WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

RWG Zoom Meeting NOVEMBER 15

Join our Zoom Meeting: Sunday, NOVEMBER 15 from 1-3 p.m. Central Time. RWG members will share their poems and short stories. The theme is "giving thanks." See more on page 3.



Images by Pixabay

Writing Tips From John Steinbeck

1. ***Abandon the idea that you are ever going to finish. Lose track of the 400 pages and write just one page for each day, it helps. Then when it gets finished, you are always surprised.***
2. ***Write freely and as rapidly as possible and throw the whole thing on paper. Never correct or rewrite until the whole thing is down. Rewrite in process is usually found to be an excuse for not going on. It also interferes with flow and rhythm which can only come from a kind of unconscious association with the material.***
3. ***Forget your generalized audience. In the first place, the nameless, faceless audience will scare you to death, and, in the second place, unlike the theater, it doesn't exist. In writing, your audience is one single reader. I have found that sometimes it helps to pick out one person, a real person you know, or an imagined person and write to that one.***
4. ***If a scene or a section gets the better of you and you still think you want it, bypass it and go on. When you have finished the whole you can come back to it and then you may find that the reason it gave trouble is because it didn't belong there.***
5. ***Beware of a scene that becomes too dear to you, dearer than the rest. It will usually be found that it is out of drawing.***
6. ***If you are using dialogue, say it aloud as you write it. Only then will it have the sound of speech.***

Happy November!

ROCKFORD WRITERS' GUILD YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

Deadline: **November 15**

Money prizes available! Please encourage youth writers to enter our youth poetry contest (up through age 18).

Prizes: **$700 in total plus publication in our Winter-Spring Rockford Review.**

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



NOVEMBER MEMBERS: DUES REMINDER
(due by NOVEMBER 30)

Dan Klefstad
Library, Madison, WI
Sam Perone
Jane Richards
Kendra Schiffman
Christine Swanberg
Kathleen Weber

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, on November 1, did a poetry reading at a Whispers and Shouts event in Peoria. *The Weekly Avocet* included one of his poems on November 17. *Northern Stars Magazine* accepted another of his poems for an upcoming issue.

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 will be a Featured Poet in Highland Park, IL, at Highland Park Poetry's Reading, Saturday, Oct. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m., to be held at Secret World Books. She will also sign her books. There will be an open mic for poets afterward, so anyone who is in the Chicago metro area is invited to come and read a few of their poems. Further, Charlotte was recently honored to be interviewed on "Poetry Today," a T.V. program hosted by Highland Park Poetry. You can watch the 30-minute broadcast by VBV Entertainment Company, replayed on You Tube: https://youtube.com/watch?v=S7avVWZTppk.

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.

#FenKu, a feminist haiku journal, nominated **Wilda Morris**'s haibun, "Junior," for a Touchstone Award. Her other recent publications include *Storyteller Poetry Review, Hedgerow, Wales Haiku Review, Chrysanthemum, Enchanted Garden,*and *Moss Piglet,* as well as *Distilled Lives*, Vol. 8, the forthcoming anthology from the Illinois State Poetry Society. Wilda still serves on the boards of both the ISPS and Poets & Patrons of Chicago. Two of Wilda's haiku pieces were accepted by *Haiku Canada Review*.

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 Spraetz** of Savanna, IL; **Adelaide (Addy) Whitehouse** of Waukesha, WI; **Winnebago Public Library** of Winnebago, IL; **Jim Wyson** of Carrollton, GA; and **Fred Zuroske** of Loves Park, IL**.**

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

ZOOM MEETING LINK

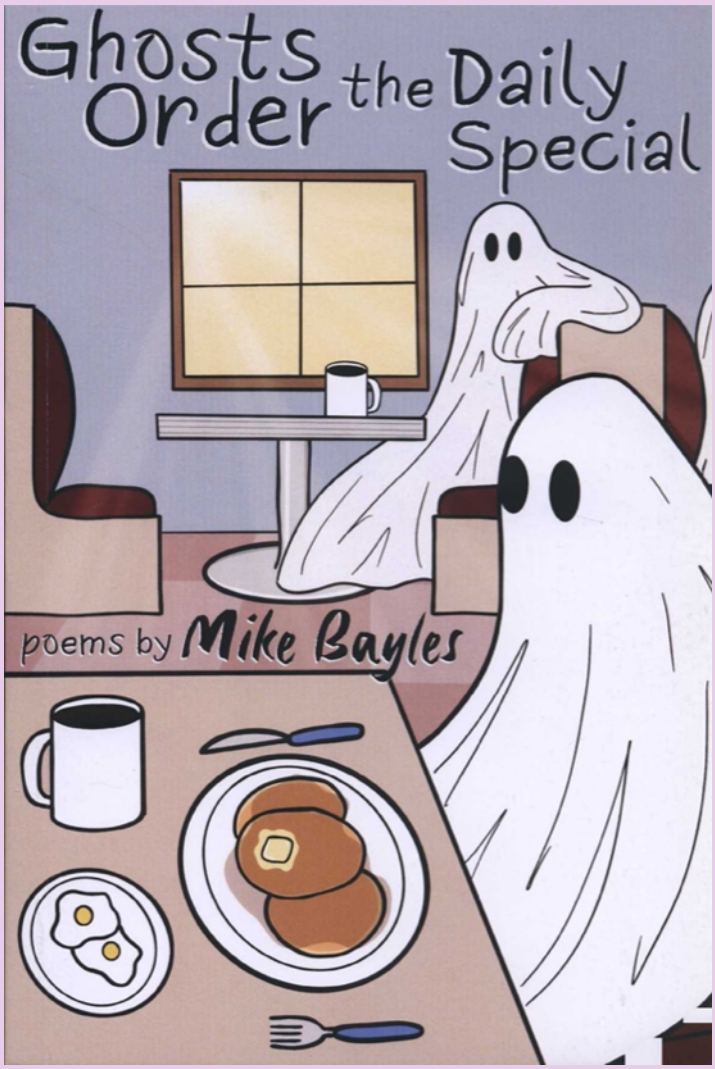
RWG Zoom link: https://us05web.zoom.us/j/5534438062?pwd=1UGf4Ecnqy3dGZelb9TR9ci-faOGx8V.1

RWG Zoom Meeting: November 15

This will be a special meeting, during which RWG members can share their poems and short stories with the group. The theme is "giving thanks." Come with your recent writings — we look forward to hearing them.

Next RWG Zoom Meeting: December 20

RWG member and prolific author Mike Bayles will be our featured artist. A lifelong Midwest resident, Mike writes about human connections with nature, settings, and with each other. His poems and short stories are published in numerous anthologies and literary magazines, including *The Rockford Review*, *Lyrical Iowa,* and *Plainsongs*. One of his poems won the Rattle Prompt Poem Award for August 2024. He is the author of eight books of poetry and fiction. His most recent collection of poetry is "Ghosts Order the Daily Special." "Threshold," his first poetry collection, won the 2013 Book of the Year Award from The Rockford Writers' Guild.





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