

OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER



OCW Welcomes Ronie Kendig This Winter

TRACIE HESKETT
OCW PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

OCW is delighted to welcome Ronie Kendig to our winter conference in Salem. As she shares her passion for helping people, especially those who are hurting, we'll learn how to throw lifelines to those around us as we seek to share God's love and grace through our writing.

Since 2010, Ronie's books have hit best-seller lists and garnered countless awards and critical acclaim, including her Christy Award-winning *Wolfbane* (romantic suspense) and Carol Award finalist *The Warrior's Seal*. Other award-winning titles include *Trinity: Military Dog* and *Firethorn* (fiction suspense). She has written more than 15 novels of military intrigue (within five different series). Ronie speaks and teaches across the country and mentors other writers. She is also a monthly columnist at the award-winning blog "Novel Rocket" and is



active with the American Christian Fiction Writers. She has a psychology degree from Liberty University. Ronie and her military husband have raised and homeschooled their four children in Northern Virginia.

In Ronie's first keynote, "Champion It Forward: Be a Champion," we'll consider how to pay it forward to be a champion for others. Even though writing can be a solitary endeavor, we're not alone. Just as we can "pay it forward" in a drive-thru line, we can pay it forward

in the life line. Ronie will guide us to use our writing as a positive voice in a negative world.

Sometimes it's difficult to move beyond our own struggles to reach out to those around us. In her second keynote, "Ecstatic Beauty: Using Our Trials and Pain to Reach Others," Ronie will challenge us to rethink our stumbling blocks as steps to climb. We'll learn to draw from our life experiences to recreate our lifelines for others.

Join us on February 24 for encouragement and writing instruction from talented storyteller Ronie Kendig. We look forward to hearing Ronie's words of practical guidance on how we can use the gifts God has given us to share His love and grace. ✨

WINTER 2018 CONFERENCE

February 24

Chemeketa Community College
Salem

Online Registration Only

Count the Cost



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

My friend died today. It was unexpected, yet not. Lisa battled cancer for more than 15 years with such determination we all expected her to fight on forever. Our emotions overcame our reason.

She and I talked about death, and she said she didn't want to die. Her youngest grandson was 12, and she wanted to live until he reached adulthood.

So I prayed for six more years. Scripture does talk about the desires of

our hearts, but we spoke about the final decision being in God's hand. And it was.

She barely reached five feet, yet was as ferocious as a tiger. I've heard her called "Little Napoleon" in the distant past, back in her heyday.

She came to see a house we were building and made "suggestions" to the contractor and painting crew. When she left, the contractor told me, "That's a woman used to ordering men around." She was, she did, and she accomplished what she set out to do.

Which is why I nearly fell over in shock when I heard she'd died. I didn't quite expect it—not this soon.

I had been praying about what

Please see **COST** on Page 8

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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.

Exciting Winter Workshops



CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
Tracie Heskett
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A. Ronie Kendig: “Mind Magic: Tips & Tricks to Capture Your Reading Audience”

(fiction and nonfiction)

Learn some “sleight of hand” maneuvers to psychologically capture your readers’ minds—without them realizing it! This workshop is not limited by genre. There are elements in writing that will either spur your reader to maintain the journey, or make them detour at the nearest exit. This class looks at visual construction as well as psychological impressions found in a novel. It’s almost like cheating when you use the right techniques, words, sentence structure, and other aspects of writing that have psychological value.

B. Pat Rushford: “DIY Publishing”

(all genres)



Many writers today are looking into publishing their work on their own. It’s not as difficult as you might imagine. You don’t have to be a computer tech or even speak the language.

Just follow some simple rules and, ta-da, you have a book available to the entire world. From formatting to cover design, we’ll maneuver through the steps and get it done.

Pat Rushford is an award-winning author and speaker who has written more than 50 books, both fiction and nonfiction. She was nominated for an Edgar by Mystery Writers of America for *Silent Witness*. Pat’s most recent works include *Deadly Deception* and *The Quiltmaker’s Daughter*, romantic suspense novels. She has published with Revell, Bethany House, and many other traditional publishers and in recent years has turned to Do-It-

Yourself publishing. Pat conducts writers’ workshops for adults and children and has been the director of the Oregon Christian Writers’ Summer Conference and co-director of Writer’s Weekend at the Beach.

C. Heidi Gaul: “Broken Dreams and Detours” (all genres)

Have you written something, only to find your dream of publication smashed? I have.

