

*Oklahoma Writers'  
Federation, Inc.*

*Conference 2016*

Pathways to  
Writing



*May 12-14, 2016  
Oklahoma City, OK*

THURSDAY, MAY 12				
7-8:30 pm.	<b>Pre-Con Workshop with Christine Taylor-Butler: The Writer's Journey: What's in your toolbox?</b> ( <i>Extra \$20 fee may be paid at the door</i> )			
FRIDAY, MAY 13				
8:30 a.m.	<b>Opening Session – Welcome: Tony LoPresti</b>			
	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
9:00 a.m.	<b>Arlene Gale</b> Writing Short Stories (beginners)	<b>Erin Taylor Young</b> <b>Lacy Williams</b> Romancing the Reader	<b>Pam Johnson</b> Editing Level 1 Eight Common Mistakes	<b>Nathan Gunter</b> Freelance Life
10:00 a.m.	<b>Jennifer Horne</b> Giving Characters a Voice: Using First-Person	<b>Tony LoPresti</b> Behind the Silver Screen: Writing for film	<b>Jan Morrill</b> The Zen of Writing a Sequel	<b>Christine Jarmola</b> Starting and Keeping A Critique Group
11:00 a.m.	<b>Vickey Kennedy</b> World Building Blocks	<b>Carol Shenold</b> Superbugs: Terror in the Air and Don't Pet That Dog	<b>Vivian Zabel</b> Writing 101	<b>Christine Taylor-Butler</b> Whose Voice Is It?
12:00 p.m.	<b>William Bernhardt: Structure: Putting the Pieces Together, Room CD</b> (Prior ticket purchase required)			
1:30 p.m.	<b>Holly Jahangiri</b> Writing for Children	<b>Jan Morrill</b> Creative Characterization : Part 1:	<b>Uwe Stender</b> The Elevator pitch	<b>Larry Baker</b> How to Turn a Situation into a Plot
2:30 p.m.	<b>Vickey Kennedy</b> Beneath World Building Blocks	<b>Eric Reitan</b> Big Ideas:	<b>Vivian Zabel</b> Fiction vs NonFiction	<b>Lara Wells</b> Audiobooks -
3:30 p.m.	<b>Arlene Gale</b> Writing Short Stories (Advanced)	<b>Linda Apple</b> Using Fiction to Tell the Truth	<b>Jennifer Horne</b> Write What you've Learned	<b>Pam Johnson</b> Editing level 2:
4:30 –5:30 p.m.	<i>(banquet setup)</i>		<b>Book Signing</b>	
7:00 p.m.5.	<b>Banquet Keynote: Steven James: The Untouched Moment</b>			
Approx. 9:00 p.m.	<b>Buzz Sessions</b> (informal come-and-go talks) Locations and topics will be announced at the close of banquet			

*OWFI 2016 President Tony LoPresti  
Welcomes You*



Writers, welcome to the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. conference. Over the past year my staff and I have worked hard to put together a conference to be as inclusive as possible for all of our very diverse membership.

Last year I spoke with as many people as I could to find out what writers wanted in the next conference.

Turned out, a lot of what people wanted had to do with where they were in their writing careers. Maria Veres, our conference chair, and I interviewed people we felt could bring information on the subjects most requested by the membership.

This year we have added some extras to the conference. Writers are constantly asked for PR shots. This year, we have brought in a photographer for that purpose. First picture is free with only a small charge for additional pictures. Meeting friends and want a group picture? Our photographer can accommodate almost any situation.

We will also have a Gong Show. Sign up for it at the registration desk. Fill out a card following the rules. Cards will be read anonymously to our panel of experts and they will tell you what they think of it.

Most of all, renew friendships, make new friends, find a mentor, become a mentor, relax and have fun. If there is anything my staff or I can do to make the conference more enjoyable, please ask and we will do what we can.

*Tony LoPresti*  
President OWFI 2016

## ***KEYNOTE SPEAKER: STEVEN JAMES***



**Steven James** is a national bestselling novelist whose award-winning novels continue to gain wide critical acclaim and a growing fan base.

Suspense Magazine, who named James's book *THE BISHOP* their book of the year, says he "sets the new standard in suspense writing." Publishers Weekly calls him a "master storyteller at the peak of his game."

James has taught writing and storytelling around the world and is one of the seven Master CraftFest instructors at ThrillerFest. His book on the craft of writing, *STORY TRUMPS STRUCTURE*, received the award for Best Storytelling Resource from Storytelling World.

