

♥ 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 ®

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Mission Statement

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



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Mid-Michigan RWA meets on March 15 at Damon's in Grand Rapids.

Our speaker, Tricia Eldridge, a graduate of the internationally recognized Barbara Brennan School of Healing and the Kalamazoo Center for the Healing Arts, has had a full time energy healing practice since 1999. During that time, her personal guide has continued to instruct her and expand her awareness of dimensions outside the auric field. She has learned how to work with viruses and disease in the energetic field so as to affect their healing in the physical body. Through her daily practice of Dolphin Breath™ and grounding she has deepened her awareness of these dimensions and has strengthened and deepened her connection to her

guidance. Tricia works internationally, assisting clients with a variety of diseases and physical ailments and is also a periodic guest healer at the Inner Well-being Center in Montreal, Canada. She will speak on a number of topics concerning her practice.



The Write Stuff . . .

This past month, whenever I looked out my office window, I saw white. It was snow, of course, but it had an annoying resemblance to my computer screen. My white, blank computer screen. That made me see red.

Paper or electronic, the blank page is the bane of every writer's existence. I had a president's message to write and a book to finish. What happened to my inspiration?

I think it froze, along with the rest of me and the entire State of Michigan.

Yesterday, I met with my critique partners. They thawed out my muse and motivated me --make that ordered me--to get the darn book finished *now*. They did a thorough job. I left our meeting place loaded for bear.

There is something about getting together with other writers that inspires me. It's so reassuring to know I'm not alone. I'm with others who understand, who get it, who don't give me strange looks when I say I'm a romance writer. I get unconditional empathy, and I thrive on it. It energizes me as a writer, and comforts me as a human being.

Which is why I look forward to our monthly chapter meetings. We have a very, very supportive group. We cheer each other on when we're successful, and we commiserate when disappointment rears its ugly head. We share information and expertise. We learn from each other. We network. In a profession where we are all competitors, we are friends as well. That says volumes about our chapter. It's what makes us special and makes our meetings something not to be missed. Yes, they do run a little long sometimes, but additional time spent with good friends and fellow writers is never a waste. It's a bonus.

Here's to another fruitful and enjoyable (but not necessarily long) meeting on March 15th at Damon's in Grand Rapids. Please mark your calendars, and get ready to be energized by Tricia Eldridge. See you there!

Lana Miersen, President



Happy April Birthday to:

Pat Lazarus 2 Arlene Hodapp 18 Nancy Fraser 2 Dickee Six 28

No March birthdays in our records. Please contact Annette (afbriggs@hotmail.com) if we are missing your date.



Writing a Page-Turner: Using the Fictive Dream to Keep the Reader Hooked

A recap of last meeting's program

Melissa Ford Lucken encouraged the members attending the February MMRWA meeting to participate in her mini-workshop. "All readers expect to be immersed in the imaginary world that the writer has created. In order to make that happen, the writer must transport the reader by inducing what is known as the fictive dream."

She explained how to lead the reader into the fictive dream, how to keep the reader there, and how the theory applies to romance fiction specifically. According to "How to Write a Damn Good Novel" by Fry, the reader's sympathy is first engendered by identification with problems the heroine and hero must face. These problems force the character to act, to be proactive: to lie or not lie. The problem can also be a weakness for the Hero/Heroine to overcome.

When Melissa directed the audience to produce a heroine's name and age, and problem set in a specific location, I wrote:

Georgina, 25.

Problem: Needs money to fix up her mother's house.

Place: Bank 2003: Cool white and black tiles did nothing to alleviate the heated subject. Georgina's credit history would soon blink onto the loan officer's computer screen. His eyebrows would lift, his hand hide that beautifully sensuous mouth.

"Never mind," Georgina said. "I'll wait for Mother's inheritance."

Bite the bullet, she told herself. Let him see the credit report. Maybe he'd want her to have the money. The sign on his desk read, "Horace Littleman."

Under bad plotting, when Melissa cautioned against using passive voice or weak narrations and that every word has to move the plot forward, I continued my ramble:

Money started falling from the bank's balcony. Horace shoved thousand dollar bills into his pockets. Georgina didn't touch one bill."

Melissa cautioned that nouns should be pro-active, not reactive and Heroines as well:

She could see the grinning thief above them. His long swinging gun kept her nailed to her chair. Horace was nearly dancing, arms lifted over his head to catch the floating money, when the first bullets cut across his middle."

