

# Wordwrights – OKC Christian Writers

www.wordwrights-okc.com

Darla Hunter, Editor

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**Saturday**

**July 10**

**10 a.m. – noon**

**“The Last Drop”  
Coffee Shop**

**5425 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK**

**(Details on Page 2)**



~ Masks  
Recommended  
But Not Required

~ Room for Social  
Distancing

## A Bohemian's Rhapsody

Writers labor to complete manuscripts and strive to get books published. Then comes a new battle—to get people to purchase books.

At our upcoming Wordwrights meeting, we will tackle the subject of promotion of books (or other writing products), specifically writing book reviews.

We welcome our guest speaker, John Dolezal, whose presentation is titled **“A Bohemian's Rhapsody.”** Dolezal will share his “unconventional” approach. He'll relay his use of a variety of thoughts, ideas, and observations for communicating what he writes for a specific audience.

John Dolezal graduated from Perry High School and then received a bachelor's degree in business administration followed by a master's degree in business education, both from OSU. He spent eight years as a teacher and coach. He was with Ditch Witch for thirty years, in a variety of roles including manager of sales training, manager of corporate training, and director of human resource development.

Dolezal is currently an adjunct instructor for Northern Oklahoma College. He has taught various courses at NOC, including Introduction to Business, Business Ethics,



Economics, and Critical Thinking. He has written book reviews for The Sooner Catholic.

Married for 51 years to Mary Louise Dolezal, John is the father of three children and 15 grandchildren. He lives on a farm south of Perry.

Come with your thoughts and questions. What better way to spend a Saturday morning than by meeting with fellow Christian writers and learning about various aspects of the writing craft.

Hope to see you!

~ Donna Le

### Check it out:

**Metropolitan Library System  
Summer Reading Program**

**June 1 - July 31, 2021  
Prizes for All Ages**



**Wordwrights  
OKC Christian Writers 2021  
Officers**

President: Barbara Zimmerman  
Vice-President: Donna Le  
Secretary: Victor Driver  
Treasurer: Open  
Asst. Treasurer: Open  
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.**



**Aug 4:** Deadline for submitting articles, poems, etc., for August 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.



We're on the Web!  
[wordwrights-okc.com](http://wordwrights-okc.com)



**Meeting Place**

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



**Looking Ahead**

**July 10, 2021:** John Dolezal, "A Bohemian's Rhapsody." Dolezal teaches part-time at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa.

**Sep 3-6:** Oklahoma City Writer's Conference (WriterCon), Skirvin Hilton OKC, Live and Streaming.

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



**Wordwrights still needs a volunteer for Treasurer:**

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

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

**We hope you will join us!**

**NOTE:** Although the mask mandate has ended in OKC, masks are recommended in indoor group settings for those who are not vaccinated, as a precautionary measure to protect one another.

Although some of our members have not gotten the Covid vaccine, there is plenty of space in the coffee shop for social distancing.

Thank you!

**Masks will be available at the meeting if you should need one.**

**Meeting Minutes: June 12, 2021**

**Meeting began at 10:04am.**

Flag Day themed refreshments brought by Donna Le.

**Welcome by Donna Le**

**Announcements – Donna** thanked “The Last Drop” for being open for our meetings.

**Brags – Darla** had hoped to have her book in her hands by this meeting – she’s pushing to have it ready for the July meeting.

**Devotion – Donna** Le spoke about “Joy” from Proverbs 17:22.

(Jean Reed will do the Devotional/Prayer for our July meeting.)

**Business – Members** viewed and critiqued the website ([www.WordwrightsOK.com](http://www.WordwrightsOK.com)), using their phones and tablets, and shared ideas. Members laughed at the fake type on the website. The website uses subtle colors. John said the look of the site is pleasant.

It was suggested that the newsletter should be added to the website but without personal information. Other ideas for the newsletter include sections for Highlights, Awards, Members Only section, and Recipes.

Jean motioned to put Victor in charge of completing the website and Dana seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Donna brought books for members to share and displayed them on the table. She reminded us that Flag Day is on Monday, June 14th. “Our children and grandchildren need to know about our country and who to go to for good info,” Donna said. “Especially truths about God and the Holy Spirit.”

John mentioned how our country’s leaders don’t care anything about God or celebrating our past, or memorials, or soldiers. “Somehow,” he said, “we need to reverse this trend and take our country back.”

**Break – at 10:39am**

**Meeting resumed at 10:55am.**

**Writing Prompts – Polish for Publication** by Donna Le (Members are encouraged to polish up the writing prompts to send to Darla for the newsletter. Darla loves poems or writings about holidays, also.)

**Part One** Instructions: Pick a topic from the list and write for 15 minutes. Donna remembers the sign on the walls in the classroom: God, Family, Country.

