

OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER



Ronie Kendig, The “Rapid-Fire” Writer

DON WHITE
OCW PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

Best-selling suspense author Ronie Kendig will join us at the OCW fall conference at Warner Pacific College on October 15. She will share her heart, her passion, and some of her best writing techniques to help us create the stories we have always dreamed of writing.

A self-proclaimed “Army brat,” with multiple awards for her fast-paced thrillers, Ronie knows how to spin tales of military intrigue that get your heart pounding and keep your eyes glued to the page. Writers’ organizations around the country have invited her to encourage their members and share her secrets.

The myriad of plots and characters in her string of successful novels has been built piece by piece from the countless people and places she has experienced while growing up in a military family. With a passion for hurting people and a psychology degree from Liberty University, Ronie uses her



insights into the human condition to add depth and realism to her characters placed in extraordinarily stressful situations.

In addition to winning the Christy, HOLT Medallion, and Inspirational Reader’s Choice awards, her work has been in the running for the INSPY, Family Fiction Readers’ Choice, and Carol awards, among others. Since her first book was released just six years ago, Ronie now has more than 15 books published in five different fiction series.

The first installment of her Operation Zulu: Redemption series (her “rapid-fire” tales of an all-female special operations unit) is available as a free digital download at Amazon.com.

Despite her busy writing schedule, Ronie and her husband, Brian, have managed to keep a close-knit family and homeschooled all of their children. As of last June, she and her military veteran husband have been married 26 years.

Don’t miss this nationally known speaker and experienced writing teacher as she comes to be our mentor at Warner Pacific College at our fall one-day conference. Join Ronie Kendig in celebrating her newest book, *Accelerant*, which is scheduled to officially release the very weekend she visits us in Portland. ✍️

**FALL 2016 CONFERENCE
October 15**

Warner Pacific College
Portland
Online Registration Only

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OCW’s statement of faith on Page 3 encapsulates the historic Apostles’ Creed in updated language. Our aim is to glorify God and help writers grow in their craft. We ask our members and presenters to adhere to our statement of faith; however, OCW does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by our members or presenters in print or the spoken word.

Words Are Powerful



PRESIDENT’S CORNER
Maxine Marsolini
OCW President
president@
oregonchristianwriters.org

Mouths speak words into being, but once words are in print a powerful phenomenon is set in motion. Fueled by readers, those stories and articles begin to blow about. Where and for how long they circulate is an unknown factor. No one can accurately account for their reach.

Words communicate truths and dispatch comfort.

Genesis 1 is a spine-tingling passage I struggle to fully understand. God spoke. Loud or soft, it doesn’t matter.

All elements responded to His voice. What once was a formless, empty, dark earth began to change—God’s words alone held power enough to birth the entire universe.

God said, “Let there be light,” and light burst from the blackness. Words created day and night, land and seas, seed-bearing plants, stars and planets, sun and moon, fish and animals, and humans too.

As I write my last President’s Corner column before leaving office, it seems fitting to emphasize the force that is carried on the wings of our words. Writers must craft with caution. This is the checklist I use before submitting for publication. (The genre doesn’t matter.)

Please see POWERFUL on Page 8

Inspiring Fall Workshops



CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
Don White
OCW Program Coordinator
program@
oregonchristianwriters.org

A. Ronie Kendig – “Mind Magic: Tips & Tricks to Capture Your Reading Audience”

Learn some “sleight of hand” maneuvers to psychologically capture your readers’ minds—without them realizing it! There are elements in writing that will either spur your reader to maintain the journey, or make them detour at the nearest exit.



This workshop looks at visual construction as well as psychological impressions found in novels. It’s almost like cheating, using the right techniques, words,

sentence structure, and other aspects of writing that have psychological value.

B. Mary McIntosh – “Tell It Like It Is: Writing Poetry about Family”

Family experiences, celebrations, trauma, drama, and history can be captured in poetic form. Whether they are episodes of triumph or devastation, God works either way. Tell it through your eyes or through God’s eyes. We will talk about some family poems by other poets and write some of our own in the workshop. Bring your journal, paper, and pen.

