



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS  
SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your September 2018 DWW newsletter! Our 118 year old organization's mission is to encourage creative writing of the highest professional standard.

DWW BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Roberta  
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Interim Program Chair:  
Iris Underwood

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Joyce Harlukowicz

CRITIQUE GROUP AND  
MENTOR CHAIR: Roberta  
Brown

BOOK AND AUTHOR  
CHAIR: Robin Gaines

**NEXT DWW BOARD MEETING**

The next DWW Board meeting is Saturday, September 8, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. at Lukich's Restaurant in Troy. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to [rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com) no later than Monday, September 3, so we can reserve the proper space.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE DWW ANNUAL  
WRITING CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 10, 2018!**

**"Owning Your Craft"**

**Information on workshops, presenters, editors, their pictures, and their bios are now available on the DWW website!**

For more details see:

<http://www.detworkingwriters.org/conference/>

You can also see details on the Writing Competition at the above link ;-)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-annual-detroit-working-writers-writing-conference-tickets-48343413451>



## KERRYTOWN BOOKFEST - Last Call!

Linda Sienkiewicz is organizing the DWW table at this year's event, which is Sunday, September 9th. Contact Linda at

[lindak sienk@live.com](mailto:lindak sienk@live.com)

DWW CRITIQUE  
GROUP CALENDAR  
FOR SEPTEMBER  
2018 THROUGH  
DECEMBER 2018

All meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at Lukich's Restaurant in Troy.

2018

SEPTEMBER 8

OCTOBER 13

NOVEMBER 10 - to be rescheduled due to Writing Conference

DECEMBER 8

Watch your email for your invitation to submit your work for critiquing!

## METRO DETROIT BOOK AND AUTHOR SOCIETY

You can still register for this event, but you will not be sitting at the DWW table!

For more info:

<https://www.bookandauthor.org/>

## WRITER BE AWARE!

You may recall in a previous newsletter a request for writers from Consumer Affairs. Pam Houghton responded to the request; here is the reply she received:

Hi Pam,

I hope you're doing well. I wanted to check back with you after our conversation last month to see if you'd be interested in a more long-term freelance spot on our consumer writing team?

In this position, you would complete at least 5 writing assignments per week. In the assignments, you will provide consumers with the relevant information, tips and advice needed to make smart purchase decisions and will help supplement Consumer Affairs' current collection of buyers guides and resources.

For the first 30 days or 10 writing assignments (whichever comes first), you would write for us on a trial basis and would be paid \$40 per assignment. After the trial period, you would be required to complete at least 20 writing assignments per month at \$50 per

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assignment. Assignments will vary in word count, between 400-1000 words.

If this is something you're interested in, I can have our accounting department send over an Independent Contractor Agreement for you to review and complete. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you,

***Audrey Isabelle*** · Content Specialist  
[ConsumerAffairs.com](http://ConsumerAffairs.com)

Thank you, Pam, for sharing this information with us!

## OUR DWW MEMBERS'

### LATEST AWARDS AND PUBLICATION CREDITS!

#### **Diana Underhill Dinverno**

My poem "Some Summer Day" appears in the 2018 Summer edition of The Mentor, a web news letter for the State Bar of Michigan's Master Lawyers Section. Thanks to Roberta M. Gubbins, Esq., editor of the publication, who clearly has a soft spot for lawyer poets.

This is also the poem that won First Place in this year's Yule Love it Lavender Farm's Poetry Contest!

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Michigan History Magazine has two articles written by DWW members in its latest September/October 2018 issue: “History, She Wrote” about DWW by Weam Namou and “Kite Flying” by Iris Underwood.

Author Terry Hojnacki with her daughter and illustrator Katy Hojnacki proudly launched their first children's book, *I Can See With My Eyes Shut Tight*. This story encourages children to use their imagination. For information on how to purchase a signed copy email [terry@TerryHojnacki.com](mailto:terry@TerryHojnacki.com).

Hojnacki is also proud to announce the successful launch of *Sterling Script: A Local Author Collection*. Her mission is to support and encourage the local writing community by publishing their short stories, poetry, and creative nonfiction works. Hojnacki and DWW vice president Weam Namou each have two short stories, and a poem included in this debut edition. *Sterling Script* will be available on Amazon.com in September.

If you'd like to be on the email list for the 2019 edition, send your contact information to [localauthorcollection@gmail.com](mailto:localauthorcollection@gmail.com).

Hojnacki will read some of her work and discuss the publication of *Sterling Script* at Macomb Community College on Wednesday, September 12 as one of WORDCRAFT Wednesdays' guest speakers.

Terry is also ready for a second print run of her latest children's book!

