recent are *An Honest Day's Confession*; *Apocalypse Soon: The Mostly Unedited Poems of Ezra E. Lipschitz*; and *Don't Try*, a collection of co-written poems with Austin Music Hall of Fame songwriter, Jon Dee Graham. *Karma Crisis: New and Selected Poems*, was a finalist for the *Paterson Poetry Prize* and the *Oklahoma Book Award*. His earlier book, *Two Tables Over*, won the *2009 Oklahoma Book Award*.

He's taught memoir, songwriting, performance, and creativity workshops from Tuscany to the Sisters Folk Festival in Oregon, the Taos Poetry Festival, the Woody Guthrie Festival, Laity Lodge, the Everwood Farmstead Foundation in Wisconsin, as well as for Blue Rock Artist Ranch near Austin, Texas.



President's Message

Laci Liter

In August I enrolled in a college class. I've not been in college for about ten years, and the prospect of starting again equally excited and terrified me. Now, classes have begun, notes have been taken, and study guides scoured. What have I learned so far? I've learned that going beyond curiosity and exploration into the realm of pushing your brain to the fringes of its capacity is equally exhausting and deeply satisfying. I must admit, before enrolling in this course I was sure it would be a breeze. I'm a curious person, I love tumbling new ideas around the noggin, but I was unaware that the intense interest felt when curiosity strikes does a lot to fuel learning. When the curiosity reserves have dried up, what fuel is left? It appears to be brain-power, something I can't quite wrap my mind around because 1. learning at this velocity is very new to me, and 2. my personal brain power reserves are spoken for.

*The "deeply satisfying" part of all of this really does outshine the growing pains of using my brain like this again. I'm growing stronger in ways I haven't conceptualized until now. When I was telling my husband my thoughts on this he replied, "That is why I do crosswords."



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

“What really knocks me out is a book that, when you’re all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it. That doesn’t happen much, though.” – *J.D. Salinger*

ENTRIES FOR THE FALL CONTEST WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM AUGUST 17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21.

The rules and entry form are included at the end of this newsletter.

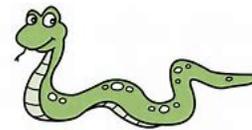


Member News

Barbara Shepherd’s short fiction, “Granny’s Gifts” was published A Christmas Anthology by Doodle and Peck Publishing. She had a Food article and recipes accepted for Yule Tidings to be published in November by Prosateurs. She presented a program on contests at Norman Galaxy of Writers.

✓✓✓ **Send your news to**
inezbowman@cox.net

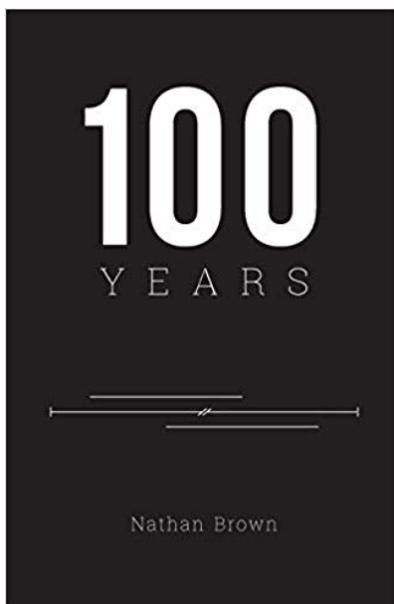
Not that we are nosey, we just want to know what you are writing, where and when it’s published, sold, if it won a prize, etc.



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

Freerice.com ~ The organization donates a grain of rice to a food program for every correct answer. If you think you have a good vocabulary, this program will certainly challenge you.

Nathan Brown's Latest



Along with his songs and prose, author and singer-songwriter Nathan Brown has written at least one poem every day for over 20 years now. And from that practice comes this new collection in which each poem deals chronologically with every year of our lives, from the ages of 0 to 100. In one, he tells the story of an 8-year-old girl attempting to cross the border into the U.S. with her older brother. Further in, he works through the mental gyrations of a 39-year-old man and a woman who is 61 falling in love at a reading in a bookstore. As a whole, these poems offer a stark sensitivity to all the stages, transitions, and graduations of life, while also marking a willingness to put an honest, sometimes even cold and hard, magnifying glass up to the struggles of the soul—the Venus and the Mars in us all.

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

OWFI BOARD MEETING

September 6, 2019

reported by

Carolyn Leonard

President Shelley Pagach called the quarterly Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc (OWFI) board meeting to order at 1:00 and adjourned around 3:30. Roll call by Julia Mzingo, secretary, was answered by delegates from 25 of the 50 affiliate clubs, and Wayne Wyrick-Harris, parliamentarian, declared a quorum present.

Staci Mauney, past president, announced the 2019 conference year came in under budget. She encouraged all the affiliates to donate a minimum of \$50 to sponsor the next conference. In return, the affiliate will have their logo posted on the webpage and other places. The earlier they donate, the longer their logo will be publicized.