To give us an example of stiff author intrusion, she asked Laurie Kuna to read a weak narration. We learned more about the pool in the scene than we did about either of the characters involved. Unless the motive of the hero was to throw the heroine in the pool, none of the words moved the plot forward.

Melissa told us to practice writing bad narration. So I wrote:

The leaking roof could wait. A bucket here, a bucket there, so what if her bedroom windows let the snow seep in, he could keep her warm. So what if the wallpaper was peeling off the walls? Maybe he wouldn't have time to look. (I guess, before he was shot).

For good narration, I continued:

"The house is over a hundred years old," she said to keep his attention away from the damning information on the computer.

Horace smiled graciously, ran his finger down the computer screen before turning to her. "Have you asked for the State's Historical Preservation Fund?"

Good guy, she thought.

Author intrusions or unneeded facts tell the story rather than showing events, using all five senses to deliver the promise to romance readers.

Recap by Rohn Federbush



The Business of Writing, An Inside View: Part One

From Mid-Michigan's published authors

When I sent the questions for this survey, I thought I'd be lucky to get even a few lines of wisdom from several of our very busy and talented published authors. But Wow! The response was so generous, we now have a four part series: The Business of Writing, An Inside View.



Lisa Child's thoughts:

What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?

I was surprised by the amount of time it takes from the purchase of the book to the printing of it and how much goes on behind the scenes.

What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?

Please remember that the editors are very busy with several other authors and responsibilities. Be patient -- I'm not sure that's etiquette, but it's good advice. <G>

What were you least prepared for?

Promotion -- still don't have a clue.

What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?

Having other writer friends who understand the business and can explain it and commiserate with me.

If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?

Find a good balance between working hard on the next book and enjoying every step of the publication of your first. There's only one first. <G>



Rosanne Bittner's words of wisdom:

My biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author:

Hmmmm. Lots of them. I guess I'd have to say my biggest surprise was when I made my first sale. Being totally ignorant of how such things work and how low a print run first-time authors get, I expected this HUGE first royalty check. What a come-down! It was just about enough to buy groceries for a month. Ha! Of course I didn't have an agent at the time, and my first publisher was Zebra Books, if that tells you anything! Other than that, after 20 years and 52 published books, I am still surprised at the rather "backward" way publishers operate. I wish every shipment meant a sale, but it doesn't, so writers still never get all that they have coming because of "reserves against returns." There has

to be a better way of making every shipment a sale instead of "guessing" how many books will sell.

What is my idea of the most important rules of etiquette:

I'm not sure what you mean by this. Etiquette in regards to dealing with publishers? With editors? With agents? As far as publishers/editors, NEVER ARGUE HEATEDLY with them. Whenever an editor suggests a change, let him/her know that you will consider it and try to work the change into the story. This is where it helps to have an agent - for the times when you DO heatedly disagree. Let the AGENT discuss the situation. A good agent is the best thing a writer can have. He/she can do the arguing over what the writer will be paid, and over changes the writer does not agree with. I have been very blessed with never having to make any major changes to my books, but I have to say that 99% of the time, even with small changes, the editor has proved to be right. His/her suggestion always ended up making for a better book and making the story flow better. It is also always a good idea to let your publisher/editor know what you are doing on your end to publicize/promote your book. They like to know that, and they will often help more than you think. Last but not least, if you are new and meeting with an editor, LISTEN to what they are after. Don't try to impress them with what a great writer you are. Just tell them what you have written and listen if and when they make suggestions as to what you can do to improve the book or make it more acceptable for what they are looking for.

What was I least prepared for?

I would have to say I was least prepared for how hard it would be to sell that first book!! I quickly learned I was not, after all, the greatest writer ever born! Ha!

What helped me the most with the business of being a writer?

GETTING A GOOD AGENT!

If I could give one bit of business advice to a new author:

Don't quit with one book. FINISH a book and start sending it out AND looking for a good agent. START ANOTHER BOOK. FINISH that book, start sending IT out and start YET ANOTHER BOOK! Agents and editors alike like to know that you are good for more than one book and that you are in it for the long run. And when it comes to agents, REMEMBER THAT THEY WORK FOR YOU, not you for them. Never let an agent intimidate you. ASK QUESTIONS, like who else do they represent. How persistent are they at staying on top of a project and getting answers for you? How do they pay? (Most charge 10% to 15% - and it is THEIR JOB to get swift payment for you from the publisher and to in turn GET THE MONEY TO YOU just as swiftly.) Best wishes from Rosanne



Alison Hart's perspective:

"What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?"

