

# NightScripts



January 2023

Connie Palmer Dodson, Editor



Supporting  
Writers and soon  
to be writers on their  
journey to publication.

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## Writing Prompt:

Does this scene inspire  
a story for you?

Write a short story of  
100 words or less and  
get it to me by January  
31st 2023. I'll print  
my favorite in the  
February issue.

Don't forget to title  
your story. Put Writing  
Prompt in the subject  
line and submit it to:  
[editor.tnw@gmail.com](mailto:editor.tnw@gmail.com).

# WRITE ON

## Looking Back and Moving Forward

By our President, Merle Davenport



At the start of a new year, it has been my practice to reflect on what has transpired and what I have yet to achieve. In the same way, it is healthy to take stock of the accomplishments and goals for Tulsa Night-writers. Where have we been? Where are we going?

COVID affected us all. We were unable to meet in person for far too long and many found it difficult to write. We worked hard to keep each other encouraged despite everything. When we were finally able to gather together, we couldn't meet in the library anymore because it was still closed.

Yet, like the fabled phoenix, we rose from the ashes of adversity. After a few meetings at a local restaurant, we forged a partnership with OSU's Center for Poets and Writers. What a blessing this partnership has been! We now meet at an amazing facility on a beautiful campus just off the expressway.

Over the last year, we have grown far more than expected. We are gaining new members from all age groups and genres. In fact, we have passed a milestone – we have over a hundred members! We also had a good showing at the OWFI conference, taking home several awards.

In the fall, we had an amazing Craft of Writing Conference at the Triumph Worship Center in Glenpool. Many thanks to all who made this free conference a huge success. I must thank Kathryn Helstrom for her leadership along with too many others to list here.

Our Flash Writing Contest was also a big hit with almost forty entries from our members. Congrats to all.

There were so many other highlights over the year, it's hard to know where to begin. Many

of us were published; some are best-sellers. The number of awards we have collectively received is staggering. In short, as writers, WE ROCK!

The future for TNW looks bright. Here are a few of our goals.

1. Continue to increase our membership. Now that we have crossed the 100-member threshold, our next goal should be 150 by the end of the year. If we hit 200, we need to throw a big celebration!

2. Increase our attendance at the monthly meetings and at the annual conference. We have outgrown the first room we used at OSU. Wouldn't it be awesome to outgrow our current room as well?

3. Increase marketing resources for our members. Writing is a passion and a business. TNW already has several resources available to our authors. We are currently working on ideas that will increase our marketing in an effort to sell more of our members' books.

4. Continue to foster and encourage new writers. One of the main purposes of TNW is to connect new writers with those who have more experience in the field. All of us know what it was like to begin our first story. Some days I still stare at a blank screen when my ideas seem to have evaporated as soon as I turned the computer on. Those are the times when we could use the advice and encouragement of others who have gone through the same thing.

5. Continue to develop the "skill to" and the "will to" write. There are two important elements to great writing. The "skill to" write a great book and the "will to" write it. TNW encourages all of our members to develop both elements in themselves as well as in others.

There are many more goals we could accomplish in 2023, but these five get to the heart of who we are and why we exist as a club for writers.

Thanks for all you do to make this an amazing group.

# THE WRITE TOUCH

## Writing Humor: Part One

By our Vice President, Kathryn Helstrom



This series is not about writing a humorous book; I don't know enough about comedy to write a book that would make you laugh page after page. However, we need to include a little humor now and then in our stories. Let's discover the when, where, why, and how to incorporate

humor into your prose or poetry.

What is humor? Dictionaries give boring definitions about something ludicrous or absurd, which doesn't embody the nuances of puns or sarcasm or satire. It is a difficult thing to define. I think it is anything that makes you laugh. We need humor in life, and we need humor in our writing.

"Humor can be one of our best survival tools." Allen Klein

It will help your reader identify with your character. It makes your character likeable. It is a positive trait you can assign to your protagonist, or more interestingly, your antagonist. You can have a jokester among your cast to provide comic relief at tense moments. Or he can provide profound observations about life in a playful way, establishing or reinforcing the theme of your story.

When you draw up your character's outline and backstory, you must consider what type of humor he has. Is she witty? Sarcastic? Or is deadpan dry humor his style? How she uses humor establishes the character's voice. The wordplay between two characters shows their relationship. In a romantic scene, do they use humor to flirt? One character not "getting" the humor of the other can result in misunderstanding and conflict.

