

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

June Meeting Cancelled, July ?

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, we've decided to cancel our June meeting. In lieu of the meeting, please revise one of the pieces you wrote for an earlier meeting. You can send your revised works to me and I'll send them on to James Marshall: sally@rockfordwritersguild.org

Please stay safe and healthy, everyone!



photo: Lesley Jeal, <https://www.birdsandblooms.com>

“First Birds of Spring” Prose Contest Winners

Our “First Birds of Spring” prose contest winners are listed on page three of this newsletter. Thanks to everyone who submitted stories — once again, we had a large number of submissions.

“Prose to Poetry” Contest Winners

In lieu of our April meeting, we had a writing contest titled “Prose to Poetry.” The assignment for the meeting was: take a prose piece that someone else wrote and write a poetic version of it. The winners are:

Marie Asner for “Shards of Language”

Bill Olewiler for “From Lincoln’s Second Inaugural”

Thanks to the winners and to all who submitted poems.

PLEASE NOTE: OUR JUNE 21 MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS THREAT. OUR NEW VENUE WHEN WE’RE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN WILL BE IN THE YMCA’S HARDING ROOM. (See the notice below.)

BOARD ELECTION

Thank you to everyone who voted in our 2020 Board Election! We had a pretty decent response via email voting. You selected our new Board.

Rockford Writers’ Guild Board

President: Sally Hewitt

Treasurer: Cindy Guentherman

Vice President: Becky Wyant

Recording Secretary: Lori Marshall

Membership Director: Tom Walsh

We welcome Becky Wyant as the new addition to our Board! Thanks to James Marshall for his seven years on the Board!

COMMENTARY CORNER

Commentary Corner is open! Contact Tom Walsh, Membership Director, if you’d like to share your writing and critique other members’ poetry and prose.

membership@rockfordwritersguild.org

CHANGE of MEETING VENUE

The RWG Board made a decision to change our meeting place, from the Burpee Museum to the YMCA of Rock River Valley Harding Room. The YMCA meeting room is half the cost of the Burpee Museum meeting room, and is also smaller and cozier. When we can meet again, we’ll meet here:

YMCA of Rock River Valley

200 Y Blvd.

Rockford, IL

(815) 987-8100

GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

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

Mike Bayles took Third Place in the April Wilda Morris Monthly Challenge. His poem will be available to read at wildamorris.blogspot.com. *Stat Poets* and *The Avocet* published his poetry. *Pancakes in Heaven* accepted two of his poems for publication in upcoming issues.

Joan Clark has a new book—an inspirational romance—entitled *Blue Ridge Blessings*, now available on Amazon.

Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka, IL was interviewed by award-winning Italian Poet and Novelist Eufemia Griffo about her new book, *Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing* (an inspirational reference book on writing poems as a healing exercise.) The interview was featured in Italian for poets on the internet. Digregorio met Griffo through her blog, www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com, that features the work of poets in 60 countries who are bilingual. Currently, Digregorio is accepting previously-published free verse poems to reprint on her blog. If interested, please contact her at c-books@hotmail.com, with one poem you'd like considered.

Jennifer Lagier's new chapbook, "Camille Comes Unglued," featuring cover art by Gene McCormick, has just been published by Cyberwit. Her new full-length book of poetry, "Meditations on Seascapes and Cypress," has been accepted for publication by Blue Light Press.

Paula Morhardt will have two books published this summer: "Days of Daze" will be out May 29 and "Night Maze" on June 5. Both are books of poetry, full of mystery and wonder, June bugs and wolves, monsters under the bed and marines taking children. "Widow's Walk: How My World Ended and What Happened After," Paula's story of loss after her husband died suddenly and her mother died the next day, currently available on Amazon, will be coming out with Fox Pointe Publishing in October, and its companion volume, "Widow's Tears of Sorrow," a book of poems about loss, will be out in November. Books are available at <https://www.foxpointepublishing.com/shop-now>.

Wilda Morris has recently had five poems accepted by *Writers' Cafe Magazine* and three by *Quill & Parchment* and one by yourdaily-poem.org. *Poetry Hall* will be publishing one of her poems in English along with a translation to Chinese.

RM Yager's photography and poem were accepted in the April issue of the *Front Porch Review*, and her poetry was also accepted in *StepAway Magazine*, a journal in the UK, for their #31 edition as well as their recent "Lockdown" issue.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members for 2020: Please welcome **Kairo Brunson** of Rockford, IL; **Raymond Empereur** of Rockford, IL; **Phil Flott** of Omaha, NE; **Carol Fowler** of Elgin, IL; **Fatima Alzahraa Hussein** of Rockford, IL; **Jeramie Joseph** of Rockford, IL; **Paula Morhardt** of Stockton, IL; **Kayla Osborn** of Rockford, IL; **Tricia Plescia**, Chana, IL; **Jennifer Anne Rea** of Rockford, IL; and **Jason Waddle** of Hamilton, Ontario.

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

“First Birds of Spring” Prose Contest Winners

Thank you to the writers who entered the *First Birds of Spring* Prose Contest. We selected four \$10 winners, whose stories will be published in the 2020 Summer-Fall edition of *The Rockford Review*.

Mike Bayles for “The Heart of Spring”

John Day for “Spring Birdsong”

Cindy Guentherman for “Finding Autonomy on the Front Porch Steps”

June Thompson for “Birds of the Corn”

Congratulations to all winners!

Meet Our Board Members:

Saying Goodbye to James Marshall, Vice President From 2013 - 2020

The Board gifted James a lifetime membership for his years of service.

Born and raised a couple of counties over in Arlington Heights, IL, I moved to the Rockford area with my family in 2010 to take a position teaching biology at what was then Rockford College (now University). My wife met the Kuntz family at Rockford Dance Company classes, and Connie talked them into attending and then joining the Guild. I was the last one in the family to join, and in 2013 I agreed to become the Vice President for Programming.

I write way more lectures than stories or poems, and I am certainly no novelist. But I have enjoyed creating ways for the Guild to use meetings as a venue for writing and sharing writing. I look forward to seeing the Guild continue to grow and develop.



Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

Sally Hewitt President and Editor

Cindy Guentherman Treasurer and Social Media Editor

Becky Wyant Vice President

Lori Marshall Recording Secretary

Tom Walsh Membership Director

Hana Ferguson Social Media Director

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 level:

Complete form and send (snail mail) check or money order to:

Rockford Writers' Guild

P.O. Box 858

Rockford, IL 61105

Or, Join/Renew online at www.rockfordwritersguild.org.