

# NightScripts

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

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## From the Editor

This week I took my son to finalize his class schedule for this semester at Tulsa Community College, and I couldn't help but remember when he was little and would get a littler nervous having to go to a new class each year (lets be honest, he still gets a littler nervous). But as soon as he made a friend, he'd feel so much more confident. And once he had a posse, there was no stopping him!

As a Tulsa NightWriter, we hope that you feel you have people in your corner making the writing process just a little less scary. Maybe it's that one person you carpool to meetings with, or the group you let critique your story, we are in this with you.

As Heather points out this month, there's someone who needs to hear your words, so don't give up. And Merle highlights one of several opportunities we have this fall to hone your craft and make your words shine even more.

Go sharpen that No. 2 pencil and fix another peanut butter and marshmallow sandwich - we have work to do!

*Aubrey Green*

Editor

# The Craft of Writing Conference

By Merle Davenport

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The Craft of Writing Conference is going to be  
AWESOME this year!



It will be held at the **OSU Center for Poets and Writers** in Tulsa on October 19th and 20th (click the [link here](#) for more details).

We have amazing speakers, wonderful publishers, and great authors. Come and network with other writers and learn how to improve your writing and marketing skills.

Last year, the conference was so well attended we decided to expand it to two days instead of one. **Saturday, October 19th**, we will focus on the craft of writing. **Sunday, October 20th**, we will highlight the business of writing. Both days promise to entertain and educate even the most seasoned author.

**Writing Contest** – This year, we have added a writing contest for anyone who is registered for the conference. Enter one or all ten categories. All entries will receive a written critique. The winners of each category will also receive a cash prize. See website for details.





Short Story – Any Genre

Non-Fiction Essay

Poetry

Horror

Native American/Indigenous

Fiction – Book

Non-Fiction – Book

Children’s – Book

Romantasy

YA

**Pitch Room** – Don’t forget to register for the pitch room. There will be four publishers this year who are eager to see what you have written. Roadrunner Press, Admission Press, Fawkes Press, and Roan & Weatherford will be receiving pitches from authors

Saturday afternoon. Once you sign up, you will receive a list of what kind of book each publisher is accepting. Don’t worry, nearly all genres are covered. A pitch should introduce you and your book to the publisher. You will have five minutes to pitch your work and receive feedback. That’s not a lot of time, so you will need to practice your pitch ahead of time.

**Cost** – If you have looked at or attended other writing conferences, you will be amazed at how little it costs to attend such a great conference. We wanted to make it possible for writers to attend without straining their budgets. For members and students, the cost is \$55 a day or \$100 for both days. For non-members, it is \$75 a day or \$140 for both days. Since it is only \$25 to become a member, many find this to be the best value.



The cost of the conference also includes lunch!

**Sponsorship** – We are still looking for a few sponsors. If you serve the writing community in any way, this is a great chance to get your name in front of potential clients. See the website for details.

Don’t miss this opportunity to attend a fantastic conference. We can’t wait to see you there!

# 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

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](#)**



# For What It's Worth...

By Heather Westover

When I sat down to write my very first intentional piece to be published, I was full of creative, excitement, anxiety, and fear.

I knew why I wanted to write, but why would anyone want to read something I wrote? That was the question that haunted my keystrokes.

As authors, whether we write fiction, fantasy, poetry, romance, or nonfiction, we all have a story we want to share. We want our creations to be weighed and found worthy ... not wanting.



The program I wrote my first book through called it imposter syndrome. Those doubts that haunt authors about the validity of our work. And every author battles it.

I reached out to my professor. "I know my story is profound to me. But so many others have written on finding themselves and overcoming rejection. I'm afraid mine will be a snoozefest in a long line of stories just like it."

He replied, "It might have been told before, Heather, but it's never been told by you. And there are just people out there hardwired to only learn from you and the way you tell a story. So if you quit, you're leaving them without the tools to overcome. Think about that."

Well gosh, when you put it that way ...! It gave me all the confidence in the world to put myself out there and publish.

Today I'm encouraging you to put yourself out there. Maybe you have files and files of written pieces you've never shared before. I'm challenging you to do it.

You could start by entering the contest that's open right now with our Craft of Writing Conference in October. We are taking submissions until August 31st. The details are on our website. Go take a look.

