



The Scribe

FIRST EDITION MARCH 2024

ART AND CULTURE OF THE GREATER TOLEDO AREA

MAUMEE, OHIO

The Scribe – New Nonprofit Arts Newspaper

By Jeffrey Darah

It is with great pleasure and honor to announce the creation of our first newspaper, *The Scribe*. *The Scribe* is a community focused, nonprofit newspaper for the Greater Toledo area. Each edition will highlight and empower local creators, giving them free exposure and space to showcase their best works.

We hope to further grant these artists, authors, writers, and more, a platform to connect and network. The idea is to grant these creators easy access to get noticed and begin their professional careers

in their respective fields. Being included in this publication will provide a huge audience for each creator, with hundreds upon hundreds of new eyes on their works.

Further, each creator is interviewed and is requested that they provide some contact information. We ask that readers very politely engage with local creators, and encourage them to continue to improve and grow positively.

Through this method, each creator may now build a following and continue their artistic pursuits for free!

If you know someone who would

benefit from being showcased in this paper, have them send us an email. The main requirement to join is that you have something you have completed (or at the very least, very close to completing!) Due to the space limitation, we can only accept so many creators at a time. But this means the next issue will contain those who were not included in the previous issue.

Check the last page of this newspaper for instructions on how to submit content for *The Scribe*. We look forward to hearing from all of you, and to please tell your friends about this paper!

Who is the woman in the logo?

We chose the Egyptian God Seshat to be the face of this newspaper. Seshat was credited with inventing writing in Egyptian society, and personally oversaw the libraries containing important knowledge. Due to these duties and her involvement with Egyptian scribes, she seemed like the perfect fit for being the face of our newspaper. The symbol above her head is known as the Emblem of Seshat.



Image by Cathy Holewinski

What You Will Find Inside

We are excited to share with you a wide variety of interesting topics in our first edition.

- **Exclusive interview with author A. M. Langston**
- **Local Toledo Artist Brian Lowe's Work**
- **A Look into the Toledo Artists' Club**
- **Our first photography contest**
- **A calendar for local club events**
- **9 Tips and Quotes for Inspiration**
- **and more...**

A Look into the Toledo Artists' Club

By Dylan Sarieh

Here at *The Scribe*, we are always looking to find and promote the talent of Toledo. Although our entrance onto this path brings lots of its own excitement, it would be ill-mannered of us to not direct some of this recognition to those who had come before us.

Founded in 1943 by three leading members, the Toledo Artists' Club (TAC) was organized to further the development of both art and the locals who partake in it. For 81 years now has the club existed on this mission; an entire lifetime of effort. Along these decades of service, TAC's community grew from the founding Maude Crabbs, Arthur MacLean, and Davis Martin, Jr. to a 16-strong leadership structure, currently

presided over by Bren Clixby and Elaine Scarvelis, secondarily. Under these communal heads exists three tier of members, alongside partnerships with Metroparks Toledo, the Athena Arts Society, and the Toledo Botanical Garden.

Beyond this, TAC builds its associations through its subgroups and sponsors, in conjunction with a variety of classes, workshops, exhibitions, such as the upcoming *Abstract or Impressionism Show*.

Originally housing its members on Parkwood Ave., the local art club worked hard to expand and modernize into its current iteration, now found within the Artist Village of the Toledo Botanical Garden on 5403 Elmer Dr. Here they feature their own gallery and classroom.

Of the adult classes offered online, instruction in a variety of methods can be found, such as painting, needle felt work, or working with an instructor with a medium of your choice. These classes appear to run for anywhere from \$25-45, with most encouraging beginner attendees.

For those who seek a closer relationship with TAC, various membership plans are offered. For only \$50 per year, regular members gain the ability to attend weekly classes and two group events, present artwork in physical and digital settings, and vote, among other benefits.

