

OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Carrie Stuart Parks: Grow and Become a Better Writer

TRACIE HESKETT
OCW ONE-DAY CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”
(Philippians 4:8 NIV)

We're delighted to welcome Carrie Stuart Parks to our winter conference in Salem. She will encourage us to grow and become better writers as she shares lessons she has learned in her own writing journey.

Carrie Stuart Parks is an award-winning, internationally known



forensic artist. She travels across the United States and Canada teaching courses in forensic art to law enforcement professionals, including the FBI, Secret Service, and RCMP. Her novels in the mystery/suspense/thriller genre have garnered numerous awards, including the Christy, Carol, and INSPY awards.

As a professional fine artist, she has written and illustrated best-selling art books for North Light Publishers. In her first keynote, Carrie will share “The Fine Art of Writing.” We write to “do our art” and tell a story; often

we tell *our* story. Carrie will explain the parallels between art and writing and how to separate our stories from our writing.

Carrie's second keynote is titled “First-Place Cabbage.” In this encouraging keynote, Carrie will share the story of her writing career and lessons she has learned along the way. Her talk will include how she has used her forensic art background and professional cases in her writing—and how she came to be mentored by Frank Peretti.

Join us February 23 for inspiration to boost our creativity, along with practical tips to strengthen our writing as we hear from Carrie Stuart Parks and other great workshop presenters. We look forward to learning how to prepare our manuscripts for the Cascade Writing Contest as well as summer conference manuscript submissions. May God help us grow and become the best writers we can be. ✨

WINTER 2019 CONFERENCE
February 23
Chemeketa Community College
Salem
Online Registration Only

Are We Number One?



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

Our most recent one-day keynoter shocked me when she said Oregon Christian Writers is now considered the number one conference in the country. Speakers, authors, editors, and agents are eager to give their time to attend our conferences.

During the fall conference business meeting, April McGowan described her responsibilities and explained her function as Publicity Coordinator. She said she wanted us to be number one.

I followed her onstage and remarked that her comment sounded like even more work for volunteers.

None of us knew we had already “made” it. But what exactly does that mean?

I think of Lindy Jacobs and the 30 to 60 hours per week she devotes

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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.

Wonderful Winter Workshops



CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
Tracie Heskett
OCW One-Day Conference Director
one-dayconferences@
oregonchristianwriters.org

A. Carrie Stuart Parks: “Getting It Write” (fiction)

Do you need help polishing your manuscript to enter the OCW Cascade Contest? Carrie offers this workshop in which she describes common problems in writing and how to fix them. You'll learn about tags and beats and the role they play in writing. Exercises included!

B. Cornelia Becker Seigneur: “Musing, Memories, Memoir: Reasons and Ways to Write Our Lives” (nonfiction)

In this hands-on writing workshop, participants will discover the “six reasons for writing our lives” by looking at well-known works and our own. Through a series of writing prompts and exercises, participants will reflect on, then write about, important moments, monuments, and memories as a segue into discovering the themes of their lives. This workshop will include discussion and ideas about where and how to publish short memoir pieces, and attendees will consider book concepts to round out this rich, literary workshop.

Cornelia Becker Seigneur is a regular freelance journalist who specializes in family, community, faith, and human-interest stories. Her work has been published in *Christianity Today*, *The Today Show's* parents' blog, *The Oregonian*, and *The Huffington Post*. Cornelia is the author of two books: *Writer Mom Tales* and *Images of America: WEST LINN*. She has also been a special section editor for Pamplin Media, an adjunct profes-

sor at George Fox University and Multnomah University, a high school teacher, and a youth director at a small church. Cornelia is the founding director of the Faith & Culture Writers Conference.

C. Nick Harrison: “What to Do When You Don't Have a Platform”



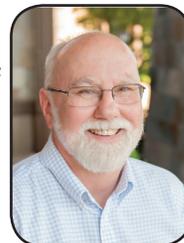
(all genres)
In this workshop, we'll define platform and discuss its importance to publishers and thus to authors. We'll discuss ways to start building a platform slowly and what

an author can do to publish books before the platform is fully operative. Examples of successful books by authors without a platform will be presented as evidence it can be done. There will be time for questions and answers during the session.

Nick Harrison, literary agent with WordServe Literary, is the author of 12 books, including *Magnificent Prayer*, *Prayer in the Promises*, and four books in the One-Minute® Prayer series. For 15 years, Nick served as senior editor at Harvest House Publishers. In his role as an agent, Nick presently maintains a small list of authors he represents to both Christian and general trade publishers. Nick and his wife, Beverly, are the parents of three grown daughters and grandparents to two boys and two girls.

