

# NightScripts

APRIL 2024

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2024 Anthology  
Submission Guidelines

Overcoming  
Writer's Block

Entering  
Contests

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# NightScripts



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## From the Editor

They say that writing is a solitary activity, but while it may start that way, it should never end like that.

One of the most exciting moments for a writer is that first time sharing a piece with others, be it in a writing group, a live event, or even submitting to a contest. We may write for ourselves, but words by their nature long to connect us with others.

In the pages that follow you will find prime suggestions for contests to submit your work to, help busting through the dreaded writer's block, an invitation to partner with other writers in the upcoming anthology, as well as opportunities to mingle and listen to other literary minds through Tulsa Lit Fest and the OWFI conference.

We are excited to share our writing journey with each of you. While we start each project in solitary confinement, we find our freedom and are able to grow better together.

Welcome to Spring, Tulsa NightWriters!

*Aubrey Green*

Editor

# Writing Contests

By Merle Davenport

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Writing contests are a great way to get established in the literary community. They're also a good way to hone your writing skills and earn money. Fortunately, there are literally hundreds of writing contests offered throughout the year in every genre. Some are local, while others are national or even international.

One benefit of winning a contest is that your piece usually receives an offer for publication. Typically, a magazine publishes your piece or a publishing company offers you a contract, usually from a small press.

A word of caution: if there is an entry fee, check out the organization to make sure it is a legitimate contest before sending any money. There are several scams out there posing as legitimate contests.

## **Here are a few sites I have found useful:**

[Reedsy Ultimate List of Contests 2024](#) has assembled a gigantic list of available contests from around the world. Although this is an excellent source for finding contests, it is important to go to each contest website to see the submission guidelines. Some contests specifically target writers under 18 or restrict submissions to certain geographic areas, such as Florida residents only. With a little work, you can find the perfect contest(s) for you.



#### **40 Free Writing Contests: Competitions with Cash Prizes** – Sponsored by “The Write Life.”

What I like about this site is that all the contests listed are free to enter but offer cash prizes to the winners. The site’s disadvantage is that it only lists 40 contests, so it doesn’t represent every genre.

#### **Poets & Writers Contests, Grants, and Awards**

This is the best site I have found for entering poetry contests. For those of us who enjoy writing poetry, it can be difficult to find a market for our work. A good place to start is entering contests for poets offered by those who enjoy reading poetry.

#### **Almond Press–Writing Competitions**, Updated Weekly

This site organizes writing contests by their deadline date. As you organize your contest submissions, it’s good to have a site that allows you to select a contest based on the deadline date.

One last note: read the submission guidelines carefully. Some contests allow you to enter the same piece to other sites, while others insist that the story you submit is not in any other contest. When magazines publish the winners, they often have dual submission restrictions.

Some even allow you to submit the same piece in their next contest. Science Fiction Writers of the Future hold a contest every quarter. They allow you to submit the same piece each time. The hope is that you will continue to revise and improve it with each submission.

Remember, the more awards you win, the more accolades you can advertise on your website when you have your book published.

# A NightWriter Anthology

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Exclusively for Tulsa NightWriter's Members, we are currently accepting submissions to consider for publication in our upcoming anthology. Submissions due by June 10th.

## **Anthology Title**

Echoes of Tradition:

Indigenous Orientation to Community, Time, and Land

## **Description**

In this anthology we explore and contrast the differences between indigenous cultural views of community, land, and time vis-à-vis that of the dominant Western culture. Whether such differences manifest themselves in poetry, prose, or essay - whether you are highlighting the differences or simply embracing one of the Native American concepts - we challenge you to explore the Native American approach to these essential parts of our lives and incorporate them into your writing.

## **Community**

Western society strongly emphasizes the rights of the individual while Native culture affirms the well-being of the whole. A culture steeped in communal living countered by a highly individualistic dominant society, Native culture is, at its core, about community, tribe, and the general good.

## **Land**

To the dominant culture, land is something to be bought, sold, and owned by an individual. The Indigenous perspective views land as a sentient being and as such, could not be owned. If anything, the Earth owns us.

## **Time**

While the majority sees time as a linear concept, Native culture leans into a circular concept, viewing time as cyclical. In a cyclical understanding, events will reoccur and can be revisited. Said differently, there are no definite beginnings or endings, rather only what is, what has always been, and will always be.

## Nuts & Bolts for Submission

- Submissions are exclusively for Tulsa NightWriter Members.
- Submissions are open until June 10, 2024.
- A reading fee of \$10 per piece is due at the time of submission.
- All submissions must be in English.
- Writers may submit multiple pieces, but each piece must be submitted in separate files, each accompanied by their own reading fee.
- No graphic sex or violence.
- We are looking for previously unpublished pieces and your submission grants Tulsa NightWriters first publication rights in North America.
- Not all submissions will be accepted for publication.
- We accept simultaneous submissions, but please notify Tulsa NightWriters immediately if the piece is accepted elsewhere so it may be withdrawn from consideration. There will be no refunds for the reading fees.
- Submissions will be blind. The author's name should not appear anywhere on the submitted document or file.
- Use 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced, with pages numbered.
- 2,500 word maximum. If submitting poetry, you may submit up to 3 pieces, not to exceed 2,500 words total.
- Cash prizes will be awarded for the top two pieces. \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second.
- All pieces chosen for inclusion in the anthology will receive a copy upon publication.