When Steven is not writing or speaking, you'll find him trail running, rock climbing, playing disc golf, or drinking a dark roast coffee near his home in eastern Tennessee.

### **Keynote Address**

#### **The Untouched Moment**

*Famous Authors Banquet, Friday, May 13, 7:00 P.M.*

Writing is more than capturing ideas or experiences on the page. It's about capturing moments that resonate with truth. In this humorous and thought-provoking talk, Steven James will share secrets and insights he's picked up over the past 20 years of being a professional writer.

### **Saturday Box Lunch Workshop**

#### **The Business of Publishing**

*May 14, 12:00 – 1:30, Room A/B. Prior registration required. No walk-ins.*

Things are changing in publishing. It's never been easier to get published and harder to find readers.

So what's an author to do? What's in our control and what isn't?

In this inspirational address, best-selling author Steven James will tackle these topics and more.

It's an exciting time. How will you respond?

## Pre-Conference Workshop

**Christine Taylor-Butler**

### **The Writer's Journey: What's in Your Toolbox?**

*Thursday, May 12, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. \$20. Pre-register or pay at the door.  
All full-time students admitted FREE with student ID as space allows.*



This workshop will focus on the art of writing and the tools that should be in your toolbox. Christine Taylor-Butler will cover everything from social media, to using software to organize your files, to creating ebook formats of your rough draft. She'll share how she went from zero commercially published titles to seventy-five and how you can keep it all straight on your own writing journey.

*Christine Taylor-Butler is the award winning author of more than 75 books for children and has spoken on many national panels. She's currently working on a middle grade series entitled The Lost Tribes. A graduate of MIT, she lives in Kansas City.*

## Friday Box Lunch Workshop

**William Bernhardt**

### **Structure: Putting It All Together**

*May 13, 12:00 – 1:30, Room A-B. Prior registration required. No walk-ins.*



Every author needs a solid knowledge of story structure, and nobody can teach it better than Oklahoma author William Bernhardt. Whether you're writing your first short story or your twentieth book, this session will help you gain a deeper understanding of how to use structure to build a solid foundation for your work.

*William Bernhardt is the bestselling author of more than 30 books, including the blockbuster Ben Kincaid series. The founder of the Red Sneaker Writing Center, he leads workshops and small-group seminars nationwide.*

## ***FRIDAY SESSIONS***

**9:00 – 9:50 A.M.**

**ARLENE GALE, Writing Short Stories (Beginners)** Arlene will discuss how to determine the story's starting point to connect the reader fast. She'll cover the best number of characters and plot points, as well as how to identify characters' importance. You'll learn how to use tense, point of view, and other writing tools. Helpful for fiction and nonfiction writers.

**ERIN TAYLOR YOUNG AND LACY WILLIAMS, Romancing the Reader: Keys to Writing Romance** Two editors unpack what makes a romance and give you the key "must haves" for your story. They'll discuss the tool of tropes and how to make them original, demystify hero and heroine types, and tell you how to build romantic tension. All skill levels.

**PAM JOHNSON, Editing Level 1: Eight Common Mistakes That Will Peg You as an Amateur** Don't let the first few pages of your manuscript land your book in the slush pile because you've been labeled an amateur writer. This workshop will help you catch some of the easiest mistakes to correct. Beginner level.

**NATHAN GUNTER, Freelance Life** Join the managing editor of *Oklahoma Today* magazine for expert advice on how to create a good freelance career. You'll learn how to conceive, pitch, and execute stories; what editors are looking for in a pitch; and how to work with editors once a piece is accepted for publication and beyond. Beginner to intermediate.

**10:00 – 10:50 A.M.**

**JENNIFER HORNE, Giving Characters a Voice: Using First Person in Poetry and Short Fiction** Some of the most memorable American writing is in the first-person voice. Jennifer will discuss the advantages and pitfalls of first-person narrators. Participants will have the chance to do exercises writing and brainstorming. You'll gain a better understanding of how and when to use first person in your own work. All skill levels.

**ANTHONY LOPRESTI, JR., Behind the Silver Screen** This session will cover the basics of screenwriting, from formatting the screenplay to how a production company uses it to make a film and a quick who's who of a film set. Tony will also discuss some of the highlights of what to expect when a screenplay is optioned and/or sold and the differences between independents and large-scale film producers. All skill levels.