And I was surprised and relieved when God pointed my writing onto a new path. Paul and Abraham, among others, also experienced God’s detours from their life choices. Some needed deeper soul-refinement before receiving their hearts’ desire. Others needed to create different dreams altogether. This workshop will help you discover—and understand—God’s desired direction for your gift.



Heidi Gaul is a contributor for two Guideposts devotional books, *Every Day with Jesus* (release date spring 2018) and *Mornings with Jesus—2019* (release scheduled in fall 2018). Winner of the 2015 Cascade Award for devotionals, she’s written several for *The Upper Room*. Her stories are included in 10 Chicken Soup for the Soul anthologies, and she’s a staff writer for The Great Commission Project. Her agent, Jim Hart, is currently shopping her devotional/craft book, *Redeemed and Restored*, to publishers.

D. Christina Suzann Nelson: “Submitting Your Best: Contest Prep” (all genres)

With contest season upon us, it’s time to polish those submissions. Join me to discuss what the judges are looking for, how to present your best work, and what can and can’t be gleaned from contest results. We will discuss details about some of the major contests available to unpublished submissions as well as introducing a few that

Driving Directions to Winter Conference

4000 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem

From Southbound I-5: Exit 258 (Portland Road) – Turn left at end of exit ramp and proceed over I-5 to a right turn onto Ward Drive. Then turn right at the signal onto Lancaster Drive. The school will be on your left in less than one-half mile. Enter the campus at the fully signaled intersection.

From Northbound I-5: Exit 256 (Market Street) – Turn right at end of exit ramp and proceed to a left turn onto Lancaster Drive. The school will be on your right in about 1.8 miles. Enter the campus at the fully signaled intersection.

Turn into the campus. Take the first right on South Campus Loop. Then take the first left on Fire Protection Way. Turn left on East Campus Loop. We will meet in Building 6, which will be on your left. Park in either the Purple or Brown lot. Check <https://www.chemeketa.edu/locations/salem-campus/> to orient yourself to the Salem campus and follow signs to Building 6 and Auditorium.

may be new to you.

Christina Suzann Nelson has been a member of OCW for more than 10 years. At the 2017 summer conference she was blessed



with the OCW 2017 Writer of Promise Award. Her first novel, *If We Make It Home*, recently released from Kregel Publications and received the honor

of one of the top five Christian books of 2017 by *Library Journal*. Her second novel, *Torn Edges*, is scheduled to come out this fall. She lives on a small farm with her husband, children, and a crazy variety of farm animals.

E. Ronie Kendig: “Digging Deep with Heroes” (fiction)

“You don’t write like a girl!” Ronie has been told this many times about her Rapid-Fire Fiction heroes, and, now, she brings her expertise to your heroes!

Please see **WORKSHOPS** on Page 7



OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM

<i>President &</i>	
<i>Cascade Co-Chair</i>	Marilyn Rhoads
<i>Program Coordinator</i>	Tracie Heskett
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<i>Cvent Team</i>	Rosanne Croft & Jess Rivas
<i>MailChimps</i>	Jennifer Anne Messing
<i>Publicity Coordinator</i>	April McGowan
<i>Media Assistant</i>	Rachel Lulich
<i>Graphic Designer</i>	Mike Hodder
<i>Prayer Team Leader</i>	Lynn Hare
<i>Photographer</i>	Karen Barnett

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.

Donations, Considerations, and Cookies



MINDING OCW'S BUSINESS
Sue Miholer
OCW Business Manager
contact@
oregonchristianwriters.org

Thank you to those who donated to OCW during 2017. The total amount given during the calendar year was \$1,024. Average donor giving was \$34, with several \$10-\$25 gifts. The total amount will be divided with 60 percent going to tuition assistance for the summer conference and 40 percent factored into our operating budget.

You may donate any time you register for an event. Or you can go to the Donate button at www.oregonchristianwriters.org to give using a credit or debit card. (For other options, contact business@oregonchristianwriters.org.)

We are a 501(c)(3) corporation and will receipt your charitable giving at the end of the calendar year.

OCW Membership

The board is considering several ways to enhance a membership in OCW besides the benefit of lower fees for conferences, the monthly members-only e-newsletter, and the opportunity to join an online critique group. We're open to suggestions.

In the mailing address section of this newsletter, you may see a date near your name. That is the date your membership expired or will expire. If there is no date there and/or you wish to join for the first time or rejoin, please go to www.oregonchristianwriters.org/ membership to see the options.

