

OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER



Kathi Lipp: Bold—Writing Without Fear

TRACIE HESKETT
OCW ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
DIRECTOR

We're delighted to welcome Kathi Lipp to our fall conference in Tualatin. She will inspire us to leave our fears behind, find our audience, and move forward in our writing journeys.

A national speaker and the best-selling author of 17 books, including *Overwhelmed*, *Clutter Free*, *The Get Yourself Organized Project*, and *The Husband Project*, Kathi is also a frequent guest on radio and TV and has been named as Focus on the Family radio's "Best of Broadcast." She hosts the popular podcast "Clutter Free Academy with Kathi Lipp."

Through teaching and coaching the past 10 years, Kathi has helped hundreds of people increase their platforms. She founded the Leverage Speakers Conference held each November in San Jose, California, and is a frequent teacher at writers' conferences who has helped countless



authors and speakers find their audiences.

In her first keynote, Kathi will encourage writers to "Share Your Story Bravely" by addressing the bullies of Perfectionism, People-Pleasing, Procrastination, and Performance-ism. These are all bullies in our lives trying to hold us back from writing stories that will change the world. Kathi will walk us through three effective ways to fight the bullies and say "no" to the "perfect" idea, book, or even publisher so we can start writing what we are truly called to write.

She will encourage us to learn to share our stories bravely, whether we blog, write, lead a Bible study, or sit across the table from a friend. Kathi will explain: what the bullies are and how they hold us back; what the antidote is to fight the bullies in our lives; how to identify the parts of

our story that make us who we are; and how to share our story of hope (whether fiction or nonfiction) with confidence.

Her second keynote is titled "The Six Things You Learned in Kindergarten That Will Make You a Great Writer." With so many online courses, seminars, retreats, and webinars available, sometimes it's good to be reminded that most of what we need to be great writers we learned a long time ago. In this fun and empowering keynote, Kathi will help us not only recognize what we already know about writing, but also how to amplify the skills we already have to be the writer we've always been designed to be.

Join us on October 20 for inspiration to boost our creativity, along with practical tips to strengthen our writing as we hear from Kathi Lipp and other inspiring workshop presenters. We look forward to learning how to set aside our doubts and fears to share our stories bravely for God's kingdom and glory. ✍️

FALL 2018 CONFERENCE
October 20

Rolling Hills Community Church
Tualatin

(Portland Metro Area)
Online Registration Only

How to Spot a Hero



PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Marilyn Rhoads
OCW President
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oregonchristianwriters.org

Have you ever looked into the face of a hero? I have. Lots of times. The most recent was at the summer conference.

What makes a hero? My definition is they care more about pleasing God and serving you than they do about caring for themselves.

I spotted at least 50 to 60 of them at the Red Lion. From Mike Hodder, the graphic designer of our new Cascade Awards banner, to our volunteer photographer, Karen Barnett, who snaps your candid photo when you least expect it.

Please see **HERO** on Page 10

Inside at a Glance

- Fall Conference Workshops 2
- OCW Business 3
- Kathi Lipp's Books 3
- Cascade Writing Contest 4
- Summer Conference Revisited 6
- Spring Conference Revisited 7
- 2019 Summer Keynoters 8
- Prayer Team 10
- Fall 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.

Inspiring Fall Workshops



CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
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A. Kathi Lipp: “Build a Platform Publishers Will Love in 30 Minutes a Day” (all genres)

If you want to get past the slush pile of any publisher, the surefire way to do this is to have a platform that acquisition editors can't ignore. Kathi will share her daily routine for growing a platform that is so winsome publishers will take a second look at your proposal. In this workshop, you will leave with a step-by-step daily plan to build your platform in three key areas:

- Speaking
- Writing
- Social Media

Learn how to create great content that your audience will love as well as the strategy to share it well. In addition to this plan, you will learn the social media platforms that are best for you to shine in and the ones that you can ignore, guilt-free. A great platform isn't built by accident, and it's not built overnight, but it can be built.

