

# WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

## An Influential Meeting

**James Marshall** will be back for the January Meeting. This is what he has planned!

“My intention for the January meeting is for people to bring a sample of poetry or prose that they find particularly effective in some way – good dialog, paints an effective picture, uses words in a particularly clever or evocative or sonorous way, etc..

We will go around and read our examples, and talk about what it is we find good.

While we don't necessarily want to imitate, we pick up ideas and inspiration all the time, and good writing can help us sharpen our own.

Bring a sample of writing (prose, poetry, or both) that inspires you in some way. Be prepared to share it with the group and talk about how you find it to be effective.”

**Question:** Can they bring their own poetry and/or prose, or does it have to be someone else's?

**James's Answer:** “It must be someone else's. The idea is to think about what you want out of your own writing by seeing it in other writing. I suspect that we write in part to our own muse and in part as an echo of the sympathetic muse we hear in the work of others. I'm trying to focus on the echo this time.”

This event is open to all ages of writers. There will be a cash writing contest. *The Rockford Review* should be released at this meeting and those published in it may read their published work at the mic.

**Date & Time & Venue:** Sunday, January 21 from 1-3pm at Burpee Museum of Natural History. Free and Open to Public. As always, Guild authors may sell their books at the meeting!

## Guild Writing Opportunity

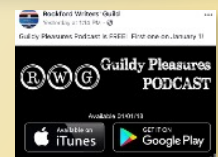
### Winter “Woes or Wows” Poetry Contest

Submit up to 3 poems, each 50 lines or less. The theme is *Woes or Wows*. Deadline is Feb. 15, 2018. Cash prizes up to \$100. Winning entries will be published in *The Rockford Review*. Winners announced in March newsletter and will be invited to share their poetry at the March meeting.

Email submissions to [editor@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:editor@rockfordwritersguild.org) or snail mail them to RWG PO Box 858 - Rockford, IL 61105

## Guildy Pleasures Podcast!

The *Guildy Pleasures Podcast* is FREE. Go to our [WEBSITE](#), download the free app and start listening today!



Our podcast showcases the Guild's literary diversity, depth, and intelligence. We aim to attract an audience of writers, readers, and authors.

Our January author is **Dan Klefstad!** He is reading from his novel-in-progress, *The Guardian*, which is about vampire culture.

In February, we will feature **Sharon Nesbit-Davis!** She will read from her memoir-in-progress, *Intended*, which is about her interracial marriage.

In March, we will feature **Bahiyyih El-Shabbaz!** She will read from her YA novel-in-progress, *Fat Father*, which is about obesity and fat-shaming.

All writers are participating in candid interviews that shed insight into the writer and the listener. **Jesse Kuntz** is the producer and **Connie Kuntz** is the host.

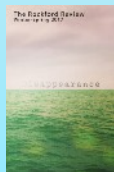
**Happy New Year!**

What's new in 2018 for RWG? We have a new Treasurer, **Cindy Guentherman**! We launched the *Guildy Pleasures* Podcast! We have our first featured author in *The Rockford Review*! We now direct-link to your websites and online publications through this newsletter! *We have* new Writing Opportunities!

**Get Yours!**

Order *The Rockford Review* online [here](#) or by mail a check to PO Box 858 - Rockford, IL- 61105.

Each copy costs \$12. Be sure to specify which edition you are purchasing and remember that if you come to a monthly meeting, you can purchase a copy at the discounted price of ten dollars.

**Welcome to the Guild**

The following Rockford writers have joined the Guild: **Michael Diamond, Cristina Hammond,** and **Molly Sides**!

**Year of Process**

Every month in the RWG 2017-18 season, we explore a new writing process and add it to what we learned the months before.

September: Story Approach Workshop

October: A Meeting of Reading

November: Banned Books

December: Emotions

January: Influences

**Notes from the December 17, 2017 Guild Meeting**

**Attendance:** Susan Brazas, Judy Cunningham, Ryan Dowling, Gene Dameier, Cindy Guentherman, Bahiyyih El-Shabbaz, Hana Ferguson, Tim Hughes, Alan Jimenez, Angelo Kuntz, Connie Kuntz, Jesse Kuntz, Jocelyn Kuntz, Sam Kuntz, Tom Lee, Ellen McFall, Robert Stowe, Tracy Swanson

We began the meeting by featuring three winners of the “Energy” Prose Writing Contest. The \$60 First Place Winner **Ryan Dowling** shared, “Inertia”. **Cindy Guentherman** shared, “The Super and the Suit”, and **Robert Stowe** shared, “The Book Burning”. Guentherman and Stowe were \$10 Honorable Mention Winners.

