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The Mid-Michigan Mirror

A Reflection of Romance



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Mission Statement

The purpose of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Romance Writers of America® is to promote excellence in romantic fiction, to help writers become published and establish careers in their writing field, and to provide continuing support for writers within the romance publishing industry.

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Our December 11 meeting will be our holiday party. This year the party will be at the home of the author of *A War of Hearts* and *Some Practical Magic*, our own Laurie Kuna.

For security reasons directions to the party will be given on: MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com or on MMRWAROM

Also see MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com for meeting minutes and chapter business information.

Non-members seeking information about Mid-Michigan meetings and joining our group may contact: Dawn Bartley bartleyd@chartermi.net

For our October Program, Michele Hickerty pointed us in the write direction for pre-writing brainstorming, planning, and organizing. Recap on page 2



Gail Martin

Using Good Sense—Romance Style

In any novel, but especially in romance, sensuality plays an integral part in heightening emotion, arousing readers' senses, and drawing them into the story. In Christian romance, sensuality refers to the full use of the five senses—see, hear, smell, touch, and taste, but also the element of motion, emotional responses, and the sixth sense, intuition. Improving the use of senses means more than including all of them in the novel. It means delving more deeply into the senses in a creative way.

Using Good Sense continued on page 7

The November 20 MMRWA meeting will be in Grand Rapids at 11:30 am. Fencing expert Aaron Chusid will be taking us through the moves at Pietros. Preview on page 2 Please see directions on page 12



November Birthdays

Lisa Cardle 1 Irene Atkinson 14 Jean DeSavage 17
Johanna Atwood Brown 19 Kate McAuliffe 20 Dimitri Fitchett 26

December Birthdays

Tereasa Bellew 3 Lucy Kubash 5 Terrilynn McManus 7 Alison Hart 9
Sharon Chafin 12 Flavia Crowner 20 Sharolett Koenig 24
Laurie Kuna 25 Connie Smith 31

November Program Preview

Aaron Chusid will be demonstrating and discussing, sword fighting, martial arts and how to write believable fight scenes in our stories.

A 15 year veteran of the martial arts, Aaron was first exposed to fencing when the Olympic Trials came to his hometown. His parents took him to see fencing and archery, and then wondered why he spent the next decade trying to be Zorro and Robin Hood. Aaron has trained with foil, sabre, rapier, katana, esgrima, jeet kun do, tae kwon do, karate, thai kickboxing, and good old American boxing. Having received his Masters degree in Interpersonal Communication, he nevertheless decided violence is frequently the best solution, and is currently employed by the Boy Scouts of America, where he makes sure the current generation of young boys learn the safe way to play very dangerous games with sharp objects. A published writer, his most recent work can be seen in AEG's "Swordsman's Guild" for the 7th Sea Role Playing Game line.

January Mid-Michigan chapter meeting:

Mid Michigan will be welcoming Silhouette editor Shannon Godwin to an extended format, members only meeting in January. Please see Chris Allen-Riley to sign up.



RECAP OF MICHELE HICKERTY'S OCTOBER PROGRAM ON PREWRITING by Chris Allen-Riley, Vice President

How many times have you gotten through the first third of your manuscript only to realize that you've just now figured out who your characters are? Often, this realization is enough to derail the writing process or stop the flow of the story completely. We discover that we'll have to go back and start the story over again to work in all of this important information we've uncovered. As we bang our foreheads against our keyboards we think, there's got to be a better way. There is. It's called prewriting.

Becoming intimately acquainted with your characters help the words flow from your fingertips and the seemingly directionless middle of the story is a thing of the past. Using a series of questions and answers, you can ascertain enough information about your characters, the story practically writes itself.

What is the story concept? Main Conflicts? Outcome?

What are the hero and heroine like? You need more than physical descriptions. What are their dreams? Their needs? Their goals in life? How do these dreams, needs and goals conflict with other character's dreams, needs and goals? What happens when they clash?

