

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

No April Meeting

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

But, happy National Poetry Month!



Credit: pixabay.com

MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP GUY, TOM WALSH

Dear Fellow Members,

In honor of April Fool's Day, this month I offer the following. Have a laugh. Two, actually. Next month I'll resume trying to suggest something actually helpful. Though of course—laughs can be helpful, too ...
Membership Guy Tom Walsh

<https://youtu.be/b4G8VjFp1hQ>

<https://youtu.be/wJdNrCeUdhc>

You know the saying: Can't make this stuff up. On March 16, I routinely went to PO Box 858 here in Rockford. You may recognize that as the Guild's PO Box. There I found a letter addressed to PO Box 858, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. As Maxwell Smart used to say: Missed it by *that* much! Thirty years ago, my wife and I spent some of our honeymoon in Road Town, BVI. Rockford is my home, but I hope I can be forgiven for, then, wishing I was in fact in the British Virgins. Sigh ...

ROCKFORD REVIEW YOUTH POETRY AWARD: Deadline May 15. Contest award: \$25 each for winners of the 13-18 and 12 and Under age categories. Please encourage your kids/grandkids to enter.

BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations for all RWG Board positions are now open during the month of April: any RWG member in good standing can throw his/her hat in the ring, so to speak. Elections take place in May by the general membership (via email) and officers are installed in June, beginning their terms of office on July 1. Please email me if you or a member friend would like to run for office. sally@rockfordwritersguild.org.

The Vice President and Secretary should be able to attend our meetings (when we can once again have meetings), as the VP leads the meetings and the Secretary takes notes at the meetings. We're fortunate Hana Ferguson has agreed to run for the Secretary position. Hana will also continue on as our Social Media Director. Lori Marshall will step off the Board after the election this year. (Thank you, Lori, for your years of dedication to RWG!) Cindy Guentherman, Sally Hewitt, Tom Walsh, and Becky Wyant will continue on.

2021 Summer-Fall Members' Only TRR

Submit up to three new, previously unpublished poems (50 lines or less) or three new prose pieces (1,300 words or less) or a combination of up to three poems and prose pieces to be considered for publication in *The Rockford Review*. No theme. Simultaneous submissions are fine, as long as you notify us. Please include your bio, 50 words or less. Deadline: April 15, 2021. Notification by June 15, 2021.

"Reckonings" Prose Contest (Members)

Deadline: April 15. Please send your entries (1,300 words or less) to: sally@rockfordwritersguild.org or use the submission form on our website: rockfordwritersguild.org.

GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

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

Olivia Diamond invites you to explore her redesigned website <https://mountainofdreamsbooks.com> where you can find the complete collection of her and her husband's books to satisfy diverse reading tastes.

Charlotte Digregorio will give a free Zoom poetry workshop, sponsored by Winnetka (IL) Public Library: "Write & Publish Great Poetry," Sunday, April 18, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Almost all 99 seats are taken. For info/registration, (open to all from everywhere), click: <https://winnetkalibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events/?cid=3782&t=d&d=2021-04-18&cal=3782&inc=0>. Contact Charlotte, c-books@hotmail.com, with questions. She's authored two poetry reference books: "Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing" and "Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All." In other news, Charlotte received an Honorable Mention in the annual "Poetry Challenge" contest, sponsored by Highland Park (IL) Poetry.

Terence Gallagher's new e-novella *In the Empire of Dreams* is available at Amazon and other online stores through Draft2Digital publishing: <https://books2read.com/b/empireofdreams>. He has also had a short story, "Visitors," published in *Horla* online magazine: <http://www.horla.org/visitors-by-terence-gallagher/>.

Jennifer Lagier has a new collection of poetry, *Meditations on Seascapes and Cypress*, published by Blue Light Press and available for purchase from Amazon. Her chapbook, *COVID Dissonance*, has been published by Cyber Wit and is also available on Amazon.

Wilda Morris has had two poems accepted by yourdaily poem.com, one of which was featured on February 15. She has had haiku and senryu accepted by *Failed Haiku* and *Acorn*. Two of her pandemic poems have been selected for publication on a web page from Press Pause Press ([Two Poems — press II press](#)), and another for Poemic. *Continue the Voice* has just published her poem, "Letter to Mother, During the Pandemic of 2020." Her Lenten poem on Facebook got at least 20 shares, and was translated into Spanish and posted bilingually by a Mexican poet.

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. And, thanks to those of you who have renewed your RWG memberships!

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

GIG--GAG--DAD--MOM--SIS--BOB--ANNA--HANNAH--EVE--AVA
 CIVIC--A TOYOTA--RACECAR--SIR TETRIS--KAYAK--TOOT
 TACO CAT--STACK CATS--STEP ON NO PETS--GNU DUNG
 TUNA NUT--EVILOLIVE--MY GYM--LONELY TYLENOL--AHA
 DO GEESE SEE GOD?--RISE SIR--PULL UP--BIRD RIB--BIB
 MADAM I'M ADAM--TRAPEZE PART--CODE NINE DOC--STATS
 NEVER ODD OR EVEN--RIO MEMOIR--TOO HOT TO HOOT
 A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL, PANAMA (just amazing that one!)
 ABLE WAS I ERE I SAW ELBA (the first one mom taught us kids)

!SLOOF LIRPA!

wow
 palindromes are fun
 such words look and read the same
 forward or backward
 wow

(Thank you Maureen Baldwin for this clever description of palindromes.)

April 1st seems like the perfect day to be entertained by **palindromes**. A few of the above are remembered from my childhood ... Mom and her father especially loved playing with language. Others were shared by friends or found online. You may have favorites. Pulitzer Prize-worthy writing? Probably not. But a language trick that makes me laugh and say “How’d they do that?” (especially for the long ones).

As we look forward to the coming months, the RWG Board is considering an outdoor meeting in June. We will let you know how plans develop and where it would be held.

April and May ... we’ll still be connecting with you through WRITE AWAY. And keep appreciating other members’ work by reading the wonderful *Rockford Review*.

May topic: LIKE MOTHER USED TO MAKE

June topic: HERITAGE (to share at our June meeting, if we meet in June)

July topic: TA RA RA BOOM DEE AY (something to cheer about and share if we meet in July)

Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

Sally Hewitt President & Editor
Cindy Guentherman Treasurer, 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.