The same rules of behavior apply with editors as with any other kind of business. Any harsh words you say can so easily come back to haunt you. If you wouldn't say something to a 'boss' in a business setting, likely you shouldn't say it to an editor.

"What were you least prepared for?"

I think the editor/author relationship is one of the toughest working relationships out there. No where else do we have to relate to someone we can't see face to face...much less have to relate on the basis of touchy problems...and that IS the truth. The editor gets to give us one great call (the sale), and after that, the primary reason we contact each other is about disagreements or changes...none of which the author probably ever wants to hear, none of which the editor takes

pleasure in saying. This relationship takes work on both sides to make effective—and an understanding of what both sides are up against to have good communication.

"What helped you most with the business of being a writer?"

An outstanding agent. (Meg Ruley, Jane Rotrosen agency)

"If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?"

Every single writer's career is different from every other writer. Listen to what makes sense to you. Protect your creativity and your Writing. Don't let worries or writer gossip or anyone interfere with you & your writing when you sit down at the keyboard. You have to develop faith in yourself, and trust in your writer instincts—no one starts out with those!--and there's also no one way to get either but to sit there and write, day after day. Alison



From Flavia Crowner's vantage point:

What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?

Although it wasn't a big surprise I found self-promoting my biggest problem. I found it hard to get out and promote myself as a writer. I have my family and friends' support, but if I don't believe in myself, no one else is going to either. So, I'm out there as a guest speaker talking about the

craft of writing as well as doing workshops, and talking about my books.

What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?

To be honest with yourself and those you do business with in a professional matter.

What were you least prepared for?

The popularity of a writer in a small town. Oh, this is not to say I didn't get used to it, but at first it was overwhelming. I soon learned people really cared about me as an individual as well as a writer.

What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?

Prayer, setting goals, attending workshops, conferences, reading books, talking with other writers, joining groups such as MMRWA and ACRW an online writers group, and last, critique groups.

If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?

To set goals. Writers who set goals succeed.

Aileen Hyne adds her slant:

What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?

Of a team working together for mutual good, well, it "ain't." I had this very green idea that the publishing house and I was some sort of team, not necessarily so.

What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?

Don't let success go to your head. I've seen writers get top-heavy and land on their butts that way. It's important to play well with others.

What were you least prepared for?

See question one. Also, I never expected to have anyone taking notes during a chapter critique session and lifting whole sections word for word. Turns out I wasn't the only one [that

happened to].

What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?

Another writer named Marianne Willman. If it hadn't been for her advice, I never would have written anything worth publishing.

If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?

Join Authors Guild and make sure they check your contract.



Nancy Fraser's advice:

What was your biggest surprise concerning the business end of being a published author?

That someone was actually willing to PAY me to do something that I love doing so much. Also, I was surprised by the fact that I actually made more in foreign royalties than I did with the initial sale of my book.

What is your idea of the most important rules of etiquette?

Never plagiarize another author's work; never "borrow" an idea that another writer has shared/brainstormed; always write thank you note to booksellers who host signings; and never bad mouth an editor or agent -- even after they've rejected you.

What were you least prepared for?

How devoted romance fans can be. I remember attending a book signing at an independent store with four other authors. There were romance groupies there and they had to have their picture taken with every author.

What helped you the most with the business of being a writer?

My chapters (MMRWA and GDRWA) and all the good advice I received from chapter members and at conference.

If you could only give one bit of business advice to a new author, what wisdom would you offer?

Actually, I have two: Write first for the joy of writing and then for the ultimate goal of selling, and Invest in good equipment (computer/printer).

More insider views in our next newsletter. Many, many thanks to all our published authors.



Member News

Chris Allen-Riley: Working on new contemporary and paranormal.

Dawn Bartley: Busy at work and trying to get back on the writing train.

Rosanne Bittner: Judged 7 books for the RITA this year.

Annette Briggs: Daughter's Wedding was on February 15th

Sue Charnley: In California for mother's funeral.

Sue Crouse's single title entry, *Sowing the Wind*, finaled in the 2003 SPRING INTO ROMANCE CONTEST!

Jodi Copeland: Agent revisions, writing new Desire, still waiting to hear back on Desire@H/S, took Third Place in Labor of Love Contest.

