



Detroit Working Writers
est. 1900

June 2021 Newsletter

IN CONTEXT

Happy June to the DWW Community! I look forward to serving you for the next two years as DWW President. I feel fortunate for the support of a talented and dedicated board: Michelle, Laura, Michael, Pat, Roberta, Terry, Richard, Theresa, and Kathleen. I thank them all for sharing their time on behalf of DWW.

I began my writing career as a reporter. At The News-Herald in Port Clinton, Ohio, my coworkers and I formed an amateur volleyball team and signed up with the city recreation league.

After registering at the first league meeting, our team was temporarily split up. We were assigned to different groups for some on-the-spot practice before the season began. Someone assigned me to a group of power volleyball players—which I was not. At first, I felt out of place. But after watching and interacting with these players, I suddenly found myself playing at a higher level than ever before! Such is the power of “social osmosis.”

I’ve found that social osmosis also applies to my writing craft. I hone my skills whenever I interact with talented writers. They inspire and challenge me. We learn from each other. That’s why I started a new feature for the DWW Newsletter. Each month, I’ll include a pearl of wisdom from one of our members. This month’s pearl is from Roberta Brown. Look for it at the end of this newsletter.

Best to you all!

Cindy Hampel
DWW President

Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey Wows DWW Audience with Moving Reading and Creative Insights

By Barb Rebbeck
DWW Established Writer

What an Afternoon!

“You should have been there.” You should have been where? At the **Afternoon with Natasha Trethewey** on May 15, sponsored by DWW. I’ll let members speak from their hearts about this Zoom experience:

Roberta Brown:

“How often does one get to say they have experienced an event that will live on within them for a lifetime? Trethewey’s reading, Diane DeCillis’ insightful interview questions and the answers given during the Q & A portion were brilliant and inspiring. Such an honor to spend Zoom time with a Pulitzer Prize winning poet—definitely the highlight of my time as DWW President!”

Diana Underhill Dinverno:

“Perhaps the best reading I’ve attended. It was moving and perfectly crafted.”

Cheryl Crabb:

“Natasha’s reading brought me to tears. Diane’s interview and the Q & A sessions were equally moving and informative. Feeling inspired.”

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On a chilly spring morning in Royal Oak, Cindy Hampel hand-delivers a framed service award to Roberta Brown for her work as DWW President from 2019 to 2021. (Photo by Keith Wissman)



Service Award Finally Delivered to Brown... in CDC-Approved Style

The Covid-19 Pandemic couldn't keep Cindy Hampel from officially delivering a Service Award to Roberta Brown for her work as DWW President from 2019 to 2021. This was Brown's second term as President—an office she'd also held from 2017 to 2019.

The Service Award, designed by Honorary Director Kathleen Ripley Leo, was announced by Vice President Michelle Morouse at the DWW Annual Meeting on April 10 and presented to Brown electronically on Zoom. However, Brown did not actually receive the framed certificate until April 20.

Following official guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Hampel handed the certificate to Brown outdoors. Both also kept a safe "social distance" of six feet and wore CDC-approved masks—a sign of the times during a global pandemic.

Share Your Good News on DWW's Electronic Platforms

DWW can help you spread the word about your published writing, awards, writing-related events, and personal achievements. Share your writing news on our Web site, and at our Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn sites. The newsletter will include not only your writing-related news but also personal achievements and milestones. Social Media Co-Chairs Richard Stiennon and Terry Hojnacki welcome your writing news. Stiennon asks you to send him your Twitter handle so he can add your name to the curated list of DWW members. Hojnacki advises members to keep their submissions "short and sweet." Include the who-what-when-where-why and a link to your event or where others may purchase your book. Submit upcoming events on social media at least two-to-three weeks beforehand. **Please note Cindy Hampel's new email address: cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com.**

DWW MEDIA OUTLET	CONTACT	EMAIL and DEADLINE
Newsletter (emailed directly to members only)	Cindy Hampel	cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com by the 22nd for next month's edition
Website https://www.detworkingwriters.org/	Cindy Hampel	cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com at least 3 weeks before the event
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/detroitworkingwriters	Terry Hojnacki	Socialmedia4dww@gmail.com at least 2-3 weeks before the event
Twitter https://twitter.com/DetWkgWriters/	Richard Stiennon	richard@it-harvest.com ongoing
LinkedIn https://linkedin.com/company/15953515	Richard Stiennon	richard@it-harvest.com ongoing

