

# OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER



## Join Dan Kline and Kay Marshall Strom This Spring

DON WHITE  
OCW PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR

Dan Kline and Kay Marshall Strom, a married couple, have had an adventurous life as speakers, writers, travelers, and advocates for global human rights. And in the midst of all their busyness, they still manage to make time to help other writers.

Kay has written more than 40 books. Three of her novels have received American Library Association Booklist awards, and two nonfiction books have received Reader's Choice Awards. Her writing also includes devotionals, magazine articles, curricula, and movie and television scripts. For several years, Kay taught writing through the California university system. Her book *Once Blind: The Life of John Newton* has inspired many of her travels and her passion for global human rights.



Dan has been a public speaker, editor, and writer during the past three decades. With Kay, he has done writing workshops and seminars at most of the California state colleges and junior colleges. Together, they have developed and taught a Writing Certificate program at Long Beach State. Dan has also written and co-written booklets for writers, and co-authored two books with Kay (e.g., *The Savvy Couple's Guide to Marrying after 35*). He has ghostwritten several books for others and has done extensive editing and rewriting for published authors.

Dan and Kay have traveled extensively together and separately, having visited 42 countries between them. Most of their travels were either for research for work they were doing or for mission-oriented visits to do research and aid Christians in areas hostile to the Christian faith.

As they've done many times all over the world, they will team-teach at our OCW 2017 Spring Conference in Eugene on May 20th. Kay's keynote address will help guide writers to discover that foundational "universal truth" that will take their writing from good to great. Dan will have a powerful message for writers struggling with the idea of "success." What does it mean for a Christian writer to "prosper"? What does God really expect us to do with our writing skills?

Please register now to join Kay and Dan for our spring conference at Northwest Christian University. ✚

SPRING 2017 CONFERENCE  
May 20  
Northwest Christian University  
Eugene

### INSIDE AT A GLANCE

- Spring Conference Workshops 2
- Dollars and Sense 3
- Spring Workshops Continued 4
- Summer Conference 5
- Summer Coaching Classes 6-7
- Summer Conference Keynoters 8
- Winter Conference Revisited 9
- Prayer Article 9
- Critique Groups 9
- Spring Conference Schedule 11

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.

## Is Change Good?



PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
Marilyn Rhoads  
OCW President  
president@  
oregonchristianwriters.org

How do you feel about change? Does it create conflict or provide opportunities for new adventures? What about in your writing career?

Most of us are comfortable where we are and don't feel like expending the energy to move our

lives around to accommodate a different assignment. We need a catalyst to wake us up and move us ahead.

But what if God asks you to give up all you hold dear to follow Him? Most of us would catapult into fear or resentment—at least at first. Hitting the panic button is a common response. Fear of the unknown sends many of us into sleepless nights and major bouts of anxiety.

Oregon Christian Writers has

Please see *CHANGE* on Page 10

# Spring Conference Workshops



GROW YOUR WRITING  
Don White  
OCW Program Coordinator  
program@  
oregonchristianwriters.org

I cannot help but get excited as I review the lineup of workshops for our OCW Spring Conference. We pay careful attention to your comments and requested topics, and this conference is another example of that. Here are the delightful servings of encouragement, instruction, experience, and writing opportunities we have for this spring.

## Kay Marshall

### Strom: “The Power of Writing Small”

(short pieces)

Why write shorter works when a major book is calling you? Because it helps perfect your writing before your major project. You will learn how to eliminate the unnecessary, give greater power to the necessary, and tell the difference between them. And because it gives you a chance to be published sooner, it provides the beginnings of that all-important platform.



## Nick Harrison: “An Agent Reviews the Recent Changes in Publishing”

(publishing)

The past decade has seen phenomenal changes in publishing, particularly Christian publishing. In this workshop, we'll discuss some of the most significant changes and how they affect the Christian writer. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end. You'll have a rare opportunity to hear from someone who has seen all sides of the industry as a writer, editor, and now as a literary agent.



**Nick Harrison** has written and published several Christian books and has been a mentor to many successful writers while working as the senior

editor at Harvest House. With more than 30 years of experience in every facet of the industry, from retail to his present career as a literary agent, Nick has unique insight into the changes and current challenges for writers who want to be published. His latest book, *One-Minute Prayers for Dads*, debuted in April.

## Maxine Marsolini: “Write Nonfiction that Arouses Readers”

(nonfiction)

Truth remains relevant. Good nonfiction is the marriage of craft and literary creativity. When done well, readers find inspiration, answers, motivation, hope, curiosity, and the desire to change their lives by something they've read. Nonfiction genres include self-development, family helps, health and fitness, memoir, and much more. The writing may be personal—or not—but if you're ready to move your heart's stirrings into print, this class is for you.