When You Attend an OCW Conference

Many of our members and friends have sensitivity to scents, so we ask that you not wear any fragrances (perfume, scented body lotion, scented laundry products, etc.) when you attend.

Please register online for the conference instead of waiting to register at the door. That helps with our planning since we need an accurate number for the food at least five days before an event. We'll run short of food for the continental breakfast setup and cookies at the end of the day if we have too many register at the door. (Note: If you need help registering, contact business@oregonchristianwriters.org.)

We're looking forward to a great year and would love to have you join us for any or all of this year's conferences. See the listing on the mailing page for upcoming events. ✨

Books by Ronie Kendig

~Warrior's Seal

~Conspiracy of Silence

~Crown of Souls

~Thirst of Steel

~Embers

~Accelerant



~Fierian

~Raptor 6

~Hawk

~Falcon

~Titanis

~Trinity:
Military War Dog

2018 Cascade Writing Contest Opens February 14

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

Prepare to be blessed and encouraged by judges who review your entries in the 2018 OCW Cascade Writing Contest, which opens February 14.

It's time to reflect on the articles, stories, devotionals, poetry, and books you've published during 2017 and consider entering them in the contest. If you're working on writing that has not been published yet—and you've never been published in that category—consider entering in the unpublished categories.

Think you don't have anything to enter? How about stretching yourself a bit? If you've published newspaper articles but have never written fiction, why not write a story of 1,000 to 2,000 words to enter in the Flash Fiction/Short Story category? If you've published fiction in the past, why not try a nonfiction article or a devotional?

Deadline for entering the contest is midnight March 31. For rules and submission guidelines, go to <http://oregonchristianwriters.org/2018-cascade-contest-submission-rules/>.

Help is available for anyone with questions about entering contests. During the February 24 one-day conference, Christina Suzann Nelson will present a workshop on preparing manuscripts for contest submission. Dawn Shipman will guide a workshop on critique groups, showing writers how to give and receive comments on their work.

Each entry submitted to the Cascade Contest is reviewed by three preliminary judges. The scores are tallied and the top three entries in each category are forwarded to two experienced professionals working in the publishing field for the finals judging.

The mission of OCW is to glorify God and to help writers grow in their craft. The contest helps achieve those goals as writers receive suggestions about how to improve their writing.

Nearly everyone who enters the contest appreciates the feedback from the judges. Many writers hunger for that kind of information, and the contest provides a great opportunity. Take Lee Ann Zanon, for example, who entered an unpublished devotional.

"I appreciate the feedback and want to learn from the insights of the judges," she said. "Having outside input is valuable!"

The contest also helps writers who plan to pitch stories and books for publication at the OCW Summer Coaching Conference August 20–23.

"These are really helpful," said Sandy Cereghino, who entered an unpublished contemporary novel in last year's contest. "It will push me to do the corrections before the conference."

Contestants may submit up to three entries. Most entry



fees are \$30 for OCW members and \$40 for nonmembers. The fee for published books is an additional \$5—\$35 for members and \$45 for nonmembers.

Rules are listed on the OCW Cascade Contest page on our website. Please follow all the rules carefully to avoid having your entry disqualified.

Finalists will be announced June 1, with the awards taking place at 7 p.m. August 22 during the OCW summer conference at the Red Lion on the River Hotel in Portland.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at cascade@oregonchristianwriters.org. ✨



2017 Cascade Award Finalists

Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

This year our categories include:

- Contemporary Fiction Book
- Historical Fiction Book
- Speculative Fiction Book
- Nonfiction Book
- Memoir Book
- Young Adult Book (ages 12–18)/Middle Grade Book (ages 8–12), Fiction and Nonfiction
- Children's Chapter Book (ages 6–8) and Children's Picture Book (ages 2–10+), Fiction and Nonfiction
- Poetry (a single poem)
- Devotional (a single devotional)
- Article, Column, Blog Post (all blog posts are considered "published")
- Short Story/Flash Fiction

Plan Now to Attend the Summer Conference, August 20–23 “Opening Doors” (Colossians 4:2–6 NIV)



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

“Thanks for creating a safe, loving, and spirit-filled home for writers.”
Tessa Afshar

The OCW summer conference has become known as one of the country’s leading Christian writing conferences, with top editors, agents, and award-winning authors dedicated to help writers of all levels (beginning to professional) and multiple genres reach their publishing goals.