Wil Emerson: I signed up for the Wal-Mart/Sam's Club promotion in Florida. They found a spot for me in St. Cloud, Fla. Hope others are going to sign up and promote reading and

romance writing. I'll keep you posted on the outcome when I see you all at retreat ---my neck of the woods.

Rohn Federbush: Proposal for Susan Litman is taking longer than I expected. Did receive \$120.00 for three short, satirical stories published in 'Citizens in America' with my picture. 'Windows of St. Andrews' which I did Historical research for will be published April 2003.

Patty Hall: Working on revisions Tyndale asked for on a three book series and sold a short story to Women's World magazine.

Peggy Hanchar: Half way through second Scottish Romance. Still haven't found the courage to send off first. Brainstorming on a contemporary collaboration.

Michele Hickerty: Working on fantasy and contemporary. Waiting on proposal at Avon.

Kimm X Jayne: Finished second synopsis for two different books and two chapters each. Went to Lamu, Kenya for research for one of the books. Signed up to go to Pikes Peak Writers' Conference in April.

Tammy Kearly: Got a request for first three chapters from Harlequin Blaze. I'm three-quarters of the way through a contemporary. I sent four entries to contests, completed a synopsis and a proposal for a contemporary.

Pat Lazarus: Working on a fantasy and have finished three covers this month. Done lots of planning for MMRWA meeting schedule.

Shelley Lowe: I entered 'Laurie and Marlene' Short Contemporary Series Contests and one other (unnamed) contest. Am working on an adventure for the Silhouette Bombshell Series. Going to Conference on synopsis in Detroit and one in Orlando Springs.

Melissa Ford Lucken: Reworking an "old" project.

Lana Miersen: Not a lot of writing done this past month. Working on chapter business. Putting cover letter together for Silhouette Bombshell proposal. *Falcon's Way* placed first in The 2002 Suzannah, Paranormal Category.

Deanna Talcott Pyle: Sent off proposals for fantasy line and romance line. Current book, *Cupid Jones Gets Married* was named as one of top ten Romantics Reads on eHarlequin, also Daily Pick and Weekday Bestsellers. Will speak at Rally of Writers.

Marjorie Sandoval: Working with Rally of Writers to put on a 15th annual writer's workshop. Our romantic speaker is **Deanna Talcott** - Yeah Deanna!! I'm writing a lot of creative non-fiction and exploring another "racy" genre. Being real creative with email!

Maris Soule: Preparing to teach class at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, will be conducting a seminar at Ball State in July, working on suspense, have mystery with two publishers.

Cheryl Steimel: Working on chapter three of both a new romantic comedy and a revised contemporary. Placed Second in the Far Side Contest in Fantasy.

Jeanne Prince: Trying to finish first book and get it critiqued. Have thoughts on second book.



Sincere condolences to Sue Charnley on the loss of her mother.

Welcome Our New Members:

I'm **Jennifer Lynne Armintrout**, I'm 22 years old and living in Grand Rapids. I have a son, Christian Lennon Erwine, who just turned two months old. Besides writing I enjoy baking, chocolate making, eating up the things I bake and make out of chocolate, and ignoring the housework. Later this year I'll be getting married, alas not to Tom Cruise as I had originally planned, but I'm fairly pleased with the man I am getting. I also intend to return to college to become a certified pastry chef. That's about all I can say about me!



Hi, my name is **Holli Bertram** and I live in Ann Arbor. I'm married to a physical chemist who believes scientific journals are pleasure reading but who thinks I'm a totally fabulous writer - even though he's only read about a page of my work. There's true love for you. I'm also the mother of three boys, ages nine to sixteen. Needless to say, the testosterone and noise levels in our house are always high, but I've got a good start on helping to form some pretty wonderful future heroes. I'm a social worker and my paying job is part-time clinical research at the Institute of Social Research in Ann Arbor. I've always read romance and romantic suspense. I think in grade school I read Trixie Belden books as much for the relationship between Trixie and Jim as I did for the mysteries. I'm also a big fan of fantasy/sci fi, though I don't have much time to read it any more. I'm unpublished and just finished writing my third book - a romantic suspense - that is currently at Harlequin Intrigue.



Member Book Signings

Rosanne Bittner, Dana Corbit, DeAnna Talcott:

March 15 - Signing at Waldenbooks after our meeting in Grand Rapids.