B. Colette Tennant: “Writing Poems of Faith and Wonder” (poetry)

Using model poems and Christian history, we will write poems of faith and wonder. “I feel that a poem is the closest thing to complete truth. . . . A poem is so personal,” poet Li-Young Lee observed. “I know when I write a poem,” he continued, “I feel it inside. I feel a contact to the divine. When I hear a poet I love at a reading, I feel I'm witnessing someone in contact with the sacred. Hearing a poet read his work is like overhearing somebody talking to God. They're not really reading to you.” We will begin from there.

Colette Tennant is the author of two poetry books, *Commotion of Wings* (2010) and *Eden and After* (2015).

She is currently gathering poems into a third collection. Her poems have appeared in various journals, including *Christianity and Literature*, *Ruminate*, *Rattle*, *Prairie Schooner*, and others. In 2014, her poetry was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



She is an English professor at Corban University in Salem. She also likes to travel, write music, and play the piano and Scrabble.

C. Lynn Hare: “How to Eat an Elephant: Manage Your Writing One Bite at a Time” (all genres)

Do you have writing ideas, mentor or editor feedback, or conference or workshop notes that need to be organized and put into motion? Learn from an award-winning author how to devise a concrete action plan. Gain a system for submitting and tracking articles, devotionals, poetry, short stories, activities, and other submissions to periodicals. Ramp up your game at writing conferences with seven practical tips for successful takeaways. Come away feeling encouraged and uplifted on your multitasking writing safari. Chocolate-covered peanuts included.

Lynn Hare is a multiple Cascade Writing Award winner and author of *The Quest for Self-Forgiveness*.

An enthusiastic speaker, coach, and certified teacher, she is a prolific



author of periodical articles and devotionals. Lynn also holds workshops to equip people to explore Holy Spirit clarity for personal and career paths, seek their identity in

Christ, and embrace the freedom of forgiveness.

D. April McGowan: “Writing Deep” (fiction)

Deep POV (point of view) writing is emotionally connected writing. We all want our readers to delve into our characters and really see life through their eyes, make that connection, and feel their pain, loss, triumph, and joy. But how do we do that? In this hands-on class, you'll learn how to eliminate those pesky levels of the stratosphere and get down on the earth with your character and, in doing so, with your reader. You'll learn how to create a character your reader will cheer for, yell at, cry with, and—best of all—remember forever.

April McGowan writes stories of hope, courage, and inspiration—books that don't just entertain but reveal the steadfast love of God for the broken. Her stories remind us that nothing we go through is ever wasted if we commit it to the Lord. She has published three novels, *Jasmine*, *Macy*, and *Hold the Light*. In 2014, April was named the OCW Writer of Promise. April serves as the Oregon Christian Writers publicity coordinator. She and her husband, two children, and three lively black kitties live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.



E. Kathi Lipp: “Rooted Marketing” (all book genres)

Does marketing your book feel like the necessary evil that comes after writing what you love? What if developing your marketing plan could be as rewarding and fulfilling as writing your book? In this freeing workshop, Kathi Lipp, who has published 17 books, shares with you the concept of “Rooted Marketing”—a guide to create your marketing and your book at the same time.

Please see **WORKSHOPS** on Page 9



OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM

<i>President &</i>	
<i>Cascade Co-Chair</i>	Marilyn Rhoads
<i>One-Day Conference</i>	
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<i>Event Team</i>	Rosanne Croft & Jess Rivas
<i>MailChimps</i>	Jennifer Anne F. 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.

Great Reasons to Be Part of OCW



MINDING OCW'S BUSINESS
Sue Miholer
OCW Business Manager
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Although the majority of our 400 members are from Oregon (254) and Washington (91), we have members from 19 other states and one Canadian province. As you can see, although we have the word Oregon in our name, our membership is not limited to Oregon residents. Interested in joining us? Go to www.oregonchristianwriters.org/membership to join and pay online.

The 2018 Cascade Writing Contest had entries from 33 states, Mexico, England, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. And our summer conference drew conferees and staff from 29 states and two Canadian provinces.

