

LA PLUME

Write right until there's nothing left.

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

December 2021 / January 2022

Board Members:

President Sudie Landry, 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: January

January 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. The Library currently is limiting us to 25 attendees.

No Meeting in December. Happy Holidays!

We have a guest speaker for January, Mr. Michael Wynne. Mr. Wynne is current president of Author Club, an organization that focuses on providing practical advice to writers in the Alexandria area. He is in much demand as a speaker.

Michael Wynne has been very active in historical research and preservation since the late 60's. Over the decades, he has served on seven Gubernatorial Commissions related to history, including serving as both the Vice Chairman of the Louisiana Statehood Bicentennial Commission and for the Louisiana Commemorative Quarter Commission. On April 30, 2012, Michael was selected by the governor to speak before a joint session of the entire Louisiana State Legislature about the 200th anniversary of our statehood.

He has also served on numerous museum and historical preservation boards locally and around the South and frequently appears on national and local television related to history. He is the author of 35 books of history including Louisiana history and is the President of the CENLA's (Central La.) Author's Club. Michael is also the author of two widely-read columns in *CENLA FOCUS* magazine, one on history and preservation and the other profiling Louisiana authors. He has received many honors over the decades, both for his former occupation in law enforcement of 38 years, as well as for his historic preservation activities, including a special award from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. He also frequently donates his skills appraising antiques for fund raising activities for various charitable organizations as well as helping authors write, publish and promote their books.

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

Upcoming Prompts: *February*

"Why do I always do that?"

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.

Looking Ahead: February Meeting

February is members reading month. All WGA members are free to 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.

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 .

Christopher Fontenot has 3 books out or almost out, in the genres of historical fiction and science fiction.

The Acadian Prairie—Joel (On Amazon in paperback and eBook versions)

Joel Dupré grows up in the Acadian Prairie in the depression years, dreaming of family that his own father denied him. Earl Jordan, son of a local political leader, dreams of serving in the halls of Congress and begins his journey in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Emmy Poole, daughter of a black sharecropper, must struggle with her own dreams of being a healer, like her grandmother. Each makes their personal journey past adversity and obstacles.

Haven: Building Heaven (On Amazon in paperback and eBook versions)

Raymond Anderson and 102 volunteers were brought from the year 2190 into the past. They had hopes of building a society capable of fielding enough trained military to prevent the final defeat of the last survivors of American culture and technology. But Anderson is assassinated, leaving his project team stranded in 1840, on the Moon, and with no way home.

Heaven's Children will be ready by February:

Their homes are ready, their Purpose is fully defined, now all they need do is to locate the people destined to die, rescue them, and bring them to their community of Heaven. The ultimate

goal is 20 million population by the year 2190, the year that Raymond Anderson took his 102 volunteers back into the past to save the future. What could go wrong?

Edward Gauthier will soon release [Invasion of the Dream Wheel](#), an adult science fiction novel. In the year 2204, PharmaGov is secretly putting serum S.R. 232 into every marketable medicine available which gives the government mind control over its citizens. The story takes place in the future, but also involves time travel and murderous intrigue.

Look for [Invasion of the Dream Wheel](#) in March, 2022 on Amazon.com. Or check out [EdwardGauthier.com](#) for more on this writer.

Request for Donations:

The WGA Board accepts donations of books written by our published authors to offer as door prizes at our monthly meetings. Tickets will be given to all members who arrive before 6:00 PM, and one lucky winner will receive a copy of whichever work has been donated for that month. If you are a published author and would like to contribute an extra copy of one or more of your books, please contact Sudie Landry at praisemusicpro@cox.net.

Member's Kind Offer

Carrie Simon, author of several inspirational and enlightening books, has issued this kind invitation. "My web links, should anyone need, are www.carriesimonauthor.com and www.ardentflamemedia.com My email is carrie@errolcormier.com and is always available to anyone and everyone. It brings me joy to see the success of others."

◆ **Writing Tips**

Excerpt from Writer's Digest online: [5 Tips for Finishing Your Book](#)

By: Sariah Wilson

Here are some tips that I've used to make sure I complete my novel:

1. Butt in chair.

There is nothing more effective than blocking out time to write and then writing. It might be 10 minutes or four hours. Whatever time you can set aside to write, do it. By telling your subconscious that it is time to work, you're putting yourself in the best position to commit to completing your book.