Manuscript reviews, appointments with editors and agents, mentoring, and daily worship promote learning and fellowship in a professional, relaxed atmosphere.

This year we’ll offer 10 morning coaching classes plus 24 afternoon workshops covering fiction, nonfiction, Christian living books, memoir, young adult/middle-grade fiction, websites and blogging, devotionals, magazine articles, research, writing Bible studies, poetry, songwriting, and marketing.

Other highlights include a preconference Early Bird “The Emotional Art of Fiction” with agent Donald Maass on Monday morning, and Nite Owls will include self-editing plus small-group critique groups in various genres.

We’re delighted to be returning to Portland’s Red Lion on the River Hotel (Jantzen Beach) on the beautiful Columbia River.

Tuition will be \$550 for members and \$595 for nonmembers. (Rates go up after July 1.) Tuition includes all five conference meals (three dinners and two lunches) and all scheduled conference activities from Monday afternoon through Thursday morning. Lodging is separate.

Keep watching our website, www.OregonChristianWriters.org, for the latest news about coaching classes, faculty, manuscript submission guidelines, mentor appointments, and registration/lodging. Register early. Some morning classes are limited to as few as 12 students. ✨

“The deeply spiritual aspect of the conference blew me away.”
Karen J. Pearson, 2017 conferee

2018 Summer Coaching Conference
August 20–23 | Portland, Oregon
Red Lion Hotel on the River

Opening Doors
Colossians 4:2-6

Keynoters:
Robin Jones Gunn & Kim Meeder
Early Bird: Donald Maass

• AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS • MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS
• TOP EDITORS & AGENTS • MENTORING APPOINTMENTS

2018 ONE-DAY CONFERENCE KEYNOTERS:
February 24, Salem with Ronie Kendig
May 19, Eugene with Terry Glaspey
October 20, Portland with Kathi Lipp

More information:
www.oregonchristianwriters.org

2018 Summer Conference Morning Coaching Classes

- “Redefining and Refining Your Career in a Changing Publishing Climate” with Cynthia Ruchti (*professional writers, fiction and nonfiction*)
- “Plan Your Dynamite Website” with Laura Christianson (*marketing, intermediate*)
- “Wanna Play?” with Lonnie Hull DuPont (*creativity, all levels*)
- “Your Best Book Now!” with Bob Hostetler (*nonfiction, all levels*)
- “Become a Best-Selling Author with Your First Credit (or How to Write for Magazines)” with Susan King (*nonfiction, periodicals*)
- “Writing Inspiring Nonfiction” with Mick Silva (*nonfiction, all levels*)
- “The Healing Power of Your Story” with Sarah Thebarg (*memoir, all levels*)
- “Extreme Scene Makeover” with Susan May Warren (*fiction, intermediate*)
- Two Premium classes (\$100 extra) offer preconference review
 - “Children’s/YA Critique Group” with Sally Apokedak (*fiction and nonfiction*); limited to 12 participants
 - “How to Apply the Five Most Powerful Methods of Story Creation to Your Novels” with James L. Rubart (*fiction, all levels*); class limit 20. Eight students may take the Premium option with preconference review. Additional 12 class members do not pay extra and will benefit from the same valuable instruction and discussion.

Meet Your 2018 Summer Conference Keynoters



ROBIN JONES GUNN is the best-selling author of nearly 100 titles with more than 5.5 million copies sold worldwide. Her popular Christy Miller series for teens continues in *Christy & Todd: The Baby Years*. Robin's passion for storytelling has taken her around the world, where she's been a keynote speaker in Africa, Brazil, Europe, and Australia as well as Canada and the US.

Robin's nonfiction titles include *Victim of Grace* and *Spoken For*, which she co-authored with Alyssa Joy Bethke. Two of her novellas—*Finding Father Christmas* and *Engaging Father Christmas*—have been made into Hallmark Christmas movies. The first aired in 2016 and the second aired in November 2017. Robin and her husband have two grown children and live in Hawaii.

Preconference Session with Donald Maass



DONALD MAASS's New York literary agency sells more than 150 novels every year to major publishers in the US and overseas. He is the author of *The Career Novelist* (1996), *Writing the Breakout Novel* (2001), *Writing the Breakout Novel Workbook* (2004), *The Fire in Fiction* (2009), *Writing 21st Century Fiction* (2012), and *The Emotional Craft of Fiction* (2016). He has served as president of the Association of Authors' Representatives, Inc.

