

# OREGON CHRISTIAN WRITERS SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER



## Chris Fabry: Unwrapping Your Bigger Story

TRACIE HESKETT  
OCW ONE-DAY CONFERENCE  
DIRECTOR

*"The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'" John 11:44 NIV*

OCW is honored to welcome Chris Fabry to our spring one-day conference in Eugene. He will share how he has shaped his life experiences into tools to find and develop stories that deeply impact readers.

Our keynoter is an award-winning author and radio personality who hosts *Chris Fabry Live* on the Moody Radio network each weekday. Chris' novels have won five Christy Awards and an ECPA Christian Book Award. His 80th book, *Under a Cloudless Sky*,



released in 2018, is a novel set in the coalfields of southwest West Virginia. His books include movie novelizations, such as the bestseller *War Room*, nonfiction, and novels for children and young adults. He coauthored the *Left Behind: The Kids* series with Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye. His adult novels include *Dogwood*, *June Bug*, *Almost Heaven*, and *The Promise of Jesse Woods*. Discover more at [www.chrisfabry.com](http://www.chrisfabry.com).

Chris will share his story in his first keynote, "Unwrapping My Story: The Power of Four Words." Words scribbled on the edge of a page when he was in high school propelled him to consider writing. From that

experience, there seemed to be a "hound of words" that guided him toward the page. How do you gain the courage to write, the courage to believe your words matter? Chris will detail the steps taken to leap that hurdle of doubt and fear that continues for him, even today, after writing 81 books.

In his second keynote, "Unwrapping Your Deeper Story: The Power of Pain," Chris will share how he applies Hemingway's advice to "write hard and clear about what hurts." We often try to block pain or move past it in order to write. Chris has found pain is a seed of great stories, and the story that has garnered the most response came from a time of deep pain and struggle in his life. If you allow pain to do the hard work in your heart, you will connect on a deeper level with readers.

Join us May 18 for inspiration to boost your creativity along with practical tips to strengthen your writing as we hear from Chris Fabry and other great workshop presenters. †

SPRING 2019 CONFERENCE

May 18

First Baptist Church  
Eugene

*Online Registration Only*

## Under Construction



PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
Marilyn Rhoads  
OCW President  
[president@oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:president@oregonchristianwriters.org)

Have you ever built or remodeled a house and lived in a construction zone? Many of us have, and it's messy. We can't wait for the clutter to clear and life to return to normal.

Oregon Christian Writers is experiencing the same thing with our critique groups. The board's major thrust this year is to provide an

opportunity for each of our members to connect with one another and obtain input about their writing.

You'll begin your journey with a short but vital orientation with Heidi Gaul, who will welcome you to the OCW critique experience. She'll give you some important information and ask your preferences for online, in-person, and genre-specific groups. You can become involved in an in-person and online group at the same time, or any genre group you like.

We have an online group administered by Gail Sattler, with a

*Please see CONSTRUCTION on Page 10*

### Inside at a Glance

- Spring Conference Workshops 2
- OCW Business 3
- Chris Fabry's Books 3
- 2019 Fall Conference Keynoter 4
- 2019 Summer Conference 5
- Summer Conference Classes 6-7
- Summer Conference Keynoters 8
- Winter Conference Review 9
- Prayer Team 9
- New Team Members 10
- Spring Conference Schedule 11

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

# Sparkling Spring Workshops



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

## A. Chris Fabry: “Becoming Unwrapped: The Power of Mistakes and Mentors” (fiction)

Chris has learned much more from his mistakes than from his successes, and he’s learned from writers who are further along the trail. Staying open is crucial in becoming the writer you want to be. Chris will share what he’s learned from his collaboration with Jerry B. Jenkins, Dr. Gary Chapman, and the Kendrick Brothers.

## B. Heidi Gaul: “His Message, Your Passion” (nonfiction)

God’s all-consuming fire burns in you, but which message does He want you to share? We’ll do a scriptural self-assessment to discover your passion and purpose, both in life and in your work.

Are you an encourager, a comforter? Do you relate to the prodigals of the world? When writing reveals your unique perspectives, your words will touch audiences more deeply. Learn to focus past “brand” and into your authentic message.

**Heidi Gaul** lives in Oregon’s Willamette Valley with her husband and furry family. Winner of the 2015 Cascade Award for devotionals, she’s written several devotionals for *The Upper Room* and is a contributor for three Guideposts devotional books, *Every Day with Jesus* and *Mornings with Jesus* (2019 and 2020). Her stories have also been included in 10 Chicken Soup for the Soul anthologies, and she’s a staff writer for The Great Commission Project. Her current project is a devotional/craft book to be titled *Redeemed and Restored*. A self-confessed foodie, she also loves travel, be it around the block or around the world.