RECAP continued on page 3

RECAP continued from page 3

What brings these two people together? What tears them apart? What changes/sacrifices does each have to make in order to resolve their romantic conflicts? What will they lose if they don't make these changes? How do their individual backstories enhance their conflicts and connections?

Who are your secondary characters? What is their purpose in the story? How do they help/hinder the hero and heroine? What is the story's setting? How does the setting affect your characters?

These may seem like tedious questions, but time spent delving into your characters' personalities and histories in the beginning is time saved on revisions later. No detail, no matter how small, should be overlooked. These intricacies and idiosyncrasies help to breathe life into your characters, making them real for the reader. And knowing your characters intimately is an important way – possibly the most important way – of accomplishing that.

Michele Hickerty is the current President of the MMRWA, as well as founder and president of the new Grand Rapids Region RWA. Additionally, she is the contest coordinator for both chapters and newsletter editor for one. She's the author of seven novels as well as enough partials to keep her writing until 2025. Though she isn't yet published, Michele is a PRO member of the RWA with several requested manuscripts.



MEMBER NEWS

Chris Allen-Riley: Asked for revisions from *Silhouette*; working on two paranormals and waiting to hear from *Dorchester*.

Jen Arnintrout: Writing; had an idea that wasn't going anywhere for about a year and this week it was like "lightbulb" and I've got a new project.

Dawn Bartley: A lot more progress on my WIP since critique group meets every week.

Holly Bertram: Layering a romantic suspense; continued work on paranormal.

Rosanne Bittner: Working on some first person contemporary ideas for hen-lit – also an idea for a time travel story and two more historical inspirations. *Walk By Faith* will be published in January '05 – setting up signings. Just had my web site up-dated. *Follow Your Heart* (third inspirational) now has a publication date of October '05 – will be among the first inspirations to be published in mass paperback – a new idea Harlequin has. *Where Heaven Begins* has been made available in large print. Participating in a writing seminar at an art studio called the Box Factory in St. Joseph, MI, November 6. I am now offering a writing course through my website called *Born to Write*.

Diane Burton; Writing a romantic suspense; finished first draft of another futuristic.

MEMBER NEWS continued on page 4

MEMBER NEWS continued from page 4

Jodi Lynn Copeland: I haven't been here in a long while, so I will do a recap from June on. I have sold two more books to Ellora's Cave and a novella to Liquid Silver Books. Now writing the third book in my Sons of Solaris series. I am sending off another novella for Brava to consider on Monday and working on revising a desire to an SSE; took over as contest coordinator for the From the Heart online chapter.

Wil Emerson: Awaiting word from Five Star on women's fiction story on their Special Editions line; granddaughter visiting; computer died – Thank God for warranties.

Peggy Hanchar: Started a new book; on chapter eight.

Michele Hickerty: Waiting on submissions.

Karen Holthof: I'm a new member trying to get published. I have written seven romances: contemporary, historical, time-travel, (plus ancient past). Working on three still works in progress.

Tammy Kearly: Getting out three requests from agents; continuing with second book in series.

Lucy Kubash: Finished revising and rewriting; sent query letter and short synopsis to Steeple Hill.

Kate McAulffe: I was able to make a meeting with a critique group. I reached my personal goal of finishing the first chapter and beginning the second. I'm very excited because the story is really coming together. Entered a write a book in a month for November.

Juli Schuitema: Working on two different fantasies and screenplays.

Correction: Condolences to Chris Allen Riley on the recent loss of her grandmother. So glad Michele Hickerty's grandmother is fine. Very sorry for the mix-up.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS****Karen Holthof**

Ever since I can remember I have created stories. At the age of thirteen I began to write them down. By the time I was in high school. I was entertaining my friends with notebooks filled with handwritten pages of a never ending soap opera. Countless hours I spent writing when I should have been doing homework. When summer vacation neared, I eagerly looked forward to spending a great deal of my time writing. I continued to write on and off after high school, and even while in college, where I graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History.