**Maxine Marsolini** is the author of five nonfiction books and is a past president of Oregon Christian Writers. As a life coach, the founder of Rebuilding Families ([www.rebuilding-families.net](http://www.rebuilding-families.net)), and co-host of *The River* blog talk radio ([www.blogtalkradio/krvr](http://www.blogtalkradio/krvr)), she has helped countless people and families, and she can help you put

## Driving Directions to Spring Conference

### From Portland and Salem (I-5 southbound)—

Take Exit 194B and go west on I-105. Take first exit (Eugene City Center) south on Coburg Road. Get into the far left lane, going over Ferry Street Bridge, and merge left with road onto Franklin Boulevard at the end of the bridge, then stay in the right lane. Continue about half a mile and turn right onto East 11th Avenue, just past the Phoenix Inn. Turn right on 11th and go one-half block. Turn into NCU parking lot on the right. Our OCW sign will be across the street on the left.

### From Roseburg and Medford (I-5 northbound)—

Take Exit 192 and follow it onto westbound Franklin Boulevard. Continue in the left lane past the University of Oregon campus to the exit for 11th Avenue on the left. Follow 11th for about 1½ blocks. NCU campus is on the left with parking across the street.

*NOTE: Please do not call the university for information. We are in no way affiliated with the school and no one there knows the specifics of our conference. If you have questions, please call 503-393-3356.*

your nonfiction publishing dreams into reality.

## Karen Barnett: “Building Your Platform with MailChimp”

(marketing)

Book editors at the 2016 OCW Summer Conference were asked what the number one thing was 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 Barnett

is the author of *Mistaken, Out of the Ruins, Beyond the*



Please see **WORKSHOPS** on Page 4



**OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS**

**OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM**

<i>President &amp;</i>	
<i>Cascade Co-chair</i>	Marilyn Rhoads
<i>Program Coordinator</i>	Don White
<i>Secretary</i>	Susan Maas
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane Reid
<i>Business Manager</i>	Sue Miholer
<i>Summer Conference Director</i>	Lindy Jacobs
<i>Photographer &amp;</i>	
<i>Cascade Co-chair</i>	Julie Zander
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Melody Roberts
<i>Online Critique Group Coordinator</i>	Gail Sattler
<i>Marketing Expert</i>	Sally Stuart
<i>Registration Architects</i>	Rosanne Croft & Jess Rivas
<i>MailChimps</i>	Jennifer Anne Messing
<i>Publicity Coordinator</i>	April McGowan
<i>Graphic Designer</i>	Mike Hodder
<i>Prayer Team</i>	Marion Duckworth Eva Gibson Lynn Hare Lindy Swanson— Coordinator

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](mailto:contact@oregonchristianwriters.org). Let her know how many copies you want and where you want them sent.

# A Word from Your Treasurer



**DOLLARS AND SENSE**  
Jane Reid  
OCW Treasurer  
[treasurer@oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:treasurer@oregonchristianwriters.org)

Since its beginning, Oregon Christian Writers has been all about encouraging, teaching, and supporting each member traveling the lonely, individual journey toward becoming a recognized professional writer.

Because OCW has been successful at building community, skills, and opportunity, we've grown from an all-volunteer tiny organization to one that has gained national recognition for excellence.

We are also now a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Since we received that designation and can receipt your tax-deductible contributions, you may

have noticed a few subtle, gentle—and not-so-gentle—hints that donations are welcome and appreciated. I'm sure some members wonder why. After all, we charge for our conferences and everyone pays dues. Here's the lowdown on our money situation.

Most board members serve OCW as volunteers. Some of the services OCW needs are not in every member's tool kit. For example, we pay a part-time bookkeeper and a webmaster. We do not pay for office space, but we do rent a very small storage unit to store all the items we need at conferences. We pay postage and printing charges for the newsletter you hold in your hand. We also pay for Cvent, the software that allows you to register and pay online for conferences.

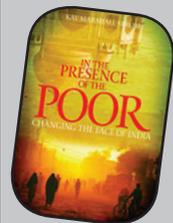
Conferences cost money. We pay for the venues that host us, and some are more expensive than others. Our goal

Please see **TREASURER** on Page 10



## Books by Kay Marshall Strom

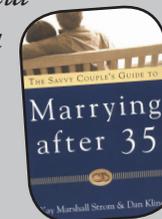
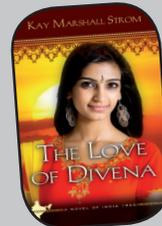
- *A Caregiver's Survival Guide*
- *Harvest of Hope*
- *Once Blind: The Life of John Newton*
- *The Second-Half Adventure*
- *In the Presence of the Poor: Changing the Face of India*



## Books by Kay Marshall Strom and Dan Kline

- *The Savvy Couple's Guide to Marrying after 35*

- *Call of Zulina*
- *The Voyage of Promise*
- *The Triumph of Grace*
- *Daughters of Hope*
- *Forgotten Girls*
- *The Faith of Ashish*
- *The Hope of Shridula*
- *The Love of Divena*



- *Hand in Hand: Devotions for the Later (and Lately) Married*

## Workshops ... From Page 2

*Ashes*, and *Through the Shadows*. She received the OCW Writer of Promise Award, the Cascade Award for published historical fiction, and was honored as Mount Hermon Christian Conference's Writer of the Year for 2016. She and her husband, Steve, make their home in Albany with their two children and three crazy dachshunds.