So, although we're not an international organization, we draw people from all over the world who want to be encouraged as they pursue

the craft of writing.

Our members receive a monthly e-newsletter that reports on all things OCW, including:

- the writing accomplishments of our members
- a monthly prayer for writers
- listings of writing opportunities
- "family" prayer requests
- a writing-related devotional
- marketing tips
- a poem and/or other musings
- how to join the members-only Facebook page where we discuss (and get answers for) our writing challenges

Members are given an opportunity to participate in online and in-person critique groups where they will receive encouragement and feedback to develop their craft, and members enjoy a significant discount on conference fees.

The print newsletter goes out to a much wider audience three times a year, about five weeks before our three one-day conferences. We hope you consider joining OCW. ✍️



From left: Early Bird Speaker Donald Maass; Summer Conference Director Lindy Jacobs, President Marilyn Rhoads, and Business Manager Sue Miholer; and worship time at the 2018 summer conference.
Photos courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

Books by Kathi Lipp

- *Get Yourself Organized Project*

- *Clutter Free*

- *The Me Project*

- *101 Simple Ways to Show Your Husband You Love Him*



- *Happy Habits for Couples*

- *Praying God's Word for Your Husband*

- *The Husband Project*

- *Praying God's Word for Your Life*

OCW Cascade Contest A Growing Tradition

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



Oregon Christian Writers' mission is to encourage faith and excellence in writing, and to that end we launched the annual Cascade Writing Contest and Awards six years ago.

"It's a great contest, and it has exceeded our original hopes and prayers for Kingdom impact!" said Lindy Jacobs, OCW summer conference director.

This year the contest drew more than 300 entries from 33 states and four foreign countries. On the evening of the Cascade Awards, excitement and anticipation filled the room as finalists were recognized onstage, with their family and friends in the audience—and a sweet spirit of congratulations flowed from everyone for the winners. Each writer who participated in the contest was blessed in so many ways. Contestants received feedback from dedicated volunteers who reviewed their work. This year we received score sheets from 130 preliminary judges and 44 finals judges.

"I love the OCW contest," wrote Linda Kruschke, a triple finalist this year in the published poetry and unpublished nonfiction book categories. "The OCW Cascade Writing Contest provided me with incentive to hone my writing for submission. Preliminary and finals

judges provided mostly useful feedback that helped me improve my poetry and prose. There is usually a grain of truth in even the hardest-to-hear criticism."

As the contest grows, we seek more avid readers, writers, and editors to serve as preliminary judges. Our finals judges are professionals in the industry—Christian writers, editors, agents, and publishers.

"What an amazing opportunity to get feedback and suggestions, as well as have our writing read by well-known professionals in the industry," Michelle Aleckson, winner of the unpublished contemporary fiction book category, wrote in a thank-you note.

"The contest is a great way to get feedback," said Janie L. Berry, a finalist in the unpublished middle-grade category. "I didn't 'win' this year, but I am steps closer to the goal!"

So polish your prose and prepare to submit it for review. The 2019 contest opens Valentine's Day.

If interested in helping with the 2019 contest, please email me at cascade@oregonchristianwriters.org. ✍️



2018 Cascade Award Finalists
Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx



Above left: 2018 Published Devotional Finalists Laura Bradford, Lindsay Franklin, and Bethany Hayes. Above right: 2018 Published Articles, Columns, and Blog Posts Finalists Yvonne Kays, Susan Maas, and Dorcas Smucker
Photos courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

Published Cascade Contest Winners

Published Contemporary Fiction Book

Kristen Joy Wilks, *Athens Ambuscade*

Published Historical Fiction Book

Anna Zogg, *The Marshal's Mission*

Published Memoir

Carolyn Wade, *Five Hundred Letters*

Published Nonfiction Book

Lynn Hare, *The Quest for Self-Forgiveness: Discovering the Secret of Guilt-Free Living*

Published Speculative Fiction Book

Jill Williamson, *King's Blood*

Published Young Adult Book

Sally Apokedak, *The Button Girl*

Published Articles, Columns, and Blog Posts

Dorcas Smucker, "What We Truly Believe Will Show"