## C. Poppy Smith: “Wanna Be a Speaker? Take Your Message from the Page to the Public” (all genres)

Do you want to speak? Been asked to speak or feel called to? Wondering where to begin?

Come and get the basics of exploring what you have to say, evaluating your passion and chosen topic, and engaging your audience with warmth, humor, and stories.



**Poppy Smith** is a former Bible Study Fellowship lecturer and has a master’s degree in spiritual formation and direction. Her teaching ministry has taken her across the US and to more than 20 countries. After she was asked why she didn’t write what she taught, a God-directed nudge led her to OCW and her writing ministry. Poppy has authored seven books and Bible studies, equipping women to thrive spiritually, emotionally, and personally. She writes a twice-monthly blog, *Inspiring You to Thrive*, that reaches readers across the globe. To learn more, visit [www.poppysmith.com](http://www.poppysmith.com).

## D. Jennifer Lindsay: “Do-It-Yourself Proofreading—When You Can’t Afford to Hire an Editor” (all genres)

It’s conference season, which means it’s time to prep your manuscript for all those agent and editor appointments. The last thing you want to submit is



a proposal peppered with typos and easily overlooked grammatical errors. Can’t afford to hire an editor? Have no fear! In this workshop you’ll learn some simple self-editing and proofreading tips so the only thing your dream agent/editor notices is how much your story shines!

**Jennifer Lindsay** is a freelance editor and writer. Her published works have appeared in magazines, anthologies,

devotionals, and blogs. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English and writing and has served as a managing editor of a magazine for nine years. Jennifer was an inaugural member of the Christian Writers Guild’s Craftsman program. She lives in Vancouver, Washington, where she splits her time between encouraging writers, creating her own stories, and playing with her niece and nephew. Visit [www.thewriterswellspring.com](http://www.thewriterswellspring.com) for more information.

## E. Chris Fabry: “Writing Unwrapped: The Power of Ideas, Hooks, and Showing Up” (fiction)

Where do the ideas come from that generate memorable stories? How do you find them and stick with them through the long process to publication? Chris will share nuggets he’s discovered in the midst of daily life and tell how he nurtured the ideas into novels and how you can do the same. Finding the real thread of the story is as important as getting the idea. And finding the “hook” that keeps readers turning pages is fundamental to a writer’s success.

## F. Dorcas Smucker: “Turning Experiences into Essays” (nonfiction)

Essays are short nonfiction pieces that are both story and opinion, personal and universal, wandering and focused.

We’ll discuss what essays are, what they are not, and how to develop essays from personal experience, moving from initial brainstorming to final paragraphs.

We’ll also cover the self-discovery in essay writing, asking “so what?” about your experiences, and finding a home for your finished pieces.



**Dorcas Smucker**, a pastor’s wife and mother of six, wrote a monthly column about family life for the Eugene *Register-Guard* newspaper for more than 18 years. These essays were gathered into seven books—four published by Good Books and three self-published.

Please see **WORKSHOPS** on Page 4



OCW LEADERSHIP TEAM

<i>President &amp; Cascade Co-Chair</i>	Marilyn Rhoads
<i>One-Day Conference Director</i>	Tracie Heskett
<i>Secretary</i>	Donna Hues
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane Reid
<i>Business Manager</i>	Sue Miholer
<i>Summer Conference 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 Groups</i>	Beth Vice
<i>Orientation/Critique Groups</i>	Heidi Gaul
<i>Bookstore Manager</i>	Bobbie Christensen
<i>Technical Support</i>	Joyce del Rosario
<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
<i>Welcome Team</i>	Nora Peacock & Kathy Davis

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).*

© All articles are printed with the permission of the respective authors. Contact the editor or the individual author for reprint information.

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

# Spring Means Growth



MINDING OCW'S BUSINESS  
Jane Reid  
OCW Treasurer  
[treasurer@oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:treasurer@oregonchristianwriters.org)

Spring means growth. It is spring for OCW, too, because we are growing. And just like busy gardeners, we are busily at work integrating our behind-the-scenes procedures. Systems that served us well when we were an organization of 150 to 200 members are no longer efficient when we have more than 1,100 addresses on our mailing list, which includes our 460-plus members.

We're thankful for technology: Cvent keeps event registrations manageable, online QuickBooks makes it possible for people in three different locations to handle bookkeeping and check-writing responsibilities, and

computer-facilitated conference calls allow OCW board members from Vancouver to Eugene to communicate as a group since face-to-face meetings are difficult to schedule.

Then there's our private "OCW Writers' Group" Facebook page. If you're an OCW member, you're welcome to join. It is a great "between conferences" way to support one another and discuss all kinds of writing-related questions.

