

♥ 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 IV Issue 1**

**JANUARY 2006**

Annette Briggs, Editor

brainchilde@websurfers.biz

**2006 A YEAR FOR WONDERFUL MMRWA BEGINNINGS 2006**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### 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.

### Happy JANUARY Birthday

Terese Daly Ramin 13	Rosanne Bittner 14
Melissa Lucken 14	Dana Nussio 17
Aileen Hyne 18	Joyce Soule 20
Dawn Bartley 25	Michelle Celmer 25

The January meeting is at La Senorita's in Lansing. You don't want to miss our program: "Revealing Character or What's in Your Hero's Wallet?" presented by Diane Burton.

Please see page 2 for Diane's bio.

Times and Directions on page 11

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MMRWA's own Lorelee Lillibridge surrounded by her grandchildren for her first book signing. Read all about it on page 3



**Many thanks to contributors to the January 2006 Mid-Michigan Mirror**



## A Note From Wil's Desk

By Wil Emerson, President

January, 2006. Can you believe it came around so quickly? Will it fly by or give us the time we need to get a manuscript into a publisher's hand?

My first comment to kick off the year as your returning president, though, relates to what we hope to accomplish as a chapter in 2006. The new board had their first official meeting and we've set a tentative schedule, worked on the budget and plotted a course for enhancing member participation. We'd like our prolific authors to attend more meetings, talk about works in progress, work and sell their books. I've made a commitment to read at least one novel written by a member each month. Easy task? Not so---look at the new releases over the last few months. I'll have the lamp light burning late each night thanks to Lisa, Loralee, Laurie, Nancy, Rosanne, Jackie, Dana ---and who else? I'm sure we'll have more sale announcements in the months ahead. Also, the board intends to create a workshop type atmosphere for new and experienced writers. As Laurie Kuna says....'hey, we're writers, we should always be working on our craft'. She's got some plans for us and I'm sure each and every one of you will appreciate her efforts.

My second comment relates to you--each special member. Your participation is needed at our meetings. Sure, it's hard to take a Saturday away from a busy schedule. Family duties, commitments and writing schedules must come first. But what I've learned by attending more often is that the spark to write grows into a roaring flame after each meeting. I come away with the fuel to finish a work in progress or to start a new manuscript. I've dashed home several times and wrote a short story. Filed away or submitted, they could some day turn into the great American novel. Participation gives energy to others and serves as an accelerator for your own projects. Guess you might call it the 'What goes around, comes around' effect.

So mark your calendar for the 3rd Saturday and re-fuel your writing engine. Novice or experienced author, your talent and wisdom makes our chapter very special.

And third---thanks for the election vote of confidence. As a second term president, I look forward to working with Lisa, Laurie and Cathy. And to Jodi and Shar, heartfelt thanks for your 2005 commitment. See you all at the next meeting.

Cheers, **Wil**

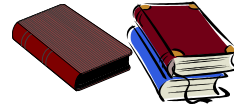


**Diane Burton, our January speaker,** writes romantic suspense with both contemporary and futuristic settings. A cast of impetuous, austere, despicable humans and quirky, nefarious aliens populate her futuristic, *Switched*, published by ImaJinn Books. In her presentation, "Revealing Character or What's in Your (Hero's) Wallet?" she will offer tips and tricks for developing memorable characters which the reader will either root for or hiss at. A fourteen-year member of the Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America chapter, Diane has been president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair and retreat co-chair. She also served on Romance Writers of America's national communication and long-range planning committees. By day, Diane delves into oil and gas leases. In her "other" job, she wrestles with characters who won't behave. Diane lives in the Lansing-area with her own hero of thirty-three years.





## MORE THAN WORDS



### Loralee Lillibridge shares from her first book signing

You know the saying, "We don't remember years, only moments?" Well, I had my moment to remember yesterday at the Waldenbooks in Grand Rapids at my first book signing for my Special Edition, *ACCIDENTAL HERO*. The weather was cold and there was plenty of snow on the ground, so I didn't know what kind of attendance to expect, but hoped a few loyal friends would show up. I was signing with Laurie Kuna, a popular local ImaJinn author.

