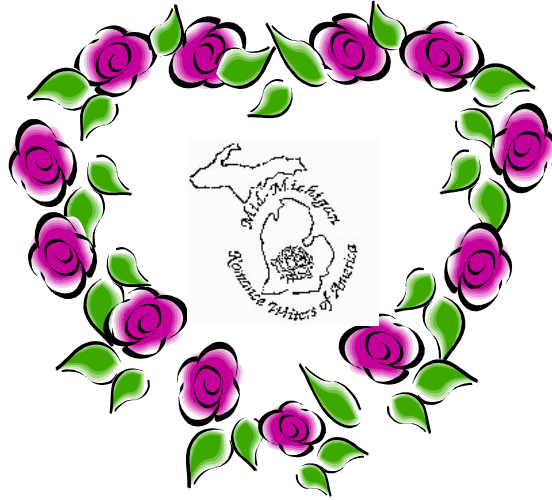


♥ Winner of the 1999 RWA® Mid-Sized Chapter Newsletter Contest ♥

The Mid-Michigan Mirror



A Reflection of Romance

A publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter (#12) of Romance Writers of America ®

Volume I: Issue 2

February 2003

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Want to write a story so real your reader is afraid to put your book down because she's worried something will happen while she's not reading? Come explore the makings of the fictive dream with author/speaker Melissa Ford at the **February 15 Mid-Michigan Meeting at the Lansing area restaurant, the Golden Rose**. Directions on page 14.

Afterward, a signing with Melissa Ford will be held from 4-6 pm at The Way Station, 2 blocks south of Michigan Ave. on Washington Square between Washtenaw and Allegan.



The Write Stuff . . .

Fabulous February is here, my favorite month.

What? Freezing-cold February? Is she crazy?

Of course, she's crazy--about romance. With Valentine's Day celebrated annually on February 14th, February is the most romantic month of the year.

Valentine's Day. Bouquets of fragrant flowers. Sentimental cards and poems. Delectable chocolates in abundance. Romantic candlelight dinners. Cuddling before a roaring fire. An epidemic of marriage proposals. It's the day we all wear our hearts on our sleeves. What romance writer wouldn't love February?

Romance blooms and warms us in the icy cold of February. In MMRWA, so does acknowledgement of another kind of caring--service to others. During the month of February, nominations will be accepted for the 2003 MMRWA Angel Award for Service.

You undoubtedly know of one or more MMRWA members who embody many or all of the following attributes: is a tireless worker who volunteers for every task no matter how difficult or trivial, is a generous mentor, is an exceptional leader, and/or performed an outstanding service to the chapter above and beyond the call of duty. Please make your nomination(s) in writing and send to MMRWA Angel Award Committee Chair Maris Soule (an Angel herself, being the inaugural recipient of the award). The committee meets next month to review the nominations and select this year's recipient. We have many deserving prospective candidates for the award, so please get those nominations in the mail, or give them to Maris or a Board member at the next meeting.

And don't forget to get your written fix of February romance by curling up with several heart-warming romance novels from MMRWA's many talented authors. Love conquers all--even the February cold.

A Happy and Romantic Valentine's Day to you all.

Lana Miersen, President



February Birthdays

What a great month for romance writers to have a birthday!

4th Lana Miersen

11th Kimm Jayne



Member News

Chris Allen-Riley is working on a contemporary and a paranormal. She's waiting to hear on revisions from Silhouette.

Dawn Bartley is determined to get back on the writing trail!

Tereasa Bellew is reading and is on chapter seven of her new romantic suspense novel.

Rosanne Bittner penned a 2-book contract with Harlequin's Steeple Hill line. Has always wanted to write inspirational, so is really excited about this sale; offered one proposal and they came back wanting TWO! The book (historical), set in Alaska, is called *Where Heaven Begins*, and is tentatively scheduled for release next March. She will use her own name, and will be one of the launch authors for Steeple Hill historicals. She is also in negotiation with Forge for two more books in her America West series.

Diane Burton is working on a new adventure romance.

Lisa Cardle is revising her paranormal and is hoping to start a new novel by March.

Sue Charnley is working on a novel of an 1870's Americana trilogy.

