

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

No February Meeting

Again, we won't meet in February due to the coronavirus threat. Doggone!

But, Happy Valentine's Day to all of you out there. And, stay safe and healthy.



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

MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP GUY, TOM WALSH

When you mail in payment (say, for membership renewal or extra copies of *TRR*) please be sure to draft your check or money order to **The Rockford Writers' Guild**.

From time to time I collect a check drafted to *The Rockford Review*. Thus far the bank has allowed me to deposit these incorrectly drafted checks. But when the day comes and they refuse, it will surely be a hassle for me and the payer. Thanks much ...

Tom Walsh
Your Hard-Working Volunteer Membership Guy

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the "It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning" writing contest are listed on page 4. Congratulations to all of the winners! Your poems and stories will be published in the 2021 Summer-Fall edition of *The Rockford Review*.

PLEASE NOTE: NO FEBRUARY 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

Following is the list of authors and the books they'll be sending to individual raffle winners.

Wilda Morris - Pequod Poems
Al Youmans - Compelling - Speaking of Us
Melanie Coronetz - In the Shadow of Mercury
Hana Ferguson - The Sound of Rain
Paula Morhardt - Through the Garden Window: Season of Harvest
Christine Swanberg - Wild Fruition: Sonnets, Spells, and Other Incantations
Carly Meminger - The Adoption of Floyd
Paula Morhardt - Days of Daze
Nancy Schaefer - Living at Hope's Edge
Olivia Diamond - Conquistadora
Bill Mathis - Revenge is Necessary
Mike Bayles - With Suitcase and Bag
Rhonda Parsons - Take Five
Gary Lawrence - Baffled and Other Stories
Ali Maloney - Skye Light: Edict of the Kauri, book 1
Jason Waddle - Awake in Dreams, Sleeping Death Away
Stuart Wahlin et al - The Black Book
Judith Kittredge - Vroom Vroom Vehicles & Verses

MORE DETAILS FROM HANA FERGUSON

Thank you SO much to those who have contributed to our New Year, New Reads book giveaway! As the time slot closed to submit your novel on Jan. 31, I will be announcing the official giveaway on Feb. 5 on our Facebook page for the general public to enter in.

The giveaway will be open from Feb 5 to Feb 26 at midnight for ANYONE to enter. If they are under 18, they will need to use their legal guardian's information with their permission to be able to enter. As stated in previous emails, I will be emailing each author their assigned winner's shipping information--all of this is confidential, away from the public, between me and the author. Please email hanaef@protonmail.com with any questions you may have.

Thanks so much again for your participation!
Happy writing!

— Hana Ferguson

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 will give a ZOOM poetry workshop, (open to all from everywhere), sponsored by the Winnetka Public Library: "Write & Publish Great Poetry," Sunday, April 18, 2 to 3:30 p.m. A link with the workshop description/registration information will appear in the RWG March newsletter. You may contact Charlotte, c-books@hotmail.com, with questions. She is the author of two poetry reference books: *Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing and Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All*, both available through libraries. In other news, two of Charlotte's poems are published in the February issue of *Quill and Parchment*.

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>.

Paul Smith's poem "Dear Flavia" was published in *The New Verse News*. You can read it here: <https://newversenews.blogspot.com/2021/01/dear-flavia.html>. And, *Verdad* published his short story titled "Rio Silin." You can read it here: <http://www.verdadmagazine.org/vol29/fiction/smith.html>.

Jason Waddle's second book of poetry "Falling Through the Cracks: Poetical Musings During a Pandemic" has just been accepted for publication. After this, Jason will concentrate on getting his fiction published.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members for 2021: Please welcome **Steven Bates** of Ada, OH; **Kimberly McKee** of South Beloit, IL; **Ali Maloney** of Rockford, IL; **Matthew Vitek** of Roscoe, IL.

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



Tickled Pink & Looking for Clues

Here we are at our sixth “meeting” of RWG in the year of DON’T MAKE ME LAUGH. (And still, by necessity, a two-dimensional meeting.)

I miss sitting around the tables listening to each other read our suggested assignment.

I miss sharing thoughtful critique face to face.

I miss being part of our fifteen minute, quick-write sessions, where, hunched over our papers, we put on our thinking caps and spin out an original piece of writing. Many of you who live locally are no doubt missing our meetings as well.

However, today, February 1st, I feel tickled pink that so many members contributed to our contest. I feel tickled pink that we are welcoming new members. I feel tickled pink that there are many more poems and stories waiting to be written ... whatever the topic or tone.

A few weeks ago, my 7-year-old grandson asked “Who is the Pink Panther?” His school friends had been talking about this cartoon character and he hadn’t heard of him. I explained and we found a few cartoons on YouTube. (Of course they were all too young to know about the Inspector Clouseau movies.) Soon we were giggling and singing Henry Mancini’s theme song.

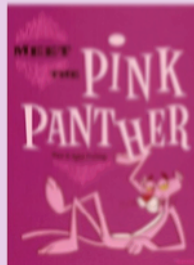
“How would this sound on kazoos?” I asked. We got kazoos out of my piano bench, started playing with mock-seriousness and sleuthed around the house looking for imaginary clues. “Hey! Shouldn’t there be finger snaps?” Next time around we added finger snaps. It was a jolly good time that tickled me pink.

Do you have some writing in you that is bubbling to get out? Are you looking for clues in life? Put on Henry Mancini’s music, do a quick-write and let the tickling begin!

March: Spring, Sprang, Sprung

April: Palindromes

May: Like Mother Used to Make



WINNERS of the Contest: It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning

PROSE:

Eunice M. Fisher for “It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning”
Zoe Norwood for “It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning”
Tom Walsh for “From Heaven Like Manna”

POETRY:

Maureen Baldwin for “Recharged”
Phil Flott for “Walking Alone”
Fatima Alzahraa Hussein for “It Was a Bright and Sunny Morning”
John Casey Kalkirtz for “Morning Light”
Jennifer Lagier for “Copper Sunrise”
Jude McCause for “Morning Meditation”
Wilda Morris for “Sunny Saturday Morning at the Outdoor Laundry”
Jennifer Rea for “Sunlight Finds Meaning in a Sandwich”



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