Rosanne Bittner: March 13, 8:30 a.m., will be on Dick Schier's breakfast radio program in South Haven, Michigan - WGMY AM 940.

March 22 - Signing books at Majerek's Reader's World, Orchards Mall, Benton Harbor

April 12 - Wal-Mart's Literacy Day, at 2:00 p.m. at Store #2062, 1400 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor, MI; at Store #2010, 2107 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI at 4:00 p.m.

April 27th - Retreat From Harsh Reality signing.

Promotional Opportunity

Heart of Dixie, RWA Chapter 51, in Cullman, Alabama is hosting our annual Readers' Luncheon on May 3rd. Guest speaker is Sharon Sala. We anticipate 100 in attendance and are in need of books and/or promotional materials for this event. This is a great opportunity to promote your work and help literacy, since a portion of the proceeds received from the luncheon is donated to literacy. (You do not have to provide enough materials for 100 --every item adds up to help us achieve our goal.) Books/Items can be mailed to:

Kelley Zeringue
1316 Clara Street
Gadsden, AL 35903

Please include the approximate amount of your donations and the address where we should mail your receipt.

Thank you in advance,
Kelley Zeringue
kelleyzeringue@heavenhelpme.net
Permission to forward.



Take A Challenge

Lately I've encountered speakers and articles talking about writing a novel in some incredibly short amount of time, like 30 days. I've been thinking about giving it a try and I know some of my writer colleagues have at least thought about it also. For those of us who are still toying with the idea, here's an article that might interest you: Participating in the 25/30 writing challenge... where you have to write 25,000 words in 30 days. Details on that, if anyone is interested, are at: <http://www31.brinkster.com/maxxers/25in30/what.html>



Conferences

Colorado Romance Writers
2003 Romancing the Rockies Conference
(forwarded with permission)

March roared in like a lion, didn't it? Believe it or not, spring is around the corner and there's nothing like springtime in the Colorado Rockies! For all you early birds, this is your final month

to take advantage of our early conference registration prices so get your registration forms in quickly.

WHEN: May 9th & 10th, 2003

WHERE: Radisson Graystone Castle, I-25 & 120th

FEE: \$160 CRW Members/\$170 non-members before April 1st
Late Registration, \$170 CRW Members/\$180 non-members

Special Guest Speakers: Keynote/Jo Beverley, Luncheon/Joan Johnston, Closing, Sharon Mignerey. Featured Guest Speakers: Authors Rogenna Brewer, Tami Cowden, Jan Crane, Christy Lockhart aka Chris Pacheco, Diana Rowe Martinez, Glenna McReynolds, Cassie Miles aka Kay Bergstrom, Lynda Sandoval aka Lynda Sue Cooper, Kate Stevenson aka Kathy Williams. DEA Special Agent in Charge of the Rocky Mountain Field Division, Jeffrey Sweetin. Editors: Maggie Crawford/Pocket Books, Johanna Raisanen/ Superromance; Patience Smith, Harlequin/Silhouette. Agents: Julie Culver/Lowenstein-Yost Associates & Mary Sue Seymour/The Seymour Agency.

Special Offerings: Agent & Editor appointments, agent critiques, multi-track conference, book signing.

For more information contact Mary Webster katleennet@netscape.net or Karen Docter kardoct@comcast.net or Website www.ecentral.com/members/crw

The First Coast Romance Writers 10th Annual Southern Lights Conference

Theme: Yesterday and Today: Writing Historicals and Contemporaries for Today's Market.

Date: May 2 and 3, 2003

Place: Holiday Inn Orange Park, Roosevelt Blvd (Exit #10 off I-295),
Orange Park, FL

Reg. Fee: \$85.00 - non FCRW members, \$75.00 - FCRW members

Speakers:

Patricia Potter -- Writing the Long Historical

JoAnn Ferguson -- Writing the Regency Historical

Elizabeth Sinclair -- Writing Today's Contemporary

Editor/Agent: to be announced

Raffles: Goodie baskets, autographed books, published author critiques, editor/agent partial evaluations

Special Raffle: AlphaSmart

Author Autographing

Also: Lunch buffet, workshops handouts, Friday night workshop and pool-side chat with

Editor/Agent, Editor/Agent appointments (first come, first served)

For more information contact: ESinclair1@aol.com OR VLWKing@aol.com or visit our web site at www.fcrw.net

NOTE: Autographed book donations MUST be sent to:

Bookstore Coordinator

Heather Waters

3144 Rideout Lane

Middleburg, FL 32068

* * *

Registration for **Retreat From Harsh Reality 2003** closes on Wednesday, March 26 - in Pam Trombley's hand- so don't delay if you want one of the three remaining spots!