Dana Corbit Nussio is working on two proposals and speaking at two reader's groups.

Flavia Crowner is working on her current WIP and has done an outline of her third book in the Sunny Farnum series.

Rohn Federbush is working on her next proposal: *Floating Home*, for Susan Litman.

Nancy Gideon got a "Perfect 10" review on *Midnight Crusader* from *Romance Reviews Today*. She's working on new proposals and Golden Heart entries.

Peggy Hanchar is working on a second historical. Peggy has a new hero in her life, born in January, great grandson Christian Lennon Erwine. He's a blue-eyed blonde/gorgeous hunk.

Michele Hickerty started a new futuristic and is waiting on a response on a proposal to Avon.

Aileen Hyne is thinking deep, profound thoughts.

Tammy Kearly is working on a contemporary.

Anne Marie King-Jakubiak has been too busy playing catch-up at work to write.

Shar Koenig is looking forward to the release of her third novel of a young adult mystery series.

Lucy Kubash's article, "Keeping Pets Safe During the Holidays," was published in a local newsletter/newspaper. She's also working on a historical.

Pat Lazarus is plotting (accompanied by maniacal laughter).

Loralee Lillibridge is resubmitting two contemporaries.

Gail Martin sold to Steeple Hill's new Woman's Fiction line; *The Christmas Kite* will be a launch book in November. Her romantic suspense, *A Love For Safekeeping*, nominated as Best Love Inspired of 2002. *Her Secret Longing* was translated into Japanese. *Loving Hearts*, February LI release, was in a *Publisher's Weekly* color ad. At month's end, is signing in Indianapolis, IN at the Christian Booksellers Association Expo. In February, will speak to a woman's group in Royal Oak, and do a workshop in Columbus, OH, for the RWA Central Ohio Fiction Writers chapter, followed by a book signing at Barnes and Noble. Will speak and sign at Schuler Books, East Lansing. Multiple book signings in Madison Heights, Royal Oak, and Highland scheduled for March.

Terrilyn McManus is trying to reorganize her house and her life.

Lana Miersen is working on a proposal for the new Silhouette Bombshell line and continuing work on her futuristic.

Marsha Ransom is writing as freelance correspondent for two newspapers. She has a partial manuscript being critiqued, is teaching “Writing the Novel Way,” and is critiquing her student’s work.

Victoria Schab is still waiting to hear from Dorchester on her two manuscripts.

Julie Schuitema is working on a fantasy and revising a futuristic.

Cheryl Steimel finished her fantasy, started a new romantic comedy, and entered the Laurie twice. She finaled in the On the Far Side Contest in the fantasy category.

DeAnna Talcott will be the "Chatting About Romance" guest at the Lansing Mall Barnes & Noble bookstore on Wednesday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. Deanna will discuss and sign copies of her new book, *Cupid Jones Gets Married*. "Chatting About Romance" is hosted by our own **Diane Burton**.

Cupid Jones Gets Married by DeAnna Talcott is featured on the Harlequin website as one of their Top Ten Romantic reads.



At our January meeting, Mid-Michigan Romance Writers had the pleasure of having a “heart to Hart” talk with three-time Rita winner, member of the RWA Hall of Fame, and author of over 60 titles, Alison Hart (aka Jennifer Greene).

A New Year’s Talk with Alison Hart

Alison discussed our writing goals, resolutions, and what we want to accomplish during the coming year. She asked us to share something personal, something heartfelt, and she volunteered first. Alison Hart said:

“I’ve been writing for almost 25 years and every year it seems like writers tend to set the same kinds of goals: Finish the manuscript, or send a ms to a publisher, or get a new contract, or hit the NY Times list. Every one of those goals is problematic—because they’re NOT things that we actually have power over. But there are factors that affect our goals and our creativity.

There are at least three misconceptions I had when I first started writing: One was about **talent**. A second was about ‘**books of the heart**.’ And a third was about the **power** a publisher has over what we write.

"The business about **talent** is complicated. It doesn’t take talent to sell. It takes perseverance and luck and the ability to take criticism and the willingness to read and understand the different markets. You have to have some talent to put the words down on a page. This work would be torture if you didn’t. But talent isn’t a static thing.

