



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to your July 2019 DWW newsletter! Our 119 year old organization's mission is to encourage creative writing of the highest professional standard.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

How many times have you thought of yourself as an imposter, a fake, someone who just lucked out to have their writing published or win an award? This newsletter has two reads for you - "The Imposter Inside" written by Diane DeCillis and published in the Spring 2019 issue of The Summerset Review, and Michael Kitchen's thoughts found in the Publication Credits part of this newsletter.

[The Imposter Inside](#) - nonfiction by **Diane DeCillis**

Our Fourth Annual Yule Love it Lavender Farm Workshop on "The Ten Ingredients That Go into Making a Short Film" led by Richard Rothrock was a smashing success! If you are interested in more information on where Richard teaches, go to www.mpifilm.com.

Book and Magazine Storage

Seeing Barbara Rebbeck's comment on Facebook the other day about clearing out some of her books only to end up buying six more made me wonder - what do all of you do with your books and writing magazines/journals? How do you store them, or do you donate them/pass them on to others? Let me know at rlbrown417@gmail.com.



The next DWW Board Meeting will be Saturday, September, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. at Starr Presbyterian Church, 1717 West Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI. Please contact Roberta Brown at rlbrown417@gmail.com if you wish to attend no later than Monday, September 8, 2019.

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DWW CRITIQUE  
GROUP CALENDAR  
FOR JULY THROUGH  
DECEMBER 2019

All meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak.

2019

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

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

### DWW SURVEY RESULTS - PROJECTS

**One of the “wish list” items that popped up on the DWW Survey was a desire for Critique Groups on different days/times/locations, as well as with a different emphasis, i.e. poetry only critique groups, critiquing longer work, cohesiveness in the group (i.e. same group members each time). To date, two genre interests have been identified:**

**First:**

I have an interest in a mutually supportive alliance of two to four writers all working on long-form fiction. The group would focus primarily on structure and character development, secondarily on quality of dialogue and prose, and occasionally on copy editing.

Structure, pacing, character development, narrative arcs — all vital to a novel’s success, all elements with which writers sometimes struggle and may not see the path forward — cannot easily be addressed in a larger group setting or when participants drop in and out or when just five pages are presented.

Group members would have greater success if they were going on a journey with one or a few others who are equally committed to the journey.

The group would set its own timetable and “rules.” Tools are available to make it possible for people to meet virtually as well as face to face.



**Second:**

in search (eventually) of beta readers who are more familiar with **Middle Grade fiction**.

**If either of these group types, or something else, is of interest to you, please contact Roberta Brown at [rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com) - let's work on forming additional groups!**



**Here's a holiday weekend writerly film you might be interested in, this weekend only at the DFT located within the DIA:**

Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am



(USA/2019—directed by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders)  
From the beginning of her remarkable career, American author Toni Morrison – now 88 – has refused to be defined by the publishing industry's establishment, insisting on telling stories from a vital, underrepresented point of view. Writing



for an African American audience, Morrison is aware of the way language can operate as an oppressive or an uplifting force.

This striking new documentary reveals a trove of archival material, evocative works of contemporary art, and features new interviews with Angela Davis, Oprah Winfrey, Walter Mosley and Morrison herself, as she talks about the inspiration for her writing, which has earned her – among other honors – the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the American Book Award, and the Nobel Prize in Literature.

This intimate portrait of Toni Morrison’s life and works is a rare opportunity to spend time with an extraordinary artist, whose stories are deeply intertwined with often-unrealized national truths. Sundance Film Festival. (119 min.)

“An inspiring, eloquent documentary enlivened by the participation of its subject, who remains as warm, vibrant and insightful as ever.” -Nick Schager, Variety

The Detroit Film Theatre is generously supported by Buddy's Pizza and your tri-county millage investment in the DIA.





## OUR DWW MEMBERS'

### LATEST AWARDS AND PUBLICATION CREDITS

**The Spring 2019 issue of the MacGuffin is out, and guess what - poems by three DWW writers are in it:**

- 1. "Hair" by Nancy Owen Nelson**
- 2. "Ann Arbor" by Diana Dinverno**
- 3. "I Thought I Couldn't Take it With Me" by Vicki Wilke**



Diana Dinverno's poems "What You Need to Know About Knives" and "Why" appear in the 2019 Slippery Elm Literary Journal. Copies may be obtained here: <https://slipperyelm.findlay.edu/buy-a-copy/>

### [Buy A Copy – Slippery Elm](#)

Slippery Elm is a journal committed to promoting the best fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and visual art being created today. The journal provides educational experiences for students in editing

[slipperyelm.findlay.edu](https://slipperyelm.findlay.edu)

Here's my latest published by Slippery Elm Literary Journal. Thanks to the lovely Milena Velez and Dave Essinger, the fine folks at the journal. And my thanks and admiration to Diane Shipley DeCillis for the workshop where "What You Need to Know About Knives" was conceived.

