

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

RWG Zoom Meeting AUGUST 16

Join our Zoom Meeting: Sunday, SEPTEMBER 20 from 1-3 p.m. Central Time. RWG member and author Barbara Brown 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.

Writing Opportunities

See the next column. Please submit your poems and stories by October 15. Thanks to those of you who have already submitted poems and stories! If you haven't yet heard from me, you will soon ...

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. Deadline: 11/15

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Submit up to three new, previously unpublished poems (50 lines or less).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Submit up to three previously unpublished prose pieces, each 1,300 words or less.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Submit up to three new, previously unpublished poems (50 lines or less) or three new prose pieces (1,300 words or less) or a combination of up to three poems and prose pieces to be considered for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.

The Kansas City Musical Club, is an organization that is over 100 years old. The purpose is to raise money for music scholarships and this is done by presenting seven concerts throughout the year. This year, 2026, the National Federation of Music Clubs has honored the Kansas City Musical Club with a plaque for poetry readings at the beginning of music recitals. Member **Marie Asner's** work to honor the poetry of poets such as Edgar Lee Masters, with her written work, has earned the National Award. In May, 2026, The Missouri Federation of Musical Clubs honored Marie Asner for writing poems for the yearly state convention, to begin the Convention and for the Convention Program.

Mike Bayles took part in the Moline Public Library's Authors' Day on August 22. He took part in the Art Walk in Davenport on August 29. *Northern Stars Magazine* included two of his poems in its July/August Issue. The Society of Great River Poets, in Burlington, Iowa, accepted one of his poems for its pamphlet, A Step Beyond.

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 reports that her 2025 title, "Wondrous Instruction and Advice from Global Poets: How to Write and Publish Moving Poems and Books and Publicize Like a Pro," is into its sixth printing with university classes adopting it as a text. Judges of the Independent Book Publishers Association Awards say: "This eye-opening book, brimming with advice and instruction from Digregorio and global poets, is inspiring and amazing. Excellent in explanation, analysis, layout, and curation of authors. It offers readers a practical introduction to poetic forms, writing approaches, and the wider world of poetry. A book of quality writing, information, and tone that presents its message with clarity, the instruction is direct, accessible, refreshing, professional, and highly readable."

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 Kelsay books.

Kelsay Books will be publishing **Dr. Blanche Kabengele's** collaborative full-length poetry book, "We Came & Gullah," which Blanche has been working on with fellow Cincinnati poet Eileen Trauth, in 2027. Also, *Neon and Smoke* is publishing Blanche's poem "Letting Go." *The Prairie Review* has published three of her poems.

Mary Lamphere had two poems selected to be published in the Fall 2026 edition of the "anthology of poetry815," including one which will be a reprint of her very first RWG submission, titled "Lemmings," published in *The Rockford Review* Summer-Fall 2007. The second title is one Mary started for the RWG "Procrastination" theme and ironically did not finish in time. Ironically? Perhaps predictably, lol. She has also released a new novel, *The First Ghost*, Samantha Gordon is haunted by the ghost of the man she accidentally killed.

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.

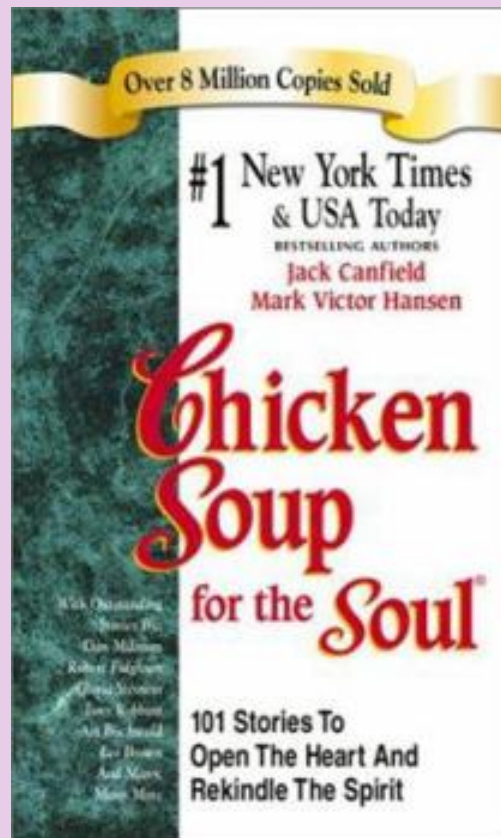
And, thanks to those of you who have renewed and continue to support RWG!

ZOOM MEETING LINK

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

RWG Zoom Meeting: September 20

Our featured artist in September will be RWG member, **Rabbi Dr. Barbara Bruriah Brown**, 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. Her stories have been published in "Chicken Soup for the Soul."



Next RWG Zoom Meeting: October 18

Paula Morhardt was born on April 1, and has never recovered from that auspicious beginning. Losing her husband suddenly, and her mother the next morning, propelled what had been a quiet writing life into something she could actually do. With the grief that took over for a while, she wrote and self-published "Widow's Walk: How My World Ended and What Happened After," a journal of her journey through the beginning of widowhood. Three years later she wrote and self-published "Widow's Tears of Sorrow," also through Amazon. A publishing company in MN, Fox Pointe Publishing LLC, thought she had promise, and became her publisher. Her eighth children's book, "Flutterbys Come to Gray Valley" will be published in the Fall of 2026.



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:

Rockford Writers' Guild

P.O. Box 493

Rockford, IL 61105

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