

Wordwrights – OKC Christian Writers

www.wordwrights-okc.com

Darla Hunter, Editor



Stormy Weather



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Officers	2
Recognition	2
Looking Ahead	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Devotional	4
Poetry	5

Saturday

April 10

10 a.m. – noon

“The Last Drop” Coffee Shop

5425 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK

(Details on Page 2)



~~ Masks
Required

~~ Social
Distancing

April showers bring May flowers, but storms will often follow. Oklahoma and Kansas are located in “Tornado Alley,” where tornadic activity is commonplace.

Being raised in Kansas, I knew the drill when the sirens screamed their warning. My family and I would stop everything and take shelter in our partial, unfinished basement. We entered through half-sized doors and stepped down onto dirt floors. It stayed cool on the spring and summer days. The furnishings included an old twin bed covered with a mattress and blanket. We had one light bulb in the middle of the room. There were no windows, but we would peer out through the doors to check the looming weather.

It was exciting to me, and I loved checking the weather. I remember one time looking out and seeing pea-green skies and hearing absolute silence except for the siren going off intermittently. It was eerie.

Flowers need the spring showers, of course, but why the stormy weather? It seems to be a packaged deal, at least in these central states.

Our lives include stormy weather also. Whether it's the storm of change, sickness, loss, fear, loneliness, uncertainties, or whatever, we too need a shelter, a safe

haven we can count on to always be there. We need a hiding place from the harsh realities of life.

In Psalm 32:7, David said, “You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance.”

He keeps and protects us and has even given His angels charge over us to protect us in all our ways. Trusting in Him and His Word brings peace to our soul as well. His Presence within us has the power to calm us down and settle our fears.

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus promised, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

When we build relationship with Him through reading and obeying His Word, prayer, and fellowshiping with other Christians, we become unshakeable. In fact, God's kingdom is referred to as a “kingdom which cannot be shaken” Hebrews 12:27.

Let's practice going to our Safe Place and weathering out the storms together.

~Barbara Zimmerman

Show and Tell— and Ask

Our April program allows for members to share personal writing projects and accomplishments, as well as request help from the membership. We're never too old to enjoy learning. Wordwrights has a wide variety of talent in our group, and the April meeting can allow us to shower our writing knowledge and experiences.

During the meeting, attendees will be given time to “show and tell” about activities, in addition to asking for feedback or assistance. If you are unable to attend, feel free to email your information and/or questions to Donna Le at DKLE45@hotmail.com.

As time allows, we will provide the occasion to create with writing prompts. Our great newsletter editor is always looking for articles or poems and would appreciate receiving Mother's Day items for the May newsletter.

Come; be inspired; share your gift.

Donna Le

**Wordwrights
OKC Christian Writers 2021
Officers**

President: Barbara Zimmerman
Vice-President: Donna Le
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Open
Asst. Treasurer: Lori Williams
Publicity: Jean Reed
Newsletter: Darla Hunter
Website: Barbara Shepherd

Membership Dues

January-December club dues provide an honorarium for speakers, needed materials for club meetings, and a portion of the cost for special events, etc. Dues may be paid at monthly meetings or by mail.

No payment due if you paid in 2020.



Apr 28: Deadline for submitting articles, poems, etc., for May newsletter.
Please send as attachment in Word.

Wanted Monthly: Seasonal/Holiday poems or short prose.

Recognition

Wordwrights Members:

Thank you for sending in your news about publishing, awards, etc., so we can all support and encourage one another.

Kathryn Spurgeon: *Fremont's Promise*, by Kathryn Spurgeon and Margaret Pope Akin, is available on Amazon. It is the third in The Promise Series and is a historical novel based on a true story.



New Meeting Place

The Last Drop
5425 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK



Looking Ahead

May 8, 2021: To be announced.

April 29, 30 & May 1: OWFI Bridging the Epic Gap 2021 Virtual Conference. Keynote Speaker: Alton Carter. owfi.org

Please send news about publishing, awards, etc., as well as articles and/or poems, to:
darla4@sbcglobal.net Thank you!

We're on the Web!
wordwrights-okc.com



Wordwrights still needs volunteers to fill two positions:

Secretary: To take minutes and submit them for publication in the monthly newsletter.

Treasurer: To handle club finances, collect dues, and maintain membership lists.



Masks will be available at the meeting. Or you may bring your own.

The café will have coffee & other drinks & snacks available. Cost is by donation.

We hope you will join us!

NOTE: We are asking Wordwrights members and/or guests to wear masks, in accordance with CDC guidelines, as a precautionary measure to protect each other. However, please be aware that at least one person may be present in the café without a mask because of health reasons. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact one of our board members.

Some members have received the Covid vaccine by now, and there is plenty of space in the coffee shop for safe distancing.

Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2021

Wordwrights met on March 27, 2021, at the Last Drop Coffee Shop in Oklahoma City, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:10 p.m. Barbara Zimmerman presided.

Connie Sorrell presented the Devotional, "A Sweet Question," and prayer.

Barbara Zimmerman displayed her recently published book, *Mosie Lou and the Teacher*. The book is available through Barbara and is also on Amazon. Barbara Shepherd brought a beautiful quilt she had made, a design she created to depict the crazy year we have experienced. A large white cross was the center point of the design.

Barbara Zimmerman led a tribute to Milton Smith and read an inspirational card that Milton left the group. Wordwrights has donated \$50 to the Gideon Bible Society in honor of Milton. Zimmerman concluded the tribute with a song played at Milton's service, "Pass It On."