Put yourself out there. Someone hardwired to learn from you is waiting for you to take that step!

Happy Writing!



# Upcoming Events

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August 20th

## Monthly Meeting: Gary Jonas

Author of over 30 books and countless short stories. Gary will talk about building a career in the current era, touching on indie, traditional, and hybrid with pros and cons for each. He'll end the night with a Q&A session.

August 30th -  
September 2nd

## WriterCon Writing Conference

Join us in Oklahoma City for three days of 60+ speakers providing more than 80 sessions designed to cover all genres and all aspects of the writing experience.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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.



October 16th

## Monthly Meeting: Pitch Polishing

If you're attending our conference and planning to pitch an agent or publisher – then be sure to attend this evening to make sure you are hitting the high points and feeling prepared

October 19th-  
20th

## Craft of Writing Conference

Our theme is The Power of Storytelling, highlighting Native American storytelling and Native American writers. Come learn more about the craft of writing and the business of writing.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# Member Services, Brags, and Opportunities

## Member Only Critique Groups!

### Hardesty Regional Library

Saturday, August 17th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 7th, 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 21st, 1:00 p.m.

Group meets every first and third  
Saturday from 1:00 p.m -2:30 p.m.

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

### Sapulpa Public Library

Saturday, August 24th, 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday, September 14th, 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday, September 28th, 11:30 a.m.

Group meets every second and fourth  
Saturday from 11:30 a.m -1:30 p.m.

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

## Member Brag!

Congrats to Tulsa  
NightWriter Stephen Scott  
on being a finalist in the  
American Fiction Awards  
Horror category for his  
debut book, The Demon  
Inside Me.  
Well done!



Offering professional line  
editing, beta reading, and  
copyediting services.  
Self-publishing, contests,  
poetry, or something in between  
- let me be your secret weapon  
for literary success!  
Click the link below and  
let's talk about your goals.  
[Blue Clover Editing](#)



# Tulsa Night Writers: we love synonym buns!

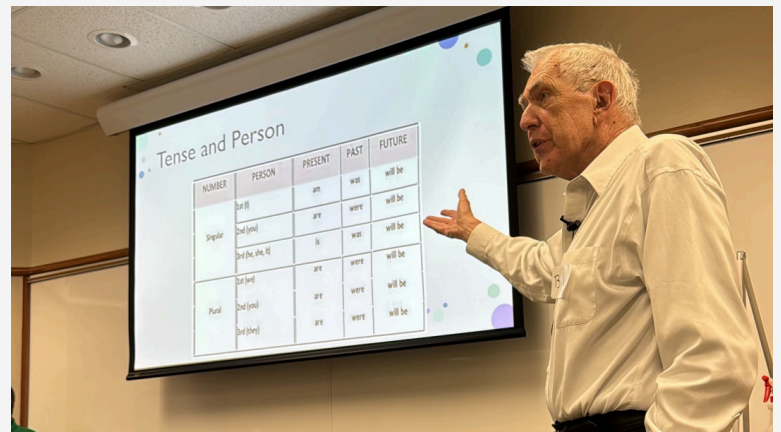
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## July's New Members



TNW Vice President Heather Westover with poets Phetote Mshairi and Tony B at our July Poetry Workshop.

Juan Manuel Perez - Texas  
Anthony Criswell  
Chad A. Gurley - Arkansas  
Angela Browning  
Lora Lee Richmond  
Allen Sharkey  
Victoria Williams  
Melissa Kessler



TNW Member Bill Wetterman presenting during our July monthly meeting.

# Contest Due Dates & Deadlines

## TNW Flash Fiction 8/31

Open only to Tulsa NightWriters Members, the Flashfiction Contest submission deadline is August 31st and submission fee is \$5.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## LaViness Short Story Writing Contest 8/31

Open to all, this contest hosted by TNW Member Renee LaViness is focused on short stories and has the theme, Hot Plate. \$10 entry fee and cash prizes.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Conference Contest 9/10

Open to any conference attendee, the contest submission deadline is August 31st and the cost is \$10 per submission.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Woody Barlow Poetry Contest 9/15

This contest by Emerge Magazine, a conference sponsor, opened on August 1st and is accepting submissions through September 15th and the cost is \$15 per 3 poems submitted.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# 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



August 2024

TULSANIGHTWRITERS.ORG