



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



DWW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

VICE-PRESIDENT: Michelle Morouse

SECRETARY: Laura Hedgecock

TREASURER: Cindy Hampel

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Joyce Harlukowicz

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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 April 2021 newsletter! Our almost 121 year old organization’s mission is to encourage creative writing of the highest professional standard.



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

Election of Officers, whose terms will run from June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2023, will be held.

Please contact Roberta Brown at rlbrown417@gmail.com if you wish to attend via Zoom no later than Monday, April 5, 2021.



ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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. At this point, any further nominations for a Board Office must be made during the Annual Meeting, with both the person nominating and the nominee being present. Watch for an email with bios on those running for office!





SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

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

Pulitzer Prize winning poet and memoirist

Natasha Trethewey

Readings, Interview, and Questions and Answers

Detroit Working Writers welcomes Natasha Trethewey for a one-hour Zoom event. We will hear Natasha read from her memoir "Memorial Drive" and from her poetry, including the Pulitzer Prize winning collection "Native Guard." Our own Diane DeCillis will then interview her; a Q & A period will follow. Those registered will have the opportunity to submit questions beforehand.

The Zoom link will be emailed @ 1:40 p.m. to all registrants.

Natasha Trethewey served two terms as the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States (2012-2014). She is the author of five collections of poetry, Monument (2018), which was longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award; Thrall (2012); Native Guard (2006), for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, Bellocq's Ophelia (2002); and Domestic Work (2000), which was selected by Rita Dove as the winner of the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet and won both the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry.



She is also the author of the memoir *Memorial Drive* (2020). Her book of nonfiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*, appeared in 2010. She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Beinecke Library at Yale, and the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. At Northwestern University she is a Board of Trustees Professor of English in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. In 2012 she was named Poet Laureate of the State of Mississippi and in 2013 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-afternoon-with-natasha-trethewey-tickets-144673146275>

Natasha Trethewey Questions

Here is your opportunity to ask a question of our guest poet & memoirist, Natasha Trethewey on May 15th. She will be reading from her works, *Memorial Drive* and *Native Guard*. Once you have registered with Eventbrite, just email your question to barbararebbeck@gmail.com

Roberta Brown and Barb Rebbeck will alternate asking her members' questions for the last 20 minutes of her presentation after Diane DeCillis interviews her one-on-one.

Please submit your question to Barb by **April 18, 2021**.



DWW MEMBERS' LATEST AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLICATION CREDITS

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Congratulations to [Diana Dinverno](#) for her 1st Place win in the 2021 Muskegon Museum of Art "Art Talks Back" contest! Her winning poem is titled "Escaping the Labyrinth." Click on her name and read her poem!

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Laura Hedgecock shares with us the two sessions she did for RootsTechConnect that are both writing-related and are free.

Creative Storytelling Techniques Borrowed From Photography <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/session/creative-storytelling-techniques-borrowed-from-photography>
American Sign Language version at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/session/creative-storytelling-techniques-borrowed-from-photography-asl?cid=RTC-rcl-8006>

Why Family Historians Need to Tell Family Stories <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/session/why-family-historians-need-to-tell-family-stories>

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Cindy LaFerle tells us "I have a piece running in Newsweek about sheltering in place in our Wright house on the west side of the state. Here's the link:" <https://www.newsweek.com/frank-lloyd-wright-pandemic-1577442>.

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Richard Stienon announces the publication date of *Security Yearbook 2021: A History and Directory of the IT Security Industry*. <https://www.darkreading.com/prnewswire2.asp?rkey=20210325UN22040&filter=3849>

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Michelle Morouse is happy to report that her flash fictions "Making Apple Snow, New York Times recipe, from 1914" story and "Partners" were accepted by Ponder Review. As always, she's grateful to the critique group for their insights on these stories.  
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Two DWW members won awards in the 2020 Rochester Writers Writing Contest: Grace Grogan won Third Place for “Doing Easter Solo” in the Holiday Alone Memoir category, and Vernie Dale won Second Place for “Taisa” in the First Page of a Novel category.

