

# NightScripts

JULY 2024

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How to Keep Your  
Readers Reading

The Craft of Writing  
Conference and Contest

New Members and  
Opportunities

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# NightScripts



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Aubrey Green

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[WWW.REALLYGREATSTORIES.COM](http://WWW.REALLYGREATSTORIES.COM)

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## From the Editor

I saw someone on Facebook post that they were traveling to Oklahoma for the first time, what's the weather like? One person answered, "Have you ever been cremated?" Someone else said that, with the humidity, "It's like sitting in a dishwasher."

No matter how you're managing the heat, we hope the summer is seeing you get all your creative ducks in a row!

In this issue you'll find a lot of opportunities for members, from critique groups, to new contests, a retreat, upcoming conferences, and more! It's a great time to be a NightWriter.

Keep reading to hear about how squirrels are helping Merle write and edit his irresistible tomatoes- I mean, book. And Heather shares fun facts about herself and John Adams.

So light another sparkler, keep hydrated, and let's bring a bit more literary brilliance into the world! We write the words that can light up the dark.

*Aubrey Green*

Editor

# Write What They Can't Put Down

By Merle Davenport

Squirrels invaded my tomatoes recently. The worst part is that they picked my biggest and best tomatoes, ate half, and left the rest to spoil.

“If you’re going to eat my tomatoes, eat the whole thing,” I yelled.

Then I thought about the book I’m writing. After putting weeks of work into writing the book, my biggest fear is that readers won’t love it like I do.

What makes a reader pick it up and then put it down half-read? More importantly, how can I write a book the reader won’t be able to put down?

1. **Proofread and edit** – Every time I proofread my manuscript, I find more mistakes. My first proofread is with either Grammarly or ProWritingAid. These programs catch most of the spelling and grammar

errors in my work. My second, third, and fourth times proofreading, I look for awkward sentences and weak descriptions.

2. **Read the book out loud** – When I look at my manuscript on a computer screen, my mind will fill in gaps I didn’t write. When I read it out loud, I can hear which sentences are awkward and where I left out a word.







3. **Look for weaknesses** – did I do too much telling and not enough showing? What about point of view (POV)? Did I switch from one character’s POV to another character? Did I use clichés? Can I make my descriptions more vivid?

4. **Cut out unnecessary words, sentences, and passages** – Like most writers, I tend to use words like “that” too often. I can also get too wordy or try to include great research I found that has little to do with the plot. Eliminating these passages can be painful, but it keeps the reader in the story. Any detail that takes the reader out of the story is a place where the reader might put down my book.

5. **Use Beta Readers** – The most important method of improving my book is to use Beta readers. A Beta reader is someone who will read your manuscript and critique it. The more people who read and critique your work, the better. After all, they are seeing it like a reader will see it.

6. **Hire a human editor** – The grammar programs are good, but nothing replaces a professional editor. For those who have a publisher, editing is usually one of the services they offer. If you plan on doing your own publishing, it is beneficial to hire a human to edit your work. They can catch things like plot development and internal conflict that a computer program won’t.

After polishing my work, it is ready to share with the world. Hopefully, readers won’t put down my book half-read like my squirrels put down their tomatoes.



# For What It's Worth...

By Heather Westover

On July 3rd, 1776 John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail:

The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival ... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.<sup>[9]</sup> ([Wikipedia](#)).

**Fun Fact:** July 2nd is my birthday! But that's not why Adams was so excited. Did you know it took two extra days to ratify and sign the Declaration of Independence because Thomas Jefferson got a little too bold in denouncing King George III, and the committee preferred he tone it down a bit? Because of him, we now celebrate the holiday on July 4th.

**Another fun fact:** if you follow it far enough, John Adams appears in my family tree. Or I appear in his. I guess that all depends on if you list from first to last, visa versa, or most well known to ... well ... me.

History states that, after revisions, the Declaration of Independence was signed by all parties on July 4, 1776, even though some historians believe it wasn't completely signed until August 2nd. Written documentation from several of those who signed claim it happened on July 4th, so we'll just take them at their word.

**Fun Fact #3:** Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the same day—the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1826.



