

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

RWG Zoom Meeting April 24

Join our Zoom Meeting: Sunday, April 24 from 1-3 p.m. Rockford time (CST). Our featured artist will be the longtime editor/publisher of *The Enterprise-Reporter* in McComb, Mississippi, Jack Ryan. Jack was Tom Walsh's roommate in college. See more information in the next column and on page 3.



MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP GUY, TOM WALSH

Note to members: This guy speaks quickly, and with an accent. You may be able to slow the play speed on your device; I, personally, found that helpful. — Tom Walsh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlqMY5MSmsE>

ROCKFORD REVIEW YOUTH POETRY AWARD — \$600 IN PRIZE MONEY

Our anonymous donor has sent \$100 and a generous family friend of mine has sent \$500 for our Rockford Review Youth Poetry Award winners in the 13-18 and Under 13 age categories. Sharpen up your writing skills, kids, and enter our contest, deadline May 15. Parents and grandparents, please encourage your kids and/or grandkids to enter the contest. In addition to prize money, winning poems will be published in our 2022 Summer-Fall edition of *The Rockford Review*.

The contest is open to all kids and the theme is "Tomorrow." Limit poems to 50 lines or less. The \$600 prize money will be distributed to all the winners. Submit entries via our website submission form or email them to: sally@rockfordwritersguild.org.

April 13 Zoom Poetry Workshop

Please let me know if you plan to attend the free poetry workshop (7 p.m.) led by Rockford Poet Laureate, Christine Swanberg. "Crafting Sonnets and Beyond ..." sally@rockfordwritersguild.org

WRITING PROMPT FOR APR. MEETING "Forward"

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.

We're fortunate Blanche Kabengele has agreed to run for the Vice President position and Gary Lawrence will run for our Membership Director position. Hana Ferguson, Cindy Guentherman, Sally Hewitt, and Tom Walsh will continue on.

DEADLINES

"Expectations" Prose Contest (Members Only)

Submit up to three previously unpublished prose pieces, each 1,300 words or less. Theme is *Expectations*. The deadline is April 15, 2022. Winning entries published in *The Rockford Review*, Summer-Fall edition, 2022. Winners announced in the June 2022 newsletter.

2022 Summer-Fall Edition (Members Only)

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, 2022. Notification by June 15, 2022.

GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

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

One of **Mike Bayles'** poems was accepted for the Spring Issue of Star Poets. On June 18th, he will conduct a workshop on scene writing for the Society of Great River Poets.

Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka, IL, will be honored at Madame ZuZu's Tea House in Highland Park, IL at 5 p.m., Saturday, May 14 in "A Salute to Haiku," sponsored by Highland Park Poetry. Charlotte will read selected haiku from her two books, "Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All" and "Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing." There have been more than 1,500 copies sold of "Haiku and Senryu," a guide that has been praised since 2014 as the "definitive" book for learning and practicing the art of these two short forms. For more information about this event, or about haiku and senryu, you may contact Charlotte at c-books@hotmail.com.

Hana Ferguson created a chapbook of her poems for a class at Rockford University. Travis Morgan created the artwork for each poem and the book.

Paula Morhardt's 15th book is coming out in March, "This Is The Bear." It's her first picture book for very young readers, and she's excited to have it on her list of published titles. Those titles now include: "Widow's Walk" and "Widow's Tears of Sorrow," both self-published on Amazon. "Days of Daze," "Night Maze," "Tears of Pain, Tears of Joy: One Mother's Story" are my books of poetry. "Sweet Sour Cherries," "Is This My Grandma?," "Five Friends Deep," "Best Magic of All," "Rose Gets Her Name," and "This is the Bear" are her children's books. Her Through the Garden Window memoir/cookbook series: "Through the Garden Window: Season of Harvest," "Through the Garden Window: Family Memories," "Through the Garden Window: Season of Harvest 2," and "Through the Garden Window: Year of Celebrations." All of Paula's books can be found on Amazon, on her website, booksby-paulamorhardt.com, or through her publisher, foxpointpublishing.com.

Travis Morgan, who designs our *Rockford Review* covers, is willing to create artwork for members that would like some visuals to complement their poems or writings. His email address: morgantj@gmail.com.

Wilda Morris has a haiku in the March issue of *Brass Bell* and *Cattails* has accepted one for its upcoming issue. *Failed Haiku* published three of her senryu and a rengay she wrote with Jo Balistreri in their March issue. The new rengay journal, *Tandem*, has accepted four of her regay with other poets for its next issue. She also has a poem in the spring issue of *The Avocet*, one in *After Hours* and one in *Doubleback*, which only publishes poems that have previously been published but are no longer available. Three of her poems will be included in an anthology of poems about threes. Wilda will be our featured artist at our May 15 meeting.

