

♥ 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 III**

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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.

### *In This Issue:*

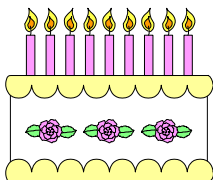
- ♥ Page 1 - *Mission Statement / Contents / Meeting Preview / Birthdays / Thanks*
- ♥ Page 2 - *President's Message / Speaker Bio*
- ♥ Page 3 - *Member News*
- ♥ Page 5 - *Short But Sweet*
- ♥ Page 9 - *Write What You Know*
- ♥ Page 10 - *Meeting Schedule*
- ♥ Page 11 - *Directions / Contact Info*
- ♥ Page 12 - *Contests*
- ♥ Page 13 - *Officers / Chairs*
- ♥ Page 14 - *Policy / Deadline*



*Members may access chapter meeting minutes and treasurer's reports at:*  
***MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com.***

## **Happy March Birthday!**

**Jackie Braun Fridline 7 Lynette Curtis 12**  
**Pamela Trombley 22**



**Gail Martin**

*Prize-winning author, popular speaker and MMRWA member Gail Martin's article, "Short But Sweet: The Romantic Novella," is on page 5.*



**Victoria Schab**, whose official title is National Field Service Support Manager for Levy Home Entertainment, will be MMRWA's speaker on **March 18** at **Sayfee's Restaurant in Grand Rapids**. Her topic is: "The Marketing and Distribution Side of the Publishing Industry." She plans to speak on what her company does for authors in terms of putting the books out, promoting authors, etc.

*Speaker Bio on page 2*  
*Direction to Sayfee's on page 11*

**Many thanks to contributors to the**  
**MARCH 2006 Mid-Michigan Mirror!**

## A Note From Wil's Desk

*By Wil Emerson, President*

Most of you know that I live in a fairly secluded area, Canadian Lakes, fifteen miles from a small city. A visitor recently said, "You sure live out in the boonies!"



I'm not sure what the 'boonies' really are any more. As a kid, I thought only farmers lived in the 'boonies'. I'm a writer. A writer can live anywhere, can't they? My husband and I choose this somewhat remote area so we could avoid rush hour traffic, high rises that blocked the sun, and city lights that kept us awake at night.

City dwellers or farmers--all have a particular story to tell. It's a joy for me to sit by the lakeside and conjure up tales about lifestyles, places, and people. Soft winds whisper some of their secrets, ripples on the lake hold their tears, and lush green pines shoulder the burdens that can only disappear with a clear blue sky.

Yet, I must confess I could write--would want to write--other people's stories no matter where I lived. City, suburbs, uptown, downtown---it wouldn't matter to me. And with March churning the days toward April, there's something about a new season that makes this writer want to create a new story. It's sure to ease out like the first day of spring. It won't come in a rush. It will push through the frozen ground, slow and easy, to say good morning in a gentle way to a warming world

I think the story will be about two people living in the 'boonies'. Lovers, of course. Romantic, of course. A happy ending, of course.

What will you write this spring?

Cheers, **Wil**



## About Our March Speaker . . .

**Victoria Schab**, whose official title is National Field Service Support Manager for Levy Home Entertainment, will be MMRWA's speaker in March. Her topic is going to be the Marketing and Distribution Side of the Publishing Industry, and she plans to speak on what her company does for authors in terms of putting the books out, promoting authors, etc. She'll also be talking about their Authors at Sea program, which is a cruise with lots of famous published authors on board as "captive" speakers. You may remember hearing about her company at the at RWA® conference in Reno.

**Victoria Schab** continued on page 3



**Victoria Schab** continued from page 2

Currently, Vicki is an Account Executive for Levy Home Entertainment, a book distribution company that distributes books to the mass markets, such as Wal-Mart, Target, Kmart, Meijer, Rite Aid and Toys R Us, just to name a few. Levy distributes everything from series romance to children's coloring books.

She started in the company as a District Field Supervisor, overseeing the West Michigan area. In 2004, she was promoted to National Field Service Support Manager and transferred to Levy's corporate office in the Chicago area. She was in charge of customer service and overseeing all communication going out to the field merchandisers and managers.

Vicki's present position as Account Executive has her overseeing everything from books, to magazines, to DVDs, and CDs.

Vicki is a former Grand Rapids resident where she married her real life romantic hero, Steve Schab. She has three daughters, Meghann, 26, Stephanie, 19, and Ashley, 16. In her spare time, she has written two historical paranormal romance novels and is currently working on a suspense thriller.

She's an Aquarius, likes romantic dinners, and long walks on the beach.



