

WRITE AWAY

Rockford Writers' Guild | Since 1947

What a Character!

This May, our Vice President of Events **James Marshall** would like you to bring some character to the meeting! Specifically, bring writing from a famous work that has a memorable character in it.

Here's mine: When I was ten, I read **Charlotte's Web** by **E.B. White**. I loved the character **Fern** so much that I knew that if I ever had a daughter, I would name her **Fern**. It took a little coaxing, but my second daughter is named Fern. We don't live on a farm and have very limited access to pigs, but my Fern does seem to have a special bond with animals. The character Fern loved farm animals, was quiet in their presence, but spoke up if she sensed something unfair. The same can be said for my Fern. Anyway, the character **you** bring to the meeting doesn't have to be from a children's book, or even someone nice. We welcome anti-heroes, bad guys, villains, superheroes, saviors, funny characters, sad characters, or what-have-you. Simply bring writing that features a character you admire and talk about it with the Guild. Later, James will lead us in a cash writing contest.

Date & Time & Venue: Sunday, May 20 from 1-3pm at Burpee Museum of Natural History. Free to writers of all ages and abilities. Guild authors may sell their books at the meeting and members may share news of their literary events.

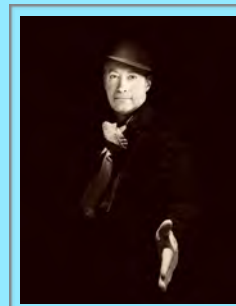
Guildy Pleasures Podcast Update



Molly McNett is the June author for the **Guildy Pleasures Podcast**. She is the author of *One Dog Happy* and her short story, "La Pulchra Nota" appeared in *The Best American Short Stories* in 2014. She will share her writing and participate in interviews with host **Connie Kuntz**.

Guildy Pleasures

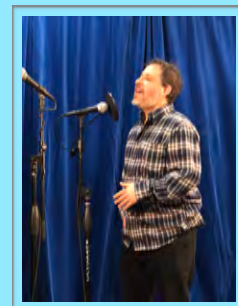
Podcast is free of cost and ads. Visit rockfordwritersguild.org and listen anytime, anywhere. You may also download the free app from iTunes or Google Play.



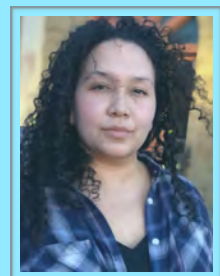
Dan Klefstad



Sharon Nesbit-Davis



Dan Libman



Bahiyiyh El-Shabbaz

Very special thanks go to the authors (pictured), our listeners, and Rockford Area Arts Council (RAAC) for making **Guildy Pleasures** such a success. So far, each podcast averages 200 complete listens and the numbers grow every week. We are so proud to contribute to the local and global literary community in this way.

Writing Opportunities

Deadline May 15-Winners announced in June Newsletter



At over 120 feet tall, this eastern cottonwood is Illinois' Biggest Tree. For perspective, notice the person standing next to the tree.

“Biggest” Writing Contest

All Guild members are encouraged to submit poetry (50 lines or less (or prose (1300 words or less) that express the theme *Biggest*. This writing contest is inspired by Illinois' biggest tree, located at Bald Hill Prairie Preserve in Mt. Morris, IL. Many have experienced the spectacular California Coastal Redwoods, but this 200-year-old single tree that has been hiding in plain sight inspires on a different level. Let's read your literary interpretation. Winning entries published in *The Rockford Review*.

“Superstitious” Writing Contest

We opened this contest on Friday the 13th in April. Submit up to three poems (fifty lines or less) or three prose pieces (1300 words or less) that express the theme *Superstitious*. Winning entries will be published in *The Rockford Review*.

Spring “Relief” Prose Contest

Submit up to 3 prose pieces, each 1300 words or less. Prose must express the theme *Relief*. Deadline May 15. Winning entries will be published in *The Rockford Review*. This is a cash contest with cash prizes up to \$100.

