



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to your March 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

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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. 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, May 4, 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 (note there is only ONE ticket left!) (if you try to register and that ticket is gone, let me know and I'll put you on a wait list):

<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.

Parking is available in the new parking structure to next to the library (\$5), in the lot between the library and city hall (coins only), and in the Farmer's Market. Do NOT use the Parking App - it does not work!

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## INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROGRAM CHAIR!

I am pleased to announce that Barbara Rebbeck has agreed to be DWW's new Program Chair effective immediately! She will be the person to contact regarding questions/ideas about all DWW programs; you can reach her at

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

I would also like to thank Historian/Honorary Director Iris Underwood for her role as Interim Program Chair for the past several years.

Please email her at

[irisleeu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:irisleeu@sbcglobal.net)

to thank her for all her hard work in presenting and putting on wonderful programs for us!



## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS!

1. 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.
2. Saturday, May 9, 2020 - DWW Annual Meeting followed by the Critique Group
3. Saturday, July 18, 2020 - Fifth Annual Yule Love it Lavender Farm Event.

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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## OUR DWW MEMBERS'

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

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Pam Houghton shares with us the link to her feature story in HOUR MAGAZINE's January issue - *Detroit Area Specialists Teach Women How to Thrive with ADHD*  
- <https://www.hourdetroit.com/health/women-with-adhd-detroit/>

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Medium.com has curated a short story by Nancy Solak. Here is the link to her flash fiction, "The Creek." If you like the story, you can clap for it up to 50 times. Medium.com is an online magazine without advertising.

[The Creek](#)

#### **[The Creek](#)**

[Nancy Solak](#)

[I cry on sunny days. It wasn't always that way. I used to love them, especially at the creek, where windswept gr...](#)

Visit Nancy's web site, A Reluctant Traveler  
[www.areluctanttraveler.net](http://www.areluctanttraveler.net)

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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

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

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Association, and The Federation of Women's Clubs of Metro-Detroit.

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.

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



Kristin Bartley Lenz shares the following link with us to register for the Michigan SCBWI Nonfiction Toolbox One Day Conference. The link provides both registration information and the conference day schedule:

**[Click Here To Register for the Nonfiction Toolbox Conference!](#)**

Visit [www.michigan.scbwi.org](http://www.michigan.scbwi.org) often to stay up to date

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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

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

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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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Dear Program Coordinator,

We at the *Missouri Review* are pleased to announce that our [13<sup>th</sup> Annual Miller Audio Competition](#) is underway, and we would love to receive work from the writers and audio producers in your Detroit Working Writers. \$4000 in prizes will be awarded to audio projects in the categories of Poetry, Prose, Audio Documentary, and Humor. More than slick production, we are looking for good, exciting, and compelling writing in all four categories. The winner in each category receives \$1,000 along with publication on our website and promotion on our social media platforms. Runners-up in each category will also have their work published on our website in the summer of 2020.

The Miller Audio Prize is once again offering pay-by-donation entry fees at \$16, \$25, or \$30, and for the second year, we are offering Access for Artists Fellowships for those artists who face prohibitive financial burden. Access for Artists fellows receive a waived entry fee along with editorial feedback on their audio project regardless of whether they place in the contest. All entrants in the Miller Audio Prize Contest will receive a one-year digital subscription to the *Missouri Review* (normally \$24).

Deadline: **March 15, 2020**

For full details and to enter, please see our website <https://themissourireview.submittable.com/submit>

We are thrilled to have [Alex Sujong Laughlin](#) as our final judge this year. **Laughlin** is a journalist and writer who works in multiple mediums. By day, she works at a producer at [Transmitter Media](#), and in her spare time she writes fiction and essays about identity and technology. She teaches interactive journalism at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism and collects rejection letters at [@hellorejection](#).

Thanks very much in advance for helping to get the word out, and we hope to listen to your writers' work soon!

Best regards,

Bailey Boyd

Contest Editor  
*The Missouri Review*  
357 McReynolds Hall  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211

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## **CALL FOR PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES**

**It's that time again - time for paying our annual membership dues. And I need to ask you for your help - we have been having issues with a server migration from our website host to the point that when you click on the link to pay your dues via PayPal, you are directed to Apply for Membership instead. Our webmistress is aware of this problem and is working on it, but it does not look like this will be fixed anytime soon due to issues beyond her control.**

**So please do the following:**

**Pay your dues by check to**

**Detroit Working Writers  
P.O. Box 1105  
Royal Oak, MI 48068**

**and please do so by May 1st. I need to have this squared away by this date so we have an accurate count of current membership for our May 9th Annual Meeting. Remember that your Board is an all volunteer Board - none of us gets paid for the work we do - and I want all of us to enjoy a summer free and clear of stragglers ;-)**

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

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