

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

The Mid-Michigan Mirror

A Reflection of Romance



Volume IV, Issue VI

June / July 2006

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

Annette Briggs, Editor

mirror@midmichiganrwa.org

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.



Roses, original art by MMRWA member Rohn Federbush

AUGUST MEETING INFO

The August 19th meeting will be at La Senorita Mexican Restaurant in Lansing, MI, at 11:30 a.m. Prize-winning novelist Jackie Braun reveals her tricks of the trade in her program, "Research for Dummies." *More about Jackie on page 2. Directions to La Senorita on page 12.*

Inside this issue:

- ♥ Page 2 - *President's Message / August Speaker Jackie Braun's bio*
- ♥ Page 3 - *Recap of June's Program*
- ♥ Page 4 - *Member News*
- ♥ Page 6 - *Birthdays*
- ♥ Page 7 - *Happily Ever After contest results*
- ♥ Page 8 - *Perfect Publicity Photos by Karen Rose Smith*
- ♥ Page 9 - *Romance Story Must Haves by Katie Lovette*
- ♥ Page 10 - *"Usage Rules: To split or to joyously split?" byCarolynn Carey*
- ♥ Page 11 - *"Editor and Agent Blogs" by Julie Rowe / Helpful Sites*
- ♥ Page 12 - *Meeting Schedule/ Contest Link / Directions*
- ♥ Page 13 - *Officers / Chairs / Contact info / Submission Guidelines / Deadline*
- ♥ Page 14 - *Policy / Guidelines / Reprint info*

The online Mid-Michigan Mirror is offered for the enjoyment of the general public. Private meeting information, minutes and treasurer's reports are available to members at: MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com.

Many thanks to the contributors to the June / July Mid-Michigan Mirror!

From the Desk of:

By Wil Emerson, President

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

A quote from the other Emerson -- the famous one...Ralph Waldo. Inspiring words and much to think about in regards to the writer's life and/or ones lifestyle. While I can't claim to have written the phrase, I've tread thick underbrush now and then just to get beyond the ordinary pasture. And I must confess, there've been times in life when the path would have been much easier. Live and Learn.



When it comes to writing, we often get lost in a forest of rules and regulations. Like tree laden branches, deep in the backwoods, our work will die due to lack of sunlight. The survivalist says you should know where you are going and how to get back home---mark your trail. I've just finished reading a Pulitzer Prize winner, 'Middlesex', which leaves a wide, dubious Emerson trail. The book has a Michigan setting, in fact, and familiar to those who grew up in the Detroit area. Thing is, the clever author, Jeffrey Eugenides, breaks every rule. Past and present tense shifts, overloaded backstory, POV confusion and taboo subject matter. You don't know where the story is going or if it will get back to the basic premise. But...it's a Pulitzer Prize winner and, more so, it begs to be read. One reviewer said 'it displays big hearted, of-thee-I-sing bravura'. Another says "A big book so wildly imaginative and yet so warm-hearted that it's hard to resist." I'd say it is remarkable, convoluted, strange, wonderful...and imposing.

Wouldn't you love to have someone write all that about your book? It takes courage to cut a new path--to look beyond the limitations set by genre, guidelines, formats and structure. Do you impose limits on your creative voice? Ralph Waldo Emerson wants you to cut a path, leave a trail. Me, too.

So it's back to writing and writing with a heart -- a big, summer warm heart, at that. Hope to see you on the best seller list soon.

Cheers, **Wil**



Our August speaker, **Jackie Braun**, graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in journalism. Jackie worked at newspapers for nearly 17 years. For 11 of those years, she was an award-winning editorial writer for *The Flint Journal* in Michigan, where she was also the first female editorial writer in the newspaper's history.

Her first book, *One Fiancée to Go, Please*, sold to Silhouette Romance. It was an October 2000 release and went on to win the Rising Star Award for traditional romantic fiction. *True Love Inc.*, another 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 Mid-Michigan author Jackie Braun at: <http://www.jackiebraun.com>

Due to factors beyond our control, the recap of our wonderful May program on Sexual Tension, presented by an expert panel composed authors Rosanne Bittner, Lisa Childs, and Nancy Gideon and moderated by Laurie Kuna will appear in the August issue of the Mirror.