Mary is a poet, freelance writer and editor, former college professor, and teacher of creative writing who specializes in teaching seminars and poetry workshops for writers and community groups. She has published articles and poems in *VoiceCatcher*, *Oregon Humanities Magazine*, and *Spectrum Magazine*, and has won Honorable Mention for a poem from the Oregon State Poetry Association (OPA). She especially likes conducting poetry workshops for OCW.

C. Dick Bohrer – “24 Ways to Write Stories for Christian Kids”

What makes a successful Christian book for children? Would you like to know the strategies and “tricks of the trade” to publish children’s books? This workshop will present recipes that professional writers have used for their picture books and ABC books, and then move on to all sorts of chronological narratives and stories in rhyme. Dick has used extensive research to compile the data for this study.

Dick has taught elementary, high school, college, and graduate school classes over a 40-year span. He has edited a national magazine, two newspapers, and many books. He has written eight novels, five textbooks, and three biographies. He is currently editing a book of poems and a commentary on the Holy Spirit. He and his wife, Betty, live in West Linn.

D. Tracie Heskett – “Writing for the Education Market”

Come explore this interesting way to write for children. We’ll discuss what it means to work for hire, tips that are appropriate for any genre, and the particulars of this specific market. Tracie develops and writes curriculum and teacher resource books for national educational publishers, with over 40 teacher resource books, a textbook, and other educational materials in print. With experience in writing for the educational market as well as Bible study materials, Tracie can help you understand and navigate this genre and its markets.



Tracie has one novel completed that is hoping to find a publishing home. She presents workshops for OCW, her local chapter of ACFW, Writers Weekend at the Beach (which she has co-directed for more than five years), and she speaks and works with

Driving Directions to Fall Conference

Please note that we will be using Warner Pacific College’s main campus at 2219 SE 68th Street, Portland, Oregon 97215.

From the East

Take I-84 West. Take the I-205 South exit (#9), staying left at the fork. Take the Division/Powell exit (Exit 19) and turn right onto Division Street. The college is on the right at 68th Avenue.

From the West

Take I-84 East. Take the I-205 South exit (#6) toward Salem. Take the Division/Powell exit (Exit 19) and turn right onto Division Street. The college is on the right at 68th Avenue.

From the North

Take I-205 south to the Division/Powell exit (#19) and turn right onto Division Street. The college is on the right at 68th Avenue.

From the South

Take I-205 north to the Division/Powell exit (#19) and turn left onto Powell Blvd. Turn right onto 92nd Avenue and then left onto Division Street. The college is on the right at 68th Avenue.

women’s Bible study groups in a large multi-campus church. She is treasurer of the Portland/Vancouver ACFW chapter. Research plays an important role in her contracted work, and she has a passion to share her resources to equip others in their lives and careers. Tracie lives with her husband in the Pacific Northwest and enjoys quilting, hiking, and playing in the kitchen and with her grown twin sons whenever possible.

E. Wendy Gorski – “The Business Side of Writing”

With more than 30 years as a managerial accountant, Wendy has helped businesses organize and understand their finances. She will answer such questions as “What is a Schedule C?” “What are legitimate business expenses?” “What is a 1099?” “How do you handle royalty income?” In this workshop, Wendy



Please see **WORKSHOPS** on Page 7



OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM

Maxine Marsolini	<i>President</i>
Don White	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Wendy Gorski	<i>Treasurer</i>
Susan Maas	<i>Secretary</i>
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Rosanne Croft	<i>Media Team</i>
Kathy Davis	<i>Media Team</i>
Jennifer Anne Messing	<i>Media Team</i>
Jess Rivas	<i>Media Team</i>
Marion Duckworth	<i>Prayer Team</i>
Eva Gibson	<i>Prayer Team</i>
Lynn Hare	<i>Prayer Team</i>
Lindy Swanson	<i>Prayer Team</i>

Founded in 1963, we are an organization of writers, both amateur and professional, who are Christians. Our members write for both ministry and markets and subscribe to the following statement of faith, which is OCW's historic position based on the Apostles' Creed:

We believe the Bible to be the infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe that all Scripture, as originally penned, was inspired by God the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16).