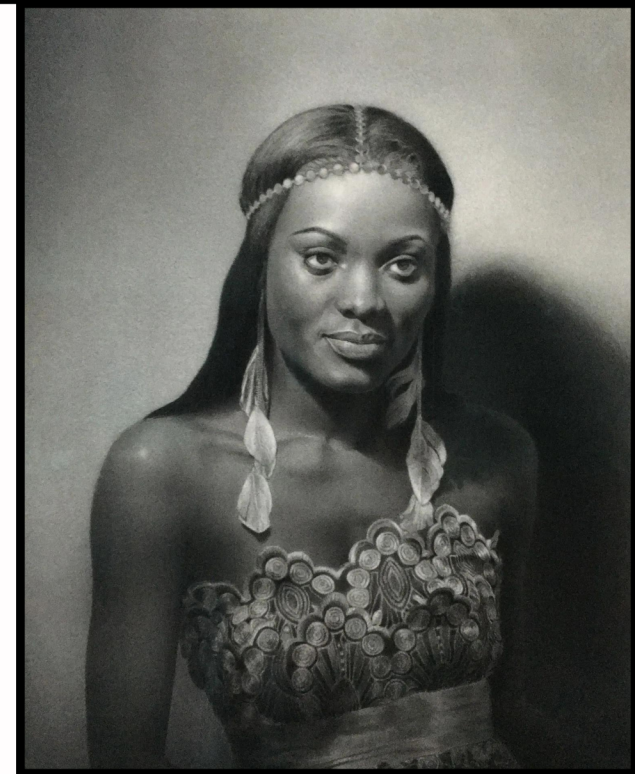
Students have traditionally received scholarship support by Toledo Artists' Club, such as through their sponsorship of this through the University of Toledo.

TAC continues this generosity through their offer \$10 per year student memberships, which enjoy close to same perks as regular members.

As part of the opportunity to present artwork, members have access to TAC's online Member Directory, where artwork, contact information, or personal websites can be shown.

Moving onto current events, the club's recent 2024 *Portraits, People, and Pets Show* has reached its conclusion. Judged by Laura Jajko, John Swihart's *Dark Princess* portrait won Best of Show.

Laura comments, "This is simply a stunning and compelling portrait. The artist showed a mastery of the medium, artistry in the subject, and



***Dark Princess* by John Swihart, Best of Show Award at TAC's 2024 Portraits, People, and Pets Show**

coupled with the scale of the work, stood out among the rest. The detail in the drawing, range of tones from white to dark charcoal and use of light and shadow shows skill, passion and imagination."

For the March to May period of 2024, the Abstract or Impressionism Virtual Show is planned. Submissions are open to all, with prizes ranging from \$100 to \$25, alongside the opportunity to market the piece.

Want Your Club to Be Featured?

If you want *The Scribe* to feature your art related club, let us know! As long as your club is located within the Greater Toledo area, and relates to the arts in some way, feel free to reach out: contact@apollo-press.com.

9 Notes to Know

Quotes and Tips to Write Better

- “The one thing that you have that nobody else has is you. Your voice, your mind, your story, your vision. So write and draw and build and play and dance and live as only you can.” - Neil Gaiman



- **Writing Tip** from A.M. Langston: “When you write, write. When you edit, edit. The two don't mix.”

- **Do You Write Like This?** According to Cole Salao of TCK Publishing, Truman Capote (author of *In Cold Blood*) only wrote while laying down.

- **Smart or Irresponsible?** According to Cole Salao of TCK Publishing, Victor Hugo, author of *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, would lock himself in a room with just a paper and pen in an attempt to finish his late manuscripts.

- “Poets are all who love, who feel great truths, and tell them: and the truth of truths is love.” - Philip James Bailey

- **Show, Don't Tell:** Use descriptive language and vivid details to paint a picture for your readers rather than simply stating facts.

- "Any man who keeps working is not a failure. He may not be a great writer, but if he applies the old-fashioned virtues of hard, constant labor, he'll eventually make some kind of career for himself as writer."—Ray Bradbury

- **Go Outside:** Nature has long been a source of inspiration for writers. Spend time outdoors to gain inspiration while writing

- **Embrace Emotion:** Poetry is a powerful medium for expressing emotions. Tap into your feelings and allow them to guide your writing.

An Interview with A.M. Langston

By Jeffrey Darah

Can you tell us about your latest book?

What inspired you to write it?

