

♥ 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 1

January 2003

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January 18 Meeting at Gallagher's in Kalamazoo

Our wonderful, erudite speaker is Rita Award-winning Alison Hart/Jennifer Greene/Jill Culby. No, the discussion will not be about Multiple Personality Disorder. Alison will preside over a "chat and chew" discussion about year's start-ups and plans and goals for our year of writing. Come prepared for comfortable but enlightening and energizing talk with this experienced, multi-published author who is willing to share her knowledge with us. (Directions to Gallagher's on last page.)

Pat Lazarus, Vice-president

The Write Stuff . . .

I hope everyone's holiday was happy, that Santa was very good to all of you, and that no one gained weight from eating too many holiday goodies. ☺

Although the holiday season is over, it's not too late to treat yourself to one more gift. If you haven't yet renewed your dues for 2003, don't delay. Send your check for \$24, made out to MMRWA, to our new treasurer Diane Burton, and continue receiving the gift that keeps on giving -- your membership in MMRWA.

I think we all have a good idea of what our chapter does for us, but, for the sake of our newer members, or for long-time members who need a gentle reminder, let's have a look at the membership benefits.

- The opportunity to network, celebrate and commiserate with other writers on a monthly basis at our Saturday luncheon meetings.
- Our monthly programs and workshops, featuring knowledgeable speakers, geared to enhance everyone's career potential.
- MMRWA's award-winning monthly newsletter, *The Mid-Michigan Mirror*, filled with insightful interviews, motivational pieces and stimulating craft articles, chapter news, and the latest market, conference and contest news.
- Three online list serves and a web site featuring everything MMRWA.
- A critiquing service open to all chapter members.
- A library of writing-related books and tapes.
- Published Author Network (PAN) and newsletter, and *Cover to Cover*, a promotional publication distributed by our published authors.
- A Benevolence Fund for the support of MMRWA members in financial distress, such as the inability to pay annual chapter or national dues, or the registration fee for the annual spring retreat.
- Last, but not least, the jewel in the MMRWA crown: our annual weekend "Retreat From Harsh Reality," held in the spring. Attendees get to interact one-on-one with our guest author, kick back and renew their writer's souls -- and MMRWA members receive a reduced registration fee.

That's a lot of bang for those twenty-four bucks! But, if I may paraphrase part of John F. Kennedy's inaugural address, with appropriate apologies: ask not what your chapter can do for you; ask what you can do for your chapter.

MMRWA supports us as writers, and it owes its continued existence to our support in return. In addition to renewing our membership, let's all make it a priority to attend as many monthly meetings as possible. Each member in good standing has a voice in how our chapter is run. If you want to bring something to the attention of the membership, contact our new secretary Rohn Federbush with your request to be placed on the agenda. Our speakers give us their time as well as their expertise. They deserve a large, appreciative audience. Let's pack the place every month! And please volunteer to speak yourself. Each of us has an area of expertise that would be of interest to our chapter sisters. Pat Lazarus, our new vice-president and program chair, would love to hear from you. Please consider volunteering to help on one of our various committees. Our committee chairs need time to write, too. Work that is spread over several shoulders gets done a lot easier and faster, and it can be fun when done with help from friends. Do participate in our motivational activities and fundraisers: donate mystery gifts, "Write for the Money," and enter the "I Will Write a Book" drawing. These activities benefit both

the chapter and its individual members. Let's each make a New Year's Resolution to give something back for all we receive from MMRWA. Our chapter will be the better for it and so will we. Happy New Year, everyone, and happy writing!

Lana Miersen, President

2002 Mid Michigan Christmas Party

A great-tasting turkey dinner with all the fixings was shared at Irene Atkinson's home during our 2002 Christmas Party in Kalamazoo. Irene's house was decorated for the holidays, and we got right into the spirit of Christmas by exchanging gifts and enjoying food.

Dawn Bartley will have to tell us how the Kalamazoo shelter made out with presents, but the front porch of Irene's house had quite a stack of donations.

Loralee Lillibridge, the Past President of MMRWA, gave the proper national RWA® forms to Lana Miersen to officially list the new board. Nancy Gideon sat down with Annette Briggs to facilitate the transfer of editorship of the newsletter, which will now be online.

The din of conversation proved that the guests were exchanging their latest news of writing and family milestones. Rita and Golden Heart entrants shared their hopes with us, and we promised prayers for those, known by the members, who now serve our country in the escalating Iraqi crisis.