The mall was jammed with Christmas shoppers. About half-way through the signing there was a commotion at the entry to the store. Everyone in the crowded store let out a collective gasp when my nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild (ages 8 months to 20 years) marched in wearing identical tee-shirts emblazoned with a picture of my book cover on the front under the words, "My Grandma Is A Famous Author". (The little ones' said Great-Grandma) They had paraded the entire length of the mall touting my signing. God bless 'em. They caused quite a stir, and my heart just filled up and overflowed. Needless to say, so did my eyes. Everyone else applauded and cheered.

My two terrific daughters made the shirts and planned the surprise. The grandkids had miraculously kept the secret for two weeks. The store clerks said the signing was one of the best ones they'd ever had--certainly the most creative. I \*think\* they sold about 70--75 copies of my book. People who never read romances before even bought a copy. Men bought them for their wives and girlfriends as Christmas gifts. What a day! I just had to share my moment.



### Recap of December Meeting/ Party

Our December meeting consisted of a holiday party at Brewsters in Kalamazoo. We had a short meeting and spent the rest of the time enjoying each other's company. Members may access our meeting minutes and financial information on: [MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com](mailto:MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com)



## MEMBER NEWS

### November

**Dawn Bartley:** Entered my contest, then entered another one; also judging a contest.

**Rosanne Bittner:** Agent currently hawking my WWII story—she loves it! I'm still working on finishing the book—called *LAST NIGHT IN FRANCE* under pseudonym Frances Rose. That's all I'll be working on for a while; interviewing WWII vets. Also excited about heading back to Vegas in January.

**Lynette Curtis:** Working on my novel and prepping to enter contests.

**Wil Emerson:** Silver Moon short story in January 2006 issue; working on the ending of Write for the Money book.

**Shar Koenig:** Had some short stories and an interview published, working on bonsai book.

**MEMBER NEWS** continued from page 3

**Lucy Kubash:** Only writing accomplished has been for Animal Aid and Humane Society, but I've received a lot of compliments and thanks from them! My dog is a local celebrity.

**Kate Mc Auliffe:** Not much writing lately, I've been adjusting to re-entering the workforce. I am trying to get a short-short story done for a contest.

**Cathy McClain:** Hubby's at deer camp—I can't focus—miss the big guy; polishing my GH entry, then will focus on the next story which is about 1/3 complete.

**Katie McClain:** Working hard on my manuscript for National Novel Writing Month. I'm at 27,500 words, so just under half way, but I'm more pleased that I broke 100 pages this week. My Welsh writing buddy is keeping me motivated, so hopefully I'll hit 50K by November 30.

**Maris Soule:** Working on rewrite, agreed to judge a contest, attended writers at Box Factory in St. Joe.

**Congratulations to Tereasa Bellew** who recently sold a short story to E-magazine, Romantic Short Love Stories.

**December**

**Dawn Bartley:** Got contest results back, lots of good feedback. Looking to the new year.

**Tereasa Bellew:** Sent three children's ms to an agent 10 weeks ago, still waiting to hear; on chapter thirteen on new romantic suspense.

**Diane Burton:** Completed futuristic; working on romantic suspense that takes place in Michigan.

**Lynette Curtis:** working on romantic suspense. Since I'm not working now, I can increase my writing output!

**Wil Emerson:** Didn't finish the novel, but submitted 2 shorts and one romantic suspense; taking a hiatus until mid January.

**Lucy Kubash:** Just finished writing about a woman in Michigan who has taken 31 horses (neglected and abused) and who needs help. I've turned into the animal advocate! Still working on a contemporary mystery/suspense.

**Cathy McClain:** GH entry was polished and sent off—YAY! Getting back to my work in progress. Life is good.

**Katie McClain:** I won National Novel Writing Month with 50,298 words at 10:30 p.m. on November 30, still have a couple of scenes to go to finish the novel, but I have some laundry and other tuff to catch up on first.