Workshop

Sponsored by Northeast Ohio RWA.

Donald Maass, NY agent, will hold his "Writing the Breakout Novel" workshop at the Beachwood Embassy Suites, Saturday, April 29, near Cleveland, Ohio. Cost is \$45. It's an all-day workshop, starting at 9 a.m. Meals are provided. This is a great workshop, and he doesn't do very many! Attendees will have a chance to get "Writing the Breakout Novel" and "The Career Novelist" at the workshop. Registration is limited to 100 people and we're a little less than halfway there. There's STILL room, folks! If you want a registration form, or for more information, email either MLevigne@aol.com, or Hadleystvs@aol.com. Just a word of warning -- this is the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter.

Michelle Levigne

Editor, Northeast Ohio RWA Communique

* * *

Market News

By Julie Moffett

The Association of American Publishers has estimated that total book sales rose 5.5%, to \$26.87 billion, in 2002. The 5.5% increase is a significant improvement over the 0.6% increase in sales in 2001. There was an 11.7% increase in sales of mass market paperbacks. (Publisher's Weekly Online/3-10-03)

Dorchester Publishing, Inc. is once again holding a contest for unpublished writers - the prize being a book contract. This year they are looking for paranormals, time-travels or futuristics. Three finalists will be chosen by Dorchester's editorial staff. Their work will be sent to participating bookstores and posted on the Romantic Times website for judging. The grand finalist will be announced at the RT convention in Kansas City and receive a contract with Dorchester Publishing. Unpublished authors who have a completed manuscript of 90,000 to 100,000 words should send the first three chapters (no more than 50 pages) of their work along with a cover letter and a 2- to 7-page synopsis to the editorial offices by June 1, 2003. Submissions can be sent to:

New Voice in Romance Contest,

276 Fifth Ave.,

Suite 1008, New York, NY 10001.

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Market News

Compiled by Jennifer Dunne

Tor editor Anna Genoese lost all submissions for the paranormal romance line in a hard drive crash. She asks that all submissions be resubmitted to her at anna.genoese@tor.com.

Mitzi Szereto, author of "Erotic Fairy Tales, A Romp Through the Classics," and editor of "Erotic Travel Tales," is putting together an anthology of historically inspired erotica. Stories may recount real historical events, fictionalized historical events, or be completely fictional events in a real historical setting. Any era is acceptable, as is any gender/orientation. No underage or nonconsensual sex. Make it sexy, make it fun, and most importantly, make it historically accurate. Pays upon publication. Deadline June 1, 2003. For more info, email MitziSzereto@y...

This market news compiled by Jennifer Dunne, author of "Sticks and Stone" in the February Ellora's Cave anthology, *Luck of the Irish*.

Jennifer Dunne - www.jenniferdunne.com

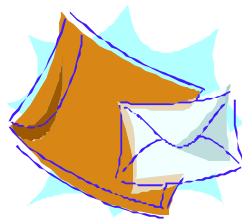
Triple EPPIE 2003 Nominee!

Shadow Prince - nominated for Best Fantasy

The Tower - nominated for Best Fantasy

Shifters - nominated for Best Anthology

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Contests

List hosted by Donna Caubarreaux

A reminder that the April 21 deadline for the 1st Annual **Haunted Hearts Contest**, sponsored by RWA Chapter, Gothic Romance Writers, Inc. (GothRom) is fast approaching! Categories: contemporary, historical, romantic suspense/mystery, paranormal/fantasy. NOTE: All entrants must contain a "gothic" element. Open to RWA members in good standing unpublished by an RWA-recognized publisher.

Final round judges:

Contemporary-Patience Smith, Harlequin/Silhouette

Historical-Cindy Hwang, Berkley/Jove

Romantic Suspense/Mystery-Lauren McKenna, Pocket Books

Paranormal/Fantasy-Anna Genoese, Tor/Forge

Please visit the GothRom site at <http://www.GothRom.org> and click on "Contest" on the left-hand side for more information, guidelines and printable entry form.