We are growing a welcoming community of writers, "to equip his [God's] people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13 NIV). Thank you for growing with us. ✚

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)*

## A Sampling of Books by Chris Fabry

- *The Promise of Jesse Woods*
- *Under a Cloudless Sky*
- *Every Waking Moment*
- *The Song*
- *Almost Heaven*
- *Not in the Heart*



- *Looking into You*
- *War Room*
- *Dogwood*

## Workshops ... From Page 2

She has written a popular blog, *Life in the Shoe*, since 2005 and speaks regularly to civic and church groups and at women's retreats. After years of writing nonfiction, she has joined a fiction writing group and is working on her first novel.

**G. Karen Barnett: "Circles: There's a Place for Us"** (*marketing, all genres*) If a book is placed on a shelf but no one is there to read it, does it make an impact? We're going to discuss several platform-building tools to help you make heart-to-heart connections with potential readers and get them excited about buying your work.

**Karen Barnett** is the award-winning author of *The Road to Paradise, Where the Fire Falls, Mistaken*, and the Golden Gate Chronicles. Before devoting herself to writing, she worked in outdoor education as a ranger naturalist at Mount Rainier National Park and



Oregon's Silver Falls State Park. When not writing, Karen enjoys photography, hiking, public speaking, and binge-watching on Netflix. Karen lives in Albany with her

husband, Steve, two teens, and three mischievous dachshunds.

**H. Beth Vice & Lindy Jacobs: "Better Together: Critique Group Workshop"** (*all genres*)

We all need helpful critique. Fellow writers can spot glitches and offer fresh insights to improve our writing. And they urge us on through rejection and discouragement. Beth Vice, our new in-person critique group coordinator, will briefly introduce you to the basics of critique. Then you will put them into practice. Sign up early, and come prepared with eight copies

of one to two double-spaced pages of your work-in-progress.

**Beth Vice** has a special place in her heart for the bruised reeds and smoldering wicks in the body of Christ and loves seeing hope come alive in them as they receive the Word of God. She has been writing since 1984 and a member of OCW since 1987. The author of nine books and numerous articles and devotionals, she has also contributed to a number of anthologies. Beth also loves speaking to women's groups, teaching adult Sunday school, and working with Celebrate Recovery. Beth lives in Tillamook with her husband, Kelly.



**Lindy Jacobs** serves as the OCW Summer Conference Director. She feels blessed to work with the talented and dedicated team in organizing this annual event that encourages Christian writers. Lindy has also served as director of Christian education and family ministries for her church. She has written screenplays, story lines for television, short stories, Sunday school curricula, and articles, and is working on a contemporary novel. She coordinated and taught intensive critique training workshops for Central Oregon Writers Guild and meets monthly with her own awesome critique/prayer group. †



*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.*  
Proverbs 25:11 (ESV)

## Driving Directions to Spring Conference

First Baptist Church  
3550 Fox Meadow Road  
Eugene, OR 97408

**From either northbound or southbound I-5—**

Take exit 195B-A to get on westbound OR-569 (Randy Papé Beltline). Go approximately 1¼ miles to exit 12 (Coburg Road/Eugene). Turn right (north) onto Coburg Road. Go about one mile and turn left on Fox Meadow Road. The church will be on your left.

*NOTE: Please do not call or email the church for any details about the conference. Contact OCW at [contact@oregonchristianwriters.org](mailto:contact@oregonchristianwriters.org).*

## Remembering Kristen Ingram

We received word that longtime OCW member Kristen (Kris) Ingram passed away in mid-February. She was active in OCW during the early years, served as OCW's summer conference director four times in the 1990s, and also served as OCW president in the mid-90s.

Kris was a teacher, piano teacher, published author, and writing instructor and editor. She was the keynote speaker at the OCW Winter 1999 One-Day Conference.

Friends and relatives remember her wonderful storytelling, sense of humor, playful spirit, and her affection for silliness. Until a few years ago, Kris lived in Springfield before moving to Idaho to be closer to her family. †

## Beth Vogt to Keynote Fall Conference



Beth K. Vogt is a national speaker as well as a mentor to writers and the author of nine contemporary romance novels or novellas. She also blogs for Novel Academy and *The Write Conversation*. Beth started as a nonfiction author and editor who said she'd never write fiction. Her 2014 novel, *Somebody Like You*, was one of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of 2014. Her first women's novel, *Things I Never Told You*, was released in May 2018 by Tyndale House. *Moments We Forget*, book two in the Thatcher Sisters series, releases this May. Beth lives in Colorado with her husband, Rob, and their youngest daughter, Christa, who also writes fiction. Connect with Beth at [bethvogt.com](http://bethvogt.com).

