

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

RWG Zoom Meeting APRIL 19

Join our Zoom Meeting: Sunday, APRIL 19 from 1-3 p.m. Central Time. Rockford Poet Laureate Adam al-Sirgany will be our featured artist. See more on page 3.



Images by Pixabay

2026

APRIL 2026 MEMBERS: DUES REMINDER (Due by APRIL 30)

Olivia Diamond
Fatima Hussein
Mary Lamphere
Al Youmans

IT'S TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR STORIES AND POEMS

See the deadlines in the next column: April 15 is when everything should be sent to me, sally@rockfordwritersguild.org. I look forward to reading what you send! Remember, every RWG member is guaranteed publication in our Summer-Fall edition of The Rockford Review.

Happy Easter and/or whichever holiday(s) you celebrate!

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.

Zaf Azam, Hana Fadness, Sally Hewitt, Dr. Blanche Kabengele, and Tom Walsh will continue on. Thank you to our Board members, who diligently look after RWG affairs!

Current RWG Board of Directors

Sally Hewitt President and Editor
Dr. Blanche Kabengele Vice President
Hana Fadness Recording Secretary/Treasurer,
Social Media Director
Zafarul Azam Membership Director
Tom Walsh Mail Director



GOOD NEWS about GUILD WRITERS

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

Carol Alfus' first chapbook, "I Would Swim in Such a Sky" was recently released by Kelsay Books. It is available on Amazon, Kelsay Books' website kelsaybooks.com, and at Read Between the Lynes bookstore on the Woodstock, IL, Square.

Marie Asner and husband, Harold Asner, known as The Poetry Couple, will participate in an Open Mic Poetry Reading on February 27 in Overland Park, Kansas. On March 2, they will do a poetry reading at Asbury Hall, Overland Park, as part of a recital to raise money for music scholarships. Marie Asner's poetry will be highlighted at the 2026 Convention of the Missouri Federation of Music Clubs in May, 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of the Conference is "Music Can Change The World."

One of **Mike Bayles'** poems was accepted for an upcoming issue of Sensations Magazine. In April, the Midwest Writing Center will interview him for its Write More Light podcast.

Olivia Diamond's my new novel "Andalusia" has been published on Amazon and it is now available at <https://a.co/d/hovIEUV>.

Laurie Didesch's poem "The Pond" was recently published in *Amethyst Review*.

Charlotte Digregorio was interviewed extensively by The Haiku Foundation about her advice on writing haiku effectively. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/new-to-haiku-advice-for-beginners-charlotte-digregorio/>

In other news, those interested in submitting one haiku for Charlotte's blog, www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com, may contact her by email at c-books@hotmail.com. She runs "The Daily Haiku" by poets from sixty-one countries. Further, she judged a poetry contest for adults on nursery rhymes for the Winnetka-Northfield (IL) Public Library District. The library received many clever responses.

Peggy Heitmann's poem, "On Adopting a New Bird Mythology After My Mastectomies," appears in *Quartet Journal*, Winter Issue 2026, Volume 6, Issue 1.

Paul Smith has a poem published on a website called Tap Into Poetry. The poem is called "Hardboiled Egg." <https://tapintopoetry.wordpress.com/2026/02/01/tap-into-poetry-18/#hardboiled-egg-by-paul-smith> Paul had three poems published at a blog called Poetry Super Highway: February 23–March 1, 2026: Poetry from K.R. Morrison and Paul Smith - Poetry Super Highway

Wilda Morris' latest publications were in the issue of *Moss Piglet* focused on Chicago; #femku (haiku and a single-author ren-ga), and Storyteller Poetry Review's upcoming issue on aging.

In April, **Paula Morhardt's** first mystery will be published. "Domesticated Ferals: The Mystery" will haunt everyone who reads it! Sometime in the fall of 2026, the fourth in the Gray Valley series, "Flutterbys Come to Gray Valley," will be published. We are in the illustration phase right now.