Karen Holthof continued on page 5

Karen Holthof continued from page 4

In the beginning, I never took writing seriously. It was something I simply enjoyed doing. Writing comes as naturally to me as breathing. Creating stories is an ongoing process that is a vital part of my life. Without writing, life has no purpose. Always contemplating story ideas, writing takes precedence over everything in my life. It is who I am. Because of this passion, I decided to seriously pursue a writing career after college.

I have written seven stories. Three are still works in progress. My avid desire to travel and learn about other cultures has been a strong influence in my breathing life into characters and scenes. Deeply affected by a trip to Greece in 1997, where I fell passionately in love with the country, its ancient history and art, its rugged beauty and its people, I wrote two stories: *Ancient Dreams* (work in progress), a time travel romance influenced by the ancient history of the bronze age, particularly the Minoan period, and *Kamini Village Cottage* (work in progress) a contemporary love story influenced by a wonderful little house that captured my heart. My idea for *Brazilian Fire*, a contemporary romance, was developed from a magazine article and my desire to learn more about a country I had never traveled to. Essential elements in two stories I wrote are based on the Christmas theme of love and miracles: *Joyous Noel*, a historical romance, and *Snowbound*, a contemporary love story. *Dulce Suenos* is a contemporary romance about the rise of a Latin pop star not only struggling to assert his own identity, but determined to win the heart of his love interest. *Te Adoro Means I Love You* (work in progress) grew from the walls people can erect to protect themselves from the very thing they need most, love.

I am a simple person who wants nothing more than a simple life in a little house on the Greek island of Hydra where I can embrace the life experiences I have for so long yearned for. I have been happily married to the same man for twenty-seven years. I love art, music, travel, Greece, the Greek language which I've studied some. And I do a little painting on the side (Greek, of course).

Kate McAulffe

I am a stay-at-home mom with six children. Along with this wonderful family I've created, I have a BA in History and English and education credentials. I was temporarily licensed to teach K-12. I was a substitute teacher for a year. I have also waited tables, tended bar, and clerked in a local and university library.

I began writing "seriously" in sixth grade to enter a young authors contest. It was my version of Nancy Drew. Evidentially I showed some talent because I won the contest and got to attend my first writers conference. It was great fun! I entered again in the eighth grade but didn't make it to the finalist position.

Kate McAulffe continued on page 6

Kate McAulffe continued from page 5

While I continued to dabble for many years, I didn't become serious until I met my second husband. He was the first person to ever introduce me as a writer. I have been working on my writing ever since then. I took a correspondence course in between having my last three children. The course gave me the confidence to call myself a writer.

I'm an expert at spotting a sick kid at twenty paces. All of us mothers are though, aren't we? I have some experience with the day to day aspect of living with asthmatic children. As well as creating a good size family, I come from a large family. I'm the last of ten children.

I'm here to join you in our struggle to become published writers.



January Birthdays

Leslie Burkhammer 1 Peggy Hanchar 2 Rosanne Bittner 14 Melissa Lucken 14
Dana Nussio 17 Aileen Hyne 18 Joyce Soule 20
Dawn Bartley 25

The **Grand Rapids Region RWA** was recently created to serve the aspiring and published writers of the Grand Rapids area. President Michele Hickerty and Vice-President Chris Allen Riley, as well as several other founding members are also members of MMRWA.



The election is over and the votes are tallied. The 2005 Mid-Michigan Board is:

President Wil Emerson

Vice president: Jodi Lozon

Treasurer: Lisa Childs Theeuwes

Secretary: Shar Koenig

Many thanks to Wil Emerson, Anne Marie King Jakubiak, Jodi Lozon, Lisa Childs, and Shar Koenig, for volunteering to serve MMRWA in 2005

A Note From the Office of President-Elect, Wil Emerson

My heartfelt regards for the vote of confidence from the membership. Now, should a new president just say thank you and be done with it or reach for the vial of tranquilizers sitting along side the pile of rejection letters?