We believe in an infinite, perfect, triune God who exists eternally in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19).

We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, did miracles, and suffered a vicarious and atoning death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His future personal return in power and glory to judge the living and the dead.

We believe that Jesus' atoning death, burial, and bodily resurrection is the only way to God and eternal life and salvation (John 14:6; 1:12).

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If you want additional newsletters to distribute in your community, please contact Sue Miholer at contact@oregonchristianwriters.org. Let her know how many copies you want and where you want them sent.

Changes on the Horizon



MINDING OCW'S BUSINESS

Sue Miholer
OCW Business Manager
contact@oregonchristianwriters.org

Just as the seasons change, the way we conduct the business of OCW changes.

We are no longer just a ministry—but that's a piece of who we are that we will not lose. Since we run more than \$120,000 through our books annually, this makes us also a business. The delicate balance for the board is to extend our ministry to as many people as possible while keeping an eye on the bottom line.

Your OCW board and staff are committed to doing everything they can to create the high-quality motivational, spiritual, and educational events you want—and to do so as affordably as possible.

We would never be able to accomplish this without the ongoing support of member volunteers, who give hundreds of hours each year.

However, as our organization grows, we are becoming keenly aware that our membership might not have all the highly specialized skills, or the time needed, to carry out certain tasks. In some instances, that means having to hire things done.

Back in the early days of OCW, someone printed up the newsletters and then there was a work party to address and stamp them for mailing. For more than 15 years, we have paid to have them printed and used a mailing service to prepare what has grown to more than 800 copies for the bulk mail system.

The treasurer's job used to simply involve writing the checks and balancing the bank accounts (checking and savings) monthly. We now use QuickBooks, so the treasurer needs to be familiar with that program and have access to a computer.

For several years, we have hired a tax preparer to submit our tax forms. (Although as a nonprofit we don't pay taxes, there are still financial reports the IRS and the State of Oregon require of us.) The bookkeeping and check-writing piece of the treasurer's job may have to be hired out in order for us to maintain our professional and financial integrity in this area.

We are now using Cvent, a third-party provider, to handle registration for our conferences. This frees up the countless hours we used to spend tracking registrations.

Another financial outlay is insurance. We are required by each of our current venues to show proof of

Please see **HORIZON** on Page 6

Candidate for OCW President



Marilyn Rhoads is co-chair of the Cascade Writing Contest and served as vice-president and program coordinator for Oregon Christian Writers from 2009–2015. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in curriculum and instruction, and has taught in the Salem and Eugene public school districts. Marilyn also owned her own bookstore, Books and Things. As executive director of Orchard Inn, a nonprofit agency, she wrote an extensive number of well-funded grants as well as fund-raising and marketing for the organization. Marilyn freelanced for Harvest

House Publishers as a proofer and end-reader for several years. She is involved in two critique groups and writes historical romance. A member of American Christian Fiction Writers, her latest novel finished in the Genesis contest. The mother of two grown daughters, Marilyn and her husband, Jim, reside in the countryside near Eugene and are University of Oregon graduates. ✍

OCW Cascade Contest Honors Writing Excellence

BY JULIE McDONALD ZANDER
CO-CHAIR OF THE CASCADE
AWARDS PROGRAM

The OCW Cascade Writing Contest offered encouragement to those who entered more than 200 books, articles, devotionals, poetry, and other writing in the 2016 competition.

"The Cascade Contest has been an amazing experience over the past few years in helping me improve my manuscript," said Christa Conklin, whose novel *Tranquility* won in the unpublished speculative fiction category. "There is nothing like kudos from professionals who have no personal connection to me. Being judged solely on the merit of my writing continues to be important to my growth. To have received an award is powerfully encouraging. I know there is a purpose and a place for my story. I know there are people who need to read it. And I will persevere until I have a book to share."