### Daniel Kline: "Edit Your Manuscript Before You Submit"

(all genres)

There are many ways an otherwise truly fine manuscript can stumble when it reaches an editor's desk. Often these are in the form of simple errors, omissions, misspellings, and/or phraseology. With slides and handouts, Dan will cover the most common writer errors. Time permitting, he will address your questions at the end, and (within reason) will welcome some post-workshop editing questions by email.



### James Watson: "The Exact Representation of His Nature' or What Literature Has to Do with Fiction Writing" (fiction)

Genre fiction runs the risk of devolving into mere entertainment, disconnected from reality and thus no more a part of the labor in God's Kingdom than the latest season of *The Bachelor*. Does this matter? Is there such a thing as innocuous escapism? Or does story hold within its very fabric an obligation to truth? In this workshop, we'll look at several profound writers who were also Christians, alongside some Christians who happen to be writers of a sort, and see if we can make heads or tails (or tales) of it.



**James Watson** lives in the shadow of a misty hill at the foot of Oregon's Willamette Valley, with one saint, five boys, and a preternaturally intuitive cat. He teaches English of a sort at Northwest Christian University and has recently published his first novel, *A Window on the Door*. He earned his doctorate from Baylor University and has published articles regarding literary giants of the 20th century.

### Yvonne Kays: "The Art of Writing Letters: Encouraging Others and Extending Your Reach"

(letter ministry)

How are your letter-writing skills? How do we hone words to touch the heart? What are our purposes for letters today? Historically, letters have touched us all. Letter writing is not a lost art but a necessary tool for the serious writer. Is God calling you to a season of letter writing? Let's explore together! There may be people who are desperately waiting for your words of encouragement.

**Yvonne Kays**, a grateful OCW member since 2006, writes short stories and poetry and is working on a historical novel about her uncle's World War II story. She has been published in the Chicken Soup book series, James Stuart Bell's book *Encountering Jesus, LIVE, God's Word for Today*, and several other periodicals. She is a two-time Cascade Writing Contest finalist in published poetry, and she writes from Central Oregon.



### Lynn Hare: "Power Tips: Get Published in Periodicals!" (articles)

How do you find periodicals (magazines, newspapers, etc.) that will publish your articles? What are their writers' guidelines? Where can you get sample copies? Attend this workshop to learn how to map out a process for generating and tracking your stories,

articles, devotionals, and other pieces in a variety of publications. Explore Lynn's original system for writing clear, targeted pieces, tracking reprints in multiple periodicals, and reaching your readers for Christ.

**Lynn Hare** is an award-winning author, speaker, certified teacher, and member of OCW's prayer team. Her devotionals, stories, articles, and poetry have been published in numerous Christian publications, including *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, *The Upper Room*, *The Secret Place*, *Pathways to God*, and many others. Her first book, *The Quest for Self-Forgiveness*, debuted in March. She lives in Portland with her husband of 36 years, Tim.



One comment I've often heard from our conference attendees is that there is such a variety of interesting topics that it is frustrating trying to choose which to attend. That is just how we like it. My suggestion: buddy up. Plan your workshops with friends, and then share each other's notes after the conference. Meet up for dinner that night and talk over what you've learned. Then put it all into practice so you'll have even more to talk about with friends when summer conference rolls around.

God bless you all in your writing goals, and we will see you soon in Eugene! †

*"You provided the best, most professional writer's experience I've been involved in. However, the plus was the kindness, love, and 'family atmosphere' of the entire time. Thanks for putting Christ front and center."*

Sharon Hoseley

# 2017 Summer Conference “Filled with His Wisdom” (Colossians 1:9–10 NIV)



SUMMER CONFERENCE  
Lindy Jacobs  
OCW Summer Conference Director  
summerconf@  
oregonchristianwriters.org

We're excited to welcome award-winning and best-selling keynoters Frank Peretti (*This Present Darkness* and *Piercing the Darkness*) on Tuesday evening and Tessa Afshar (*Harvest of Rubies*, *Harvest of Gold*, and *In the Field of Grace*) on Wednesday evening.

If you've been to an OCW Summer Coaching Conference, you know this is a rich time of intense study, fellowship, worship, and reflection that can lead to renewed goals. Our outstanding faculty of top national editors, agents, and award-winning authors is dedicated to helping you reach your writing goals, with advanced and beginning instruction in fiction, nonfiction, memoir, devotionals, magazines, poetry, writing for children, marketing, and intensive critique.

