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DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to your August 2020 newsletter! Our 120 year old organization's mission is to encourage creative writing of the highest professional standard.**

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**The next DWW Board Meeting will be on Saturday, August 8, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.**

**Please contact Roberta Brown at [rlbrown417@gmail.com](mailto:rlbrown417@gmail.com) if you wish to attend via Zoom no later than Monday, August 3, 2020.**

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### Facebook Live Writing Broadcast

Billy Collins, former U.S. Poet Laureate, now has a Facebook Live poetry broadcast Monday - Friday from @5:30 p.m. to @6:00 p.m. His wife Suzannah Gilman "appears" off camera as they engage in commentary while Billy reads poetry. Each broadcast begins and ends with music. You can always catch up with it later if you can't watch it live! Just search for "Billy Collins Live" on Facebook.

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### "Read By: A Literary Podcast

I just discovered this podcast a few weeks ago - writers of all genres read works that matter to them. New podcasts are released Sundays at 11:00 a.m. ET; the podcast is produced and commissioned by 92Y's Unterberg Poetry Center. You can subscribe via Apple or Spotify, or you can Google "Read By" and sign up via email.



## DWW MEMBERS' LATEST AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLICATION CREDITS

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Patricia Hooper's new book of poetry, Wild Persistence (University of Tampa Press,) was awarded the 2020 Brockman-Campbell Book Award from the North Carolina Poetry Society. The annual award goes to a book of poetry published by a North Carolina resident and was selected by poet Lola Haskins. Patricia was also awarded the 2020 Stephen Meats Poetry Prize for her poem, "Winter Light," which was selected from the poems published in Midwest Quarterly during the preceding year.

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Meg Chorzempa reports, "A chapter of my memoir-in-progress, which was published by the International Human Rights Art Festival, has been selected by the organization for first place in the essay category in its Creators of Justice Competition. There's a prize of \$150 for first place, and my piece will be published in an anthology in 2021, as well as published online. The awards will be announced online and published by Aug. 1."

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The July 2020 issue of Down in the Dirt magazine, titled "Gone Fishing" was just released. Bill Rathburg's short story "The Fall" is in this issue (v173), It is available online: [http://scars.tv/cgi-bin/works\\_e.pl?/home/users/web/b929/us.scars/perl/text-writings/g9128.txt](http://scars.tv/cgi-bin/works_e.pl?/home/users/web/b929/us.scars/perl/text-writings/g9128.txt)  
A print version is available at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08B37VPJP>

Theresa Nielsen says, "Big news, my middle grade novel about a young girl who loves to sew and share her love for sewing with others is going to be published. I'm so excited, Thank you Callie and Clear Fork Publishing."



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Richard Stiennon reports, "It's finally published!"  
<https://www.amazon.com/Curmudgeon-How-Succeed-Industry-Analyst/dp/1945254084/>

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Carl Anthony tells us, "[I was recently quoted in Newsweek about what to look for when buying a used vehicle.](https://www.newsweek.com/used-cars-sale-near-me-1519094) <https://www.newsweek.com/used-cars-sale-near-me-1519094>

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Diane Shipley DeCillis writes: "I'm pleased to have two ttapoems (with audio) in the current issue of radar: "Dementia Walks into a Bar," and "Swamped."

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Michael Kitchen reports: "Pleased and honored to announce I've had another haiku published. It will be published in the Autumn Edition of the Poetry Pea Journal of haiku and senryu. It will also be read on the August 17th edition of the Poetry Pea podcast."  
<https://poetrypea.com/>

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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)



**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.**



### **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.**





## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

Since we are still not able to meet indoors or outdoors due to social distancing and masking requirements, our Program Director Barb Rebbeck has been busy organizing the following Zoom workshops/activities for us:

### **Images and Inspirations: a journey through the poetry of Terry Blackhawk September 26, 2020. 2 pm**

Kresge Arts in Detroit Literary Fellow Dr. Terry Blackhawk will lead us into and through selected poems from her five full-length collections\* of poetry, using slides from visual art and the natural world to illustrate sources of inspiration. Blackhawk's long-time engagement as a workshop leader in writing about art for the Detroit Institute of Arts, her avocation as a scholar of Emily Dickinson, and her life as a Detroiter have all inspired her exceptional poetry. Blackhawk's poems have in turn been interpreted in film and music, some of which will be shared during the presentation.