2. Write the end first.

I know this is hard for pantsers like me, but if you're finding it impossible to cross the writing finish line, there is hope. Figure out what the ending is. Know what you're building toward (I think this is much easier when it comes to genre fiction because the ending is already built-in).

3. Nobody's perfect.

Give yourself the freedom to be imperfect. To write a truly horrible first draft. To write stereotypical, flat characters who don't have arcs. For your prose to be weak and uninteresting. Just write and tune out the voice in your head that tells you it's terrible. It's okay if it's awful. You will have time to edit and rewrite it. As the great Nora Roberts says, "You can fix anything but a blank page."

4. Focus on one story at a time.

From being a fanfic reader, I see this happen constantly. Someone will have a great idea for a story, which they start, and write a few chapters. Then they think of another new great idea, and they start a new fanfic. Which they abandon when a third great idea come to them. You have to stop being distracted by shiny things. I get it—it happens to all of us. But create a document or have a journal where you write down all your shiny plots/characters, and then turn your attention back to the novel you're working on!

5. Push through.

Make a commitment to yourself. Maybe even tell some friends or family members who will keep you accountable, and promise yourself that you're going to finish this book before you start another. Just keep going until you hit "the end." It's a marathon, one that will feel like absolute drudgery at times, but you have to prove that you can write a full manuscript and finish your book. If you're making resolutions for the new year, let one be "I will finish my novel." As a fellow writer, I can tell you that there are few things quite so satisfying as completing a book.

◆ Humor

How to Fight Writer's Block

- Hit it with a stick
- Take a 200 year nap
- Switch up writing tools, like use paper, change fonts, write with blood on the mirror
- Kidnap human and talk out loud until you figure plot out
- Have you tried turning your brain off and on again

Tip of the hat to CG Drews on Instagram

◆ Technical

The Lafayette Speculative Fiction Writing Group

Contacts: Derek James djames@gmail.com

Edward Gauthier eggchess@gmail.com

This group does deep critique. We attempt to indicate to fellow writers what is not working within the piece they've written and what might be done to correct it. We are tactful but truthful. We now meet online on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. Now and then, depending on the Covid pandemic, we meet in person at CC's Coffee shop. We use a rather traditional critiquing workshop format. You must submit your 5000 word or less submission by Monday night. All members will read it ahead of time and decide what they think of it and what they'll tell you, the author, about it. On Thursday night, each person will give their critique of the piece. The author of the piece is not to speak while the critiques are being given. They take notes. After the critiques are given, the author can ask questions or give their impression of the critiques. Discussion is then opened to the group. We can usually do two or three critiques during the meeting.

We're looking for new members and hope you're interested.

Edward Gauthier

◆ Publishing

Excerpt from Writer's Digest online article.

What Is an ARC in Publishing and Writing?

Very simply, an ARC is an *advance reader copy*. That is, it's an electronic and/or print copy of a book that is made available before the official publication of the book. Publishers create these to serve a few different purposes:

