



## DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

### APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to your April 2020 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

**VICE-PRESIDENT:**  
Michelle Morouse

**SECRETARY:** Laura Hedgecock

**TREASURER:** Richard Rothrock

**HONORARY DIRECTOR:**  
Maureen McGerty

**HONORARY DIRECTOR:**  
Iris Underwood

**NEW MEMBERSHIP/  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**  
Joyce Harlukowicz

**HISTORIAN:** Iris Underwood

**CRITIQUE GROUP AND  
MENTOR CHAIR:** Roberta Brown

**BOOK AND AUTHOR  
CHAIR:** Robin Gaines

**The next DWW Board Meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. This is not an election year; that will take place in 2021.**

**Please contact Roberta Brown at [rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com) if you wish to attend via Zoom no later than Monday, May 4, 2020.**

**Fourth Annual Creative Writing Day at the DIA: Friday, April 24, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon has been canceled due to the federal government directive to continue to shelter in place through April 30, 2020. This event will be rescheduled at a later date.**

**We have also canceled all three Springing to Mind sessions due to Covid-19. They will be rescheduled at a later date.**



## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS!

1. Saturday, May 9, 2020 - DWW Annual Meeting followed by the Critique Group; both via Zoom
2. Saturday, July 18, 2020 - Fifth Annual Yule Love it Lavender Farm Event. This event will be held only if Infectious Disease specialists at the federal and state level say it is once again safe to gather. We will cancel if their directives are not clear - the safety of our members is paramount!

Watch your email for more details!



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDIE BOOKSTORES!

Toadvine Bookstore in Berkley - Proprietor Luke Janes tells me that you can still call the store at 248-439-0409 or email him at [toadvinebooks@gmail.com](mailto:toadvinebooks@gmail.com) to order/see what books he has in stock. He can then arrange for shipping, delivery or curbside pick-up.

Paper Trail Books on Washington in Royal Oak also offers the same thing; call 248-376-8952 for details (although you should know that I called last week, left a message, and have yet to hear back...).





## Announcing the Fifth Annual Yule Love It Lavender Farm Poetry Contest

**Theme: The sixth sense of summer.**

### **Judge:**

Diane DeCillis' poetry collection *Strings Attached* (Wayne State Univ. Press) was honored as a Michigan Notable Book for 2015, won the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Award, and was a finalist for the Forward Indie Fab Book. Her stories, poetry and essays have appeared in CALYX, Columbia Review, Minnesota Review, Nimrod International Journal, Connecticut Review, the North American Review, and numerous other journals. She teaches poetry for Springfed Arts and hosts a monthly literary reading series, "Mondays at the Maple" at the Maple Theater in Bloomfield.

### **Guidelines: NOTE EARLIER SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

- Open to adults, one poem per person.
- Poem must relate to the theme and general audience.
- Poetry of any form.
- 30 line limit.
- Printed in Times New Roman 12 pt font. Please DO NOT include your name on the poem. This will disqualify your entry.
- With your printed poem, include an index card with your PRINTED name, poem title, address, email, and phone number.
- Mail to: Poetry Contest, PO Box 61, Lakeville, MI 48366.
- **Deadline: Postmarked no later than FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2019**
- Winners will be notified via phone by May 14.
- Winners' poetry will be published on [www.irisfarmandletters.com](http://www.irisfarmandletters.com) and in the Tri-City Times newspaper.
- Awards will be mailed to the address on the index card.

### **Awards:**

First Place: \$150  
Second Place: \$100  
Third Place: \$75

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## OUR DWW MEMBERS'

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



Bill Rathburg's short story "The Train" will be published in the March issue of Ariel Chart International Literary Journal. His story "Aunt Glorthea" was published March 17<sup>th</sup> on the online journal Literary Yard. In addition, his short story "The Undertakers" was published in the Winter 2020 issue of The MacGuffin.



Also appearing in the Winter issue of The MacGuffin are three poems by Diane DeCillis: The Cinematic Nature of Nightmares (Golden Shovel), The Home Shopping Network Waxes Poetic, and At Formaggi Di Franco Parola, Mercato Centrale, Florence.



Michelle Morouse reports "I had a few acceptances recently. My poem "Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, Trauma Center, Detroit, 1983" is in the current issue of Passenger Magazine. A microfiction "On Call" will appear in Wigleaf, and my poem "Looking at Tongues" will appear in Lullwater Review."



Pam Houghton won an Award from the Parenting Media Association for her Metro Parent article "14 Ways to Get to Know Your Neighbor."





Barb Rebbeck's newest book, *The Girl From the USO*, has been accepted for publication by The Wild Rose Press.

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Meg Chorzempa tells us, "I thought, since Chapter 6 of my memoir has such overtly Christian themes (part of it takes place in a church service), that this journal, Heart of Flesh Literary Journal, which is a Christian journal but accepts submissions from both Christians and non-Christians, might be a good fit:

<https://heartoffleshlit.com/>

And it was! They accepted it for publication. I found it through the Poets & Writers site. It goes up online on May 8, 2020, under my maiden name (LeDuc).

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**From Laura Bernstein-Machlay:** Hi everyone!  
I have another essay up--this one in World Literature Today. It's not coronavirus themed like the one I recently posted, but it definitely relates to loss, and hope.  
xoxo, Laura

<https://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/.../cheating-death-laura...>

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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.