DWW Calendar for June and Early July 2021

DATE	TIME	DWW EVENT and LOCATION	CONTACT NAME and DEADLINE
Saturday June 5, 2021	9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	DWW BOARD MEETING @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:15 a.m.</i>	Cindy Hampel cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com By June 3
Saturday June 12, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By June 11
Saturday June 12, 2021	Noon to 2:00 p.m.	DWW CRITIQUE GROUP @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 11:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com (see your email invitation)
Saturday June 19, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By June 18
Saturday June 26, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By June 25
Saturday July 3, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 2
Saturday July 10, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 9
Saturday July 10, 2021	Noon to 2:00 p.m.	DWW CRITIQUE GROUP @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 11:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By June 28

Trethewey Wows DWW Audience



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Linda Nemec Foster:

“It was great—one of the best Zoom events I’ve attended. Natasha’s reading was stunning (what a gifted writer) and Diane’s questions were so intelligent and nuanced! Quite a meaningful conversation.”

Diane DeCillis on her interview with Natasha:
“It was a privilege to interview Natasha. I very much admire the deep authenticity of her work and how despite the impulse to distance herself from the unimaginable hurt, she went

all in without being stoic or judgmental. Her generosity is incredibly moving.”

Twenty-one DWW members attended, as well as an interested member of the public.

Yes, it was an afternoon to remember always. Through tears and sharing, writers came together with the Pulitzer Prize winner and poet laureate, Natasha Trethewey for one shining moment in DWW history.

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*Barbara Rebbeck is the author of NOLA Gals. Barb was instrumental in arranging this event with Natasha Trethewey.*



## Member Achievements and Milestones

ROBERTA BROWN's poem, "Thirty Years Ago," was published in the Spring 2021 Edition of [Peninsula Poets](#).

ROBERTA BROWN played oboe with the [Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra](#), conducted by Grammy Award winner John McLaughlin Williams, on May 21 at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.

NADIA IBRASHI's poem, "Mediterranean," earned Second Place in the 2021 [Springfed Arts](#) Writing Contest for Poetry.

NADIA IBRASHI's prose, "My Patient, My Aunt," earned an Honorable Mention in the 2021 [Springfed Arts](#) Writing Contest for Prose.

KRISTIN BARTLEY LENZ's prose, "NEXUS: A Novel," earned an Honorable Mention in the 2021 [Springfed Arts](#) Writing Contest for Prose.

MARY MERLO's poem, "Headstone on the Mountain," was published in the Spring 2021 Edition of [Peninsula Poets](#).

MICHELLE MOROUSE's poem, "Eating for Taste," was published in Lullwater Review, [volume xxix](#).

MICHELLE MOROUSE's poem, "My Mother Listens to Her Kitchen Radio in Detroit in 1955," earned Third Place in the 2021 [Springfed Arts](#) Writing Contest for Poetry.

MICHELLE MOROUSE's poem, "People Who Wade Into the Dead Sea Automatically Float," was published in the Spring 2021 Edition of [Peninsula Poets](#).

LINDA SIENKIEWICZ's poem, "The Second Worst Thing," earned First Place in the 2021 [Springfed Arts](#) Writing Contest for Poetry.

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***The next DWW Board Meeting  
is on Saturday, June 5th, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
in the DWW Zoom Room.***

***If you would like to attend, email Cindy Hampel  
no later than June 3 at [cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com).***

### Monthly Pearl

*"Schedule your writing time in your  
calendar/appointment book, and keep your  
appointment! Don't let anything  
else interrupt it."*

Roberta Brown

### YOUR DWW BOARD MEMBERS June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2023

#### PRESIDENT

*Cindy Hampel*

#### VICE PRESIDENT

*Michelle Morouse*

#### SECRETARY

*Laura Hedgecock*

#### TREASURER

*Michael Kitchen*

#### CRITIQUE GROUP CO-CHAIRS

*Roberta Brown*

*Pat Gibson*

#### SOCIAL MEDIA CO-CHAIRS

*Terry Hojnacki*

*Richard Stiennon*

#### BOOK-AND-AUTHOR CHAIR

*Theresa Nielsen*

#### WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER CHAIR

*Cindy Hampel*

#### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

*Cindy Hampel*

#### HONORARY DIRECTOR

*Kathleen Ripley Leo*

### PLEASE NOTE: NEW EMAIL FOR CINDY HAMPEL

Please update your email address book.  
Cindy's new email is now:  
[cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com)

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Cindy Hampel  
DWW Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 1105  
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1105