Published Devotional

Bethany Hayes, "The Great Exchange"

Published Poetry

Kristen Joy Wilks, "Praying for Bugs"

Published Short Story/Flash Fiction

Jennifer Anne F. Messing, "Labor Day Delight"

OCW Cascade Honorary Awards

By OCW STAFF

To cap off the Cascade Awards each year, OCW presents two special trophies—the Trailblazer Award and the Writer of Promise Award to recognize those who have shown Faith & Excellence in Writing. This year’s recipient of the Trailblazer Award was Sally Stuart, a longtime OCW member and founder of *The Christian Writers Market Guide*, the go-to resource for Christian writers. And this year’s Writer of Promise was Danika Cooley, an author, homeschool mom, and curriculum developer.

Our Trailblazers from past years are: Leslie Gould, Judy Gann, Jill Williamson, Melanie Dobson, and Chad McComas and John Fortmeyer. These winners were selected because of their contributions to the Oregon Christian Writers organization or to the greater Christian writing industry. They blazed a trail for others to follow. We are grateful.

Past Writer of Promise winners are: Karen Barnett, April McGowan, Lynn Hare, Camille Eide, and Christina Suzann Nelson. These individuals were chosen for outstanding achievements in the Christian writing world. They represent OCW and Christian writers with integrity and excellence. ✍️

Unpublished Cascade Contest Winners

Unpublished Children’s Picture/Chapter Book

Jennifer Bingham, *Nothing Changes Everything: A Simple Retelling of the Truth*

Unpublished Contemporary Fiction Book

Michelle Aleckson, *Riptide*

Unpublished Fiction Book

Tanya Eavenson, *The Rescue*

Unpublished Memoir

Jessica Domagala, *Abstract Love*

Unpublished Middle Grade Book

J.D. Rempel, *Melanie on the Move*

Unpublished Nonfiction Book

Marlys Johnson, *Inconvenient Love*

Unpublished Speculative Fiction Book

Christina Gollings, *Citlali Means Star*

Unpublished Young Adult Book

Cheryl Bostrom, *Climb, Run, Drown*

Unpublished Articles, Columns, and Blog Posts

Marissa Hunter, “Cutting the Cord”

Unpublished Devotionals

Donna Hues, “A Wee Lesson in Grace”

Unpublished Poetry

Rebecca Johnson, “The Horse of Death”

Unpublished Short Story/Flash Fiction

Robert Gilbert, “Elysia’s Doll”



2018 Trailblazer winner Sally Stuart.

Photos courtesy of Karen Barnett



2018 Writer of Promise winner Danika Cooley.

Photos courtesy of Karen Barnett



Previous recipients of The Writer of Promise Award (April McGowan, Karen Barnett, and Lynn Hare) with 2018 recipient Danika Cooley (second from left).

Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx



Previous recipients of The Trailblazer Award: Chad McComas, Judy Gann, Jill Williamson, and Melanie Dobson

Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

Summer Conference Revisited “Opening Doors”



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

*“What impressed me is God comes first.
Even professional faculty say this is the
best conference they attend.”*

Pam Groves

Our many prayers of the last year were answered as more than 275 writers, staff, and faculty gathered to worship, study, and fellowship during the 28th OCW Summer Coaching Conference in Portland August 20 to 23. Our numbers grew to 300 during the Wednesday evening Cascade Awards.

Kim Meeder, author and cofounder of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch, began her Monday keynote by reminding her audience of writers that Jesus wants to be first (Matthew 6:33). She challenged them to begin by opening the doors of their own hearts.

“We cannot write with conviction and passion about a faith we do not have in full,” Kim said. When we’re so full of Jesus, the overflow will touch others. A heart that is full of Him will bring healing to a world that needs hope. Kim shared the story of her personal family tragedy that led her to belief in Christ as a young child and that eventually led to a ministry that brings hurting children and abused horses together for mutual healing. “Your pain has a purpose. You can give the comfort that He has given you.”