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**Versedaily**®

Today's poem is by [Michelle Morouse](#)

## **The Coyote Dreams Caught Me**

in that weary first trimester.  
He taught me to be quiet,  
to be loyal, to detect  
every minute movement.  
We wandered,  
his retinue in the shadows,  
me a step behind,  
except one night.  
The nape of my neck cradled in his jaws,  
his breath redolent of carrion and blackberries,  
we stood among rushes,

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locked together for seven minutes.  
My daughter arrived with spiky,  
fulvous hair, a bump over her coccyx  
that proved to be innocent,  
and uncommonly large pupils.  
She ran as soon as she walked.  
Yesterday, her friends followed  
her on all fours, growling. I can't  
leave raw meat out on the counter.  
She hears my every move,  
but I don't hear her get up at night,  
just find her at the window,  
watching.

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Ron Herron tells us “My poem *"Night Rain"* was accepted for the **Poetry Leaves 2019** exhibition at the Waterford Township Civic Center campus May 1-15 of this year.”

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**Michael Kitchen**

June 5 at 10:00 PM ·

“In an email I received today....

Thank you for your submission to the 2019 HSA (Haiku Society of America) members’ anthology. After careful consideration, I would like to accept the following poem for inclusion in the anthology...

I submitted five poems, and one was accepted! My first published haiku!

The editor of the Haiku Society of America that accepted my haiku for the anthology had offered a couple suggestions regarding the poem. I agreed and made a slight change on one of them, but stuck to my guns on the other, after explaining it (the poem works with the literal definition of a specific word, however the term is also jargon that many may not pick up on).

Two things caught my eye in her response.

"I'm honored to be publishing your first poem. I hope you'll consider submitting to some haiku journals, if you haven't been already."

"Keep reading haiku. Keep writing haiku!"

(Plus, she liked the jargon, though cautioned that a lot of readers may miss it. I'm cool with that. I think it works on the two levels of meaning - or more meanings, because a poem's meaning comes from the reader.

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You know, I've been writing for a long time. And I've had successes here and there. But, as Natalie Goldberg would say, my monkey-mind would chatter reasons in my head on why I was not a writer. I always felt undeserving of the title on my Facebook Intro, and on my website where I write stuff for others to read.

For some reason, the combination of the short story published in "Paradigm Shifts" and this little poem's acceptance has finally shut that monkey-mind up, allowing me to really accept that label.

I am a writer.”

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## [Diane Shipley DeCillis](#)

[Yesterday at 10:29 AM](#) ·

“A poem of mine, Decatlect, in the new issue of Crack the Spine. Decatlect is a word that describes how we protect ourselves by withdrawing attachment from a person (or other things) in anticipation of losing them.”



[CRACKTHESPINE.COM](http://CRACKTHESPINE.COM)

## [Issue 252 – Crack the Spine](#)

Mira Stefaniuk tells us “The national monthly magazine of the Ukrainian Women’s League of America, ***Our Life***, has published two of my poems: “Pysanka – the Easter Egg” (April issue) and “Sing Me a Life” dedicated to my father (June issue), along with my article “Preserving Our Stories and Our Legacy.”

This month I have also taught a workshop on writing mini memoirs to a women’s group in Ann Arbor.”

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Elizabeth Buzzelli announces “I just got these two reviews of my new novel: *And Then They Were Doomed*, pub date: 8/13/19. The book launch is at Horizon Books, Front Street, Traverse City, 8/17/19, 3:00. My editors are thrilled. Any of the DWW members up North then, I'd love to see you there!” Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli

And Then They Were Doomed: A Little Library Mystery

Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (336p) ISBN 978-1-64385-000-9

Buy this book

Buzzelli’s entertaining fourth Little Library mystery featuring literary biographer Zoe Zola (after 2018’s *In Want of a Knife*) finds Zoe at home in the small town of Bear Falls, Mich., working on her new book, *Inside the Murderous Mind of Agatha Christie*, when she receives an invitation from the Northern Michigan Christie Society to participate in a meeting and webinar. She agrees to attend, but soon after arriving at Netherworld Lodge, nothing is as it seems. When two of the 10 participants disappear, Zoe begins to suspect that life is imitating art, in this case Christie’s *And Then There Were None*. Cut off by torrential rains and with limited cell phone coverage, Zoe brings all her skills at anagrams and word puzzles, as well as her encyclopedic knowledge of Christie, to bear on the mystery, all the while aware that she may be the next target in a devious game of murder. This entry is good fun for both Christie and puzzle fans. *Agent: Jessica Faust, BookEnds. (Aug.)*

DETAILS

Reviewed on : *05/31/2019*

Release date: *08/01/2019*

Genre: Mystery/Thriller



AND THEN THEY WERE DOOMED

by [Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli](#)

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KIRKUS REVIEW

A macabre celebration gives a successful author time to deal with her family's mysterious past.