My latest release, "Dark Side of My Ribs", is mostly a lyric collection. I've been a musician as long as I've been writing and wanted to do a lyric book for quite a while. In my head as I wrote these lyrics, I listened to an imaginary band playing music in the styles of Morphine, Radiohead, Flying Lotus, and a few others. Mark Sandman of Morphine was a fantastic surreal lyricist in a way I don't think the world sees often. He's been a big inspiration to me here, as well as my less musical works.

How would you describe your writing style?

I'd summarize my writing style as dark, somewhat goofy,

experimental to the point of being rough, scrappy, or having "jagged edges". That last part is something I take a lot of pride in, but also something I re-visit every time I begin a new work. Can I get away with something being more stream-of-thought, or does a work call for additional artistic scrutiny and refinement? That's a foundational dichotomy underlying my style.

Can you walk us through your typical writing process? Do you have any rituals or habits when writing?

I write on a computer with internet disabled, my phone turned off. I'll listen to instrumental music, but otherwise I like to remain distraction free.

It takes me a few minutes to get into a groove, so I'll read an outline, a previous chapter, or poetry from another writer's paperback. These days I don't drink while writing. The drunken writer thing is overplayed, and I don't aim to be a Bukowski clone. Last, I tend to pause once an hour or so to take inventory of my mental state and creative flow. Until a draft is done, though, I never use a break to edit, or rework story elements. That's on of my hard rules.

Are there any authors or books that have particularly influenced your writing?

I've been following Morgan Parker since "There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce". That's something I carry around the house when my nose isn't to the grindstone. Steinbeck's "East of Eden" is the pinnacle of novels in my mind. In my dreams, I write something of that



Alex Langston, author of several novels. (amlangston.com)

magnitude some day.

How do you develop your characters? Are they inspired by real people or entirely fictional?

I imagine everything someone writes is inspired by real people in some way. I don't think you can write a True story, as in an accurate portrayal of

the human condition, without tapping reality. That said, I am very deliberate in creating characters as removed from "real" people as possible. At the end of the day, I create characters I believe the story needs. They sort of spiral out from what the story needs, then

who the main characters need to support or challenge them, and so on. My personal mission is to not over-think this aspect of writing. It's not uncommon to see writing communities online trapped in character and world building

Continues on page 7



One of Langston's several published books: This Close to Sitting Ducks

Brian Lowe on Mental Health

By Jeffrey Darah

This artwork is from local Toledo artist, Brian Lowe. Brian Lowe is an Army veteran and Wellness/Recovery coach living in Toledo, Ohio. Brian has shared his autobiography and one of his best works with us at *The Scribe*. He attributes his knowledge of art to a combination of collaborative studies and activities with peers and mentors. Along with independent studies focusing on graphite and mixed media, Brian has exhibited his works locally to help raise awareness for mental health and addiction recovery. His use of surrealism in creating these works helps the audience to engage their unconscious minds as a way of viewing art. By perceiving the content in this way, exploring Brian Lowe's art results in dreamlike, bizarre, and often metaphoric imagery.

Brian also works with the National Alliance on Mental Illness as an art expression group facilitator. He and his team use art to help patients with their journey to recovery.

Brian shares his thoughts and inspiration for this piece: *Have you ever viewed a piece of art and asked; "What was the artist thinking when they created this?" If so, then please let me introduce you to the titled image.*

I created "Venomous - Dare to Face Your Inner Demons!" with several concept ideas bouncing around in my brain until I finally settled upon one. I was working on a series of pictures dealing with the macabre and asked confidants for ideas. Our focus today is, what was I thinking when I created this? The answer is simple. I simply asked myself, 'What scares people more than seeing a picture of a devil or demon? The best answer I could come up with



Venomous - Dare to Face Your Inner Demons - Brian Lowe

was: "Someone who is struggling with their own inner demon!" As you look at the portrait you will see many things. A snake coming from a woman's open mouth, this is the portrayal of the inner demon. Her eyes are tearful and

fixed upon the demon, but he is not looking at her. Why? She is well aware of her inner demon as he has presented himself before on many occasions.

However, at this time, as he is coming out to torture her once

again, he stops! Did you notice his eye is not on her and that his fangs are bared and ready to bite? The reason for this is he is looking at you, as if to say, "Back off! She's mine!" We do not see people, as this image presents, every day.

However, we do see people struggling with their inner demons, and it is not as easy to as shown here.