Camille Eide, a finalist in both the published contemporary and published historical fiction categories, won the historical fiction award for her novel *The Memoir of Johnny Devine*. She was also the recipient of the Writer of Promise Award. She said, "As best as I can remember, I thanked the organization, the mentors, and the writing community that I've been blessed to know as a result of being part of OCW. I realized later that I neglected to thank the One whose promise is steadfast and true, and whose gifts and abilities are treasures to be used with confidence and for His glory."

The Cascade Trailblazer Award was presented to Melanie Dobson, author of 15 novels and winner of three Christy awards, who has judged the Cascade Contest each year and taught many new writers at conferences. "Receiving this award was such an honor for me!" Melanie said. "I'm grateful to the members of Oregon Christian Writers for their encouragement, friendship, and for their



graciousness in sharing what they've learned over the years so I can continue growing as a writer as well."

For Rachel Tribble, being honored as a finalist in the unpublished children's book category for *When There Is Light* gave her a sense of direction. "I was really struggling with what direction I should take my writing, and I truly believe the recognition was an answer to my prayers," she said. "Having been named a finalist has allowed me to continue writing and drawing with the hope that one day others may like my work too."

"This whole experience has been so encouraging, and

Please see CASCADE on Page 5



From left: Ben Wolf wins Published Children's Book. Hosts Jeff Gerke and Susan May Warren. Melanie Dobson, winner of the Cascade Trailblazer Award and Camille Eide, winner of the Writer of Promise award.

Photos courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

Published Cascade Contest Winners

Published Contemporary Fiction Book

Saving Eric by Joan Deneve

Published Historical Fiction Book

The Memoir of Johnny Divine by Camille Eide

Published Memoir

My God Is Bigger by Helen Heavirland

Published Nonfiction Book

Garage Sale of the Mind by Jim Hills

The Name Quest by John Avery

Published Children's Book

I'd Punch a Lion in the Eye for You by Ben Wolf

Published Devotional Book

I Have Called You Friends by Shirley Dechaine

Published Young Adult/Middle Grade Book

When Sparrows Fall by Diana Blackstone-Helt

Published Articles, Columns, Blog Posts

"When You're Tempted to Despair" by Kit Tosello

Published Devotional

"Becoming One" by Jane Reid

Published Flash Fiction or Short Story

"The Girl with the Ink" by Lindsay Franklin

Published Poetry

"Grand Heart" by Gayle Carlson

Cascade ... From Page 4

I'm grateful for the contest," said Kit Tosello, who won the published article award for "When You're Tempted to Despair."

Jeff Gerke and Susan May Warren emceed the awards evening, with assistance from James L. Rubart. More than 120 preliminary judges reviewed as many as a dozen entries each, and 41 finals judges from the publishing industry evaluated the top three entries in each category.

The 2017 Cascade Contest opens February 14, 2017, with a March 31 deadline for work published in 2016. So polish your work this year and submit it. Then join us during the 2017 OCW Summer Coaching Conference August 15–18 at the Portland Red Lion on the River. ✍



2016 Cascade Award Finalists.

Photos courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

Unpublished Cascade Contest Winners

Unpublished Contemporary Fiction Book

Broken by Jane Daly

Unpublished Historical Fiction Book

Children of the Revolution by Kathleen Freeman

Unpublished Memoir

Learning to Die in Saudi Arabia by Betts Baker

Unpublished Nonfiction Book

The Shadow of Doubt by Shari Carroll

Unpublished Children's Book

How to Make Your Teacher Faint by Barbara McCourtney

Unpublished Speculative Fiction Book

Tranquility by Christa Conklin

Unpublished Young Adult/Middle Grade Book

Great Date Experiment by Ashley Mays

Unpublished Articles, Columns, Blog Posts

"An Angel on Earth" by Tammy Ferguson

Unpublished Devotional

"What Am I Saying?" by Lisa Cullett

Unpublished Flash Fiction or Short Story

"To Fly" by Rebecca Olmstead

Unpublished Poetry

"Eternal Word" by Laura Davis

Summer Conference Revisited "Vision and Voice"



SUMMER CONFERENCE

Lindy Jacobs

OCW Summer Conference Director

summerconf@

oregonchristianwriters.org

"This was one of the best, most rewarding experiences of my life! My first writing conference and it validated my choice to pursue writing (for God) as a new profession.