**Shar Koenig:** Finished non-fiction bonsai book. Now working on a record keeping system called "The Bonsai Keeper" to market in conjunction this spring.

**Lana Miersen:** Learning to live with Adult ADD; organizing home office, clearing away the clutter to make it a more pleasant place to work; setting writing goals for 2006.

**Maris Soule:** Judged the Gotcha Contest, working on rewrite of mystery, and will sit at MMRWA table for Kalamazoo's Library Hop.

**Lisa Childs Theeuwes:** Was working hard on single title for Signature Saga but now the Signature program has been cancelled. Good news—I don't have to worry about that 1/1 deadline.

**Approaching FEBRUARY Birthdays**

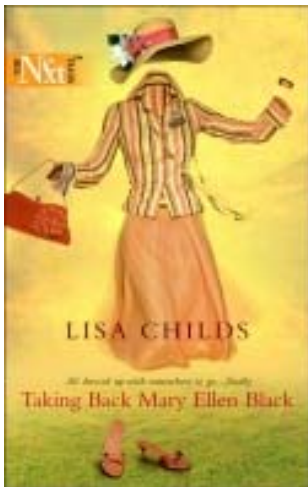
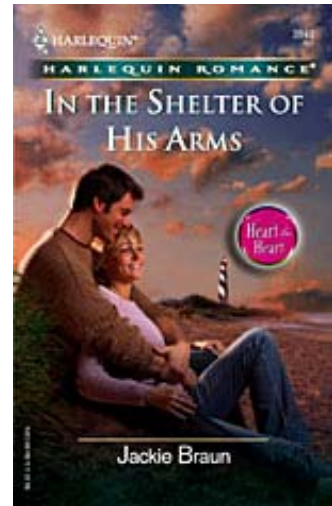
**Lana Miersen 4**  
**Catherine McClain 6**

## Congratulations to Mid-Michigan Chapter's: Romantic Times Reviewer's Choice Awards Nominees

**Jackie Braun** was nominated for *IN THE SHELTER OF HIS ARMS*, Jackie's April 2005 Harlequin Romance. It received a 4 1/2 star review from RT when it came out.

Jackie's first book in 1999 to Silhouette Romance, *One Fiancée to Go, Please*, was an October 2000 release and went on to win the Rising Star Award for traditional romantic fiction. *True Love, Inc.*, also a Silhouette Romance, was released in June 2002, and became a finalist in the traditional romance category for both the RITA Awards and the National Readers Choice Awards. Her third and fourth books, *Her Stand-In Groom* and *The Game Show Bride*, were released from Harlequin Romance in 2004. Both finaled in the NRCA and *The Game Show Bride* earned Jackie her second RITA nomination.

**Learn more about Jackie and her books at:** <http://www.jackiebraun.com/>



**Lisa Childs** was nominated for *TAKING BACK MARY ELLEN BLACK*

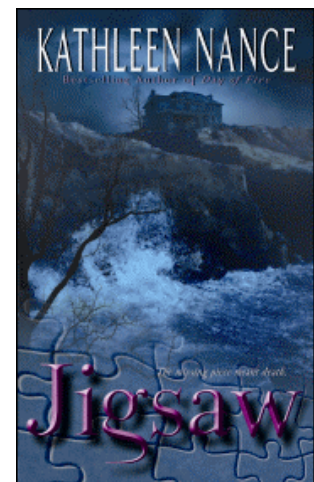
Lisa has received the 2003 Blue Boa Award for Excellence for Romantic Suspense with her first novel, *Return of the Lawman* and was a 2004 National Reader's Choice romantic suspense finalist with *Sarah's Secret*. Lisa has finaled in the romantic suspense category in the 2005 Beacon Contest, the 2005 Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence, and 2005 Bookseller's Best with *Bridal Reconnaissance*.

**Read more about Lisa and her books on her website,** [www.lisachilds.com](http://www.lisachilds.com).

**Kathleen Nance** was nominated for her novel, *Jigsaw*

Kathleen's books have won a Golden Heart, a SARA Rising Star Grand Prize, the Holt Medallion, the Colorado Award of Excellence, the PRISM Award, and the National Reader's Choice Award and was a finalist RWA®'s RITA.

