

LA PLUME

If you can think it, you can write it.

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

July 2021

Board Members:

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

Next Meeting:

August 31, 2021. The South Regional Branch of the Lafayette Library, Auditorium. Address is 6101 Johnston St, Lafayette. Start time is 7:00 p.m. We usually go to 8:15, but we must end by 8:30. The Library currently is limiting us to 25 attendees. Read on for the September meeting time change.

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

Our July meeting was attended by about 15 people, all grateful to be back in person. We had a prompt won by John Comeaux. We had a door prize given for attendees. Attendees introduced themselves and spoke on their past and current projects.

Upcoming Speaker:

Marie Jeannine Coreil is a cultural anthropologist turned essayist who uses personal experience and satire to shine light on contemporary social issues. Her creative writing has appeared in Huffington Post, PsychCentral, The Satirist, Oregon Humanities and Ursa Minor. Her recently published memoir about living in Portland, Oregon, *Rose City Audition: Stories from My Portland Adventure* (2019), brings together essays she wrote during her sojourn there. She held faculty positions at the University of South Florida and the University of Texas Medical Branch from 1980-2010, during which time she published four academic books and over sixty scholarly articles and book chapters. She is a native of Ville Platte, Louisiana and currently lives in Lafayette, Louisiana. She can be reached through her author website www.tropicofcandor.com.

Future Meetings:

The Lafayette Library will be closing an hour earlier starting in September. Therefore, we will be moving our meeting start times to 6:00 p.m.

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 either Sudie at praisemusicpro@cox.net , or John at jpcoman9@gmail.com .

[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 7:00 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.

◆ **Writing Tips**

Mistakes Writers Make: Putting Off Submissions

Excerpt from an email by Robert Brewer: I have a confession to make: It has been FOREVER since I've submitted any of my poetry to an online or print publication. I've been writing, but I just haven't been getting together my poetry packages (of three to five poems) and sending them out. As a result, I haven't had any new poems published in poetry publications.

Here's one big thing about submitting your writing: When you submit it, you could be rejected.

But here's an even bigger thing about submitting your writing: When you don't submit it, you can't be accepted. It's like almost 100 percent odds (because sometimes people will submit your work after you've passed; think John Kennedy Toole.)

Mistake Fix: Eliminate Excuses

This is one of those writing mistakes that can be caused by several situations.

- Making the time to send poems out
- Fear of Rejection
- Perfectionist tendency
- Fear of not knowing how to write a query.

And there are likely several other excuses, but that's what they are (if we're honest with ourselves, whether they're valid or not): Excuses, excuses, excuses.

Start coming up with a plan for each excuse on how you're going to eliminate that excuse and when. If you don't have any writing to submit, then make a plan for how you will eliminate that excuse. Maybe you'll spend a few hours a week writing. If you don't have time to submit your work, then make a plan to eliminate that excuse.

The chances are pretty good that the more you submit your writing the more you will find rejection. But take heart that most successful writers had to go through a lot of rejection to find success. Nearly none of them made it without submitting their work in the first place.

(Some of the) 25 Tips to Make You a Better Nonfiction Writer

Another great excerpt from an email by Writers' Digest, this one from Mike Sager; I've included only a few; the entire article is here: <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-nonfiction/25-tips-to-make-you-a-better-nonfiction-writer>

- Do not start stories with the time, season, or weather conditions.
- Do not start with "It was" or "It's" or "When."
- Write in scenes.
- If you can't find the killer declarative sentence to lede with, use an evocative scene-setting description

[I learned a new word: lede.]

◆ Encouragement

[Excerpt from an email from Book Baby] It's a great day for published authors and the writers soon to join their ranks, and here's why. Last week I saw recent numbers from NPD BookScan, the company that tracks traditional publishing book sales. They're better than expected—much better!

- Overall printed book unit sales are up 18.5 percent over last year, with almost every category showing strong growth.
- Adult fiction books surged 31 percent, growing to 81 million units.
- Young Adult fiction titles nearly doubled in sales, rising 49 percent on the strength of books promoted on TikTok.

There's much more data and details in my recent post on the BookBaby Blog. And while sifting through the numbers is fun for would-be authors, my main takeaway urges another course of action: Get your book done—NOW!

Tip Sheet

[editor] I get weekly emails from Publisher's Weekly, "The Tip Sheet," which shows what is new, popular, and selling. This is a great spotlight on the market. www.publishersweekly.com.

Would you like to join?

WGA values your membership and we hope that you will give every consideration to renewing it. Membership fee is suspended for 2021. Regular dues of \$25. will resume in 2022. In addition, members receive a monthly newsletter along with first notice for workshops, seminars, and conferences put on by the Writers' Guild.

Write to Writers' Guild of Acadiana, Inc., P.O. Box 51532, Lafayette, LA, 70505-1532.

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Date _____

How did you find out about us? _____