This year we will offer:

- 10 morning coaching classes, including two premium classes
- 24 afternoon workshops plus a devotional writing clinic
- Professional panels (editors and agents)
- Half-hour mentoring appointments
- Manuscript reviews

Our popular Manuscript Submission Program will once again provide the possibility to meet with an editor and/or agent to get valuable feedback. Begin now to review the manuscript submission guidelines on the website to see what Agents, Book Editors, and Magazine Editors are looking for so you can find the best match for your book or magazine article. You can also sign up for on-the-spot meet-

ings in the Writing Center (Wednesday and Thursday).

Mentoring appointments are 30 minutes and give conferees an opportunity to sit with an experienced author to ask “Next-Step” career questions. To see our full list of mentors and tips for how to prepare for an appointment, visit the Mentor page on the website. Registered full-time conferees will have an opportunity to choose a mentor in early July.

Join us for a celebratory evening August 17 when winners of the 2017 Cascade Writing Contest are presented their awards with hosts Jeff Gerke, Susan May Warren, and James L. Rubart.

Friday morning, Frank Peretti will give the closing devotional and Worship Pastor Aaron Doerr (Rolling Hills Church) will lead worship and communion.

Registration for the conference is now open. Tuition for members is \$550 and \$595 for nonmembers. (Rates go up after July 10th.) Tuition includes all five conference meals (three dinners and two lunches) and all scheduled conference activities from Tuesday afternoon through Friday morning. Lodging is separate.

Watch our website, [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org), for the latest news about manuscript submission guidelines, mentor appointments, the Cascade Awards, registration/lodging, and how-to-prepare-for-conference tips. We look forward to seeing you at the conference! †

## A Sampling of the 2017 Summer Conference Workshops

“Do’s and Don’ts of Writing for Children”—Jesse Florea  
 “Songwriting: Stories in Miniature”—Aaron Doerr  
 “Discovering Your Writer’s Voice”—Alice Crider  
 “Writing Short Fiction that Sells”—Ben Wolf  
 “The Pursuit: Seeking His Purpose for Your Writing”—Judy Dunagan  
 “Creating Your Proposal from a Marketing Perspective”—Tawny Johnson  
 “Writing for the Web”—Ginger Kolbaba  
 “The Plot Thickens”—Nancy Lohr  
 “Poetry in the Image of God”—Colette Tennant  
 “Creating a Timeline for Your Novel”—Jill Williamson

“Marketing for Writers Who Don’t Like to Market”—Jim Hart  
 “Biographies for Children”—Nancy Lohr  
 “Lessons from Experience: What the Books on Writing Can’t Teach You”—Frank Peretti  
 “Choose Your Own Adventures in Publishing”—Traci Hilton  
 “Matchmaker, Matchmaker”—Sherri Langton  
 “Writing and Publishing Bible Studies in the 21st Century”—Terri Kalfas  
 “Be a Speaker Worth Listening To!”—Poppy Smith  
 “. . . And Then There Were ‘Nones’”—Todd Hafer  
 “Praying, Planning, Persisting in Your Career”—Nick Harrison

# The 2017 Summer Conference Coaching Classes

We are pleased to offer 10 morning coaching classes taught by some of the top editors, agents, and authors in Christian publishing. These in-depth classes meet for three consecutive mornings for a total of seven hours of instruction. Note: Class caps vary and a few classes require early registration. Register early! See full descriptions and teacher bios on our website.

## Weaving Spiritual Themes into Fiction ~ Tessa Afshar, Fiction

Using spiritual themes as the underpinning of your writing can strengthen your stories and, more importantly, engage your readers in a profound, life-giving experience. The Bible addresses some of the most important struggles and needs of human existence: suffering, loneliness, fear, greed, death, rejection, discontentment, love, hope, and belonging. We will examine some of these themes, the emotions attached, and ways of capturing them effectively with our writing.

## Children's/YA Critique Group ~ Sally Apokedak, Premium class, Fiction and Nonfiction (\$100 extra) Class limit: 12

With feedback on not only the technical aspects of your work but also on its marketability, this class is for writers working on children's books (from picture book to young adult). Each conferee will give and receive critiques on the first chapter or a picture book. We will look at the four vital areas:

- voice
- character (or author platform for nonfiction)
- plot (or structure for nonfiction)
- marketability (premise for fic-

tion and felt need for nonfiction)

Preconference work required:

- Send a first chapter of a novel or nonfiction book (up to 2,500 words) or an entire picture book (up to 1,000 words).
- Critique the work sent by the other class members.

## Writing Historical Fiction for Contemporary Readers ~ Melanie Dobson, Fiction

This class will equip novelists with research tools, writing techniques, and essential fiction components to engage and inspire contemporary readers. Attendees should bring a synopsis of their novel-in-progress to class. We will work together to develop passionate historical characters and compelling plots.