**10:00 – 10:50 A.M.**

**JAN MORRILL, *The Zen of Writing a Sequel*** Learn to cope with challenges such as balancing backstory, dealing with time constraints, and overcoming lack of motivation. Jan will share the solutions that have worked for her and confess what hasn't worked. Intermediate to advanced.

**CHRISTINE JARMOLA, *Finding Our Faults and Encouraging Our Strengths: Starting and Keeping a Critique Group*** After a few endings and new beginnings in her writing career, Christine Jarmola decided to create her own critique group. She'll coach you on what to do and especially what not to do in creating a writing squad as you help each other make it through the ups and downs of a publishing career. All skill levels.

**11:00 – 11:50 A.M.**

**VICKEY KENNEDY, *World Building Blocks*** World-building skills are imperative to your story. They are just as important for describing real world settings as they are for creating alien or fantasy worlds. Learn the A-B-Cs of building the worlds where characters live. All skill levels.

**CAROL SHENOLD, *Superbugs, Terror in the Air, and Don't Pet That Dog*** With new superbugs transmitted through animals, Fido could be the carrier in a bioterrorism attack. Organisms can contaminate our water or air. Shenold, a thriller writer and nurse, will discuss how to use these hair-raising possibilities in fiction and get the facts correct. All skill levels.

**VIVIAN ZABEL, *Writing 101*** This session deals with beginning the writing experience, from finding ideas to the finishing a manuscript. Attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet or smart phone to access online material during the session. Beginner level.

**CHRISTINE TAYLOR-BUTLER, *Whose Voice Is It?*** Many writers confuse the voice of a character with their own voice and fail to create a transformative journey for the reader. We'll talk about voice, how it works, and how to get out of your head and into the character's. This session is for children's and adult fiction and creative nonfiction writers. All skill levels.

**1:30 – 2:20 P.M.**

**HOLLY JAHANGIRI, *Writing for Children: It's Harder than It Looks!*** You think writing for children is easy? Think again! It's not enough that we were all children once or that the vocabulary is simple. Writing for children is tough but so rewarding, too. Learn what it takes to write a book children and publishers will love. Beginner to Intermediate.

## 1:30 – 2:20 P.M.

**JAN MORRILL, Creative Characterization** What are your characters' secrets? Have you ever thought of asking them? In this workshop, using several exercises, Jan Morrill will show you how to draw out what your character may not tell you about himself and his story. All skill levels.

**UWE STENDER, Elevator Pitches** Can you sell your book manuscript in 30 seconds or less? In this session, a New York agent will discuss what agents look for in an elevator pitch, how to present your book and yourself in the best way, and mistakes to avoid. Intermediate level.

**LARRY BAKER, How to Turn a Situation into a Plot** You can write a book without a plot, but you can't write a plot without a problem to be solved. Thus, all plots are mysteries. Where are the characters going and why? How do we write an ending that is both a surprise and absolutely inevitable? In this session, Larry Baker will show you how to transform a situation into a plot that will keep readers turning pages. All skill levels.

## 2:30 – 3:20 P.M.

**VICKEY KENNEDY, Beneath World Building Blocks** There is more to world building than what meets the eye. The world the reader sees is only the tip of the iceberg. Vickey Kennedy will discuss what you and your characters *must* know about the world you are building, even if you never reveal the details to your readers. All skill levels.

**ERIC REITAN, Big Ideas: Serving (Not Swamping) Your Story with Philosophical Themes** Memorable stories often touch on profound themes. This session will look at how exploring big ideas from philosophy and theology can generate story ideas and help sharpen story elements, while considering how to avoid the dangers that threaten to turn stories "preachy" or bog them down with pretentiousness. Intermediate and up.

**VIVIAN ZABEL, Fiction vs. Nonfiction** Fiction and nonfiction have some components that are alike and some that are different. This session discusses both genres, as well as the combination type of narrative or creative nonfiction. Attendees are encouraged to bring electronic devices to access online material. Beginner to intermediate.

**LARA BERNHARDT, Creating Audiobooks** Sales for audiobooks are exploding. Many authors are now generating their own audiobooks and finding a significant audience for them. In this session, Lara Wells will explain how you can enter this boom marketplace. She will play sample clips and give away audiobook downloads. Intermediate to advanced.



3:30 – 4:20 P.M.

**ARLENE GALE, Writing Short Stories (Advanced)** Learn to add depth to characters and plots without adding words. Identify, omit or combine characters who do not advance the plot. Focus on turning vague words into power words, driving tension into dialogue, using body language, and working with rhetorical devices. Learn how to start immediately with action and end by resolving conflict, or not. Examples are given for both fiction and nonfiction. Intermediate to advanced.

