



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS
DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



DWW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Roberta Brown
rlbrown417@gmail.com
248-854-2375

VICE-PRESIDENT: Michelle Morouse

SECRETARY: Laura Hedgecock

TREASURER: Cindy Hampel

PROGRAM CHAIR: Barb Rebbeck

NEW MEMBERSHIP/
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Joyce Harlukowicz

CRITIQUE GROUP
COCHAIRS: Roberta Brown and Pat Gibson

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER
CHAIR: Roberta Brown

SOCIAL MEDIA
COCHAIRS: Terry Hojnacki and Richard Stiennon

BOOK AND AUTHOR
CHAIR: Theresa Nielsen

HONORARY DIRECTOR: Kathleen Ripley Leo

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



The next DWW Board Meeting will be on Saturday, January 9, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Please contact Roberta Brown at rlbrown417@gmail.com if you wish to attend via Zoom no later than Monday, January 4, 2021.



SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPECIAL

DWW ZOOM EVENT:

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize winning poet and memoirist

Natasha Tretheway

Readings, Interview, and Questions and Answers

Registration details soon!





ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED/NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

DWW's Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on

Saturday, April 10, 2021

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Elections for Board Offices and Directors will be held during this meeting. A Nominating Committee consisting of Roberta Brown, Michelle Morouse, and Theresa Nielsen have been working to produce a slate for the April 10 election. As of the writing of this newsletter, DWW Established Writers who have been nominated and have accepted the nomination are as follows:

President - Cindy Hampel

Vice-President - Michelle Morouse

Secretary - Laura Hedgecock

Treasurer - open

Honorary Director - Kathleen Ripley Leo

Please note that more than one person can be nominated for each office/directorship. If you have someone you wish to nominate, they must accept your nomination in order to be on the ballot.

The office of President has very specific requirements as outlined in the DWW Constitution:



1. The President must have served on the Board in another capacity as an Officer, Honorary Director, or Committee Chair for at least one year.
2. The President (and all Board Members) must observe the DWW Constitution and Bylaws in all DWW matters.
3. The President shall attend at least seventy-five percent of DWW Board meetings.

If you have someone you would like to nominate for an office and they accept your nomination, please email one of the committee members:

Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com

Michelle Morouse memorouse@hotmail.com

Theresa Nielsen skipcharlie210@gmail.com



DWW MEMBERS' LATEST AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLICATION CREDITS

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New release by Linda Sienkiewicz: a picture book titled *Gordy and the Ghost Crab*. Gordy is afraid of the crashing ocean waves and a strange creature he spots skittering across the beach. It doesn't help when his brother tells him it's a ghost crab that will pinch off all his toes! "A delightful and educational tale about a young child's first trip to the beach and his encounters with an Atlantic ghost crab" - just in time for Christmas. Ages PreK- 8. The book is available on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/Gordy-Ghost-Crab-Linda-Sienkiewicz/dp/1941523226/> and Barnes and Noble <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/gordy-and-the-ghost-crab-linda-k-sienkiewicz/1138253716>

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Barbara Rebbeck tells us "*The Girl from the USO*," my new suspense novel, will be released by the Wild Rose Press on 12/9/20. The Midwest USO has selected the book for their USO book club selection in 8 states. I will do a Zoom event with the USO clubs on 1/27/21.

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Both Michael Kitchen and Roberta Brown have their haiku published in "*Bundled Wildflowers: Haiku Society of America 2020 Members' Anthology*."

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Christian Belz' poem "*Stoney Creek*" has been accepted for publication in the Poetry Society of Michigan's Five Year Anthology.



Nancy Owen Nelson is reading at the following event:

Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 7 PM EST – 9 PM EST

Public · Hosted by [SpoFest Open Mic Poetry and Prose](#)

Online Event

<https://www.facebook.com/SpoFest/live/>

Poets, writers and authors promoting and sharing their original work

Watch our four featured readers: Joel Coltharp, Jose Faus and first-time readers to SpoFest Nancy Owen Nelson and Christopher T. George. Includes Q and A with the writers. Joining us will be special co-host Kentucky Poet john compton.