Rohn Federbush told a personal story of reactions to her fake blonde hair and a series of illegal blonde jokes followed. We touched on politics but decided that subject was unfit for public consumption.

Published and non-published writers co-mingled around the Christmas Tree and roaring fire. Present were: Maris Soule, Lucy Kubash, Susan Crouse, Diane Burton, Dana Nussio, Anne Marie King-Jakubiak, Michele Hickerty, Juli Schuitema, Cheryl Steimel, Chris Allen-Riley, Rosanne Bittner, Laurie Kuna, Tereasa Bellew, Julie L. McMullen, Connie Smith and Nancy Gideon.

Rohn Federbush, Secretary

The minutes of our November meeting can now be accessed at MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com

November/ December Member News

Diane Burton did a workshop at Autumn Authors; sent in her sequel to *Switched*, and is working on a contemporary with a kick-butt heroine.

Shelly Lowe submitted 5 query letters for her current novel, *Seeking Eve*. Reconvened the writer's group, Critical Mass, and they've met twice. Is working on an entry for the Paul Gillette Contest.

Jeanie Prince is finishing up her first book, starting a sequel, and getting ideas for a third book. Not published yet.

Kimm X. Jayne has edited five chapters, formed a critique group, and has taken a week's vacation.

Doris Lemcke is a new member published in Historical Romance. She's returning to the market with sequels and working on a contemporary suspense with a strong historical context.

Deborah Derderian is on a learning curve. She's taking a class through Writer's Digest—very beginning.

Bea Bazant. I haven't worked on my writing for a while. Hope to get back to it soon.

Wil Emerson. Two novels completed—a good writing year. Five Star is editing *Hand and Hand*. I have a speaking engagement in mid January, in Atlanta, GA: "From Inspiration to Publication." Busy!

Chris Allen Riley resubmitted revised manuscript to Silhouette and is writing on new contemporary paranormal.

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

Ailene Hyne reports that she is still slogging away at her Victorian paranormal.

Nancy Gideon is finishing line edits and got a great review on her new book (see release). Also got German foreign copy on her 1994 vampire book.

Laurie Kuna was working to meet the December 30 deadline for her 2nd ImaJinn book. Addressed the "Friends of the Lowell Library" in mid December and is still line editing for ImaJinn.

Connie Smith's entry in the Hearts of the West Contest is advancing to the finals.

Kathleen Nance did signings in Fort Wayne and Monroe and is working on new proposals.

Lana Miersen thanks the chapter for condolences on her mother's death. Not much writing done this month.

Dana Nussio participated in several book signings, met her deadline for her December 3 book, and entered several contests.

Maris Soule had a great time at Autumn Authors, is working on a new mystery, and is still marketing *The Crows*. *The Crows* took second place in the Heart of the West Contest.

Melissa Lucken, urgh! Still trying to get that book in the mail.

Annette Briggs is beginning 2003 as the new editor of Mid-Michigan Mirror.

Gail Martin has four Love Inspireds out in 2003. Was awarded Book of the Year by American Christian Romance Writers in Kansas City. Entered three books in numerous contests including the RITA. Has received foreign copies from Italy, Greece, and the UK. Received a plaque for giving most support and help to unpublished authors.

Dawn M. Bartley is slowly working on WIP and learned a lot from Autumn Authors Affair.

Irene Atkinson is working on her WIP.

Cheryl Steimel is within three chapters of finishing her fantasy.

Pat Lazarus worked on cross-dimensional fantasy, had a great time at Autumn Authors, and has three new covers out.

Sue Crouse finaled in the Emily, single title category.

Jean Drew's *The Sabine Connection* is a finalist in the Treble Heart Books inaugural awards. The results will be announced in March at the EPPIEs.

Also *Beats a Wild Heart*, another of hers from Treble Heart, is scheduled for release in February. The book is set in Cornwall and, to celebrate, a free Cornish cookbook can be downloaded with every copy bought through Treble Heart.

Congratulations To Mid-Michigan's New Officers:

Lana Miersen, President
Rohn Federbush, Secretary

Pat Lazarus, Vice President
Diane Burton, Treasurer

Nancy Gideon will have copies of her latest vampire book, *MIDNIGHT CRUSADER*, available at the January meeting. I'm sure she'll be happy to sign it, too!

Welcome to a new member

Tamyra D. Kearly
 3661 E Meadows Ct
 Okemos, MI 48864
 517-347-4078

tammyk@voyager.net

I am originally from the Upper Peninsula. That's right, I'm a Yooper!

