

# WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

## No May Meeting

Again, we won't meet in May due to the coronavirus threat. See poll questions on page 4 about a possible outdoor meeting this summer.

But, things are getting rosier.



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

## MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP GUY, TOM WALSH

Please remember that Commentary Corner is available if you wish to have your work criticized by friendly fellow Guild members. It has been some time since any work has been submitted for consideration. I can tell you that many of the comments I've gotten on my work from our volunteer reviewers/readers has been wonderfully helpful. If you have questions please contact me at: [crater.rim@gmail.com](mailto:crater.rim@gmail.com).

And, please enjoy the following video which I happened to stumble upon. <https://youtu.be/giLfkSDyfaU>

## "Reckonings" Prose Contest Winners

Thank you to writers who submitted their stories for this contest! A round of applause to:

**Gary Lawrence** for "The Best Laid Plans"  
**June Thompson** for "The Day of the Fish"  
**RM Yager** for "Survivors: Lost and Found"

**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 ELECTION

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 with your votes for our slate of candidates, deadline May 31, midnight Rockford time. [sally@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:sally@rockfordwritersguild.org)

### Slate of RWG Board Candidates

President: **Sally Hewitt**  
 Treasurer: **Cindy Guentherman**  
 Vice President: **Becky Wyant**  
 Recording Secretary: **Hana Ferguson**  
 Membership Director: **Tom Walsh**

Please vote for all positions or let me know if you vote for the entire slate. Thank you!

## "Alignment" Poetry Contest Winners

Thanks to all who entered our poetry contest — we had quite a few submissions. Congratulations to:

**Marie Asner** for "Alignment"  
**Cindy Guentherman** for "Late Night Confusions"  
**James Marshall** for "Misaligned"  
**Wilda Morris** for "Bent"  
**Paul Smith** for "Now Boarding"  
**Becky Wyant** for "Out of Alignment"

Honorable Mention to **Mark Hudson** for "The Camera Eye"

## 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).

**Marie Asner**, Overland Park, Kansas, participated in a poetry reading/musical program for April's National Poetry Month. The online Zoom program was sponsored by the Kansas City Musical Club, and featured Marie Asner reading her poems of spring and the Kansas City Wind Symphony with classical music selections.

**Mike Bayles'** poem, "Poems in a Coffee Shop," was on display at the Dead Poet's Espresso in Moline this April. His reading of the poem was also included in a virtual version of the SPECTRA poetry readings, sponsored by the Midwest Writing Center. "Poems in a Coffee Shop," first appeared in the 2011 Winter/Spring issue of *The Rockford Review*. It is also one of the poems in his collection, "With Suitcase and Bag." The Des Moines Book Festival recently showcased this book.

**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 of Winnetka, IL** shares this "Poetry Open Mic Marathon" opportunity for all poets that she has organized through her local library:

Calling All Poets from everywhere! Would you like a global audience to listen to you read your poems? Poetry has a tradition as a performance art since ancient times. Through Zoom and the Winnetka (IL) Public Library, beginning and experienced poets will share the spotlight, from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, July 25. They will introduce themselves, tell why they like to write poetry, and share up to five of their poems. Charlotte will kick off the event by reading some poems from her new book, *Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing*. Non-poets are especially welcome to be part of the audience. (The event may run longer, depending on how many readers there are.) Register at <https://winnetkalibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events/?cid=3782&t=d&d=2021-07-25&cal=3782&inc=0>

In other news, Charlotte reports that she coordinated with the Winnetka Library to have an exhibit of many poetry books there in April for National Poetry Month. Also, she reports that her haiku was accepted for publication by *bottle rockets*.

**Hana Ferguson** was runner-up for the Rockford University Colleen Holmbeck Poetry Prize. Her poem will be published in our Summer-Fall edition of *The Rockford Review*.

**Wilda Morris** has a poem in an anthology entitled "Through The Looking Glass, Reflecting on Madness and Chaos Within," which will be published by Indi Blu(e) this year. Three of her poems appear in the current issue of *The Poet*, which is focused on the theme of faith. She also had a poem published in *The Ekphrastic Review* early in April.

**Rhonda Parsons** poems "Ocean of My Words" and "Lotus Flower" will appear in the *Faith* edition of *Poet Magazine*.

## NEW MEMBERS

**New Members for 2021:** Please welcome **Steven Bates** of Ada, OH; **Gerri Hood** of Rockford, IL; **Aavyn Lee** of Plainville, GA; **Kimberly McKee** of South Beloit, IL; **Ali Maloney** of Rockford, IL; **Pete Plescia** of Galesburg, IL; **Matthew Vitek** of Roscoe, IL.