In her Tuesday keynote, “Wide-Open Doors,” best-selling author Robin Jones Gunn shared her early burning ambition to be a missionary in Africa and tell people about God’s love. She didn’t consider herself a writer—and even felt some shame about being a spinner of tales—but she began writing because she knew the junior high girls in her Sunday school class needed stories that would draw their hearts to Jesus. It was hard work that required many rewrites, and her first book, *Summer Promises*, was rejected 10 times.

In John 20 when Jesus’ friends hid behind a locked door and Jesus appeared to them even though the door remained closed, He said, “Do not be afraid.” He breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit and said, “I am sending you out.”

God has gifted each of us, but to really connect with readers, our stories have to be filled with *Aloha*, the essence of life. We’ve been given this gift so we can pour out freely from experiences we have had. Our stories, articles, and poems will draw readers into His presence.

When Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would have a son, Mary said, “May it be unto me according to your

word.” She acquiesced.

Our response is to surrender. Open the door. Be all in. Do the hard work. Don’t be afraid to receive the power God has already given you.

One hundred titles that have traveled to places she’ll never go and three Hallmark films later, Robin said she realized why God put it in her heart to be a missionary all those years before so that the “more” could be accomplished for His kingdom through her books.

One of the most powerful moments in the conference came when Robin invited Kim onto the stage to close in prayer, both acknowledging God’s limitless power and asking for God’s direction as we write for this generation and the generation to come.

Other highlights included the Early Bird with agent and Writer’s Digest author Donald Maass, who taught a six-hour seminar “The Emotional Craft of Fiction”; worship led by Aaron Doerr; and “wisdom minutes” 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 Owls, which included small-group critique this year. The Writing Center was the usual hive of activity as conferees met one-on-one with editors, agents, and mentors.



Keynoters Kim Meeder and Robin Gunn Jones

Photo courtesy of Karen Barnett

“My favorite moment at the summer conference was closing in prayer alongside Kim Meeder. She and I had never met before, but we loved the way our hearts were in sync and how we shared the same desires for the conferees. It was evident that a lot of prayer and attention to details had been poured into the conference.”

Keynoter Robin Gunn Jones

MP3 downloads of individual sessions or a flash drive of all the 2018 summer conference audio recordings are available for order at <https://oregonchristianwriters.org/2018-summer-recordings/>.

“A big thank you to Lindy, Sue, and all your staff. This conference was life-changing. It could have been an ordinary writers’ conference, but by allowing the Holy Spirit to reign, you opened the door for God to do miracles in our hearts. Thank you so much!”

Geneva Iijima

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 2019 we will return to the beautiful Red Lion on the River August 12 to 15 (Monday through Thursday). Please mark your calendars now. Keynoters will be best-selling and beloved author **Francine Rivers** (*Redeeming Love*, *A Voice in the Wind*, and *The Masterpiece*) and screenwriter/producer **Brian Bird**. Christy-award winning novelist and Writer’s Digest author **Steven James** will teach a six-hour preconference seminar. See full details on Page 8 and keep watching our website, www.oregonchristianwriters.org, for details about next year’s faculty, registration, and the 2019 Cascade Writing Contest as plans for the conference develop. ✍



Agent panel at the 2018 summer conference.

Photos courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

“Pray. Listen. Do.”

Keynoter Kim Meeder



James L. Rubart signs a book at the autograph party.

Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx



Lonnie Hull DuPont teaches her class on playing with words at the 2018 summer conference.

Photos courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

Spring Conference Review

BY OCW STAFF

Terry Glaspey did a wonderful job challenging our attendees during the May 19th conference at First Baptist Church of Eugene, a new-to-OCW venue. President Marilyn Rhoads welcomed conferees, and Maxine Marsolini, a former OCW president, shared a devotional.



Terry Glaspey at the 2018 Spring Conference
Photo courtesy of Karen Barnett

Robyn Besemann presented a special musical package before Terry delivered Part One of his keynote address, “A Cloud of Creative Witnesses.” He shared a multimedia presentation showing how the arts through the centuries have often had

a religious theme. After a short break, Terry gave Part Two of his presentation—a visual and audio representation of how the sacred has informed the arts.

