



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS
DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

DWW BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Roberta  
Brown  
[rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com)  
248-854-2375

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Iris Underwood

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:  
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HISTORIAN: Iris  
Underwood

CRITIQUE GROUP AND  
MENTOR CHAIR: Roberta  
Brown

BOOK AND AUTHOR  
CHAIR: Robin Gaines

**The next DWW Board Meeting will be Saturday, February 8, 2020, 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](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com) if you wish to attend no later than Monday, February 3, 2020.**

**Springing to Mind: Three Evenings with DWW Authors  
at the Royal Oak Public Library**

Let Detroit Working Writers (DWW) and President Roberta Brown help you welcome spring with a series of evenings with their authors. DWW was founded in 1900 and has boasted such members as Joyce Carol Oates, Judith Guest, and Naomi Long Madgett.

March 16, 2020 at 7 PM. This evening's focus is Fantasy and Sci Fi writing. Featured author will be Amy Sevan from Troy with her novels, *Pledge of Ashes* and *Curse of Ashes*. She will discuss the fantasy genre, her road to publishing, and read from her books. Then other DWW writers of this genre including Annemarie Schiavi Pedersen, R L Herron and Veronica Dale will share their works. The evening will end with book sales and signings.

April 27, 2020 at 7 PM. The second evening will focus on Middle Grade and Young Adults novels. Royal Oak's own Kristin Bartley Lenz, author of *The Art of Holding On and Letting Go* will talk about the YA genre, how she published, and read from her novel. Authors Jean Alicia Elster, Barbara J. Rebbeck, Diane Mager, and Theresa Nielsen will also read. Again, books will be available for purchase and signing.



May 18, 2020 at 7 PM. The third evening will feature Grosse Pointe author, Nancy Solak speaking about the genre of Memoir. She will share her journey to publishing and read from her memoirs, *Welcome to Here: A Reluctant Traveler Goes to China* and *A Footpath in Umbria: Learning, Loving, and Laughing in Italy*. Following her, authors Angela Rochon, Elizabeth King, Myroslava Stefaniuk, and Nancy Owen Nelson will read from their memoirs. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

WROK will be filming the sessions for cable TV.

If there are any other DWW members who write in the above genres who would like to join in reading their work and selling their books, please contact Barbara Rebbeck at

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

A big THANK YOU for a job well done to Barbara Rebbeck, who made all the arrangements for this series - bravo!



## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS!

1. DWW Holiday Party - Sunday, December 8, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Marcus Grill in Shelby Township. Free; DWW members only. You have until Wednesday, December 4, to RSVP.
  2. January 2020 - online writing workshop, tentative date January 18, 2020.
  3. Saturday, February 8, 2020 - DWW Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
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4. Friday, April 24, 2020 - Fourth Annual Creative Writing Day at the DIA, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with lunch afterwards at the Cafe DIA. We will be in the DIA library; our host/presenter is DIA Archivist James Hanks. Free event for DWW members; cost for nonmembers. Lunch on your own.

5. Saturday, May 9, 2020 - DWW Annual Meeting followed by the Critique Group

Watch your email for more details!



Save the date for the next  
Metro Detroit Book and Author Society Luncheon!

Monday, May 18, 2020

Headlining Author

Mary Norris

“Greek to Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen”

Schedule:

**11:00 am** – Book Sale Room Opens

**11:50 am** – Doors open for seating, 5 minutes earlier for handicap access.

**12:00 pm** – Lunch is Served

**1:00 pm** – Authors Begin to Speak

Tickets: \$40.00

More information to come later!

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## OUR DWW MEMBERS'

### LATEST AWARDS. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PUBLICATION CREDITS!

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Angela Rochon reports, "Hope you enjoy my father's memoir and mine, *FATHERless* published in 2018. Now my second book is available on Amazon. I'm excited about my *Piece to Peace Cancer Quilt* book with nearly 50 colored photos from a professional shoot. Read the stories of those touched by cancer and the insight of quilters who honor them.

Check out the latest blog on my website."

