

*"If you study the writings of the mystics, you will always find things in them that appear to be paradoxes, as in Zen, particularly.*

**Alan Watts**

# LA PLUME

## Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

August 2022

### Board Members:

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



### Next Meeting: August

**August 30, 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.

**August** 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.

### August Prompt:

"Sunrise"

Category: Poetry

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.

September Guest Speaker: **TBA**

## 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

Our own Helen Bellamy has published her first novel, *Keep Me Safe*, under the pen name Bellamy Gayle. Available from Amazon or your favorite booksellers. "The DEA and US Marshals have joined forces to keep Ceclie safe—but danger catches her by surprise. Breathless and trapped—is anyone out there who will save our heroine?"

**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)

Here is one:

JP Coman's upcoming book *Winnie and the Trouble with Trolls*, Due out March 2023.

Even in early April, snow in Alaska can make the world seem like a winter wonderland. Three research scientists at the small science station near Yakutat Bay were helping the sailors unload the cargo of shipping crates and packages. No one noticed three small trolls moving through a light dusting of snow to the shelter of the station.

"We aren't dressed for winter, Zeke!" Kira yelled over the snow and wind.

"This can't be Dallas. Where is Alaska, anyway?" said Tiara.

"Alaska is where they keep all the snow before it heads south for the winter." Zeke might have been right, for all he knew. "But it's sure not Dallas. We'd better go to that shed. It must be warmer because there's not much snow on the roof."

The three trolls stepped into the shed that had a small heater and was much nicer than being outside exposed to the cold. At least, it seemed much nicer until they saw it was the dog shed. Six huskies woke up at the sound and scent of the trolls walking in to their shed. They all stood up and the lead dog, who was called 'King', came up and sniffed at the trio.

Zeke smiled. "Hi, there, doggies. Do you mind if we warm up a bit, hmm? I'm Zeke, this is Kira, and this is Tiara. But sometimes we call her 'Ti-ti'."

Tiara pouted, "Dad!"

Kira said, "Zeke, what's the big idea of telling family names to these dogs?"

Zeke laughed. "Okay, okay, so much for introductions. Hey, boy, where can we find something to eat around here, anyway?"

King growled.

Zeke put his hands out wide. "Oh, hey wait a second. We're not going to take any of your dinner. We like all kinds of food. Do you have veggie food, you know, carrots and lettuce and peas?"

Kira added, "And nuts and grapes and berries?"

Tiara chimed in, “And honey!”

The dogs looked at each other and started laughing. To anyone else, it might have sounded like barking and howling, but they were rolling on the floor laughing out loud.

Tiara was embarrassed. “I was just saying!”

Kira patted her. “We’ll go look for some food in a little while, Ti...” Kira stopped herself from saying ‘Ti-ti’ just in time. But the dogs caught it, and started another round of howling.

Zeke just shrugged. “I guess here in Alaska we’re not going to find any carrots and lettuce and...”

It was a long time before the dogs stopped rolling on the floor and howling with laughter.

## ◆ Writing Tips

### 3. What Should You Do When the Book is Edited?

After it’s been poked and prodded during the editing process the next part will also take patience and inner strength. Because the next part involves formatting your book. And, if you want to publish your book in different mediums, such as digital and print, this will involve different formats for each.

You can format your book on your own. It’s not easy, but B&N Press (and other self-publishing sites) offer guides to do this depending on your book type.

For eBooks this will include choosing between formatting your book in doc/docx, txt, html, and epub.

For print this will first include choosing a print color, cover format, cover finish, and paper color.

If you don’t want to format your book on your own and have a budget, there are professional services you can use such as 99designs, which offer professionals to format your book for you.

*(To be continued each month)*

## ◆ Humor

Text: “The sun rose in the eastern sky.”

Editor’s comment: “Does the sun ever, in your experience, rise in some medium other than the sky? Does it ever rise in the west?”

## ◆ Technical

Purdue University offers this so-called “Quick Guide” to using Commas. The extended article and supplementary material is found here:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/punctuation/commas/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/commas/index.html)

### QUICK GUIDE TO COMMAS

1. Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined by any of these seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*.
2. Use commas after introductory a) clauses, b) phrases, or c) words that come before the main clause.
3. Use a pair of commas in the middle of a sentence to set off clauses, phrases, and words that are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. Use one comma before to indicate the beginning of the pause and one at the end to indicate the end of the pause.

4. Do not use commas to set off essential elements of the sentence, such as clauses beginning with *that* (relative clauses). *That* clauses after nouns are always essential. *That* clauses following a verb expressing mental action are always essential.
5. Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses written in a series.
6. Use commas to separate two or more coordinate adjectives that describe the same noun. Be sure never to add an extra comma between the final adjective and the noun itself or to use commas with non-coordinate adjectives.
7. Use a comma near the end of a sentence to separate contrasted coordinate elements or to indicate a distinct pause or shift.
8. Use commas to set off phrases at the end of the sentence that refer back to the beginning or middle of the sentence. Such phrases are free modifiers that can be placed anywhere in the sentence without causing confusion.
9. Use commas to set off all geographical names, items in dates (except the month and day), addresses (except the street number and name), and titles in names.
10. Use a comma to shift between the main discourse and a quotation.
11. Use commas wherever necessary to prevent possible confusion or misreading.

## ◆ Publishing

### Traditional Publishing. Why is it so Hard?

This article from “The Book Shelf” has a lot of info on publishing, so I will pick up a few points, and you can read the entire thing here:

<https://www.thebookshelf.ltd/why-authors-want-a-publisher-and-why-its-so-hard-to-get-one/>

- Because publishing is a commercial business
- If they don't believe there is a big enough market actively looking for it, then they will reject it.
- If it would take too much work (read that as “money paying staff”) to get it up to scratch, then they will reject it.
- If it's too similar to all of the other books on the market and lacks differentiation, they will reject it.
- If it's too different to everything on the market and there's limited evidence on whether this kind of book will be successful, they will reject.
- And so on.

*Editor's note: [No where does it seem that a really 'good' book will be accepted, because of all the reasons above. I think we're missing a lot of really good books. ]*

## ◆ Ask Google

I asked Google: “Why do writers use pen names?”

The definition of a pseudonym (or nom de plume in French) is a fake name used by a writer when writing and publishing their work in order **to protect themselves or increase the chance of success.**

## ◆ **Word of the month**

**Ineffable** - adjective

Too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words.

## ◆ **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 Moncus park 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 September and following months, each being the last Saturday of the month. Contact Ed Gauthier if interested.

## ***Would you like to join?***

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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