Following the business meeting, Melody Roberts, OCW newsletter editor, announced recent writing accomplishments. Afternoon workshop leaders were introduced and gave brief descriptions of their sessions.

After lunch, conferees went to workshops that covered aspects of writing fiction, self-editing, brainstorming ideas, platform, penning short pieces, and using humor in our writing.

The day ended with coffee, cookies, and an autograph party with photo ops. It was a great day of learning and being challenged as conferees were encouraged to engage in the craft of writing well. ✍

2019 Summer Conference Keynoters

“Following Your Call”

Hebrews 12:1–2

August 12–15

Red Lion on the River ~ Portland



Screenwriter/Producer Brian Bird

Brian Bird is the executive producer and cocreator of the Hallmark Channel original series *When Calls the Heart*, now in its fifth season, and he coauthored the new book of devotionals, *When God Calls the Heart*. In his three decades in Hollywood, he has written or produced two dozen films, including *The Case for Christ*, *Captive*, and *Not Easily Broken*, and nearly 300 episodes of shows, including *Touched by An Angel*, *Step by Step*, and *Evening Shade*. He is currently developing several new films—*Northern Lights*, *Bridge to Haven*, and *The Case for Miracles*—along with a new television series, *Big Sky*.

Francine Rivers

New York Times best-selling author Francine Rivers continues to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her numerous bestsellers include the Mark of the Lion series and A Lineage of Grace series. Her work has been translated into more than 30 languages. She is a member of Romance Writers of America’s coveted Hall of Fame as well as a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW). Visit her online at www.francinerivers.com.



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### Early Bird Speaker Steven James

Steven James is the critically acclaimed national best-selling author of 16 novels. With a master’s degree in storytelling, he has taught writing around the world. His work has been optioned by ABC Studios and praised by *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *The New York Journal of Books*, and many others. He’s a contributing editor at *Writer’s Digest* and also the author of the groundbreaking book *Story Trumps Structure* and the guidebook used by thousands of novelists, *Troubleshooting Your Novel*, both from *Writer’s Digest Books*. When he’s not working on his next book, he teaches novel writing intensives and master classes throughout the country.

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1–2 (NIV)*

## Workshops ... From Page 2

You will learn:

- Why marketing is your most creative endeavor
- How to love on your readers through the act of marketing
- Why you will develop fans for life by marketing with love

### F. Nicole Miller: “Online Platform Building 201: A Step-by-Step Guide” (all genres)



We'll walk through the steps on how to utilize many of the most popular online platforms—Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, basic blogging/website management, MailChimp, and more. We'll discuss time-saving (and sanity-saving) tools and tricks to feel more in control of your online presence. Feel free to bring any and all questions. (This is a great complement to Kathi's workshop, “Build a Platform Publishers Will Love in 30 Minutes a Day.”)

**Nicole Miller** is the team engagement manager for the social media management platform Buffer. She is also an award-winning fiction writer and has been a workshop speaker about social media and marketing for the past five years. She wrangles two toddler boys, two horses, two dogs, and a flock of chickens with her husband in Woodland, Washington.

### G. Dave Kenagy: “The Writer's Journey from Head to Heart: Notes and Lessons from the Trail” (all genres)



How can I turn my well-crafted but wooden sentences into memorable, heartfelt expressions of my walk with Jesus? If Christian writing should help my readers know the *living* God, then why is mine often *dead* before it leaves the keyboard? And

what can I do about it? Dave shares his ongoing trek from Headwriting to Heartwriting while offering his top three hallmarks of heartless writing and how to unfriend them.

**Dave Kenagy's** legal career ended 15 years ago with a chronic nerve disease. This turn of events steered his writing toward grasping the heart of a follower's walk with Jesus. Dave is a graduate of Pomona College, the UCLA School of Law, and the Pacific Evangelical School of Ministry. He lives in Salem with Beth, his wife of 42 years. He is a Dean Emeritus of the Willamette University College of Law. His work has appeared in *Oregon Humanities*, *Human Life Review*, *Portland* (Brian Doyle, ed.), *Journal of Christian Nursing*, *Salvo*, Law Reviews, and a book chapter on *Children's Encounters with Angels*.