D. Kyle Pratt: “Finding or Forming a Critique Group”

(all genres)
As authors, we spend many hours alone while writing our stories, but sometimes we need the perspective of others. We may have heard of critique groups but never attended one. Should we be concerned?



How can they help us? What should we expect? How do we find a good group? Are there rules or best practices that we should know? This session will answer those questions and more.

Kyle Pratt is an Amazon best-selling author of novels, novellas, and short stories. His book, *Through Many Fires*, the first novel in his Strengthen What Remains series, reached the number one position on the Kindle Science Fiction Post-Apocalyptic bestseller list. Kyle attributes much of his success to finding authors willing to mentor him. Those first authors eventually became the Inklings, a critique group that has continued for nearly 20 years. Kyle has formed and assisted several other critique groups during his writing career.

E. Carrie Stuart Parks: “Finding the Power in Your Words” (fiction)

We want our readers to stay up late because they can't put down our writing. In this workshop, Carrie will show us how to create tension, which results in page-turning stories.

F. Jim Hills: “Whatever Is True, Whatever Is Right: The Nature and Ethics of Creative Nonfiction”

(nonfiction)
From reporters we expect a dispassionate, objective account of some event. Novelists bear no such limitations. They make stuff up. They frequently warn readers against assuming that fictional characters have identities off the page. Expectations for creative nonfiction may be less clear. Just what is creative about creative nonfiction, and how creative can we be when we write it? This session addresses those questions and will include conversation among the presenter, attendees, and Corban University writing students.

The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction.
Proverbs 16:21 (NIV)

Please see WORKSHOPS on Page 9



OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM

<i>President &</i>	
<i>Cascade Co-Chair</i>	Marilyn Rhoads
<i>One-Day Conference</i>	
<i>Director</i>	Tracie Heskett
<i>Secretary</i>	Donna Hues
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane Reid
<i>Business Manager</i>	Sue Miholer
<i>Summer Conference</i>	
<i>Director</i>	Lindy Jacobs
<i>Cascade Co-Chair</i>	Julie Zander
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Melody Roberts
<i>Copy Editor</i>	Mary Hake
<i>Online Critique Groups</i>	Gail Sattler
<i>In-Person Critique</i>	
<i>Groups</i>	Charlotte Kardokus
<i>Bookstore Manager</i>	Bobbie Christensen
<i>Technical Support</i>	Joyce del Rosario
<i>Cvent 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.

A Year of Growth



MINDING OCW'S BUSINESS

Jane Reid
OCW Treasurer
treasurer@
oregonchristianwriters.org

Good news. Oregon Christian Writers is growing and healthy. At the end of September, we completed our best fiscal year ever. In practical terms, this means we can continue to invite top-notch teachers, speakers, editors, and agents to our conferences.

We've had great attendance at all of our conferences, averaging 120 attendees at our three (February, May, and October) one-day events, with almost three times that number participating in at least some portion of the 2018 annual four-day summer coaching conference.

Each conference results in growth, both in the number of members as well as in the quality of work each conferee produces.

Attendees at OCW conferences find a place of mutual support and encouragement. To increase this aspect of OCW, we now maintain a private Facebook group open only to OCW members. Those who join this group have a forum to ask questions and discuss issues unique to our community of Christian writers. Thank you to those who pose great questions and contribute encouragement and support.

As a growing professional, educational, and support organization, we have outgrown some tasks that used to be done by volunteers. For example, we pay to have our bookkeeping done and our website designed and monitored. We rent a storage unit for our conference equipment. However, volunteers remain the vital backbone of OCW. We encourage our members to add their unique talents to our team. When many people individually offer something small, amazing growth is possible. ❄

Books by Carrie Stuart Parks

- *The Bones Will Speak*

- *When Death Draws Near*

- *Drawing Realistic Faces*

- *Fragments of Fear*

- *Realistic Drawing Secrets*

- *Formula Deception*



Plan to Attend the Summer Conference August 12–15 “Following Your Call” (Hebrews 12:1–2 NIV)



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

“The Oregon Christian Writers Summer Conference was a POWERFUL event. Lives were impacted for Christ, strongholds were broken off, priorities were realigned, and hearts were filled to overflowing with encouragement.”