We thank Brian for his submission, and urge you to try and assist those who may be struggling with their inner demons.

Notable Event Calendar

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 2nd <i>Crafternoon</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young Childrens' Crafting, 2:00-2:30PM, Oregon Library | March 5th <i>Helping your K-3 Reader</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults' Support for helping K-3 Readers, 1:00-2:00pm, Online with the Toledo Library <i>Collage Clash</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teens' Collage Creation, 4:00-5:00PM, Kent Library | March 6th <i>Colorful Chalk Art</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kid and Teens' Chalk Art, 4:30-5:30PM, Kent Library <i>A Mountain of Marbles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Marble Glass Blowing, 4:00-5:30PM, West Toledo Library | March 9th <i>Sketch Party</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teens' Painting and Sketching, 3:00-5:00PM, Maumee Library <i>A Mountain of Marbles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Marble Glass Blowing, 2:00-3:30PM, Heatherdowns Library | March 11th <i>Stampers Art</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Ink Stamp Art, 3:00-4:00PM at the Mott Library <i>Shaving Cream Art</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young Kids' Shaving Cream Art, 5:30-6:30PM at the Oregon Library | March 12th <i>Shamrock Shenanigans</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Leprechaun Art, 4:00-5:00PM, King Road Library <i>Spring Painting with Acrylics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults' Acrylic Painting, 6:00-8:00PM, Locke Library |
| March 14th <i>Education Night</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults' Photo Art Education. 7:00-9:00PM, Online with Photo Arts Club of Toledo | March 18th <i>Rainbow Watercolor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Watercolor Art, 4:00-5:00PM, King Road Library <i>Learn About Bees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults' Beeswax Candle-making, 6:00-7:00PM, Lagrange Library | March 19th <i>Make Your Own Chocolate Dipped Caramels</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teens' Dipped Chocolate-Making, 4:30-5:30PM, Sylvania Library | March 20th <i>Pink is Everywhere</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Watercolor Art, 4:00-5:00PM, King Road Library <i>Wacky Bird Art</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kids' Bird Art, 4:00-5:00PM, Kent Library | March 21th <i>Create Now</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Art Project, 5:15-7:15PM, Main Toledo Library <i>Early Literacy Parent Training</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young Kids and Adults' Literary Practice | March 29th <i>Knitting and Crocheting Group</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults' Knit/Crochet, 2:00PM-4:00PM Reynolds Corners Library |

An Interview with A.M. Langston

Continued from page 4
not making progress
elsewhere.

What do you hope readers take away from your books?

There are themes
specific to my
individual works, but
my overarching goal
is to inspire emotion
through experiencing
thoughts that grew out
of another mind.

Especially with
poetry, I feel it should
be approached in the
same way you look at
a Rothko, a bonsai
tree, or listen to jazz. I
hate to be cliché, but
"it's about the journey,
not the destination"
may be applicable
here.

Have you ever experienced writer's block? If so, how do you deal with it?

Over time, I've set up
a few guard rails to
prevent writer's block.
First, I start a project
by outlining until
there's no room for
question when I'm
actually writing.

Second, I prepare for
each writing session

by reviewing the
outline and what I
wrote in my last
session. Third, if I do
find myself stuck, I
move on. This is
partially why I write
poetry and novels. If I
can't start work on a
different chapter, I can
change lanes and write
a poem. Last, I accept
that patience and time
are equally important
to writing in the
overall process. If all
else fails and I'm
unable to 'just write',
there's a world out
there to soak in until I
find inspiration again.

Can you share any insights into your future writing projects?

One upcoming work
that I'm excited about
is a contemporary sci-
fi story, which is new
ground for me. In that
book, micro-satellites
in a fleet like what we
see mega-corporations
launching today,
mysteriously drop out
of orbit. As the
devices burn up on re-
entry, they turn out to
be gene modification

weapons. Mass
populations are
suddenly inflicted
with extreme genetic
disorders like brittle
bone disease. The
story follows a retired
government satellite
expert as he's called
upon to prevent
further disaster.

How do you balance creativity with the demands of publishing and marketing?