Our June meeting convened at the newly remodeled Gilbert's in Jackson. The program was moderated by Laurie Kuna, Vice-President, with an eclectic selection of topics available which were: Critiquing, Brainstorming, Conference Tips and Pitching. The group refined the list to Conference Tips and Critiquing.

SHARING CONFERENCE TIPS AND CRITIQUING

A recap contributed by attending members

About Conferences:

Dawn Bartley: “When at a big conference like RWA® National, don’t feel like you have to take part in everything. You’ll be so exhausted you won’t enjoy it.”

Laurie Kuna: “If you have allergies, make sure you bring your meds with you.”

Linda Cossel: “I take throw away underwear. That way I can make extra room in my suitcase for the return trip.” (And we all know we get many freebies and purchases to haul home.)

Lana Miersen: “While in New Orleans Diane and I started out the first morning all freshly showered, but after a few hours in the humidity we were drenched with perspiration. My advice, take double the underwear.”

Laurie Kuna adds: “Dress comfortably, comfortable shoes—except for the RITA. That’s formal. A dressy pantsuit would work. Dress professionally for editor agent appointments. Remember that the hotel rooms are cool even when the weather is hot.”

Annette Briggs: “I went to my first big conference (not RWA®) all alone. I’m kind of shy, so admittedly, I was apprehensive. It was before I was a member of RWA®, so there was none of the kinship like I’ve gotten to feel from being a member. But when I arrived in the big city all alone, I found other writers who were also alone. I gritted my teeth and introduced myself and those strangers were as glad to meet me as I was to meet them. We formed a support group and ventured into the unknown of New Orleans’ French Quarter together.”

Laurie Kuna and **Lana Miersen** advised us to pack our belongings in transparent bags. That way if they *must* search your luggage at the airport, they don’t have to scatter everything.

Julie Lea: “Best tip, when **Laurie Kuna** advised to not stick only with people you know, but make new friends.”

Katie Dubois: “Don’t ‘play the game.’ Be yourself and you’ll enjoy yourself and the conference much more. Don’t put yourself down by comparing yourself to others who are published or seem to be more successful.”

As **Laurie Kuna** says, “Top goals should be have some fun and do some networking.”

Sharing--continued on page 4

Sharin-- continued from page 3

About Critiques:

Guest **Amy Sue Hopkins** said, “I liked Linda [Cossel’s] idea of developing a story history for your characters.

Kate Dubois: “I learned how a live critique group operates. Thanks, ladies!”

Linda Cossel: “I realized that even I [as yet unpublished in book length] can bring something valuable to the table even in the company of published members with great success.”

Loralee Lillibridge: “I do think we sell ourselves short if we’re not published.”

Dawn Bartley: “Remember, no matter your experience, you can contribute.”

Linda Cossel: “I like the encouragement to not be intimidated by published authors.”

Kate Dubois: “What attracted me to Mid-Michigan [in the first place] is that the chapter made me realize that the career of writing isn’t drudgery and one-upmanship, it’s fun.”

Loralee Lillibridge: The way the many talented members support each other. This group rocks!

More information on critique groups and attending conferences

Stephanie Bond raves about critique groups:

<http://www.stephaniebond.com/PDF%20files/Writers%20Articles/MYOB--Critique%20Groups.pdf>

“SEVEN STEPS FOR STARTING A SUCCESSFUL CRITIQUE GROUP”:

http://www.romantictimes.com/authors_tip.php?tip=52

More about critique partners: <http://melissaa.com/articlecritiquepartners.htm>

Advice on packing for a big conference-- <http://www.caitlondon.com/CareerTips.html>

Making the most of editor/agent appointments -- <http://www.susannacarr.com/articles/editor-agent.htm>

More great advice on going to conferences: <http://www.susannacarr.com/articles/conferences.htm>

Advice on pitching and conferences: <http://www.nancywarren.net/forwriters.html#pitch>



JUNE MEMBER NEWS

Dawn Bartley: Glad to have participated in HEA judging! Found great research/intrigue to add to my manuscript.

Tereasa Bellew: Making progress on my WIP—facing the black moment—not sure how to tie it all together, getting ready son’s graduation, wrestling with a new goal.

Rosanne Bittner: till working on WWII book, changing title to *The Letter*, agent will start marketing in June and has high hopes—will also send it to movie agents.