This six-hour seminar requires separate registration and tuition.



Editor Panel at the 2017 Summer Conference
Photo courtesy of Grace Owl Photography

KIM MEEDER's life was torn apart at the age of nine by her parents' murder-suicide. Through the love of a little mare and a merciful God, Kim's life was restored. She has chosen to rise above the pain and become a powerful influence in the lives of many disadvantaged youth through her ranch, Crystal Peaks.



Kim's nonfiction books, *Hope Rising* (2003), *Bridge Called Hope* (2006), *Blind Hope* (2010), *Fierce Beauty* (2011), and *Encountering Our Wild God* (2018), have earned her awards and radio interviews, including several with Focus on the Family and Family Talk Radio.

Kim has addressed audiences across the country, including government leaders in Washington, DC. She also received the National Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting Local Communities.

2018 Summer Conference Faculty

BOOK EDITORS

Keren Baltzer, FaithWords (Hachette)
Steve Barclift, Kregel Publications
Alice Crider, David C. Cook
Lonnie Hull DuPont, Revell (Baker Books)
Linda Howard, Tyndale House
Terri Kalfas, Grace Publishing
Nancy Lohr, JourneyForth Books

AGENTS

Sally Apokedak, Apokedak Literary Agency
Nick Harrison, WordServe Agency
Jim Hart, Hartline Literary Agency
Bob Hostetler, Steve Laube Literary Agency
Tawny Johnson, D.C. Jacobson & Associates
Jessica Kirkland, Kirkland Media Management
Donald Maass, Donald Maass Literary Agency
Cynthia Ruchti, Books & Such Literary

MAGAZINE EDITORS

John Fortmeyer, *Christian News Northwest*
Susan King, *The Upper Room*
Sherri Langton, *Bible Advocate* and *Now What?*
Chad McComas, *The Christian Journal*
Pamela Woody, *Brio* (Focus on the Family)

Workshops ... From Page 2

Crafting engaging characters takes a deft hand, and it can be especially challenging for a woman to write a compelling male protagonist. Cardboard heroes can flat-line a story. This workshop looks at how to deepen characterization and amp up *your* hero using elements steeped in science, stereotypes, and generalizations. But this isn't a sit-and-look-pretty class. Be prepared to dig into your hero to design a compelling, irresistible male protagonist! (Bonus: many elements can apply to female protagonists/heroines, but the primary focus of this workshop is crafting compelling male protagonists/ heroes.)

F. Rachel Lulich: "Editing for Writers" (*all genres*)

In this workshop, you will learn some tips and tricks for self-editing at the developmental and line levels, as well as advice for working with editors. The class is especially useful for new or self-published writers, but is also applicable for traditionally published authors looking to improve their manuscript polishing abilities prior to submitting to agents and editors. Bring your questions, and be ready to have a surprisingly good time.



Rachel Lulich has been a freelance developmental and line editor since 2014, specializing in inspirational romance and middle-grade fiction. Books Rachel has edited have won or been finalists for the Cascade Awards, the Carol Awards, the RT Reviewers' Choice Awards, and others. As a writer, Rachel blogs at "The Fifth Sola," writes for *Clarinet News* magazine, and has a stage play entering production this spring. Rachel holds a master's degree in Book Publishing from Portland State University and is an Air Force veteran. Visit her website, www.brokentopediting.com, for more information.

G. Tawny Johnson: "Creating Your Book Proposal from a Marketing Perspective" (*nonfiction*)

This workshop will explore the varied components of a strong book proposal along with tips on how to *market* that information to catch the eye of an agent and/or a publisher. Attendees will discover a critical marketing exercise that will take their proposal from blah to brilliant and will walk away more informed and more confident as they start the process of crafting this critical document.



Tawny Johnson's long career in Christian bookstore retailing and publishing gives her the unique ability to recognize relevance and marketability. She states, "All my past experience in the industry, coupled with my passion for exceptional writing, depth of content, and theological integrity has led me to a career as a literary agent." She holds a bachelor's degree in Bible and Theology with a minor in English Literature from Multnomah University and a master's degree in Theological Studies from Multnomah Biblical Seminary. (Tawny acquires only nonfiction.)