Email subs to Connie Kuntz at editor@rockfordwritersguild.org or snail mail 'em to Rockford Writers' Guild - PO Box 858 - Rockford, IL 61105

Notes from the April Guild Meeting

1:00 Meeting Start

Attendees: Brooks Agnew, Alan Jimenez*, Orin Keplinger, Angelo Kuntz*, Connie Kuntz, Fern Kuntz*, Jesse Kuntz, Jocelyn Kuntz*, Sam Kuntz*, Tom Lee, Denny Ordway, Tom Walsh, Joe Yates, and Paul from Toledo

It was snowy. It was icy. It was cold. Lots of people didn't attend this one, and who can blame them? Still, we had a decent turnout and shared all kinds of writing by the roaring fire, which was lovingly stoked by **Paul from Toledo**. Notice I don't know his last name. I was too cold to ask. Moving on, in honor of **National Poetry Month**, our hardy writers either recited or read their favorite “famous” poems. After that, we shared our own “setting” writing and gave each other feedback. We also had a “persistence” themed writing contest that **Tom Walsh** and **Jocelyn Kuntz** won. Everyone on the Guild board was nominated for another term and we'll vote 'em in “officially” at the May meeting. We also talked about the *Guildy Pleasures* Podcast, upcoming writing deadlines, and other things relative to writing. See you on Sunday, May 20 from 1-3 at Burpee. For this meeting, bring a character! See page 1 for details.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Kuntz (for Lori Marshall)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Brooks Agnew of Concord, NC

Albert Albanes of Rockford, IL

Ann Wiene Edmonds of Dixon, IL

Guilty Good News

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

Mike Bayles of Davenport, IA writes, "Three of my poems have been accepted for the upcoming *River to River* anthology, to be published on the Avenue writers' group, Muscatine IA." Learn more about Bayles at authormikebayles.com

Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka, IL received an official commendation from Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner for her work as an author, educator, and speaker, nationally and internationally. In other news, she was invited to read her poetry at the Poetry Challenge awards' event, sponsored by Highland Park Poetry (IL). And, *The Daily Herald* in Arlington Heights, IL published four of her feature articles this month.

Kelly Epperson recently spoke at the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor International Conference in San Diego. Learn more at www.kellyepperson.com

Charlotte Hackin is the author of *Stay Young to 100* and has a new book in the works entitled *An American Artist's Memoir of a Century: Art & Love & Life*. Contact her at charlotte.hackin@aol.com

Judith Kittredge's books, *Holy Homes & Pious Poems* and *Warriors' Wishes, Wisdoms & Wings*, are available on Amazon or through her website: judithkittredge.com

Dan Klefstad's short story, "Praise the Lord and Pass the Wooden Bullets" has been published in the May issue of *Dark Dossier*.

Nancy Schaefer's newest chapbook, *Living at hope's edge*, has been published by Tiger's Eye Press. The cost of the collection is \$5 (including postage), with all proceeds from sales donated to Long Journey to a New Beginning Animal Rescue. For copies, send a check to Nancy at PO Box 455 - Bridgton, ME 04009.

Robert Joe Stout's newest book, *Monkey Screams* (FutureCycle Press) is available through [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com). Learn more about Stout [here](#) and [here](#).

Green Bay, Wisconsin author **Kenneth Zahorski's** newest chapbook, *Sweet Surrender and Other Poems of Reflection*, as well as his most recent full-length collection, *Where Love Abides and Other Poems* (228 pp. 14.95), have been published by St. Norbert College Press. Copies may be purchased from St. Norbert College Bookstore - 301 3rd St. - DePere, WI 54115.

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.

Rockford Writers' Guild Board of Directors

Connie Kuntz
President - RWG
Editor - *The Rockford Review*
and *Write Away Newsletter*
Podcast Host - *Guildy Pleasures*

Jesse Kuntz
Guildy Pleasures Podcast
Producer, Webmaster, Cover
Artist, Filmmaker

Cindy Guentherman
Treasurer

James Marshall
Vice President of Events

Lori Marshall
Recording Secretary

Wilda Morris
Email Director

Rockford Writers' Guild
PO Box 858
Rockford IL 61105

PLACE
STAMP
HERE