Annette Briggs: Enjoyed judging HEA and RWA® National Newsletter finalists, can learn a lot by judging.

Member News continued on page 5

Member News continued from page 4

Linda Cossel: Have been working on my books and I created a productive schedule similar to Merlene's, but geared to my needs, and I completed two query letters so I am almost ready to send out queries on two books.

Flavia Crowner: Making progress on my WIP for "I Will Write a Book," collecting information on the third book in the Sunny Farnum series. *Rose Garden Caper*; also have two children's stories finished in my *Beaver Tales* series.

Lynette Cutis: Glad HEA is finished and my duties as contest coordinator are almost over, waiting on contest results and working on current WIP.

Nancy Gideon: Moved from quad-level home into two bedroom loft apartment! Doing final read three on I'm due... now, Have next IM, *Warrior's Second Chance*, (Ick! Not my title!) Coming out in December '06.

Anne Marie King-Jakubiak: Been writing, but very little, mostly traveling across the state for family emergencies and funerals, sent a partial the week of retreat.

Lucy Kubash: finished fixing edits on *Chance's Return*, sent back to Triskelion, learned it will have a September release date, hope it will keep the title.

Laurie Kuna: Trying to get an entry ready for PASIC Book of Your Heart contest, eagerly anticipating the departure of the LHS Senior Class on Thursday May 25

Julie Lea: Still working on my book for Finish the Book Contest, joined a critique group and thanks to Lynette, created my own story board for this book.

Cathy McClain: Polishing synopsis for WIP, revising ending of WIP, need more time in the day!

Lana Miersen: "Recovering" from Retreat (it was fabulous) and from judging HEA entries in less than a week after returning from vacation (whew!); entered current WIP in the "I Will Write a Book" drawing.

Maris Soule: Had one rejection, sent story to new publisher, working on new short story and new novel.

Lisa Childs Theeuwes: Thrilled to have met May deadlines and to see my gorgeous new cover for my August NEXT. Also excited that *Taking Back Mary Ellen Black* took second in the Lauries and finaled in the Golden Quill and Beacon, too.

JULY MEMBER NEWS

Dawn Bartley: Made more progress on my WIP, worked on items for Moonlight Madness.

Annette Briggs: Helped Dawn and Julie Lea with the Moonlight Madness crafts, promised to write a short synopsis for my WIP by the August meeting.

Katie Dubois: Started a new Regency period historical; reworking beginning of my finished Regency historical; developed and started a medieval; and queried an editor (haven't heard yet!)

Laurie Kuna: Met her goal of entering the PASIC contest, working on fourth ImaJinn book, deadline July 1.

Julie Lea: Been working on WIP that has been making me mental –too much obsessing about it.

Wendy Lebel: Have been researching agents to query and making progress on my chick lit mystery.

Loralee Lillibridge: Working with agent on cozy mystery and another Special Edition.

Lana Miersen: Worked on contemporary using *First Draft in Thirty Days*, still mentoring nephew, getting ready for National.

Dana Corbit Nussio: I was asked to participate in Steeple Hill Love Inspired's new continuity series, *A Tiny Blessing Tale*, continuing the *Tiny Blessings* series. My book, *LITTLE MISS MATCHMAKER*, will be an October 2007 LI release. This is my 10th sale, so I'm pretty excited about it.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Cynthia Irish: I started writing January 3, 2006. A new year. A new dream. Who knew? 1 1/2 books later, I'm a changed person. My background is writing radio commercials, doing voice work. Practicing Astrologer for 30 years.

Member News continued on page 6

Member News continued from page 5



CONGRATULATIONS



Romance Writers Ink's 2006 MORE THAN MAGIC Winners for published authors:

Lisa Childs won FIRST in LONG CONTEMPORARY category and GRAND PRIZE with her book, *TAKING BACK MARY ELLEN BLACK*

AND

Jackie Braun took SECOND in the TRADITIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL category with her book, *IN THE SHELTER OF HIS ARMS*.

Sue Charnley: For taking FIRST place in the SHOW ME the SPARK contest with her entry, *Hannah's Heart*. AND Sue is a finalist in the Paranormal category with *Hannah's Heart* in the Valley Forge Romance Writers 2006 SHEILA Contest.

Wisconsin Fab Five contest -- **Catherine McClain** received "Honorable Mention" for her entry, *The Finndian*, in the Romantic Suspense category.