Vicki Wilke writes: “Just a little update: In the NFSPS annual contests, I received one 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention for a poem entitled, “Aunt Sylvia,” and a 6<sup>th</sup> Honorable Mention for a poem entitled, “Distractions.”

I have also been working headlong on a children's poetry collection. Fingers crossed on that!”

**We want to promote you and your writing! Please let us know your latest writing awards/credits/publications! Email your information to Roberta Brown**

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PLEASE PUT DWW WRITING/PUBLICATION NEWS IN THE SUBJECT OF YOUR EMAIL ;-) at

[President@detworkingwriters.org](mailto:President@detworkingwriters.org)

### 2018 WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE EVENT CALENDAR

**Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., November 10, 2018: Annual DWW Writing Conference, MSU Management Education Center, Troy, MI. Registration is now open!**

### DWW PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERLOCHEN CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMS

DWW has worked to increase its influence as seen by our Orion ONTV readings and our BBC interviews. We are now building a partnership with Interlochen's Creative Writing Programs; featured below is a blog post by Katey Schultz, Artistic Director of Interlochen's Annual Writing Retreat:

#### **The 5 Ss That Will Help Get You Published by Katey Schultz**

**Flash fiction and flash nonfiction** stories are often called "Stories of the Moment" or "Postcard Stories." Think small, but fun, significant, and engaging. The challenge with flash form writing is how to write a compelling story that feels complete when you only have about 750 words to get the job done. One thing I like to use when I'm trying to figure out how to do that is what I call **The Five Ss**. For examples of how to apply the 5 S's [sign up for my newsletter](#) and a downloadable PDF.

**The first S is Setting.** Pretty simple--your story needs to happen somewhere. It can be as simple as a sidewalk or a bedroom or a park, but events have to take place somewhere.

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**The second S is a Situation.** Something needs to happen to your character (or you, in the case of memoir). Usually, the way that manifests is that there's some sort of desire that gets thwarted. Whatever situation you come up with or are remembering, make it short, sweet, and try and get it into the first or second paragraph.

**The third S is Sensory Detail.** You have three pages to make the world feel absolutely vivid to your reader. The fastest way to do that is to evoke the five senses. Have fun with it, get a little weird and creative with your descriptions, and see how much you can pack in. (And there's a follow-up lesson to this point, which I teach in my online classes, and it has to do with *how* writers can determine which details to leave in, which details to leave out, and WHY.)

**The fourth S is a Simile.** This could also be a metaphor of course, but the point here is that you make a comparison using like or as. This will enliven your sentences and it will also make the world appear more three-dimensional. It will reveal things about you or your character that maybe you didn't even know until you wrote them down.

**The fifth and final S is the Shift.** It's the most challenging, but it also has the highest payoff. Your character needs to shift or change by the end of the flash. Usually, that's an internal change; it has to do with whatever desire that character has that's been thwarted or that's been rewarded. You want to make sure that you've got that shift in there to bring your story to some sense of a conclusion and allow it to speak to the larger human predicament. This is often also called the "so what factor" or, in some circles, writers say this is how we take the specific and make it universal.

When you're all done, first--celebrate! That's the best part; you've written a complete flash piece, you've got a nice first draft on your

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hands. Exhale and then go back to the beginning. Try reading it out loud to yourself. I always recommend that. Once you've done that, read it again to yourself. Go ahead and mark in the margins with your favorite pen, too. See if you have **The Five Ss**, and if you don't, ask yourself where you can fit them in. Conversely, if you've got tons of sensory detail but your setting isn't very clear, consider the balance of The Five Ss in your story and make adjustments accordingly.

After you've gone through that, share it with a friend, teacher, or writing group. Read some great examples in online magazines like *SmokeLong Quarterly* or *Brevity*, and see what you learn. Take a deep breath. Let time pass. Return again. Work with your story until it feels complete, then send it out for publication!

*Katey Schultz's story collection, [Flashes of War](#), was awarded Indie-Fab Book of the Year and received a Gold Medal from the Military Writers Society of America. She has won more than half a dozen flash fiction contests, been awarded writing fellowships in 8 states, and is currently seeking a publisher for her novel set in Afghanistan. Her newest online program, [Airstream Dispatches: a worldwide book club for writers](#), brings together a group of dedicated creatives who want accountability, craft-based instructional writing prompts, and the community of other writers to feel supported and "seen." Explore her online classes, ecourses, and writing at [www.kateyschultz.com](http://www.kateyschultz.com).*

The next step in this partnership is collaboration with Interlochen on the Annual Writers' Retreat in June 2019. Stay tuned!

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