# Plan to Attend the Summer Conference August 12–15 “Following Your Call”

*“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,  
fixing our eyes on Jesus . . .”* (Hebrews 12:1–2 NIV)



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

We are excited to welcome keynoter Brian Bird, producer/screenwriter (*When Calls the Heart*, *The Case for Christ*, and *Not Easily Broken*), and Francine Rivers, best-selling author of *A Voice in the Wind*, *Redeemed by Love*, and *The Masterpiece*. Christy Award-winning novelist and *Writer’s Digest* contributing editor Steven James will teach a six-hour preconference Early Bird based on one of his best-selling craft books, *Troubleshooting Your Novel*

If you’ve been to an OCW Summer Coaching Conference, you know this is a rich time of fellowship, learning, and worship—a time to study the craft, meet editors and agents, receive feedback, obtain next-step advice from mentors, and refresh your writing goals.

Each year we bring together top editors, agents, and award-winning authors to help you take your writing to the next level with beginning and advanced instruction for writers interested in fiction, nonfiction, screenwriting, suspense, Christian living books, children’s, young adult, website design, marketing, devotionals, and magazine articles.

This year we will offer:

- 10 morning coaching classes, including three with a premium component
- 24 afternoon workshops, plus evening small-group critique sessions
- Professional panels (editors and agents)
- Manuscript reviews

Our popular Manuscript Submission Program will once again provide full-time conferees the possibility to

meet with an editor and/or agent for valuable feedback. Beginning June 1, full-time conferees may submit up to three submissions to our manuscript submission coordinator. Begin now to review the manuscript submission guidelines on the OCW website to see what book editors, agents, and magazine editors are looking for so you can find the best match for your book or article. You can also sign up for on-the-spot 15-minute meetings in the Writing Center (Tuesday and Wednesday).

Want to sit with an experienced author and ask “Next-Step” career questions? Visit our Mentor page to see our full list of author/mentors and tips for how to prepare for your appointment. Registered full-time conferees will have an opportunity to choose a mentor in mid-July.

Thursday morning, Brian Bird will give the closing devotional, and Worship Pastor Aaron Doerr will lead worship and communion.

Registration for the conference is now open. Tuition is \$575 for members, \$640 for nonmembers, and \$375 for writers 23 and under. (Rates go up after July 10th.) Tuition includes all five conference meals (three dinners and two lunches) and all scheduled conference activities Monday afternoon through Thursday morning. Lodging is separate, and there is a link from our website to the special conference room rates at the hotel.

Watch our website, [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org), for updates about how to prepare for the conference, submit manuscripts, and make lodging reservations. We look forward to seeing you this summer! †

*“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, 2018 conferee

## A Sampling of the 2019 Summer Conference Afternoon Workshops

“Personal Experience to Devotional Message” (2 parts)

–Susan King

“Pitch Perfect”–Alice Crider

“Dos and Don’ts of Writing for Children”–Jesse Florea

“Insider Information: The Players, the Process, & Working Your Plan”–Tawny Johnson

“Telling It Slant”–Terry Glaspey

“The First Rule of Fiction”–Bob Hostetler

“Creating and Submitting a Winning Fiction Proposal”

–Linda Howard

“Crafting an Effective Nonfiction Book Proposal”–Al Hsu

“What Agents Do for Authors (& Publishers)”

–Vicki Crumpton & Greg Johnson

“Finding Your Writing Voice”–Joyce Magnin

“Writing for the Guideposts Family of Magazines”–B.J. Taylor

“What Makes for a Life-Changing Book?”–Al Hsu

“An Agent’s View of Traditional, Self, and Hybrid Career Paths”

–Jessica Kirkland

“Seven Pillars of Historical Fiction”–Peter Leavell

“Writing with Connection & Empathy (2 parts)”

–Trieste Vaillancourt

“The Adaptor’s Survival Kit”–Brian Bird

“Ten Secrets to Nonfiction That Readers Will Finish”

–Greg Johnson

“The Plot Thickens”–Tawny Johnson

“Writing Great Villains”–Jill Williamson

# 2019 Summer Conference Morning Coaching Classes

We are pleased to offer 10 morning coaching classes taught by some of the top editors, agents, and authors in Christian publishing. These in-depth classes meet for three consecutive mornings for a total of seven hours of instruction. Note: some classes have caps.

## **From Page to Stage to Screen: Techniques for Writing Winning Screenplays ~ Brian Bird**

*Fiction, all levels*

This class is designed to help you learn the basics of the screenplay craft, along with keys for adapting your own books or surviving someone else's adaptation of your work.

Part 1: Act One—Helping the Audience Fall in Love

Part 2: Plot or Character—Which Comes First?