Our MMRWA finalists in the Greater Detroit Booksellers Best Award Contest:

Michelle Celmer finalist in the Long Contemporary category with *Out of Sight*

Gail Gaymer Martin finaled in the Inspirational category with *Finding Christmas*

Lisa Childs finaled in the Romantic Suspense category with *The Substitute Sister*

Dorien Kelly finaled in the Single Title category with *Hot Whispers of an Irishman*



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Trembley 11
Annette Briggs 17

Jean Drew 12
Maris Soule 19



JULY

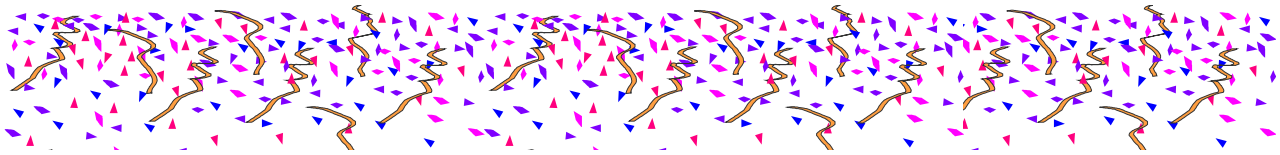
Patty Gordon 2

Jennifer Kamptner 17

Approaching AUGUST Birthdays

Jodi Lozon 1 **Dorien Kelly 11**
Anne Marie King-Jakubiak 15 **Gail Martin 28** **Tamyra Kearly 29**





MID-MICHIGAN ROMANCE WRITERS of AMERICA proudly announce the finalists and winners in the 2006 HAPPILY EVER AFTER last chapter contest:

INSPIRATIONAL

1st - *WILLOW SPRINGS* by Melinda Obenhaus

2nd - *SECOND CHANCES* by Michelle D. Rodgers

3rd - *THE MISSIONARY AND THE WHALER* by Cora H. Jensen

SERIES/CATEGORY ROMANCE

1st - *DESIGNATED HERO* by Mary Margret Daughtridge

2nd - *ONCE THROUGH THE HEART* by Kathryn Hern

3rd - *THE BABY RACE* by Elysa Hendricks

PARANORMAL

1st - *NIGHT MAGIC* by Jeanne Miraglia

2nd - *GUARDIAN WITNESS* by Laura Jochum

3rd - *WOMAN IN THE WOODS* by Darcy Carson

HISTORICAL,

1st - *THE DUKE'S TRAITOROUS WIFE* by Carla Hughes

2nd - *A SECRET HEART* by Deb Yates

3rd - *THE DIDDIKAI* by Lisa Marie Wilkinson

Honorable Mention – *THE PRINCE'S SPY* by Peggy Brown

ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

1st - *SMOKESCREEN* by Carol Ericson

2nd - *UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS* by Christine Keach

3rd - *LIVE FOR THE MOMENT* by Gloria Leshner

SINGLE TITLE/MAINSTREAM WITH RE

1st - *DREAMS AND WISHES* by Marge Knudsen

2nd - *SLEEPING WITH WARD CLEAVER* by Jenny Gardiner

3rd - *GOING HOME* by Jenny Gardiner

OVERALL CONTEST WINNER

***THE DUKE'S TRAITOROUS WIFE* by Carla Hughes**

Congratulations and Best Wishes with your future writing endeavors!

Submitted by Jodi L. Lozon, HEA Contest Liaison / E-mail: Contest@midmichiganrwa.org

This article first appeared in the May 2006 issue of New Jersey Romance Writers' The Heartline Herald. USED WITH PERMISSION

PERFECT PUBLICITY PHOTOS

By Karen Rose Smith

Having a publicity photo taken can be rewarding and even fun! The secret is choosing the right photographer and doing a little preparation. A professional photographer is talented and knowledgeable in aspects such as light, shadows, and angles. But you have to guide him concerning the image you want to project. Below are a few tips on how to make this experience successful.

Choose a photographer whose work you have seen and admired. The best way to do this is to study friends' wedding pictures, notice poses in relatives' graduation photos, visit photographers' studios and look through their portfolios.