Thank you all!" Gisele Altman

Our many prayers of the last year were answered as more than 230 conferees, staff, and faculty gathered to worship, study, and fellowship during the 27th OCW Summer Conference in Portland August 15–18. Our numbers grew to 250 during the Wednesday evening Cascade Awards.

Keynoter James Scott Bell encouraged authors to "Write Like You're in Love." He recounted "feeling a burning in here" (pointing to his chest) when he first made brief eye contact with the young woman who would later become his wife. "That's what love is like," Jim said. "It makes a difference to write from that place because readers know it; they sense it; they feel it."

He quoted the great A.W. Tozer: "The only book that should ever be written is one that flows up from the heart, forced out by inward pressure." He encouraged writers to fall in love with their characters, fall in love with the craft, and fall in love with this gift we have been given to write stories. Jim said, "It's a sacred trust and gift God has given us to be able to make connections with people."

In her closing keynote, award-winning author Angela Hunt shared "Survival Tips A–Z" for writers—lessons she'd learned while writing more than 125 works ranging from picture books to nonfiction books to novels, one of which was featured as a Christmas movie on the Hallmark Channel. But, she said, the skill writers need most in their writing life is obedience. She encouraged us to listen to what God is telling us, take what we've learned, and "keep walking." If we're faithful to do the work, God is faithful to open doors. "In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will direct your path" (Proverbs 3:5–6). "What is a path for? Walking!"

Other highlights included the lively Plot vs. Character debate with James Scott Bell and Nick Harrison, live critiques with Susan May Warren, and "wisdom moments" given by faculty members. As always, the emphasis was on teaching, and many commented on the excellent choices of morning coaching classes, afternoon workshops, editor/agent panels, and Nite



James Scott Bell

Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

Please see CONFERENCE on Page 6

Conference ... From Page 5




Owls. The Writing Center was the usual hive of activity as conferees met one-on-one with editors, agents, and mentors.

We heard many compliments from editors, agents, and pro writers about the quality of writing they reviewed.

By the end of the conference, a number of conferees were invited to submit articles, proposals, and full manuscripts.

In 2017 we will return to the beautiful Red Lion on the River August 15–18 (Tuesday through Friday). Keynoters will be award-winning Frank Peretti, one of American Christianity's best-known authors (*This Present Darkness*), and Christy-award winning author Tessa Afshar (*Harvest of Gold*). Our theme for next year is "Filled with His Wisdom" based on Colossians 1:9–10: "We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way" (NIV).

"Wonderful conference. I personally was revived and felt God's renewed call to use the writing gifts He gave. Angela Hunt's message drove home what I was hearing God say." Poppy Smith

Keep watching our website for details about next year's faculty, registration, and the 2017 Cascade Writing Contest as plans for the conference develop. You can purchase audio recordings of the 2016 conference either as individual MP3 downloads or a full-conference flash drive at <http://oregonchristianwriters.org/2016-conference-recording/>. 




Top left: Marlys Johnson meets with Paul Smith in the Writing Center. Center: James L. Rubart, Jeff Gerke, and Susan May Warren teach the premium coaching class. Bottom: Chip MacGregor leads the Agent Panel.

Photos courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

Changes ... From Page 2

a \$2,000,000 general liability policy. And, in prudence, we also carry a business owners' policy to protect officers from personal liability when acting on behalf of the corporation.

We have acquired several pieces of equipment (projectors, screens, an iPad, etc.) in order to have them available at our conferences, and OCW rents a storage unit in Wilsonville to keep the equipment centrally located.

