

We may encounter many defeats but
we must not be defeated.
Maya Angelou

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

November 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.



Please read the **new** paragraph on our dues for WGA at the end of this letter.

Next Meeting: November

November 29 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.

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

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.

No Meeting in December.

January Prompt:

"That was the happiest moment of my young life."

Category: Memoirs

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.

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.

◆ Member Announcements

Congratulations to WGA member John Francois, who is a TOP TEN Finalist in the Southern Screen Writing Competition!

An excerpt from "Home Place," a short story finalist in the Southern Screen Festival 2022.

.....Inside the car, out in the middle of nowhere, Waldo couldn't hear the mosquitoes, but he knew they were out there, millions of them, tiny female vampires searching for blood. That thought brought forth a long-forgotten memory of the time right after a hurricane had blown through when thousands--maybe millions---of mosquitoes had swarmed their milk cow, clogging her nose, slowly suffocating the poor animal. He'd watched her thrash madly about, rolling her eyes, shaking her head, kicking and making god-awful strangling noises. He could still see her sides pumping, trying to suck in air.

With this in mind, there was no way he was going to open the door and get into the back of the car to sleep for the night, so he crawled over the front seat and tried not to think of how foolish his idea had been to revisit where he had lived for a time as a child. After all, his childhood here, what bits of it he was beginning to remember, had not been a very happy one.

The earlier memory of his mother on the porch returned and now he remembered a snake had bitten her on the ankle. His father wasn't home at the time, and he didn't know what to do and he'd watched, terrified, as her leg swelled and turn purple around the bite. Later, someone said it was a cottonmouth that had bitten her. A memory of his father crying and hugging him one night. He remembered his father's breath smelled strongly of whiskey. That had been not long after his mother's death. And that was when they moved away.

What was he thinking when he'd decided to come to find the old home place and rejoice in the memories of it? There were no good memories here. Only ghosts. Bad ghosts.

* * *

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

◆ Writing Inspiration

The [Missouri Review](#) is an excellent website with short stories, poetry, and contests. They are open for submissions also. The neighbors to our north at the University of Missouri have a polished and clean-looking website which you may enjoy browsing.

◆ Writing Workshop Retreat

Grapevine Experience presents: *In Vino Veritas*

1-Week Creative Writing Retreats in Spectacular Vineyard Settings, Tuscany, Italy.

2023 Dates: *May 7 - 13* or *October 1 - 7*

Request a brochure: info@grapevineexperience.com Please consult our [website](#) for more details

◆ Helpful Websites

Bookow is a website that helps you create a barcode for your book cover. KDP will create a bar code for you, but the other sites may not (IngramSpark, Lulu, Barnes & Noble.) And many distributors will not want your book unless the price is included. This website will do that for you as an option. I recommend them. It's free, donation-style. <https://bookow.com/index.php>

Example bar code with price.



◆ Publishing

Here is an excerpt of a helpful and informative article by Orna Ross from the Alliance of Independent Authors. I am putting the link to the article here, so you can read the entire article. I like the way she organizes and conveys the information. Enjoy.
[What is Publishing? The Seven Processes of Book Publishing.](#)

The Seven Processes of Publishing: Three Elements

The three elements of commercial book publishing are: **book making**, **books supply** and **book sales**. These three elements encompass seven key processes that make up the craft of publishing.

- **Bookmaking** relies on the processes of **editorial**, **design** and **production**.
- **Book supply** relies on the processes of **distribution** and **marketing**.
- **Bookselling** relies on the processes of **promotion** and **rights management**.

Digital tech and tools have revolutionized publishing in the last decade and there are now more ways to make, supply and sell books than ever before, but these fundamental elements and processes of publishing never change.

◆ Marketing

50 WAYS TO GENERATE BOOK REVIEWS Posted by Stephanie Chandler

The website Nonfiction Authors Association published an article in 2018 on this topic, and I'm putting a link to it here: [50 Ways to Generate Book Reviews](#). Some of these I have not heard of such as Amazon reviewers, Industry Bloggers, and Book Review Bloggers. Other ideas are as simple as including a note inside each book you sell that asks the reader to kindly submit a review. Look over the article (it's free) and see if some ideas help you get those much-needed reviews to kick-start your book. P.S. Don't be deterred by the "Nonfiction" name. These are great ideas for any author.

◆ Ask Google

I asked Google: "What do writers do?"

Using their command of the common language of their audience, writers conceptualize, research, write, and edit polished manuscripts, poems, articles, and other types of written content. In their role, they may work across genres, from nonfiction to poetry, fiction to satire. In a business environment, writers may work as copywriters, technical writers, blog and feature writers, and as editors.

◆ Word of the month

Inimical. *Adjective*

Unfriendly; hostile. (*Note, also listed as Inimicable.*)

◆ 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.

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

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.

Here are the qualifications to participate:

- 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 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. **NEW: Your dues are good for one year of remittance. Thus, if you join in mid-year, you are a paid-member through the following mid-year.** You will receive this monthly newsletter "La Plume", which will keep you informed of events and news of the Guild. 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
Cash payments can be made at the monthly meeting – do not mail.

This form is also online: writersguildacadiana.org

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Date _____

How did you find out about us? _____