**Learn more about Kathleen and her books at:**  
<http://www.kathleennance.com>



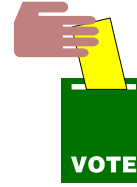
## The results of our election of board members for the 2006 term are:

**Wil Emerson** was elected for a second term as President.

**Laurie Kuna** was elected Vice-President

**Cathy McClain** was elected Secretary

**Lisa Theeuwes** was elected to a second term as Treasurer



Thanks to Wil Emerson, Jodi Lynn Copeland, Shar Koenig, and Lisa Childs Theeuwes for serving Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America as the 2005 Board and thanks to all candidates (Anne Marie King-Jakubiak) for getting involved in the running of our chapter.



## Mid-Michigan members tell what they are taking with them into the New Year:

**Dawn Bartley:** Get my writing soul back. I'm not sure how--if I'll need to organize physical property or prioritize emotionally or just give myself a swift kick.

**Tereasa Bellew:** I am going to take my writing more serious and focus more on getting manuscripts in the mail. I am not going to worry so much about correct or non-correct POV, but get more into the joy of creating.

**Annette Briggs:** The many writing lessons I've had the privilege of learning from being in Mid-Michigan and RWA® are things I hope to keep and use and add to in 2006.

**Diane Burton:** Half a new romantic suspense and renewed inspiration.

**Lynette Curtis:** Since I'm unemployed now, I have a lot of time to write. I will have my novel completed by March 2006, have finalized in several contests and become published.

**Wil Emerson:** 2006 is uphill—books to finish and looking forward to a productive year with our chapter.

**Shar Koenig:** While finishing the edits and indexing my bonsai book, I realized that I have let this hobby slide into the business of writing and publishing. So next year I will be getting “out” more resuming bonsai and designing a Japanese garden.

**Lucy Kubash:** Hope to finish a manuscript and get several submissions in the mail.

**Cathy McClain:** A renewed sense of accomplishment. This past year has been one of learning and new friendships. I look forward to expanding on both and realizing the next steps in my writing career.

**Katie McClain:** I'm bring the determination I found during National Novel Writing Month to finish a project. Never really did that before.

**Lana Miersen:** This past fall, I was diagnosed with ADD, and I am already noticing results from my treatment. In 2006, I hope to become more organized and productive, to increase my writing output and submissions, and to become a published romance author.

**Maris Soule:** A desire to get my suspense finished and get a mystery published.

**Lisa Childs Theeuwes:** Hopefully I will bring less stress into 2006—I will learn to accept that there are things over which I have no control so I can't stress myself out over them. I will focus on my writing and my family.

## Market News:

According to Teresa Daly Ramin (one of our members and an insider at Triskelion), the word is that **Triskelion** is now accepting **Inspirationals**. The editor for the new line is Kathi Troyer.

Queries should be sent in the body of an email along with a synopsis and chapters (also in the body of the email) to [submissions@triskelionpublishing.com](mailto:submissions@triskelionpublishing.com) or <mailto:submissions@triskelionpublishing.com>)  
Attn: Inspirational Editor.

Also have a brand new website at [\(http://www.triskelionpublishing.net/\)](http://www.triskelionpublishing.net/)  
[\(http://www.triskelionpublishing.com/\)](http://www.triskelionpublishing.com/) will still get people there though



**This article first appeared in The Call, newsletter of Indiana RWA®.**

## Are You Too Old to Start A Writing Career?

**By Dottie Reyes**

When I was forty-two years old and pregnant with my second child, my twenty-two-year old daughter asked me: "Mom, aren't you too old to have a baby?" My answer to her was, "Obviously not!" She had been an only child for all of those years and had not had to share my attention with siblings, so she was a little biased about it. But she was not alone in thinking it was a crazy thing to do. My friends and family and co-workers were mostly supportive but perhaps also shocked. One lady, then in her sixties and a teacher at the school where I taught, took my hand and looked me in the eye and said solemnly, "You're very brave." I wanted to laugh at her fear for me. I had no such fear. Now, looking back, I think I know what she meant, but I had absolute confidence in my ability to raise that child.