Donna Le led the program, "Bearing Fruit as Christian Writers." Le distributed a handout addressing the current moral crisis, the need for Christians to persevere in upholding Christian values, examples of how to bear fruit, and some resources for attendees to research various aspects of writing.

We are delighted to welcome Dana Tramba as a new member of Wordwrights. Dana has a website called Dandy Stories (dandystories.com) and teaches memoir classes at Touchmark in Edmond. Also in attendance were: Barbara Shepherd, Donna Le, Connie Sorrell, Darlene Sorrell, Darla Hunter, and Barbara Zimmerman.

Minutes by Donna Le



Next Meeting

April 10

The Last Drop Coffee Shop

10 a.m. - Noon

Masks & Safe Distancing

Come Join Us!



We write this to make our joy complete. 1 John 1:4





Innocent Questions...by Connie Sorrell

Three days before Valentine's Day, my Cousin Rhonda won her crown after a ten-year battle with a brain tumor. Our family was sad she left us here but rejoicing that she could walk and talk again. The funeral was set for Monday, with a Sunday afternoon viewing at the funeral home.

For years I have set aside Sunday as family day with my children, which means Sunday is now spent with my "grands" since I have graduated into grandmotherhood. The day of the viewing, I happened to have Adelyn, my seven-year-old, and Kristy, her three-year-old cousin, so I decided to take the girls with me to the funeral home. Two out of the usual nine grands seemed a small number to take. On the way, I told the girls we had to be quiet and use our whisper voices. I told them what to expect, and that they could smell the flowers but not to touch them. The girls had been at funerals before, but I wanted to explain where we were going and what was expected of them. "Yes, Grandma," they both said. "We know about dead people," said Kristy. "They can't talk or move." "Yes," I said. "Rhonda's soul has gone to heaven. Her body is a shell, a reminder that she was here. The soul that made her body move and talk has gone to heaven." We discussed it a little more before we arrived at the Smith Funeral Home in small-town Guthrie, a place where I had viewed deceased loved ones back when I was a child.

The girls stood on each side of me as I signed the book and were looking around at the flowers. Only six older relatives were by the casket. I held the girls' hands and we politely waited until they moved away before we walked up the aisle to the casket. Adelyn was tall enough to peek in and see Rhonda, but Kristy tugged at my hand. I picked her up and held her in my arms so she could see Rhonda. Terry, Rhonda's devoted husband, had put a heart-shaped box of chocolates on the pillow just above her head. Probably some he had bought for her, but her time had stopped before he could give them to her. I felt Kristy's little hand pat my cheek and then she gently turned my face so she could whisper in my ear. She said, "Grandma, what did she eat?" It took me a moment to comprehend her question. "What do you mean, Kristy?" I whispered back. Seriously, she whispered, "Did she eat too much chocolate?" "No, she had a bad sore in her head," I whispered. I re-thought my answer and said, "She was very sick, Kristy. She could not walk nor talk because of her bad sore, but now Jesus has her walking with Him. We just can't see her walking because we aren't in heaven yet." She was quiet for a while, but that answer seemed to satisfy her. She wanted down so she could look at the pretty flowers with her cousin.

Later, privately, I related to her mother what Kristy had asked. Kim chuckled. "She probably remembered what had happened last night," she said. "While all the family was doing Saturday night cleaning in the house, Kendrick and Kristy snuck into the pantry, found their Christmas candy sacks and ate all their leftover candy. Wrappers were everywhere when their daddy found them. He was very unhappy with them and told them, "You know you can get sick eating so much candy? You could even die eating THIS MUCH CANDY!" Now I was laughing. "Well, their daddy ought to know," I said. "When Kevin was three years old, he ate so much Halloween candy that he passed out and I thought he was dying. He went unconscious, his eyes rolled back, and his lips turned blue. I was praying, crying and I called for help! Thank the Lord--Kevin revived just before help arrived. He scared himself and clung to me for a long time. After that, he never ate a lot of candy like that again. Maybe their daddy remembered that time when he saw all those candy wrappers his children had left on the floor."

I have thought about Kristy's question since then. She had taken her father's stern reproof serious enough to believe she could end up in a coffin if she ate that much candy again. How quick a child's delicate perception can be changed! I also know that when sweet, innocent questions are asked, it is the right time for a caring adult to teach from their treasure chest of wisdom. Even big topics can be simplified for little minds to understand. In this scenario, the understatement to the question was lessons learned through life experiences, spanning two generations. But Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:14)

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, teach me to be gentle but wise in my words with others, especially with children. Amen



Lessons from a Hummingbird

by Dana Tramba

I gaze out my window and
Enjoy the red bells drooping from the coral fountain.
I soak up the sunshine and beauty of Your creation.

Suddenly a hummingbird whirrs by,
Pauses and refreshes itself with the nectar.
I understand, You are answering my prayer.

In my rushing around, You are showing me,
I need to pause and be nourished by Your love,
Like the hummingbird needs the nectar for his energy.

I thirst for Your love--
You are my energy.
How wonderful is the world that You made.

Thanks for sending the hummingbird to remind me
That pausing and feeling your presence
Are my disciplines, as You guide me throughout my day.

Published in the Fall of 2020 in "Breakthrough Intercessor," the magazine about prayer printed quarterly. Founder is Catherine Marshall and Leonard Le Sourd.

Mission: Bringing together anonymously those needing prayer and Christians willing to pray for them; calling, equipping, and encouraging people for this work.