Submissions accepted through our website, [via this link](#).



# Writer's Block

By Heather Westover

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Writer's Block, that frustrating, annoying, and sometimes debilitating feeling that you don't have anything of value to say. No viewpoint that will add to a reader's experience and can leave you wondering if your gift of writing has completely come to an end. But don't worry - I saw on Google where 'Writer's Block' had not been labeled as a mental health diagnosis ... just in case any of us were wondering. And there are a lot of things that can be done to combat these seasons of struggle.

I hope that by listing a few of them here, I can inspire someone back to a focused path of sharing your gift with us again. We need you!

- Try writing from a different perspective. If you normally write in third person, write in first person.
- Change the location you write. Get out to a local coffee shop. Write outside under a tree or umbrella, maybe park a lawn chair beside a running creek.
- Wherever you write, listen to all of the sounds around you and describe them in your piece.
- Book a hotel room or cottage just for yourself. No television, or social media. Just you and your writing medium.
- Attend a local Live Lit night and listen to other authors read pieces of their works in progress.
- Listen to your favorite inspirational music.
- Clean and rearrange your office. A new look to your space may start your creative brain to rewire itself and begin new journeys.
- Focus on writing with your 5 senses instead of your conventional ways.

I have so many other ideas, but these will get us started for now. Good luck and I can't wait to see your creative thoughts coming to life in the near future!



To all the newest  
Tulsa Night Writers -  
welcome to the  
community!



## March New Members

Vance Morrow - Sapulpa  
Kelly Bonnallie - Tulsa  
Madeleine Bonnallie - Tulsa  
Kayla Wilson - Tulsa  
Sharon Tyner - Tulsa  
Gigi Goebel - Tulsa  
Joshua Pool - Ramona

# Upcoming Events

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April 18th-21st

## Tulsa LitFest

By Tulsans for Tulsans, this free festival includes events ranging from open mic nights and live readings to a small press book fair and a jazz show, presented in a variety of bookstores, taprooms and museums near downtown.

[LEARN MORE](#)

May 2nd-4th

## OWFI Conference

One of the nation's best writing conventions is in our own backyard. Includes sessions with industry experts, luncheons, contests, banquets, pitch sessions, workshops, masterclasses, and more.

[LEARN MORE](#)

May 21st

## Monthly Meeting OWFI Winners

Join us as we celebrate our own winners from the OWFI Conference. We will shake their hands, pat them on the back, and listen to them read excerpts from their award-winning pieces.

June 10th

## Deadline for Anthology Submissions

Be sure to have your submissions in before June 10th for this opportunity to be published alongside other talented writers and poets. The anthology description and the complete guidelines can be found here or on the Tulsa NightWriters website.

June 18th

## Monthly Meeting Phetote Mshari

Join us for an evening with Phetote [Fee toh tee] Mshairi [Em shah ee ree], an entrepreneur; Tulsa Artist Fellow; poet; author; publisher; mentor; advocate; actor; songwriter; playwright; curator; host; and keynote speaker from Tulsa, Oklahoma.





# CRAFT OF WRITING

## CONFERENCE

# THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

October 19th & 20th  
OSU Tulsa  
REGISTRATION COMING SOON

# Become a NightWriter Today!



## Not a member yet?

We'd love to have you check us out during one of our monthly meetings!

## Ready to Join?

Membership is \$25 per year. Simply scan the QR code below or visit [tulsanightwriters.org/membership-application](https://tulsanightwriters.org/membership-application)



## Visit Us Online

TULSANIGHTWRITERS.ORG



### Editing Services

- ✓ Proofreading
- ✓ Copy Editing
- ✓ Developmental Editing
- ✓ Summary

Contact  
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### History Research Specializing in People & Personalities



Award-Winning Journalist | Speaker  
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**Mary Lou Montgomery**

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

# NightScripts Submission Guidelines

## **NightScripts Submission Guidelines and Wants From Members**

- Accepting ads for services; should be submitted monthly for consideration/inclusion.
- Accepting announcements for book releases, with links for purchase; these will appear in the newsletter for two months.
- Accepting articles for consideration on writing and publishing-related topics.
- Accepting event announcements for writing and publishing related events.

### **Deadline**

Last Day of the Month prior to publication. Please submit your ad or announcement at least two months before you need it to appear.

### **Specifications & Submission**

Please format your text as follows: Times New Roman, 12 pt single spaced. Attach as a .doc or Pages file. Attach any graphics and/or photographs. Your submission can be emailed to the Editor at [editor@tulsanightwriters.org](mailto:editor@tulsanightwriters.org) or submitted online [here](#).

### **Non-Member Submission**

Paid Ad Space Available for writing or publishing services or events.

\$50 for 1/8 page ad

\$100 for 1/4 page ad

Contact [editor@tulsanightwriters.org](mailto:editor@tulsanightwriters.org) for more details.

# NightScripts

“Tulsa has been ... the place in America that reeked of literary magic to me.”

NEIL GAIMAN



April 2024

TULSANIGHTWRITERS.ORG