Author, Reminiscence Group Leader, Speaker
Angela Andino Rochon
a.m.rochon@aolcom
<https://amrochon.wixsite.com/website>

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Here is a link to an interview Weam Namou did with Barb Rebbeck:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1Z-UTXjjBo&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1Z-UTXjjBo&feature=emb_logo)



**Iris Underwood** announces her upcoming book talks and signings:

December 5, 6:30 PM, Art in Literature within *The Mantle*: Hazel Park Memorial District Library: 248-546-4095

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Amy Sevan reports: "Happy Book Birthday! News + Sale... Curse of Ashes is now out, a deep and hearty thank you to everyone who preordered.

Today is the day! If you've been waiting to order the paperback of Curse of Ashes, it's here! Link below 

If you haven't checked out the Rise series yet, I'm celebrating the release of Curse of Ashes with a sale on Pledge of Ashes, book one in the Rise Series. Check it out!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/pledge-of-ashes.../1129748600>

<https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/pledge-of-ashes>

<https://itunes.apple.com/.../book/pledge-of-ashes/id1440087379>

<https://play.google.com/.../details/>

[Amy Sevan Pledge of Ashes...](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Pledge-Ashes-Rise-Book-.../.../B07JZHCTKJ>

If you've been waiting for the paperback of Curse of Ashes on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Curse-Ashes-Rise-Amy-S.../.../1709633239/>

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Jean Alicia Elster writes: Thrilled beyond words to have been a part of the [Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings](#) "Structurally Sound" series program "Up South: Reflections of the Great Migration." I was the guest narrator in the Marion Hayden Jazz Ensemble, reading passages from my books *Who's Jim Hines?* and *The Colored Car* preceding each

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musical selection. Marion is not only my first cousin but also a fellow-Kresge Artist Fellow. [Wayne State University Press Kresge Arts in Detroit SCBWI-MI](#)

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Cheryl Crabb issues this invitation: “Please join DWW member Cheryl Crabb at Toadvine Books in Berkley from 6-8 pm on Jan. 15, 2020, for the book release party of her novel *The Other Side of Sanctuary*, a psychological thriller set in the Sleeping Bear Dunes along Lake Michigan. It’s the story of a young family in crisis and the tensions that arise as a dark series of events unfolds. In contrast to the scenic beauty of their small beach town that fills with summer tourists, Laura and Rob Sanders grapple with a failing business and a dying love. Nothing prepares them for the tragic accident that follows and the harsh revelations that cast them adrift. Laura and Rob search for answers, unaware they’re traveling toward a collision that will either shatter or save their vulnerable family—or maybe both.

A Wisconsin native, Cheryl Crabb is a fiction writer and accomplished journalist. She holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and a master's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Her work has appeared in various publications, including the *Hartford Courant* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* where she reported as a staff writer. She and her husband live in Northville, Michigan, with their three daughters and frequently visit northern Michigan where they enjoy jumping the waves and hiking the dunes. *The Other Side of Sanctuary*, being published by Adelaide Books of New York, is her debut novel.”

For more information about *The Other Side of Sanctuary* contact Adelaide Books at: adelaidebooks.org

or

Cheryl Crabb at www.cherylcrabb.com

Toadvine Books is located at 2783 Coolidge Hwy., Berkley, Michigan 48072



Please RSVP for party to bookstore owner, Luke James, on Facebook at www.toadvinebooks.com

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**Cindy Hampel tells us:** “I just published through Amazon a new nonfiction book. It’s titled: *Acting “As If”: Meditations of a Recovering Enabler*. This book is intended to aid those recovering from enabling or codependent behavior. Acting “As If” uses a monthly meditation format. Readers will find a two-page meditation for each day of the month, as well as nine bonus pages that focus more closely on some of the topics in the daily readings. The meditations and bonus pages are written as reflective advice. The format allows readers a chance to review each month the steps they can take to keep their relationships more in balance with others.”