**Mid-Michigan canceled the February meeting to avoid the winter weather, so there will be no program recap in this issue.**



## MEMBER NEWS

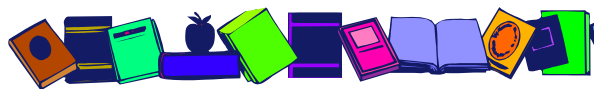
**Loralee Lillibridge**, author of *Accidental Hero*, was interviewed in The Romance Reader, an online magazine found at: [www.theromancereader.com](http://www.theromancereader.com)

**Julie L. McMullen** placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Northwest Indiana Chapter's 2006 Grand Beginnings Contest with her entry, *Celtic Song*.

**Tereasa Bellew** was recently interviewed in *The Crafty Writer* Issue # 11 [Part Two]. Also, a story Tereasa sold to *Club Romance*, an online magazine, can now be read for free here: <http://tinyurl.com/zurdo>

**Scheduled to sign and sell at the April 21-32, 2006 Retreat from Harsh Reality are: Loralee Lillibridge, Michelle Celmer, Sue Charnley, Nancy Gideon, Laurie Kuna, Sharolett Koenig, Flavia Crowner, Wil Emerson, and of course, Merline Lovelace!**

**A good opportunity if you don't have these ladies' latest books.**



**MEMBER NEWS** continued on page 4

MEMBER NEWS continued from page 3

## **MMRWA Member Katie's Big Adventure**

*By Kate's Mom, MMRWA member Cathy McClain*

Well, Paul and I just experienced another step in parenthood—watching our youngest move across country to pursue her dream. We left Michigan on a cold, blustery day in a rented minivan with two cats, a bunch of stuff that should have gone with the moving van, and her (Kate's) computer. I still don't know how we fit it all in!

The route we took was on Highway 40, which is a more southerly direction that kept us out of the high mountains and bad weather. This highway replaced the historic Route 66 which begins in Chicago and ends in California. All along the way, we saw the signs and when we got tired of paying tolls in Oklahoma, we ditched the freeway for a stretch of the historic road.

It's a dry, bland and barren landscape. The mountains and wide vistas were all very impressive to see, but ultimately, there's no place like home. People were friendly, hotels were clean, but we missed having internet in some of them.

Though we were primarily driving straight through, we did allow ourselves one little side-trip...to the Grand Canyon. We spent the night in Flagstaff, AZ and drove through misty rain the next morning to the South Rim visitor's center. The land is deceiving in its appearance coming into the park. Flat plains, rolling hills...and then...WOW! You can't see into the canyon until you're out of your car and walking to the overlook. The clouds lifted at just the right time and we were floored by the absolute grandeur of the place. It's HUGE! Breathtaking, magnificent! If you haven't been there...go. We've already decided to take another trip just to spend more time exploring the Grand Canyon.

Los Angeles, City of Angels. We dropped off the rented minivan after a harrowing ride into town during the evening rush hour. Mt Baldy loomed over us as we entered the town - spectacular and awe inspiring in its own right - over 9,000 ft high. Stuck in the middle of a truly bustling metropolis - something of a contradiction to the senses.

Katie moved into her teeny tiny overpriced studio apartment in a renovated 1920's era apartment building with an ancient elevator that seemed crowded with two people in it. Gilberto, the manager is very nice, and the tenants we met were too. I felt comfortable leaving her there.

We took a wild ride on the red bus line to Santa Monica and saw the Pacific Ocean. Then we walked along the pier, saw the original muscle beach, and stepped around the homeless people and drug addicts who populate the parks and grassy areas. It's at once beautiful and ugly. Hopeful and despairing.

We want Katie to live her dream, take her shot at screenwriting, and succeed wherever the adventure takes her. Maybe she'll come home someday. If she does, we hope it's on her own terms. If not, then we want her to be happy. She's one of the bravest people I know, and we really do hope all her dreams come true.

Katie, I only used 3 tissues while writing this—aren't you proud of me? We love and miss you, kiddo. Let us know when the cable guy finally gets there so I can hook up my new web cam. You know I won't be happy until I can see that you're okay. (I know—I'll never stop being a parent:)

## Happy Approaching APRIL Birthdays

Pat Lazarus 2   Arlene Hodapp 18   Dickee Six 28   Julie Lea 30



### Short But Sweet: The Romantic Novella

By *Gail Gaymer Martin*

Romantic historical and contemporary novellas are popular among readers. They are short novels, running from 20,000 to 38,000 words, yet are complete stories of two people struggling through conflicts to reach a romantic happy ending. These shorter reads are usually placed into anthologies that are thematically based on holidays, location, pleasurable interests—camping, chocolate, sewing, quilting, etc— and are enjoyed by people who dislike putting down a novel, but who have time restraints. A novella meets their need for a good book that can be read in a shorter time period.