Kim Meeder, 2018 Keynoter

The OCW Summer Conference has become known as one of the country’s leading Christian writing conferences, featuring a roster of more than 35 top editors, agents, and award-winning authors dedicated to helping writers of all levels (beginning to professional) develop their skills and reach their publishing goals.

Manuscript reviews, one-on-one 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, historical fiction, screenwriting, suspense, young adult/middle grade fiction, writing for children, websites and blogging, magazine articles, devotionals, writing Bible studies, marketing, podcasting, and writing with empathy.

Other highlights include a six-hour (9 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch included) preconference seminar “Troubleshooting Your Novel” with Steven James (Monday), early morning devotions with Bob Hostetler (Tuesday and Wednesday), and Nite Owls that include “How to Start a Podcast” with Thomas Umstadd Jr. (Monday evening) plus small-group critique groups in multiple genres (Tuesday).

Registration opens March 5. Tuition is \$575 for members, \$640 for nonmembers, and \$375 for conferees 23 and under. (Rates go up after July 1.) Tuition includes all conference activities from 2 p.m. Monday through 12:30 p.m. Thursday, including three dinners and two lunches and the Cascade Awards gala. 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. ✨

FOLLOWING YOUR CALL
Hebrews 12:1-2
2019 SUMMER COACHING CONFERENCE
August 12-15 · Portland · Oregon

SCREENWRITER/PRODUCER **BRIAN BIRD**
BEST-SELLING NOVELIST **FRANCINE RIVERS**

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

Registration opens March 5: www.oregonchristianwriters.org

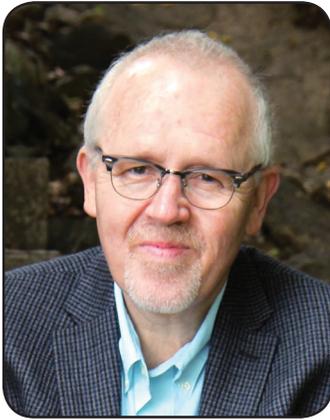
2019 Summer Conference Morning Coaching Classes

- “From Page to Stage to Screen: Techniques for Writing Winning Screenplays” with Brian Bird (*All levels*)
- “Plan Your Dynamite Website” with Laura Christianson (*Marketing, intermediate*)
- “Pages from the Past: Stitching Together Historical and Time-Slip Fiction” with Melanie Dobson (*Fiction, all levels*)
- “Your Best Book Now!” with Bob Hostetler (*Nonfiction, all levels*)
- “Marketing: Vision, Strategy, and Tactics” with Randy Ingermanson (*Professional writers, fiction & nonfiction*)
- “Suspense Essentials: Secrets to Tapping into Tension Whatever Genre You Write” with Steven James (*Fiction, all levels*)
- “Writing Nonfiction That Inspires” with Matt Mikalatos (*Nonfiction critique, all levels*)

Three Premium classes (\$100 extra) offer preconference review:

- “Children’s/YA Critique, Fiction & Nonfiction” with Sally Apokedak (*Students will exchange work before conference. Class limit: 12.*)
- “How to Apply the Five Most Powerful Methods of Story Creation to Your Novels” with James L. Rubart (*Fiction, all levels: Eight students may take the Premium option. Class limit: 20.*)
- “Bigger, Better, Bolder: How to Write Stories That Transcend Genre to Become Bestsellers and Make a Life-Changing Impact on Your Readers” with Susan May Warren (*Fiction, all levels. Eight students may take the Premium option. Class limit: 20.*)

Meet Your 2019 Summer Conference Keynoters



BRIAN BIRD is executive producer and cocreator of the Hallmark Channel original series *When Calls the Heart*, now in its fifth season, and coauthor of 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 such as *Touched by an Angel*, *Step by Step*, and *Evening*

Shade. He is developing three new films, *Northern Lights*, *Bridge to Haven*, and *The Case for Miracles*, along with a new television series, *Big Sky*.

FRANCINE RIVERS, a New York Times best-selling author, continues to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her numerous bestsellers include *Redeeming Love*, *A Voice in the Wind*, and *The Masterpiece*, and 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.



Early Bird Seminar with 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.