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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.**

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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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## **Announcing the 2021 Sixth Annual Yule Love It Lavender Farm Poetry Contest**

Submission guidelines at  
<https://www.irisfarmandletters.com/p/poetry-contest.html>.

Submission deadline is May 14, 2021

Theme: The color of summer

### **Judge's bio:**

Linda K. Sienkiewicz's poetry has been published in numerous literary journals and anthologies, including Prairie Schooner, Clackamas Literary Review, Permafrost, Spoon River Poetry Review, Rattle, The MacGuffin, Paterson Literary Review and Calyx. She won Heartlands poetry chapbook award, has three other published poetry chapbooks and a Pushcart Prize nomination. Her debut novel, *In the Context of Love*, has five finalist awards. Her most recent publication is a children's book, *Gordy and the Ghost Crab*, which she wrote in rhyme and illustrated. Her MFA is from Stonecoast at the University of Southern Maine.

### Poetry Content Guidelines:

- Open to adults, one poem per person.
- Poem must relate to the theme and general audience (no profanity or reference to alcohol or substance abuse).
- 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, MAY 14, 2021.**
- Winners will be notified via phone by June 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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Theresa Nielsen, our MDBA representative, tells us to
Check at

bookandauthor.org

**to register for the following author talks via Zoom from the Metro
Detroit Book and Author Society:**

April 6th at 7pm – Alka Joshi

[Alka Joshi](#) is the author of the book club favorite, *The Henna Artist*. Born in Rajasthan, India, Joshi ran her own advertising and PR agency in California for thirty years. With a BA from Stanford, Joshi enrolled in an MFA program in creative writing at the age of 51. This led to a contract with Harper Collins and her first novel, which was a Reese Witherspoon Book Club selection. Her new novel, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, is a follow-up to *The Henna Artist* and will be released in June. It continues the story of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern.

Emily Duncan will also be presenting April 19 at 7 p.m.

A REMEMBRANCE OF MARY ANN WEHLER

Mary Ann Wehler was born and raised in Detroit. She was Assistant to the Director of Detroit's *The Writers Voice*, editor of *The Writers Voice* of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit Newsletter, and Poet in Residence at the Troy Public Library in Michigan where she taught creative writing for four years. She earned an MFA degree in Poetry from Vermont College. Her first book of poems was "Walking Through Deep Snow" (Plain View Press 1997); "Throat: Poems" was published by Bottom Dog Press in 2003. Her work also appeared in "Variations of the Ordinary: A Woman's Reader" (Plain View Press 1955). Her poem "Smooth Sidewalks" can be found on page 184 of "Century of Voices: Detroit Women Writers Anthology 1900-2000."

Convinced that truth, peace, and joy are found in writing, Mary Ann delighted in sharing her poetry and teaching others to find their own voice. She died in her sleep March 23, 2021.



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

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DWW welcomes

1. Cindy La Ferle returning to membership
2. Bill Rathburg advancement to Established Writer status
3. Jack Ferguson - new member

Congratulations one and all!



## **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

May 8

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

### **DWW SATURDAY ZOOM ROOM SILENT WRITING DATES AND TIMES**

**FOR APRIL 2021  
ALL ON SATURDAYS  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**April 3**

**April 10 - no Silent Writing Time due to Annual Meeting**

**April 17**

**April 24**



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)

## RESOURCES

From time to time, I include requests from publishers/journals/contests , etc., asking for submissions. It is always up to us as writers to thoroughly check out such listings before submitting our work. Here are some places to start in the vetting process:

1. Vernie Dale has informed us about Writer Beware; here are some links:

Victoria Strauss

Author Website: <http://www.victoriastrauss.com/>

Writer Beware: <http://www.writerbeware.com/>

Writer Beware Blog: <http://accrispin.blogspot.com/>

2. Angela Rochon shares with us Liza Dawson Associates:

[lizadawsonassociates.com](http://lizadawsonassociates.com)

Lots of good information on resources, what agents look for, etc.

3. Richard Stiennon shares this:

“I get regular emails from 'Freedom with Writing' about paid opportunities for writers. This collection of grants and residencies may be of interest to some of our members.”