How do novellas differ from novels?

Some of the major differences in novellas are:

The hero and heroine often have some connection from the past—old friends, childhood playmates or who have heard about the other through friend or family.

The plot line limits subplots to none or a minor subplot that enhances the relationship between the hero and heroine.

The setting descriptions are mainly used to create a sense of place or to reflect the mood or emotion of the hero or heroine.

The story covers a shorter period of time than a novel, usually no more than a month or two.

The story does not necessarily lead to a proposal or wedding, but allows the reader to assume that as time passes the couple will make a life time commitment.

Connection between the hero and heroine:

Because a romance moves through three stages of romantic feelings—awareness, interest, and attraction—a novella does not allow the time to explore these three stages fully. Having a past connection between the hero and heroine allows the relationship to develop in a speedy yet believable manner.

**Short But Sweet** continued on page 6

**Short But Sweet** continued from page 5

In "To Keep Me Warm" from Barbour's anthology, *Home for Christmas*, Ken Richmond runs into Julie Gardner at a church singles group and recognizes her as a nurse from his son's orthopedic surgeon's office.

"An Open Door" from Barbour's *From Italy With Love* takes Steffi Rosetti to Milan for a fashion magazine feature where she meets, Paul DiAngelo, a newly employed photographer who works for the same magazine.

The Barbour anthology *Once Upon A Time* offers an anthology of modern-day fairytales. In "Better to See You," Lucy Blake enters a wood-crafting shop in Oberammergau, Germany and finds an old friend:

Ahead of her, she saw a young man bent over a piece of wood. Curious, she headed toward him. She'd never seen a woodcarver and the experience excited her. But before she drew near, she faltered, a shiver of familiarity rising up her arms and down her spine.

Ron. The similarity between this man and her college steady took her breath away. Ron Woodson. How long had it been? Six, maybe seven, years. Standing a few rows away, Lucy couldn't take her eyes from him as a tender sadness washed over her, remembering their parting.

"All Good Gifts" part of a Steeple Hill Two-in-One, *The Harvest*, Jill Roddy meets Ryan Walsh in a dark wooded setting, then realizes they've met before through his sister:

"You and I have met before. I don't suppose you remember." He shifted the flashlight to the left hand and extended his right. "I'm Ryan Walsh."

"Ryan?" She accepted his handshake, allowing her memory to take her back to a sun-filled afternoon. "Yes, I remember. I'm Tess Britton." She searched his face, recalling the vague familiarity but wondering about the change. "But you look so different."

"I had a beard then. Plus a few extra pounds."

"Is that it?" His amiable smile sent warmth humming along Tess's limbs.

Whether old friends, ended relationships or familiarity through relatives, friends or coworkers, the hero and heroine's relationship is more appealing and realistic when using these techniques.

**Subplots in novellas:**

The storyline in a novella must remain focused on the relationship of the hero and heroine, so unless a subplot is a minor element and serves a direct purpose to the outcome of the hero and heroine's relationship, they should be avoided.

In "To Keep Me Warm," Ken's son needs leg surgery. Through the child's illness, the hero and heroine meet and create a common bond between them.

"Yuletide Treasure" in *Christmas Threads*, a Barbour anthology, introduces the subplot of a wooden heart-shaped box. This box becomes the catalyst to help Livy understand the true meaning of love as God expects and opens her eyes to wait for God's timing.

**Short But Sweet** continued on page 7

**Short But Sweet** continued from page 6

These subplots are short and significant because they affect the characters relationship or help to emphasize the story's theme.

Setting's Purpose in a Novella:

All readers want a sense of place. They expect to know where they are and the time of year. This information can be provided in simple ways with limited word count. In *Christmas Threads*, the time of year and story location is made evident in the opening paragraph and sets the time period as historical:

A cloud of black smoke curled past the window of the Chesapeake and Ohio locomotive. As the shrill whistle sounded, Livy Schuler snuggled deeper into her travel cloak and studied the changing winter scenery. The trip from Detroit stretched into hours with stops for passengers and when an occasional cow wandered onto the tracks. She had amused Davy with toy soldiers and story books.

"Next stop, Grand Rapids," the conductor called, moving along the aisle.

In another excerpt from "All Good Gifts," the description sets the tone for the opening scene:

Thump. Thump.

Tess Britton lowered the poker and listened while her free hand pressed against her heart. Was the sound her own throbbing pulse or something else...something outside?

She listened again.

Thump.

A shiver coursed through her. She moved to the front window and looked toward the sloped path heading to the lake. Surrounded by pine trees and a shrouded moon, Tess saw only blackness.