2019 Summer Conference Faculty

BOOK EDITORS

Jocelyn Bailey, Harper Collins
 Alice Crider, David C Cook
 Vicki Crumpton, Revell (Baker Books)
 Terry Glaspey, Harvest House Publishers
 Linda Howard, Tyndale House
 Al Hsu, InterVarsity Press
 Terri Kalfas, Grace Publishing
 Nancy Lohr, JourneyForth Books
 Kathy Olson, Tyndale House
 Trieste Vaillancourt, DaySpring Books
 Roseanna White, WhiteFire Publishing

AGENTS

Sally Apokedak, Apokedak Literary Agency
 Jim Hart, Hartline Literary Agency
 Bob Hostetler, Steve Laube Literary Agency
 Greg Johnson, WordServe Literary
 Tawny Johnson, D.C. Jacobson & Associates
 Jessica Kirkland, Kirkland Media Management
 Thomas Umstatt Jr., Steve Laube Literary Agency

MAGAZINE EDITORS

Jesse Florea, *Clubhouse* (Focus on the Family)
 John Fortmeyer, *Christian News Northwest*
 Susan King, *The Upper Room*
 Sherri Langton, *Bible Advocate* and *Now What?*
 Chad McComas, *The Christian Journal*
 Paul Smith, *LIVE*

2019 Early Bird Seminar from Oregon Christian Writers

Troubleshooting Your Novel

You've completed the first draft of your novel—now what? Chances are, it's not perfect . . . at least, not yet.

August 12, 2019

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. • Portland, OR

Steven James, best-selling author and contributing editor to *Writer's Digest* will show how to tackle problem areas in your fiction:

- Examine and adjust story progression
- Develop riveting characters
- Master narrative techniques
- Ensure reader engagement

Take your manuscript to the next level!

\$140 (includes lunch) - Registration opens March 5 - Space is limited



OCW Cascade Contest an Opportunity to Learn

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



As Valentine's Day approaches, so does the opening of the Seventh Annual Cascade Writing Contest. It's time to fine-tune unpublished manuscripts and gather together your best published books, articles, poems, and short stories that appeared in print for the first time in 2018. The contest is open to all writers. You do not need to be an OCW member, but members do get a discount on the entry fee.

Why enter the Cascade Contest?

- It gives you a deadline for completing a project.
- The contest provides an opportunity to share work and receive feedback to improve it.
- It requires the discipline of following rules and properly formatting entries.
- Writers gain credibility when they final or win.

"I've been entering writing contests since I began writing for publication 10 years ago, both as a pre-published and published writer," award-winning novelist Camille Eide wrote in "From Novice to Novelist: How Contests Help Writers at Any Stage" on the OCW website (<https://oregonchristianwriters.org/how-writing-contests-help-writers-at-any-stage/>). "I've won, placed, and been passed over. But regardless of my stage as a writer or the outcome, I've never come away from a writing contest empty-handed."

Contest rules are posted online at <https://oregonchristianwriters.org/2019-cascade-contest-submission-rules/> and the scoring elements can be found at <https://oregonchristianwriters.org/2019-cascade-awards-scoring-elements/>.

Be sure to follow the rules when submitting entries to avoid having them disqualified.

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)/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

"What an amazing opportunity to get feedback and suggestions, as well as to have our writing read by well-known professionals in the industry," said Michelle Aleckson, 2018 winner of the unpublished contemporary fiction book category.

"I love the OCW contest," wrote Linda Kruschke, a triple finalist last year in published poetry and unpublished nonfiction book. "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 Camille wrote in her excellent OCW Writing Tip article, "Contests help us see our blind spots or areas we need to strengthen, especially if multiple judges mention the same issue. Judges also prepare us for the varying tastes of readers. One judge raved about how my book's opening hooked her immediately while another felt it took too long. Fluctuating responses are a good example of how various readers might react to our work, and this is great preparation for conflicting reader reactions later."

"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!"

All proceeds from the contest benefit the OCW Summer Coaching Conference and help keep the cost of tuition down.

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.

If interested in serving as a judge in the 2019 contest, please email me at cascade@oregonchristianwriters.org. ❄️



2018 Cascade Award Finalists

Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

Fall Conference Review

“Share Your Story Bravely”—Kathi Lipp, Keynote Speaker



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

Shower with crayons? Kathi Lipp suggested writers be ready to jot down ideas no matter where we are—even in the shower.

We should be brave writers. We don't have to be 100 percent. We simply need to show up and see what God can do through our willingness to learn.