After 14 years in the newspaper advertising profession, I decided to take a year off and figure out what I wanted to be when I grow up. And for better or worse, writing romance was far and away the winner. I am relatively new to the romance genre, but have been a voracious reader since hitting upon my mother's Jaqueline Suzzanne's novels while in middle school (oh, the things I learned!). I stumbled upon an old Linda Howard novel about three years ago, and have had my nose in romance since. Any and every sub-genre, but, as a reader, I am particularly drawn to contemporaries. That is, until I watch a great period drama on Masterpiece Theatre and then I'm in need of an old rake meets virgin page-turner.

I have recently completed a short contemporary that I have a query out to Harlequin Blaze/Temptation editors, and am at work on my first single-title (also contemporary). I have outlines and plotlines for 3 more single titles using the secondary characters from my first one.

On any given day I go from inspired to terrified to defeated back to inspired again (and that's usually in the span of only a few minutes). But, I find all my thoughts going to my characters throughout my days, and I take that as a good sign. I look forward to soaking up any pearls of wisdom you all can impart to me...I am a sponge. I'll see you all on the 18th.

Tammy Kearly

January birthdays:

Leslie Burkhammer - 1st
 Susan Loope - 13th
 Dana Nussio - 17th
 Joyce Soule - 20th
 Vicki Schab - 26th

Peggy Hanchar - 2nd
 Rosanne Bittner and Melissa Lucken - 14th
 Aileen Hyne - 18th
 Dawn Bartley - 25th

Published Author Opportunity

Randy Glumm, formerly from the Lansing Mall Barnes and Noble, is interested in having a group of romance authors sign at his new store following our Feb 15 Lansing meeting. He's a fun guy and gave us cake when we met at his store. Please send me a note if you are interested in participating--or if you have questions. Contact Melissa Ford MFORDL1@AOL.com

Need A Great Read? Get a book by Melissa Ford

* * *

*The beginning of a new year is the traditional time for setting goals. Jessica Davidson, a member of the Rose City Romance Writers in Portland Oregon, has a plan for us to use. This article first appeared in the January issue of the RCRW newsletter, **Writers' Serenade**. Printed with permission.*

Make 2003 the Year of Goals Achieved

By Jessica Davidson

January's dark may tempt us to curl up and snooze away the chill, but the longest night of winter is already behind us. Now's the time to turn the dreams and wishes of the fallow season into the goals and plans of the new year.

- 1.** Develop an intense desire – a PASSION – to achieve your goal. Without passion, you will have trouble persevering (step 7 — but don't skip ahead). To maintain and intensify your desire, write out a list of all the benefits and advantages of achieving your goal. Write at least 20 pluses. Then keep writing. Find 50 pluses. Find 100 pluses and you're unstoppable! Also, try writing the reasons you aren't achieving more. Do the negative forces hold more weight than the positive? Why? How much do you want to change that?
- 2.** WRITE down your goals. You can have different goals in different areas of your life — writing, family, career (hopefully the same as writing!), financial, emotional, and physical. Make your written goals specific, pithy, time-sensitive, and phrased in the positive, present tense. "I wanna be a writer someday" becomes "In July, three editors have my completed manuscript." Revise and focus as needed. Post the affirmation prominently as a reminder of what you are trying to do.
- 3.** DETERMINE the obstacles to your goal and the help you need to overcome them. You've already joined RWA®, so you're ahead in your goal setting! Some obstacles you can remove (a slow typewriter), some you must work around (pesky family members), and some you can power through (procrastination). List the obstacles — and your solutions (sleek new AlphaSmart, a lock on the bedroom door, a healthy dose of goal setting!)
- 4.** Set a DEADLINE for your goal. Analyze where you are now compared to where you are going. Be reasonable but ambitious, combining your past performance with your highest potential. An ambitious goal will cause stress — and excitement — as you push beyond your comfort zone.
- 5.** Make a PLAN. Chop your goal into bite-sized pieces. Allow flexibility. Consider multiple routes to your goal. Set a timeline accommodating each step, but don't let your plan be derailed by a single missed deadline. Write the plan down! Post it somewhere you can see it! Read it! Every day!

6. Review and VISUALIZE your goal frequently. Whether you subscribe to the New Age concept of manifesting your destiny or the B.F. Skinner theories of operant conditioning, repetition and immersion strengthen your resolve. Some goalies recommend speaking your goal; the act of sharing your goal aloud with the universe — and presumably the people who happen to be standing around you — can open doors, windows and minds.