My family were wheat harvesters and traveled from Texas to South Dakota harvesting for ourselves and many others who contracted our services. When it was time to head for home, we would always arrive a couple days before my dad and the crew, because dragging those large combines along the highway didn't happen quickly. But Dad always pushed to make sure they made it home on my birthday, or as close to it as they could. Many younger birthdays I fell asleep on the couch waiting for my dad to make it back before midnight, because he'd promised. All of those days I woke up to a giant stack of fireworks on the floor beside me, letting me know he had in fact made it home, and we could now celebrate.

July seems to be a month where the whole country celebrates, whether by floating the river, rodeos, fireworks displays, backyard get togethers, or bonfires. So I'd say John Adams' letter to Abigail was indeed a really great idea that the rest of America has taken to heart.

Good call, Great-GranDaddy!



# CRAFT OF WRITING CONFERENCE

## THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

October 19th & 20th  
OSU Tulsa

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

### Sponsors



CENTER FOR  
POETS AND WRITERS  
at OSU-Tulsa





**CRAFT OF WRITING**  
CONFERENCE  
**THE POWER OF**  
**STORYTELLING**

This year's theme is The Power of Storytelling, and we will highlight Native American storytelling and Native American writers. We will have five tracks of breakout sessions and we have added a second day on Sunday, focusing on publishing and marketing your work.

Both days are stand-alone and you'll be able to register for just one or both days—whichever fits your needs best! There is a \$10 discount if you choose to attend both days.

### Conference Fees

\$55/day for Members & Students or \$100 for both days

\$75/day for General Public or \$140 for both days

Pitch Sessions \$10 (limit 1 per person)

See our current speakers on the following pages and check the website often for updated [speaker roster](#) as we continue to add people every week!

**REGISTER TODAY**

### Conference Writing Contest

This year, we are excited to launch our own writing contest in conjunction with the conference. First, second, and third in each category will receive a certificate, first place in each category will receive a cash prize of \$50. Winners will be announced during the conference on Saturday, October 19th, during the last session of the day.

### Contest Categories

Short Story – Any Genre  
Non-Fiction Essay  
Poetry  
Horror

Native American/Indigenous  
Romantasy  
YA

Fiction – Book  
Non-Fiction – Book  
Children's – Book

**LEARN MORE**



# Speakers

We are continuing to add to our speaker roster so check back often on the website for the most updated list!



**Julie Pearson Little**  
Thunder  
Creek  
Non-Fiction



**JD Colbert**  
Muscogee-Creek,  
Chickasaw, Cherokee and  
Citizen Potawatomi  
Historical-Fiction



**Sandy Tharp-Thee**  
Cherokee  
Children's



**Casie Bazay**  
Chickasaw  
YA



**Alton Carter**  
Non-Fiction



**Heather Nuttall-  
Westover**  
Non-Fiction



**Merle Davenport**  
Non-Fiction  
Historical Fiction



**Samantha Ryan**  
Fiction



**Kristin Hamblin**  
Fantasy | Romantasy



**Amy Lillard**  
Romance | Mystery



**Jennifer Sneed**  
Children's



**Phetote Mshairi**  
Poet

# Speakers



**Anthony Brinkley**  
aka Tony B  
Poet



**Aubrey Green**  
Editor



**Tyler Huffman**  
Screenwriter



**Katrina Schroeder**  
Editor | Book Coach

# Agents | Publishers



**Jeanne Devlin**  
Roadrunner Press



**TwylaBeth Lambert**  
Fawkes Press



**Lara Bernhardt**  
Admission Press



**Lisa Lindsey**  
Roan & Wetherford



# Upcoming Events

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July 16th

## Monthly Meeting: Bill Wetterman

In this meeting, Bill Wetterman will lead us through Structure and the Hero's Journey! He is an author of thrillers and Christian non-fiction. Bill has won numerous awards and is a speaker, editor, and publisher.

July 17th-21st

## WriterCon Retreat

Space is still available! Five days at the Canebrake luxury resort (near Tulsa) learning, writing, and making new friends. Get the feedback you need to polish your manuscript before submitting to agents, publishers, or contest.

[LEARN MORE](#)

July 20th

## Siloam Springs Writer's Guild Conference

Our very own M. Carolyn Steele will be the keynote speaker at this Arkansas conference highlighting memoirs and autobiographies.