Part 3: The Hero's Journey and Mythic Orchestra



Cynthia Ruchti at the 2018 Summer Conference  
Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

## **Plan a Dynamite Website ~ Laura Christianson**

*Marketing, all levels*

Whether you're in the beginning stages of establishing your brand or you're rebranding your business, this class will help you plan a solid foundation for a professional website. Learn how to craft your website's promise statement and the two most important questions visitors ask when they visit your website as well as how to avoid the most common mistakes when crafting the ABOUT page.

## **Pages from the Past: Stitching Together Historical and Time-Slip Fiction ~ Melanie Dobson**

*Fiction, all levels*

How do we capture today's fiction readers with a story from the past? This step-by-step class will discuss how to develop compelling characters, evoke powerful emotions, research historical settings, and weave together

an unforgettable plot from any era. We will explore the time-slip genre and, through a panel of novelists, answer additional questions about researching and writing historical fiction.

## **Your Best Book Now ~ Bob Hostetler**

*Nonfiction, all levels*  
In these fast-moving, hands-on sessions, Bob imparts an inspirational and practical process for conceiving, crafting, completing—and selling—the best nonfiction book(s) you have in you. More than two dozen authors can trace their first published book to the process taught in this class.

## **Marketing: Vision, Strategy, and Tactics ~ Randy Ingermanson**

*Professional writers, fiction/nonfiction*

Marketing a book is hard work. It's also a bad idea. It's much better to market yourself—as the kind of author who gives away powerful, life-changing stuff that makes a difference in the world. When you do, your books will sell too, without much effort. We'll begin with Vision—who you want to be in the world, and why. Then we'll talk about Strategy—what you want to achieve in the world, and again why. Finally, we'll talk about Tactics—how you actually do your marketing. And you'll learn how to sell your books when the time is ripe.

## **Suspense Essentials: Tapping into Tension in Whatever Genre You Write ~ Steven James**

*Fiction*

Every story can be improved by increasing the suspense, tightening the tension, and ratcheting up the action. This in-depth class will help you improve your story by pacing the promises you make and connecting emotionally with your reader. We'll explore the differences between suspense and conflict, and we'll cover the four ingredients necessary for suspense in your story that will both surprise and satisfy the most discerning reader.



James L. Rubart at the 2018 Summer Conference  
Photo courtesy of Emilie Hendryx

## **Writing Nonfiction That Inspires ~ Matt Mikalatos**

*Nonfiction critique, all levels*

Participate in nonfiction critique with an emphasis on making the work become play, along with discussion about best writing practices and process. Bring up to 10 pages of a work in progress to share with the class and be prepared to do new writing around several themes. How can writers get past the head in order to write from the heart, especially if that is only something that's received, not achieved? Come learn how to write your best nonfiction.

**Three Premium\* class options (\$100 extra) offer preconference review by teacher:**

## **Children's/YA Critique Group ~ Sally Apokedak**

*Premium\* only; fiction & nonfiction (\$100 extra)*

Class limit: 12

Receive feedback on not only the technical aspects of your work but also on its marketability. This class is open to writers working on children's books (from picture book to young adult and everything in between). Each conferee will give and receive critiques on the first chapter or an entire picture book text. We will look at the four vital areas necessary to be published (or to have readers love your self-published work):

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

- marketability (premise for fiction and felt need for nonfiction)

Preconference work required:

- Email the first chapter of a novel or nonfiction book (up to 2,500 words) or an entire picture book text (up to 1,000 words) by July 15 (instructions will be sent after you register).
- Critique the work sent by other students for review.

### How to Apply the Five Most Powerful Methods of Story Creation to Your Novels ~ James L. Rubart

*Fiction, all levels* (eight students may take the Premium option for an additional \$100) Class limit: 20 All participants will learn to break down, in detail, the five most powerful methods best-selling authors use to create their stories. Yes, there are time-tested formulas that always work, as well as proven building blocks you must understand and learn to apply to your novels and when generating new ideas. Plus, you'll learn how you can harness the secrets of blockbuster movies and use these to develop stories that will draw the attention of editors, agents, and, ultimately, readers. Premium students will submit synopses and their first five pages by July 20 (instructions will be sent after you register) and will meet with Jim during mentor appointments for

personal feedback regarding setting up story, story world, the hook, etc.

### Bigger, Better, Bolder: How to Write Stories That Transcend Genre to Become Bestsellers and Make a Life-Changing Impact on Your Readers ~ Susan May Warren

*Fiction, all levels* (eight students may take the Premium option for an additional \$100) Class limit: 20 *The Thorn Birds. The Pillars of the Earth. Roots. The Princess Bride. Shogun. Carrie. The Kite Runner. The Time Traveler's Wife. The Da Vinci Code. Gone Girl. The Hunger Games.* All blockbuster books that transcend genre, demographics, and time. All students will learn to break down the elements common to these stories to discover why they work. We'll learn how to create and introduce these elements to our own Super Novel. Applicable to all fiction genres. An interactive class—bring a rough plot or story idea to work on.