\* *body & field* (MSU Press, 1999) finalist for the Brittingham, Levis, Paumanok and other first book awards; *Escape Artist* (BkMk Press, 2003) selected by Molly Peacock for the John Ciardi Prize; *The Dropped Hand*, (Lotus Press, 2011, 2nd edition); *The Light Between* (WSU Press, 2012); and *One Less River* (Mayapple Press, 2019), named one of the Best 2019 Indie Poetry titles by *Kirkus Reviews*.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/images-and-inspirations-a-journey-through-the-poetry-of-terry-blackhawk-tickets-111891179530>



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

## **Writing (about) Your Family History**

**Laura Hedgecock**

Start putting the family story to paper. Laura Hedgecock discusses practical and creative ways to document the past and write the stories of relatives and ancestors.

Laura's Bio:

Laura Hedgecock is an author, speaker, and genealogy blogger passionate about helping others tell stories which connect loved ones with their family and ancestry.

Her book, [MEMORIES OF ME: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO TELLING AND SHARING THE STORIES OF YOUR LIFE](#), guides and empowers memory collectors with down-to-earth, practical advice and creative ideas. Her website, [TreasureChestofMemories.com](http://TreasureChestofMemories.com), provides practical advice on preserving and sharing memories and family stories.

Laura serves as President of the 3400+ member GeneaBloggers organization and secretary of Detroit Working Writers. She has also authored *BLOGGING FOR FAMILY HISTORY*, which provides a road map for launching a blog and making it successful.

To register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writing-about-your-family-history-tickets-107383697530>



## **Falling for a Good Book: Three Evenings with DWW Authors**

Put down that rake and let Detroit Working Writers (DWW) and President Roberta Brown help you welcome the fall season with readings from their authors. DWW was founded in 1900 and has boasted such distinguished members as Joyce Carol Oates, Judith Guest, and Naomi Long Madgett. No need to leave your house. The authors will come into your living room courtesy of Royal Oak Public Library and Zoom.

### **Tuesday, October 6 at 7 pm, Memoir and Family History Writing:**

Our featured speaker this evening will be Algonac author, Angela Rochon. She will share her journey to publishing and read from her memoir, *Fatherless*. Following Angela, DWW authors Myroslava Stefaniuk, and Nancy Owen Nelson will read.

**Tuesday, November 10 at 7 pm, Fantasy and Sci Fi Writing:** This evening's 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. Other DWW authors reading that night will be Veronica Dale, Annemarie Schiavi Pedersen, and RL Herron.

**Monday, December 7 at 7 pm, Middle Grade and Young Adult Writing:** 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. DWW authors Jean Alicia Elster, Barbara J. Rebbeck, Theresa Nielsen, and Diane VanderBeke Mager will also read.



## **Social Media News from Terry Hojnacki**

### **A Reminder: For Facebook and LinkedIn posts:**

- Keep your submissions short and sweet. (I can do some editing, but if it's too time intensive, I'll do what the old fashioned newspaper editors did and only share the top of the story. Who, what, when, where, and why.)
  - Include the link to your event or where your book can be purchased.
  - If you'd like to include an image, attach it in your email. (JPG format only)
  - Upcoming events should be submitted a minimum of 2-3 weeks prior to the event.
  - Please email your news to: [socialmedia4dww@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia4dww@gmail.com)
- (This email will be checked every 7 to 10 days so please be aware of your time-line for book launches and events.)