## Destined for Glory: Crafting Your Protagonist and His/Her Inner Journey ~ Jeff Gerke, Fiction

Jeff Gerke's first fiction craft book for *Writers Digest*, *Plot Versus Character: A balanced approach to writing great fiction*, forms the basis for this course. In class, we will craft a major character (complete with essential attributes, backstory, and transformational arc) and then build a plot around that character—a plot that externalizes the character's inner journey, moves with suspense, and has a reader-satisfying conclusion (using the three-act structure). Come in with an idea spark; leave with a fully imagined novel just begging to be written.

## Writing Powerful Devotionals—or How to Write Well in Any Genre ~ Susan King, Nonfiction

When a magazine publishes your



Jeff Gerke at the 2016 summer conference  
Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

work, you reach thousands more people with your message than most books do—and with a much faster turnaround time. This class will include advanced writing for any genre (or how to get editors to fall all over themselves to publish your submission and then clamor for more). In addition, we'll look at the process of nurturing a successful magazine-writing career (including analyzing markets and writing query letters and feature articles). We'll also focus on writing devotionals for *The Upper Room*.

## Get Published Fast: The Art to Writing Great Articles ~ Ginger Kolbaba, Nonfiction

Do you dream of having millions of people around the world read your work? How about wanting to make some quick-ish cash as well? You can when you write for magazines. Ginger Kolbaba brings her experience and knowledge to share tips on how to get your writing above the competition's and beyond an editor's slush pile. She'll share what you need to know about queries, rewrites, repackaging



Erin Taylor Young and Karen Ball  
Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography



Sarah Thebarga at the 2016 summer conference  
Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

and reselling your work, and contracts. She'll discuss the differences between writing for print and digital, and how you can use magazines to boost your writing platform.

**Imaginative Fiction Critique Class**

~ **James L. Rubart**, *Fiction* (Eight students may take the Premium option for \$100 extra) Class limit: 20  
 Novelists have probably heard agents and editors say, "Bring me something new, something different." During this course, best-selling, award-winning author James L. Rubart will explain why so many people tell him, "Your stories are so unique!" He will share how he gets his ideas and teach you how you can come up with story ideas that make agents, editors, and readers say, "Tell me more!" The first eight who sign up as premium class members (by July 15) will receive a review of their manuscript's synopsis and first six pages as well as a half-hour one-on-one coaching session during the conference.



Jim Rubart, Jeff Gerke, and Susan May Warren  
 Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

**Telling Your Story with Authenticity and Empathy** ~ **Bo Stern**, *Memoir*

This interactive class will focus on how to bring authenticity and empathy to your story. Sometimes writing a memoir involves writing through a sorrow season. How do you tell your story in the most compelling way? What do you include and what do you leave out? What are the truths you've learned that you can share to encourage your reader? Bo Stern will draw from her personal experiences to help memoir writers share their stories.

**Morning Glory Poets** ~ **Colette Tennant**, *Poetry*

This class will meet, pray, get to know each other, and write, write, write poetry! We will start with prompts every morning. After we all write, we will go around and listen to each other's poems and comment on them. According to tradition, the morning glory flower represents spiritual love, affection, and longing. We will use those concepts as general themes for the poetry we write. Publishing information will be shared as well.

**A Novel Career: for both indie and traditional authors at every stage in the writing journey** ~ **Susan May Warren**, *Fiction*

How do you turn one book into a long-term career (one that pays the bills)? Susan May Warren will walk you through discovering your passions and unique writing strengths. You will develop a vision, strategy, and plan for your writing career. We will cover both traditional publishing as well as indie publishing (and when to do either, or both!), how to grow as a writer and manage your time, marketing for the busy writer, working with your agent (and other options), building a reader base, and how to build a career suited uniquely to you and your goals. †

Look for these exciting "Nite Owl" sessions:

**"Your Brilliant Book Blurb"**

(Tuesday evening) with USA Today bestselling, RITA, Christy & Carol award-winning novelist, Susan May Warren.

**"First Pages"** Small Group Critique in multiple genres (Wednesday evening), including children's with *Clubhouse* editor Jesse Florea, and "Refine Your Pitch" small group with agent Sally Apokedak.



Jesse Florea at the 2016 summer conference  
 Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

*"I was amazed at the conference. I so much appreciated the kindness of all and the Holy Spirit was strong in all worship."*  
**Janet Wood Ashbridge**

Preconference Seminar from Oregon Christian Writers:

**~CREATE COMPELLING NOVELS AND SCREENPLAYS~**



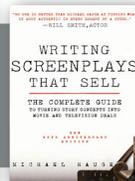
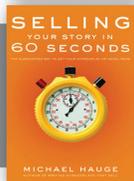
Learn the simple, powerful tool to elicit emotion in your reader that can be applied to every story or script . . .

**2017 EARLY BIRD SESSION**

**August 15, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

**Portland, OR**



Hollywood script consultant and story expert Michael Hauge will share his unique approach to building believable and fulfilling stories. Using clips from recent Hollywood blockbusters, Michael will reveal the primary goal of all story and the single key to creating character arc and themes that connect to the audience.

**MICHAEL HAUGE**  
 STORY MASTERY

\$115 (includes lunch) ~ Register early! ~ Space is limited.