A Note continued on page 7

A Note continued from page 6

When I think about 12 months, 70 energetic members, a growing number of emails, and the national organization, I start to shiver. I call my dog, Mac, and he comes running, licks my face and reminds me that **he believes** I can do anything. Okay, I'll try and prove him to be the genius dog **I think** he is. If we outsmart each other, the Mid-Michigan RWA chapter will do just fine in the coming year. Of course, you all have chosen a strong and vibrant VP, Treasurer, and Secretary who will be the foundation that keeps us on a steady path. Hardy congrats to Lisa, Jodi and Sharolett (we know her as Shar).

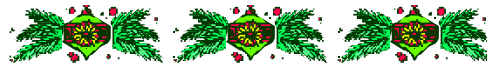
And we should all thank Anne Marie for offering her time as a board member, too. It takes courage to consider giving up a year's worth of free time to devote to RWA. Hopefully, Anne Marie will inspire 4 or 5 candidates each year to run for office. Not for the competition, but as a show of enthusiasm for a writer's organization that propels its member's published work to the market place.

Two thoughts come to mind about where we are going and what needs to be accomplished. 1-- An RWA chapter survives because of "ownership." It is **our** chapter and we must nurture, teach, assume responsibility as if it were a newborn child. It will succeed and prosper because of our commitment, dedication and energy. 2---It never hurts to speak of contribution when it comes to making an organization work well for its members. Using a worn but treasured phrase from a JFK speech: "Ask not what the chapter can do for you, but what you can do for the chapter." Volunteer to help us reach our goals: mentor an aspiring writer, share your work in progress at the next meeting, write an article for our newsletter, chair a committee or form one. Be active, grow with your chapter.

And I'll share Mac with you...he believes a lick on the face works wonders for any doubt, insecurity or frustration.

See you in December at our Christmas party. And please sign up for the January meeting....it will be the kick off for an exciting year.

Cheers, *Wil*



From the front page: **Using Good Sense—Romance Style**

By Gail Gaymer Martin

In any novel, but especially in romance, sensuality plays an integral part in heightening emotion, arousing readers' senses, and drawing them into the story. In Christian romance, sensuality refers to the full use of the five senses—see, hear, smell, touch, and taste, but also the element of motion, emotional responses, and the sixth sense, intuition.



Gail Martin

Using Good Sense continued on page 8

Using Good Sense continued from page 7

Improving the use of senses means more than including all of them in the novel. It means delving more deeply into the senses in a creative way.

Heightening the Sense of Sight and Sound

Since sight and sound are most common, an author can bring these senses to life by using vivid and active words to describe the sensation. Often analogies—a comparison between two things with common elements—can be used to heighten the image. For example: Her smile opened like a dewy morning glory, her face radiating like the sun. Or another example: When he looked into her gentle eyes, colors like burnished leaves watched him from beneath her shapely brow. Analogies taken from nature create a more vivid picture for the reader.

The sense of sound often combines an emotional response. The author can use words that are onomatopoeic—words that sound like the tone they are creating. Mingled with the music, a sound jangled Kathryn's thoughts. The doorbell. Sometimes it combines sound and sight as in this example: Kate put the apple between her lips, near enough for Scott to hear the snap of the skin and to see a fine mist of juice spray into the air.

Not every sound or sight is pleasant. For realism, the author will want to include sounds that make the reader cringe. In the sweet romance, *Her Secret Longing*, September Silhouette Romance release, Kathryn reacts to outside sounds. She wandered into the kitchen as a crack of lightning zigzagged across the sky followed by a resounding boom. In seconds, a siren's wail pierced the air, sending Kathryn's pulse on a gallop. A tornado.