If you're a do-it-yourselfer, you are always welcome to share appropriate posts on DWW pages.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to help promote our organization and our members. If you have any suggestions you'd like to share, I'm open to the assistance.

Remember –

**Follow** DWW on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/detroitworkingwriters>, on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/15953515>, and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DetWkgWriters/>.

Happy Writing,  
Terry Hojnacki  
DWW Social Media Co-Chair



## TWITTER

As part of our reinvigorated social media effort, Richard Stienon has jumped in to be our Twitter wrangler. Don't be surprised if you see likes and reTweets from @DetWkgWriters. Richard asks that you supply him with your Twitter handle so he can add you to the curated list of DWW members. He will use that to elevate your Tweets. Email him at

[richard@it-harvest.com](mailto:richard@it-harvest.com)

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### DWW MEMBERS SEEKING NOVEL/LONG FORM CRITIQUE GROUPS

There are a few members who have contacted me indicating that they would like to participate in a Novel/Long Form Critique Group. If you are running/in a group like this and are willing to take on new members, please email me at

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

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## **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

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

**DWW SATURDAY ZOOM ROOM WRITING DATES AND TIMES  
FOR AUGUST 2020  
ALL ON SATURDAYS  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**August 1**

**August 8**

**August 15**

**August 22**

**August 29**

If you are not already on the regular attendees list and are interested in joining in, email Roberta Brown at

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



Hi Roberta,

I hope you are doing well out there!

This is Sage Kosiorek, the Director of Script Competitions at Austin Film Festival. We're currently looking for readers and screeners to help with this year's competitions and think members of Detroit Working Writers would be great candidates. We hope you'll pass the following information along to members of your group who might be interested.

**Readers:** Our pride here at AFF is to foster an environment for writers to not only feel at home but also to succeed. To that end, every year we like to recruit the best readers to help us find the most promising up and coming writers to bring into the fold. We see it as a great way to not only get a good resume booster but also a way to help encourage other writers through constructive feedback – which we know writers don't always get. Ideal candidates should be voracious readers who are well-versed in the basics of screenwriting and have a keen sense for analyzing a story.

**Screeners:** We aim to create a space where screeners can foster a more critical eye for what works, and conversely does not work, in filmmaking. Screeners have the opportunity to view films within our Academy Award® Qualifying competition categories including Animated Shorts (which gave way to 2020 Academy Award® nominee: *SISTER*), Documentary Shorts (2018 Academy Award winner: *Heaven is a traffic jam on the 405*), and Narrative Shorts.

To qualify, members are required to be at least 21 years of age and will need to undergo a reader or screener test. At AFF, storytelling is our focus! So, we require the respective test to determine the strength of a potential volunteer's eye for strong storytelling and quality.

Additionally, every individual who screens accumulates points per script through the reader process or hours through the screening process that will go towards a gifted Film Pass or Badge to our 27th Annual Austin Film Festival this fall. This year



If you or any of your members are interested, please email [readers@austinfilmfestival.com](mailto:readers@austinfilmfestival.com) for reading scripts or [film@austinfilmfestival.com](mailto:film@austinfilmfestival.com) for screening films. Please feel free to share these email addresses for those interested to reach out directly. We can walk through any additional details and get them set up with a test.

Thanks for your consideration, and if any questions come up, please feel free to reach out!

Kind regards,

Sage Kosiorek  
Director of Script Competitions  
Austin Film Festival  
1801 Salina St.  
Austin, TX 78702

512.478.4795 (office) | 512.478.6205 (fax)  
[www.AustinFilmFestival.com](http://www.AustinFilmFestival.com)  
[www.OnStory.tv](http://www.OnStory.tv)



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Dear Detroit Working Writers,

My name is Lana and I'm with QueryLetter.com. We're holding a writing competition for talented and original writers. Here are the contest details including the cash award: <https://www.queryletter.com/contest>

Because we think it'll really benefit Detroit Working Writers members, we hope you'll choose to add it to your website.

Would that be possible?

Thank you!

All the best,  
Lana