**Part Two:** Take Away (Go to listed websites and perhaps they can prompt ideas.)

**Part Three:** Critique Session

Donna handed out Milton’s Critique Guide and went over the Critique Guide 5 Points.

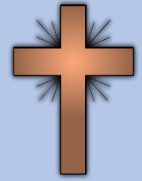
**Sharing/Discussion –** Members shared what they wrote.

**Closing Prayer**

**Meeting Adjourned at 12 noon.**

**Attendance included:** Donna Le, Jean Reed, Dana Tramba, Darla Hunter, John Wolfe, Elizabeth Engle, Victor Driver, and the staff of The Last Drop Coffee Shop

*~Minutes by Victor Driver*



**Next Meeting**

**July 10**

**The Last Drop Coffee Shop**

**10 a.m. – Noon**

**Come Join Us!**



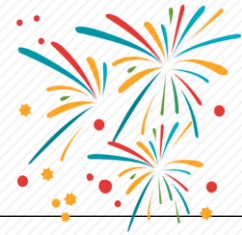
**We write this to make our joy complete.**





## Celebrating the Good

by Donna Le



It's amazing to hear about driverless cars being produced. Accordingly, there are bugs to work out in this futuristic endeavor, but I wonder how long until these cars will be commonplace. Imagine not having to pay attention to making decisions in traffic. There have been times I have driven, I feel, on autopilot, not remembering anything about a trip I just took across town.

When I lived in Muskogee, I remember one thing that would pull me out of my daze and help me engage in life. A certain house on Broadway Street would have a decorated yard, based on a monthly theme. Easter was often secular bunnies and Easter eggs, but every month was treated to some special theme. Putting a few items out for the month of December pretty much exhausts me. I marvel at the thought and energy put into such a project as decorating a yard every month.

I now live in a rural area where I don't expect to see such celebration of current events. Yet, I have seen festive wreaths attached to locked gates along the highway. During the past year, a small display has appeared near Mulhall, on Highway 77. I can't detect a nearby house, so I'm not sure who's responsible for the exhibit, changing it monthly. Today I noticed memorial wreaths, along with small American flags.

Isn't it wonderful that people reach out to strangers in an apparent intent to bring joy into this world? I now look forward to my frequent trips into Mulhall to pick up the mail, just to check out the display. Little, seemingly unimportant things, can pull us out of our routines and thrust us along a more cheerful path. Letting joy grow increases hope, leaving our hearts open to God. Allow for joyful moments when they present themselves. We can't discount our need for more joy in our lives.

***A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (Proverbs 17:22 ESV)***

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us find the joy that lifts our hearts and brings us closer to You. Help us to be mindful that You can help us take steps, no matter how small, that will awaken our spirits. Lord, bring us to the fullness of joy in You. Amen.





## Rivers of Living Water

What an unusual introduction to the month of July! Explosions and firecrackers are expected, but a deluge of rain surprised us all. I enjoyed a rainy day to clear the air and bring in freshness, but rainy weeks challenged me. Praise God for the return of sunshine and blue skies!

I hope the weather didn't put a damper on your creative writing juices. If there's ever a time for Good News to flow from our pens and keyboards, it's now.

The Lord used our days of downpour to stir up fresh thoughts in me to share with you. From John 7:38,39, we know that the Spirit of God is living and flowing. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, who those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

We are the ones who believe in Him. We are the ones from whom "rivers of living water" are to flow. Our relationship with the Living God enables us to be expressions of Him in the earth during these difficult days. Although He is alive in us, it's up to us to allow His Life to flow.

We need His Life to flow in our minds and hearts because "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt.12:34). You might say that our mouths are like gates or doors that release either words of life or death. God's Words and His Truth stored up in our minds and hearts fuels His Life flow. It's sobering to realize the power of our words. Prov. 18:24 says, "Death and Life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Not only are others affected by our words, but we are as well.

Here are some expressions of His Life flow that we can release:

Love - towards God, ourselves, and others. (Mt.22:37)

Joy - because His presence within us brings joy and causes us to rejoice. (Ps.16:11; Phil.3:1)

Peace - as we obey Him, our peace will be like a river. (Is.46:17,18)

Praise - praise on our lips is powerful. (Acts 16:25-34)

Creativity (writing, etc.) - (Ps.87:7)

Let's continue to set aside time and give space for His flowing expressions. As Romans 10:15 states, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Our God desires to be seen, known, and shown in these days. Let His Life Flow!

I love and appreciate you all.

~ **Barbara Zimmerman**

## Still Flowing

By Barbara Zimmerman

Stillness

In the midst of the woods  
Beside a flowing creek.

Rocks and pebbles  
Try to block the way,  
But waters ripple  
As streams snake  
Around and through  
The rocky blockage.  
New pathways form.

Peace

In the midst of the woods  
Beside a flowing creek.



## TREES

I THINK that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

by: **Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)**

(Submitted by Barbara Shepherd)