Making Use of Less Common Senses

The senses of touch, smell, and taste are less common in most literature. But in romance, these senses can create addition sensuality. A descriptions of a touch often combines an emotional response. His lips touched hers for only a moment, yet the gentle pressure sent an electric tingle through her body. Touch can be varied, including more than the touch of the hero and heroine. As she fingered the velvety softness of the petal, the nostalgic aroma drifted upward.

The sense of smell is often captured in the awareness of perfume or after shave. Her shoulder-length brown hair smelled like a summer orchard. But authors can create emotion using scents in other story elements. Notice these next examples help to bring the setting to life. Scattered raindrops hit the walkway, sending up a pungent smell of damp dust and grit. Another example is: The room smelled of dust and age, but a stronger scent of Libby's potpourri...or her floral perfume clung to the upholstery.

Many authors describe food items, but forget to include the taste element. Taste descriptions can stimulate the reader's memory. With the first sip, her cheeks puckered at the zesty, tart tang that rolled on her tongue.

Using Good Sense continued on page 9

Using Good Sense continued from page 8

Here's a new twist on a kiss using the element of taste. Her mouth tasted sweet and cool like the cola she'd been drinking. Like the other senses, not all tastes are pleasurable. For realism, an author can include unpleasant tastes. Her stomach twisted into a tight knot, nausea rising to her throat. She swallowed.

Beyond the Five Senses

Motion and emotion are also vivid descriptors that heighten the reader's pleasure. Motion helps to create a sense of action. She watched while Tommy ate her cereal with the speed of a forest fire, then jumped from the table and headed for the yard. Lovely movements can bring nostalgic images to a reader. She watched, mesmerized by a small white butterfly hovering above the blossoms. It fluttered from flower to flower before it flitted away. Motion can also create strong action, creating excitement. Like the crack of a whip, Cade bolted upward while his hand shot forward, nabbing Rachel's arm. His firm grip startled her, and she let out a gasp. Notice the use of specific action verbs and effective analogies.

Emotion itself creates sensations that are familiar to readers. Giving varied emotions to the hero and heroine helps to create compelling and real life characters. A sweet sensation waltzed the length of his arm and settled in his chest. At the other end of the spectrum, anger and frustration is a common emotion. Tears pushed at the back of her eyes, and she brushed them away with angry swipes, irritated with the unbidden emotions sweeping over her.

Combing Sense Imagery

Blending a variety of senses into one scene, or even one paragraph, heightens the readers' reaction. Taste and smell can compliment the sense of sight. Lucas watched the steam curl from the cup and fill the air with a rich chocolate scent. He blew on the edge and took a careful sip, letting the warm sweetness linger on his tongue.

Romance is intensified by blending sensory elements. Sound, touch, emotion creates a lasting final scene to a sweet romance. Wrapped in the music, Derek slid his hand beneath her chin and lifted her lips to his. Their mouths met, soft and eager...the kiss she knew he'd waited for a lifetime. Like two melting candles, their bodies molded into one. Warm, soft, and new.

Authors can create exciting, sensuous stories by including not only the five senses, but other sensory attributes like motion and emotion. Filling a story with these vital elements will create a story that will linger in the readers' minds and encourage them to buy your next book.

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Award-winning author, Gail Gaymer Martin writes for Steeple Hill single title, Steeple Hill Love Inspired and Barbour Publishing. Look for her first hardcover gift book, **That Christmas Feeling**, two Christmas short novels with Catherine Palmer and Gail. **Michigan: A Novel**, four Michigan set novels published by Barbour, is also a new release.



Request for Submissions

2005 is dashing toward us – new and full of promise. Do you have a special goal or hope or resolution or prediction in mind for 2005 that you would like to share with Mid-Michigan? Please send to: brainchilde@websurfers.biz by December 13. or Box 374, Three Rivers, MI 49093 for snail mail.

ALSO

Don't forget "The Grind" a feature especially for members who are not yet published in book length fiction. Please share your discoveries with us.

