



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS  
JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to your January 2020 newsletter! Our 119 year old organization's mission is to encourage creative writing of the highest professional standard.**

DWW BOARD OF  
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[rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com)  
248-854-2375

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MENTOR CHAIR: Roberta  
Brown

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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.**

It's here - our first online writing workshop! Register now - free for DWW members, \$25.00 for nonmembers. The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a snowy January, so what better way to enjoy it than by dressing comfortably, drinking a cuppa joe/hot tea/hot chocolate, and learning something new.

**“How to Tweet Your Way to a Publisher’s Contract!”**

No agent? No problem! Learn another way to secure a traditional publishing contract!

In 2017, Annemarie Schiavi Pedersen’s single tweet caught the eye of an indie publisher from Denver and the rest is history. Her debut novel *Celestina’s Burnings*, a historical paranormal romance, debuted this month. In this online workshop, she’ll provide un-agented writers ammunition to navigate their way through the Twitter Pitch Wars, with hope of scoring a traditional publishing contract.

Attendees will receive a link to the online workshop on January 17, 2020.

Other questions? Contact DWW President Roberta Brown at

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

Free for members/\$25 for non-members

**[Purchase a ticket here](#)**



**Springing to Mind: Three Monday 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 VanderBeke 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)

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## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS!

1. January 2020 - online writing workshop, Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom!
2. Saturday, February 8, 2020 - DWW Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
3. 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.
4. 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

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Tickets: \$40.00

Stay tuned for information on how to get tickets to the DWW table!

More information on all authors presenting can be found here:

[www.bookandauthor.org](http://www.bookandauthor.org)

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**Here's a message I received from Goodreads:**

Hi Roberta,

Hi there,  
It's Elizabeth, the cofounder of Goodreads. I wanted to let you know that we have an interview with Anne Lamott up on our podcast *Books of Your Life with Elizabeth*. Since we know you loved one of her books, you may enjoy learning about a few of her favorite reads and the books that have shaped her remarkable life.

Enjoy!  
Elizabeth

Link to podcast episode here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast...>

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<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast...>

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## OUR DWW MEMBERS'

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



Aline Soules tells us "I just received another win this year. In spring, I won Iris' lavender contest. Such a thrill. Now, it's a second place finish in Kelsay Books' Metrical Poetry Contest. The link is here: <https://kelsaybooks.com/pages/kelsay-books-metrical-poetry-contest> and people can read the winning poem, my second place finish, and the third place finish on the website. The poems will also appear in Kelsay Books' print journal, so it's a double win, really.



Passages North is delighted to share our nominees for this year's Best Microfiction anthology series:

"[Booty Shorts](#)" by Jesus Peña

"The Thing" by Colette Arrand

"Echoing Green Interior Winter 2016" by Miles Varana

"[Mrs. Fairfax Gave Birth to a Toaster](#)" by Michelle Morouse



**Linda Nemec Foster** has received some exciting awards and publication news recently. Her flash fiction piece, "Babel," was an honorable mention in *New Millennium Writings'* Flash Fiction

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Competition and her microfiction piece, “Scattering the Ashes on Lake Geneva,” (recently published in KYSO Flash) was nominated for the Best Microfiction Anthology which honors the top pieces of the genre published in literary journals and magazines throughout the year. And, last but certainly not least, her new poetry manuscript *The Blue Divide* will be published by New Issues Press in 2021 as an Editor’s Choice selection.

For my DWW friends and colleagues, here’s an interesting post-script to my forthcoming book’s journey from manuscript to publishing contract. This collection was originally titled *Pictures of the Floating World* and I spent over three years trying to find a good home for it, submitting the manuscript to over 70 national poetry book competitions. During that time, it was a finalist or semi-finalist in over 15 contests and I even got a wonderful rejection letter (yes, rejection letters can be positive) from the editors at Copper Canyon Press. Finally, several months ago, the manuscript was accepted by two terrific presses—a university press and a New York press. I decided to go with the university press (New Issues Press sponsored by Western Michigan University) because of the award citation involved. We decided to change the title to *The Blue Divide* since the original title (*Pictures of the Floating World*) had been previously used by poets Arthur Smith and Amy Lowell. But, essentially, it’s the same manuscript that survived three years of rejections and “almost acceptances.” Oh, and that New York press I turned down? Its editor was still impressed by my work and congratulated me on the Editor’s Choice selection; he wants me to consider his press as a future publishing home for my other manuscripts. I was moved by his professionalism and generosity.

The moral of the story: always believe in your work, your unique voice, your journey. And always be honest and transparent (as I was with the New York editor).

To see the official announcement from New Issues Press regarding *The Blue Divide*. Click on the link below.

<https://newissuespress.com/>

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From Cheryl Crabb: Happy New Year DWW! Reminder: Come one, come all to join Northville author Cheryl Crabb at Toadvine Books in Berkley from 6-8 pm on Jan. 15, 2020, for the book release party of her debut novel *The Other Side of Sanctuary*, a psychological thriller set in the Sleeping Bear Dunes along Lake Michigan.

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

Please RSVP if possible on Facebook to bookstore owner, Luke James

[www.toadvinebooks.com](http://www.toadvinebooks.com)

*The Other Side of Sanctuary* is being published by Adelaide Books of New

York. [www.adelaidebooks.org](http://www.adelaidebooks.org)

Cheryl will also appear at Crazy Wisdom bookstore in Ann Arbor from 4-6 pm on Jan. 18, 2020, for a book signing party benefiting the new University of Michigan chapter of One for the World, a non-profit organization that asks for 1 percent of income donations to end extreme poverty. She will be joined by her daughter, Kayleigh Crabb, who founded the U-M chapter of One for the World in the fall of 2019. Her photo of the Lake Michigan shoreline graces the cover of the novel.

Crazy Wisdom bookstore and tearoom is located at 114 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Event details on Facebook @cheryllanncrabb,

[crazywisdom.net](http://crazywisdom.net) or [www.cherylcrabb.com](http://www.cherylcrabb.com)

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Phyllis Green writes us: I have had 2 paintings in literary online journals. ANN WORE HER LUCKY RED CAPE was in ArLiJo issue 123 and HARMEET PREFERS ORCHIDS was just in The Revolution (out of Arizona.). Here are the links:

<http://givalpress.com/index.cfm?rsn=839&mn=Authors>

<https://therevolutionrelaunch.com/2019/11/28/rites-of-passage/>

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)

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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This notice was received via our DWW email address:

Dear Literary Advocate,

We would love nothing better than to kickoff the New Year with your consideration in submitting some of your titles or passing along to your authors so they can have a chance at winning a great book award with an even better cause!

The Maxy Awards are dedicated to awarding only excellence for indie and self-published authors. They are unique in that all entrants may submit their book digitally, as a manuscript or published eBook; therefore, the award can be issued prior to an author's publication. Authors are invited to enter our next competition for qualifying books with a 2018 or future copyright. Enter today, a large part of every entry goes directly to the Home of the Innocents to help those families that need it most, in honor of Maxy (read her full story here). Awards for nine categories and one "Book of the Year" will be announced each year on Maxy's birthday, May 2nd.

Check out how our last two "Book of the Year's" are doing on Amazon:

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07B8H8ZVW> Managed Care

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07H1GKLPP>

Sincerely,

Maxy Awards ([www.maxyawards.com](http://www.maxyawards.com))

Donate and support reading and helping others Part of every award entry goes directly to the Home of the Innocents

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## **DWW CRITIQUE GROUP CALENDAR 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!

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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