

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

RWG Zoom Meeting AUGUST 16

Join our Zoom Meeting: Sunday, AUGUST 16 from 1-3 p.m. Central Time. Author Jack Macconaghy will be our featured artist. See more on page 3.



Image by Pixabay

AI Statement

The Rockford Review does not accept AI-generated stories, essays, or poems.

Entities/persons shall not: Use *The Rockford Review* Content for the development of any software program, model, algorithm, or generative AI (artificial intelligence) tool, including, but not limited to, training or using the Content in connection with the development or operation of a machine learning or artificial intelligence (AI) system (including any use of the Content for training, fine tuning, or grounding the machine learning or AI system or as part of retrieval-augmented generation).

Thanks to Gary Lawrence for the suggestion.

A Big Thank You to Tom Walsh

Tom Walsh undertook the job of attaching mailing labels to envelopes and mailing our books. Thank you, Tom!

Rockford Review Youth Poetry Contest

Please encourage your kids/grandkids to enter our youth poetry contest (up through age 18). Prizes: \$700 in total plus publication in our Winter-Spring Rockford Review.

Writing Opportunities

“Courage” Poetry Contest (Members Only)

Submit up to three new, previously unpublished poems (50 lines or less). Theme is *Courage*. The deadline is October 15, 2026. Winning entries published in *The Rockford Review*, Winter-Spring edition, 2027. Winners announced in the December 2026 newsletter.

“Persistence” Prose Contest (Members Only)

Submit up to three previously unpublished prose pieces, each 1,300 words or less. Theme is *Persistence*. The deadline is October 15, 2026. Winning entries published in *The Rockford Review*, Winter-Spring edition, 2027. Winners announced in the December 2026 newsletter.

2027 Winter-Spring 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Submit up to three new, previously unpublished poems (50 lines or less) or three new prose pieces (1,300 words or less) or a combination of up to three poems and prose pieces to be considered for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: October 15, 2026. Notification by December 15, 2026.

Submission Guidelines:

Poetry: 3 poems per submission, each poem 50 lines or less (including blank line spaces), no more than 65 letters/spaces per line)

Prose: 3 prose pieces, each 1,300 words or less

Bio: send a short bio of 50 words or less

Word document (.docx), Times New Roman, 12-point font

Simultaneous submissions: yes, if you inform us.

Submit online at www.rockfordwritersguild.org or send to: sally@rockfordwritersguild.org.

No post office mail submissions: please, we won't open them

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."

Mike Bayles is pleased to announce that his poetry collection, "Ghosts Order the Daily Special," is now available for purchase. The book is about presences in our lives, and compliments his other poetry collections about travel and loss. It features his poem, "Abyss," the winner of the August 2024 Rattlecast Prompt Poem of the Month Contest. The book can be purchased for ten dollars plus four dollars shipping, a total of fourteen dollars, from Mike Bayles at P.O. Box 2129; Davenport, IA 52809-2129.

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 recently had her poem "If Only" accepted for publication in the 22nd issue of *WayWords Literary Journal*.

Charlotte Digregorio received a Special Commendation for her title, *Wondrous Instruction and Advice from Global Poets: How to Write and Publish Moving Poems and Books and Publicize Like a Pro*, from the Haiku Society of America's Merit Book Awards. In other news, she was recently featured in the Independent Book Publishers Association's newsletter for her book marketing and promotional ideas benefitting authors and publishers. Further, those interested in writing haiku may read Charlotte's latest interview for The Haiku Foundation with Mark Forrester who teaches at the University of Maryland: <https://thehaiku-foundation.org/new-to-haiku-charlotte-digregorio-interviews-haiku-poet-educator-mark-forrester/>

Peggy Heitmann has been named as a finalist in the Ron Rash Poetry Contest 2026, for her poem, "Planting Fear." Her poem, "Sunflower Awakening," has garnered an acceptance in Main Street Rag Magazine. And, Peggy is pleased to announce she has a poetry book titled "Some Call It a Journey" that will be released Fall 2026 by Kelsey books.

The Prose Poem published **Dr. Blanche Saffron Kabengele's** poem "Poetry Is" and *The Prairie Review* published all four poems she submitted: "At the Cusp of Envy," "For All I Know," "El Diablo and the Tempest," and "more of what."

Wilda Morris's most recent poetry acceptances have been from Asahi Haikuist Network, *Wee Sparrow Haiku Nook*, *Daily Haiku*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Presence*, *Wales Haiku Journal*, *Enchanted Garden*, and *Haiku Girl Summer*. She participated in an online reading of poems from from the new anthology, *Poets Respond to the American Revolution: The US250 Persona Poem Project* by reading her poem "Some Call Me a Founding Mother." The book was a joint project of Highland Park Poetry and the Illinois State Poetry Project. The monthly readings for which she has been MC for 20 years, has moved to the Westmont Public Library, due to the closing of Brewed Awakening.