All of the changes we've implemented in the past few years are essential to the efficient functioning of OCW. Please pray with us for the finances and volunteer hours to meet our ever-changing landscape. 

Books by Ronie Kendig

~7 Hours

Abiassa's Fire:

~Embers
~Accelerant

Quiet Professionals:

~Raptor 6
~Hawk
~Falcon

A Breed Apart:

~Trinity: Military War Dog
~Talon: Combat Tracking Team
~Beowulf: Explosives Detection Dog

Discarded Heroes:

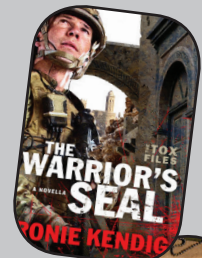
~Nightshade
~Digitalis
~Wolfsbane
~Firethorn

The Tox Files:

~Conspiracy of Silence
~Warrior's Seal (Novella)

Operation Zulu
Redemption:

~Overkill - The Beginning
~Collateral Damage - Part 1
~Out of Nowhere - Part 2
~Hazardous Duty - Part 3
~Act of Treason - Part 4



Workshops ... From Page 2

will provide guidance on how to organize your financial records, prepare for tax time, and review requirements for small businesses. In addition, she will cover the legalities of starting a small business. How do you file for a DBA? What are the different business structures? How to avoid using your Social Security number.

Wendy is an independent author and owner of Beacon Rock Publishing. As a business consultant, Wendy has assisted companies from startups to acquisitions. Wendy is OCW's treasurer. When she's not crunching numbers, she works on writing contemporary inspirational fiction.

F. David Sanford – “Your Book Will Be Published Within the Year”

Imagine hearing these wonderful words. You can! Learn how during this fun, interactive workshop. Explore the five viable avenues for publishing your



book. Learn which counter-intuitive approach is the very best for you to pursue. More importantly, learn “no fear” strategies for crafting and pitching your new book proposal to key prospective publishers (or literary agents). Today could be the turning point in your publishing career. Make it count!

David is an award-winning author, editor, and literary agent with Credo Communications. David has helped promising new Christian authors publish nearly 200 books with Zondervan, Tyndale, Thomas Nelson, Multnomah, Moody, Harvest House, Focus on the Family, and many others. Bottom line: If you want to see your book published, don't miss David's workshop!

G. Karen Barnett – “Building Platform with MailChimp”

The book editors attending the 2016 OCW summer conference were asked the number one thing they were seeking in an effective platform. Their answer? “A strong email list.” Karen will walk you through the basics on how to set up a list, invite readers to join, manage the information, and design a basic email newsletter using MailChimp.



Karen is the author of *Mistaken*, *Out of the Ruins*, *Beyond the Ashes*, and her newest, *Through the Shadows*. OCW honored Karen with the Writer of

Promise award in 2013 and a Cascade Award for published historical fiction in 2014. She received the 2016 Mount Hermon Christian Conference Writer of the Year award. Karen and her husband, Steve, make their home in Albany with their two children and three crazy dachshunds. ✍️

Spring Conference Review



KEEPING UP WITH OCW
Susan Maas
OCW Secretary
secty@
oregonchristianwriters.org

“If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write,” Martin Luther said a few hundred

years ago. According to Grace Fox, keynote speaker at the May one-day conference, that is still true. Grace, who has published eight nonfiction books and countless articles and devotionals, talked about “Changing the World with Words.”

She told how God has guided her writing and described Jesus as the “greatest world-changer of all time,” who used simple word pictures to change lives. And she told attendees to be obedient to the call and leave God in charge of the results. Even if it seems scary, “do it afraid.”

In her second address, Grace described “Four Qualities of Successful Writers.” These are availability, vulnerability, teachability, and stickability (perseverance). She defined success as “doing what God called us to do . . . and doing it with excellence.” Writing may involve criticism and rejection,



Above: Author Grace Fox at Spring Conference. Below: Grace Fox signs her books during the autograph party.