Premium students will submit synopses and their first five pages by July 20 (instructions will be sent after you register) and will meet with Susan during mentor appointments for personal feedback regarding setting up story, story world, and the hook. They will also receive a written review. †

### Evening Activities

**Monday Nite Owl** (after keynote address):

- “How to Start a Podcast” with Thomas Umstatt Jr.

**Tuesday Nite Owls** (after keynote address):

- “First Pages” Small Group Critique in multiple genres, including “Hook Your Reader on the Very First Page” with Melanie Dobson, “Refine Your Pitch” with YA agent and children’s publisher Sally Apokedak, and “Nonfiction” with Bob Hostetler and Alice Crider
- “Short Story Beginnings and Endings” critique with editor Paul Smith
- “Children’s” small-group critique with *Clubhouse* editor Jesse Florea.
- Poetry readings

### Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Cascade Awards: Winners of the 2019 Cascade Writing Contest will be presented their awards by hosts Susan May Warren and James L. Rubart. Dessert reception will follow.

*“You can make anything by writing.”*  
~C.S. Lewis

## 2019 Summer Conference Faculty

### BOOK EDITORS

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

### AGENTS

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

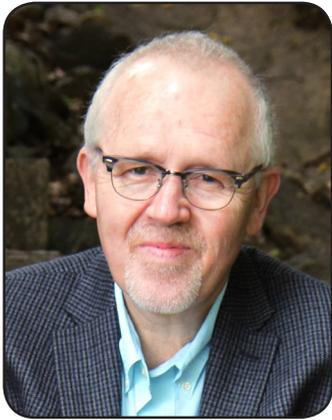
### MAGAZINE EDITORS

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*

### AUTHORS/MENTORS

Karen Barnett	Maxine Marsolini
Brian Bird	April McGowan
Laura Christianson	Matt Mikalatos
Melanie Dobson	Christina Suzann Nelson
Aaron Doerr	Francine Rivers
Heidi Gaul	James L. Rubart
Nick Harrison	B.J. Taylor
Randy Ingermanson	Susan May Warren
Steven James	Jill Williamson
Peter Leavell	Julie McDonald Zander
Joyce Magnin	

# 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 at Christmas*. 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 four new films, *Northern Lights*, *Bridge to Haven*, *Life After Heaven*, and *The Case for Miracles*, and a new television series, *Big Sky*. Brian will teach a seven-hour coaching class, “From Page to Stage to Screen: Techniques for Writing Winning Screenplays” and a workshop, “The Adaptor’s Survival Kit.”

Brian’s Monday evening keynote is “Hold onto What Is True.”

## Early Bird Instructor



**STEVEN JAMES** is the critically acclaimed, national best-selling author of 16 novels. 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 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*.

**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*, *Echo in the Darkness*, *As Sure as the Dawn*, *A Lineage of Grace*, *The Scarlet Thread*, and *The Masterpiece*, and her work has been translated into more than 30 languages.

Her novel *Bridge to Haven* is being adapted for film. She is a member of Romance Writers of America’s 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](http://www.francinerivers.com).

Francine will speak and answer questions at the Tuesday evening general session.



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

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

## Early Bird Seminar

“Troubleshooting Your Novel: Essential Techniques for Identifying and Solving Manuscript Problems.” Master storyteller/suspense author Steven James will show how to pinpoint weak spots in your story and fix them. Strengthen your story, prepare it for the marketplace, and make it the best it can be.

This six-hour seminar, Monday August 12 from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., costs \$140 and includes lunch. The four-day annual summer conference begins immediately after this seminar.

# Winter Conference Highlights



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

Bob Williams' piano artistry created an atmosphere of praise and worship as the 2019 Winter

Conference at Chemeketa Community College in Salem opened. President Marilyn Rhoads extended a warm welcome and shared her excitement about the day.

Susan Bardzik reminded us in her devotional that writers, surrounded by words, can use them to encourage or destroy, challenge, and celebrate. She presented the following acrostic as a meaningful illustration of our writing journeys:

W worship  
O opportunity  
R remember  
D direction  
S supplication and song

Keynoter Carrie Stuart Parks, an award-winning mystery author, shared her struggle to be the best at whatever she tried. From cat shows, to art, to Toastmasters, to horseback riding, she finally won the award for "First-Place Cabbage" at a county fair. As writers, we are in competition with ourselves to improve and also with every other writer. We want to take what is beautiful in our eyes and make it beautiful in others' eyes.

Carrie's mentor, Frank Peretti, and his wife, Barb, were a great influence in every aspect of her writing journey. She shared these lessons learned from Frank:

- When people critique you, they want to make you better.
- Have a teachable mind—use flexible thinking.

