

# NightScripts

OCTOBER 2024

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Board Member Elections  
Coming Up

The Craft of Writing  
Conference

NightWriter of the Year  
Nominations

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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

It's finally here!

After months of planning and preparing and organizing, the Craft of Writing Conference is only a few days away. There's still time to sign up as a volunteer if you want a front-row seat to all the action (and the undying gratitude of the organizers). But even if you just want to come soak up all the knowledge from the incredible array of industry professionals, we want you there. Let this week jumpstart your next project, revision, or publishing adventure.

But wait - there's more!

After the conference we still have nominations for new board members, our An Affair of the Heart book table, nominations for the Tulsa NightWriter of the Year, and the annual Christmas Party!

Make sure you stay connected so you don't miss a thing!

*Aubrey Green*

Editor

# CRAFT OF WRITING CONFERENCE

## THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

October 19th & 20th  
OSU Tulsa

STILL TIME TO REGISTER

### Sponsors



CENTER FOR  
POETS AND WRITERS  
at OSU-Tulsa



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## 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

Visit our [speaker roster](#) and see who you'll  
be learning from!

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

## Some of the Session Titles!

### Saturday

- Unleashing the Power of Narrative to Explore Differences
- Short Story Craft: Nailing Your Scenes
- Plot a Novel in Less Than an Hour
- Criminal Thinking for Writer's
- Seeking 3D Main Characters
- How Tabletop RPG Can Help You Define Your Characters
- The Craft of Screenwriting
- Using Universal Fantasies To Create Universal Appeal

### Sunday

- Publishing Today Panel
- Which Avenue to Publishing is Right for You
- Marketing Your Book
- Preparing Your Manuscript
- Understanding Developmental Editing
- Blue Print for Self-Publishing
- Launch Your Freelance Writing Career

[SEE FULL SESSION  
LIST & DESCRIPTIONS](#)

# CRAFT OF WRITING CONFERENCE

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# Writing with Heart

By Merle Davenport

Have you ever read a novel that is as dry as the technical readout for the Starship Enterprise? Surely the author had no intention of writing something so dull it's painful to read. At least we hope not. But if so, they may have a future in writing instruction manuals for installing automotive parts.

How do we make our book grab the readers around the heart and not let them go?

**1. You have to feel it first** – Face it, if you don't love the main character and hate the villain, neither will your audience. Take some time to get to know your characters. Even if you write by the seat of your pants (a pantser), you need to know your characters. Once you know them well, the characters will tell you what they would do and say.

**2. Stop writing with your head** – I can't tell you how many love poems I've written that sound more like a journal entry. Why? It's because I'm busy describing my feeling instead of allowing my reader to see my feelings. "My heart skipped a beat when she glanced in my direction," is much better than, "I fell in love when she looked my way." Let the reader experience the first signs of love rather than tell everyone what happened.

**3. Free-write critical scenes and edit later** – This technique is a great way to capture raw emotion. Think through the scene and allow yourself time to feel it for yourself. Then free-write the scene. The emotions you feel at the





time will pour out onto the page. Remember, free-writing means poor grammar and bad spelling, so you will need to edit the scene later. But be careful not to edit out all of the emotion that just went into your writing.

**4. Remember your audience** – This piece of advice may sound simple, but writers forget it all the time. My early poems were written for myself. I never



intended to share them. Since no one else was going to read them, I was free to use references to people or events that meant something to me, but not necessarily to others. A poem about my grandfather as he lay on his hospital deathbed would mean little to anyone else. The emotion was there, but I'm the only one who knew what I meant. Avoiding personal

references and inside jokes will make it easier for your reader to connect to your tale.

**5. Why should the reader care?** – Let others read your story and ask them what they felt about the tale. Be prepared to revise ... a lot. Readers want to be moved in some way. They want to cry, grip the book in terror, and root for the hero. If the reader doesn't care, you didn't connect. Give them a reason to care. Allow yourself to be vulnerable and pour your heart out (then edit).