One type of humor is running gags. This is

an excellent tool for layering in backstory and defining the relationship between two long-time friends. Wordplay and innuendo give the reader an inside view of the attitude of a character. If only one character is laughing in a stressful situation, it will heighten the tension as the others cringe or turn to say, "Shut up!"

Use it to change the pace of the story, to transition to the next scene, or to foreshadow upcoming events.

All these techniques help to keep your reader turning the pages, which is every author's goal. However, writing humor into your story boosts YOUR creativity, too. It stimulates your frontal lobe which controls understanding social and emotional responses. It activates both the right and left sides of your brain: the right, analytical, side for structure and the left side for whether you "get" the joke. Make yourself laugh!

"A day without laughter is a day wasted."  
Charlie Chaplain

To get started, identify your own style of humor. Pay attention to when people laugh at your jokes or wordplay. Are you self-deprecating or sarcastic? Do you like puns and riddles? Is slapstick and absurdity your style?

Keep a journal of your own jokes and mine material from real life. Observe the world around you. Find the humor in settings and scenarios. While people-watching (every author does this), imagine something funny happening to the person you are looking at. Write it down.

In Part Two of this series, I'll delve more into how to incorporate humor into your story. In the meantime, if you are struggling with how to end a scene or begin the next one, try writing a humorous transition. See if it works.

Happy Writing!



# Five Ways to Write Tighter

by Renee' La Viness

<https://www.reneelaviness.com>

With the growing popularity of short stories comes the serious need to write tight. Here are five ways to help you meet your project limits. By cutting unnecessary words, you may be able to add depth to other parts of your story or simply make it cleaner and easier to follow.

1. **REMOVE UNNECESSARY CHARACTERS.** Sometimes we add an extra person to our story. If that person is only needed to achieve one or two things, drop him from the story and give the job to someone more important.

2. **IN THE BEGINNING.** Did the thing/person just start or begin something? Or did they actually do it? We often use **STARTED** and **BEGAN** when more happened. Tell what really happened. The truth can cut words and be more powerful.

She started crying. / She cried.

The rooster began to crow. / The rooster crowed. (How does he only begin?)

3. **SENSES.** You want your reader to feel like he is the main character, but he loses that connection when you tell him the character saw, heard, or thought something. Instead, let your reader see, hear, or think it, too.

I saw the lion fly. = The lion flew.

She heard the cat meow. = The cat meowed.

Aaron thought he could do it better. = He could do it better.

Wanda knew the storms would last all night. = The storms would last all night.

4. **STORY IN A STORY.** Sooner or later, many of us write a story about someone telling a story to someone else. This is not a good idea. Drop the outside story (the person telling the main story). Just tell the inside story. Removing the outside characters can drop the word count considerably and avoid confusion about where to put quotation marks.

5. **REPETITION.** We all know to remove repetitious words and phrases in close proximity. Another way to drop your word count is to find where you have reiterated something in a different manner to make a point. Trust your writing to help the readers see the clue without treating them as if they are going to miss it if you don't say it in another way, or once more. Just say it once, but make it clear.

## Contest Publication: Pro's & Con's

By Connie Palmer-Dodson

In the past when we have had contests that included publication of the winners there have been concerns about subsequent publication of the winning entry because many publishers want unpublished material. If your plan is to enter that same piece in another contest or for publication elsewhere that is a valid point. However, if the goal for entering the initial competition is improving skills, having fun with a different style, or gaining recognition and validation don't shy away from the rewards. Winning competitions build your credibility with publishers and can help you get your foot in the door. (Continued on page 8)

# January Guest Speakers

## Joy Don Baker & Terri Goodman Discuss Team Writing

By Kathryn Helstrom



Joy Don Baker and Terri Goodman, nursing students in the '70s are like their fictional characters in their Nurseketeers series, and both are writers in professional nursing literature. They met in the '80s and have remained friends for years. As co-authors their mission is to share enjoyment, writing, and learning through meaningful stories about diverse nursing characters.

Both are well established leaders in perioperative nursing. Dr. Baker teaches at the University of Texas at Arlington and served as the editor-in-chief of AORN Journal. Dr. Goodman is an entrepreneur and an approved provider of continuing education as the principal at Terri Goodman & Associates.

