

Write Now! 2024 Keynotes



Kurtz

Jones

“When Everything Feels Terrible, Create”

In this inspirational keynote, **Nicole Givens Kurtz** will discuss the importance of creativity in today's climate of sensationalism, inequality and uncertainty. She reveals how this is exactly the right time to share stories that people can turn to and find empathy, understanding and comfort.

“Plot Twist: How Not to Land Your Dream Job”

Especially when it's the only position like it in the world, landing your dream job seems an unlikely outcome. In this sometimes funny, sometimes poignant keynote, **Amy Jones**, editor-in-chief of *Writer's Digest* magazine, shares the surprising plot twists that landed her in the role she coveted and what she learned along the way.

For information on all our presenters, please visit our conference website: TAFNC.com/WriteNow

Join Us!

Triangle Association of Freelancers (TAF) is a nonprofit organization serving independent nonfiction and fiction writers throughout North Carolina.

Founded in 2003, TAF is committed to educating, mentoring and promoting aspiring and established writers by connecting them with fellow writers and the valuable resources and services that are available.



TAF advocates for fair compensation of writers and content creators, as well as the ongoing professional development of those in the writing profession.

To those ends, TAF hosts monthly meetings featuring guest speakers presenting on a diverse array of topics and offers an annual writers conference each spring.

TAF's annual membership dues are \$25. Membership includes access to our closed messaging forum, your professional information shared in our Find A Freelancer database and much more.

To become a TAF member, contact Don Vaughan at dvaughan@mindspring.com. Visit our website at TAFNC.com.



Amy Jones
Editor-in-Chief
Writer's Digest

Write Now! 2024

Annual Freelance Writers Conference



Nicole Givens Kurtz
Award-winning author

Complete and Mail This Form or Scan QR Code to Register Online at TAFNC.com

Choose one session per hour:

- Mining Your Life for Articles 10:00
- Memoir Writing 10:00
- Catch an Editor's Attention 11:00
- Secondary Characters 11:00
- The Art of the Interview 1:00
- The Art of Short-Story Writing 1:00
- A Guide to Self-Publishing 2:00
- A Writer's Best Friend 2:00

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Admission: \$109 February 1 thru March 31. \$119 April 1 thru 25. \$119 at the door.

Box lunch included in fee. Pay by Cash Check Credit card at TAFNC.com/WriteNow

Make your check payable to TAF. Mail to TAF · 3819 Donna Rd. · Raleigh, NC 27604

Non-restricted lunch? Vegetarian lunch? Vegan lunch? Gluten-free lunch?

Masks are at the discretion of the attendee.

Freelance Writers Conference Triangle Association of Freelancers

8:00–9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00–9:50 a.m. Opening Keynote:
“When Everything Feels Terrible,
Create”

10:00–10:50 a.m.

■ Treasures in Your Own Backyard:
Mining Your Life for Articles

■ Share Your Story: Memoir Writing

11:00–11:50 a.m.

■ 10 Ways to Catch and Keep an
Editor’s Attention

■ Enhance Your Story With Compelling
Secondary Characters

12:00 Lunch / Book Sales

1:00–1:50 p.m.

■ The Art of the Interview: How to
Talk to Anyone About Anything

■ The Art of Short-Story Writing

2:00–2:50 p.m.

■ Self-Publishing: Everything You
Need to Know Before Jumping In

■ A Writer’s Best Friend: Style
Manuals and How to Use Them

3:00–3:50 p.m. Closing Keynote:
“Plot Twist: How Not to Land
Your Dream Job”

Conference Sessions and Presenters

The Treasures in Your Own Backyard: Mining Your Life for Articles—Successful freelance writers understand that marketable ideas are everywhere if you know what to look for. One area often overlooked is a writer’s own life. In this illuminating session, veteran freelancer **Don Vaughan** will explore how writers can turn life experience into a treasure trove of article ideas. As a bonus, Don will offer tips for developing stories pegged to holidays and anniversaries.

Share Your Story: Memoir Writing—Each of us has a unique story to tell, but turning a story into a memoir can be tricky. **Kyle Marie McMahon** covers how to mine your memories to discover the stories that shaped your life and shares tips that will help you craft a compelling personal narrative.

10 Ways to Catch and Keep an Editor’s Attention—Most publications receive hundreds of pitches a week from writers. So how can legitimate writers stand out in the clutter of a submission box? **Amy Jones** will share her top 10 tips for catching and keeping the attention of editors, along with examples from the *Writer’s Digest* inbox of real pitches that caught her attention and scam pitches that look real.

Enhance Your Story With Compelling Secondary Characters—Well-developed secondary characters illuminate the reader’s understanding of a story’s protagonists in a far more compelling way than narrative alone. Award-winning romance author **Reese Ryan** will discuss how crafting layered and vivid supporting characters can enrich the narrative and move the plot forward without distracting the reader.

The Art of the Interview: How to Talk to Anyone About Anything—Talking to subject-matter experts and other sources is a necessary part of nonfiction writing. Award-winning journalist **Sean Flynn** will explore the key components of a successful interview and offer advice on both the importance of research and on crafting evocative questions that get to the heart of the topic. He will also discuss the use of recorders and other necessary tech tools.

The Art of Short-Story Writing—Due to the compositional limitations of the form, short stories present fiction writers with both a reason and an opportunity to sharpen their creative writing skills. In this instructive session, **Nicole Givens Kurtz** offers thoughtful tips and suggestions for taking your short-story ideas from brainstorming to publication.

A Guide to Self-Publishing: Everything You Need to Know Before Jumping In—With traditional publishing contracts becoming increasingly difficult to land, more writers are taking charge of their own literary careers via self-publishing. But the process can be complex and time-consuming. Where do you start? Gain confidence as publisher **Karin Wiberg** focuses on the logistics of self-publishing your work, including key steps in the production process, marketing and more.

A Writer’s Best Friend: Style Manuals and How to Use Them—You have a dictionary, a thesaurus and the whole internet to support your writing. But do you have and use a style manual? Using one or more can make you a stronger writer regardless of genre or form. In this essential session, **Laura Poole** will explore what style manuals are, the many different manuals available to writers and how to use them effectively.

A Seriously Fun Experience.

“Writers of every stripe will relish the camaraderie and valuable information. You’ll find encouragement and support to help you launch your identity as a writer.”
—Margaret Toman, Garner, NC

“It was the first time I’d been able to talk with real writers. The conference gave me a real sense of pride in my craft and a boost to my self-confidence.”
—Julia Reges, Stuart, VA

“The environment is relaxed and nurturing, the keynotes are inspiring and the sessions offer expert advice.”
—Lisa Tomey-Zonneveld, Raleigh, NC

“The conference appeals to writers at every level. Meeting other writers, authors and agents is priceless. You’ll make a lifetime of personal and professional connections.”—Alison Hill, Seneca, SC

“At my first conference, I learned so much I became a TAF member and later presented at one of the conferences!”
—Deanna Martinez-Bey, Wake Forest, NC

“Presenters and participants engage in friendly, spontaneous conversation. Even the humblest beginner feels comfortable.” —Erika Hoffman, Chapel Hill, NC

“I not only enjoyed breakout sessions related to my current projects, I also learned about other genres. I broadened my writing horizons and walked away truly inspired!”
—Sarah Ryan, Apex, NC

“At my first conference, I told a literary agent from New York about a book I’d been working on. She asked that I send it to her. Within 18 months, Routledge Press had published “Drawing from Practice: Architects and the Meaning of Practice.”—J. Michael Welton, Wake Forest, NC

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