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Grace Grogan reports: My "Who Am I?" column on Jewish Family Research published in the November issue of The Lakeshore Guardian, which can be accessed online at <http://www.lakeshoreguardian.com/site/news/1526/Jewish-Family-Research#.Xcni6dVMGUK>

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Pam Houghton says: Thought I’d share a few recent publications -

Metro Parent - Teaching Siblings to Share the Spotlight  
<https://www.metroparent.com/daily/parenting/parenting-issues-tips/teaching-siblings-to-share-the-spotlight/>

HOOR Detroit - Navigating Health Concerns in the Early Years  
- <https://www.hourdetroit.com/health/aging-the-early-years-metro-detroit/>

HOOR Detroit - Know the Medical Issues that Emerge During the Formative Years

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- <https://www.hourdetroit.com/health/formative-years-aging-metro-detroit/>

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Michelle Morouse is thankful: My flash fiction story, "The Never Ones," appears in the current issue of Peregrine. I'm grateful for the feedback I received in DWW critique group regarding this piece.

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

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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Here is a Wall Street Journal article on poetry in medicine:

[**A Prescription of Poetry to Help Patients Speak Their Minds**](#)

Download the Wall Street Journal app here: [WSJ](#).

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Angela Rochon wrote the following essay for this newsletter:

Writing Humbles Me, A. M. Andino Rochon

In writing FATHERless, my father's memoir and mine, I met all my goals. Didn't go into debt. Made some money but did not become rich and famous. It wasn't in the cards. After all, Leonard Bernstein's biography by his daughter came out the same day as my book launch. For some reason readers were more interested in her dad's life than mine. I find that hard to believe. My dad was terrific.

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Wanting to honor my fine father, I ended up learning more about him in the process and learning more about myself. This led me to conducting free, short seminars at my book signings to help people mine their memories and write about their lives. This prompted the National Association of Social Workers to invite me to present at their 2019 National Conference. My topic: the power of reminiscence on brain development. A combat veteran, who is a social worker, later contacted me because he is leading Vietnam veterans in a reminiscence group.

Now I am reflecting on my second book: Piece to Peace Cancer Quilt. Many individuals and families allowed me to share their stories as they came to peace with their struggles with cancer. Quilters graciously responded when I asked them to describe their feelings as they create this continuously expanding piece of art and homage. In addition to the stories, the book shows quilters how to create their own community cancer quilt. I am so proud for our little city of Algonac MI quilters. They created the only cancer quilt of its type. It was my honor to view the Aids Quilt with its many panels hanging on the walls of the U of M Field House. There is also an Alzheimer's panel quilt. But our community's cancer panel quilt is unique. It was such a pleasure to visit with DWW President Roberta Brown, and with past DWW Board of Director Vernie Dale and her sister, when they visited the Labor Day Weekend Algonac Art Fair where the Piece to Peace Cancer Quilt was displayed and enlarged.

This book is my concentrated effort to represent this artistic quilt well. The world should know about this quilt. To that end I asked our son, Marc Rochon, for help. He is a professional graphic artist and photographer. Flying in from his studio in Georgia, Marc did two shoots. He captured the beauty of the quilt panels. He showed the glow of the volunteer Piece to Peace quilters' group who vow to continue their efforts until cancer is eradicated. He emphasized the emotions of those indelibly inking their homages to their loved ones affected by

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cancer. Marc focused on the busy fingers of the creators of this massive fabric art as they quilt.

Months before my second book launch, I was invited to a local book signing by an author struggling with cancer. Many who attended asked to see the proof of Piece to Peace Cancer Quilt. They wanted to buy it on the spot. I quietly explained that I awaited the finalized copy because it would have corrected an error. I showed them an individual's story and pointed out that last paragraph was not indented. The editor missed this. So did I. I assured them that having caught this flaw the final book would have the last paragraph indented. I said, "This book will be as perfect as I can make it."

The hilarious response: "Oh, don't worry about flaws in the writing. I'm buying this book for the beautiful photos themselves."

What!!!!

What I've learned as an author who endures humbling experiences is to be grateful for a sense of humor.





DWW CRITIQUE GROUP CALENDAR  
REMAINDER OF 2019  
AND ALL OF 2020

All Critique Group meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month and are held in the Library at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak. Print out and post on your refrigerator!

2019

December 14

2020

January 11

February 8

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

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