**LINDA APPLE, Using Fiction to Tell the Truth** Creative nonfiction is possibly the most misunderstood form of writing today. Using fiction techniques in your nonfiction will bring your writing to life—picture Dorothy in the Land of Oz. Linda will discuss what creative nonfiction is, what it isn't, and how it is done. Beginner to intermediate.

**JENNIFER HORNE, Write What You've Learned** Ernest Hemingway famously said, "Write what you know." Most take this to mean you should write about your family, where you grew up, went to school, and so on. But even Hemingway wrote about things that he consciously and intentionally, learned and experienced. This workshop will teach you how to make use of knowledge you have acquired to enrich your writing. All skill levels.

**PAM JOHNSON, Editing Level 2: What Do You Mean, My First Draft Isn't Good Enough?** Writing a manuscript worthy of publication takes multiple rewrites. This workshop will highlight six common problem areas to address as you read through your book again . . . and again . . . and again. Intermediate level.

4:30 – 5:30 P.M. **Book Signing** in the seminar rooms

7:00 P.M. **Famous Authors Banquet** Costume contest, recognition of members who published books in 2015, and keynote by Steven James

**Buzz Sessions (following the banquet)** Informal gatherings to discuss various writing topics. Locations are announced at the end of the banquet. Please keep the laughter to a low roar and respect the presenters' time.

***Got 30 Seconds?** Please fill out the evaluation forms at the end of every session. There are just two questions. These forms help us apply for grants and plan future conferences. Thanks!*

## ***SATURDAY SESSIONS***

**9:00 – 9:50 A.M.**

**ERIC REITAN, *There's No Such Thing as Writer's Block*** Saying we have writer's block does nothing to explain why we're stuck in our writing. But identifying why we're stuck can be crucial for getting unstuck. In this session, we'll walk through reasons why writers get stuck and brainstorm strategies for getting the words flowing again. All skill levels.

**CHRISTINE JARMOLA, *Yours, Mine and Ours: The Do's, Don'ts and Maybes of Collaborative Writing*** Writing with a group can be a great way to expand your readership and branch out of your comfort zone. It can also be a recipe for disaster if you don't know what pitfalls to avoid. Join Christine as she walks you through the collaborative markets available, strategies for writing group anthologies, and her own collaborative fiction experience with her critique partners. All skill levels.

**ALLY ROBERTSON, *How to Hook an Editor and What to Do Once You Have Them*** Ally Robertson, editor at The Wild Rose Press, shows you how to engage your readers—and your editor—in the opening scene. She'll go over what to avoid, what to include, and that all-important first line. Then she'll take you through working with an editor, what to expect, the do's and don'ts, what The Wild Rose Press is looking for, and the advantages to having your book with a publisher rather than self-publishing. You're invited to bring an opening of your work in process to share with the group and receive feedback from an editor. All skill levels.

**LINDA APPLE, *Writing from Your Soul*** There are stories buried in our innermost being just waiting to be written. The problem? We sometimes do not recognize them or feel they are important. In our time together, we will delve deep and validate these hidden treasures. Then we will discuss ways to connect our stories with the minds of our readers with the goal of positively impacting their lives. All skill levels.

**10:00 – 10:50 A.M.**

**FRANK STEELE, *So You Want to Write a Play*** This session will take you from thought to production. Frank Steele will discuss the “fourth wall,” the audience as eavesdroppers, character choice, and production venues. You will learn how to rewrite your masterpiece when you don't want to change a single word and how to get your play sold. Finally, Frank will help you answer the burning question, “Now, exactly why am I writing a play in the first place, and is really worth the effort?” All skill levels.

**10:00 – 10:50 A.M.**

**VIVIAN ZABEL, Tips and Tricks for Teaching Writing** This session will help anyone who teaches or wants to teach others how to write. Vivian shares all the tips and tricks she learned and used to teach writing for nearly 30 years. Teaching writing doesn't have to be impossible because of an avalanche of grading papers. Attendees are encouraged to bring a tablet, laptop, or smart phone to access online material during the session. Intermediate to advanced.

**NOAH BALLARD, Query Etiquette** Learn the format of a query letter, how to identify the right agent for your genre, the rules by which a writer should conduct themselves around agents, and how to navigate common questions (i.e., Can I submit to multiple agents at one agency? Should I grant exclusive reads? Can I dictate the process by which an agent submits my work?). Noah Ballard will show you how to navigate the process of finding the right agent for you with professionalism, confidence and business savvy. Beginner to intermediate.