Talent changes. The first book I wrote I felt compelled to write because of the story. I loved the story so much that I simply had to try writing it. And that was true for the first five books. Then I ran out of those stories. I went through a period that I mistakenly called burnout.

"We all use up the material we know the best at some point. Some writers stop permanently after this, because that's really all they wanted to write, one or two stories. There's nothing wrong with this. There's no reason everyone should feel they should be a 'career writer'. The misconception we sell ourselves here is that quantity has anything to do with talent. Quantity is about what you want to write and need to write. It has nothing whatsoever to do with talent, so don't let anyone sell you that wooden nickel.

"Then there's the business of '**books of the heart**'. In the beginning, I thought a writer obviously only wrote books of the heart. This is another horse spit fib we tell ourselves. I write books from my heart because whatever talent I have fizzles up and shrivels on me if I don't. It's very, very hard—and takes an enormous amount of painful discipline—to write something you don't love. But if anyone has the illusion that you'll always be able to write exactly what you love most, hustle out and buy yourself a straight jacket right now, because that would be nuts. It 'ain't gonna' happen. Not in this life.

"The natural CYCLE of a career writer is to run out of the material. That's true of everyone. After that you have to decide whether to quit writing or to go on. That decision is based on why you write—whether you write because you find stories that compel you...or whether you write because you're a writer.

"I write because I'm a writer. I need to write. It's what I do. Lots and lots of times, I've wanted to write stories that were rejected. I also discovered that often enough, that readers wanted to read things that I didn't particularly want to write. So I could have picked up my marbles and gone home, gone onto another job. Or I could knuckle down and learn to write stories that were not always of my heart.

"There is no long term career writer that I know who hasn't experienced that situation. It's just a natural transitional place between what separates the one-book writer from the long-term-career writer. There's no reason to feel guilty or lesser (or better) if you're one or the other. But there are good reasons to figure out what kind of writer you are before you try to set writing goals. Otherwise you risk disappointing yourself, or setting goals that you either end up not wanting or not able to achieve.

"That leads me to the third misconception I think writers tend to sell themselves. And that's about the **power** we have in the market place. A million, zillion times I hear writers say things like, 'All that's selling is cowboys and babies.' Or 'Publishers never want anything different'. Or 'the historical market is dead.' Or 'there's no point sending x or y story to abc publisher, because they won't buy it'

"All of us set writing goals based on what we think we can write that will sell. To do otherwise would be bananas. I mean, you just can't start out and say, 'I want to write a book about a Christmas tree that comes to life and falls in love with a chestnut tree and they have walnut babies.' I mean...you can say that...but we'd have to commit you if you believed there was a chance of selling that story. Of course the market and publishing has an effect on what we write. And to not read extensively or study the markets would be dumb.

"After the publishing houses conglomerated, I've seen all of them take the safe route.

They want to publish safe books. Books they're sure readers will buy—and they figure that out by seeing what readers have bought in the past. They're publishing repeat themes and ideas. When you come down to the real bottom line, publishers can't buy what they're not sent. What we write determines the trends. Not the other way around.

"To bring this full circle, by talking about talent, and books of the heart, and the power we have or don't have, I'm trying to give you ideas on how to set writing goals that work for you. When you set your writing goals, consider what YOU specifically have power over...and what YOU specifically need from your writing. Forget what other people think is important.

"Something about writing gives you joy. And there is at least one thing—or five things—about your writing that you're worried about. There is something that, if you think you could overcome it, you'd have a much better chance both to be a better writer and to sell.

"What WORKS for each of you personally?" she asked. "Writing goals you can actually achieve? I want to hear about the part of writing that gives you joy and creative satisfaction. And I want to hear about the kind of writing problems that you know you have and want to aim your time at overcoming."

Most members responded by mentioning writing problems or perceived weaknesses as goals. Alison asked each person what they found joy in. "Corrections of editors' viewpoints will not keep us writing," she said. "Planning to redeem the joys we find in writing will. Even though writing is a solitary pursuit, getting together with other writers is precisely to enjoy the excitement of 'hitting your stride,' escaping into a fantasy world, getting to know the strangers we create, reeling out imaginative plots, facing villains down of our own making, and then sharing these joys."