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

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

### BEDTIME WITH THE OLD UPRIGHT ... LIKE MOTHER USED TO MAKE ...

Getting five children ready for bed and settled for the night is no easy task. Dad worked many evenings and it was all up to Mom. At some point she decided to “shape our behavior” by combining her love of classical piano playing with our bedtime preparations.

“Have your homework done by the time I finish playing *Clair de Lune*,” she advised.

“Have your clothes laid out by the time I finish playing *Moonlight Sonata*,” she sang out.

“Have your teeth brushed by the time I finish playing “*Chopin’s Nocturne #2*,” directed Mom. “Oh, and your pjs on as well.” (This gave us more than enough time and we could still mess around a bit thinking we had outfoxed her.)

Then she came upstairs to tuck us in and teach us a few new rounds. We had moved past *Row, Row, Row* and *Frère Jacques* and were singing about French Cathedrals, Kitchen Clocks and World Peace. It was empowering to be able to hold our own part when the next voice came in.

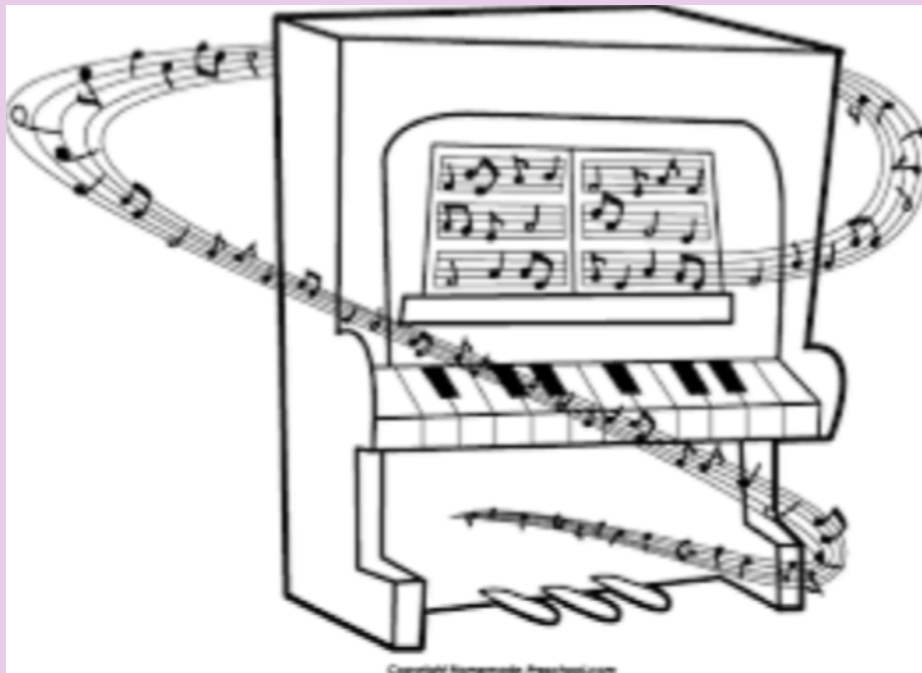
Yes, gentle, musical bedtimes, like my mother used to make, are something for which I will always be grateful. And, I’ve tried to pass them on to my children and to their children.

What did Mother make for you or with you? Does it stir up some feelings of appreciation that you want to put into writing? Share your writing with friends and family. — Becky

**June topic: Heritage**

**July topic: Ta Ra Ra Boom Dee Ay**

RWG will keep you posted on how we proceed as far as in-person meetings are concerned. Watch for our emails.



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**POSSIBILITY OF OUTDOOR MEETINGS THIS SUMMER**

Sunshine makes us hopeful, doesn't it? The Board wonders how many members would attend an outdoor meeting in June or July.

And, how many members would like us to continue with our monthly meetings in general. Our last meeting took place on February 16, 2020, before coronavirus concerns stopped our meetings.

CONSIDER THIS A POLL:

- 1) Would you attend an outdoor meeting this summer?
- 2) Should we continue on with our monthly meetings, in general?

Email your answers to: [sally@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:sally@rockfordwritersguild.org). Thank you!

**GIFT MEMBERSHIP**

We're happy to report the winner of The Colleen Holmbeck Poetry Prize at Rockford University was announced in April. Part of the award was a gift membership to RWG. Please welcome the winner: Aavyn Lee. One of his poems will appear in the Summer-Fall edition of *The Rockford Review*. Congratulations to Aavyn Lee and to RWG member Hana Ferguson, who is runner-up.

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