Visit or telephone to ask the photographer pertinent questions. What is his sitting fee? (Ask for a complete price sheet.) How many poses will he take? How many changes of outfits can you bring? Will he shoot in film for black and white and color? Or will he use digital? Some newspapers still prefer black-and-white glossies. A photo taken with color film isn't as sharp when turned into black-and-white. With a digital camera you'll have either choice. Also, by using digital, you can preview photos to see which outfits and poses work and which don't. If you review with the photographer after the shoot, you can eliminate pictures you're not interested in.

Dark, rich colors in clothes work best. White and yellow reflect the light. Plaids, checks and large prints draw interest away from your face.

(An exception might be a black-and-white photo where you are aiming for effect with a particular pattern.) Have the photographer tell you or show you the types of backgrounds and props he uses. Backgrounds will have an influence on what you choose to wear.

If you wear glasses have your optician remove the lenses from a spare pair, borrow a pair to use, or buy glasses at the drugstore and remove the lenses yourself. Other- wise, the glass reflects the light.

Sort through your photos to find poses you like. Show them to the photographer before he starts. Study his portfolio and choose the types of photos you'd like to try.

Be patient with the photographer when he is exacting with detail—such as hand placement, smoothing a fabric wrinkle, etc. The camera sees all, and he knows it.

Select the proof/s you like, rather than ones friends and family choose. You are presenting your image to the world. Choose what you'll be happy with for at least a year or two. If you don't plan to have a professional photo taken often (cost is often high) choose classic dress, rather than trendy clothing. Or make just one of the poses wearing something trendy. Photos can come back to haunt you!

Each publicity photo you have taken will represent a career milestone. Plan for the shoot as you would promotional materials for one of your books. Then have fun with the experience.

Perfect Publicity Photos--continued on page 9

Perfect Publicity Photos--continued from page 8

Make a list of everything that makes you smile. Think of situations or people that bring a sparkle to your eyes and a natural curve to your lips. This will help the photographer take natural shots that aren't forced and capture genuine smiles.

If you do a bit of planning, then relax and think of everything you love most, the picture will project an image worth remembering.

Award-winning author Karen Rose Smith has been selling romances since 1991. CUSTODY FOR TWO is her 54th published romance and the first book in her BABY BONDS series set in Wyoming. A few of her most recent publicity photos reflect the theme! Visit her website at <http://www.karenrosmith.com>



The following article appeared in the May 2006 issue of Smoke Signals, newsletter of the Smoky Mountain Romance Writers. USED WITH PERMISSION

The Craft of Creating Romance Novels: Romance Story Must Haves

By Katie Lovette

Whether the book is a sweet romance or a spicy one, there are certain elements found in each. Below is an abbreviated list of what must be included in a romance novel.

- 1. A strong, sexy hero.** Yes, most women want to read about an Alpha Male. But some are just as happy having a Beta hero. It does not matter. This man is the heroine's soul mate and she desires him, is passionate about him. He is aware of his power and uses it when needed. When they meet, the heroine never wants another. He is the one, the only one for her.
- 2. A heroine who complements the hero.** She must have plenty of spunk, be independent, and have the ability to hold her own with the hero. The heroine may feel fear, but she has great inner strength and when needed, she can stand tall in any situation. She will defend the hero at any time, but when they are together she speaks her mind. The heroine totally captivates the hero from the beginning.
- 3. A strong plot.** There are thousands of articles and books written about plot. I recommend any book on screenwriting (movies tell a story with precision) written by Robert McKee, Linda Seger, or Syd Field if you want extensive help. A basic romance plot has the hero and heroine forced together to work out a problem. Whether the book is suspenseful, inspirational, or sensual, the two fall in love throughout the story and realize this as they solve the problem.
- 4. Scenes between the hero and heroine that indicate their attraction for each other.** There is at least one scene in every chapter that portrays the attraction the hero and heroine feel for each other. In a sweet romance, there may be a long silence as they gaze into each other's eyes or share a secret smile. The hero may hold her hand a few seconds longer after they have shared a handshake. In a sensual romance, they passionately make love, losing themselves to the moment. The heroine may feel that their souls have merged as one. The hero loses control. He forgets his surroundings, even his name. What he does remember is the heroine and what she has made him feel.