Not that I regret for a second the decision to have that baby. (And it was a decision—not an oops). My second husband is younger than I am by twenty years and he had no children. We were very much in love (still are) and we both wanted a child together.

Both of my children, my daughter, Laura, and my son, Adán, have brought so much joy to my life. I would not give up a moment of the experiences I have had as their mother. Now I am a grandmother of two beautiful girls, Jennifer and Stephanie. It's a not-so-secret family joke that it's payback time for Laura, who is as stubborn as they come and now she has two equally stubborn daughters. Laura freely admits that she understands now why I got prematurely gray. And maybe that's why people often assumed I was Adán's grandmother, to which I always replied in no uncertain terms: "I'm his mother, not his grandmother!"

But, you say, this was supposed to be an article about writing! I'm getting to that. Literally. I'm getting around to writing now and not sooner because I had a big job to do raising first one child and then another. And that took forty-one years of my life. I was twenty when Laura was born and sixty-one when Adán left home to join the Air Force. I was overwhelmed with sadness when my son left. I was still working as a teacher and I had my husband, who is my best friend and companion. But Adán's leaving also left a "hole in my heart" as they say. One day I cried all the way home from my job, thirty minutes away from home, because of hearing the song from Tarzan: "You'll Be In My Heart" on the radio.

**Are You Too Old** continued on page 8

**Are You Too Old** continued from page 7

I needed a new challenge to fill the empty space of my life and I found it in writing. Since my childhood I had always been a "daydreamer". I used to make up stories that I never wrote down. I would create characters, scenes and dialogue and play them out in my imagination. I would go to sleep at night "dreaming" my stories. As a young child they were fairy tales, in my teen years, they often involved James Dean or Elvis Presley. I didn't have time to daydream much as a working mother in those forty-one years of having a "full nest". But in the upheaval of my life when I became an "empty nester", I turned to my stories again and I filled the hollow feeling with a new story. This time I sat at the computer and wrote it down.

As fate would have it, I came across a title at the bookstore that called out to me. How to Get Your Novel Published. I took it from the shelf and carried it around the store as I went looking for more books to buy. I heard a voice asking: "Are you a writer?" I turned to see a bright-looking young woman and answered, "Not yet, but I want to be." She introduced herself, told me she was a published romance writer (JoMarie DeGioia, author of *Raven's Flight*.) and she invited me to come to the monthly workshop at the bookstore. I started attending that workshop and later, encouraged by JoMarie, I joined Indiana Romance Writers of America. (IRWA) In the workshop and in IRWA I have met many other writers and through them I have learned a great deal about the craft of writing. Nobody ever told me "You're too old to write." If someone did, my response would be "Obviously not!"

In our group there are quite a few women who are in their forties, fifties and even sixties and although I have heard some of them wonder out loud if they are too old to start out in this career, I want to tell them all that it's never too late. As long as you have a story that you want to get down in writing, go for it!

Whatever you accomplish, you'll have a glass at least half-full: with the fun of writing and the company of others who share your interests. But you might even fill that glass to the brim if you see your name in print as a published author. Yes, it's a long shot but that's what makes it so exciting. Everybody loves an underdog story. Look at Seabiscuit and Cinderella Man. Why did they make our hearts soar? Because they succeeded in spite of the odds.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been."—George Eliot.

Believe!

*Dottie Reyes has been writing since 2002 and has been a member of RWA® since 2003. She is a Spanish teacher at Pike High School in Indianapolis and lives in Mooresville, Indiana with husband, Alex and dog Buffy. USED WITH PERMISSION*



The following article appeared in the October 2005 issue of the Galley, Georgia Romance Writers' monthly online newsletter.

**The Beginning**

by Rita Herron

Where should you begin your story? Sounds easy, doesn't it? You start at the beginning!