In 2005, the Mirror needs a minimum of 10 features written by our chapter members. Please let me schedule you for one of our issues. Please include a brief bio (author's photo is appreciated) to include with your article and permission to offer your article to other RWA groups to use with full attribution.

DEADLINE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY 2005 MIRROR IS DECEMBER 13.

Many thanks to the members who have made photographs available to be used in the Mirror. Please tell Santa that the mirror would love to have a photo of each member on hand. It doesn't have to be a studio print.

To request Mirror guidelines, please use same addresses as above.

Thank you to all the contributors for the October Mid-Michigan Mirror.



As 2004 draws to a close and we make 2005 career plans, how we budget our time and money are big issues. Author of eight historical novels, **Elizabeth Boyle**, gives us her advice on how many and which conferences to choose.

The following article was first printed in the November issue of "Passionate Papers", Eastside RWA chapter (Seattle area) USED WITH PERMISSION

Three Reasons to Go to a Conference by Elizabeth Boyle

A very smart and savvy writer (Christine Freehan, to be exact) said to me a few years ago, she likes to go to three conferences a year: one for business, one for fun, and one for renewing her writing. Her words sank into my skull and have since been my mantra for choosing conferences. Now while it isn't always financially feasible to attend every conference you would like go to, let alone three a year, let's look at why this investment in your career is so important—no matter your stage on the publishing ladder.

Three Reasons continued on page 11

Three Reasons continued from page 10

1) Business. The obvious choice is National. Everyone in the business of writing romance comes to National and therefore this is where you (as a published author) can get the business part of your career done. I call it my once a year "check-up." Check up with my agent, with my editor, with other editors I've met and befriended over the years. Listen to what others have to say about their careers, agents, editors. This latter part is often disguised as "meeting for drinks," but don't be fooled, it really is business.

Really. Buyers for the chains often drop in, reviewers, all sorts of people who can help my career along. This is the business of making contacts.

But what if you aren't published, and don't have an editor or agent to go lunch with? Then ask yourself who is your dream editor or agent and how can you get to meet them. Your chances of cornering them at National is probably slim, but they may be at a smaller local conference where they have come looking for new authors. This is your chance for a great one on one—and worth the investment. I met my agent when she came out to speak at a local conference. And while I didn't seek her out for representation for another year, I had met her and felt confident about approaching her having met her once before.

2) Fun. Spending all that money for fun? Yes, most definitely. Writers need refueling and there is nothing like a "girl's weekend" to refuel your love of writing. Get the critique group together, a writing buddy, someone you met at National and lives across the country and go to a writer's conference somewhere in the middle. Go by yourself! I guarantee you, you will make new friends. I like the Emerald City conference purely because I know so many of my friends will be there and I can get caught up. Sleep at the hotel, even if the conference is just 30 minutes away. Order room service. This is about spoiling and indulging the writer. You don't even have to go to the workshops. If you do, listen deeply. Get a massage. I guarantee you that you will return home motivated to write.

3) Deepen the Craft. This conference/workshop/retreat needs to be chosen very carefully. This is purely about improving your skills as a writer. When you are unpublished, National makes a perfect choice for indulging your inner writer. You can take workshop after workshop on every aspect of writing and return home a new person.

Skip the anxieties over the agent/editor appointments and plot your day out like a general. You'll get your money's worth.

But if National sounds too daunting, perhaps there is a one day workshop somewhere with a speaker you've heard so much about that sounds worth your time and hungry talent. One speaker? For one day? Spend all that money on travel, hotels, and meals for just one speaker? Yes, absolutely. The one day workshop Orange County sponsored featuring Donald Maass was worth every penny.

Three Reasons continued on page 12

Three Reasons continued from page 11

So consider where you are in your career, pick the one reason that makes the most sense to you or that you need the most, and find the conference that is just right for you.

Elizabeth Boyle is the author of eight historical romances, including the USA Today bestseller, IT TAKES A HERO. Her ninth book, SOMETHING ABOUT EMMALINE, will be released the end of January 2005. To get more writing tips from Elizabeth, visit her website at www.elizabethboyle.com.