**PAM JOHNSON, Editing Level 3: Ask the Right Questions to Move Toward Publication** Congratulations! The acquisitions editor loved your first few chapters. Don't lose her interest now. This workshop will help you look at some of the big questions you must ask before your book is publishable. Intermediate to advanced.

**11:00 – 11:50 A.M.**

**VICKEY KENNEDY, Beyond World Building Blocks** No world is an island. No real, alien, or fantasy world is complete without a little knowledge of the surrounding worlds. Whether you're writing historical fiction, memoir, science fiction, or something else, understanding the worlds beyond your story's setting will add depth and realism to your work. All skill levels.

**NIKKI HANNA, Find Your Joy in Writing** This session focuses on the emotional influences of writing. Not everyone is going to "sell lots of books and make lots of money." This is an important objective, but narrowly focusing on it often produces frustrated writers. This workshop suggests alternative pathways to achievement. Nikki will discuss finding a niche, contest-winning strategies, craft, and often-overlooked publishing options. Participants will be emboldened by a deeper understanding of why they write and will gain a fresh perspective on how to shine. All skill levels.

**11:00 – 11:50 A.M.**

**LARRY BAKER, Characters Come from Life, Not the Writer** Forget trying to be original. All of us are types. The trick is taking what reality offers and turning it into something different. Art is always the effort to make the familiar unfamiliar. Start with your childhood, your family, the people in the room with you, the people next to you, and of course yourself. How do you understand and then reveal the innate character of someone and make a reader want to know more? Both fiction and creative nonfiction writers will benefit from Larry Baker's tips on creating memorable characters. All skill levels.

**STEPHANIE BARKO, Acquiring Endorsements** A book endorsement is a sentence or two from a VIP, author, or key influencer that helps acquire new readers. High level endorsements can increase the value of your brand. Publicist Stephanie Barko will explore what endorsements can do for your book, when and how to request them, and who to target. Attend this session if you have a completed or nearly completed manuscript that you intend to publish in the next 6-12 months. Intermediate to advanced.

**1:30 – 2:20 P.M.**

**CAROL SHENOLD, Plotting Your Way to a First Draft** Not everyone is a fan of plotting, but many writers find the first draft goes much faster if they have a road map. This session will cover a three- to four-act structure, the need for midpoint and plot point elements as well as climax. Carol will also show you how to use a story board or index cards as a tool and how to create a notebook with ideas and information for each book. Beginner to intermediate.

**LINDA APPLE, Public Speaking for Writers** Public speaking is one of the best ways to sell books and build platforms. But that isn't all! Speaking can turn into an income stream as well as providing opportunities to visit new places and meet new people. Linda will share tips for overcoming stage fright, strategies for putting together presentations, and practical suggestions to use before, during, and after speaking. All skill levels.

**JAN MORRILL, Creative Characterization, Part 2** Sometimes looking at a scene through a different pair of eyes (a different perspective) can bring out all kinds of surprises—new plot twists, new subplots, new stories altogether. Using written exercises, Jan Morrill will demonstrate how to discover these little treasures. All skill levels.

**2:30 – 3:20 P.M.**

**ARLENE GALE, Business and Legal Considerations for Writers**

Should you publish under your own name or pen name? Is it better to create a DBA (Doing Business As) or an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation)? With a contract in hand what are key points to look for? This session will address the legal and business issues every writer must consider. Arlene will go over contract questions such as who owns the copyright, whether there is an out clause, right of first refusal, who owns production files, royalty distribution timing and reports, and more. All skill levels.

**JENNIFER HORNE, Writing as a Way of Seeing** Writers live a life in words. To express things freshly, however, it helps to engage in practices that refresh the way you see yourself and the world around you. In this workshop, we will play with words in different ways to renew our vision and experience, making us more attentive to the physical world around us by focusing on the senses and remembering how paying attention to the little things can bring us back into the moment. All skill levels.

**GONG SHOW** Will the panel love your anonymous pitch or will it get gonged? Listen, cringe, and learn. Pitches accepted at the registration desk.

**3:30 – 4:20 P.M.**

**LARRY BAKER, Why Do I Write?** George Orwell's classic 1946 essay needs to be updated for the twenty-first century. In a world of increasing religious animosities and human denial of potentially catastrophic changes in our own environment, among other issues....does creative writing make any difference? All skill levels.

