

Everything is theoretically  
impossible, until it is done.  
Robert A Heinlein

# LA PLUME

## Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

October 2022

### Board Members:

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster Rhonda Lejeune, Historian Pamela Harrington, Newsletter John Comeaux, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

Congratulations to Rhonda Lejeune and Pamela Harrington, our two newest board members.



### Next Meeting: October

**October 25, 2022.** The South Regional Branch of the Lafayette Library, Auditorium. Address is 6101 Johnston St, Lafayette. Start time is **6:00 p.m.** We usually go to 7:15, but we must end by 7:30.

**October** is members reading month. WGA members may bring written material to share with the group, and five minutes will be allotted for each reader. Singers and songwriters within the organization are invited to share their work as a cappella or acoustic numbers; however, there is a limit of one song per performer and the song must also be no longer than five minutes.

We will have a Door Prize from the books that were donated by authors.

### October Prompt:

“Hidden Treasures”

Category: Fiction

This is a fun competition for members. The prompt **MUST APPEAR** somewhere within the work, and entries must be no longer than 500 words. When the prompt category is poetry, both traditional and free verse poems are acceptable. All entries must be typed and double-spaced. The story or poem must have the word count, title, author's name, and date of the competition written at the top of the first page, and a paper copy of the winner and runner-up is to be handed in to the president after the judging. Contest participants are not allowed to enter the contest with works that are typed on iPhones or any other electronic devices.

### November Guest Speaker: Matthew Miller

Matthew Miller fell in love with horror literature when he read the complete works of Edgar Allen Poe at eight years old. He began writing horror shortly thereafter. He currently has six

completed horror novels and is working on a seventh. He hold a Master’s degree in Languages, and has taught English and foreign languages in both the US and in mainland China. He has taught at UL, SLCC, LSUE, and the Haiyuan American University in Kunming, China. He is married with two cats who act as his children.

## WEB Page and Facebook

Our web page is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writersguildacadiana.org/>

The Writers’ Guild is always willing to share the success stories of its members. Be sure to let us know about your writing. We will put your blurb on our website, on our Facebook page, and on this newsletter. Let’s highlight and showcase our writers! Send us a synopsis or your own paragraph about the work you are working on or have published, and how to get it. Send to John at [jpcoman9@gmail.com](mailto:jpcoman9@gmail.com) .

### ◆ Member Announcements

#### ***Congratulations to:***

Ed Gauthier and JP Coman (John Comeaux) for being at the Louisiana Book Festival, October 2022.

***New Feature!*** La Plume will allow our authors to submit a teaser or extended passage from their upcoming or existing work, one page or less. Send your submission to [JPComan9@gmail.com](mailto:JPComan9@gmail.com)

Excerpt from: **Small Town Love — Emily**, by *Julia E. Davis*

Molly started pacing around the table. “Let me think about this. If you refuse to see him socially, he could get the mill closed; you would lose the store and the possibility of a wonderful relationship. If you continue to see him, the mill could stay open, the town would not be doomed, and you could fall in love. Wow, those are hard choices.”

“You’re not listening to me! I can’t see him again. Why would I want a relationship with someone who lied about his identity? What other things has he not told us?”

“Emily, you can forgive him for that. Your problem is you are scared. You have feelings for him, and the more time you spend with him, the stronger they get. Admit it.”

She hung her head in acceptance. “Yes, I do. But it is wrong.”

“Why is it wrong? He is a nice, handsome man and likes kids. He is not a bum by any means.”

“I can’t handle the loss of another person. After his business here is finished, I’ll have to deal with being alone again. He opened my eyes and my heart, but only to break it in the end.”

### ◆ Writing Tips

Here is a tip from C. Robert Cargill.

Stuck in a scene and don't know where to go next? Do what the pros do:

Put what happens in brackets.

[Our hero escapes death by doing something clever]

Then write what happens next.

Keeping your writing momentum is key. Often you'll find the answer later in the work.

Here is a link to "[Book Series in Order](#)" which describes Cargill and his work.

More writing tips:

## **Brevity**

One false word, one extra word, and somebody's thinking about how they have to buy paper towels at the store. Brevity is very important. If you're going to be longwinded, it should be for a purpose. Not just because you like your words.

Patricia Marx

## ◆ **Helpful Websites**

(Editor's note: I just found this one: [Writers Helping Writers](#). It is loaded with free resources and you don't have to give them your email address. Here is a partial list of PDF files you can download anytime)

- Goal, Motivation, Conflict + Stakes Tracker (PDF)
- Troubleshooting Problems with a Story's Climax (PDF)
- Character Conflict Responses (PDF)
- Internal Conflict Brainstorming Sheet (PDF)
- Career Assessment Tool (PDF)
- Occupation Speed Dating Tool (PDF)
- Occupation Thesaurus Job Entry Template (PDF)
- Character Arc Progression Tool (PDF)
- Backstory Wound Profile (PDF)
- Setting Planner (PDF)
- Emotional Value Tool (PDF)
- Setting Checklist (PDF)
- Setting Exercises (PDF)
- Character Pyramid Tool (PDF)
- Character Target Tool (PDF)
- Character Profile Questionnaire (PDF)
- Reverse Backstory Tool (PDF)
- Weak Verb Converter Tool (PDF)
- Scene Revision/Critique Tool Level 1 & Level 2 (PDF)
- Emotional Movie Scenes (PDF)
- Crutch Words (PDF)

## ◆ Marketing

The only marketing tip I can give you this month is: Be in front of your potential buyer's eyes **every day**. Put out new blurbs every day. One of the most successful writers I know is always talking about "Hey, it's Monday, and here's what our characters are doing!" and then on to Tuesday, and Wednesday, etc. Something clever, something different, something new, but always recycling the info on the book.