This kind of balance
relies on awareness of
personal creative
limits. I know if I am
going to hit it hard for
a month and a half
writing a novel, I'm
going to need a break
afterwards. That's
when I plan to send a
draft to my editor,
develop concept art,
and ramp up other
business functions.
Staggering parallel
work streams in
difference phases of
that cycle helps. If
inspiration is boiling
over, I can
comfortably take a
break from ad
campaign

development to write
poetry while my novel
is being edited. This is
part of the planning
guard rail I mentioned
regarding writer's
block.

Are there any particular moments or scenes in your books that hold special significance for you?

This is a pretty big
spoiler, but in a later
act of my first novel,
"Falderal", the main
character is suddenly
killed. I'm proud of
that book and it holds
a special place in my
heart, but I would be
lying if I didn't say my
more recent works
feel more mature to
me. That scene,
though, was a special
sort of improvisational
moment that I tend to
squash most of the
time. Despite how I
grow creatively over
my career, that's a
decision I treasure.

What advice would you give to aspiring writers?

Somewhere out there
is a lecture given by
the South Park
creators where they
talk about good
writing. It boils down

Want to be Featured Next?

We are looking for more authors of all skill
levels. If you have successfully published a
book, you could be the next featured author! If
you would like to be featured next, shoot us an
email: submit@apollo-press.com.

to how a good story
isn't "this happens,
then this happens, and
so on", a good story is
"this happens so this
happens, but this
happens." Great
advice. I also
recommend becoming
familiar with Kurt
Vonnegut's tips on
how to write a good
story. My personal
advice: just get the
SFD done. When you
write, write. When
you edit, edit. The two
don't mix.

You run your own book publishing business called Jamesway Hut, right? Can you tell us about it?

Jamesway Hut is
currently in it's
infancy phase. I'm
ecstatic to take on a
project that broadens
the scope of my
writing career.

Plus, my story is
rooted in self-
publishing, which can
be terribly daunting.
The goal with JH is to
support talent I would
categorize as on the
cusp of mainstream. I
want to alleviate
artists from business
logistics, but also the
expectation of
conformity that big
publishing houses
demand. We'll be next
accepting submissions
in early 2025.

We thank Alex for his time, and answering our interview!

Be sure to check out
his website:
amlangston.com for
more news and
upcoming information
about his books. If
you want to reach
Alex, please use the
contact form on his
website.

Ohio Photography Contest

Announcing our first photography contest! This contest is open to all photographers, of all skill levels. The theme of the photography contest is **Spring in Ohio**. The rules are very simple:

- Photo must be taken within Ohio, and proof must be provided.
- You must have taken the submitted photo, not anyone else for you.
- Entry is open until March 25th, 2024 at 12:00 AM midnight.
- The submitted photo must be related to Spring in some way. Be creative!

The winner of this contest will have their photo showcased in *The Scribe*, along with honorable mentions for those who came very close. The winner will also have a choice to include contact info or a website if they so choose.

To submit a photo to this contest, contact us first at **submit@apollo-press.com**, and we will send you instructions for formally submitting your photo for this contest. Good luck!

Donate to Support *The Scribe*

The Scribe is funded entirely by volunteer efforts and donations. We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and can accept any donations. To donate, all you need to do is head over to our website: **<https://apollo-press.com/donate.html>** and click the Donate button. Or you can use the QR code listed below instead, for faster access. We thank you for your support!



Photo of the Month



Image taken by Cathy Holewinski in the Toledo Botanical Garden

A Huge Thanks to *The Courier*!

The Courier newspaper located in Findlay, Ohio is very generously printing this newspaper that you are reading now! We want to extend our deepest thanks to their excellent and responsive team. We would like to give a special shout out to Rob Jenney and Greg Little for sharing some of their impressive and extensive knowledge. Be sure to grab a copy of *The Courier* to support them.

We Want You!

Get involved with *The Scribe*! Having your work showcased in this newspaper is easy! Submission is completely free, and there are no costs involved. Read below to see what categories are open for submission.

Open Categories for submission:

- Any artwork (physical or digital)
- Poetry, any kind
- Photography anywhere in Ohio
- Short stories (up to 250 words)
- *and more!*

If you are ready to submit your work, just send an email with your content attached to our submissions email. **submit@apollo-press.com**