

## Robin Bonner's *Empty Nest*



By: Linda C. Wisniewski

Her chicks may have left the nest, but Robin Bonner is still extremely busy. She earned her Master's degree in English and Publishing from Rosemont College and, for her thesis project, created *Empty Nest*, an online magazine for parents whose children have grown up and left home.

Now in its sixth year, the magazine welcomes contributors and subscribers

from across the country and even from outside the U.S. Readers can view the current issue at <http://www.emptynestmag.com>.

"I'm happy to work with new writers as well as professionals," she says, "and I simply love to write about my kids and my own empty-nesting adventures."

Each issue contains stories about "kids leaving home, kids moving back in again, relationships with grown children, managing aging parents, travel, and adventures. Many people at this stage of their life are reinventing themselves."

Writers can email articles or queries to [editor@emptynestmag.com](mailto:editor@emptynestmag.com), and readers can subscribe at the same address.

During her 30-year career in publishing, Robin has logged many more hours as an editor than as a writer. She is Managing Development Editor for Aptara, Inc., a Falls Church, VA-based

publisher's service that takes a manuscript through all the stages toward becoming a book. She also manages her own business, Spring Mount Communications, which helps small groups and individuals create brochures, newsletters, resumes, and business cards.

"Creative nonfiction is my reading and writing genre of choice," Robin says, "as I find that fact is often much stranger than fiction. I have also developed an interest in poetry. I find that I can sometimes capture the essence of what's happening in my life much more quickly in verse."

Her advice for women interested in writing is simple. "Whatever your passion, go for it! If you're able to financially, do a lot of unpaid writing for organizations (newsletters, etc.) to gain experience. And, if you're not proficient, I can't overestimate the value of taking classes. Also, read a lot—quality books, classic literature, mainstream newspapers, and magazines."

Writers who would like to benefit from her expertise can reach her at [rcbonner@comcast.net](mailto:rcbonner@comcast.net).

Take it from Robin Bonner: If your nest is empty, give writing a try!

Linda C. Wisniewski teaches memoir workshops and speaks on the healing power of writing. Visit her website at [www.lindawis.com](http://www.lindawis.com) or contact her at [lindawis@comcast.net](mailto:lindawis@comcast.net) to schedule a presentation for your group.

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## 50/50 in 2020



By:  
Anne Hamilton, M.F.A.

This month, I am continuing my coverage of gender parity efforts in the professional theatre. I spoke recently with my valued colleague Susan Jonas about 50/50 in 2020, the grassroots movement she cofounded. Susan is a scholar, dramaturg, adaptor/playwright, and producer who holds a Doctorate in Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama.

"Founded in August 2010 to advocate for women in theatre," she says, "50/50 in 2020 is dedicated to achieving parity by the hundredth anniversary of suffrage. For too long, women have been extremely under-represented on the main stages of American theatre. Fewer than 20% of plays produced in America are by women or directed by women. In some years, it's far less. And our presence is inversely proportionate to the resources of the theatres."

She explains: "That means that the theatres with the highest budgets—and those that receive the largest share of public funding from taxpayers dollars—are the least likely to produce plays by women or to hire them as directors." This also means that women's work is most present in the places with the least resources and remuneration.

"50/50 in 2020 seeks to make artists, theatre-workers, audiences, and funders aware of the situation and to facilitate, support, and publicize initiatives that redress the situation," she says.

"Among these initiatives are: [The Works by Women Meetup Group](#), which organizes deeply discounted tickets for plays written or directed by women, making it a conscious choice to support their work; [The Legacy Project](#), which pays tribute to the contribution of women to theater through panels, symposia, and educational outreach; and [The New York Theatre Experience Profiles Project](#), which lists plays by women being performed in NYC each week."

You can learn more on the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/5050in2020>

Anne Hamilton has more than twenty years of experience in the professional theatre in NYC, across the nation, and internationally. She is available for script consultations and career advising through [hamiltonlit@hotmail.com](mailto:hamiltonlit@hotmail.com). Season Three of Hamilton Dramaturgy's [TheatreNow!](#)

will begin with an interview with Kate Valk, a leading actress with The Wooster Group. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Anne directed a walking tour version of *THE STACY PLAY – A LOVE SONG – VOLUME I*, featuring members of The Living Theatre's acting company, for sold-out audiences in Central Park in New York City.

## Anne M. Hamilton Hamilton Dramaturgy

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