

# Wordwrights – OKC Christian Writers

www.wordwrights-okc.com

Darla Hunter, Editor



## A Mom's Garden of Life

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

### Saturday

May 8

10 a.m. – noon

**“The Last Drop”  
Coffee Shop**

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

**(Details on Page 2)**



**~~ Masks  
Recommended**

**~~ Social  
Distancing**

Springtime, gardens, and memories of my mom all flow together in my mind. We enjoyed working in the garden together. Mom purposed to tend to the flowers, while I purposed to play with the critters living in the soil. Yes, I helped her plant the seeds, water, and weed the area, but earthworms, pill bugs, grub worms easily distracted me. Mom tolerated and even tried to enjoy what fascinated me. Mothers are like that, you know. They have goals and plans that are extremely fluid! They adjust with the flow of teachable moments and lively interruptions.

Mom had a green thumb. She caused the marigolds and geraniums to flourish in our outdoor garden and African violets thrived indoors. To this day, African violets baffle me. You can't water them like other plants, or they die. I learned that the hard way.

Gardening required: seeds to be sown, hands to get dirty, and loving care to be invested. Raising me required the same effort, and my Mom was up for the task. She sowed various seeds of

encouragement and instruction into my life. I remember her saying, “We believe in you, Honey” or “I bet your students love you.” I also recall her advising me to “Stand tall among the other teachers. Scripture seeds were also sown during our time together. We enjoyed worshipping, praying, and studying the Bible. I remember how we carried small packets containing hand-written Bible verses to memorize or review. I still cherish her hand-written notecards that are propped up on the corner of my writing desk. Some seeds never die!

Springtime, flower gardens, and memories of my mother flow generously as I write this article. It makes me smile and be thankful for a Mother who invested in the garden of my life. She did her part, and God was faithful to do His part. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 3:6, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God causes growth.” Praise God for faithful Mothers.

~Barbara Zimmerman



### Self-Publishing Platforms

Our meeting Saturday will feature Wordwrights member Victor Driver. The topic of his presentation will be **“Consider Self-Publishing Platforms: IngramSpark and KDP.”**

Victor's professional graphic design career spans more than 37 years, producing ads, packaging, brochures, t-shirts, logos, and illustrations for clients across America. Currently, he focuses on writing and illustrating books and other products of his own creation.

Victor has been doing artwork since kindergarten. His desire to copy cartoons from the Sunday comic strips and his love of animated cartoons on Saturday mornings were his initial inspiration.

His education includes degrees in drafting and graphic design. Armed with this combination, Mr. Driver produces graphics for just about any purpose. Most of his work is done digitally.

As a fine artist, he enjoys pencil, colored pencil, pen & ink, and watercolor. He also paints using acrylic and other mixed media.

You'll not want to miss Victor's presentation on self-publishing. Please join us Saturday, May 8, at 10 a.m., to learn more about how IngramSpark and KDP compare.

**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.**



**June 1:** Deadline for submitting articles, poems, etc., for June 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.

**Barbara Shepherd:**

Won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Poetry Society of Oklahoma's Annual Spring Contest for "Willie's Wild Ride" and three Honorable Mentions for poems: "Summer Cowboy," "Daffodils," and "Sisters to the End."



**Meeting Place**



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



**Looking Ahead**

**May 8, 2021:** Victor Driver, "Consider Self-Publishing Platforms: Ingram Spark and KDP"

**June 12, 2021:** Polish for Publication.

**July 10, 2021:** John Dolezal, Writing book reviews and expository writing.

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

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



**Wordwrights still needs volunteers.**

**Secretary:** To take minutes and submit them for publication in the monthly newsletter. (We have a prospective volunteer for this position.)

**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 several 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: April 10, 2021**

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

Zimmerman welcomed the group and reminded those in attendance that Wordwrights needs to replace the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Victor Driver expressed interest in filling the Secretary position and will consider the matter.

Brags included Barbara Zimmerman reporting that she became a vendor with Edmond Public Schools, which resulted in sales of her newly published book, *Mosie Lou and the Teacher*. She has made contact with several librarians, which has also led to sales. Dana Tramba reported that her article, "God's Grace is Sufficient," was published by Breakthrough Intercessor Prayer Magazine, which is available online at [intercessors.org](http://intercessors.org).

Ricky Briody provided the Devotional/Prayer, which was read by Donna Le. The devotional was based on John 3:8 and included a poem.

