

# LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

March 2024

## Board Members:

President John Comeaux, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Secretary Ed Gauthier, Webmaster Guy Kilchrist, Historian Pamela Harrington, Newsletter (open) temp: John Comeaux, and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.



## Next Meeting: March 26

All meetings are open to the public. 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.

## March Guest Speaker: Kody Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain's presentation is called "Getting Past the Gatekeepers"

Kody Chamberlain is a professional writer and story artist with over twenty years of experience in comics, film, and television. As both writer and artist, Kody has worked with the best publishers in comics including DC Comics, Dark Horse, HALO/343, HarperCollins, IDW Publishing, Image Comics, Marvel Comics, and Mulholland Books. His original scripts and television pilots have placed at both Sundance and Austin Film Festivals, and his original work has been optioned for development by Universal, MTV, and FOX. Kody has also worked extensively as a concept artist and story artist with credits at Sony, MTV, NBCUniversal, and Warner Bros. He currently lives in Vermilion Parish with his wife Kristie and their son Lucas, and he teaches a drawing and cartooning class for kids once a week.

## April Guest Speaker: Joe Abraham, M.D.

Normally we would have 'Members Read' night in April, but we have the chance to hear from Dr. Joe Abraham, M.D. on writing and on Booktown. Joseph N Abraham MD is an emergency physician (Tulane '86), evolutionary biologist, & Viet Nam veteran of the US Navy. As a widely-ranging reader and an inveterate traveler, he draws on diverse backgrounds in science, language, art, and history to offer a new perspective on civilization and the human condition in his most recent book, *Kings, Conquerors*,

*Psychopaths: From Alexander to Hitler to the Corporation.* The book has won over a dozen awards, and is under review by over thirty scholastic journals.

## **LOOKING AHEAD: May**

Our May meeting is “Members read” month. Members may bring work that they have created and share with the attendees. It may be a work in progress or a completed work. 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.

**May Prompt:** “Thursday’s Menu”

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. The author must be present, but may allow another to read the piece aloud. All entries must be typed and double-spaced. The story 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 vice-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.

### **Winners of the competition will be published in a booklet**

A Creative Writing Competition Winners booklet will be printed containing all the winners of the bi-monthly writing competition.

### **Opportunities to market your books**

Beginning in January 2024, Writer’s Guild members vending at Moncus Park will be asked to pay \$10.00 per sales day. We hold a sales booth on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Saturday of each month. The \$10. is to defray the cost that the Writer’s Guild has to pay for the vending booth location. (\$35.00 per Saturday)

The Lafayette City Art Walk always occurs on the second Saturday of the month, every month. If you, as an individual, wish to vend your books at Art Walk, free space is available. This occurs on Jefferson Street. (From the underpass to the corner of Lee street and Jefferson.) It begins around 4:00 pm and goes to 8:30 or 9:00 pm. (Or until you are tired.) You can take part in this event whether you are a member of our guild or not. Text Ed and he’ll give more explanation. (337-945-5718)

## Critique Group

WGA has formed its own critique group. We are officially WGAcadiana Critique. We meet online using Google groups and Google Meet. If interested, contact our secretary by text (337-945-5718) or email at [eggchess@gmail.com](mailto:eggchess@gmail.com). Joining this group will require that you have an active Google account.

## Items for Members

*(Editor's Note: Inclusion in the newsletter does not imply endorsement. These are just announcements for your convenience.)*

## Do Judge a Book by its Cover

You've heard the other saying, but let's face it. People can be attracted to a book by its cover. Are you getting ready to publish? Here's an article entitled "The Psychology of a Good Book Cover" This excellent article covers image, typography, genre, eye flow, and thumbnail scale down. <https://www.draft2digital.com/blog/the-psychology-of-a-good-book-cover/>

## Member Highlights

John François, a WGA past president and current WGA Board Member, has just published his seventh novel, TO THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY. It is the final book of his trilogy (following CARRIER OF BONES and PONTIAC). The journey of the fifteen-year-old protagonist begins at Pointe Coupée, Louisiana, in 1761 when he is forced to return with his father to Acadie (Carrier-of-Bones) present day New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) to reinter the bones of his mother and little brother in the old family cemetery. Unable to return to Louisiana, he is caught up in the final throes of the French and Indian War and adopted by a Seneca family. After many deadly escapades in a savage country (Pontiac), he ends up at the age of twenty-four trapping in the fur-rich Yellowstone country where his trials continue (To the Yellowstone Country).

François is self-published and was a finalist in the Annual Writers Network Screenplay and Fiction Competition for his Carrier-of-Bones, as well as in the Writers Digest Competition, and in the Global E-Books Awards Competition

[www.johnfrancois.com](http://www.johnfrancois.com)

### Also:

WGA tote bags are for sale (\$10.00) at our meetings or at our vending table.

John Comeaux is willing to co-author and co-produce the La Plume newsletter for WGA. Send contributions for the newsletter to [info@writersguildacadiana.org](mailto:info@writersguildacadiana.org) John is willing to share the responsibility and the accolades, honors, and laurels with you.

## WEB Page and Facebook

Please visit our NEW and Improved website is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writersguildacadiana.org/>

### ***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. 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. Be sure to check your email junk folder if you are not getting the newsletter from [jpcoman9@gmail.com](mailto:jpcoman9@gmail.com) 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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