Sam Perone's recently published memoir about growing up in Rockford, "Growing Up Catholic in the Twentieth Century," WON the 2022 Independent Press Award for best autobiography. The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected IPA Award Winners and Distinguished Favorites are based on overall excellence. "Growing Up Catholic in the Twentieth Century: A 1940s - 1950s Memoir" explores his youthful experiences living in Rockford. Visit Sam's website: <http://www.samperone.com> and/or email him at sperone@juno.com. The Kindle price is only \$2.99 on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Growing-Catholic-Twentieth-Century-Memoir-ebook/dp/B09GXGM2YQ>.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members for 2022: Please welcome **Karla Clark** of Rockford, IL; **Judy Cummings** of Loves Park, IL; **Bethamie Montieth** of Jefferson, WI; and **Michael Peterson** of Genoa, IL.

New Members for 2021: Please welcome **Zafarul Azam** of Rockford, IL; **Steven Bates** of Ada, OH; **John Desjarlais** of Hendersonville, NC; **Gerri Hood** of Rockford, IL; **Elizabeth Jahn** of Lee Center, IL; **Blanche Kabengele** of Cincinnati, OH; **Aavyn Lee** of Plainville, GA; **Kimberly McKee** of South Beloit, IL; **Ali Maloney** of Rockford, IL; **Rashid Osmani** of Kildeer, IL; **Pete Plescia** of Galesburg, IL; and **Matthew Vitek** of Roscoe, IL.

March 20, 2022 RWG Zoom Meeting Notes



Another monumental thank you to Hana Ferguson for leading our Zoom meeting and to author and RWG member Gary Lawrence for sharing his writing advice with us. Gary had prepared a PowerPoint presentation, which helped outline writing processes. His “Practical Magic” was, indeed, practical and magical. He read his award-winning short story, “BJ,” which impacted us all, especially the dog lovers among us. His story concluded with a positive twist. I sent his book, “Baffled,” and his short story to some members who requested them. Thank you, Gary!

This screenshot was taken by Zaf Azam late in the meeting after some attendees had left. Those who attended were: Zaf Azam, Mike Bayles, Judy Cummings, Gene Dameier, Charlotte Digregorio, Hana Ferguson, Susan Brazas Goldberg, Cindy Guentherman,, Gary Lawrence, Beth Monteith, Bill Olewiler, Tom Walsh, Rita Yager, and me (Sally Hewitt). If I missed anyone, please let me know.

APRIL 24, 2022 RWG Zoom Meeting

Jack Ryan, longtime editor and publisher of The Enterprise-Journal in McComb, Mississippi, will be our featured artist. In college Jack Ryan lived with Guild member Tom Walsh for three years. He majored in American studies with a focus on journalism. Jack had been raised “down south” and returned there upon graduation: He’d landed a reporter’s job at the McComb (Mississippi) Enterprise-Journal daily in May of 1983.

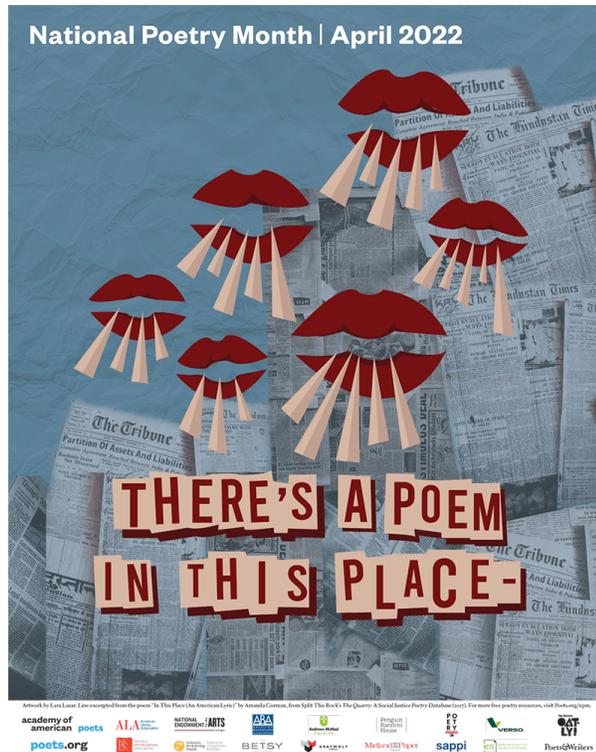
Jack says McComb has always been full of interesting stories. He became the paper’s managing editor in 1990, and then editor and publisher in 2001. Today much of Jack’s job focuses on business and printing issues, but he writes four editorials/columns each week. He will give us some writing tips.

Jack has a plethora of embarrassing Tom Walsh stories.

MAY 15, 2022 RWG Zoom Meeting

RWG member and author, Wilda Morris, will be our featured artist at our May 15 Zoom meeting. Wilda is the author of two books and is working on a book of poetry inspired by books and articles on scientific topics. We’ll include more about Wilda later.

Zoom meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/5670839995?pwd=SEhwL2h0UjBTNkN2OEwyaWlkV0ljZz09>



APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

- Sally Hewitt** President & Editor
- Cindy Guentherman** Treasurer, Social Media Editor
- Hana Ferguson** Recording Secretary, Social Media Director
- Tom Walsh** Membership 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.