Reported by Rohn Federbush, MMRWA Secretary



February is the month for heroes and heroines--and who is more willing and able to conjure those unforgettable characters than we romance writers? The following is a collection of informative website links to help us breathe life into our romantic heroes and heroines:

Creating Strong Sympathetic Characters:

<http://www.simegen.com/romance/characters.html>

The Essentials of an RDI (Red Dress Ink) Heroine by Zareen Jaffery:

<http://www.charlequin.com/harl/learntowrite/onwriting/b2owrm41.htm>

Creating a Villain Worthy of Your Hero He lurks in the shadows, waiting to strike. She slithers into the room, ready to bite. <http://www.hodrw.com/creatingavillain.htm>



The Beauty of Plotting - Or - A Pantser Sings a New Tune

by Kathleen Long

Plotter or Pantser? It's kind of cool, isn't it, to belong to a group of people who, unlike your family, actually know what the heck you mean when you use these terms? So, which are you? A Plotter or a Pantser? I'm a Pantser, and proud of it. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. However, last year I attended a local workshop given by John Vorhaus, author of *The Comic Toolbox* and *Creativity Rules!* I attended his workshop at a time when I was struggling with a romantic comedy. My problem? My heroine was wishy washy. I didn't know who she was, and goodness knows, she didn't know who she was. This was a problem, as you can imagine.

Enter John Vorhaus and a tool he calls the Comic Throughline. The Comic Throughline is a phrase he's trademarked to describe the steps a character goes through in an effective story. Don't think this is just for those of you writing comedies. Not at all, this tool may also be thought of as a dramatic throughline. It works for any story. For me, it was a major light bulb moment in my Pantser existence.

Think of your current WIP. Now think of your heroine and your hero. For each of them, Vorhaus's method works you through the following steps:

Who is the hero?

What does the hero want? (internal and external goals).

The door opens (opportunity to achieve external goal)

The hero takes control.

A monkey wrench is thrown.

Things fall apart

The hero hits bottom.

The hero risks all.

What does the hero get?

You might be telling yourself this looks a lot like goals and motivations. Aha! Yes it does. Vorhaus's process makes you work through both your hero and heroine's story. What are their internal and external goals? Are their conflicts strong enough to carry the book? Yes? No? This will help you answer these questions.

For me, the most exciting thing about the Comic Throughline is that I can use this tool to develop a story from scratch, evaluate an existing story or develop a synopsis for a completed story or idea. My advice? Try it. You've got nothing to lose.

At the same time I learned about Vorhaus's Comic Throughline, I took a course on plotting given by Lori Soard. She suggested the use of colored sticky notes and poster boards to break down each chapter of a WIP. For example: use one color for your hero, another for your heroine, a third for romantic growth, a fourth for suspense steps (if applicable), a fifth for a secondary story line, etc. Her method helped me visually break down my WIP and identify plot holes and pacing problems. I fixed my sagging middle and finished my first manuscript. Amazing.

So now, you may be asking yourself, how can I continue to call myself a Pantser? Denial? No, seriously, I AM a Pantser. However, at this point I may be a Pantser who chooses to incorporate a few plotting techniques into the mix. Here are a few more I've picked up:

During July, I had the pleasure of attending the National RWA Conference in Denver. I attended a Cherry Adair workshop called Stop Reinventing the Wheel, and I highly recommend the workshop tape. Similar to Soard, Adair explained her use of colored sticky notes to track all of her story elements. Have you read Cherry's works? Wow. No plot holes here.

At this point, a fellow FTH member, who shall remain nameless - a Plotter, no less - suggested I buy GMC: Goal, Motivation & Conflict by Deb Dixon. I bought it. I did request a plain brown wrapper, but they were fresh out.

When I returned home from conference I started work on a new story idea enthused, enlightened and energized by the conference. I put the methods mentioned above to work. I combined Vorhaus's Comic Throughline with Dixon's GMC to get a clear picture of my hero, my heroine and the journey they were about to take. I combined Soard and Adair's idea of the plotting board and sketched out just what was going to happen to whom and when.

Guess what? That book wrote itself in six weeks. Six weeks. Start to finish.