Her number one tip was to lower our expectations. If our list of “waits” is too long, our goals will never be accomplished. We need to stop waiting for the perfect day, the perfect idea, the perfect place, or the perfect situation, and just write. She challenged us to throw out the



Kathi Lipp with conferee at the 2018 Fall Conference



Workshop Presenter Nicole Miller at the 2018 Fall Conference

“waiting” attitude and write 500 words a day.

Writers are unique individuals who interact with and affect society. As Christian writers, if we don't follow God's leading, we are being disobedient.

Set goals. Show up. Try new things. And follow God's direction. Writers may never know the outcome of their work, but we must keep writing. Writing is an act of faith. We must offer God's message for a broken world.

Kathi suggested six habits for successful writing:

1. **Share** your writing often. Keep people engaged. Listen to feedback.
2. **Care** about your readers/audience: what they are focused on, what they are going through, how you can change their life. What does your reader need from you? Don't be a cheap imitation of someone else. Be authentic. Offer:
Hope that they are going to change,
Humor to lighten their spirits,
How-tos to get out of their difficult situation.
3. **Play**: what do you do for fun? What do you love to do? Become a better writer through play. If you play, your brain thinks better. Do not underrate play to help you write.
4. **Read**: if you're a writer who doesn't have time to read, know there are readers who don't have time to read your writing. Read things you don't agree with. It may make you a better writer to think through the process.
5. **Rest**: make time for rest! Rest well. Rest deeply. You can't do great writing if you're not rested. Live a balanced life.
6. **Write**: set a goal for the number of words you will write every day and stick to it.

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.
Francis Bacon



Kathi Lipp at the 2018 Fall Conference

After these challenging words from Kathi, President Marilyn Rhoads called the business meeting to order. The revised bylaws were approved. About 40 first-time attendees and new members received small gifts. Almost 30 members and our keynote speaker had their books for sale in the conference bookstore.

Tracie Heskett introduced the afternoon workshop presenters and each gave a quick overview of what they would cover. After lunch, the 140 attendees dispersed to two hour-long workshop sessions that covered several topics: platform and marketing, writing from the heart, poetry, managing submissions, how to write from a deep point of view, and writing for young adults.

The day wrapped up with photo ops, book signings, and coffee and cookies. Attendees left both challenged and encouraged in their writing. ✨



Presenter Dave Kenagy at the 2018 Fall Conference

All photos courtesy of Karen Barnett

Chris Fabry, Author of *War Room*, Keynoting May Conference



Chris Fabry is an award-winning author and radio personality who was recently inducted into the Christy Award Hall of Fame. He hosts the daily program *Chris Fabry Live* on Moody Radio and is also heard on *Love Worth Finding*, *Building Relationships with Dr. Gary Chapman*, and other radio programs.

Chris' latest release is *Under a Cloudless Sky*. He has won five Christy Awards (an ECPA Christian Book Award) and two *Christianity Today* Book Awards of Merit. But it's his lyrical prose and tales of redemption that keep readers returning for more.

Chris has published more than 75 books, including nonfiction and film novelizations, the recent bestseller *War Room*, and novels for children and young adults. He coauthored the *Left Behind: The Kids* series with Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, as well as the *Red Rock Mysteries* and *The Wormling* series with Jerry B. Jenkins. *RPM* is his latest series for kids and explores the exciting world of NASCAR.



Janell Wood at the 2018 Fall Conference bookstore



Conferees at 2018 Fall Conference

OCW Online Critique Groups, a Member Benefit



CRITIQUE GROUPS
Gail Sattler
Critique Group Coordinator
[critique@
oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:critique@oregonchristianwriters.org)

Many say there is no better way to improve your writing than to be involved in a critique group, and I agree. Feedback from other writers is the obvious benefit. But the biggest benefit is one not many people think about—and that is how critiquing others improves their own writing.

When we read, we know if the writing works for us as readers, or if it doesn't. If it doesn't, our job in critiquing is to figure out what didn't work and say why. This is the challenge for us as we critique others—and also where we grow as writers. Figure out what's not working, then figure out why. The biggest challenge is to offer a suggestion on how to fix the problem.

Then take what you've learned and apply it to your own writing. A lot of times, this is a real eye-opener.

Who wants to join a critique group? If the group you are in hasn't been active, send a note to the group to reactivate it. Or join a different group. Some people are in more than one group. That's okay too.