Janine Whalley, Vice President
Gothic Romance Writers
www.gothrom.org

Second Annual Foot in the Door

Los Angeles Romance Authors

Deadline: March 15, 2003

Synopsis to 10 pages max plus one page query letter. FMI psychopuppy@sbcglobal.net

Dixie Contest 2003

Magnolia State Romance Writers

Received by March 15, 2003

First 25 pages

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

The Daphne du Maurier Award for 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 31, 2003

Synopsis (up to 7 pages) and beginning of manuscript not to exceed 35 pages total for synopsis and manuscript pages

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

L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future

Received Deadline: March 31st

<http://www.writersofthefuture.com/index1.htm>

Fool For Love First Chapter Contest

Virginia Romance Writers

Received Deadline: April 1, 2003

First Chapter up to 20 pages.

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

Annual Golden Pen Contest

Golden Network Chapter

Received Deadline: April 1, 2003

First Chapter up to 25 pages.

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

The Mirror, Mirror Writing Contest

Bold Books

Received by April 1, 2003

The set up: You're standing in front of a full-length mirror and you've got 300-500 words to tell that piece of glass exactly how you feel about it.

<http://members.shaw.ca/boldbooks/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>

Royal Ascot

Beau Monde Chapter

Postmarked by April 1, 2003 - Received by April 10th

Synopsis up to 10 pages. First chapter up to 25 pages (Limit of 30 pages total)

<http://www.thebeaumont.com/html/contests.html>

(Last year all three traditional winners received offer for two book contracts!)

The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest

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

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

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

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

The Stepping Stone

Midwest Romance Writers

Received by April 15, 2003

First chapter up to 35 pages.

<http://www.angelfire.com/mo3/mrw/steppingstonedetails.htm>

Haunted Hearts Contest

Gothic Romance Writers

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

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

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

20th Annual Published Maggie Awards

Georgia Romance Writers

Region 3 only!

Received by April 22, 2003

Book with 2002 copyright

<http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/default.htm>

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 sponsors several writing lists...

Writing a novel? Learn from these daily articles.

FirstDraft-subscribe@yahoo.com

Having trouble finishing that WIP

SurvivorWriters-subscribe@yahoo.com

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Sites Offering Help With the Business of Promoting Our Work

Free Book Promotion Checklist:

http://www.geocities.com/~lorna_tedder/virgins.html

The Timely Approach to Promotion by Laura Baker:

<http://www.hodrw.com/promotion.htm>

from **First Draft** a list hosted by **Donna Caubarreaux**

Query Letters

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2003

Time: 2:00AM CST (GMT-06:00)

<http://www.fictionwriters.com/tips-query-letters.html>

How To Prepare a Press Kit:

<http://www.womenonwriting.com/articles/10200206.shtml>

<http://members.aol.com/TCozzens/Promotips.html>

This list is hosted by Donna Caubarreaux

<http://www.geocities.com/donnacaubarreaux/Main.html>

Agents

Guide to Literary Agents

<http://literaryagents.org/>

The Association of Authors' Representatives

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/aar/>

Preditors and Editors

<http://www.sfwaweb.org/prededitors/>

<http://www.sfwaweb.org/beware/>

Writers.Net - Literary Agents

<http://www.writers.net/agents.html>

<http://www.absolutewrite.com/ebooks/ebookAgents.pdf>

Publisher's Websites

<http://www.vivianbeck.com/writing/tips/publisher.htm>

www.geocities.com/ladyjiraff/publishers.html

<http://www.authorjewelstone.com/publishinghouses.htm> >

This list is hosted by Donna Caubarreaux

<http://www.geocities.com/donnacaubarreaux/Main.html>

* * *

YWCA of Kalamazoo In-Kind Needs List

CRITICAL NEEDS:

Markers, crayons, children's paint, construction paper, children's art supplies

Cleaning Supplies: Disinfectant-Antibacterial cleaner/spray, liquid laundry detergent, toilet bowl cleaner, dish soap, baby wipes, diapers (L & Med.), pull-ups, diaper genie refills, blankets, pillows, toilet paper/paper towels, silverware (forks!!), VCR, 20.6 cubic feet sand up freezer

SUPPLIES:

Towels (bath, hand and wash cloths), non-perishable food, liquid hand soap, bleach, cleaning supplies, trash bags (40" gallons), empty spray bottles, etc., paper products; napkins, tissues (boxes and purse size), indoor latex lead free paint, blank VHS video tape, AA and AAA batteries, crossword puzzle books, greeting and sympathy cards.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Large size personal care/hygiene products: combs, brushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, etc., gift-type sets (perfume, bath), women's and general health educational resources: books, magazines, videos, etc.