**HOLLY JAHANGIRI, Creating a Winning Social Strategy** Overwhelmed by Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter? Do you really need a blog? Social media can be a fun and cost-effective promotion tool. Learn how to create a winning social strategy to showcase your work, promote your books and events, and engage with readers. If you have a laptop or smartphone, bring it to access online material during the session. Beginner to intermediate.

**GONG SHOW, Continued**

**4:30 – 5:30 P.M. Book Signing**

**4:30 – 5:00 P.M. Board Meeting:** Delegates and officers, please attend.

**5:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. General Membership Meeting**

**7:00 P.M. Contest Awards Banquet**

## CONFERENCE FACULTY BIOS

*Read more about our speakers at [owfi.org](http://owfi.org).*

**Linda Apple** teaches workshops and presents to writers' conferences and women's groups. She enjoys helping others realize their potential.

**Larry Baker, Ph.D.**, is a critically lauded author who has been named to the *Los Angeles Times* Top 100 List and the ALA Banned Books list.

**Noah Ballard** is an agent at Curtis Brown, Ltd. He has appeared across the country at conferences and graduate programs. He lives in Brooklyn.

**Stephanie Barko**, publicist, has been helping authors get reviewed and noticed for the past ten years. Her articles have been published in *Writers' Digest*, *Southern Writers Magazine*, and *San Francisco Book Review*.

**Lara Bernhardt** loves the experience of immersing herself in a good book. In addition to writing and editing, she applies her musical theatre performance degree and passion for stories to narrating audiobooks.

**William Bernhardt**: *See bio at the front of this booklet.*

**Mari Farthing**, 2016 conference book doctor, is a freelance writer and editor whose experience includes media and traditional writing and editing.

**Arlene Gale** has 25 years of writing and speaking experience. She mentors nonfiction writers and has published many short stories and articles.

**Nathan Gunter** is managing editor of *Oklahoma Today* magazine. He has contributed to many publications, including CNN.com and *This Land* Press.

Author and humorist **Nikki Hanna** teaches memoir writing, coaches writers, and speaks on how to find joy and purpose through writing.

**Jennifer Horne** is a native of Arkansas who currently teaches at the University of Alabama. She is the author of several poetry anthologies and chapbooks and is currently writing a biography of Sarah Mayfield.

**Holly Jahangiri** has published three children's books and many stories and poems. She is a social media analyst who was an internet addict before it was a thing.

**Steven James, Keynote Speaker**: *See bio at the front of this booklet.*

**Christine Jarmola** has held many OWFI leadership roles while pursuing a flourishing writing career. She has published multiple essays, two novels, and a collaborative novel.

**Pam Johnson** is a self-proclaimed editing nerd who loves to discuss the importance of POV and debate the use of the Oxford comma. She has edited all 15 of Steven James's novels.

**Vickey Malone Kennedy**—aka vck—is a former president of OWFI and the 2011 OWFI Crème de la Crème contest winner. A retired licensed nurse, she now serves as editor in chief of 4RV Publishing.

**Anthony LoPresti, Jr.** has received multiple awards in screenwriting, including winning the Houston International Film Festival and being a finalist for the Nichols Fellowship. He is OWFI 2016 president.

**Jan Morrill** is the author of four books and is currently working on a sequel to her award-winning novel *The Red Kimono*. She enjoys speaking, giving workshops, and being a new grandma.

**Eric Reitan** is a philosophy professor at OSU whose writing has won many awards, both within and beyond OWFI. He has published poems, essays, short stories, and books.

**Ally Robertson** has been an editor with The Wild Rose Press since they opened in 2006. Although she specializes in the Crimson Rose line, she edits any genre and welcomes speaking with authors about all their projects.

**Carol Shenold** writes mystery novels and medical nonfiction. She is a registered nurse and accomplished speaker who paints portraits and teaches zentangle in her spare time.

**Frank Steele** is a retired drama teacher, a member of SAG-AFTRA and ASCAP, and has acted in plays, television, and motion pictures. He has written for school professional productions.

Literary agent **Dr. Uwe Stender** is interested in commercial fiction and nonfiction. His five favorite novels right now are *Eleanor and Park*, *How It Went Down*, *Code Name Verity*, *High Fidelity*, and *The Big Sleep*.

**Christine Taylor-Butler:** *See bio at the front of this booklet.*

**Erin Taylor Young** is acquisitions editor and author liaison for Serenade Books. She is an award-winning humor writer and podcast producer.