Since this is an OCW membership benefit, join OCW first if you aren't a member (instructions on the OCW website). If you have any questions or would like to join an online critique group, contact Gail Sattler at critique@oregonchristianwriters.org. ✨

*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said,
"Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
John 7:38 (ESV)*

All photos courtesy of Karen Barnett

Workshops ... From Page 2

Jim Hills has taught literature and writing courses at Corban University since 1973. He has also taught in Germany and Indonesia, and for a



dozen years he taught evening classes in area prisons. His collection of short essays, *Garage Sale of the Mind and Other Opinions*, was the

2015 co-winner of the Cascade Award for nonfiction. Jim and his wife, Bonnie, both born in New York, met in college in California and married the day after graduation, a timetable they don't recommend. They are the parents of four children, grandparents of six, and great-grandparents of six-year-old twins.

G. Julie Zander: "Polish Your Prose: Avoid Missed Opportunities"

(all genres)

You've written your manuscript and edited it based on feedback about structure and development. Now you're ready to submit it to an editor, agent, or publisher, or you intend to self-publish. Before you do, look for common pitfalls and missed opportunities that leave your writing weaker than it could be, detracting from your storytelling. In this workshop, we'll discuss passive writing, weak verbs, style, and proofreading tips to fine-tune your masterpiece.

Julie McDonald Zander, a personal historian, newspaper columnist, and freelance editor, earned her bachelor's degree in communications and political science from the University of Washington. She worked as a newspaper reporter for 10 years and as an



editor for nine before starting *Chapters of Life*, which has published more than 50 titles. She writes a weekly newspaper column and continues to help

individuals, families, businesses, communities, and organizations preserve their histories in book

form. Julie serves as Cascade Writing Contest co-chair. She and her husband have two children and live in Toledo, Washington.

H. Jon Drury and Kristen Johnson: "Audiobooks: Expanding Your Reach" (all genres)

Is creating an audiobook the next step in reaching your audience? Audiobooks are now earning more than ebooks, and listeners are waiting to hear your words. Don't get left behind! Come learn how your book can be made into an audiobook. Should you do it yourself or work with a narrator? Come discover all the facts you need to expand your reach and be heard in 2019.

Jon Drury, a veteran pastor, has



authored more than 450 articles and three books. A former Air Force pilot, he just published *BOU Pilot*, plus audiobook, his account of flying as a transport pilot in Vietnam. Starting in 1992 at the Mount Hermon Christian Writing Conference, and with Ethel Herr's *Introduction to Christian Writing*, he authored devotionals, transitioned to articles, then to books. In 1994 he began the Christian Writers Seminar, now West Coast Christian Writers, with a passion for birthing new writers. In 2012 he received the David Talbot Award at the Mount Hermon Conference for encouraging writers.

Kristen G. Johnson fell in love with acting when she played Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and she's been singing and acting her way through life since. These skills came in handy when she decided to record audiobooks. Her recordings of *Confident Beauty*, *The Pearl Diver*, and OCW's own Susan Maas' *Picture Imperfect* can be found on Audible.com. All of



them were recorded in her cozy closet studio. Kristen lives in Vancouver with her husband, David, two daughters, Lily and Ella, and a whole herd of bunnies. ✨

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.



Workshop Presenter Lynn Hare at the 2018 Fall Conference

Photo courtesy of Karen Barnett

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.

T.A.L.K.I.N.G. to Jesus



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

As we begin the calendar page of a new year, Christ invites us to deepen our relationship with Him. He settles in with us at His hearth to enrich our writing journeys with the gift of warm, sincere T.A.L.K.I.N.G.

- **Take time for friends.** We write together. Laugh together. Cry together. Pray together. Each of us shares the journey with companions to encourage.
- **Ask. Seek. Knock.** When we pray, we can ask for guidance—and surrender to our heavenly Father’s ways, even when they don’t make sense. Our appreciation warms His heart.
- **Let yourself be authentic.** When we’re feeling isolated or discouraged, we can express our inadequacies truthfully and give our readers courage to face their own struggles.
- **Know that this, too, shall pass.** There’s a silver lining hidden in the troubled storm clouds brewing overhead, which are likely there for only a season.
- **Invest in other authors.** Pray for them. Buy their books. Raise them up. Celebrate their successes.
- **Never say never.** Does your God-given publishing dream seem way too enormous? I hope so! Dream with Him. “With God, all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26 NIV).
- **Gain peace in worship.** We can allow our spirits to rise in harmony with the Holy Spirit and write from that sacred space.