- Be willing to listen; rethink possibilities and embrace suggestions.
- Don't settle for "good enough."
- Avoid *Deus ex machina* where the problem is resolved from an outside force.
- Avoid signposts; do not point out the obvious—trust your reader.
- Writing is a lifelong study of the craft.

In her second keynote, "The Fine Art of Writing," she explained how writing is similar to drawing. An award-winning forensic artist who trains law-enforcement professionals, Carrie said that as in drawing, when we write a story, the "picture" is in our minds and our job is to convey the "picture" to our readers in a way they can understand. What we see in our heads needs to be communicated with our words. We are not only competing with ourselves; we are also competing with 32.8 million books on Amazon alone. Every day we must polish our craft, learn grammar and punctuation basics, and understand the skill of plot. Attending writers' conferences and workshops, entering contests, and joining critique groups will all move us forward in our craft.

Marilyn thanked Carrie for her inspiring message, then opened the business meeting with prayer. Once business was concluded, One-Day Conference Director Tracie Heskett shared information on upcoming one-day conferences, held a drawing for free books, and introduced the workshop leaders. After lunch, eight workshops (four in each one-hour time slot) were offered followed by a book-signing party, cookies and coffee, and photo ops. The conference ended at 4:30. †

---

## Track Your Milestones: Journal!



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

Do you set and review writing goals regularly? Does it sometimes feel like you've fallen behind the power curve? Recently, I felt frustrated with the process of developing an online course. Progress was crawling at a tortoise's pace—outrageous, for a Hare! When I prayed, "Co-Co" (my term of endearment for Comforter and Counselor, the Holy Spirit) told me to reread entries in my journal. Page after page was filled with health and family challenges. But over time, lies had

dissolved as I'd exchanged them for God-truths. Upswings in my marriage surfaced. Gratitude lists about God's provision, new relationships, and conflict resolution (some that still need resolving) filled and spilled over the pages. My spirits rose.

If you, too, want to track milestones, I encourage you to spend ten minutes a day journaling. Consider including:

- Gratitude lists. Focus on appreciation can change your heart rhythm patterns from chaotic to smooth and rhythmic, like ocean waves. Include photos or images that make you smile.
- Key words like "trust," "persevere," "hope"
- A personalized Scripture verse, such as "Diane's times are in Your hands" (Psalm 31:15).

What if our wins don't look like those of others? What if we're not on a sprint, but instead in a steadfast marathon with our writing goals? God's timing, like His will, is good and pleasing and perfect. When we listen for His voice, He'll assure us that He will come through, even on a journey of modest steps.

Maybe slow and steady wins the race after all. †

## Construction ... From Page 1

large pool of contributors. You'll be able to submit once a month, twice a week, or every other Sunday. It doesn't matter. This opportunity will always be available to you. Small groups may be formed from this larger pool if you "connect" with someone in your genre and want to break off into your own group. This works well because *you* control the frequency of your submissions, and *you* have the opportunity to stay large or go small. It's also fun to critique with others because you'll be able to meet many of these people at either a one-day conference or the summer conference. It will be like getting together with family. I like that.

The in-person groups will be more traditional, and they'll be divided into genre specific groups. Our coordinator, Beth Vice, will put you in a functioning group or help you start a new one, and she'll be available for suggestions and coordination.

At some one-day conferences, actual critique sessions will be available for you to attend. You'll bring eight copies of your first page only, and a coordinator will place you in a group. You'll have hands-on feedback to take home with you. You may meet people at the conference with whom you'd like to begin your own in-person critique group.

Remember, you don't have to be together physically all the time. You may do your critiquing online and meet infrequently.

One of the summer conference Nite Owls is focused on critique groups. You bring eight copies of the first page of your work-in-progress (WIP) and join a genre-specific critique group. You'll have helpful ideas and suggestions to take back to your desk to improve your own writing. Groups are moderated by editors, agents, and multi-published authors. Again, you may make connections here and wish to begin a new in-person or online critique group.

Please consider how critiquing others improves your own writing. Seeing a fellow critiquer's mistakes helps you raise your own work to the next level. We all win.

The OCW board's purpose is to advance you to a professional level so your work has a better chance of being published. We are also committed in a common cause to glorify God and send the message of Jesus Christ around the world with *your* writing.

If you aren't already involved, be brave and take the plunge. Join up! If you have an existing group, then add another one! Life is short. Enjoy the journey.

I'm praying for you.

~ Marilyn ✝

---

## Meet Your Critique Group Team Members

### In-Person Critique Coordinator Beth Vice



Beth Vice lives in Tillamook with her husband, Kelly. Together they have five grown children and six grandchildren. She loves being outside in the Northwest forests or just putting in her yard. She speaks to women's groups and teaches adults in her church and also at Celebrate Recovery. Beth

has a heart for the body of Christ and loves seeing hope come alive in others as they respond to God's Word.

