



DETROIT WORKING WRITERS

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



DWW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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rlbrown417@gmail.com
248-854-2375

VICE-PRESIDENT:
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Kathleen Ripley Leo

Welcome to your May 2021 newsletter! Our 121 year old organization's mission is to encourage creative writing of the highest professional standard.



**The next DWW Board Meeting will be on
Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.**

Please contact Cindy Hampel at cmhampel@wowway.com if you wish to attend via Zoom no later than Monday, May 31, 2021.



**Congratulations to our New Board,
effective June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2023**

Cindy Hampel, President

Michelle Morouse, Vice-President

Laura Hedgecock, Secretary

Michael Kitchen, Treasurer

Kathleen Ripley Leo, Honorary Director





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.

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.

Register here:

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



DWW MEMBERS' LATEST AWARDS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLICATION CREDITS

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Kristin Bartley Lenz had a fun moment when The New York Times published one of her poems. They asked for poetry submissions, no more than 15 words, on the theme of renewal, and then published six of their favorites. The poems were on the homepage of The NY Time's app which meant there was no link to share, but she took screenshots of its brief one-day appearance.

### 6 Poems by Times Readers

*Her bruised knees  
pump the pedals,  
pigtails like propellers.*

*She soars  
around the corner.*

— Kristin Bartley Lenz, Royal Oak, Mich.

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Diane Shipley DeCillis' book "When the Heart Needs a Stunt Double" made the Academy of American Poets 25th Anniversary of Poetry Month Reading List.

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Michelle Morouse tells us "I'm honored to have my poem "After 'The Wedding Dance,' Peter Bruegel the Elder, Detroit Institute of Arts" appear in the current issue of the MacGuffin. I'm grateful to DWW critique group for their input through multiple revisions."  
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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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## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS:

*Hi, DWW Members!*

*I'd like to thank President Roberta Brown for her DWW service and leadership, which has included her regular monthly newsletters! Roberta has produced four years' worth of newsletters—a major accomplishment in itself! I plan to follow Roberta's first-of-the-month schedule as I begin serving as DWW President on June 1. Here's information to help with the newsletter transition: Please use [cmhampel@wowway.com](mailto:cmhampel@wowway.com) and write NEWSLETTER ITEM in the subject line. My deadline will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the current month for including your news item in next month's newsletter. Items received after the 22<sup>nd</sup> will be included in a later newsletter. I come from a journalism background, so I ask you to include all the relevant "who-what-when-where-why-how" facts in your news blurb. I'm interested in your publication credits as well as your other creative achievements. Writers are often multi-talented. Send your good news to DWW! Best to you all, Cindy Hampel*

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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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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 AND LINKEDIN

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

Richard is also now in charge of our LinkedIn account; you can contact him at the above email address regarding this.

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Theresa Nielsen, our MDBA representative, tells us to  
**Check at**

[bookandauthor.org](http://bookandauthor.org)

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

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DWW CRITIQUE GROUP CALENDAR 2021

All Critique Group meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month and will be held via Zoom. Print out and post on your refrigerator!

2021

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

DWW SATURDAY ZOOM ROOM SILENT WRITING DATES AND TIMES

FOR MAY 2021

ALL ON SATURDAYS

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

May 1

May 8

May 15

May 22

May 29

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

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. Meg Chorzempa shares with us: “I found an online resource for finding agents that I wanted to forward on.

[The Official Manuscript Wish List & #MSWL ® Website](#)

It lists agents and their desires for manuscripts, as well as directions for submitting queries. You can search by genre and whether or not agents are available now.

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



This was sent to us by email from the Austin Film Festival:

Hi there,

I hope you are having a great 2021 so far!

My name is Karla Lugo, I am the Script Competitions Manager at Austin Film Festival. We are extremely excited for a new year of competitions and cannot wait to see what material gets submitted. With that in mind, I'm reaching out in search of new screeners/readers to join our team and help us evaluate the submitted material. We believe that screening submitted films or reading submitted scripts could be a great opportunity for anyone at Detroit Working Writers.

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.

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.

To qualify, members are required to be at least 21 years of age and will need to undergo a screener or reader 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 hours through the screening process or points per script through the



reader process that will go towards a gifted Film Pass or Badge to our 28th Annual Austin Film Festival this fall.

If you or any of your members are interested, please email film@austinfilmfestival.com for screening films or readers@austinfilmfestival.com for reading scripts. 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I am looking forward to hearing from you. I hope all is well!

Best,

Karla Lugo
Script Competitions Manager
Austin Film Festival
1801 Salina St.
Austin, TX 78702
512-478-4795 (O) | 512-478-6205 (F)

28th Annual Austin Film Festival
October 21-28, 2021

<https://austinfilmfestival.com>

<http://www.onstory.tv/>



Dear lovely and handsome writers,

This is my last newsletter as President of DWW; over the past four years I have published at least 50 of these monthly (and at the beginning, twice a month) missives!

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President from June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2021. I will continue to Chair, along with Pat Gibson, the DWW monthly Critique Group, as well as offer the DWW Saturday Morning Silent Writing Time.

We have a good, solid Board in place for the next two years - please support Cindy Hampel and the other Board and Committee members as they work to advance DWW's mission in the writing world!

**Roberta Brown
DWW President**