The bottom line is that reaching the reader's heart is the key to writing a memorable book. If you do, they'll recommend your book to all their friends. Good luck!



## LAST CHANCE!

We are still accepting conference volunteers to help the event run smoothly! If you've wanted to help, fill out the form below and let us know.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## NightWriter of the Year!

Every year an outstanding club member is selected to be the Tulsa NightWriter of the Year. This award is presented to the member the rest of the club determines contributed the most during the year.

Get your nominations in!  
Awarded at the Christmas party.

## It's Election Time!

If you'd like the opportunity to serve as a board member—or know someone who should—nominate them today.

The Tulsa NightWriters only grow and thrive when the members are willing to lead.

# For What It's Worth



By Heather Westover

One of the most daunting tasks can be growing your reach as an author, especially if you are independently published. There are several ways to accomplish this, and they can be really fun if you throw yourself into the right opportunities with the right frame of mind.

- **Get yourself out there!** As an organization we have offered many opportunities for you to get out and network, meet new people, and expand your reach.
  - Live Lit Nights @ Heirloom Rustic Ales.
  - Books & Brews @ Marshall Brewing.
  - Book signings and events at Magic City, Gardners, and local county fairs.
  - Workshops, like the poetry event Phetote Mshairi graciously taught this summer.

These are just a few of the events that we have hosted or been part of as Tulsa NightWriters this 2024 calendar year.

- **Exchange contact info!** And then follow new acquaintances on social media. There are many ways to get this done.
  - QR Codes - Download a QR code that links to your websites, your Amazon link for your books, your social media sites, or any other landing page that gets them connected to you.
  - Dot.Cards - Dot Cards has several options for use, like a sticker on your phone case, a credit card in your purse, a bracelet on your arm, and more; people scan these items and get an instant download of all your personal information.
  - Linktree - your linktree profile is just like a contact card on your phone; it is scanned by another person's phone, and they instantly receive a download of all the profile information you have provided.
- **Build your email list!** Utilize all the info your new contacts have shared to create a list to send newsletters, new publishings, appearances, and book signings. There are several companies that have free and paid services to make an email list easy to use and maintain. These companies track how many people open your emails, how many times each individual has opened the email, if the email is forwarded (or shared), and many other options.
  - Mail Chimp (used by Tulsa NightWriters).
  - Brevo.
  - Constant Contact.

Remember, while your books are your magnum opus, they are not the product. **You** are the product, and your books are merely a pamphlet promoting you. After all, you have existed without these books, but the books would not exist without you!

Happy Networking and Contact Building!



# September's New Members

Jeffry Baggett

JoKay Dowell

Susan Cook | MO

Tawnia Motley

Jennifer Hicks

Juliet Colyer

Josh Jamieson

Kyle Ramsey

Scott Aycok

Margee Aycok

Rebecca Anders

Sulli Mariah Lee

James Tindle

Rachel Edwards

Christina Williamson | AR

# Tulsa Night Writers: where every word and voice matters



TNW members Michelle Clancy and former vice president Kathryn Helstrom volunteer at the 2023 Craft of Writing Conference.



TNW member Phetote Mshairi prepares for the 2023 Craft of Writing Conference

# Upcoming Events

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](#)

November 19th

## Monthly Meeting: Dr. Ed Collins

Dr. Ed Collins is an expert in AI and literacy –come hear from him how AI can be used responsibly in the realm of writing. We'll also be voting on next year's board.

## November 22nd-24th Affair of the Heart

Partner with fellow NightWriters as we sell members' books at one of the biggest vendor markets of the year! Work a couple of hours and reap the benefits of holiday sales. Contact Heather Westover for details:

[vicepresident@tulsanightwriters.org](mailto:vicepresident@tulsanightwriters.org)



## December

### Annual Christmas Party

Make plans now to celebrate the holidays with your writing family! It will be here before you know it.

# 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

“Goodbye Tulsa...Like rain clouds blowin’ through, it’s a little dream of mine you’ll be dreaming of me, too.”

Garrett Hedlund



October 2024

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