The manuscript finalized in its first contest. Fluke? Maybe. Strong characterization? Maybe. Original concept? Maybe. Strong plotting? Shhh. Bite your tongue.

So, now, I find myself faced with the age-old question. Plotter or Pantser? As I prepare to write up the GMC and Comic Throughline for my next WIP, while gathering colored sticky notes for the plotting board, I'm faced with the realization that I may have switched teams.

Just do me a favor? Don't tell anyone. I've got a reputation to protect.

For more information on the methods that worked for me: Visit the RWA website for a list of this year's conference tapes. Pick up a copy of Deb Dixon's GMC: Goal, Motivation & Conflict from Gryphon Books for Writers at:

www.gryphonbooksforwriters.com. Visit www.vorza.com for more tips from John Vorhaus and order a copy of The Comic Toolbox or Creativity Rules! Visit Lori Soard at www.lorisoard.com or Cherry Adair at: www.cherryadair.com Most importantly, figure out what works for you. Then do it!

Happy plotting...I mean...pantsing.

Kathleen Long is proud to be a From The Heart Board Member and serves as Co-chair of both the Publicity and Critique Committees. She divides her time between the seashore and suburbs of South Jersey and is currently hard at work, pseudo-plotting her fourth and fifth manuscripts. Visit her at www.kathleenlong.com. This article ran in the November issue of From The Heart's "Words From The Heart." Permission to reuse providing author and chapter are given.



Contest Update

Between The Sheets Contest

Greater Detroit RWA

Postmarked by February 14, 2003

One page set up - and up to ten pages of scene.

<http://216.234.116.27/gdrwa/sheetform.html>

9th Annual Grand Beginnings

Northwest Indiana Romance Writers

Postmarked by February 14, 2003

First five pages of category romance.

No website...egads!

Send a SASE to Phyllis Loslo, 10311 Mourning Dove Drive, Munster, IN 46321 for further information.

Scarlett Letter Contest for Published Authors

Tampa Area Romance Authors

Received deadline: before February 14, 2002

<http://tara.writerspace.com/scarlett.htm>

12th Annual Magic Moments

Heart and Scroll Chapter

Postmarked by February 14, 2003

First Ten Pages

<http://www.passionatepen.com/scroll/magicmoment.htm>

The Prism Contest (Published Writers)

Futuristic, Fantasy & Paranormal

Receipt deadline: March 1, 2003

Your book from 2002

<http://www.romance-ffp.com/contests.htm>

WisRWA's FABULOUS FIVE WRITING CONTEST

Receipt deadline: March 1, 2003

First five to ten pages.

http://www.eclectics.com/WisRWA/fab5_entry2003.html

7th Annual Four Seasons Awards

Windy City Romance Writers

Received deadline: March 1, 2003

First chapter up to 25 pages.

<http://www.scribesworld.com/windycityrwa/misc/'03rulesentry.htm>

2003 Barclay Sterling for Unpublished Authors

Lake Country Romance Writers

Postmark by March 10, 2003

Synopsis up to 5 pages, beginning of manuscript up to 60 pages...

Note: This website takes a long time to load, just hang in there.

<http://www.lcrw.org/lcrw/contest.htm>

Second Annual Foot in the Door

Los Angeles Romance Authors

Deadline: March 15, 2003

Synopsis to 10 pages max plus one page query letter.

FMI psychopuppy@sbcglobal.net

Dixie Contest 2003

Magnolia State Romance Writers

Received by March 15, 2003

First 25 pages

<http://www.members.tripod.com/MSRW-Jackson/entryfm.htm>

The Daphne du Maurier Award for Published Writers

Kiss of Death Chapter

Received: Between Jan 15 and no later than March 15, 2003

<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/PublishedContest.html>

The Daphne du Maurier Award for Unpublished Writers

Kiss of Death Chapter

Entries will be accepted no earlier than January 15, 2003 and NO LATER THAN March 15, 2003

First 15 pages

<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/UnpublishedContest.html>

Winning Beginning Contest

Valley Forge Romance Writers

Postmark by March 30, 2003

Beginning up to 35 pages...information is not up to date on website. 12/28/03

<http://www.vfrw.com/index.htm>

2003 Barclay Gold for Published Authors

Lake Country Romance Writers

Postmark by March 31, 2003

Synopsis up to 5 pages, beginning of manuscript up to 60 pages...