Beth started writing in 1984 and joined OCW in 1987. She's the author of nine books as well as articles and devotionals and a contributor to a number of anthologies.

### Online Critique Coordinator Gail Sattler



Gail Sattler lives in Vancouver, BC, Canada, where she and her husband are recent empty nesters and expecting their first granddaughter. She has more than 40 published novels and novellas, plus a few works of nonfiction. When she's not madly writing, she plays bass for an Elton John tribute band as well as a community jazz band. Gail is a workshop leader, a public speaker, and the OCW online critique group moderator. When she's not at her computer or making music (or at her day job), Gail likes to sit back and read a book written by someone else while sipping a good cup of hot coffee.

### Orientation/Critique Coordinator Heidi Gaul



Heidi Gaul's devotionals can be found in Guideposts' *Every Day with Jesus, Mornings with Jesus—2019* and *Mornings with Jesus—2020* (releasing September 2019), and she writes regularly for *The Upper Room* and other publications. She won Oregon Christian Writers Cascade Award for devotionals in 2015. Her short stories are included in *Short and Sweet Takes the Fifth* and 10 Chicken Soup for the Soul anthologies. Represented by Jim Hart of Hartline Literary Agency, her current project is *Broken Dreams and Detours: When God's Will Doesn't Match Your Plans*. She and her husband share a historic home in Oregon's beautiful Willamette Valley. Connect with her at [www.HeidiGaul.com](http://www.HeidiGaul.com).

# “Unwrapping Your Bigger Story”

“The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” (John 11:44 NIV)

## Oregon Christian Writers Spring Conference

Saturday, May 18, 2019 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, 3550 Fox Meadow Road, Eugene OR 97408

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Bookstore**  
**Instrumental Prelude**
- 9:00–9:05 **Welcome and Introductions:** President Marilyn Rhoads
- 9:05–9:15 **Call to Worship**
- 9:15–9:30 **Devotional:** Danika Cooley
- 9:30–10:20 **General Session I:** Chris Fabry, “Unwrapping My Story: The Power of Four Words”
- 10:25–10:45 **Morning Break:** Refreshments and time to visit the bookstore
- 10:45–11:35 **General Session II:** Chris Fabry, “Unwrapping Your Deeper Story: The Power of Pain”
- 11:35–12:25 **OCW Business Meeting:** Recognition of first-time attendees and writing accomplishments; introduction of workshop teachers
- 12:25–1:35 **Buffet-Style Lunch:** Build your own hot turkey sandwiches on Kaiser rolls (condiments and gluten-free bread option available), vegetarian soup, Caesar salad, pasta salad, and seasonal fresh fruit. Cost is \$14 and must be ordered by May 12. Conferees may also bring their own lunches.
- 1:40–2:40 **Workshops:** Session 1 (Choose one) *All workshops suitable for all levels of experience.*  
**A.** Chris Fabry—**Becoming Unwrapped: The Power of Mistakes and Mentors**  
**B.** Heidi Gaul—**His Message, Your Passion**  
**C.** Poppy Smith—**Wanna Be a Speaker? Take Your Message from the Page to the Public**  
**D.** Jennifer Lindsay—**Do-It-Yourself Proofreading—When You Can’t Afford to Hire an Editor**
- 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.** Chris Fabry—**Writing Unwrapped: The Power of Ideas, Hooks, and Showing Up**  
**F.** Dorcas Smucker—**Turning Experiences into Essays**  
**G.** Karen Barnett—**Circles: There’s a Place for Us** (*marketing*)  
**H.** Beth Vice and Lindy Jacobs—**Better Together: Critique Group Workshop**
- 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. PDT Thursday May 16. Register at [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org).)

At-the-door registration will be \$55 for members, \$85 for nonmembers,  
and \$35 for students and those 23 or younger.

#### Conference Fees:

- \$45 for members
- \$75 for nonmembers
- \$25 for students and those 23 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



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SIPRINT

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

SPRING 2019  
NEWSLETTER

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

Join us for:

**“Unwrapping Your Bigger Story”  
Spring One-Day Conference**

Saturday, May 18, 2019  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
with  
Chris Fabry

First Baptist Church  
3550 Fox Meadow Road  
Eugene, OR 97408

*Registration link at [www.oregonchristianwriters.org](http://www.oregonchristianwriters.org)  
(Driving directions inside—see Page 4)*

**Oregon Christian Writers  
Conference Schedule**

**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)  
Keynote: Beth Vogt  
Rolling Hills Community Church  
Tualatin (Portland Metro)

**February 22, 2020**

Keynote: Sarah Sundin  
Chemeketa Community College  
Salem