



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS
FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

DWW BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

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

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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.**

**Fourth Annual Creative Writing Day at the DIA: Friday, April 24, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

James Hanks, Library Archivist for the Detroit Institute of Arts, welcomes members of Detroit Working Writers and their guests to a private, guided tour of the DIA Library and stacks. After the tour, we will gather in the Library living room to write what artifact most impresses or relates to us. Afterward, everyone's welcome to gather in the DIA Cafe and pay for our own lunch.

Free for DWW members; \$25.00 for nonmembers.

Click here for your free ticket:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dww-fourth-annual-creative-writing-day-at-the-dia-tickets-91902977279>



**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. Saturday, February 8, 2020 - DWW Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
2. 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.
3. Saturday, May 9, 2020 - DWW Annual Meeting followed by the Critique Group

Watch your email for more details!





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## 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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**Here's a link to an article about Daily Rituals of Creative Minds:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/oct/05/daily-rituals-creative-minds-mason-currey>



### **OUR DWW MEMBERS'**

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

Bill Rathburg's short story *The Fall* was recently accepted for the July 2020 issue of *Down in the Dirt* magazine (v173, released 7/1/20). Thanks to the DWW members whose critiques made this possible.



This review from Nancy Bekofske about Theresa Nielsen:

My quilt friend Theresa Nielsen is a woman of many talents. Along with creating crazy quilts such as one that was a finalist in the Grand Central Terminal Centennial Quilt Challenge sponsored by the City Quilter quilt shop in New York, she restores vintage quilts and makes quilts, dolls, and other items.

Theresa is also a writer and recently has published three children's books illustrated by Jake Goodgall. When Theresa puzzled over finding an illustrator for her books, young Jake quipped that if the books were for children they should be illustrated by a child!

First to come out was *Pickles and Olive*, in which an abandoned stuffed rabbit comforts a premature baby.





*Mustard and Honey* is the story of sibling frogs who frolic in a lily pond. Mustard likes to scare Honey but things take a happy turn on Honey's birthday.

*Stormy and Cloudy* don't appear until the end of the book bearing their names; a farmer and his wife are warned against bad weather by their cows, whose offspring are given the appropriate names.

The simple stories offer children an understanding of premature baby siblings, the love behind the teasing between siblings, and how relationships between people and animals are mutually beneficial.

Theresa has been talking about her books at libraries and other venues across Southeast Michigan. Her [books are available at Amazon.com](#) for \$7.00 each. Her stories have appeared in several publications.



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.**

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## **SPEND THE SUMMER WRITING IN PARIS!**

My name is Andrea Christmas and I am the Summer School Coordinator at The American University of Paris. I'm writing you today to invite you to share the following information about one of our 2020 Summer Institutes that may be of interest to writers in Detroit Working Writers.

The first is our Creative Writing Institute, which offers participants the opportunity to write and share poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction in a workshop-style format working with our accomplished faculty members, Siân Dafydd, Biswamit Dwibedy, and Amanda Dennis. This year we are pleased to offer two competitive travel stipends of up to €500 each to outstanding Creative Writing Institute participants. All participants who wish to be considered for the travel stipends must submit their applications by March 1, 2020. Winners will be announced in early April. The Creative Writing Institute site is:

<https://www.aup.edu/academics/summer-school/creative-writing-institute>

2020 also marks the inaugural year of our International Journalism Institute. Over this intensive three-week course, participants will learn how to navigate a foreign city in search of news, meet the professionals who work a foreign beat, and learn how to compile and file a multimedia story under time pressure. Participants will learn with expert AUP Global Communications faculty and guests from organizations like France 24, Le Monde, and Agence France-Presse, and by the end of the three-week summer school will have a small multimedia portfolio. You can visit our International Journalism site here:

<https://www.aup.edu/academics/summer-school/international-journalism-institute>

For more information, please visit our Summer School website, where participants can learn more about housing, extracurricular cultural excursions, and how to apply: <https://www.aup.edu/admissions/summer>

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions, and if you'd like to provide me with an email address where I can send you a digital flyer to share with your members, please do so.

All best,  
Andrea

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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

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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## INFORMATION ABOUT SPALDING UNIVERSITY

Here's a bit of information about us: Spalding University has been around since 1814 and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The School of Writing is a member of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). We began with the launch of our flagship MFA program in 2001 and have over 600 alumni and 130 students. Our students and alums have published or produced more than 300 books/plays/films. We offer flexible scheduling and students can begin their studies in the spring, summer, or fall and have a maximum of eight years to complete the program. Our program includes a summer residency abroad with recent visits to Edinburgh in 2017, Kyoto in 2018, and Santiago de Chile in 2019. In the past, students have studied in Paris, London, Athens, Buenos Aires, Dublin, Prague and Berlin.

Perhaps you have a newsletter or website and could post the following announcement:

Spalding University's School of Creative and Professional Writing is home to a top 10 low-residency MFA in Writing program. In addition, we also offer a Master of Arts and a Graduate Certificate, both with creative and professional writing tracks. We are a community of dedicated writers celebrating creativity not competition. Residencies in Louisville, Kentucky or abroad bring together outstanding students and faculty for 10 exhilarating days of workshop and serious craft study. Back home, students read, write, and revise during one-on-one independent study sessions with a prize-winning, publishing mentor. The intimate exchange of ideas between mentor and mentee improves writing faster than students thought possible. For more information please visit our website <http://spalding.edu/schoolofwriting> or email us at [schoolofwriting@spalding.edu](mailto:schoolofwriting@spalding.edu).

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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

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 some writing advice:

Find ways to introduce previously unused – or underused – words into your writing. Use less fluff and fewer fillers. Watch out for repetition. Expand your preposition repertoire.

Committing to just a few of these tweaks will make your prose more descriptive and less average. Let me know in the Comments which ones you choose.

Special thanks to [Leah McLellan](#) of Simple Writing. [Here's](#) the link to her post again.

Happy writing!

Deena  
[www.BulletProofWriting.com](http://www.BulletProofWriting.com)

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**Here is information about Pat Gibson's west side critique group:**

Below is the press release for the Northville District Library Writers Group that I lead. Each month we have a special topic and I prepare "thought starters" to engage participants. We also bring in pieces up to 1000 words for supportive critiques. Submissions can be any genre including poetry and may be read out loud if desired.

Group has been running since March and size has ranged from 4 to 12. Always something surprising and different every month!

**Patrick Gibson** <[pwgibsonauthor@gmail.com](mailto:pwgibsonauthor@gmail.com)>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacy Lorence, Public Relations  
Northville District Library  
248.349.3020 ext. 221  
slorenc@northvillelibrary.org

**New Writers Workshop Group  
At Northville District Library**

March 5, 2019 – Northville District Library is launching a new initiative for local writers – the NDL Writers Group. This group will meet once a month on the fourth Wednesday, beginning March 27, from 7 – 8:45 p.m. at Northville District Library in the Friends Community Room.

Local writers can network with other writers, share stories, experiences, lessons learned, and give and receive supportive feedback. The group will discuss all types of writing, from fiction, poetry, memoir and non-fiction. Author Pat Gibson will present a series of workshops on various writing topics starting with the first session titled "Everyone Can Write."

Contact Adult Services Librarian Vicki Dixon with questions at 248-349-3020. The Library is located at 212 West Cady Street. Visit our website at northvillelibrary.org.

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