

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

No January Meeting:

Contest Instead

Again, we won't meet in January due to the coronavirus threat. Instead, we'll have a writing contest, theme: "It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning." Please submit poems and/or short stories, with our usual parameters. Deadline: January 10! Send entries to: becky@rockfordwritersguild.org. More on page 3.



Credit: [dreamstime.com](https://www.dreamstime.com)

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Last month, I (your humble volunteer membership guy) offered you some writing thoughts via a YouTube video. Well ... this month I'll offer some more. But this month—no video. (It didn't take me very long to switch horses!) I hope you'll enjoy this, from author Ryan Holiday. If you wish, please do comment, and/or offer your own recommendation for such content to share. Stay well and best wishes. - Tom Walsh

Subject: 44 Writing Hacks From Some of the Greatest Writers Who Ever Lived | Thought Catalog

<https://thoughtcatalog.com/ryan-holiday/2016/05/44-writing-hacks-from-some-of-the-greatest-writers-who-ever-lived/>

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

NEW YEAR, NEW READS

To all of our published authors, near or far, RWG has an exciting proposal to make. If you are interested in donating and shipping a copy of your novel for an opportunity at receiving more recognition in 2021, please private message our Facebook page, The Rockford Writer's Guild, or email our social media director, Hana Ferguson, at hanaeferguson0@gmail.com, ASAP. Our social media director will explain all of the details that the RWG board has come up with via email or Facebook messaging for an exciting 2021 opportunity for published authors!

MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP GUY, TOM WALSH

We've noticed some members haven't been receiving their membership renewal notices. If you think your membership is up for renewal, be sure to check your spam folders. Tom sends out two or three reminders, and, as a last resort, sends a snail mail letter to any lapsed members. We hope you'll help us out with this issue. And, especially, we hope you'll continue on with RWG.

COMMENTARY CORNER

If you'd like your writing critiqued by other writers, please send your poems or prose to Tom Walsh at: crater.rim@gmail.com.

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' latest poetry collection "With Suitcase and Bag" is out. "With Suitcase and Bag" takes the reader through a poetic journey through the Midwest. Its pages tell a story of going away from home, and farther away, until returning, discoveries made along the way. It is the perfect book for those who are experiencing a sense of wanderlust. Anyone who is interested may contact Mike at bayles.mike558@gmail.com.

Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka, IL has received acceptances for the forthcoming issues of these journals: *Red Lights* for a tanka sequence; *Moonbathing* for a single tanka; *Quill and Parchment* for senryu; and *bottle rockets* and *Frogpond* for haiku. She took Third Place for her haiku in the Illinois State Poetry Contest.

Bill Mathis' new novel "Revenge Is Necessary" is being released through Rogue Phoenix Press in early December.

Paula Morhardt, of Stockton, IL, has two books coming out in the next two months. "Sweet Sour Cherries" (for ages 3-7 years), her first children's book, will be published by Fox Pointe Publishing mid-December. The book is the first time Paula has worked with illustrator Kim Hanzo, but will not be the last. A second children's book "The Best Magic of All" is planned for spring of 2021, and a third will be out later in the summer. Her second book will also be published by Fox Pointe, and is due out mid-January. "Through the Garden Window: Season of Harvest" is the first of a planned series of 12 books, combinations of garden/kitchen essays with recipes by Paula's mother, grandmothers and great-grandmothers. Illustrated by Paula's regular illustrator, Peggy McDowell, the book gives you a glimpse of growing your own food, and what to do with it when you do. Both books are now available for pre-order from Fox Pointe Publishing at <https://www.foxpointepublishing.com/shop-now>.

Wilda Morris has had three poems selected for a print anthology of Christmas poems. Two of her Christmas poems were published by *The Poet*, which has also accepted two of her poems on Childhood. *Failed Haiku* has accepted two more of her senryu. Highland Park Poetry has published her poem, "Trixie," which won an honorable mention in the recent Illinois State Poetry Contest. She won first place in the category of "First Responders" in the same contest.

Paul Smith's story "The Stairs" was published in *The Adirondack Review*. You can read it here (scroll down): [The Adirondack Review | Fall 2020 | Volume XXI, No. 1](#). And, *Verdad* published his short story titled "Rio Silin." You can read it here: <http://www.verdadmagazine.org/vol29/fiction/smith.html>.

Rita Yager's poem "The Occupation" has been accepted and will be appearing in the upcoming issue of *The Blue Collar Review*. She also had three poems published in the November issue of *Muddy River Poetry Review*.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members for 2020: Please welcome **Kairo Brunson** of Rockford, IL; **Ethel Carter** of Seal Beach, CA; **Thomas Danielson** of Halifax, NS; **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; **Pamela Pettigrew-Shields** of Rockford, IL; **Maryann Smith** of Greensburg, PA; **Christine Swanberg** of Rockford, IL; **Jason Waddle** of Hamilton, Ontario; and **Stuart Wahlin** of Rockford, IL.

Writing for the Coming Year — From Becky Wyant, VP

RECALIBRATING in 2021

Got me a brand-new toolbox
 For twenty twenty-one.
 My world could use some fixin'.
 Last year has come undone!
 B.Wyant 12/25/20

Raise your hand if your world has gotten seriously out of whack this year.

Raise your hand if you are needing to fix some things, make some adjustments, sharpen up some survival skills, or shore up some sanity.

Care to write about what “tools” you have in your toolbox for framing up this new year? Or maybe your style is to just “eyeball it” and see what transpires. If I knew what they were, *I'd* write about “calipers” because it is such a cool word. Can I challenge someone to use calipers in a Haiku (or longer piece if you wish)? As always, share your writing with others. Read alouds are fun. Or submit pieces to beckywyant@rockfordwritersguild.org. Quite a few very interesting things have been submitted for “It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning” contest.

There’s still time! (The deadline is Jan. 10, midnight Rockford time for the latter contest.)

— Becky Wyant

COMING TOPICS

Feb.: Tickled Pink

Mar.: Spring, Sprang, Sprung

April: Palindromes ...

What are they good for?

May: Like Mother Used to Make



David discards his measuring tape for the faster 'eyeballing' method of measuring.

Credit: Theresa McCracken via CartoonStock, www.cartoonstock.com

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A RECORDING SECRETARY

Our longtime Recording Secretary Lori Marshall will be retiring in June, so we're searching for someone to fill the voluntary position. Lori has been our reliable notetaker at meetings, although we haven't had meetings since March 2020. Once we're able to resume meetings, we'll need an RWG member who can attend the meetings and write the minutes. Is anyone out there interested? If so, please contact me at: sally@rockfordwritersguild.org. Thank you! We have an extraordinary group of people on the Board, so you won't regret signing up for the position and working with our crew.



Credit: [dreamstime.com](https://www.dreamstime.com)

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)

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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.