[www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org)

## 2017 Summer Conference Faculty

We are pleased to announce the following outstanding faculty will be joining us this year:

### BOOK EDITORS

Steve Barclift, Kregel Publications  
Alice Crider, David C Cook  
Vicki Crumpton, Revell, a division of Baker Books  
Judy Dunagan, Moody Publishers  
Todd Hafer, Harvest House  
Terri Kalfas, Grace Publishing  
Nancy Lohr, JourneyForth Books  
David Long, Bethany House

### AGENTS

Stephanie Alton, The Blythe Daniel Agency  
Sally Apokedak, Les Stobbe Agency (youth)  
Tim Beals, Credo Communications  
Nick Harrison, WordServe Agency  
Jim Hart, Hartline Literary Agency  
Bill Jensen, William K Jensen Literary  
Tawny Johnson, D.C. Jacobson & Associates

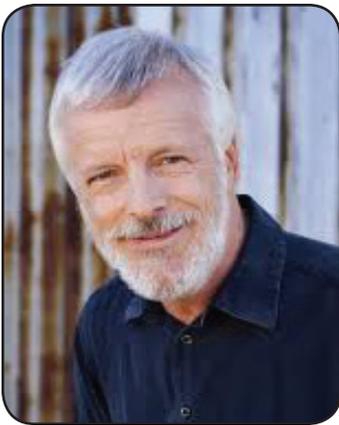
### MAGAZINE EDITORS

Jesse Florea, Focus on the Family/*Clubhouse Clubhouse Jr.*  
John Fortmeyer, *Christian News Northwest*  
Susan King, *The Upper Room*  
Ginger Kolbaba, independent acquisition editor  
Sherri Langton, *Bible Advocate* and *Now What?*  
Chad McComas, *The Christian Journal*  
Paul Smith, *LIVE*  
Ben Wolf, *Splickety Magazine*

### AUTHORS/MENTORS

Tessa Afshar	April McGowan
Karen Barnett	James L. Rubart
Rebecca DeMarino	Cornelia Seigneur
Melanie Dobson	Poppy Smith
Marion Duckworth	Bo Stern
Jeff Gerke	Colette Tennant
Traci Hilton	Susan May Warren
Ginger Kolbaba	Jill Williamson
Maxine Marsolini	

## Meet Your 2017 Summer Conference Keynoters



**FRANK PERETTI** is one of American Christianity's best-known authors. *Newsweek* credited Frank with having the "hottest novels in Christian fiction." His multiple, award-winning pieces have sold more than 15 million copies, and *TIME* Magazine called him "the father of Christian fiction." Noted as "one of the biggest surprises in publishing" (*People* magazine), and "a plot magician"

(*USA Today*), Frank is a natural storyteller. His career catapulted into the public eye with his release of *This Present Darkness*. The book appeared on *Bookstore Journal's* best-seller list every month for more than eight years, and his second spiritual warfare novel, *Piercing the Darkness*, captivated readers. Together the two sold more than 3.5 million copies.

Over the years, movies have derived from Frank's writing, and his works have been featured in *USA Today*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *TIME* Magazine, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Chicago Tribune*, *People*, and many others. Frank's international bestsellers include: *Monster, House* (with Ted Dekker), *Hangman's Curse, Nightmare Academy*, The Cooper Kids' Adventure series (eight books), *All Is Well, The Visitation* (No. 1 on Christian Booksellers' charts for multiple months), and *The Oath* (awarded the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association Gold Medallion Award for best fiction).

For more information, visit [www.FrankPeretti.com](http://www.FrankPeretti.com).

**TESSA AFSHAR** is an award-winning author of historical and biblical fiction. Her novel *Land of Silence* was voted by *Library Journal* as one of five top Christian fiction titles of 2016 and also nominated for the 2016 RT Reviewer's Choice Award for best Inspirational Romance. *Harvest of Gold* won the prestigious 2014 Christy Award in the Historical Romance category. Her book *Harvest of Rubies* was a finalist for the 2013 ECPA Book Award in the fiction category. Her first novel, *Pearl in the Sand*, won her "New Author of the Year" by the Family Fiction sponsored Reader's Choice Awards 2011.

Tessa was born in Iran to a nominally Muslim family and lived there for the first 14 years of her life. She moved to England, where she survived boarding school for girls and fell in love with Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë, before moving to the United States permanently. Her conversion to Christianity in her 20s changed the course of her life forever. Tessa holds a master of divinity degree from Yale University, where she served as co-chair of the Evangelical Fellowship at the Divinity School. She has spent the last 17 years in full-time Christian service in New England.

For more information, visit [www.tessaafshar.com](http://www.tessaafshar.com). ☩



# Winter Conference Review



KEEPING UP WITH OCW

Susan Maas  
OCW Secretary

secty@oregonchristianwriters.org

Winner of the Christy Book of the Year Award for *The Five Times I Met Myself*, James L. Rubart spoke to winter conference attendees on “How to Write from the Deepest, Most Powerful Place Inside You.” Jim discussed the tale of the black dog and white dog fighting. Which dog will win, the story asks, and the answer is supposed to be: the one we feed.



