

# WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

## Lots of News!

**December 15 Meeting:** James Marshall has outlined a schedule for RWG meetings titled "A Year of Re-Creation." For the December meeting, be sure to write something that is a sequel (poem or prose). This can be the continuation of a story you have written or characters you have already developed OR this could be a sequel to another author's story/story using someone else's characters.



**Enjoy the holiday season, everyone, and Happy New Year to all! We wish you a creative 2020!**



Rockford in gorgeous winter sunshine.

**December 15, January 19 Meetings:** Burpee Museum of Natural History downstairs in the Riverview Room from 1-3 p.m.

**Everyone is invited!**

### Extra Copies of TRR?

Members who would like extra copies of the Winter-Spring 2020 *The Rockford Review*, please contact me. We need to know now, before we order the books. Remember, members each receive one copy and family members receive two, unless published in the edition (then you'll receive two or more copies). [sally@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:sally@rockfordwritersguild.org)

### "On the Abyss" Contest Winners

Grand Prize Winner: **Wanie Reeverts** for "On the Abyss ..."

**Olivia Diamond** for "Who We Are"

**Ryan Dowling** for "The Real World"

**Susan Goldberg** for "Presence"

**Cindy Guentherman** for "The Valentine Abyss"

**Judith Kittridge** for "Moonlight on a Summer Shore"

**Jennifer Lagier** for "Autumnal Abyss" (back cover)

**Nancy Payne** for "The Abyss"

**Tom Walsh** for "Not Quite Right"

**Becky Wyant** for "On the Abyss"

**Al Youmans** for "Crossing Over the Chasm"

Congratulations to all winners! And, thanks to everyone who submitted his/her work!

### GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

To have your literary good news published here and on our Facebook page every month, email [sally@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:sally@rockfordwritersguild.org).

On November 19th, **Mike Bayles** led an exercise on haibun for Writers on the Avenue at its monthly night meeting. Haibun combines prose and haiku forms. 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." Voices on the Wind accepted one of Mike Bayles' poems for its blog. Starting on November 1, it can be viewed at <http://www.voicesonthewind.net/>. The Weekly Avocet included one of his poems for its online journal. Writers on the Avenue accepted three of his poems and an article he wrote for its 30th Anniversary Issue.

**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** reported her haiga (Illustrated haiku) was showcased in Ireland in October at the Westport Music and Arts Festival and was featured at The Gallery Wine & Tapas Bar in Westport, County Mayo. In other news, thanks to RWG Member Wilda Morris' efforts -- in conjunction with the Illinois State Poetry Society -- Charlotte's poem "Excursion" was featured in October, among other poems, at Burning Bush Gallery in Wheaton, IL. Her poem was written about and accompanied a piece of art displayed at the gallery. Charlotte is also exhibiting her haiga (illustrated haiku) through Dec. 31 at Glenview Park District in Glenview, IL.

**William Hincy's** short story collection, *Without Expiration*, is now available. *Without Expiration* includes fiction originally published in *The Rockford Review* and asks the question "Are we bad people who sometimes do good things, or good people who do bad things?" Readers can learn more at [williamrhinc.com](http://williamrhinc.com).

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](http://illinoispoets.org). You can find it by clicking on Wilda's name.

**Paul Smith's** poem "Spit" was published by Oddball Magazine. You can read his poem here: <https://oddballmagazine.com/poem-by-paul-smith/>.

**Al Youmans'** new book "Some Thoughtful Means for Meaning" is available through [amazon.com/books](http://amazon.com/books). His brief description: Each of us has the choice to follow the path of rational understanding. This anthology of excerpts, essays, and short stories are examples to support and encourage this individual rational path. The emotion of feeling balanced by the emergence of thought. Some thoughtful means for meaning ...

**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, IL; **Randal Stowell** of Rockford; **Tammy Ward** of Loves Park, IL; and **Becky Wyant** of Rockford.

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

## Notes from November 17, 2019 Meeting

Meeting started at 1:05 at Burpee Museum of Natural History

Attendees: James, Katie, Emily, Alex, and Lori Marshall; Tom Walsh, Tom Lee, Cindy Guentherman, Becky Wyant, Zoe Norwood, Susan Goldberg

There are lots of ways to continue a story (more plot, more with the characters, more of a particular theme): more story to tell, new authors have different visions (e.g., fan-fiction). Sequels provide different dramatic experiences.

Writers shared works that they had written that retold a (famous) story.

- James: *Ulysses* (Tennyson)
- Tom Lee: *The Historian* (Elizabeth Kostova)
- Zoe: *Dracula The Undead* (Stoker) (Bram Stoker's great-nephew)
- Becky: *Heidi Grows Up*, *Heidi's Wedding*, and *Heidi's Children* (Triton, one of the original translators)
- Cindy: "Flame" (poem by Collins)
- Tom Walsh: "Banga" (song by Patti Smith that's based on The Master & the Margarita)
- Lori: *Old Friends and New Fancies: An Imaginary Sequel to the Novels of Jane Austen* (Brinton)
- Susan: *Death Comes to Pemberley* (James)
- Emily: *The Day the Crayons Came Home* (Daywalt)
- Alex: *Catching Fire* (Collins)
- Katie: *The Penderwicks on Gardam Street* (Birdsall)

Writing Contest:

Theme: Holiday Sequel

Winners: Susan Goldberg and Emily Marshall

Next Meeting: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, December 15, 2019, at the Burpee Museum of Natural History

Assignment: Write something that is a sequel (poem or prose). This can be the continuation of a story you have written or characters you have already developed OR this could be a sequel to another author's story/story using someone else's characters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marshall

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.rockfordwritersguild.org).

### Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

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