But wait—where exactly is that?

First you want to set up the story, show the setting, tell us the character's conflict, his backstory, what events led to the present, introduce us to his family, his pet, tell us about his past loves gone awry...

No!

**The Beginning** continued on page 9

**The Beginning** continued from page 8

## Show, Don't Tell—SDT

First of all, you don't want to tell us anything. You want to show us through scenes that reveal the conflict, introduce the characters, and make us invested in wanting them to overcome their problems.

## Hook—Conflict

Second, you want to grab the reader's interest with a strong first line (hook)!

That means starting the story at the point where your main character is in conflict. Choose a scene/situation that shows the character struggling, having to make a difficult choice, meeting the hero, in some kind of peril or troubling situation, preferably an active scene where we get to watch the character react physically and emotionally to something that has happened to him. Then you've got the reader's attention. You also tell us a lot about your main characters through his actions.

If possible, reveal or show that conflict in your first line. If not, the first paragraph--definitely the first chapter.

Once you grab the reader's interest with the conflict, then go back and feed in the backstory gradually, layer in the setting, and add other layers of conflict. By the end of chapter one, the reader should know what the main character's big problem is, what his goal is, and what he is struggling to overcome.

## Tone

Set the tone with your first scene and keep it consistent. Are you writing an action/adventure novel, a gothic, a dark emotional book, a light humorous story? Use your word choice, descriptions, setting, and characters to maintain that tone throughout the book.

## Ending that first scene or chapter

Leave off that first scene, first chapter, with another hook that makes the reader want to keep reading. Here, the reader should wonder if the main character will achieve his goal, overcome his problems, and if he/she will ever be able to work out his relationship with the protagonist. If he/she has no problems to overcome, no conflict (if he meets the heroine and they fall desperately in love on page one), then you have no story.

**Beginnings that don't do the job:**

- \* Riding in the car (transitional activities)
- \* Pages of internal thoughts—the character thinking about his problems
- \* Long winded descriptions of the setting
- \* Scenes with secondary characters in which the main character is not present
- \* Set-up scenes revealing backstory
- \* Boring scenes showing characters doing mundane things—for example: cleaning the house, showering, picking up dry cleaning, performing tedious, boring jobs, etc. (the only exception to this would be a character-driven story where this behavior or act reveals characteristics of the character or an action that is inherent to the plot and the character's conflict. For example: think Monk—an obsessive-compulsive uses that flaw or character trait to help him solve crimes. Another example: the main character opens his mail and finds a threatening note or a bomb explodes in his face.)
- \* A scene where there is no external or internal conflict (Story is conflict).

**The Beginning** continued from page 9

### **Beginnings that work and grab our attention**

- \* Scenes with action—for example, a woman in jeopardy
- \* The main character either physically or mentally on the run from a problem
- \* One character meeting another conflicting character—for example:  
they argue over external problem, clash due to personality characteristics, sparks fly sexually
- \* Catchy dialogue between characters which reveal his/her conflict
- \* A secret is hinted at or revealed which changes the course of the main character's life
- \* Emotional scenes—show the main character in an emotional situation which reveals his/her problem/s—for example: he/she has just lost a loved one; he/she's in court on charges of murder; a good-bye scene between lovers; a childhood struggle; the character learns something about his past or present (a secret) which upsets him, creates a problem, or throws a new spin into his life that he isn't prepared for (for example, a man learns he has a child he didn't know about, a woman learns she has a disease, or she learns she was adopted, etc.)

Grab that reader's attention with a strong hook, conflict up front, give him angst, emotion, trouble, characters to love and root for, and he'll keep turning the pages for more!