Romance Story Must Haves--continued on page 10

Romance Story Must Haves--continued from page 9

5. Strong, natural dialogue. The dialogue must fit the tone and time period of the book. An author should provide each character with his own dialogue tone. This is a great way to provide characterization and set them apart. Dialogue should never be wasted. Every line spoken should have meaning and sound natural. Do not make a thirty year old woman sound like a ten year old, unless there are retardation issues. And vice versa, do not have a ten year old sound like an old man. The child may have grown up on the streets, but that character is still young and some childlike qualities will still be evident.

6. A romance will always have a satisfying ending. In today's market, there are two types of endings, a happy ever after and a hopeful ever after. It does not matter which one is used as long as the author leaves the reader satisfied. The plot and subplots must find conclusion, unless there is a sequel. The hero and heroine must promise to continue their relationship, maybe they are getting married or continuing as they are. Either way the reader must feel contented about the story when she closes the back cover. If the author fails with the ending, the reader will be reluctant to read another story written by that author.

Katie Lovette, a.k.a. K. T. Jarrell, writes paranormal and contemporary romance. She is the author of Loving Care for Alzheimer's Patients, which has been available since 1999. Her website www.ktjarrell.com can be accessed soon.

The following article appeared in the May 2006 issue of Smoke Signals, newsletter of the Smoky Mountain Romance Writers. USED WITH PERMISSION



Usage Rules Worth Repeating—or Forgetting: To split or to joyously split?

By Carolynn Carey

As I've stated before, I'm a firm believer in breaking the rules of usage as long as you know what you're doing. But sometimes, it's difficult to break a rule when it was drummed into your head when you were younger. Splitting an infinitive is one such rule for me.

However, I try to remember that there is absolutely no logic behind this particular rule. According to my English education professor, when English grammar was being written for the first time, it was written in the intellectually preferred language of the era—Latin—and then translated into English. In Latin, according to my professor, it is impossible to split an infinitive, and thus the rule was born that prohibited splitting infinitives in English.

Whenever I see an infinitive that really needs splitting for the sake of clarity, I try to remember the words found in William Follett's Modern American Usage: "It is in written work that splitting [infinitives] is called for, and desk sets should include small hatchets of silver or gold for the purpose."

Carolynn Carey is the author of A Summer Sentence. The sequel, Falling for Dallas, will be released in October. She invites you to visit her web site at www.carolynncarey.com



The following article first appeared in the May 2006 issue of the Writer's Saddle, the Calgary Association of RWA (CaRWA) newsletter. Permission to publish with proper credit is granted to sister chapters. Kellie Finley, Editor . USED WITH PERMISSION

All Agog For Blogs! by Julie Rowe

Blogs have become a popular way for writers to attract and communicate with readers, but writers aren't the only ones blogging these days. Many literary agents and editors are blogging, too. These blogs provide a point of view on the publishing industry that writers seldom ever see. Some answer questions, offer advice.

Some interesting and informative agent/editor blogs:

Miss Snark, the literary agent, is by far my favorite agent blogger. She is a prolific blogger whose posts frequently having me laughing hard enough to snort gin out my nose (providing I'm drinking gin at the time). Humor aside, Miss Snark answers questions with complete and utter honesty -perhaps too much honesty for some people. She shoots from the hip and rarely misses. <http://misssnark.blogspot.com/>

Agent 007 On Publishing has many informative posts. Make sure to read through this agent's archives. <http://agentoo7.blogspot.com/>

Agent Obscura has some great advice and gives blog readers a look into her life as an agent. <http://agentobscura.livejournal.com/>

Agent Jennifer Jackson has a great blog, and we even know who she is! <http://arcaedia.livejournal.com/>

Pub Rants is another agent who tells it like it is. Some great information especially what NOT TO DO! <http://pubrants.blogspot.com/>

The Knight agency has a nifty blog. Their agents and several of their authors have posted to this blog. Check out their early archives for some interesting info on writing. <http://knightagency.blogspot.com/>

Evil Editor is hilarious. He, like Miss Snark, uses humor to soften the sting of his words. He answers questions and posts examples of queries he's received and how he would rewrite them. Highly recommended <http://www.evileditor.blogspot.com/>

Anna Louise Genoese, an editor for Tor books, has a great blog where she's talked about everything from how much it actually costs to produce a book to her drinking schedule for the year. Don't miss this one. <http://alg.livejournal.com/>

Book Covers from the NY times Review is a blog that discusses book covers and other 'in-the-news' items from the writing world. <http://nytimesbooks.blogspot.com/>

A Golden Heart double finalist in 2006, Julie Rowe has been writing for eight years and has completed thirteen manuscripts. Her freelance work has appeared in numerous magazines and newsletters. She admires all writers everywhere. If this article has inspired you, Julie would love to hear from you at julie.rowe@shaw.ca.