Growing up in Detroit, Zoe Zola, a little person, endured a lifetime's worth of ridicule, but when her mother died, she moved to Bear Falls in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, where she's made friends and gained a reputation as a sleuth whose cases (*In Want of a Knife*, 2018, etc.) all involve the works of famous authors. For many years, her mother, Evelyn, received black-edged envelopes in the mail, one of which may have precipitated her death. Evelyn's family, the Jokelas, rejected both her and Zoe, who was born out of wedlock. Now Zoe's received an envelope of her own from the Northern Michigan Agatha Christie Society, inviting her to a seminar at a lodge in the Upper Peninsula. Luckily, her friend Jenny is willing to take her along while she visits her sister, Lisa, who's filming a documentary on a group of Finnish women living in the area. Zoe's invitation is signed by Emily Brent, a character in *And Then There Were None*, and despite a suspicion that the whole event has been arranged just for her, Zoe agrees to go. After a long ride over partially flooded roads, they arrive at Netherworld Lodge, where Jenny leaves Zoe to her fate. The lodge has seen better days, but the food is excellent. Not so the other participants—college professors, editors, graduate students—all of whom seem a bit odd. Each of them is presenting his or her take on Agatha Christie and her works in a webinar, and each one is aware Christie is the subject of Zoe's planned book. As some of them begin to disappear overnight, just as in Christie's famous novel, Zoe



becomes both fearful and determined to unravel the puzzle in a bid to understand why her family's shunned her.

A dark, creepy, character-driven thriller with a particularly devious plot.

Pub Date: Aug. 13th, 2019

ISBN: 978-1-64385-000-9

Page count: 352pp

Publisher: Crooked Lane

Review Posted Online: June 17th, 2019

Kirkus Reviews Issue: July 1st, 2019

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Pat Gibson reports "My short story "Apprehension Soars" has been produced by Ripples in Space podcast, complete with sound effects and narration.

My short story "The Citizen, A Journey of Trust" was published by ARTIFEX literary magazine.

My flash fiction "A Note on the Dash" was published in the UofM Bear River Review."

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

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

[rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com)

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I would also like to invite members to share their publication news/reading news to our Detroit Working Writers Facebook page, as many times you have events scheduled after this monthly newsletter comes out! Please, your writing-related events only.

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HOW TO HAVE YOUR BOOKS LISTED ON OUR DWW WEBSITE

Please take advantage of our website to list all of your published books! Click on “About Us,” then go to the “Members Only” section and enter your super secret password. Scroll down to Member’s Books and fill out the required information. Once you have completed all the sections, click Submit, and let our webmistress work her magic!

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### LAURA BERNSTEIN-MACHLAY CLASS

#### [Royal Oak Public Library](#)

Using Form to Enhance the Creative in Your Creative Writing  
Saturday, July 20, 2019 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Express Yourself!

Join Laura Bernstein-Machlay, instructor of Creative Writing and Literature at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, as she shares her vision and techniques in a workshop that explores the modular form to create powerful fiction or creative nonfiction. Moving past traditional and chronological writing structures, Bernstein-Machlay will teach participants to utilize isolated scenes to keep readers engaged and lead to a deeper understanding. Ages 16 and up are welcome.

Call 248.246.3727 to register or for more information.

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Sandy White tells us “I think writers might be interested in this offer, available any days of the week during the time frames mentioned.”

<https://laketolake.com/offers/writers-retreat-lake-huron/>

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Check out this website:

<https://linguakit.com/en/part-of-speech-tagging>

Thanks to Joy Gaines-Friedler for sharing this on Facebook!

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Greetings Fellow Writers.

The University of New Orleans Press is excited to announce that our fifth annual UNO Publishing Lab Prize is now open. We hope that you can forward this call for submissions to your members. We have always believed in paying our authors, and for the fifth year of the Publishing Lab, the advance has been increased from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

The University of New Orleans Press is looking for full-length fiction manuscripts, either novels or short story collections, for the fifth annual Publishing Lab Prize. The selected author will receive a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) advance on royalties and a contract to publish their winning manuscript with UNO Press. The work does not have to be regionally focused. There is no word limit. There is no limit on subjects covered. Submissions are open until August 31st. More information, including the Submittable link, can be found at:

<http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx>

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Price
UNO Press