However, Jim said, this idea is not scriptural. In real life the black dog always wins, because without Christ we are sunk. But Jesus freed us from this fight. “We are not the dogs; we are children of God,” Jim said. “The true me is holy and good.” Finding our true identities enables us to write stories that change lives.

In his second keynote, Jim spoke about lies that keep us from being free. Many people need validation and become addicted to whatever gives it to them, whether food, Facebook likes, family, or fame. For many years, Jim saw himself as the black sheep of his family and needed writing awards to prove to himself that he was worthy. Finally he realized that God’s love is the only validation that matters.

At the beginning of the conference Marilyn Rhoads and Jane Reid were



approved as president and treasurer by the membership since this was not able to be done at the cancelled fall conference. During the business meeting, President Marilyn Rhoads recognized 25–30 first-time attendees and more than a dozen new members. She introduced those on the leadership team.

Treasurer Jane Reid reported that OCW hired a professional bookkeep-

*Please see CONFERENCE on Page 10*

## Rest in Me—the only way to bear fruit that will last



PRAYER TEAM  
Marion Duckworth

OCW Prayer Team

mduck@comcast.net

My first book was released in 1980, so to say that I’ve seen a multiplicity of changes in the publishing world is certainly an understatement. For one thing, back then traditional publishing was the only really acceptable way to get my books in print.

This year, however, I published my newest book on Kindle. Editing was my responsibility, and a writer friend did that for me. The number of corrections shocked me. After all, I’ve been writing and publishing a long time.

The painful fact is that I don’t

see every missing word, wrong punctuation, and lack of transition. Chagrined, I corrected my errors even though what I really wanted to do was to move on to a new project. After all, the more books I produce, the more successful I am.

Obviously, I needed an attitude adjustment. God brought to mind the Bible passage that has been salve to my soul many times before: “Rest in Me.”

Jesus spoke those words to His disciples just before He went to the cross. “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. . . . If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:4–5 NIV). ☩

## Online Critique Groups



CRITIQUE GROUPS

Gail Sattler

Critique Group Coordinator

critique@oregonchristianwriters.org

One of the many great things about being a member of OCW is the members-only critique groups. These are online groups comprised of both new and experienced writers whose members help each other. By working with other members in this way, you also help yourself by reading and critiquing the work of those in the group. Helping others expands your writing craft as you analyze why something worked—or didn’t—and build on that learning experience. It’s also great to get help when you need it.

Groups are divided by genre (mystery, nonfiction, memoirs, articles, sci-fi, romance, etc.) so every member is in a group of like-minded individuals. Contact Gail Sattler at [critique@oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:critique@oregonchristianwriters.org) for more information. For extra opportunity at summer conference, sign up to participate in small-group critique during Wednesday Nite Owls. ☩

## Treasurer ... From Page 3

is to have the income generated by the three one-day conferences each year cover the expenses of those three conferences. We pay for food and beverages to sustain us at those events, and we pay the people who come and teach.

Our goal is also to have the 2017 summer conference income cover all the expenses related to that conference. The dues revenue is allocated to all the costs of doing business—insurance, postage, advertising, etc.—and often doesn't stretch as far as we wish. That is one area where donations are welcome.

We have members with limited means who need tuition assistance in order to attend. OCW helps as much as possible, depending on available funds. While we trust God to provide for our needs, everyone on the board keeps a careful eye on the bottom line. A small cushion is comforting. We don't need a mattress. But red ink makes the board very concerned.

Thank you for giving prayerful thought to the possibility of making a donation to OCW. You can donate anytime you register for an event. Cvent makes it easy.

Alternately, you can mail a check to the address on this newsletter or go to PayPal.com and direct funds to [business@oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:business@oregonchristianwriters.org). We on the board deeply appreciate your willingness to share. ✝

## Change ... From Page 1

upcoming conferences that are full of new workshops and classes taught by writing professionals. This is your opportunity to accept the challenge to change and listen to what God has in mind for you.

God told the Israelites to *move* after they left Egypt: "You have stayed at this mountain long enough. It is time to break camp and move on" (Deuteronomy 1:6–7 NLT).

Their initial reaction resembled sheep scrambling in circles, trying to avoid the wolf. They refused to listen to Joshua and Caleb's report, who both had faith God would do what He promised. Instead, the Israelites formed a plan of their own (without God's backing), went out to fight, and found themselves trounced (see Numbers 14). Why? Disobedience, their primary area of expertise.

Even in the middle of the wilderness times, God gave the Israelites oases and places of rest and

## Conference ... From Page 4

er, while working hard to keep costs low and serve the needs of the members. Marilyn announced that the nominating committee of Maxine Marsolini, April McGowan, and Rosanne Croft is looking for candidates for secretary and program coordinator, to be elected in October.