Note: This website takes a long time to load, just hang in there.

<http://www.lcrw.org/lcrw/contest.htm>

Fool For Love First Chapter Contest

Virginia Romance Writers

Received Deadline: April 1, 2003

First Chapter up to 20 pages.

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Museum/2164/Contests/ffl.html>

Annual Golden Pen Contest

Golden Network Chapter

Received Deadline: April 1, 2003

First Chapter up to 25 pages.

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Coffeehouse/9954/pen.html>

Fire & Ice Contest

Chicago North RWA

Postmarked by April 1, 2003 - Received by April 8th

First chapter not to exceed 25 pages.

<http://www.literary-liaisons.com/cncontest2003.html>

The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

I kid you not...read the past year winning entries...what a hoot!

Deadline, what else, but April 15th of each year. (a date Americans associate with painful submissions and making up bad stories)

<http://www.bulwer-lytton.com>

Haunted Hearts Contest

Gothic Romance Writers

Received by April 21, 2003 (Emily Bronte's Birthday)

First chapter and Synopsis(5 page max) not to exceed 30 pages in total.

<http://www.gothrom.org/contest.html>

Ignite the Flame

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

Postmarked by May 1, 2003

Up to 15 pages where your hero and heroine meet...

<http://www.cofw.org/Contest/contest.html>

First Impressions

Tampa Area Romance Authors

Postmarked by May 1, 2003

First Chapter up to 20 pages

<http://tara.writerspace.com/firstimpress.htm>

Orange Rose Contest for Published Authors

Orange County Chapter

Postmark Deadline by May 1, 2003

Information not up on website as of 1/25/03

<http://www.occrwa.com/>

Orange Rose Contest for Unpublished Writers

Orange County Chapter

Postmark Deadline: May 1, 2003

Synopsis, beginning of manuscript (55 pages Max)

Information not up on website as of 1/25/03

<http://www.occrwa.com/>

Original Golden Opportunity

Toronto Romance Writers

Postmark Deadline: May 15, 2003

Synopsis, prologue/first chapter (30 pages maximum)

<http://www.torontoromancewriters.freeservers.com/goldenop.html>

List Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux.. Updated and all sites tested. May be forwarded with credits.

Donna Caubarreaux is a member of Coeur de Louisiane, NOLA Stars, Heart of Louisiana, Kiss of Death, Scriptscene and From the Heart Chapters of RWA. She received an RWA® Service Award in 1997. She sponsors several writing lists.



From the First Draft loop, daily online articles of interest to the Romance writer.

What Do Editors Really Think About Contests?

<http://members.aol.com/TCozzens/contests.htm#Contest>



PLEASE FORWARD TO CHAPTERS AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS

Click on the link below to read about an exciting one-day workshop sponsored by the Greater Detroit Chapter of Romance Writers of America to be held March 15, 2003, featuring a screenwriting expert and a New York editor. Registration form and costs included at this site: <http://216.234.116.27/gdrwa/registration.htm>



Market News

By Julie Moffett

Red Dress Ink, Harlequins women's fiction imprint dedicated to publishing novels about modern-day women coping with the pressures of life in the 21st century, celebrated their first year anniversary in November at a posh party in New York City. Craig Swinwood, vice president of retail marketing, announced in a press release following the event that over the past year Red Dress Ink books have exceeded traditional publishing print runs. He pointed to figures such as the 60% to 70% increases over industry averages for first-time authors in trade paperback. Red Dress Ink currently publishes one book a month in trade paperback format, with plans to expand to two and three books per month in 2003, and will publish its first hardcover, *The Thin Pink Line*, in July 2003. For more information, check out the website at www.reddressink.com <http://www.reddressink.com>. (Harlequin Press Release/11-23-02)

Unfortunately, Christmas 2002 wasn't all that merry for most booksellers. Sales were down 20% compared with last year, according to the USA Today Best-Selling Books list. The sales continued a slide in sales that peaked in 1999 when J.K. Rowling's books swept the list for the holiday sales. On a good note, independent booksellers report an impressive surge in the sale of gift certificates to be used in their stores - something they hope will boost sales in January and February. (USA Today/1-9-03)

For those of you who need an axe hanging over your head to get your writing done - there is help! Join SurvivorWriters-subscribe@yahoo.com <mailto:SurvivorWriters-subscribe@yahoo.com> an online group that

requires you to produce 15 pages a week or else! Check it out!