7. Back your plan with PERSISTENCE. Odds are, you will fail sometimes. But studies of successful people show that the most successful are those who try longest, hardest and most often, persevering despite failure. Such mental toughness demands that you be able to turn negative thinking ("I can't do this") into positive thinking ("How can I do this?").

* * *

This article first appeared in the January 2003 issue of ShoreLines, the newsletter of the Long Island Romance Writers.

Accepting Criticism

by Susan Meier

In the twenty years I've been receiving criticism from editors, agents and friends, I've come up with five rules of thumb that help me get the most out of the critiques and editor comments I receive.

Key 1: Change your paradigm about criticism. The best way to view criticism is as advice. Pretend you're getting your book read by someone who loves you and desperately wants to see your work succeed. They wouldn't hurt you for all the tea in China, so the precious words they've given you are meant to help you.

Because it's true. No matter how god-awful the comment, your critique partner, contests judge or editor is usually trying to give you the benefit of her experience and expertise. Rarely is a reader trying to insult you. And even if she is, if she's right, the comments still benefit you.

Key 2: I chose whether or not to take the advice. There is no law that says you must accept every piece of advice given to you by everyone who reads your work. In fact, unless a reader specifically points out a grammar error or a typo, any comment made about the piece of work is an opinion.

Nonetheless, even if I don't agree with the advice I'm given, I weigh it. I think about it. Sometimes I even try making the change. Because that's the whole point to getting somebody's opinion: to try it out. If you like it, keep it. If you don't, scrap it. Nobody will die. Nobody will go to jail. Nobody even has to know you didn't use the advice of your critic.

Key 3: Recognize that if an editor takes the time to give you real criticism, it's proof that you have potential. Let's be honest here. The fewer words on the page of your rejection letter, the less the editor liked your submission.

When an editor takes her precious time to write actual comments about your book, it means she thinks you or the book has potential. Most likely, she believes you can write and is trying to help you break into the business. Be happy about any piece of editor criticism you get because it could be your stepping stone to publication!

Key 4: Recognize that after you're published, your editor will still make comments, ask questions and criticize your work because it's her job to take you to the next level.

My first two books needed major revisions. The third did not. The fourth did not. But I still got little comments in the margin suggesting changes throughout the book. Through my first ten or fifteen books, I lived for the day when I wouldn't get one comment. Not one. I wanted to hand in the perfect book. (You may laugh heartily here.)

What I didn't figure out until about book twenty was that editors consider it their jobs to find mistakes in your work. Not simply so that the general public doesn't spot them, but because every book you write is supposed to be better than the one before it. So they are going to be looking - closely and sometimes with suspected malice - to find anything and everything they can.

If you're wise, you will perceive that as a good thing. You will also take their advice. If it troubles you to have an editor poking around in your prose, remember Key 2 above. Test it. Try it out. See if it works. Keep your original version by saving the document under a new name and make the suggested revision in that version. That way if they don't work, you'll still have your original version so there's nothing lost but a few hours of time.

Key 5: None of this is a life and death matter. Enjoy the process. Have fun with this. I worked in a plant that manufactured airplane parts. That was life and death. People could die if your inaccurate part found its way to an airplane. So, if Quality Control found too many mistakes in your work, you could be fired.

That doesn't happen in publishing. (Thank God because publishing is already riddled with enough pain.) Lots of mistakes are made. A motivation that seemed perfectly logical when you were writing can turn out to be pretty shabby when the book is in print. Typists don't make changes accurately and frequently mess up perfectly good sentences. Copy editors make mistakes. I've actually had copy editors change my good grammar to bad. These things happen.

But nobody dies. Nobody goes to jail. Every once in a while you might get a letter from a disgruntled fan or a bad review, but you will survive.

So have fun. And don't shoot any messengers. Remember, most of the time they are trying to help you. You don't have to take their advice. The world won't end no matter which direction you take. And if you save your original version, you won't lose anything by at least trying out the suggestion.

* * *

Susan Meier is the author of 24 books for Silhouette, 22 Silhouette Romances, 1 Desire and 1 Intrigue. She is also a contributor to the 2003 Writer's Digest Novel and Short Story Market. She lives in western Pennsylvania with her wonderful husband, three great kids and the two best cats on the face of the earth.

Conferences

Jazz Up Your Writing with Debra Dixon and Tami Cowden

Saturday, March 22, 2003

(Permission granted to forward)

The Valley Forge Romance Writers and the Pocono-Lehigh Romance Writers will present a one-day workshop focused on the craft of writing, designed for all levels.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the workshop will start at 8:30 a.m. Tami Cowden will begin the day with 16 MASTER ARCHETYPES OF HEROES AND HEROINES. Debra Dixon will take over the afternoon with GOAL, MOTIVATION AND CONFLICT.