*Rita Herron writes gritty, emotional romantic suspense for HQN and Harlequin Intrigue. Upcoming from Harlequin Intrigue: Epiphany- A Christmas Anthology, HI, Nov. '05, Vow of Vengeance, HI, Jan. '06, and In A Heartbeat, HQN, March '06. For more writing tips and updates, visit her at [www.ritaherron.com](http://www.ritaherron.com). USED WITH PERMISSION*

### **HELPFUL SITES:**

Get a good start with **First Three Pages** <http://www.fictionwriters.com/tips-novel-writing.html>

Advice for Beginning Writers <http://www.vivianbeck.com/writing/tips/advice.htm>

### **MMRWA 2005 Meetings**

**Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the third Saturday of each month on a rotating basis at area restaurants and meeting centers. The usual meeting agenda is as follows: 11:30 a.m., lunch (optional) ♥ 1:00 p.m. (approximate time), program/speaker ♥ 2:00 p.m. (approximate time), business meeting.**

### **2006 MMRWA MEETING SCHEDULE (Tentative)**

<b>JANUARY 21</b>	<b>La Senorita's in Lansing/Program: Diane Burton on Characterization</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Grand Rapids</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Retreat at St. Ives</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Kalamazoo</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Lansing</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Grand Rapids</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Portage Library</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Christmas party in Lansing</b>

**Location: La Senorita Mexican Restaurant in Lansing, MI  
2706 Lake Lansing Road  
Lansing, MI  
Phone: 517.485.0166**

**Directions:**

**From the North (Mt. Pleasant): Take US-127 S to the Lake Lansing Road Exit. Turn RIGHT onto Lake Lansing Road. Go 0.1 miles to La Senorita.**

**From the South (Jackson): Take US-127 N to the Lake Lansing Road Exit. Turn LEFT onto W. Lake Lansing Road. Go 0.3 miles to La Senorita.**

**From the West (Grand Rapids): Take I-96 East to merge onto I-69 North via Exit #89 toward Flint/Clare. Go 10 miles. Merge onto US-127 S via Exit #89A toward E. Lansing. Go 3.2 miles. Take the Lake Lansing Road Exit. Turn RIGHT onto Lake Lansing Road. Go 0.1 miles to La Senorita.**

**From the East (Brighton): Take I-96 West to merge onto US-127 N via Exit #106B toward Downtown Lansing. Go 6 miles. Take the Lake Lansing Road Exit. Turn LEFT onto W. Lake Lansing Road. Go 0.3 miles to La Senorita.**



**CONTESTS**

Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux

**E = Electronic Format Available**  
**EO = Electronic Only**  
**MO = Members Only**  
**U = Unpublished**  
**P = Published**  
**P/3 = Not published in three years**  
**Pnr = Published, but not by RWA standards**  
**PC = Not published in category selected**

Passionate Plume for Published Authors (Erotic) (P - Pnr)  
Passionate Ink Chapter  
Received by January 28, 2006  
2005 copyright date  
<http://www.passionateink.org/contests>

Stroke of Midnight (U)  
Passionate Ink Chapter  
Sent by January 28, 2006  
First 35 pages (book must contain erotic elements)  
<http://www.passionateink.org/contests>

Heart of the Rockies (U)  
Colorado Romance Writers  
Received by January 31, 2006  
First two chapters and synopsis not to exceed 35 pages  
<http://www.coloradoromancewriters.org/hor.html>

Realizing the Dream (P - U)  
Desert Rose RWA  
Received by January 31, 2006  
First ten pages and three page synopsis  
<http://www.desertoserwa.org/conferencefiles/realizingthedream.htm>

The Laurie (U)  
Smokey Mountain Romance Writers  
Received by January 31, 2006  
First chapter (25 page max) + Synopsis (5 page max)  
<http://www.smrw.org/contests/laurie/laurie.htm>

Booksellers Best (P)  
Greater Detroit RWA  
Postmarked by January 31, 2006  
Copyright of 2005  
<http://www.gdrwa.org/content.php?content.48>

The Willa Literary Award (P-Pnr)  
Women Writing the West  
Received by 2/1/2006  
Copyright of 2005  
<http://www.womenwritingthewest.org/pdf/files/willaguidelinesapp.pdf>

Perfect Pitch (U - EO)  
Peninsula Chapter RWA  
Deadline: 2/10/2006  
Pitch of one page - 250 words  
<http://www.penrwa.org/perfectpitch.htm>