Facebook Live stream begins around 5:45 PM CDT

You can also register to watch this event on Zoom. Virtual doors open at 5:30 PM CST.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81221111111>

Enter our email drawing to win an autographed book by john compton

SpoFest.Drawing@gmail.com

Include your first and last name. Your email will only be used for this drawing.

One lucky winner will be drawn at the end of this event!

Click the link for book description, photos and more

i saw god cooking children / paint their bones by john compton

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/765432109/i-saw-god-cooking-children-paint-their-bones-by-john-compton>

SPREAD THE SPOKEN WORD!



Support these writers by sharing this event on your timeline. They thank you!

Want to read at a future SpoFest event? Visit our sign up and event guidelines page for available dates.

<http://www.oicstudios.com/spofest-online/>

SpoFest - spoken word festival

From Text and Tongue To The World Beyond!

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Lynne Cobb reports, "I have some good news! Almost two years ago, I was approached by an author promoting mental health. He resides in Scotland. He found my blog, and asked if I would submit a self-care essay to be published in an upcoming book. This morning, I received the link to the book, and it is available for pre-order! I'm so excited I can barely think - or breathe!!!"

Here's the link! And a photo of the book cover :-)

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/1787752984/ref=db-s\\_a\\_def\\_rwt\\_bibl\\_vppi\\_i3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/1787752984/ref=db-s_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i3)

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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.**





### **Obituary Note: Naomi Long Madgett (courtesy of Shelf-Awareness, November 12, 2020 issue)**

[Naomi Long Madgett](#), poet, educator and publisher, as well as Detroit's poet laureate since 2001, died November 4. She was 97. The *Free Press* reported that in 1972, frustrated by the lack of publishers for Black poets, Madgett founded Lotus Press (now Broadside Lotus Press). She said one of her proudest projects was editing the anthology *Adam of Ife: Black Women in Praise of Black Men* (1992). She also served as poetry editor for Michigan State University Press in the 1990s.

"It was her joy and passion to selflessly advance Detroit poets," said graphic designer Leisia Duskin, who had worked with Madgett in publishing for the past two decades. "She was especially honored and humbled by her position as poet laureate. She was always about others more so than herself."

Her poems "often mirror the blues-based lyricism of Hughes's work, casting a light on themes of African American spirituality and civil rights," the *Free Press* noted. Madgett's books include *Octavia and Other Poems*; *Remembrances of Spring: Collected Early Poems*; and *Exits and Entrances*. Her work has been included in anthologies around the world.

"What I have done with my life is only what I was supposed to do," Madgett said during a reading at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History in 2017. "I believe the purpose of my life is to serve, to make a positive difference in someone's life, to redirect someone who is heading in the wrong direction, to be a good role model, to inspire someone to lead a more meaningful life."

As an English teacher for years at Detroit's Northwestern High School, "she pioneered its [first courses in African-American literature and creative writing](#)," *Detroit News* wrote. She also taught at Eastern Michigan University from 1968-1984, and "was a lifelong leader in pushing for fairer representation of African-Americans in school textbooks."

When she was named the Kresge Foundation's 2012 [Eminent Artist](#), president Rip Rapson praised Madgett's "life of creativity while supporting other writers and poets, reaching across generations to spark in young people a love of words and writing, and maintaining a deep and abiding commitment to the Detroit community." Her other honors include the American Book Award for her work as an editor and publisher, the Michigan Artist Award, and the National Council of Teachers of English Black Caucus Award.





## 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, JANUARY 23, 2021**

**2:00 P.M.**

From Family to Fiction.

Using family history to write historical fiction.

Barbara Rebbeck will retrace the journey she made to turn WWII family history into her new suspense novel, *The Girl from the USO*. From artifacts like her dad's RAF uniform to her mom's original USO membership card, she will show how she mixed reality and research with fiction to recreate 1941 Detroit, Michigan; Pensacola, Florida; and Cornwall, England.

