

# WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

## No October Meeting — Contest Instead

Again, we won't meet in October due to the coronavirus threat. Instead, we'll have a writing contest, theme: "Are Funny Bones Really Funny?" Please submit poems and/or short stories, with our usual parameters. More on page 3.

## Rockford Review Youth Poetry Award

An anonymous donor sent us funds to sponsor a youth poetry contest. The contest will be open to all kids up to age 18, so we hope all of you RWG members will encourage your children and/or grandchildren to submit poems they've written. We'll try to get the word out to the wider public, too.

We've set up two categories:

**13-18**

**12 and under**

Please send up to 3 poems, 50 lines or less, to [sally@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:sally@rockfordwritersguild.org). Your name, age, address, email address, and phone number should appear in the upper righthand corner.

The deadline for entries is October 1, midnight Rockford time.

**Winners will receive a \$20 check from RWG and winning poems will be published in the Winter-Spring edition of *The Rockford Review*.**



Credit: [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

**BOARD PROFILE OF SECRETARY LORI WINCHESTER MARSHALL ON PAGE 4**

**PLEASE NOTE: NO OCTOBER MEETING HAS BEEN PLANNED. OUR NEW VENUE WHEN WE'RE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN WILL BE IN THE YMCA'S HARDING ROOM.**

## RWG THEME FOR 2020-2021: DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

**October:** Funny Bones ... Are They Really Funny? (More on page 3.)

**November:** Laughter Is Sometimes a Pretty Good Medicine

**December:** The Gift of Good Humor

**WINNERS OF "SOLITUDE" AND "ICE MELT" CONTESTS TO BE POSTED IN OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

## COMMENTARY CORNER

Our Commentary Corner promotion has concluded. I think it was a modest success. Ten authors submitted work—seven for the first time. So, that's a pretty decent introduction of this service to our membership. I hope all the authors that submitted got good feedback. If any would like to offer their proverbial Two Cents regarding their experience to Sally I hope they will. AND OF COURSE A BIG THANK YOU to the volunteer members of "the Pool" who read and critiqued submissions; it goes without saying this tool would not be possible without their time and effort.

THE PROMOTION HAS ENDED but Commentary Corner carries on. If you have work you want reviewed send it to me ([CRATER.RIM@gmail.com](mailto:CRATER.RIM@gmail.com)) and I will distribute it to the Pool; then the Pool members will respond to you directly.

OUR PROMOTION WINNERS ARE ...

Hard-working Pool member: **Jennifer Rea**

Writer who submitted to the Pool for review: **Tom Lee**

A Pool member's name was randomly drawn from a hat, followed by a random drawing for those writers who submitted work. (The drawing was supervised by the law firm of Dewey, Cheatum & Howe.) Each winner has had her/his Guild membership extended for six months.

Best wishes to everyone - Tom Walsh

### 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).

**Mike Bayles'** next collection of poetry, *With Suitcase and Bag*, is expected to be released in October this year. *With Suitcase and Bag* takes the reader in a poetic journey through places he worked as a flagger for construction and utility crews. The last section takes the reader to places he considered home. Bayles, a lifelong Midwest resident, writes about human connections to nature, settings (mostly rural), and with each other. He expects this collection of prose poems and other forms to delight.

**Charlotte Digregorio, Winnetka, Illinois**, has received fourteen significant reviews of her new book, *Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing*, including two endorsements by psychotherapists. In other news, her etheree, "Halloween," appears in the October issue of *Quill and Parchment*.

**Susan Goldberg's** daughter Madeleine Jubilee Saito (née Witt), Rockford native, is a visual poet featured in an upcoming anthology of women's writing on climate change, *All We Can Save*, coming from One World and Penguin Randomhouse on September 22. Kirkus Reviews called the book "A welcome anthology, in prose and verse, of women's writings on climate change ... A well-curated collection with many ideas for ways large and small to save the planet."

**Jennifer Lagier** has had poetry published online by Syndic Literary Journal, The Monterey Poetry Review, Winedrunksidewalk, The Sock Drawer, Poetry and Places, Silver Birch Press, Prime Movers Series.

**Tom Lee** is going for an MFA at Columbia (remotely from Rockford), and is now part of the writing staff at Voyage Media, Hollywood. They do many top titles in film. He works security in retail and as guide at Midway Village and Burpee soon again. Still a heavy satchel on his shoulder, he carried his new story to a growing market in New York and Chicago.

**Paul Smith's** poem "Manmade" was published in September in *The New Verse News*. His poetry and fiction have been published in *Convergence*, *Packingtown Review*, *Literary Orphans*, *TheNewVerse.News*, and other lit mags.

### 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; **Karen Guler** of Rockford, IL; **Fatima Alzahraa Hussein** of Rockford, IL; **Jeramie Joseph** of Rockford, IL; **Travis Morgan**, of Roscoe, IL; **Paula Morhardt** of Stockton, IL; **Kayla Osborn** of Rockford, IL; **Tricia and John Plescia** of Chana, IL; **Jennifer Anne Rea** of Rockford, IL; and **Jason Waddle** of Sarnia, Ontario.

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

## Writing for the Coming Year — From Becky Wyant, VP

### Our October Writing Contest: Funny Bones ... Are They Really Funny? (prose or poetry)

Write about when something was funny to one person but not funny to another.

Options for sharing your writing are:

1. In person with your own circle of people.
2. Contest: Send to Sally at [sally@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:sally@rockfordwritersguild.org). The winning poems and prose will be published in the Winter-Spring edition of *The Rockford Review*. Submit up to three poems, each 50 lines or less, and/or up to three short stories, each 1,300 words or less. Deadline: November 1. Winner(s) announced in our December newsletter. Becky is caring for her grandchildren while her granddaughter has surgery — she'll be back next month. Best wishes to Becky and her family.

Funny bones is actually two words. For the sake of proper spelling, I suppose we should all use two words unless referring to the book: [Funny Bone | Definition of Funny Bone by Merriam-Webster](#)

1 : the place at the back of the elbow where the ulnar nerve rests against a prominence of the humerus. 2 : a sense of **humor**.



Credit: amazon.com

**Meet Our Board Members:**

**Say Hello to Lori Marshall, Secretary!**

Lori Marshall, Secretary, joined the Rockford Writers' Guild in 2012. She has also served in the role of Youth Director. Her preferred genre for writing is nonfiction. She is a research analyst for McGraw Hill and is raising three writers with her husband James in Rockton, Illinois.



**Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors**

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