After that, “emotional” work was read at the mic by **Bahiyyih El-Shabbaz** or **Jesse Kuntz**. Then the group, led by **Connie Kuntz**, discussed:

- (1) what was in the writing,
- (2) what may have been *implied* by the writing,
- (3) why the material could be banned or challenged,
- (4) how the writing made the listeners feel, and
- (5) the writer's feelings when writing

Writers shared work that expressed a gamut of emotions. Sharing and reading risky writing builds trust and awareness. It helps writers, readers, and listeners zero in on what works, what is gratuitous, what is interesting, and more. Thank you to all our writers who shared and a big thank you to our Reading Artists **Bahiyyih El-Shabbaz** and **Jesse Kuntz**. They treated the writing with complete care and respect.

We had a Cash Writing Contest. Writers could write and share something “emotionally charged” or write from a list of recently banned words: diversity, fetus, science-based, vulnerable, evidence-based, transgender, and entitlement. **Tom Lee** won \$5 for his prose piece, “Transgender”. **Hana Ferguson** won \$5 for her poem, “The House”.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Kuntz (for Lori Marshall)

## RWG Good News

**Keep It Fresh:** If you would like your literary good news published in the newsletter, you must email your new items to **Connie Kuntz** at [editor@rockfordwritersguild.org](mailto:editor@rockfordwritersguild.org) every month. Email Blast items go to email director **Wilda Morris** at [rockfordwritersguild@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordwritersguild@gmail.com)

Learn more about Iowa author **Mike Bayles** [here](#).

Look for a review of New York author **Melanie Coronetz's** book, *In the Shadow of Mercury* in the 2018 winter-spring edition of *The Rockford Review*. Available through Amazon.

**Charlotte Digregorio** of Winnetka, IL will have a haiku/art exhibit at the Northfield (IL) Public Library the entire month of March. She will also give a comprehensive haiku workshop at the Library, Sunday, April 29 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., that will include how to publish the form. (Anyone who can't attend, but is serious about learning to write and publish haiku, may follow Digregorio's how-to writer's blog, [here](#). It includes The Daily Haiku and instruction/resources.) In other news, The Daily Herald of Arlington Heights, IL published Digregorio's feature article.

**Ryan Dowling** of Sycamore, IL has a self-published book of haiku called *Howling Husky Haiku*. His blog can be accessed at [www.appendixpoetry.com](http://www.appendixpoetry.com).

Keep up with **Kelly Epperson** [here](#).

**Alanna Flood** of Rochester, NY has a new calendar out for 2018! Her calendar features her original pigeon-inspired poetry and photography. To receive your own calendar, send \$5 to Ms. Flood at PO Box 26215 - Rochester, NY - 14626.

**Nancy Grayum** of Bellingham, WA writes, "I'm honored that one of my collections of poems has been published in a new online journal, *Archipelago ~ Perspectives on life in the Salish Sea*, originating at Western Washington University and published via Medium. They titled my collection "About Time and other poems," (there are five) and it's located [here](#).

**Cindy Guentherman** of Loves Park, IL has two published books of poetry, *Through My Fingers* and *All Strung Together*. Email her at [cguentherman@comcast.net](mailto:cguentherman@comcast.net) for purchasing information.

**Connie Kuntz** hopes you are utilizing the direct-links to author websites, emails, and online publications.

**Jennifer Lagier's** chapbook, *Camille Mobilizes* will be published this month by FutureCycle Press.

**Sam Perone** just celebrated the publication of his tenth book, a short Christmas novel entitled, *Mrs. C: A Holiday Fantasy*. His 2014 book, *Turned On! A Young Professor's 1960's Memoir* garnered four different awards, including the 2015 Eric Hoffer Finalist Award in the Memoir category and Winner of the 2016 Book Excellence Award in the Autobiography category.

**Walt Polzin** of Medford, Oregon writes, "My new book, *Malfon* is now available! ISBN 978-1-634-15999-9. It is the story of an orphan in a fictional Middle East country that grows up to be a dictator." His novel *Badman* is about an outlaw with no regrets. Email the author at [Walt.Polzin@gmail.com](mailto:Walt.Polzin@gmail.com) for information about purchasing.

Look for a review of Wisconsin author **Nancy Runner's** book, *From Castles and Bombs to Nazis and Frauleins (black and white edition) Adventures with the Red Cross in England and Germany during World War II* in *The Rockford Review*.

**Nancy Ann Schaefer** of Bridgton, Maine has a new chapbook forthcoming through Tiger's Eye Press. The title is, *Living at hope's edge*. Schaefer's work has previously appeared in anthologies, journals as well as Chicagoland libraries and PACE buses!

## Join the Rockford Writers' Guild! (Or Renew)

Membership Levels:

Adult \$35 (1-yr) \$65 (2-yr) \$95 (3-yr)

Family or Couple: \$50 (1-yr) \$90 (2-yr) \$130 (3-yr)

Youth/Student \$15 (1-yr)

Library \$25 (1-yr)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership with RWG is active until:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complete form and send check or money order to Rockford Writers' Guild - PO Box 858 - Rockford, IL - 61105. Join/Renew online at [www.rockfordwritersguild.org](http://www.rockfordwritersguild.org).

### Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

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