The Rebecca (U)  
Land of Enchantment Romance Authors  
Received by 2/11/06  
First ten pages  
<http://www.leranm.com/>

Between the Sheets (Love Scene) (U)  
Greater Detroit Romance Writers  
Received by February 14, 2006  
One page setup + ten pages  
<http://www.gdrwa.org/content.php?content.53>

Grand Beginnings (U - P/3)  
Northwest Indiana Romance Writers  
Received by 2/14/2006  
First five pages  
<http://www.nwinrwa.org/Contest.html>

Golden Acorn (U - EO)  
Charter Oak Romance Writers  
Received by 2/14/2006  
Up to first 25 pages + 2 page single spaced synopsis  
<http://www.charteroakromancewriters.org>

Scarlett Letter Award (P)  
Tampa Area Romance Authors  
Received by 2/14/2005  
Hot & Steamy first print romance with copyright of 2005  
<http://tara.writerspace.com/scarlett.htm>

Genesis Contest (U - P/7 - MO)  
American Christian Fiction Writers  
Postmarked by February 14, 2006  
First 25 pages.  
<http://www.americanchristianfictionwriters.com/genesis.shtml>

Show Me the Spark  
Heartland Romance Authors  
Postmarked by February 14, 2006  
Fifteen pages of spark between H/H  
email bhoffman100@msn.com

Romance Through the Ages  
Hearts Through History RW  
Deadline: February 25, 2006  
First 30 pages + 2 pg unjudged synopsis  
smlgr8@aol.com

Murder in the Grove (U)  
Popular Fiction Assn. of Idaho  
Postmarked by 2/28/2006  
First twenty pages + 5 page synopsis  
<http://partnersincrimeboise.com/contest.htm>

Fabulous Five (U - P/5 - Pnr)  
Wisconsin Romance Writers  
Received by March 1, 2006  
Beginning - ten page max  
<http://www.eclectics.com/WisRWA/contests.html>

Frontiers in Writing  
Panhandle Professional Writers  
Postmarked by March 1, 2006  
First 20 pages + up to four page synopsis  
[http://panhandleprowriter.org/Frontiers\\_in\\_Writing.htm](http://panhandleprowriter.org/Frontiers_in_Writing.htm)

More Than Magic (P)  
Romance Writers Ink  
Postmarked by March 1, 2006  
Copyright of 2005  
<http://rwi-rwa.com/content/view/18/32/>

Best Bite - Vampire Contest (U - P/5)  
Sponsor: Grand Rapids Region RWA  
Fee: \$20 RWA member \$25 Non-RWA member  
Receipt Deadline: March 4, 2006  
Send us your unjudged, 2 page set-up and your best 15 page vampire scene featuring "the bite" or the discovery that the hero or heroine is a vampire.  
www.grrrwa.org.

Dixie First Chapter (U - P/5)  
Magnolia State Romance Writers  
Received by March 15, 2006  
First chapter up to 25 pages  
<http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/8/r81999/entryfm06.htm>

**Contests** continued on page 13

Fire & Ice Contest (U - P/5)  
Chicago-North Romance Writers  
Received by April 1, 2006  
Up to first 25 pages.  
<http://www.chicagonorthrwa.org/contest.htm>

Enter Laughing Contest (U - P/5)  
Grand Rapids Region RWA  
Received by July 1, 2006  
2 pg synopsis (unjudged) + first chapter up to 25 pages.  
<http://www.grrrwa.org/contest.html>

*Check out Contest Alert-All the news on upcoming contests, plus Finalist & Winner listings, questions, etc. Sign up now! [ContestAlert-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:ContestAlert-subscribe@yahoo.com). Donna Caubarreaux is a member of Coeur de Louisiane, Scriptscene Chapter, NOLA Stars, Heart of Louisiana, Kiss of Death, and ChickLitWriters of RWA. She received a RWA Service Award in 1997. USED WITH PERMISSION*



### **2005 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers**

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**<http://midmichiganrwa.org>**

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