First VP Traci Schafer reported the new contest criteria was now posted on the website. After studying data from last year, the officers decided to return contest opening date to January 1, and deadline remains February 1.

Conference chair Aleasha Shelnut said she had nine speakers confirmed, and nine who had not replied. She asked that anyone with requests or suggestions for speakers contact her.

Webmaster Jack Burgos demonstrated the revamped website and explained the

OWFI report continued items where affiliates need to participate regularly. The delegate from each club will be responsible for reporting new events under activities on the webpage. Any member having a book signing event is able to enter that information themselves on the public calendar after logging in to the website and going to the calendar. (owfi.org, Activities, Events, Calendar).

Jack also read the names of about ten clubs who have not submitted current information and several of those are in danger of being determined inactive as an affiliate of OWFI, for having fewer than five members who are also dues paying members of OWFI.

The OWFI report editor announced the deadline for submitting info to her is October 6. Members were also requested to write letters of support of the arts to their legislators and notify the grants director Vivian Zabel of having done so.

Vinita Eggers gave the treasurer's report and announced she was switching to a new accounting software called Oracle.

In new business, Dianna Street volunteered to be coordinator of the buzz sessions and the president revealed her budget for 2020. After discussion and questions, the meeting adjourned until December 2019.



"If you wish to be a writer, write."
— Epictetus



Hobbes: Do you have an idea for your story yet?

Calvin: No, I'm waiting for inspiration. You Can't just turn on creativity like a faucet. You have to be in the right mood.

Hobbes: What mood is that?

Calvin: Last-minute panic.

--Bill Waterson

"First, find out what your hero wants, then just follow him!"

— Ray Bradbury

"Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's."

— Stephen King

"You have to write the book that wants to be written. And if the book will be too difficult for grown-ups, then you write it for children."

— Madeleine L'Engle

"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."

— Stephen King

"I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in."

— Robert Louis Stevenson

"If you write one story, it may be bad; if you write a hundred, you have the odds in your favor."

— Edgar Rice Burroughs



**Remember---contest entries due Saturday
the 21st**

2019 OCWI Annual Contest for Members Only

Oklahoma City Writers Inc.

Contest Rules

General Information

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 is 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:

1. Humor: fiction, nonfiction, poetry. Maximum length 3,000 words.
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.
6. Short story: any short fiction for adult readers. Maximum length 5,000 words.
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

pages. Please type all entries using an easy-to-read font such as Times New Roman or Courier. Please use a size 12 font.

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



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(812) 679-7120
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.

MS NUMBER (Contest Chair will fill this in)	
CATEGORY NUMBER	
CATEGORY NAME	
MANUSCRIPT TITLE	
AUTHOR'S NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
EMAIL	
PHONE	
AUTHOR BIO:	

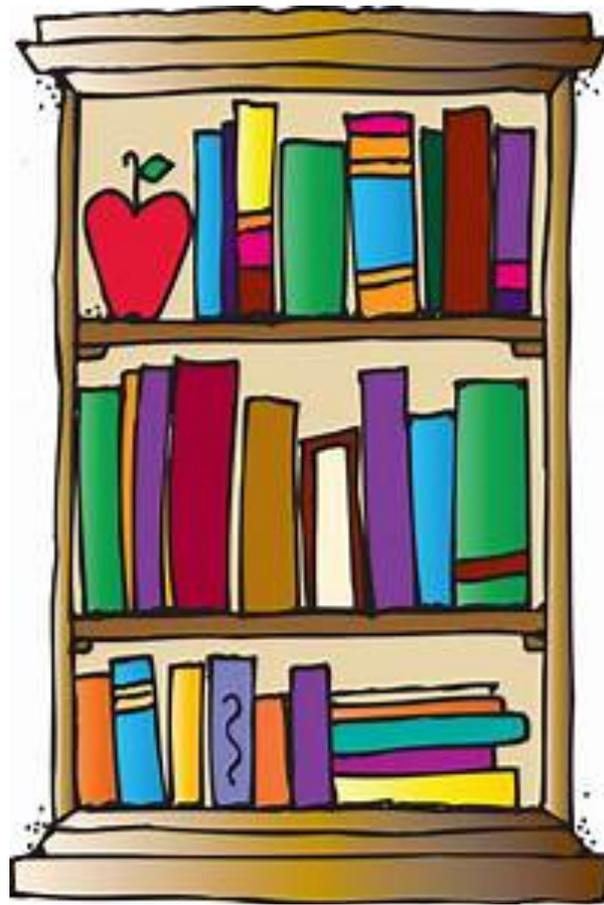
ENTRANT'S DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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.

SIGNED	
DATE	

Email entries to Contest Chair: Roxana Cazan: roxanalcazan@gmail.com or drop off no later than the September 21, 2019 meeting.



One night, I wrote down all the things I was waiting to do with my little granddaughter, and it became a book, 'I Already Know I Love You.' It was one of those really lovely things in life.

--Billy Crystal