H. Dawn Shipman: "Exercises in Critique: How to Make the Best Better" (*all genres*)

For this workshop, bring two or three double-spaced pages of your current work-in-progress to share with your fellow writers. We'll go over the basics of the critiquing process then split into groups to review each participant's pages. Bring four copies of your document, a brightly colored pen to note corrections and changes, and a smile to this helpful, interactive workshop.



Dawn Shipman has been attending OCW conferences on and off since the 1980s. She has published essays, informative articles, interviews, short stories, poetry, plays, and games in both the inspirational and secular market. She was OCW critique group coordinator for six years and is currently a member of two groups, as well as facilitating a neighborhood group at Cascade Park Community Library, where she works her day job. ✨

Reminder

This is our brown-bag conference, so please bring your own lunch or grab something at a nearby restaurant during the hour-long lunch. Coffee (regular and decaf), ice water, and hot water for tea will be available all day.

Online Critique Groups



CRITIQUE GROUPS
Gail Sattler
Critique Group Coordinator
critique@oregonchristianwriters.org

OCW encourages critique groups as an important way to grow our skills as writers. During the summer conference, we offer opportunities to participate in critique sessions plus learn "how to critique" in specific (or different) genres. And we often offer a similar shorter workshop during some of our one-day conferences. Learning how to give helpful and encouraging feedback to another writer benefits both the giver and the person receiving critique.

In addition, OCW members have the opportunity to join online critique groups for year-round support and encouragement. When you join OCW, we will send you information about joining an online critique group. ✨

Pray for Your Readers



PRAYER TEAM
Lynn Hare
OCW Prayer Team Leader
prayer@
oregonchristianwriters.org

Over the years of writing for Christian periodicals, I've often tried to picture the readers of the articles and devotionals God put on my heart. Prayer teams I serve on intercede for the gospel of Christ to reach businesses, schools, churches and ministries, the homeless, local and national officials, media writers, entertainers, and families.

As we pray with people, we put names and faces with those prayers. We've prayed for Vicki and her farm, Fred and his sandwich shop, Mike and his police team, John and his new book, and Bert and his new bicycle café.

I pictured others like them when I wrote a piece about the Alaska-purchased gold nugget rings that my husband, Tim, and I exchanged at our wedding. I shared how we "sifted" through the silt of personality opposites to find gold. I sought Holy Spirit-led thoughts and words as I wrote and allowed Him to shape the process.

Emailing the devotional to the editor, I prayed for husbands and wives to filter their marriages for valuable nuggets. I prayed that the editorial staff reviewing the article would experience richer marital journeys too.

Before you hit "send" as you submit a piece, pause to reflect and pray aloud for the souls the article would touch. Ask God to use your words to draw readers into a deeper relationship with Him and one another. How rewarding are God-whispers that say, "Thank you for your faithfulness to pray and release My promises and hope, through your words and Mine." ✨

Cost ... From Page 1

God wanted me to write for this issue. I have recently been disappointed, absolutely heartsick, with the ungodly behavior of a couple of Christians, and I wanted to focus on how everything we do has an impact on others. None of us operates in a vacuum.

A minor incident happened at a holiday party I hosted. My helper saw a guest purloining stacks of decorated Christmas cookies I had ordered for the party, leaving with two plates piled high.

My non-churchgoing friends heard the story and commented, "So Christians are no different from anyone else. They act the same as others."

I have grieved over this comment—because it seems they're right. The cost of the cookies is negligible, but the bad taste the pilferer left behind isn't. (I don't know her identity.) She represented all Christians, at least according to my non-churchgoing friends.

I asked God for a positive example of Christian life, and He brought my friend Lisa to mind on the day of her home-going.

Tiny, she was mighty. She commanded respect; she was generous; and she constantly did kind things for others. The memories Lisa leaves behind for me are filled with happy moments, a kaleidoscope of color and laughter.

I look at these opposing examples of Christian behavior and I ask myself, "Is it possible for me to be a Christian and leave a positive legacy for others to follow?"

I'm resolving to leave the cookies alone—all the cookies.

"We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) ✨

Fall Conference Highlights



KEEPING UP WITH OCW
Donna Hues
OCW Secretary
secty@
oregonchristianwriters.org

With almost 170 in attendance, this conference set a record for our fall gatherings.

Following the general sessions and business meeting, lunch was served in the new venue, Rolling Hills Community Church, which met our needs perfectly. The beautiful facility had ample space for afternoon workshops.

A new caterer presented a buffet fit for hungry writers. The extended lunch remained a highlight of the conference as a time of "catching up" and meeting new authors. Both the church and the caterer have agreed to serve our needs again next October.