Alysson Foti Bourque (former member of WGA) says "begin your holiday marketing asap (as soon as August). The most popular services we offer this season are book tours, holiday gift guides, Amazon Advertising, and podcasts."

She offers a free marketing checklist in the link below:

<https://www.forewordpublicity.com/resources>

## ◆ Publishing

### 5. What Should You Do When the Book is Ready to Publish?

First, decide if you want to self-publish your book. Maybe the book you wrote is only for you. A feather in your cap that you did what you always set out to do! Maybe you want to give your book to family and friends, another wonderful way to share your accomplishment.

With both of these options, B&N Press offers the ability to create Personal Print Books that aren't available for sale. These editions, available in Paperback and Hardcover, are available to order straight to any door. (*editor's note: I used this option for a draft of my novel, and it makes a huge difference to hand someone a book to review, rather than a manuscript.*)

But maybe you want to share your book with the world.

By choosing to self-publish, you will not just make more money (*per book sold*), but also have the advantage of publishing with the nation's largest book retailers. Self-publishing platforms such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble make it easy to upload your book, order personal print copies, and sell to our millions (*or dozens*) of readers.

But, whether you decide to self-publish in digital or print, to sell or keep it personal, there are insightful tips, guided tutorials, and trusted 3rd party partnerships.

So, stay calm and write on!

(*Final installment*)

## ◆ Ask Google

I asked Google: "Do writers need to take classes?"

**There are no required courses to become a writer**, much less a successful one. Some of the most popular and best-selling authors of all time never took an official writing course or class. Everyone's journey is a bit different. There are many helpful courses to accelerate your writing career.

**Christopher Kokoski**

### ◆ **Who is: Jodi Picoult?**

*(I visited this successful best-selling author's web page, and found some really interesting facts and opinions from her. Her experiences as a writer proved enlightening. I recommend a visit to her page and see how her chatty style and frank discussions help you. Editor.)*

Jodi Picoult, writer

<https://www.jodipicoult.com/faqs.html>

Here's an excerpt:

I think I'm a writer... how do I know for sure?

Oh, you'd know it. Real writers can't sleep because there are stories battling around inside their heads. Real writers create characters they weep over, because they are so real. Real writers can't NOT write. I think you can make a person a better writer technically by having him/her attend workshops and creative writing programs... but I think that at the basal level, writers are born, not made.

### ◆ **Word of the month**

**Halcyon.** *Adjective*

Characterized by happiness, great success, and prosperity : GOLDEN —often used to describe an idyllic time in the past that is remembered as better than today.

### ◆ **Events**

**Sales Opportunity!** WGA members have the opportunity to join us at Moncus Park Artisan Market on the last Saturday of the month. We display our books and meet with people to discuss writing and publishing. Usually hundreds of people go by the booth, and our huge WGA banner attracts many to see and meet the authors.

Paid up members who wish to sell their books or other published material must now contact Ed Gauthier to reserve their place at the vending tent. Cell: 337-945-5718  
Email: [eggchess@gmail.com](mailto:eggchess@gmail.com)

Authors attending Artisan market should arrive by 7:15 a.m. and have table displays and books for sale set up by 7:45 a.m. Customers start to show up by 8:00. Bring your own table (4 ft. or less) and chair.

If you would like to sell your books at the market WGA vending table, here are the qualifications to do so:

- 1 You must be a *paid member* of WGA.
- 2 You'll need to confer with the board and arrange a date to sell *a month in advance*. Call or text Ed Gauthier ( 337-945-5718) or email him at [eggchess@gmail.com](mailto:eggchess@gmail.com) to make arrangements.
- 3 As of now, slots are available for November and following months, each being the last Saturday of the month. Contact Ed Gauthier if interested.

***Would you like to join or renew?***

Thank you for your interest in the Guild. Submit the form below to register to become a new or renew a membership with Writers' Guild of Acadiana. Annual membership fee is \$25.00. You will receive this monthly newsletter "La Plume", which will keep you informed of events and news of the Guild. WGA annual dues are due January 1st of each year, late after March 1st. When submitting the form, please mail your check or money order to:

**Writers' Guild of Acadiana**  
**P O Box 51532**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505**

Email questions to: [info@writersguildacadiana.org](mailto:info@writersguildacadiana.org)  
 Cash payments can be made at the monthly meeting – do not mail.

This form is also online: [writersguildacadiana.org](http://writersguildacadiana.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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