NEW MEMBERS 2026

New Members for 2026: Please welcome **Ethan Quirk** of Rockton, IL; **Paula Coulahan** of Rockford, IL; **Jeanne Spraez** of Savanna, IL; and **Adelaide (Addy) Whitehouse** of Waukesha, WI.

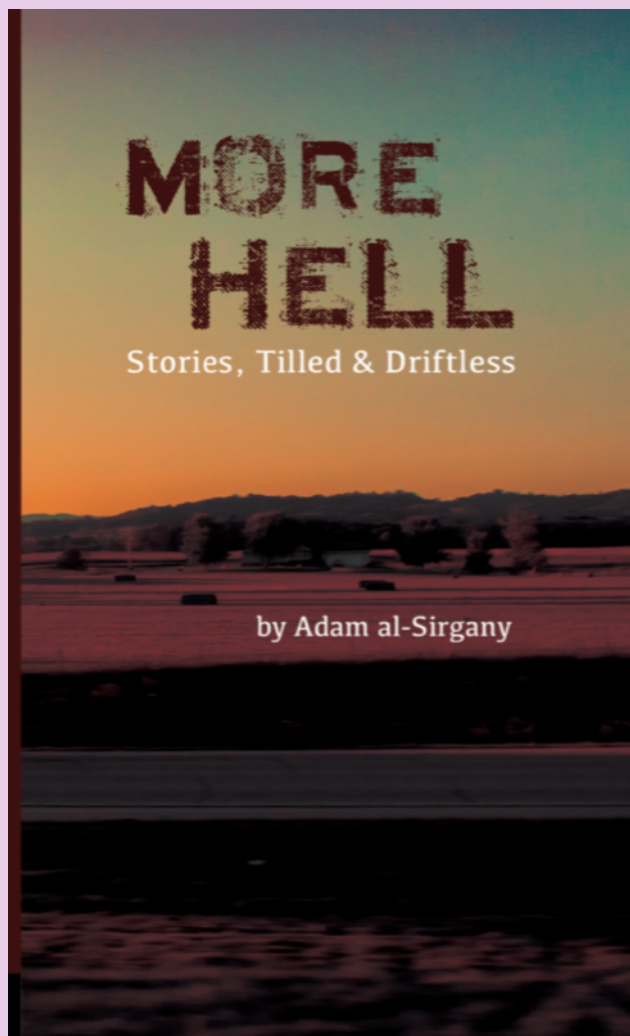
And, thanks to those of you who have renewed and continue to support RWG!

NEW ZOOM MEETING LINK — THE OLD ONE DOESN'T WORK

RWG Zoom link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/5534438062?pwd=1UGf4Ecnqy3dGZelb9TR9ci-faOGx8V.1>

RWG Zoom Meeting: April 19

Help us welcome **Adam al-Sirgany**, Rockford's Poet Laureate for 2026-2027. A Rockford-based author and editor, Adam was recently inducted as the city's Poet Laureate. His debut collection of short stories, "More Hell," was published last year and he'll be happy to chat about that book, his poetry, and his work as an editor for a small press.



Next RWG Zoom Meeting: May 17

RWG member **Addy Whitehouse** will be our featured artist. A. F. (Addy) Whitehouse is a writer and former sign language interpreter from Chicago. In 2022, the Chicago Writers Association nominated the first book in her Dana Demeter series (Indie Category) for Book of the Year. She writes full-time since retiring in Waukesha, Wisconsin.



WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

Think about gifting a friend a membership to RWG — with the promise they'll be published in our Summer-Fall Rockford Review.

Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

- Sally Hewitt** President & Editor
- Dr. Blanche Kabengele** Vice President
- Hana Fadness** Secretary/Treasurer, Social Media Director
- Zafarul Azam** Membership Director
- Tom Walsh** Mail 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 493
 Rockford, IL 61105

Or, Join/Renew online at www.rockfordwritersguild.org.