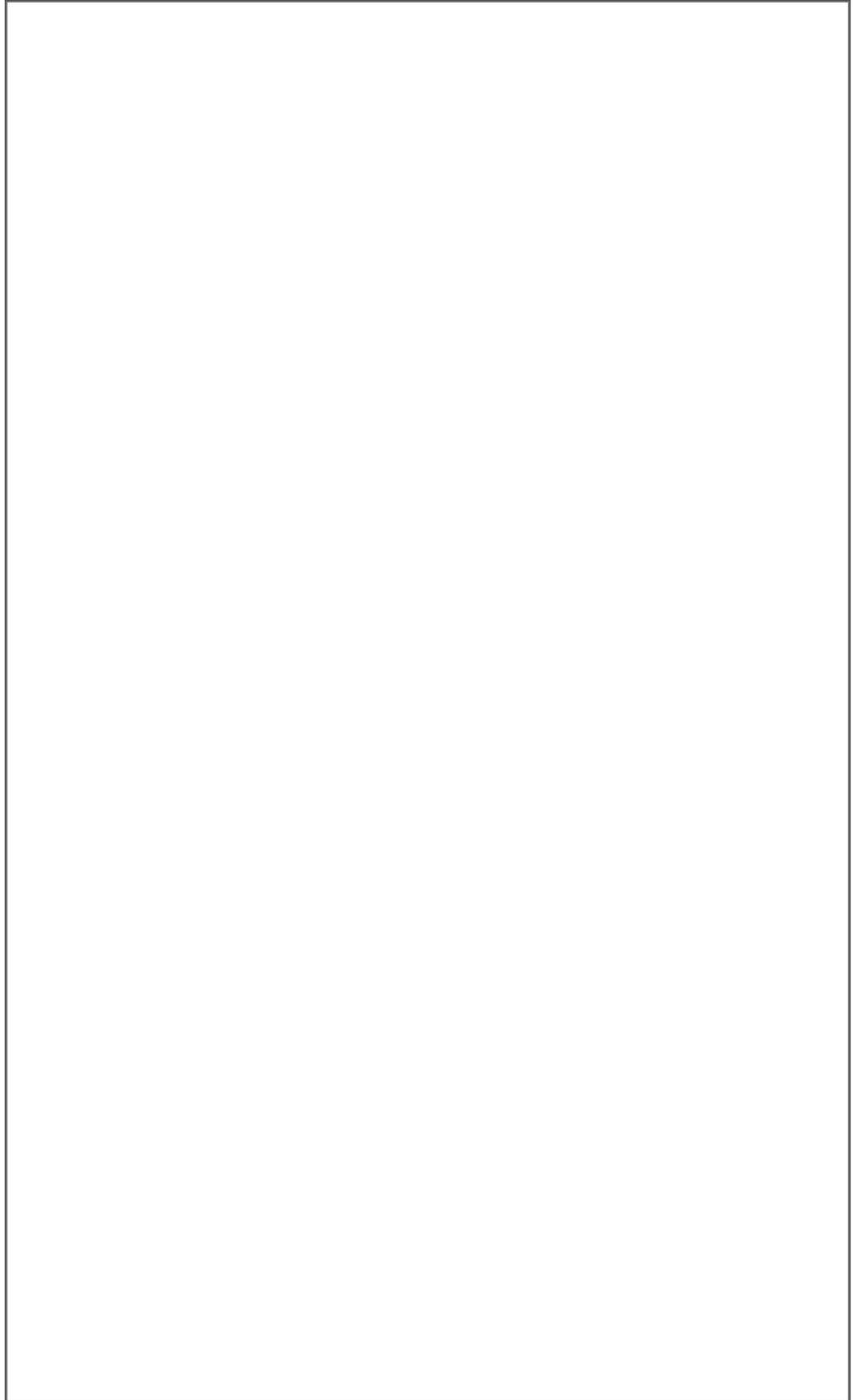
<https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/uncategorized/24-cash-grants-residencies-fellowships-for-writers-up-to-40000/?2>



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As writers, then, we must remember to practice our due diligence.  
The publishing world is like the Wild West!







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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