

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

Lots of News!

October 20 Meeting: James Marshall has outlined a schedule for RWG meetings titled "A Year of Re-Creation." For the first two meetings, we will look at how people retell familiar stories. Now it is our turn. Bring in your own retelling of a well-known story to share. We will discuss our work and have a writing contest.

State Poetry Contests: Rules for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies annual contests are posted at nfsps.com. In addition to contests for adults, there are contests for students in grades 9-12, 6-8, and 3-5. There is no entry fee for the student contests. Some national contests are limited to members of a state society (such as the Illinois State Poetry Society) which is a member of the Federation. Deadline for all contests is March 15.



Visit Our Refurbished Website: Take a look at what's new at www.rockfordwritersguild.org. We can submit poems, fiction, and creative nonfiction on our website now. See Submissions. Kits Media did an excellent job creating our new look, while keeping our logo and traditions. You'll recognize Rockford and the Rock River in the photos.

October 20, November 17 Meetings:

Burpee Museum of Natural History downstairs in the Riverview Room from 1-3 p.m.

Short story and poetry submissions for *The Rockford Review* due by 10/15

"Smooth as Ice" Poetry Contest Winners

Thank you to the writers who entered the *Smooth as Ice* Fall Poetry Contest. Judges selected ten \$10 winners, whose poems will be published in the 2020 Winter-Spring edition of *The Rockford Review*.

Winners are invited to share their poems at the October 20 meeting.

Marie Asner for "The Skater."

Cindy Guentherman for "Combing the Dog."

Mark Hudson for "Icy Pond."

John Casey Kalkirtz for "The Old Country Mailbox."

Jennifer Lagier for "Frosted."

Emily Marshall, age 7, for "Smooth as Ice."

James Marshall for "Smooth Sailing."

Wilda Morris for "Florrie."

Jim Swierzynski for "Byootocks on Ice."

June Thompson for "Ice Walk."

Honorable mention: R.M. Yager's "Martini Talk."

Congratulations to all winners! And, thank you to our judges.

Notes from September 15, 2019 Meeting

Meeting started at 1:02 p.m. at Burpee Museum of Natural History.

Attendees: James Marshall, Katie Marshall, Emily Marshall, Alex Marshall, Alan Jimenez, Lori Marshall, Tom Walsh, Amy McFarland, Tom Lee, Becky Wyant, Cheryl Sheinman, and Cindy Guentherman.

Introduction of the board that was present (James, Cindy, Tom, Lori)

Introduction of other attendees

Short story and poetry submissions for *The Rockford Review* due by 10/15

“On the Abyss” *Rockford Review* prose/poetry submissions due by 11/15 (members only)

New year for the Writers’ Guild and the theme for the year is Re-Creation. Things change in the retelling of a story. The eventual goal will be for us to take our own work and re-create it or rewrite it.

Writers shared published works that retold a famous story. Examples:

- Plutarch’s and Shakespeare’s retellings of Cleopatra’s arrival and introduction to Marc Antony
- “The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor” — an Egyptian epic
- “Three Little Cajun Pigs” by Mike Artell
- “The Master and Margarita” by Mikhail Bulgakov
- “The Creation” by James Weldon Johnson
- “Cajun Night Before Christmas” by “Trosclair”
- “Queen Red Riding Hood’s Guide to Royalty” by Chris Colfer
- “The Mother Goose Diaries” by Chris Colfer
- “Lot’s Wife” by Anna Akhmatova

Also talked about Salman Rushdie’s adaptation of “Don Quixote” and the play “Hadestown” as retellings.

Writing Contest:

Theme: Forgetting

Winners: Tom Lee and Katie Marshall

Next Meeting: 1-3 p.m., Sunday, October 20, 2019, at the Burpee Museum of Natural History

Assignment: Retell a story in your own writing (prose or poetry)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marshall

GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

To have your literary good news published here and on our Facebook page every month, email sally@rockfordwritersguild.org.

On January 28, 2020, **Mike Bayles** will be a guest speaker for the Eastern Avenue Branch of the Davenport Public Library (Iowa). The topic will be, *The Family of an Alzheimer's Patient*, in support of his book, "Breakfast at the Good Hope Home."

Olivia Diamond, Whitefish, MT, was interviewed by CUTV News Talk Radio on September 5 for their Empowered Women Series. Jim Mathews interviewed Olivia for 30 minutes to talk about her writing. The interview is archived on their website — <https://www.blogtalkradio.com/cutvnewsradio/2019/09/05/cutv-news-radio-spotlights-author-olivia-diamond-of-mountain-of-dreams> — so the interview can be listened to at any time.

Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka, IL, is exhibiting her haiga (illustrated haiku) from Oct. 2 through Dec. 31 at Glenview Park District in Glenview, IL. In other news, her tanka, (Japanese-style lyrical poem), has been accepted for publication in *Moonbathing*, a tanka anthology.

Dixon Hearne, Sterlington, LA, writes, "I would like to share with fellow RWG members that I have new poems forthcoming in *Deep South Magazine*, *Arkansas Review*, *UCity Review*, *Mojave Heart Review*, and *Mused Literary Review*." He also encourages fellow RWG members to submit to his new online literary journal: deltapoetryreview.com.

d.n. simmers' book of poetry, "The Red School Bus," was recently published by Silver Bow Publishing in New Westminster, B.C.

The poem by **Wilda Morris** which won the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' Founder's Award for 2019, has been posted at illinoispoets.org. You can find it by clicking on Wilda's name.

New Members for 2019: Please welcome **Jason Cant** of Silvis, IL; **Karen Danielson** of Sudbury, Ontario; **John Day** of Stockton, IL; **Karen DeFranco** of Twinsburg, OH; **Karen LeBouton**, UW Library, Madison, WI; **Travis Morgan** of Roscoe, IL; **Amy McFarland** of South Beloit, and **Randal Stowell** of Rockford.

And, thanks to those of you who have renewed and continue to support RWG!

Join the Rockford Writers' Guild! (Or Renew)

Membership Levels:

Adult \$35 (1-yr) \$65 (2-yr) \$95 (3-yr)

Family or Couple: \$50 (1-yr) \$90 (2-yr) \$130 (3-yr)

Youth/Student \$15 (1-yr)

Library \$25 (1-yr)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Your membership with RWG is active until:

Complete form and send check or money order to Rockford Writers' Guild - PO Box 858 - Rockford, IL - 61105. Join/Renew online at www.rockfordwritersguild.org.

Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

Sally Hewitt President & Editor

Cindy Guentherman Treasurer, Social Media Editor

James Marshall Vice President

Lori Marshall Recording Secretary

Tom Walsh Incoming Membership Director

Hana Ferguson Social Media Director

Outgoing Board Members: Connie Kuntz, Jesse Kuntz, Wilda Morris

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Rockford Writers' Guild
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