These sites have inspiration, insight, and practical instruction:

Lesson on setting up and milking emotional moments in your story: <http://www.scriptforsale.com/emotionalmoment.shtml>

Do men read? Writers Digest comments on that notion: writersdigest.com/articles/schneider_read.asp

Data on how much some authors have been paid: <http://www.karenafox.com/money.htm#Avon>

WRITING CONTESTS

Check out Contest Alert-for news on upcoming contests, plus Finalist & Winner listings, questions, etc. ContestAlert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux 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

MMRWA Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the third Saturday of each month on a rotating basis at area restaurants and meeting centers in Mid-Michigan. 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 Meeting Schedule

August 19 in Lansing--“Research for Dummies” presented by Jackie Braun

September 16 in Grand Rapids --“Family Planning/Birth Control Through the Ages” presented by Jennifer Green

October 21 at Portage Library--A Panel on Romance (Open to fans and book-buying Public)

November 18 in Jackson

December Holiday Party in Lansing area

**Directions to:
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.



2006 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers

President: Wil Emerson
Vice-president: Laurie Kuna
Secretary: Cathy McClain, info@midmichiganrwa.org
Treasurer: Lisa Childs Theeuwes, treasurer@midmichiganrwa.org

2006 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs

Cover-to-Cover: Nancy Gideon, covertocover@midmichiganrwa.org
I Will Write a Book/Write For the Money: Flavia Crowner
Happily Ever After Contest: Jodi Lozon, contest@midmichiganrwa.org
Library: Maris Soule and Lucy Kubash
Membership/Historian: Dawn Bartley, members@midmichiganrwa.org
Member Recognition: Julie Lea
MMRWA Angel Award: Dawn Bartley
Mystery Gifts: Shar Koenig
Newsletter Editor: Annette Briggs, mirror@midmichiganrwa.org
Newsletter Editorial Consultant: Lana Miersen
PAN Liaisons: Sue Charnley, Lana Miersen
Perseverance Fund: Lisa Childs Theeuwes, treasurer@midmichiganrwa.org
Policy: Cathy McClain and appointed committee
Programs/Meetings: Laurie Kuna, meetings@midmichiganrwa.org
Publicity: Jackie Braun
Retreat Chair: Pam Trombley, retreat@midmichiganrwa.org
Retreat Speaker Chair: Laurie Kuna
RWA® Pro Liaison: Tammy Kearly
Website Liaison: Lana Miersen, info@midmichiganrwa.org
Webmistress: Michelle Crean, design@crean.com

Non-members seeking information about Mid-Michigan RWA, our meetings, and joining our chapter, may email our membership chair at members@midmichiganrwa.org, or write to MMRWA, P.O. Box 2725, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2725. Be sure to visit our chapter online at www.midmichiganrwa.org and learn all about us.

The Mid-Michigan Mirror is in need of “how to” articles, reviews of writing books and writing related websites, member bios and photographs, current book news and activities from chapter members. Please send all contributions for the *Mirror* to: mirror@midmichiganrwa.org. DEADLINE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MIRROR is 5 days after the meeting prior to the issue in which you wish to appear. Thanks for your contributions, *Annette Briggs, Editor.*

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING TO *THE MID-MICHIGAN MIRROR*

Thank you for your interest in submitting an article to *The Mid-Michigan Mirror*. The *Mirror* can use articles that help us on our journey to be and stay published, to improve our skills as writers and business people, and keep us up to date in the writing field. This includes interviews and current book and website reviews.

The best font to use for the *Mirror* is Times New Roman 12, single spaced, one inch margins, with no special colors, spacing, etc. without prior approval. WORD works best.

Please submit queries and manuscripts to: mirror@midmichiganrwa.org

Looking forward to your submissions--*Annette Briggs, Editor.*

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

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

***The Mid-Michigan Mirror* is a publication of Mid-Michigan Chapter # 12 of Romance Writers of America®. Copyright © 2006 by the Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America. All rights reserved, unless otherwise stated.**