

Sometimes breaking the rules is
extending the rules.
Mary Oliver

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

December 2022 / January 2023

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: January

January 31, 2023. 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.

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.

Looking Ahead: **February Guest Speaker: Lindsey Duga**

“I developed a deep love for courageous heroes, dastardly villains, and enchanting worlds from the cartoon shows and books I enjoyed as a kid. Drawing inspiration from these fantastical works of fiction, I wrote my first novel in college while getting a bachelor's in mass communication from Louisiana State University.”

My young adult novels with Entangled Teen include **KISS OF THE ROYAL**, **GLOW OF THE FIREFLIES**, and **ROARING**. My middle grade novels, **THE HAUNTING** and **GHOST IN THE HEADLIGHTS**, are published with Scholastic Clubs & Fairs.

<https://lindseyduga.com>

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

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

THE HALLS OF DARKNESS

Ellen Threatts
Coming Fall of 2024

Sample Chapter

Lilith wasn't an ordinary thirteen-year-old. She was fascinated with cops like her Dad. Police officers and detectives weren't weird, creepy, or freaks because they were paid to spend nights watching suspects, [that is,] people. Cops tailed and stalked (stalking wouldn't be that big of a deal for Lilith to master). A paid badge gun-carrying 'peeping tom.' Knowing their habits or favored hangouts, realizing if and when they changed their routes to work, or trying to dodge the 'dope man' are all legal and thrilling activities. Sal educated his daughter on the classification of crimes and the potential punishment for the crimes. From jaywalking to unlawful entry, assault or rape, kidnapping to murder he 'warned' his daughter that no one is above the law.

Sample Chapter

After leaving the medical building, Gee decided to walk across the paved path that led to her favorite hangout. The clean air, clear skies, and bustle of shoppers may help ease the unpleasant results she received. After picking the bundle of small packages from the orange and black Amazon lockers inside Whole Foods, Gee continued her routine stroll, pausing, then lingering for longer than she normally would while in the sub-zero seafood and poultry department.

Lilith lost contact with Gee after she entered the four-tier parking garage across from the medical building. With the low fuel light on, Lilith decided to ditch this cat and mouse sequence.

It was Wednesday, so picking up packages then browsing the store had been so predictable of her.

◆ **Writing Inspiration**

A Writer's Guide to Breaking the Rules

by Sarah Penner from Writer Unboxed

All writing advice, I ultimately decided, should be taken with a grain of salt. Writing is art, and *art* doesn't mix with *rules*. Take what works for you as the creator, and leave the rest behind. Below are six conventional writing "rules" I'd encourage writers to think twice about.

Rule #1 worth breaking: Avoid the passive voice

Within moments of picking up *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, I scratched my chin: the story was full of passive sentences. ("His tailcoat has been tossed lazily over a velvet armchair...") I remember thinking, "Morgenstern's editor let her get away with this?" followed immediately by, "I want to see if I can get away with this." The fact is, the passive voice is lovely and artistic. It creates a sense of mystery and separation, which was ideal for the magical realm in which *The Night Circus* takes place.

Morgenstern herself addressed this very topic in a WU interview a decade ago, saying "the passive voice fits stylistically" with the "old fashioned storytelling feel" she sought in the story.

[ed. note: Future newsletters will continue this theme. Reprinted with permission.]

◆ **Helpful Websites**

The Writer Unboxed website has many valuable articles and tips for writers. <https://writerunboxed.com>

◆ **Publishing**

Best advice to get published? Consult the *Writer's Market* resource book. This website has links to the five books:

- *Writer's Market*,
- *Guide to Literary Agents*,
- *Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market*,
- *Novel & Short Story Writer's Market*, and
- *Poet's Market*.

<https://writersmarket.com>

◆ Marketing

16 Creative Ways Authors Promote Nonfiction Books on Instagram
By Shailee Shah on Bookbub.com

1. Sharing stylized quotes

James Clear posts quotes from his books, newsletters, and articles to his Instagram account. These posts follow the same stylistic guidelines, white backgrounds with a serifed font, so readers can easily recognize his content in their feed. James includes a simple link in a black box at the bottom so readers know where to go to learn more.

[Ed. note: this is an excerpt. Full article [here](#).]

◆ Word of the month

Raucous . *Adjective*

Making a disturbingly harsh and loud noise.

◆ 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 January 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? _____
