

LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

April 2024

Board Members:

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



In Memoriam: Pamela Harrington

Our friend and historian Pamela died in April, 2024. The Writers' Guild of Acadiana members were truly blessed by having Pamela on our Board of Directors. Her quiet insight and contributions helped make the Guild more successful. Her personality was uplifting and pleasant. We miss her already, and wish the comfort of Providence for her family.

Next Meeting: April 30

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.

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.

His topic will be "Creativity, Innovation, & AI: Writing Insights."

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. Non-members may also read their entries, but won’t be eligible for the token prize. 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 the Anthology

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

Looking ahead to June: Guest Speaker Dan Klefstad

Our June meeting will be a remote conference Zoom-type meeting. “Greetings. How often have your members resorted to paid promo services? Have some fallen for scams? My Amazon best-seller, *DIY Book Promo: How to Find Readers without Spending Money*, teaches authors that devoting a set amount of time for promotion, every day, will help them achieve their sales goals. My book incorporates lessons from the successful campaign for my novel, *Fiona’s Guardians*, including how to co-brand with indie bookstores. I also teach interviewing tips from my 30-year radio career.

I’ll be speaking at major conferences this summer and fall, but I actually prefer meeting smaller groups of authors (in person or via Zoom) and taking their questions after I finish my PowerPoint. And, keeping with the spirit of my book, I charge no fee.”

Dan Klefstad is a longtime radio host and newscaster. His latest novel, *Fiona’s Guardians*, is about humans who work for a beautiful vampire named Fiona. The book was adapted by Artists’ Ensemble Theater for their *Mysterious Journey* podcast. A short film adaptation is currently in pre-production with a release date in 2024.

He now writes in Louisville, Kentucky.

Opportunities to market your books

Beginning in January 2024, Writer's Guild is inviting members AND non-members to participate in vending at Moncus Park. The requested fee is \$10.00 per sales day. We hold a sales booth on the 2nd 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)

Board Positions Open

We invite our readers to consider joining our board of directors in one of three positions that are open: Publicist, Historian, and Newsletter Editor.

We wish to thank Ellen Threatts for her service as our Publicist for several years.

Critique Group

WGA has formed its own critique group. We are officially WGAcadianaCritique. 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. Joining this group will require that you have an active Google account.

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 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 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? _____