Following lunch, workshop areas filled quickly. Our presenters shared their knowledge and expertise. The conference theme was "Writing to Capture Readers." Attendees chose two sessions from the six offered. Their options

included fiction, poetry, writing markets, story structure, memoir, and marketing.

A new and exciting afternoon Teen Track was offered this time. Award-winning author Jill Williamson herded 25 teens into their own area. Her presentations focused on the skills needed to develop story characters and create great plots. One teen commented, "It's the best thing I've done yet. The worksheets were outstanding, and I'm ready to go write my story!"

More than 30 authors displayed their publications in the bookstore. The sales staff did a brisk business. Several authors carried empty boxes home with them. Thank you to all who "gifted" a copy of their book for the business meeting drawing. The conference ended at 4:30 p.m. after a book-signing party in the bookstore. Attendees left with their spirits lifted, inspired to continue the writing journey the Lord had given them, and a dessert cookie in hand. ✨

“Lifelines: Writers as Champions for a Hurting World”

“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)

Oregon Christian Writers Winter Conference

Saturday, February 24, 2018 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chemeketa Community College (Bldg 6) ~ 4000 Lancaster Dr NE ~ Salem, Oregon 97305

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Bookstore**
Piano Prelude: Bob Williams
- 9:00–9:20 **Welcome and Introductions:** President Marilyn Rhoads
Devotional: Don White
- 9:20–10:10 **General Session I:** Ronie Kendig, “**Champion It Forward: Be a Champion**”
- 10:10–10:35 **Reflections:** Discuss keynote ideas with those seated near you.
- 10:35–10:55 **Morning Break:** Refreshments and time to visit the bookstore
- 10:55–11:45 **General Session II:** Ronie Kendig, “**Ecstatic Beauty: Using Our Trials and Pain to Reach Others**”
- 11:45–12:35 **OCW Business Meeting:** Recognition of new members and writing accomplishments; introduction of workshop teachers
- 12:35–1:35 **Lunch:** Bring your own (drinks will be available) or visit a nearby restaurant.
- 1:40–2:40 **Workshops:** Session 1 (*Choose one*)
A. Ronie Kendig—**Mind Magic: Tips & Tricks to Capture Your Reading Audience**
B. Pat Rushford—**DIY Publishing**
C. Heidi Gaul—**Broken Dreams and Detours**
D. Christina Suzann Nelson—**Submitting Your Best: Contest Prep**
- 2:40–3:00 **Break:** Bookstore is open
- 3:00–4:00 **Workshops:** Session 2 (*Choose one*)
E. Ronie Kendig—**Digging Deep with Heroes**
F. Rachel Lulich—**Editing for Writers**
G. Tawny Johnson—**Creating Your Book Proposal from a Marketing Perspective**
H. Dawn Shipman—**Exercises in Critique: How to Make the Best Better**
- 4:00–4:30 **Dessert, Autograph Party, and Photo Session**—all authors available to sign their books.
- All workshops suitable for all writers—beginner to advanced.*
- Follow live-tweets at @OregonWriters and use #OCWoneday to share.
 - See OCW at facebook.com/OregonChristianWriters.
 - The Prayer Room will be open all day.
 - Please fill out an evaluation form to enter a drawing for free tuition to a future one-day conference.

Conference and Membership Information:

(please register online www.oregonchristianwriters.org by February 20)

Conference Fees:

- \$45 for members
- \$75 for nonmembers
- \$20 for those 20 and under
- \$20 for college and post-grad students

Annual 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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WINTER 2018
NEWSLETTER

www.oregonchristianwriters.org

Join us for:

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

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with

Ronie Kendig

Chemeketa Community College

4000 Lancaster Dr. NE

Salem, OR 97305

*Registration link at www.oregonchristianwriters.org
(Driving directions inside—see Page 2)*

Oregon Christian Writers Conference Schedule

May 19, 2018

Spring One-Day Conference

Keynoter: Terry Glaspey

First Baptist Church, Eugene

August 20–23, 2018

Summer Coaching Conference

Keynoters: Robin Jones Gunn and Kim Meeder

Preconference Fiction Seminar with Donald Maass

Red Lion Hotel on the River, Portland

October 20, 2018

Fall One-Day Conference

Keynoter: Kathi Lipp

Rolling Hills Community Church

Tualatin (Portland Metro)