



## DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

### JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

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#### DWW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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and Pat Gibson

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER  
CHAIR:  
Roberta Brown

SOCIAL MEDIA CO-  
CHAIRS: Terry Hojnacki  
and Richard Stiennon

BOOK AND AUTHOR  
CHAIR: Theresa Nielsen

HONORARY DIRECTOR:  
Kathleen Ripley Leo

**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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### **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDIE BOOKSTORES!**

The Governor's latest Executive Order allows retail to open up with proper social distancing and masking in place. This means all of our local indie bookstores are open/in the process of opening. Call ahead to make an appointment/check for hours!

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### **Freading**

Have you checked out this new free ebook reading app? You can check out up to three books for two weeks which are renewable for another two weeks. Over 11,000 books, including new releases, are available to you. There is a learning curve in using this app, but there are plenty of tutorials to help you use it.



**DWW MEMBERS’  
LATEST AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS  
SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND  
PUBLICATION CREDITS**



Meg Chorzempa tells us, “Chapter 4 of my memoir-in-progress was accepted by HerStry <https://herstryblg.com/> and will be published on July 23.”



Diana Dinverno reports, “I’m honored and delighted that my poem “Rock, Paper, Scissors” appears in Issue 4 of Orange Blossom Review. Thanks to Marissa Glover and John David Harding, Co-editors of the the journal.”

[Rock, Paper, Scissors](#), by [Diana Dinverno](#)



Carl Anthony shares this news from his automotive world:

- AutoVision News will serve as the lead sponsor for the July edition of AutoSensONLINE. The virtual conference, set for July 14th and 15th, will examine the key challenges facing the autonomous driving industry in this time of COVID-19. AutoSens is the world’s foremost meeting of automotive engineers working to improve automated driving technology for production vehicles.

- Similarly, AutoVision News and Women in Autonomy finalized a new media partnership this week. Women in Autonomy is a forum created to educate, equip, and empower women in the automotive and autonomous driving industries. Their mission is to embolden women to become leaders and change-makers in the industry, ensuring female voices are better heard and represented. We are proud to now be joined with them as a partner.



- And lastly, Automoblog continues to work with Omaze on a series of new vehicle giveaways. Each campaign features some pretty amazing vehicles, from fancy BMWs to new Corvettes. Readers who enter to win make a donation of their choosing and a portion of that goes to a non-profit or charity.



Michelle Morouse shares “I have a piece in Necessary Fiction:”

<http://necessaryfiction.com/stories/MichelleMorouseBeforeALittleBitMore>”



And this from Kathleen Ripley Leo:

“Kathleen Ripley Leo is a poet, novelist, and non fiction writer. Her DWW membership began in 1978 with writing credits of one poetry publication, one magazine article publication and winning a first place in a no longer extant state poetry competition. She credits DWW for much of her continual success in publication and held all offices and chaired several committee efforts in DWW. Some career highlights: 17 published volumes of poems, six editorships, generous literary press publications, winning several Michigan Council for the Arts grants, teaching college creative writing courses in fiction, novels, poems and memoir, appearances at numerous conferences, readings, media, nominations for Pushcart and Pulitzer speculation. She became nationally involved with Associated Writers Programs and chaired their Pedagogy Conference for many years. She was awarded The Woman in the Arts Recognition Award from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for her national presence, publications, and outreach in creative writing . Her interests have taken her into genealogical research, culminating in memberships in Mayflower Society and other lineage societies. This is the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower, and celebrations are taking place in England, the Netherlands, and America with the full consent and affection of the Wampanoag tribal council. Kathleen has presented extensively and will speak on genealogical



research and her ancestors John Alden and Priscilla Mullins in the fall at five different groups interested in historic preservation. She will be reading from her work at those presentations.

She's written an occasional poem for members of DWW:

### **A Poem for DWW**

How I wish I could write  
the perfect poem  
to make all the rest of your dreams  
come true.

Perhaps you feel the tug of the muses  
who kiss each side of your face,  
a sure blessing for you.