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Super romance author, Fay Robinson (a.k.a. Carmel Thomaston). Fay was the founder and owner of Painted Rock Writer's Colony as well as a two-time winner of RWA's® RITA award. Condolence cards may be sent to: Jack and Casey Thomaston 10421 U.S Highway 280 West, PO Box #240, Waverly, AL 36879-0240.

Award-winning author Julie Moffett is the author of seven historical and time-travel novels and one novella. Her latest offering (February 2003) is "The Thorn & The Thistle" a reissue of her fourth book for Leisure Books. For more information on Julie's other books, visit her website at www.tlt.com/authors/jmoffett.htm. Reprinted with the permission of Washington Romance Writers and Julie Moffett.



List of 2003 remaining Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting sites and dates

March 25 at Damon's in Grand Rapids, program: Trish Eldridge

April 25-27, Retreat at St. Ives, speaker Ruth Ryan Langan

May 17 at Gilbert's in Jackson, speaker Tony Englund, High-Tech?

June 21 at Gallagher's in Kalamazoo, topic active/Passive Voice.

July 12 at La Seniorita, Lansing, program TBA. Early meeting because of National Conference.

August 15 at Damon's, Grand Rapids, with FBI expert Patrick Merrill.

October 11 at Gallagher's, Kalamazoo, speakers N. Gideon, L. Kuna: 'Passion, Prose, and the Paranormal' early because of Autumn Authors Conference

November 15, La Seniorita, Lansing program TBA

December, Christmas Party TBA, Santa Claus



Directions to the Mid Michigan RWA February Meeting

Located off I-196 on Okemos road, **The Golden Rose** has a wonderful romantic atmosphere with a lovely three choice menu just for us which will be available on the MMRWA business loop.

FROM EAST:

- *Merge onto I-96 W toward LANSING.
- *Take the exit- exit number 110- toward MASON/OKEMOS. 0.38 miles
- *Turn LEFT onto OKEMOS RD. 0.63 miles

FROM SOUTH: (Jackson)

- *I-94W/US-127 N
- *Take the US-127/M-50 exit- exit number 138- toward LANSING/JACKSON. 0.33 mi.
- *Take the ramp toward LANSING/CHARLOTTE. 0.11 miles
- *Merge onto US-127 N. 25.57 miles
- *Take the HOLT RD exit toward HOLT. 0.40 miles
- *Turn RIGHT onto HOLT RD. 2.18 miles
- *Turn LEFT onto OKEMOS RD. 2.11 miles

FROM SOUTH (Kalamazoo)

- *Merge onto I-94 E. 27.25 miles
- *Take the I-69 N/US-27 N exit- exit #108- toward LANSING. 0.93miles
- *Keep LEFT at the fork in the ramp. 0.45 miles
- *Merge onto I-69 N. 33.80 miles
- *Merge onto I-96 E via exit number 72 toward DETROIT.12.81 mile
- *Take the exit- exit number 110- toward OKEMOS/MASON.
- *Turn RIGHT onto OKEMOS RD.

FROM WEST: (starting in Holland)

- *I-196 E. 31.66 miles
- *I-196 E becomes I-96 E. 72.00 miles
- *Take the exit- exit number 110- toward OKEMOS/MASON 0.38 miles
- *Turn RIGHT onto OKEMOS RD. 0.42 miles

The Golden Rose

3056 Okemos Rd.

(corner of I-96 & Okemos Road)

Lansing, MI 48854 (517) 349-9500 phone

[Click here: MapQuest: Maps: Saved Maps](#)

Anyone not able to access this link please contact **Pat Lazarus** at LazArt2000@cs.com for a map.



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Mission Statement of Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America

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.

Submission deadline for the March issue of the Mid-Michigan Mirror is February 24. Your input and submissions are valued.

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