Julie Zander encouraged attendees to enter the Cascade Writing Contest and passed along information on the Summer Conference, considered one of the best Christian writing conferences in the country.

After that, Marilyn read six publishing firsts, and Program Coordinator Don White held book giveaways and introduced afternoon workshop leaders who would be covering subjects such as poetry, writing for kids and the educational market, creativity, website essentials, and contest prep. Attendees left inspired and ready to write.

The popular cookies and coffee at the end of the day while authors signed their books and great fellowship rounded out the day. ✝



David Sanford teaching a workshop at the winter conference.

Photo courtesy of Julie Zander

renewal. He also promised them a land flowing with milk and honey. He said He would fight for them and He would go ahead of them. The end result? Deuteronomy 2:36 (NLT) says, "No town had walls too strong for us."

What has God asked you to change? Your heart? Your priorities? Your attitude? God led His people through "a great and terrifying wilderness," according to Deuteronomy 1:19. Maybe you're stuck in the wilderness, afraid to head into the promised land, comfortable with the way you've always done things.

OCW is on the move. A recent keynoter stated we have one of the four top writing conferences in the country. Why? Because of prayer and personal sacrifice by our members to follow God into the unknown. Will you leave your wilderness and expand your writing? Come join us. We'll all travel together, trusting God for the results. ✝

# “Rekindling Your Passion: Encouragement for the Christian Writer”

Oregon Christian Writers Spring One-Day Conference  
Saturday, May 20, 2017 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Northwest Christian University, 828 E. 11th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401

“Encourage one another with these words” 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NIV)

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Bookstore**
- 9:00–9:40 **Welcome and Introductions:** President Marilyn Rhoads  
**Devotions:** Sam Hall
- 9:40–10:30 **General Session I:** Kay Marshall Strom, “**Finding Your Universal Truth**”
- 10:30–10:50 **Morning Break:** Refreshments and time to visit the bookstore
- 10:50–11:40 **General Session II:** Dan Kline, “**What Is Prosperity for the Writer?**”
- 11:40–12:30 **OCW Business Meeting:** Recognition of new members, writing accomplishments, and introduction of workshop teachers.
- 12:35–1:35 **Lunch:** Fire-grilled teriyaki chicken, sticky jasmine rice, stir-fried vegetables, and fresh pineapple—all gluten-free (\$14; pre-order by May 13)
- 1:45–2:45 **Workshops:** Session 1 (*Choose one*)  
A. “**The Power of Writing Small**” ~ Kay Marshall Strom (*short pieces*)  
B. “**An Agent Reviews the Recent Changes in Publishing**” ~ Nick Harrison (*publishing*)  
C. “**Write Nonfiction that Arouses Readers**” ~ Maxine Marsolini (*nonfiction*)  
D. “**Building Your Platform with MailChimp**” ~ Karen Barnett (*marketing*)
- 2:45–3:00 **Break:** Bookstore will be open.
- 3:00–4:00 **Workshops:** Session 2 (*Choose one*)  
E. “**Edit Your Manuscript Before You Submit**” ~ Dan Kline (*all genres*)  
F. “**‘The Exact Representation of His Nature’ or What Literature Has to Do with Fiction Writing**” ~ James Watson (*fiction*)  
G. “**The Art of Writing Letters: Encouraging Others and Extending Your Reach**” ~ Yvonne Kays (*letter ministry*)  
H. “**Power Tips: Get Published in Periodicals!**” ~ Lynn Hare (*articles*)
- 4:00–4:30 **Dessert, Autograph Party, and Photo Session** with keynoters and workshop teachers. Authors will be available to sign their books.

*All workshops are suitable for all writers—beginner to advanced*

**Conference and membership information:** (please register at [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org) by May 13)

Conference Fees:

- \$45 for members
- \$75 for nonmembers
- \$35 for students

Membership Fees:

- \$60 for those under 62
- \$35 for full-time students
- \$35 for those 62 and older
- \$75 for two members in the same family



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SPRING 2017  
NEWSLETTER

[www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org)

Join us for:

***“Rekindling Your Passion:  
Encouragement for the Christian Writer”***  
**Spring One-Day Conference**

Saturday, May 20, 2017  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

with

Dan Kline and Kay Marshall Strom

Northwest Christian University  
828 E. 11th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97401

Registration link at [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org)  
(Driving directions inside—see Page 2)

## Oregon Christian Writers Conference Schedule

**August 15–18, 2017**

Summer Coaching Conference  
Red Lion on the River  
Portland

Keynoters: Frank Peretti and Tessa Afshar

**October 21, 2017**

Fall One-Day Conference  
Rolling Hills Community Church  
Tualatin (Portland metro)

Keynoter: Jeff Gerke

**February 24, 2018**

Winter One-Day Conference  
Chemeketa Community College  
Salem

Keynoters: Ronie Kendig