Photo courtesy of Julie Zander

tion, and it requires us to learn and be transformed ourselves. We must quiet the negative voices in our heads and rely on God. Grace quoted Robert W. Lucas, who said, “A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit.”

After the keynote addresses, OCW President Maxine Marsolini opened the business meeting. Treasurer Wendy Gorski reported that OCW is doing well financially, with \$31,000 in its account in preparation for Summer Conference. There has been \$385 donated for tuition assistance. One-day conferences are netting a small profit, and membership is up slightly. Business Manager Sue Miholer added that the new Cvent registration process has freed up valuable time.

Maxine introduced OCW officers and staff. Ten to

Please see *SPRING* on Page 8

OCW's Vision and Voice



PRAYER TEAM
Lindy Swanson
OCW Prayer Team
lindy.hopegiver@gmail.com

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27^{NASB})

We asked God to speak to us at the OCW Summer Conference, and He did. God gave us His revelation and prophetic vision. God speaks in many ways (Hebrews 1:1). Some hear His voice audibly and others in their heads. Some sense an impression or His guidance through Scripture or words spoken by one of His messengers (John 10:27). Regardless of how God spoke to you, we rejoice together saying, "Thank You, Lord! We praise You for hearing and speaking to us!"

Once we get past the initial thrill of the vision, there are some questions to ask ourselves. First, do we view God's vision as our mandate (James 1:22)? Second, have we taken the message to heart (Colossians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19)? Third, how do we share the treasure He has entrusted us to invest in other's lives (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 9:17)?

The thrill of inspiration and emotion is short-lived. It's time to apply the perspiration of perseverance as we craft the message under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Operate from faith that God's Word will accomplish and prosper the purpose for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

Continue to ask God to make us into men and women who understand the times and have the knowledge regarding what to do (1 Chronicles 12:32).

Acknowledge God. Trust in Him. Don't lean on your own understanding. He will direct you (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Keep listening to His voice and ask Him to refine and upgrade your ability to hear Him (James 1:5–8).

Exercise self-control. Discipline yourself. Run to win the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24–27).

"I do it all because of the rewards promised by the Good News, so that I may share in them along with the others who come to trust" (1 Corinthians 15:1).

Let us know how we can pray for you as you pursue God's vision and express His voice through yours. ✍

Powerful ... From Page 1

- What is the intent?
- What makes this subject important enough to write about?
- What power am I unleashing on my readers?
- Will the words bring hope, provide answers to life's biggest questions, be controversial, or stir up agitation?
- What might readers interpret as the take-away message?
- Are the words meaningful and not mean?
- What is the tone of the writing?
- Who is the potential audience?
- Did critique partners give their input?
- Where will this piece have the most influence?

The checklist helps me make my writing better. In authoring *Mother's Fury*, my intent was to bring hope to survivors of child abuse. I deliberately expose mommy abuse in ways that allow victims of childhood trauma to feel worthy of love—maybe for the first time. I also urge abusers to parent their children in ways that don't inflict pain.

Despite being a hard read, this book shows the power to change is possible. God's Word adds clout to pages that promote healthy relationships. Abuse can stop before it leaves scars on another generation.

The tone of this book is raw and real. Along the way, my critique partners gave input. I listened. *Mother's Fury* will have its greatest influence with those who are ready to stamp out child abuse.

Be inspired by Genesis 1. Use the handy checklist. Be confident there will be sufficient power in those words to touch lives. ✍

2016 Fall Conference Information

This conference we have transitioned to online registration. The online registration program has all the fall conference-related info that is in the newsletter, plus much more like a Mapquest link to find the way from your address to the college. You can find the webpage at:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.com

Spring ... From Page 7

15 first-time attendees were welcomed, and 12 publishing accomplishments read. Maxine also introduced the Nominating Committee consisting of Julie Zander, Mary Hake, and Dan Campbell.

The committee is seeking candidates for the offices of president and treasurer, whose terms end in October. A person for the position of treasurer is still needed. Please contact any officer or member of the nominating committee with the name of a qualified member willing to serve.