Barbara Zimmerman presented "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things" taken from a prayer app (Give Him 15) by Dutch Sheets. The author mentioned that Jamie Buckingham told the story.

During Business, a discussion was held about the presence of Wordwrights on the internet. Dana Tramba made a motion that Victor Driver investigate updating the Wordwrights website and presence on the internet. Jean Reed seconded the motion. Discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. The intent is that since Victor Driver has built websites and has the knowledge and tools to investigate current online needs of Wordwrights, he would research the matter, talk with our web master Barbara Shepherd, and present a proposal to the group.

Donna Le led the program, "Show, Tell—and Ask." Members shared projects and requested information they needed to help complete their work. Wordwrights members spent time discussing their various projects and/or needs, including those indicated below:

\*Victor Driver expressed that Christian writers would be in great demand in the near future, so we should prepare ourselves for coming opportunities.

\*Dana Tramba shared that she leads a writing group every Monday morning at Touchmark (Edmond). Tramba has a website ([dandystories.com](http://dandystories.com)) where she blogs her Christian-based stories. Tramba is working on an autobiography which will highlight struggles she's experienced in her life. Tramba is looking for markets for some of her stories. The group recommended she follow-up with two of our members (Lori Williams and Louise Tucker Jones) who might have some information and sources to help her.

\*Donna Le renewed her desire to create a regular blog on her website.

\*Barbara Zimmerman announced she had written at least seventy poems based on nature that she thought might be good for an audience seeking peace. Zimmerman wondered how she might turn those poems into a book. The group gave her suggestions.

Donna Le distributed a handout on the writing process and briefly discussed writing prompts.

Victor Driver agreed to be the speaker at the May meeting.

Barbara Zimmerman gave a closing prayer. Attendees included: Dana Tramba, Victor Driver, Donna Le, Jean Reed, Darla Hunter, Barbara Zimmerman, and the Staff of Last Drop Coffee Shop.

Minutes by Donna Le



**Next Meeting**

**May 8**

**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**



## He Speaks as the Wind...by Rickey Briody

***“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” John 3:8 NIV***

As a little girl, I believed God was talking to me in the form of wind moving through leafy tree tops. In response, I spoke through silent prayer. When older, I came across the verse, John 3:8, and again pictured the wind rustling through the trees as God’s manner of speaking to me. His communication has no boundaries. Sometimes, He speaks to me in dreams. Sometimes He speaks to me through friends. What great exchanges we have.

“The Wind blows wherever It pleases.” How blessed I am to have been touched by It. In the ordinary, we see and hear His divine signs. How does God speak to you?

### A Poem

He speaks as the Wind.  
His voice ever strong  
Even in a whisper.  
Trees open their leaves  
To receive His breath.  
Like fingers tripping on angel harps  
They play a whimsy.  
Majestic intensity.  
Simple rustle becomes  
Intricate sway  
Resounding His messages  
Wrapped in powerful tenderness

While quietly I listen.  
And humbly I pray.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help me to listen closely as You whisper in my ear. Grant me understanding of Your word and appreciation of Your works. Help me to heed Your meaning and follow Your guidance. Encourage me to be an unexpected yet welcome voice to others so that they may perceive Your wonder. Amen





## Mother, Teacher

by Barbara Zimmerman

It may have begun  
    In those wooden pews at church,  
The hymnal open before me  
    As we sang the alto part together.  
Later, I learned that many  
    Of the notes we sang  
    Weren't in print as yet.

They began early,  
    But have continued through the years,  
Lessons of harmony.

You taught me  
    How to blend with others  
    And build them with my words.

You taught me  
    About the value  
    Of providing peaceful surroundings  
    And keeping peace with others.

So that's why I harmonize so well  
    With others,  
    In music,  
    In life.

You taught me well!

(to Mom)  
(4-27-05)



"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:26

## **Notice to**

### **Wordwrights Membership:**

At the April meeting a motion was made and discussion was held to research updating the website and our presence on the internet. Victor Driver was put in charge of that research, since he is experienced in web design. Victor has contacted our current webmaster, Barbara Shepherd, for her input. At the May meeting, Victor will present the findings of his research. All the details will be offered at the May meeting. A vote will be taken at the June meeting whether to update the website and our presence on the internet.

A few details include:

Victor will take care of all fees for domain name and will host and design and maintain for FREE.

In addition to Victor, at least two officers will have access to the website control panel. Victor is looking into providing a "members-only" section that contains information, tips, and perhaps a blog space for each member (for those who are interested).