[LEARN MORE](#)

August 20th

## Monthly Meeting: Gary Jonas

Author of over 30 books and countless short stories. I'm just a guy who makes stuff up and gets paid for it. If you want to know more about me, ask away. I'll either tell you the truth or I'll make something up.

September 17th

## Monthly Meeting: Ellen Stackable

Join us for an evening with Ellen Stackable, Executive Director of Poetic Justice. She'll discuss the power of writing to process emotions and trauma.



# Member Services, Brags, and Opportunities

Siloam Springs Writers Guild's  
6<sup>th</sup> Summer  
**Writers Conference**

**What Do We Remember?**  
Writing Memoirs and Autobiographies

**Keynote Speaker: M. Carolyn Steele**  
Author / Speaker / Family Story Teacher

**Michael Ross**  
Author / Speaker



**Special Feature: "Empowering Young Writers"**  
**Cheryl Sasai Ellicott**  
Author / Songwriter / Publisher / Ghostwriter

**Saturday July 20, 2024**  
9:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM  
**First Baptist Church**  
2000 Dawn Hill Road  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

**Conference fee is \$50 for adults**  
(\$5 off adult price before June 28)  
**Ages 12-17 \$10**

To Register:  
Send name, address, email, and check to:  
Siloam Springs Writers Guild  
2151 B Kristy Lane  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

contact: siloamwriters@gmail.com

## Member Only Critique Groups!

### Hardesty Regional Library

Saturday, July 20th, 10:30am

Saturday, Aug 3rd, 1:00pm

For details email  
[plberrey@att.net](mailto:plberrey@att.net)

### Sapulpa Public Library

Saturday, July 27th, 11:30am

For details email  
[kathrynhelstromok@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynhelstromok@gmail.com)



## Annual Flash Fiction Contest!

Open only to Tulsa NightWriters Members, we are accepting submissions from now until Aug 1st. All entries must be unpublished at the time of entry. Each entry must be accompanied by a \$5.00 submission fee.

Prose or poetry are accepted. The maximum word limit is 500 words, including the title.

**All entries must begin with the following prompt:** (He/She/They/I/You/We) didn't understand...

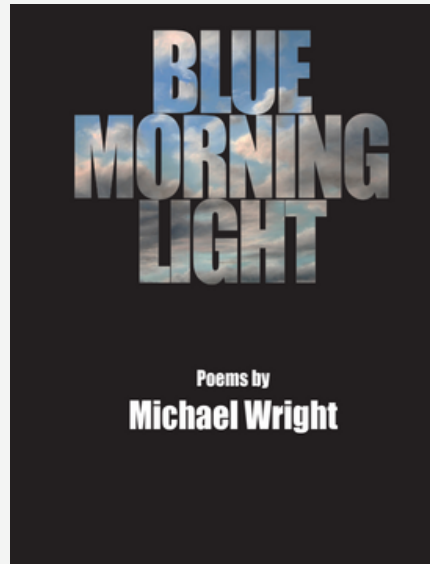
For all rules and submission guidelines, [click here](#).



# Member Services, Brags, and Opportunities

## Readers Requested!

Member James Eccleston is looking for an individual or two willing to read and critique his novel, Denby– a work of literary fiction currently at 102,000 words. Want to know more? Contact James:  
jtsejbe249@gmail.com



Blue Morning Light  
by Michael Wright.

This collection of poems is available in both kindle and paperback.

Click on the image to get your copy.

  
**Blue Clover**  
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[Blue Clover Editing](#)

# Tulsa Night Writers: where words can change the world.



## June's New Members

Sandra Grayson - Wisconsin

John Langfeld - Illinois

Nicole Wells

Steeley Upshaw

Holle Shield

Marie Welden

George Smith

Betty Lynee McCarthy - Missouri

Charles Templeton - Arkansas

Mary Bellon - Iowa

Luke Chitwood

Jennifer Farley

Danielle Fisk

Phetote Mshairi

# 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](https://TULSANIGHTWRITERS.ORG)

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## NightScripts Submission Guidelines

- 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. For full details and submission specs - [CLICK HERE](#).



# NightScripts

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

NEIL GAIMAN



July 2024

TULSANIGHTWRITERS.ORG