

# LA PLUME

Official Newsletter of the Writers' Guild of Acadiana

February 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: February 27

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.

Our February 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.

**February Prompt:** “Unexpected Treasures in the Attic”

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. 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.

### **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**

**May Prompt:** "Thursday's Menu", Fiction

### **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.)*

### **Writer's Residency Opportunity**

Atmosphere Press is sponsoring 2 FREE 5-day residencies to writers. Free to apply, and with lodging covered, you and Atmosphere will work to find a 5-day stretch this summer in which you can stay at a beautiful condo only 114 steps from a beach. Deadline for consideration is February 29<sup>th</sup>! Because this offer is limited—2 only, and this email alone is going out to thousands of writers—apply in two minutes right now to be considered!

<https://atmospherepress.com/costa-rica-residency/>

### **Writer's Retreats in Canada**

<https://goandwrite.ca> website has several planned for 2024.

### **Call for Entries: 2024 Next Generation Indie Book Awards**

Calling all indie book authors and publishers - including small presses, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors who have a book written in English released in 2022, 2023 or 2024 or with a 2022, 2023 or 2024 copyright date to enter the most rewarding book awards program.

Offering 80+ Categories - More than 80 Awards – with over 80 monetary prizes totaling over \$10,000 in cash, including \$1,500 cash prizes plus trophies for best fiction book and best non-fiction book, \$750 cash prizes plus trophies for second best fiction book and non-fiction book and \$500 cash prizes plus trophies for third best fiction book and non-fiction book!

Entry deadline for the 2024 awards program – February 14, 2024.

<https://indiebookawards.com/myaccount/login.php>

## The Next Generation Short Story Awards

The Next Generation Short Story Awards will honor and award 1 Winner and 3 Finalists in each of the 25+ categories and 3 Grand Prize Winners from all entries submitted this awards year.

Enter by February 28, 2024 to be a part of the 2024 awards program

<https://shortstoryawards.com/guidelines.php>

### **Also:**

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

Any member who has experience writing grant proposals is encouraged to contact Ellen Threatts, one of our Board members. We hope to obtain some grant funds to defray increased membership costs. [info@Writersguildacadiana.org](mailto:info@Writersguildacadiana.org)

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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