NEW MEMBERS 2026

New Members for 2026: Please welcome **Paula Coulahan** of Rockford, IL; **Kyla Cunningham** of Rockford, IL; **Jim Hammack** of DeKalb, IL; **Anna Jollymore** of Rockford, IL; **Gary Lawrence** of Rockford, IL; **Gabrielle Person** of Rockford, IL; **Ethan Quirk** of Rockton, IL; **Nancy Runner** of Jamestown, NC; **Dawn Sopron** of Crystal Lake, IL; **Jeanne Spraeetz** of Savanna, IL; **Adelaide (Addy) Whitehouse** of Waukesha, WI; **Winnebago Public Library** of Winnebago, IL; and **Fred Zuroske** of Loves Park, IL.

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

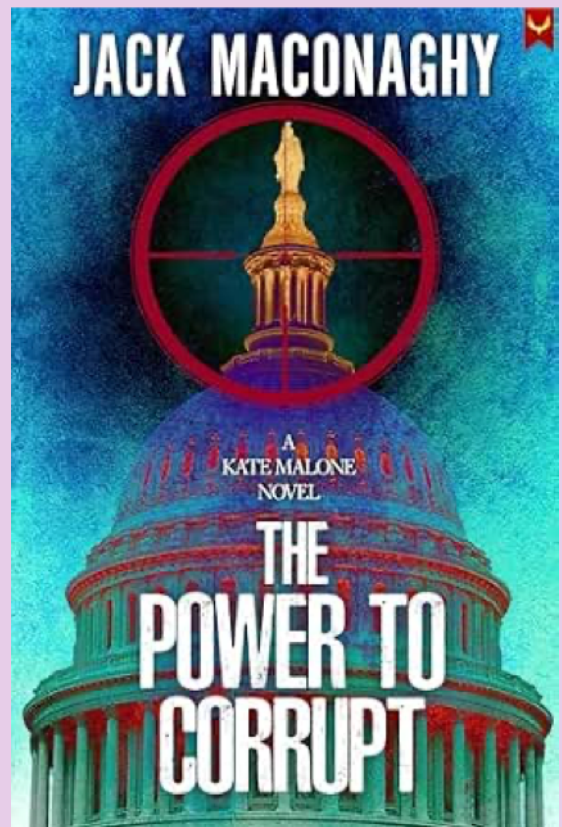
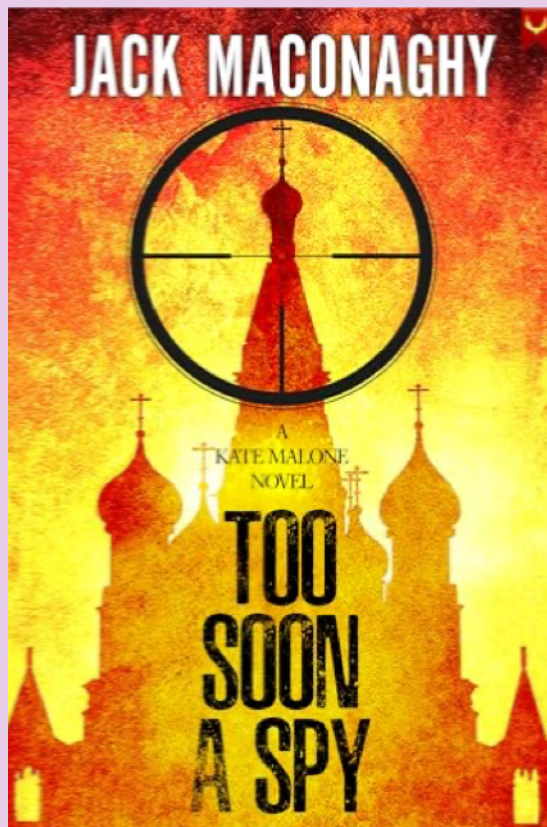
NEW ZOOM MEETING LINK — THE OLD ONE DOESN'T WORK

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

RWG Zoom Meeting: August 16

Our featured artist in August will be **Jack Maconaghy**, author of “Too Soon a Spy” and “The Power to Corrupt.” Jack writes: the path to becoming an author is convoluted. Mine led me through the military, college, and the world of academia. I have been called son, dad, husband, sir, coach, and grandpa. They have all contributed to who I am as a writer.

I grew up reading classic science fiction and hoped to follow in the footsteps of Asimov and Heinlein, but my time in the military steered both me and my writing in a different direction. Writing the Kate Malone books has been a mixed bag of joy, frustration, and fulfillment. “Too Soon a Spy” was the first, followed by “The Power to Corrupt.” The third book in the series is a work in progress. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I do writing them.

**Next RWG Zoom Meeting: September 20**

RWG member and author **Rabbi Dr. Barbara Bruriah Brown** is a retired educator/service provider. Currently, she volunteers as a paralegal for a human rights agency, an ombudsman to nursing homes and a presenter on Holocaust and human rights issues. She has worked with students from pre-school through graduate school and continuing adult education. The foci of her writing are on positive images and provoking thought. She has published three children's books, one full length short story book, short stories, and sermons.



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.

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Complete form and send (snail mail) check or money order to:

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P.O. Box 493

Rockford, IL 61105

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