EQUIPMENT

Computers (Pentium class preferred)*, cars (to be sold)*, highchairs

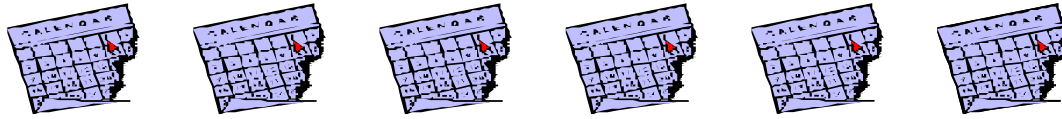
SERVICE

Donated services: hair care, automobile repair/assessment/servicing, gardening and landscaping

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW sweat suits (L & XL), women's socks, underwear and pajamas, new or nearly new and cleaned interview-appropriate skirt and pantsuits.

*Please contact first.



Revised MMRWA Meeting and Speaker Schedule 2003

Month/Day	Restaurant, City	Speaker/Program
March 15	Damon's, Grand Rapids	Trish Eldridge
April 25-27	Retreat at St. Ives	Ruth Ryan Langan
May 17	Gilbert's, Jackson	Tori Carrington
June 21	Gallagher's, Kalamazoo	Active/Passive Voice
July 12	Golden Rose, Lansing	Tara Taylor Quinn
August 16	Damon's, Grand Rapids	FBI Guy?
September 20	Gilbert's, Jackson	Tony Englund
October 11	Gallagher's, Kalamazoo	Nancy Gideon/Laurie Kuna
November 15	Golden Rose, Lansing	TBA
December	Christmas Party, TBA	Santa Claus

Directions to our March 15 Meeting at Damon's

4515 28th St., S.E., Kentwood, MI 49512

616-956-1211

From East

Take I-196 (NE) to exit 70A Merge onto SR-11 (Wilson Ave SW which turns into 28th St.) go east for approximately 10.5 miles. Damon's will be on your left after Acquest Ave.

From North

Take 131 South to exit 81. Go east on 28th St. (SR-11) for just over 5 miles. Just past Acquest Ave. find Damon's on the left.

From Southwest

North on 131 bear right on 28th St exit (exit 81). East on 28th St. (SR-11) for just over 5 miles. Just past Acquest Ave. find Damon's on the left.

From East

Take I-96 W to exit 43A. Go West (right) on 28th St. SE (SR-11) for about one mile to Damon's which will be on your right.

From South:

Take I-94 to US-127 (I-496) Merge onto I-96 (SW) to Exit 43A, right onto 28th St. SE About one mile to Damon's on right.

THE FOLLOWING SITE ADDRESS WILL TAKE YOU TO A MAP IF YOU NEED

ONE: <http://damons.know-where.com/damons/cgi/site?site=DAM034&address=>

The menu selections for the March 15 meeting at Damon's. (Dana Nussio set this up for us, ladies.) Everything is multiplied by 1.21, which is what the manager said for 6 percent tax and 15 percent gratuity. Figures show regular price and then with the add ons.

Ribs - includes rolls, salad, potato and beverage = (\$11.75) \$14.00

Grilled chicken breast salad - includes bread and beverage = (\$9.75) \$11.00

Vegetarian fettuccini with sun-dried tomato alfredo = (\$11.75) \$14.00. The Fettucini also includes salad, rolls and beverage.

MMRWA Budget Pleaser Special - includes side salad, rolls and beverage -(\$6.87) \$8.00

Email Pat Lazarus at LazArt2000@cs.com with RSVP and menu choice.

2003 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers

President: Lana Miersen

jlmiersen@cablespeed.com

Secretary: Rohn Federbush

rohn@comcast.net

Vice-president: Pat Lazarus

LazArt2000@cs.com

Treasurer: Diane Burton

Dburton72@aol.com

2003 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs

Welcome/Membership: Dawn Bartley bartleyd@chartermi.net

Publicity: Julie Schuitema Julie@usexchange.net

PAN Liaison: Dana Nussio nussio@earthlink.net

Retreat: Pam Trombley ptrombley@voyager.net

Library: Maris Soule SOULEM@aol.com and Lucy Kubash lucykubash@parrett.net

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Deadline for submissions to the May issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror is April 1.

Your input and submissions are welcome.