**Lacy Williams** is the author of numerous inspirational romance novels.

**Vivian Zabel** has headed 4RV publishing since 2006. She has been an English and writing teacher for almost thirty years and has published articles, poetry, stories, and novels.

## ***PITCH ROOM***

*Hours:* Friday, 1:30 – 5:00; Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:30 – 5:00

### **AGENTS**

**Noah Ballard, Curtis Brown, Ltd.**, specializes in literary debuts, upmarket thrillers and narrative nonfiction, and he is always on the lookout for honest and provocative new writers.

**Dr. Uwe Stender, Triada US Literary Agency**, is interested in commercial fiction, especially young adult, middle grade, mysteries, and women's fiction. He is also interested in all kinds of nonfiction projects. But surprise him, his tastes are eclectic, and he may love what you wrote!

### **EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS**

**Vivian Zabel, 4RV Publishing:** Will take pitches for any of 4RV's imprints. Their greatest needs are for young adult, new adult, fiction, and Christmas themed children's books.

**Duke and Kimberly Pennell, Pen-L Publishing:** Science fiction, fantasy, mystery, thriller, women's and western with the most interest in series. They are also interested in nonfiction (non-memoir).

**Nathan Gunter, Oklahoma Today Magazine:** Nonfiction articles that focus on the best of Oklahoma's people, places, events, and culture.

**Ally Robertson, The Wild Rose Press:** Romance and women's mainstream fiction.

### **PUBLICIST**

**Stephanie Barko** is available for brief consultations regarding book publicity, promotion, and marketing.

### ***PITCH ROOM GUIDELINES***

- Be at your scheduled appointment **15 minutes early**. If you're not on time, your appointment could be given to someone else.
- Any open appointments will be filled at the conference. Drop by the pitch room desk to see what is available.
- If you want to see an agent or editor and can't get an appointment, hang out in front of the pitch room. If someone fails to show up or cancels, the empty slots will be filled by the people in the area.

*Visit [onfi.org](http://onfi.org) to learn more about the editors and agents.*



## **BASKET AUCTION**

*Atrium. Silent auction closes Saturday, May 14, 6:00 – 6:30 P.M.*

Take home one of the beautiful gift baskets displayed in the atrium and help fund OWFI conference scholarships for next year. Bidding will close on a staggered schedule beginning at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday.

## **TABLE CENTERPIECE RAFFLE**

*Tickets may be purchased at the registration desk*

Just \$1.00 buys you a chance to win one of the handmade centerpieces displayed on the banquet tables. They'll be raffled at the end of the Saturday night banquet. All funds raised go toward next year's conference expenses.

## **BOOK ROOM**

*Pre-Convvene Area, Friday and Saturday, May 13 – 14, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.*

We're pleased to partner with Full Circle Bookstore to sell members' and speakers' books during the conference. Book sales support OWFI, Full Circle Bookstore, and our member authors.

## **GONG SHOW**

*Pitches accepted until 12:00 Saturday (drop in box by registration desk)*

*Room C-D, Saturday, May 14, 2:30 P.M. – 4:20 P.M.*

Will the panel love your pitch or will they strike the gong? Submit your **anonymous** pitch by writing it on a 4 x 6 card and dropping it in the box at the registration desk. Keep it PG rated, please. A moderator will read the pitches and invite the panel to tell us exactly what they think.

## **PORTRAITS**

*Thurs., 6:45 – 8:00; Fri. and Sat, 9:15 – 4:00, except first 15 min. of each session*

*Room 1 (next to ballrooms)*

New this year, photographer Jen Nipps will help you get that perfect headshot for your website or book cover. The first pose is FREE; additional poses are \$5 each; group photos are \$5 per person.

## **BOOK DOCTOR**

*Executive Board Room, Saturday, May 14, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.*

Mari Farthing, Book Doctor, will hold 15-minute sessions to help you make your manuscript shine. Sign up and drop off up to 25 pages at registration Friday or bring work to the session with you. \$50 per session.