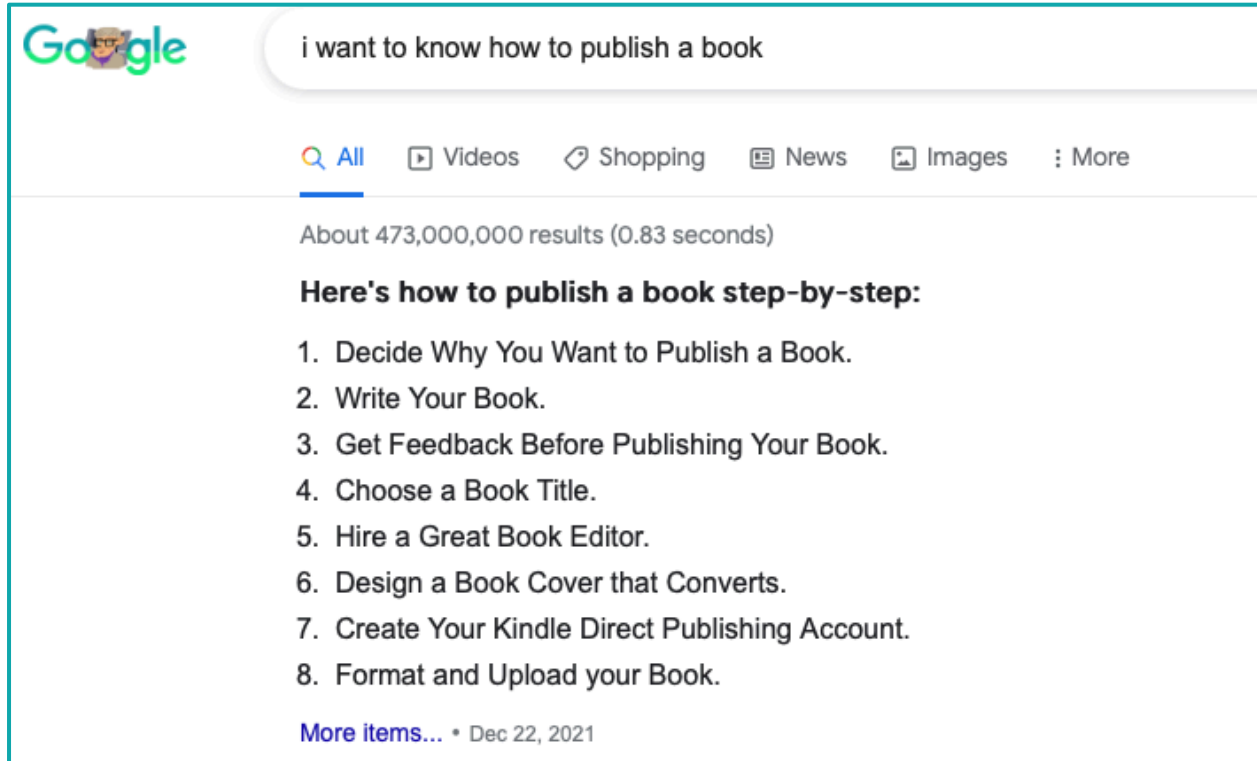
1. Get reader reviews. Publishers will send ARCs to readers on various social platforms, including Goodreads, to get an honest review from readers. Good endorsements can help sell books online.
2. Land critical reviews. Again, publishers will send ARCs to online and print publications that connect with their target audience to try and get a good critical review from book reviewers.
3. Compile blurbs. ARCs are sent to other authors and experts to get blurbs that can be used on the covers and interiors of books.
4. Enter book awards. Some book awards require ARCs, depending upon when a book is published, for books to be considered for some awards.
5. Use for other promotional purposes. Publishers will also make ARCs available to media outlets to try and get other publicity for their books and authors in print, online, podcasts, TV and radio interviews, and more.

As you can see, ARCs can be a very important tool in promoting books and authors.

Ask Google

I asked Google: I want to know how to publish a book

Here is what it told me...



The image shows a screenshot of a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "i want to know how to publish a book". Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for "All", "Videos", "Shopping", "News", "Images", and "More". The search results show "About 473,000,000 results (0.83 seconds)". The first result is a list titled "Here's how to publish a book step-by-step:" with eight numbered steps: 1. Decide Why You Want to Publish a Book, 2. Write Your Book, 3. Get Feedback Before Publishing Your Book, 4. Choose a Book Title, 5. Hire a Great Book Editor, 6. Design a Book Cover that Converts, 7. Create Your Kindle Direct Publishing Account, and 8. Format and Upload your Book. At the bottom of the result, there is a link for "More items..." and the date "Dec 22, 2021".

◆ Events

Join your best friends in New Iberia, Louisiana, for a Cajun adventure under the oaks at the official, Sixth Annual [Books Along the Teche Literary Festival](#): *Celebrating New Iberia, Dave Robicheaux's Hometown and Great Southern Writers* April 1-3, 2022. The festival is held predominately in New Iberia's historic district, but will also include events around Iberia Parish.

Go to the website linked to see all the details and consider filling out a registration form to have a booth for your book sales. This event is mostly outdoors, so you can avoid crowded spaces. Your WGA board encourages you to attend, since the event is so close to home and accessible.

The Louisiana Book Festival was Virtual in 2021, so we are keeping in touch to see if it will be the same in 2022.

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
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? _____