## NEED FOR NEW MDBA BOARD LIAISON

Robin Gaines, who for the past 12 years has been a liaison between Detroit Working Writers and Metro Detroit Book & Author Society, is no longer able to serve on the board. She's included below a brief history of the organization and their affiliation with DWW along with an overview of what is required to sit on the MDBA board.

If interested in taking over this position, please email her at [rbgfranks@gmail.com](mailto:rbgfranks@gmail.com). She can answer any questions you might have.

### THE HISTORY OF THE METRO DETROIT BOOK AND AUTHOR SOCIETY AND ITS AFFILIATION WITH DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

Every third Monday in May and October, the Metro Detroit Book and Author Society hosts a luncheon featuring national and sometimes local authors. Held at the Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia, the luncheons are considered one of the largest one-day author events in the country with, on average, 1,000 attendees per event.

The first luncheon was held on September 13, 1972, in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit. Richard Bach, author of "Jonathan Livingston Seagull," Marjorie Holmes, author of "Two From Galilee," and Helen Hayes and Anita Loos, who co-wrote "Twice Over Lightly: New York Then and Now," were the featured authors. The ticket cost was \$5.95.

The original organizations represented in the MDBA were The Detroit News, The Detroit Public Library, The Book Club of Detroit, The Great Lakes Booksellers, The Women's National Book Association, and The Federation of Women's Clubs of Metro-Detroit.

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The Detroit Women Writers (now The Detroit Working Writers) joined the MDBA board by 1976 along with The American Association of University Women, The Arts Council Triangle, The Cranbrook Writers Guild, Detroit Adventure, The Friends of the Detroit Public Library, The Michigan Council for the Arts, and the Gale Research Company.

In 1989 the MDBA became a non-profit organization and began to award monetary grants to libraries and literacy organizations. Currently, the board gives two \$1,000 Dick Johnston Awards grants to a public library to make improvements to their collection. It also awards two Elaine R. Irvin Friends Awards to support a project which fills a need that impacts a library's patrons and the community.

In or about 2008, I was asked by Detroit Working Writers member, Ruth Cain, if I would take over her seat on the MDBA board as the DWW representative. Since I had previously attended several of the luncheons and enjoyed an afternoon listening to authors discuss their work and the writing process, I gladly accepted Ruth's invitation. She introduced me to the board as the new DWW representative when she retired.

Over the years guest authors have included Madeline L'Engle, Toni Morrison, Tennessee Williams, Jean Auel, Nikki Giovanni, Joyce Carol Oates, Anne Patchett, Steven King, James Patterson, Mary Higgins Clark, Scott Turow, Michael Connelly, Sue Miller, Jane Hamilton, Louise Erdrich, Stewart O'Nan, Erik Larson, Sebastian Junger, Gish Jen, Susan Orlean, Alice McDermott, Chris Hayes, and Lesley Stahl.

The Metro Detroit Book and Author Society board represents Ann Arbor District Library, Birmingham A.A.U.W., Book Stock, Detroit Public Library, Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation, The Detroit News, Detroit Suburban Librarians Roundtable, Detroit Working Writers, Friends of Michigan Libraries, Grosse Pointe A.A.U.W., Madonna University Library, Oakland Literacy Council, Oakland University, Southeastern Michigan League of Libraries, Suburban Library Cooperative, The Henry Ford, and The Library Network.

In May 2020, the MDBA will celebrate its 96th luncheon in partnership with The Library Network, Brodart Corporation, and The

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Suburban Library Cooperative. Tickets are \$40, which includes a book sale, lunch, author presentations, and book signings. In the past, the DWW website would provide information about the author lineup and how to order tickets. Board members are able to secure tables of ten ahead of tickets going on sale to the public.

In addition to the May and October luncheons, MDBA board members are required to attend four meetings a year, not including the May and October luncheons. Meetings are usually held at 10:30 am at the Berkley Public Library. MDBA follows parliamentary procedure in voting on various agenda items. The board employs someone to book the authors. The remaining members volunteer for small jobs at the luncheons, from greeters to working book sales.

Robin Gaines

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The Monday, May 18, 2020 Metro Detroit Book and Author Society Luncheon has been canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Up to date information on the Fall 2020 event will be posted here:

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

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**Thanks to Vernie Dale for sending along the following publishing scam that's printed on the next page - we have to be even more diligent during this time of COVID 19!**

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## [Beware: Pigeon House Literary / Druella Burhan](#)

Posted: 13 Mar 2020 11:27 AM PDT



Posted by [Victoria Strauss](#) for [Writer Beware®](#)

The internet and social media have transformed writer/agent/publisher interactions in many ways, one of which is the proliferation of Twitter pitch events, such as [#PitMad](#), [#DVPit](#), and [others](#).

While no online innovation has (so far) managed to supplant the traditional query-and request route, these events do attract plenty of reputable agents and publishers--unlike other purported shortcuts (\*cough\*[Publishizer](#)\*cough\*). However, inevitably, they are also stalked by marginals, amateurs, and even scammers.

For instance, Eliezer Tristan Publishing, which charged a \$500 fee and went out of business just months after opening up, [haunted #PitMad](#). Ditto for GenZ publishing, which [charges authors \\$2,500](#). Burchette and Ferguson, a brand-new publisher staffed by people with zero relevant experience, [participated](#) in pitch events before they even launched (and went out of business shortly thereafter).

Then there's this:





## **DWW CRITIQUE GROUP CALENDAR 2020**

All Critique Group meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month and will be held via Zoom during the Covid 19 pandemic. Print out and post on your refrigerator!

2020

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

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