This event will be held at the Inn at Reading, just off Routes 12, 422 and 222 in Wyomissing, PA. The hotel is easily accessible from all points and minutes from Reading Airport. More detailed directions will be included in your confirmation letter. For reservations, please call the hotel at (800) 383-9713. Rates are \$89 a night. You must tell the hotel you are attending the Valley Forge Romance Writers conference to receive the conference rate. Reduced rate is guaranteed until Feb. 22, 2003. There is also an Econolodge within walking distance of the Inn at Reading. Call (610) 378-5105.

The workshop will take place during the annual FirstEnergy Berks Jazz Fest, which draws music lovers from all over the East Coast and beyond. Many well-known artists will perform during this weeklong event. Registrations must be received by Feb. 24, 2003. Registration is \$70 for members of VFRW and PLRW, \$85 for all others. A buffet lunch will be served.

Make checks payable to: Valley Forge Romance Writers /Jazz Up Your Writing
5 Reading Ave.
Shillington, PA 19607

For information please call: Stephanie Mowery, Conference Chair at 610-777-5440
or visit www.VFRW.com or www.plrw.homestead.com/index.html.

Retreat Brochures in the Mail to Members

Retreat From Harsh Reality is only a few months away so make sure you've marked your calendars for April 25-27, 2003 at the St. Ives Resort.

Brochures are being mailed to all members by mid January and will be released to non-members in early February. With the move to our beautiful new location, we might have a full house this spring so don't delay sending in your registration. If anyone hasn't received the brochure or needs more information, please contact Pam Trombley at ptrombley@voyager.net.

The order form for MMRWA gear like we ordered last year is included. Orders must be placed by March 26, the Retreat registration deadline, with delivery at Retreat! If you can't make it to Retreat, you can still order and pick up items at the June meeting.

Full information—including photos last year's retreat, as well as a preview of the St. Ives Resort—and a registration form are also available on the MMRWA website, <http://www.midmichiganrwa.com/retreat.html>

Contests

Updated and all sites tested. Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux. Printed with permission.

"It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else." Erma Bombeck

The Laurie

Smoky Mountain Romance Writers

Received Deadline: January 10, 2003

First Chapter to 25 pages; Synopsis to 5 pages.

<http://www.smrw.org/contests/laurie/laurie.html>

Spring into Romance Contest

San Diego Chapter

Postmark deadline: January 10, 2003

First chapter up to 25 pages

<http://www.rwasd.com>

The 2003 Marlene Awards

Washington Romance Writers

Postmark deadline: January 11, 2003

Synopsis and the beginning of the manuscript (no more than 35 pages combined).

<http://www.wrwdc.com/events.html>

Annual Erma Bombeck Writing Competition

Deadline Midnight January 13, 2003

You can enter online...no postage!

Cash prizes...

<http://www.wcpl.lib.oh.us/adults/erma.html>

2003 Write Touch: Readers' Award Contest (Published Only)

Wisconsin RWA

Postmark Deadline: January 15, 2003

Novel-length romances with a 2002 copyright, first printing, or first North American Printing date

phendric@c...

Steeple Hill Books Writing Contest

Deadline: January 15, 2003

First chapter of book (no greater than 5,000 words) and an outline (no greater than 10 pages in length) of the complete novel.

<http://www.eharlequin.com/harl/learntowrite/92steep11.htm>

2003 Winter Rose Award for Excellence in Romantic Fiction for Published Writers
Yellow Rose Chapter RWA
Received by January 15, 2003
Publication/copyright of January 2002-December 2002 and be published in book
length fiction by an RWA® recognized publisher
<http://www.geocities.com/yellowroserwa/winterrosecontestpublished.htm>

2nd Annual Winter Rose Contest for Unpublished Writers
Yellow Rose Chapter RWA
Entry deadline: postmarked by January 15, 2003
Enter the opening twenty-five (25) pages
<http://www.geocities.com/yellowroserwa/winterrosecontest.htm>

More Than Magic (Published Authors)
Romance Writers Ink
Postmark Deadline January 15, 2003
email reid14me@e...