Talking to Jesus affirms our connectedness, knowing that He has been faithful to us in the past and will speak to us again in His time. ✨

One ... From Page 1

to directing the summer conference. She works all year long to make the conference excellent, one our attendees feel is worthwhile and Spirit-led.

Mary Hake, a past president, plans at least 10 coaching classes and 24 workshops for the summer conference that focus on many different genres and are taught by some of the top Christian authors, agents, and editors in the country.

Tracie Heskett, our one-day conference director, is gifted in bringing in speakers three times per year—people who have something to say that will enhance our writing. The eight workshops she schedules for each one-day conference are vibrant and filled with writing gems.

Sue Miholer, OCW’s business manager, is the glue that holds everything and everyone together. She works behind the scenes all year long, coming up with brilliant ideas and doing the hard part: implementing them.

I counted the names of those on the OCW leadership team today, and there are 25. Summer conference has at least that many volunteers, many of whom do double duty throughout the year.

What does it take to be the top Christian writing organization in the country for multiple genres? Teamwork. Lots of it, and a willingness to lay down your life to serve the King of kings. Also, a realization that this organization isn’t about *me* getting something, it’s about *us* giving away a worthwhile experience.

What’s your goal? Mine is to focus on Jesus Christ and do as He commanded: love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love my neighbor as myself. If we all do that and commit our resources—both time and finances—to Him, OCW is truly destined to be great in *His* Kingdom, the only one that counts for eternity.

Every Blessing ~
Marilyn ✨



From left: Treasurer Jane Reid; President Marilyn Rhoads, Publicity Coordinator April McGowan, and Keynoter Kathi Lipp; and One-Day Conference Director Tracie Heskett at the 2018 fall conference

Photos courtesy of Karen Barnett

“Grow and Become a Better Writer”

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

Oregon Christian Writers Winter Conference

Saturday, February 23, 2019 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chemeketa Community College, 4000 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, OR 97305

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Bookstore**
Piano Prelude: Bob Williams
- 9:00–9:05 **Welcome and Introductions:** President Marilyn Rhoads
- 9:05–9:15 **Call to Worship**
- 9:15–9:30 **Devotional:** Susan Bardzik
- 9:30–10:20 **General Session I:** Carrie Stuart Parks, “**The Fine Art of Writing**”
- 10:25–10:45 **Morning Break:** Refreshments and time to visit the bookstore
- 10:45–11:35 **General Session II:** Carrie Stuart Parks, “**First-Place Cabbage**”
- 11:35–12:25 **OCW Business Meeting:** Recognition of new attendees and writing accomplishments; introduction of workshop teachers
- 12:25–1:35 **Lunch:** Bring your own (drinks will be available) and enjoy the fellowship around the table.
- 1:40–2:40 **Workshops:** Session 1 (Choose one) *All workshops suitable for all levels of experience.*
A. Carrie Stuart Parks—**Getting It Write**
B. Cornelia Becker Seigneur—**Musing, Memories, Memoir:**
Reasons and Ways to Write Our Lives
C. Nick Harrison—**What to Do When You Don’t Have a Platform**
D. Kyle Pratt—**Finding or Forming a Critique Group**
- 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. Carrie Stuart Parks—**Finding the Power in Your Words**
F. Jim Hills—**Whatever Is True, Whatever Is Right:**
The Nature and Ethics of Creative Nonfiction
G. Julie Zander—**Polish Your Prose: Avoid Missed Opportunities**
H. Jon Drury and Kristen Johnson—**Audiobooks: Expanding Your Reach**
- 4:00–4:30 **Dessert, Autograph Party, and Photo Session**—all authors available to sign their books.

Conference and Membership Information:

(Online registration closes at 11:59 p.m. PST, Thursday, February 21. Register at www.oregonchristianwriters.org.)

At-the-door registration will be \$55 for members, \$85 for nonmembers, and \$30 for those 20 and under.

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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WINTER 2019
NEWSLETTER

www.oregonchristianwriters.org

Join us for:

**“Grow and Become a Better Writer”
Winter One-Day Conference**

Saturday, February 23, 2019
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
with
Carrie Stuart Parks

Chemeketa Community College
4000 Lancaster Dr. NE
Salem, OR 97305

*Registration link at www.oregonchristianwriters.org
(Driving directions inside—see Page 9)*

**Oregon Christian Writers
Conference Schedule**

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

October 12, 2019

(Please note the date change)
Keynoter: Beth Vogt
Rolling Hills Community Church
Tualatin (Portland Metro)