### H. Jill Williamson: “Writing for Young Adults (YA)” (fiction)

Some of the most popular books of all time come from the young adult category in a variety of genres. These books speak to readers during their formative years, and that's a heavy responsibility for writers. In this workshop, we'll define young adult, talk about who reads it and what those readers want, get you thinking about why you want to write for this audience, and discuss what works in YA and what doesn't work.



**Jill Williamson** has written more than 20 books for teens and adults, including her debut novel, *By Darkness Hid*, which won several awards and was named a Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror novel of 2009 by *VOYA* magazine. She has written several books on the craft of writing fiction and teaches writing in person and online at [www.StoryworldFirst.com](http://www.StoryworldFirst.com) and at [www.GoTeenWriters.com](http://www.GoTeenWriters.com), the latter of which has been named one of *Writer's Digest's* “101 Best Websites for Writers.” Learn more about Jill at [www.jillwilliamson.com](http://www.jillwilliamson.com). 

## Driving Directions to Fall Conference

From I-205—take the Stafford Road exit (#3) toward Lake Oswego.

**Coming from the south** (Salem), turn left on Stafford Road and cross over I-205.

**Coming from the north** (Washington), exit to the right onto Stafford Road. Enter roundabout and take the third exit onto Southwest Borland Road.

(Your destination is on the left 1/10 mile past Southwest Schaber Lane. If you reach Southwest 35th Avenue you've gone a little too far.)



Workshop Presenter Leslie Gould at the 2018 Spring Conference  
Photo courtesy of Karen Barnett

*An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*  
Proverbs 18:15 (ESV)



Workshop Presenter Kristen Johnson at the 2018 Spring Conference  
Photo courtesy of Karen Barnett

# Find Purpose in the Storm



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

Have you rolled up your sleeves, mind brimming with creativity, computer screen glowing, and a cup of coffee at your elbow?

But then your child gets sick, the car breaks down, or financial trouble arrives. The writing project gets delayed again. Aargh!

Wake up the Divine Carpenter sawing logs in the back of the skiff! He's missing terrifying sea swells shoveling saltwater into your eyes and tossing you around like popcorn.

When our faith is tested by turbulent waters, it may be tough to believe that God is good all the time. Yet, in His backward, upside-down way, the Lord of paradoxes like "the last shall be first" extends an invitation to trust Him when there's a gap between His promises and our circumstances.

When our compass needle spins crazily, instead of praying "Why?" we can softly ask, "For what purpose?" Perhaps the purpose is to take a deep breath and forgive someone while drawing on godly waves of grace, or to beckon readers into the depths of the person of Jesus Christ. Maybe purpose surfaces in an unexpected "aha!" moment.

On days when we don't "get" His purpose, we can turn to His Word and allow the Holy Spirit's breath to lift our sails and turn us toward "True North."

Then we can make broad "sweeps" for Christ's prevailing purpose and return to the keyboard with renewed hope and passion.

Many are the plans in an author's heart, but it's the Lord's purpose that prevails (Proverbs 19:21 LYNN HARE VERSION). ✍

## Hero ... From Page 1

And what about Melody Roberts, who recently lost her mother, yet she attended the memorial and came right back to work on the conference notebook and publish this newsletter?

Then there's Jess Rivas, who recently moved to California, and Rosanne Croft, his Cvent partner, who moved to Colorado. They receive no byline or credit, yet they continue to give hours to OCW.

Why do they do it? Why give up their time to serve us when they could be writing, reading, relaxing, or being with their friends and families? Because they love God more than they love themselves. They are called to a specific mission, and they consider it a top priority.

Our professional faculty also works for us when we don't realize it. Sherri Langton has attended our conference for more than 25 years and plays the drums in our worship band. Past conferees have reported she helped them long after the conference ended. Susan King recommended our conference to a lady in Kentucky who contacted me about registering. What a surprise! Even past teachers continue to recommend OCW. Jeanette Littleton directed a woman to this "wonderful conference."

