

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

No November Meeting:

Contest Instead

Again, we won't meet in November due to the coronavirus threat. Instead, we'll have a writing contest, theme: "Laughter Is Sometimes a Pretty Good Medicine." Please submit poems and/or short stories, with our usual parameters. More on page 3.



Credit: pixabay.com

"Solitude" Poetry Contest Winners

Olivia Diamond for "Winter Wolves"
Cindy Guentherman for "Solitude"
Mark Hudson for "Insomnia From Isolation"
Judith Kittredge for "Clouds Colliding"
Jennifer Lagier for "Loner"
Wilda Morris for "Walking Alone"
Jennifer Rea for "Solitude"
June Thompson for "Trucker"
Jason Waddle for "Rat Race"
RM Yager for "Old Ladies"

A big thanks to everyone who sent poems — we had another large surge in submissions. It's never easy for the judges. Congratulations to the winners!

PLEASE NOTE: NO NOVEMBER 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!

November: Laughter Is Sometimes a Pretty Good Medicine ((More on page 3.)

December: The Gift of Good Humor

ROCKFORD POET LAUREATES

Monumental congratulations to RWG members Christine Swanberg and Jocelyn Kuntz! Christine was named Rockford poet laureate and Jocelyn is youth poet laureate. Read more here: <https://www.rstar.com/news/20201026/rockford-names-its-first-ever-poet-laureate-and-youth-poet-laureate>

"Ice Melt" Prose Contest Winners

Thanks to writers who sat down and wrote prose pieces for our "Ice Melt" contest! We have excellent writers in the Guild and we're happy you share your writing with us!

Mike Bayles for "Maiden Fair"

James Marshall for "The Day the Ice Melt Didn't"

Trisha Plescia for "Ode to Grandma"

June Thompson for "Pierce Lake"

BOARD PROFILE OF HANA FERGUSON, SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR, ON PAGE 4:

GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

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

Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka, IL took Third Place in the Free Verse Category of Poets and Patrons Annual Contest. One of her haiku will be published in the *Trees Anthology* and two haiku were published in *East on Central*, an annual journal. (Both publications in Highland Park, IL.)

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.

Wilda Morris will be the featured poet in the November issue of the online journal, *Quill & Parchment*. She won second place in the category of "Health Care Workers" in the Poets & Patrons annual contest. Three of Wilda's poems were accepted for the November issue of *Voices on the Wind*. Several of her poems are included in the video, *In Covid Times* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJUuljtxWFk&feature=youtu.be>), produced by the P2 Collective, a new organization composed of four poets and three photographers, all from the Chicago area.

Tom Walsh had an essay (short and much edited) in the November 2020 issue of *The Sun* magazine (<https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/539/highs-and-lows>).

RM Yager had 3 poems accepted in *A Beautiful Space*, which is an online UK journal, as well as having 2 poems accepted in the 18th edition of *EOC*, a printed journal. Also, one of her poems was accepted in the Highland Park fall/winter gallery on "Trees," which will be available as a printed anthology, and a poem accepted in the printed fall edition of *Avocet*, BUT the biggest news is having received awards from Poets and Patrons for 2 entries--one as second place prize, in one category, as well as an honorable mention in another category! Rita has written 3 chapbooks, and, for the first time, submitted one of them to a contest.

Al Youmans has a new book available on Amazon: "Compelling — Speaking of Us" is 124 pages. Brief Summary: This writing is an effort to present summarized yet compelling support for the complex biological and cultural evolution of human beings. Particularly, how conscious human beings successfully evolved through the natural selective advantages of shared language.

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**, Rockford, IL; **Fatima Alzahraa Hussein** of Rockford, IL; **Jeramie Joseph** of Rockford, IL; **Paula Morhardt** of Stockton, IL; **Kayla Osborn** of Rockford, IL; **Tricia and John Plescia**, Chana, IL; **Jennifer Anne Rea** of Rockford, IL; **Christine Swanberg** of Rockford, IL; and **Jason Waddle** of Hamilton, Ontario.

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

Writing for the Coming Year — From Becky Wyant, VP

Winners of the “Funny Bones ... Are They Really Funny?” Contest:
Cindy Guentherman for “Mom the Big Fat Liar”
Maureen Baldwin for “Goat Milk”

Laughter Is Sometimes Pretty Good Medicine

As soap is to the body, so laughter is to the soul. — Jewish Proverb

You might remember that section of *Reader's Digest* called “Laughter Is the Best Medicine.” To a certain extent, I agree. But medicine is good medicine. Meditation, massage and music are good medicine. Crying is good medicine. Rest is good medicine. Creative endeavors are good medicine. Of course, chicken soup and laugh yoga are medicinal, but maybe not simultaneously. So, if you know your patient, and your timing and dosage are right, humor is also good medicine.

Care to write about your experience playing humor doctor? Do you have a favorite “alternative” medicine? If so, read your prose or poetry to someone in your circle of people; or send it to becky@rockfordwritersguild.org for possible publication.

Gotta go now. My 7-year-old Humor Intern here wants to tell me a Knock Knock joke!

“Knock knock. Who’s there? Banana. Banana who?” (repeat 3 times)

“Knock knock. Who’s there? Orange. Orange who? Orange you glad I didn’t say banana?”



Credit: smeltzercartoons.com

Meet Our Board Members:

Say Hello to Hana Ferguson, Social Media Director!

Hana Ferguson has been a member of the RWG since 2014. As an avid reader and researcher, she relishes anything historical, and is currently finishing up her AA at Rock Valley College and plans to major in history at Rockford University. She has self-published one YA novel so far, and hopes to publish more on her own time in the future. Writing for as long as she can remember, it not only helps her learn, but also to decompress, and is rather shy to share her works (she hates to boast!). RWG has helped her open up and discover many wonderful local and non-local authors to not only share stories, but develop friendships through those stories and come together to support one another.



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- Sally Hewitt** President & Editor
- Cindy Guentherman** Treasurer, Social Media Editor
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