Baker and Goodman have produced the award-winning book *A, B, & Cs of Author Partnering* the definitive how-to guide that leads readers through creating a partnership, establishing a productive work environment, and producing a work of fiction, non-fiction, or journal article.

Explore with Joy Don and Terri what it is like to author as a partnership for writing. Significant steps are involved in undertaking the process of writing with a partner. Join the fun as they share their experiences of aligning their work, balancing obligations, reflecting on contract expectations and contributions. As with any partnership, communication is paramount to success and celebrating the milestones with loads of fun and creativity and solidify the writing partnership.

“If you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.” Stephen King

# NEWS FLASH

MAGIC CITY BOOKS PRESENTS

**DIANE MORROW-KONDOS**

**JANUARY 26**

**ALGONQUIN ROOM**

**7:00 PM**

The Long Road to Happy  
Diane Morrow-Kondos

## Book Launch

Tulsa NightWriter member Diane Morrow-Kondos has the official book launch for her first book “The Long Road to Happy: A Sister’s Journey Through Her Brother’s Disabilities” later this month. The event will be held at Magic City Books in downtown Tulsa on Thursday, January 26th at 7 PM. It will be a Q&A format with Betty Casey, editor of TulsaKids magazine. She says, “I’d love to see some Nightwriters there!”

The Long Road to Happy is a candid look at one family’s journey raising a son with intellectual disabilities. Although each family’s situation is unique, the book addresses issues many families face—from receiving the diagnosis to making the difficult decision of placement upon a parent’s death. Told from the perspective of a sibling, it explores how siblings of individuals with special needs often encounter a wide range of experiences and emotions that are rarely directly acknowledged by their family or the world.

The Long Road to Happy also looks at the history of disabilities in America, touching on laws, social stigmas, labels, and treatment of the intellectually disabled. Whether that be mental illness, physical disabilities, or intellectual challenges, when one family member faces difficulties, the entire family is impacted.

Diane Morrow-Kondos grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the third of four children—two older sisters and a younger brother David who was diagnosed with intellectual disabilities while still a child. Upon the passing of her mother, Diane assumed the role of David’s guardian and champion.

Diane has a master’s degree from Oklahoma State University, where she also earned her bachelor’s degree while swimming on the Cowgirl swim team. A retired teacher, she is a freelance writer, avid reader, and a triathlete and open water swimmer. She makes her home in Tulsa. The Long Road to Happy is her first book. [PRE-ORDER HERE](#)

# NEWS FLASH

## New Release

### *Whispers in the Wind*

By Pam Wetterman



Find it Here

[Whispers in the Wind: Wetterman, Pamela: 979870998232: Amazon.com: Books](#)

39 Themed  
Submission Calls  
for  
January 2023

[For More  
Information  
Click Here](#)

“Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.” Anton Chekhov

## New Release

### *The Chosen One*

By Deborah Camp

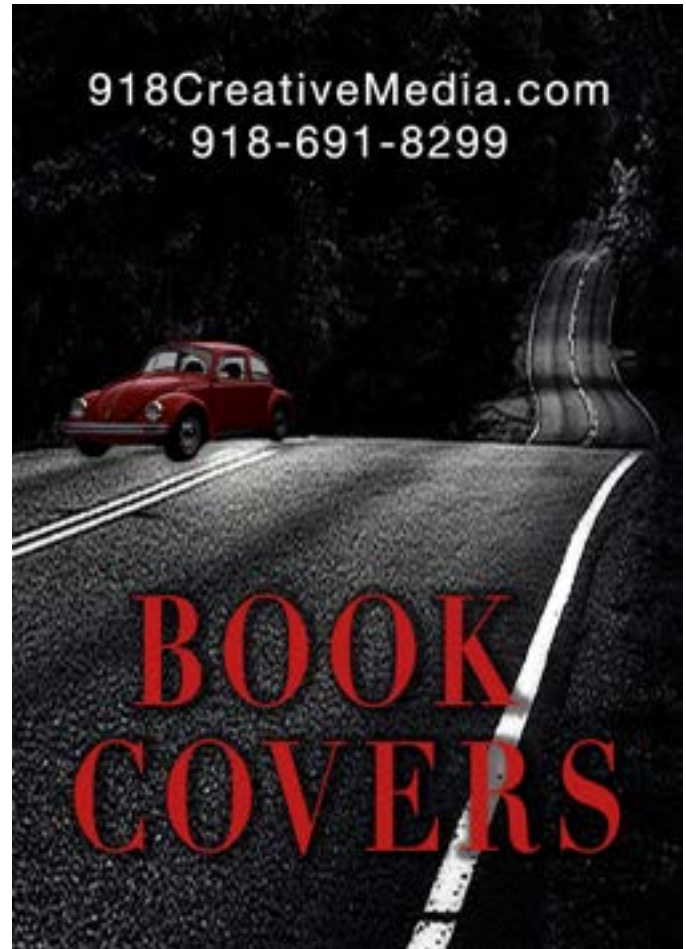
**Deborah Camp** has a new book being released Jan. 4 on Amazon. It is available now for pre-orders. “The Chosen One” is a funny, sexy romance about a guy who can’t commit and a girl who swears she won’t fall in love with him. Of course, they are both delusional!