### ***Please Recycle Your Badge Holders***

*Drop them in the box near the registration desk or at the back of the banquet room. This helps cut costs next year.*

## *OWFI OFFICERS AND STAFF*

**Tony LoPresti:** President

**Maria Veres:** Conference Chair

**Dawn Allen:** Past President

**Marsha Kay Oldham:** First VP  
and Contest Chair

**Aleasha Shelnutt:** Second VP

**Julia Mazingo:** Secretary

**Vinita Eggers:** Treasurer

**Vivian Zabel:** Grants Director

**Miranda LoPresti and Heather  
Davis:** Publicity

**Mari Farthing:** Newsletter  
Editor and Website Admin

**Dan Case:** Assistant Webmaster

**Wayne Harris-Wyrick:**  
Parliamentarian

## *CONFERENCE STAFF*

**Bill Boudreau:** Tech Support

**Peggy Chambers:** Centerpieces

**Erin Cochran:** Pitch Room

**Dee Dee Chumley and Savvy  
Thorne:** Proofreading

**Mari Farthing:** Book Doctor

**Holly Jahangiri:** Social Media

**Christine Jarmola:** Honorary  
Life Member Chair

**Doug Kelley:** Bookstore Liaison

**Vickey Kennedy:** Sponsorships  
and Table Reservations

**Carolyn Leonard:** Scholarships

**Jim Martin:** Book Signing

**Jennifer McMurrain:** Famous  
Authors Banquet

**Adrean Messmer:** Registration

**Jen Nipps:** Buzz Sessions and  
Photography

**Tanya Provines:** Program Cover

**Eric Reitan:** Shepherd Chair

**Jodi Thompson:** Basket Auction

**Ruth Weeks:** Costume Contest

Dozens of OWFI members not listed here gave their time and talents to make the 2016 Pathways to Writing conference a success. Thanks to each one of you. We also want to thank our friends and families, who provided free therapy, sympathy, pizza, proofreading, chocolate, hugs, taxi services, and wardrobe/costume advice. We couldn't have done it without you.

*Get Ready for OWFI 2017*

May 5 – 7, 2017, Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City

Stay updated at [owfi.org](http://owfi.org)

**SATURDAY, MAY 14**

	<b>ROOM A</b>	<b>ROOM B</b>	<b>ROOM C</b>	<b>ROOM D</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Eric Reitan</b> There's No Such Thing as Writer's Block	<b>Christine Jarmola</b> Yours, Mine, and Ours: Collaborative Writing	<b>Ally Robertson</b> How to Hook an Editor and What to Do Once You Have Them	<b>Linda Apple</b> Writing From Your Soul
10:00 a.m.	<b>Frank Steele</b> So You Want to Write a Play	<b>Vivian Zabel</b> Tips and Tricks for Teaching Writing	<b>Noah Ballard</b> Query Etiquette: How to Navigate the Process of Finding the Right Agent	<b>Pam Johnson</b> Editing Level 3
11:00 a.m.	<b>Vickey Kennedy</b> Beyond World Building Blocks	<b>Nikki Hanna</b> Find Your Joy in Writing	<b>Larry Baker</b> Characters Come From Life, Not the Writer	<b>Stephanie Barko</b> Endorsements
12:00 p.m.	<b>Steven James: The Business of Publishing: Room CD</b> (Prior ticket purchase required)			
1:30 p.m.	<b>Carol Shenold</b> Plotting Your Way to a First Draft	<b>Linda Apple</b> Public Speaking Tips for Writers	<b>Jan Morrill</b> Creative Characterization, Part 2: Focus on Perspective	
2:30 p.m.	<b>Arlene Gale</b> Business and Legal Considerations for Writers	<b>Jennifer Horne</b> Writing as a Way of Seeing	<b>Gong Show Submissions</b>	
			<b>Gong Show</b>	
3:30 p.m.	<b>Larry Baker</b> Why Do I Write?	<b>Holly Jahangiri</b> Creating a Winning Social Strategy	<b>Gong Show, continued</b> Hosted by Wayne Harris-Wyrick	
4:30-5:15	<b>OWFI Board Meeting</b>		<b>Book Signing</b>	
5:15-5:30 p.m.	<b>General Membership Meeting</b>			
7:00 p.m.	<b>Banquet</b> <b>OWFI Writing Awards</b>			

***Thank You***  
**To Our Donors and Sponsors**

Anonymous

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Linda Apple

Bartlesville WordWeavers

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Pen and Keyboard Writers

Marcia Preston

Sandra Soli

SoonerCon

Tulsa NightWriters

Maria Veres and Family  
*in memory of Monte Shepherd*

Ruth Weeks

***Crème de la Crème (“Best of Contest” Award)***  
Anonymous, in memory of Charlotte Blood Smith

**And the Oklahoma Arts Council**



OKLAHOMA  
**A R T S**  
COUNCIL

Program cover design by Tanya Provines, [tanyaprovines.com](http://tanyaprovines.com)