Booksellers' Best Award - For Published Authors
Greater Detroit RWA
Postmarked by 1/31/03---entry form and books
<http://216.234.116.27/gdrwa/bbarules.html>

Golden Quill Award - For Published Authors
Phoenix Desert Rose Chapter
Postmark Deadline 1/31/03
<http://www.desertroserwa.org/gq.html>

The Seventh Annual Confluence Science Fiction and Fantasy Short Story Contest
Received deadline: February 1, 2003
3500 word or less on "The Alien Wore Fish-Net Stockings"
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/parsec/conflu/contest.html>

Beacon Award for Published Authors
First Coast Romance Writers
Deadline: February 1, 2003
<http://www.angelfire.com/fl/RomanceWriting/beacon.html>

5th Annual Merritt
San Antonio Romance Authors
Deadline: Feb. 1, 2003
First thirty pages max. - Synopsis, five pages max.
www.sararwa.com

Romance Through the Ages Contest
Hearts through History Romance Writers
Deadline: Entries Must be received by February 3, 2003
First 30 pages
<http://www.heartsthroughhistory.com/>

2003 Annual Award of Excellence (Published)
Colorado Romance Writers
Receipt Deadline: Feb. 7, 2003
<http://www.ecentral.com/members/crw/EVENTS.HTM#AOE>

2003 Heart of the Rockies
Colorado Romance Writers
Receipt Deadline: Feb. 8, 2003
Synopsis up to 12 pages, First two chapters-40 pages max.
<http://www.ecentral.com/members/crw/>

Between The Sheets Contest
Greater Detroit RWA
Postmarked by February 14,
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

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>

The Daphne de 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 de 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>

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>

* * *

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 a RWA® Service Award in 1997. She also sponsors several writing lists.

* * *

Directions to Gallagher's, 4210 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo:

From the Southeast:

Take I-94 West via the exit on left toward CHICAGO.
Merge onto I-94 BR E/US-131 North via exit number 74B toward Grand Rapids, 2.18 miles.
Take the I-94 BUS/US-131 BUS exit (exit # 36A) toward Kalamazoo, 0.40 miles.
Turn slight right onto Stadium DR/I-94 BR E/US131 BR N, 0.49 miles.

From Lansing and points northeast:

From West St. Joseph, merge onto I-496 west via the ramp on the left, 4.87 miles.
Merge onto I-69 south via left exit toward Fort Wayne/Detroit, 37.09 miles.
Merge onto I-94 west via exit #38 toward CHICAGO, 34.48 miles.
Merge onto I-94 BR E/US-131 North via exit #74B toward Grand Rapids, 2.18 miles.
Take the I-94 BUS exit (#36A) toward KALAMAZOO, 0.40 miles.
Turn slight right onto STADIUM DR/ BR E/US-131 BR N, 0.49 miles.

From the Southwest:

Merge onto I-94 East.
Merge onto I-94 BR E/US-131 N via exit # 74B toward KALAMAZOO/GRAND RAPIDS, 2.83 miles.
Take the I-94 BUS/US-131 BR exit (# 36A) toward KALAMAZOO, 0.40 miles.
Turn slight right onto STADIUM DR/ BR E/US-131 BR N.

From Grand Rapids and points north:

Merge onto US-131 S toward KALAMAZOO, 48.86 miles.
Take STADIUM DR E exit (#36A), 0.24 miles.
Turn slight right onto STADIUM DR/ BR E/US-131 BR N, 0.70 miles.
Contact Pat Lazarus at LazArt2000@cs.com for a visual map.

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Dear MMRWA Partners,

I want to thank all Mid-Michigan Romance Writers for the chance to experience serving you with this newsletter. Mistakes are bound to happen and when they do, please feel free to tell me so that I can do the right thing and improve our publication. Let's make this our best writing year ever! Sincerely, *Annette Briggs*

Deadline for submissions for the February issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror is January 27. (February is a short month.) Submissions not in time for February will be gratefully added to March.

For anyone who has not yet sent in her renewal, the renewal form is on the next page.

MMRWA RENEWAL FORM FOR 2003

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____

EMAIL: _____ FAX: _____

WEBSITE: _____

Birthdate (month & day only) _____

You must be a member in good standing with RWA® (national) to renew your MMRWA membership. RWA® Membership Number _____ (you'll find it on the label of your Romance Writers Report).

Annual Dues: \$24.00

Sunshine Fund: \$1.00 (if you did not submit to MMRWA newsletter in 2001)

Total enclosed: _____ (make payable to MMRWA)

Mail to Treasurer: Diane Burton, 602 E. Oak, Saint Johns, MI 48879 or bring to January meeting.

“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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