Perhaps you feel an arm  
around your shoulders,  
the unspoken prayer  
your family breathes  
each day for you,  
a delicious knowing.

Do you feel the good will  
of a multitude of friends?  
Do you contemplate  
your purposeful tasks,  
your drive, your talent,  
what can be missing?

All raise their heads,  
for you to love them,  
to follow them.  
All things have their day,  
their contemplated hour, and  
their good gift for you.

How I wish I could write  
the perfect poem  
to make sure all the rest of your dreams  
come true.

*By Kathleen Ripley Leo © 2020 K.R.Leo*



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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## 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:

**Saturday, July 18, 2020 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Lessons Learned on a 12-Year Publishing Journey**

DWW author, Richard Stienon has written and published six books with a seventh planned for a June 2020 launch. In this Zoom webinar he will share what he has learned from his experiences publishing with an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield and his decision to self-publish his next books. He will describe some of the frustrations with Amazon Createspace/KDP that led him to the next stage: printing and warehousing books and the ensuing problems in distributing through Amazon. If you want to explore being your own publisher, you will want to tune in!

Free for DWW members; \$25.00 for nonmembers. Registration via Eventbrite.

To register, click here.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lessons-learned-on-a-12-year-publishing-journey-tickets-107382812884>

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## **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, Lewis, 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](#), 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**

In conjunction with the Royal Oak Public Library, Barb Rebbeck has rescheduled the Springing to Mind series as Falling for a Good Book. ROPL will present our DWW author readings online at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, Oct. 6, Memoir.  
Tuesday, Nov 10, Sci Fi.  
Monday, Dec 7, YA .

Watch for upcoming author updates!





## **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 Stiennon 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)



### DWW Member Only Password

Just a reminder that the password to access the Members Only pages on our website is

DWW06051900



### New DWW Board Member

Welcome to Kathleen Ripley Leo, our new Honorary Director!



## **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

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

### **DWW SATURDAY ZOOM ROOM WRITING DATES AND TIMES FOR JULY 2020**

**ALL ON SATURDAYS  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**July 4 - yes, we are meeting on the Fourth of July!**

**July 11**

**July 18**

**July 25**

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 we are also offering readers a chance to earn free coverage through our Coverage Program, or a Virtual Badge to this year's Festival (applicable for both readers and screeners).



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



FAO Roberta Brown of Detroit Working Writers,  
**I had a spot of trouble sending this email and it is possible that I have already sent it to you. Please forgive me if this is the case.**

**I would like the following email to be read by the person who communicates with your members, I may not have the correct email address and would be glad therefore if you could forward it to the appropriate person. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.**

The Bedford Competition is a not for profit organisation, based in the United Kingdom, which runs international writing competitions that should appeal to anyone with an interest in creative writing.

All the entries we receive are entered in the main story and poetry competitions which have prizes of £500 first place, £150 second and £100 third. In the past it has not been unusual for overseas entrants to be amongst the prize winners.

We recognise that it is important to encourage young people to exercise their literary talents and in addition to the above prizes we give what it referred to as our **Young Writers' Award** for the best poem and short story received from a person in the age group 17 to 25, inclusive.

The stories or poems may be something completely new, or something that has been worked on already. There are no theme or genre restrictions but it must be original, unpublished fiction. An entrant may submit more than one story or poem.



Inspired by the affects of the current covid-19 pandemic which is affecting every country throughout the world, there is, for this year only, a special **Rainbow Prize** for short story entrants aged 70 or over. We have chosen this age group for this one-off prize as they are not only deemed to be the most vulnerable, but are most likely to be suffering lockdown blues as they have been prevented from pursuing social activities and interacting with their children and grandchildren.

The twelve shortlisted stories and poems plus the prizewinners of the Young Writers' Award and the Rainbow Prize will all be published in a paperback and electronic anthology, providing an opportunity to send their work into the outside world.

More detail and how to enter can be found on our website:

[The Bedford Competition](#)

Please circulate this email amongst your members and, if possible, display the advertisement, contained in the following link, for others to see.

Many thanks.

[Competition Advertisement](#)

**Administrator**  
**The Bedford Competition**

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