Helpful articles online:

Don't know where to start? Try this site:

<http://sleuths2die4.thewriters.com/writingtips.htm>

What Do You Mean My Hero (or heroine) Needed More Conflict?

<http://www.rrrw.org/what.html>

The Historical Romance Hero by Barbara Dawson Smith

<http://www.barbaradawsonsmith.com/writinghero.htm>

2004 Meeting Schedule

November 20th, Grand Rapids, Fencing instructor

December 11th, Laurie Kuna's house, Holiday party

Pietros Italian Restaurant at 5301 Northland Drive, Grand Rapids, MI. 616.365.3550

Here are the directions. Or see if Map Quest at: <http://www.mapquest.com/>

From the **East** - Take 96 to Plainfield Avenue. Travel north for about five miles. Plainfield will dead end into Northland Drive. Turn left.

Pietros is approximately ¼ mile down the road on the left hand side of the road.

From the **West** - Take 96 to Plainfield Avenue. Travel north for about five miles. Plainfield will dead end into Northland Drive. Turn left.

Pietros is approximately ¼ mile down the road on the left hand side of the road.

Additional information:

96 doesn't actually have a Northland Drive exit. It's the East Beltline. So, you need to get off at the Beltline and go north for 5 or 6 miles until Plainfield deadends into Northland Dr.

Or, if you're coming in from the **K-zoo area**, you can take 96 East to Plainfield, and go north on Plainfield until it deadends into Northland.

Laurie Carroll

2004 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers

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Vice-president: Chris Allen-Riley matt@wmis.net

Secretary: Tammy Kearly tammyk@voyager.net

Treasurer: Jennifer Armintrout WhoTom@aol.com

2004 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs

I Will Write a Book/Write For the Money: Michele Hickerty chelery1@yahoo.com

Happily Ever After Contest: Michele Hickerty chelery1@yahoo.com

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Mid-Michigan Mirror's policy is to offer our original MMRWA articles to other RWA chapters and loops to use with all credits given unless the author specifies restrictions prior to publication. The Mirror staff reserves the right to edit submissions for such things as typos, punctuation, grammar, size requirements, content with author's approval, etc. in the rare case that it is needed.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of RWA®, of the MMRWA, or its individual members. Market information contained herein does not constitute an endorsement by RWA® or MMRWA. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability and integrity of those with whom the deal. RWA® sister chapters may reprint any information in this newsletter, providing credit is given to MMRWA, the Mirror, and the article's author. Non-RWA® groups must secure permission from the author. Writers are encouraged to check market report accuracy through the RWA® Hotline, (281) 440-6885, press 8.

CONTESTS

Updated and all sites tested...Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux

Delacorte Press Contest for Young Adult Novels

Postmark deadlines: After October 1, 2004 - Before December 31, 2004

Submissions should consist of a book-length manuscript with a contemporary setting that will be suitable for readers ages 12 to 18.

The prize is a book contract...

<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/games/delacorte.html>

Great Expectations

North Texas RWA

Received by December 28, 2004

One page query letter and first chapter up to 25 pages.

<http://www.ntrwa.com/contest.html>

Sharp Synopsis Contest

San Francisco RWA

Received by December 31, 2004

Send 2 page max short synopsis + 5-12 page long synopsis + first ten pages of manuscript.

<http://www.sfarwa.com/sharpcontest.asp>

Holt Medallion (Published)

Virginia Romance Writers

Received by December 31, 2004

2004 Copyright date.

<http://www.virginiaromancewriters.com/Contests/holt.html>

Happy Endings Contest

CoLoNY Chapter

Postmarked by December 31, 2004

Send last chapter or chapters not to exceed 30 pages.

<http://www.romance-writers-colony.org/>

Winter Rose - Unpublished

Yellow Rose RWA

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