[Pre order “The Chosen One” here on Amazon.](#)





# BULLETIN BOARD



## Contest Publication: Pro's & Con's (Continued from page 4)

Should the initial entry win and still cry for additional publication there are other options. You can expand it for an additional opportunity to publish. A poem can become a short story, a short story can grow into a larger story or be included in a collection of other short stories. Any smaller piece can provide details for a scene or a chapter in a larger story or book. You can also use the prompt of the contest to write something different and not enter the contest at all. Ultimately the decision is yours. Make it a goal to enjoy your writing and grow your skills in 2023.

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Montgomery**

[www.maryloumontgomery.com](http://www.maryloumontgomery.com)

Email to begin the conversation:  
[montgomery.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomery.editor@yahoo.com)

## EDITING SERVICES

- \* Proofreading
- \* Copy Editing
- \* Developmental Editing
- \* Summary

Contact Julie Kimmel-Harbaugh

[juliekh314@gmail.com](mailto:juliekh314@gmail.com)

918-720-4866 (cell)



## NightScripts Submission Guidelines and Wants

From Members: Currently accepting ads (for books and services) articles, short stories (100 - 200 words), poetry, and event information.

Submit To: editor.tnw@gmail.com  
 Deadline: 5th of the Month  
 Specifications: Please format your text as follows:  
 Times New Roman, 12 pt  
 Single Spaced  
 Attach as a doc or pages  
 Attach graphics and / or photographs

From Non-Members: Paid Ad Space Available,  
 contact editor.tnw@gmail.com

### Banned Book Club Celebrate your FREEDOM to READ!

Hardesty Regional Library

Join us every second Monday of the month to discuss books that have been banned or challenged in schools and libraries. For adults. Drop-ins welcome!

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Hardesty Regional Library

Jan. 9 - The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Feb. 13 - The Absolutely True Diary of A Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

[Check Here For Other Library Events](#)

## Word Search

F	M	T	H	R	I	L	L	E	R
X	Z	L	Y	R	E	T	S	Y	M
H	I	S	T	O	R	I	C	A	L
L	A	M	R	O	N	A	R	A	P
J	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	E	Z
D	R	A	M	A	E	M	I	R	C
P	E	R	I	O	D	I	C	A	L
S	Y	F	Y	Y	D	E	M	O	C
X	S	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C
A	I	Y	S	A	T	N	A	F	N

CHILDRENS  
 COMEDY  
 CRIME  
 DRAMA  
 FANTASY  
 HISTORICAL

MYSTERY  
 PARANORMAL  
 PERIODICAL  
 ROMANCE  
 SYFY  
 THRILLER



[Member Group](#)

[Community Page](#)

# 2023 TNW Board & Meeting Information

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Newsletter editor  
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editor.tnw@gmail.com  
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write.conniepalmer@gmail.com



**Tulsa NightWriters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023, location information below.**

## January Speakers

Joy Don Baker & Terry Goodman Discuss Author Partnering. Come explore the world of team writing. See page 5 for additional information about this months topic & speakers.

## Directions

Take the I-244 to downtown Tulsa, and exit on Detroit. If you are coming from the west, the exit for the OSU campus is on the LEFT.

From Detroit Ave., turn right onto JH Franklin Road. You will see the Auditorium and Conference Center (North Hall) on the left. You can park in Lot E (first parking lot on left), or across the street in Lot D. We meet in Room 153. Look for signs posted at both entrances.

Parking is free and open to the public. It is a very short walk, and handicapped accessible. Campus security patrols the parking lots regularly.