What's the best thing about these special people? They're not singing their own songs; they're singing the Lord's. They appear "normal" on the outside, but, on the inside, they're brimming over with joy and enthusiasm. What they do will last forever, and their sacrifices literally spread the gospel around our world.

Keep your eyes open, and you'll spot a hero too. I'm sure of it. The next one you see might be in your own mirror.

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24 NLT).

You are loved and appreciated.

~ Marilyn ✍



Left: 2018 summer conference Worship Pastor Aaron Doerr; Center: behind-the-scenes VIPs, registration architects Jess Rivas and Rosanne Croft. Right: 2018 Cascade Awards Cohost Susan May Warren

Photos courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

## “Bold—Writing Without Fear”

“And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.” Ephesians 6:19 (NLT)

### Oregon Christian Writers Fall Conference

Saturday, October 20, 2018 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Rolling Hills Community Church, 3550 SW Borland Road, Tualatin, Oregon 97062*

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Bookstore**  
**Piano Prelude:** Bob Williams
- 9:00–9:30 **Welcome and Introductions:** President Marilyn Rhoads  
**Worship**  
**Devotional:** Mary McIntosh
- 9:30–10:20 **General Session I:** Kathi Lipp, “Share Your Story Bravely”
- 10:25–10:45 **Morning Break:** Refreshments and time to visit the bookstore
- 10:45–11:35 **General Session II:** Kathi Lipp, “The Six Things You Learned in Kindergarten That Will Make You a Great Writer”
- 11:35–12:25 **OCW Business Meeting:** Recognition of new members and writing accomplishments; voting on revised bylaws; introduction of workshop teachers
- 12:25–12:35 **Summer Conference Highlights:** readings from Cascade Contest winners and others; summer conference slide show
- 12:35–1:35 **Lunch:** Deli sandwich/salad buffet (will include gluten-free options)—\$14.00 must be ordered by October 14.
- 1:40–2:40 **Workshops:** Session 1 (Choose one) *All workshops suitable for all levels of experience.*  
A. Kathi Lipp—**Build a Platform Publishers Will Love in 30 Minutes a Day**  
B. Colette Tennant—**Writing Poems of Faith and Wonder**  
C. Lynn Hare—**How to Eat an Elephant: Manage Your Writing One Bite at a Time**  
D. April McGowan—**Writing Deep**
- 2:40–3:00 **Break:** Bookstore is open
- 3:00–4:00 **Workshops:** Session 2 (Choose one) *All workshops suitable for all levels of experience.*  
E. Kathi Lipp—**Rooted Marketing**  
F. Nicole Miller—**Online Platform Building 201: A Step-by-Step Guide**  
G. Dave Kenagy—**The Writer’s Journey from Head to Heart: Notes and Lessons from the Trail**  
H. Jill Williamson—**Writing for Young Adults**
- 4:00–4:30 **Dessert, Autograph Party, and Photo Session**—all authors available to sign their books.

#### Conference and Membership Information:

(please register online [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org) by October 18)

#### Conference Fees:

- \$45 for members
- \$75 for nonmembers
- \$20 for those 20 and under

#### 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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NEWSLETTER

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

Join us for:

**“Bold—Writing Without Fear”  
Fall One-Day Conference**

Saturday, October 20, 2018  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
with  
Kathi Lipp

Rolling Hills Community Church  
3550 SW Borland Road  
Tualatin, OR 97062

*Registration link at [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org)  
(Driving directions inside—see Page 9)*

**Oregon Christian Writers  
Conference Schedule**

**February 23, 2019**

Keynoter: Carrie Stuart Parks  
Chemeketa Community College, Salem

**May 18, 2019**

Keynoter: Chris Fabry  
First Baptist Church, Eugene

**August 12–15, 2019**

Summer Coaching Conference  
Keynoters: Brian Bird and Francine Rivers  
Preconference Fiction Seminar with Steven James  
Red Lion Hotel on the River, Portland