Free for DWW members; \$25.00 for nonmembers.

Watch for the Eventbrite posting soon!



## Calling all DWW Authors!

We invite you to participate in the Zoom event, **Love in the Time of Covid** on February 20, 2021 at 2 pm. We would love to hear your poetry or prose on the subject of love. Any kind of love. Love for your partner, friend, relative, pet. Love of writing, reading, a favorite place, etc. We hope to have an hour's worth of readings from the hearts of DWW writers. If you are interested, please email Barb at [barbararebbeck@gmail.com](mailto:barbararebbeck@gmail.com)

We also invite all DWW authors who have published or won competitions or received honors for their works in the past two years (2019-2020) to share their work at a Zoom event, **Hats Off and Hurrahs** on March 20, 2021 at 2 pm. We will burst with pride to share our talents. Don't be shy, this is our time to brag. Again, please email Barb at [barbararebbeck@gmail.com](mailto:barbararebbeck@gmail.com)

If you email Barb, please indicate which event/s you are interested in. We will schedule these events through Eventbrite if we have enough participants interested.

Program update: as of December 1, 2020, we only have 7 people registered for the February reading and 9 for the March reading. We need more readers, or we will need to cancel these two events.

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Social Media News

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
- (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/>.

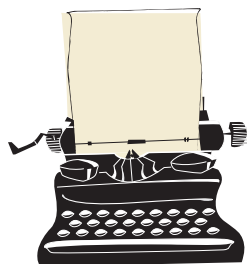
Happy Writing,
Terry Hojnacki
DWW Social Media Co-Chair



TWITTER

Twitter Wrangler Richard Stiennon reminds us that @Det-WkgWriters is DWW's Twitter handle. 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



The Metro-Detroit Book and Author Society is pleased to announce our first ever virtual author talk series on Zoom.

We are continuing our tradition, started in 1972, of bringing the best authors to our loyal readers, even in these challenging times.

Save these dates and times on your calendar and we will keep you updated about the series and ticket information/availability via this newsletter and our website. You can also download and print a copy of our [2020 Series Flyer \(PDF\)](#) and share it in any manner that works for you.

Monday Dec 21, 2020 @ 7pm EST

- Karen Dionne
- Book: The Wicked Sister
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Your attendance at these events provides the crucial financial resources we depend on for our grants that promote literacy in the Greater Detroit Area in addition to supporting an independent Detroit-based bookstore when you buy a copy of the book.



DWW CRITIQUE GROUP CALENDAR 2021

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!

2021

January 9

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

DWW SATURDAY ZOOM ROOM SILENT WRITING DATES AND TIMES

**FOR DECEMBER 2020
ALL ON SATURDAYS
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

December 5

December 12

December 19

December 26

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

rlbrown417@gmail.com



This has recently been emailed to us by Inkshares:

Hello,

My name is Sarah and I am the Assistant Director of Marketing at Inkshares, an award-winning book publisher and author community.

We'd love to invite your group to join fellow novelists in submitting your partial or finished manuscripts to the Inkshares All-Genre Manuscript Contest, open November 7th through February 28th, 2021. There is no fee to enter the contest. Inkshares will select at least three authors to grant publishing deals (and representation in TV/film, audiobook, and foreign rights). The top three books will be determined through a combination of community engagement, our proprietary technology, Story Machine, and independent evaluation by the Inkshares Story Board.

Novels we've published over the past few years from similar contests have been praised by every major review including the New York Times and reached the top of Amazon's charts. They've been licensed by the major houses in every single major foreign territory and are being adapted at the best studios and networks: Warner Brothers, Lionsgate, Amazon, and Showtime, amongst others. We believe that the most talented storytellers of tomorrow are unknown today.

Link to contest: <https://www.inkshares.com/contests/2020-all-genre-contest>

Any questions? Please email hello@inkshares.com.

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**You have now reached the end of the December 2020 newsletter. I ask that you do me a favor - if you have read this newsletter, please email me back letting me know that you have received it and have read it - thanks!**

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