Summer Conference Director Lindy Jacobs promoted the upcoming Summer Conference and introduced Julie Zander and Marilyn Rhoads, who have headed the Cascade Contest, with help from Tracie Heskett. Julie said the con-

test had 215 entries this year and thanked the many judges who helped.

Maxine discussed a bylaws change to be voted on by the membership at the October meeting. It will eliminate the webmaster as a voting board member since OCW has transitioned to a media team. After that, Wendy presented Maxine with birthday gifts of flowers and a wood-burning by Program Coordinator Don White. Don then held a drawing for books and a gift certificate toward Summer Conference before introducing workshop presenters. Workshops were followed by dessert and book signings, then attendees left to change the world. ✍

“Lifelines: Writers as Champions for a Hurting World”

Oregon Christian Writers Fall One-Day Conference
Saturday, October 15, 2016 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Warner Pacific College, 2219 SE 68th Avenue, Portland, OR 97215

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Bookstore**
- 9:00–9:40 **Welcome and Introductions:** President Maxine Marsolini
Devotions: Maxine Marsolini
- 9:40–10:30 **General Session I:** Ronie Kendig, “**Champion It Forward: Be a Champion**”
- 10:30–10:50 **Morning Break:** Refreshments and time to visit the bookstore
- 10:50–11:40 **General Session II:** Ronie Kendig, “**Ecstatic Beauty: Using Our Trials and Pain to Reach Others**”
- 11:40–12:30 **OCW Business Meeting:** Recognition of new members, writing accomplishments, elections, vote on Bylaw changes, and introduction of workshop teachers.
- 12:35–1:35 **Lunch:** Salad and sandwich bar with gluten-free options available—\$15 (must be reserved by October 8)
- 1:45–2:45 **Workshops:** Session 1 (*Choose one*)
A. “**Mind Magic: Tips & Tricks to Capture Your Reading Audience**” ~ Ronie Kendig (*fiction and nonfiction*)
B. “**Tell It Like It Is: Writing Poetry about Family**” ~ Mary McIntosh (*poetry*)
C. “**24 Ways to Write Stories for Christian Kids**” ~ Dick Bohrer (*writing for children*)
- 2:45–3:00 **Break:** Bookstore will be open.
- 3:00–4:00 **Workshops:** Session 2 (*Choose one*)
D. “**Writing for the Education Market**” ~ Tracie Heskett (*curriculum*)
E. “**The Business Side of Writing**” ~ Wendy Gorski (*writer finances*)
F. “**Your Book Will Be Published Within the Year**” ~ David Sanford (*publishing*)
G. “**Building Platform with MailChimp**” ~ Karen Barnett (*platform/marketing*)
- 4:00–4:30 **Dessert, Autograph Party, and Photo Session** with keynoter and workshop teachers. All authors will be available to sign their books.

Conference and membership information: (please register online by October 12)

Conference Fees:

- \$45 for members
- \$75 for nonmembers
- \$35 for students
- \$75 for two members in the same family

Membership Fees:

- \$60 for those under 62
- \$35 for full-time students
- \$35 for those 62 and older



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Oregon Christian Writers
1075 Willow Lake Road North
Keizer, OR 97303

FALL 2016
NEWSLETTER

www.oregonchristianwriters.org

Join us:
***“Lifelines: Writers as Champions
for a Hurting World”***

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with

Ronie Kendig

Warner Pacific College

2219 SE 68th Avenue

Portland, OR 97215

Register online at: www.oregonchristianwriters.org
(Driving directions inside—see Page 2)

**Oregon Christian Writers
Conference Schedule**

February 25, 2017

Winter One-Day Conference
Chemeketa Community College
Salem

Keynoter: James L. Rubart

May 20, 2017

Spring One-Day Conference
Northwest Christian University
Eugene

Keynoters: Dan Kline and Kay Marshall Strom

August 15–18, 2017

Summer Coaching Conference
Red Lion on the River
Portland

Keynoters: Frank Peretti and Tessa Afshar