Time Span and Romantic Expectation

Because the novella is often three to four times shorter than a full-length novel, the stories time span is also shorter. Usually a month or two is long enough to develop the relationship of a man and woman into one that is headed for a deeper commitment.

In "An Open Door," Steffi and Paul leave the reader with the expectation of a happy ever after ending:

"Maybe you're right, but you've become so important to me. Sometimes I wonder if God had this all set up."

Paul chuckled. "I've said that to myself so many times. The Lord works miracles and opens windows and doors. I realize we've only known each other a couple of weeks, but look how it worked out."

"We both work at Mode and spend our time in Manhattan," she said.

**Short But Sweet** continued on page 8

**Short But Sweet** continued from page 7

"God's fixed it so we have time to get to know each other better, but. . .to be honest, I know I've fallen in love with you."

"And I love you, Paul. You're the key to my heart."

A tenor's voice drifted across the water, his love song intermingled with the music of a concertina while Paul drew Steffi into his arms and kissed her. His heart surged with the feeling of her lips on his and the beating her heart against his chest. God had guided them to find each other and opened the doors of their hearts.

Although some novellas do end with the promise of marriage, many do not. The end decision is whether or not the hero and heroine have had enough overall time in their lives to make a marital promise that is God pleasing. Old friends brought together or a failed relationship renewed could prompt a marriage proposal by the story's end as long as the past issues have been resolved.

The final scene in "All Good Gifts" offers a commitment of love, and an epilogue shows the wedding two years later.

Wrapped in Ryan's arms, he looked into her eyes. "Remember when we talked up north about autumn's promise and Thanksgiving blessings."

Tess nodded.

"This is it, Tess."

"All good gifts come from the Lord," she said.

He kissed her hair. "And you are one of my greatest gifts. I love you, Tess."

"I love you," she whispered.

Through the window, the drab December sun had brightened, and a stream of light radiated from a cloud like a promise. Home, family, love—God's gifts bound together in one man's arms, and that's exactly where she wanted to be.

Whether you write a novel or a novella, the important element is to leave your readers with tears in their eyes and a smile on their lips. Give them a story that grows from awareness to interest to attraction in a realistic manner, and then give them a happy ending.

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*Mid-Michigan member Gail Martin's first inspirational romance, Seasons, was released in November '98 and since then this prolific lady has turned out more than a dozen heart-warming and spiritually uplifting stories garnering a long list of prestigious awards including the 1996 Writer of the Year from the Detroit Conference of The American Christian Writers, the 2001 Holt Medallion, Romantic Times Best Love Inspired of 2002, Book of the Year Award for short inspirational from the American Christian Romance Writers Conference - October 2002, 2003 - 1st place in the Winter Rose for short inspirational. Her novel, Adam's Promise, received the 2005 Booksellers Best Award. Gail is also a popular speaker and workshop presenter.*

*The following article appeared in the February 2006 issue of The Heartline Herald, newsletter of the New Jersey Romance Writers (NJRW). USED WITH PERMISSION*

## **Write What You Know**

***By Irene Peterson***

Secret government agencies. Ranching. Diamond mines in Canada. Regency England. Russian mafia or any mafia. Murder. Mayhem. Movie stars. Living large or living in squalor.

Have you ever read a book with any of these topics right smack in the middle of the story? Did you turn to the back inside cover to get a look at the author? Was she ragged, unkempt, really old and ugly? Did she look as if she wrote what she knew?

I bet not. I bet she looked really glamorous and her hair was beautifully done. Maybe she had on a gown or diamonds wrapped around her neck. I bet she didn't look as if she'd slept under a wagon while crossing the Scottish Highlands, did she? Yet her story was completely believable, and you loved it because you thought she really knew what she wrote about.

Write what you know.

What you ask? What do I know? I'm just a housewife from New Jersey or (fill in your state) and my life is bor-ing. Why do you think I read romance novels?

Hold on. Your life is boring? You don't think people could possibly want to read about what you know?

Wrong. You know plenty. You've lived with a man. That's a world of lessons in itself. If you've had children, that's an incredible mine of information and drama. Your friends have suffered through all sorts of weirdness with their mates, parents, business associates. All sorts of horrendous things have happened to them, and you've listened to their tales of hardship and adventure.

Remember that poor woman in the doctor's office who had to tell you she only had a few months to live and went on to describe her various illnesses? Remember the woman in the grocery store who commented on a story in one of the tabloids and told you about the time she saw a flying saucer? How about some of those horrid yet amusing family stories passed down through the generations at Thanksgiving dinner?

Even if you think you don't live a glamorous, exciting, interesting life, you've been surrounded with things you know that make a story better, more realistic. That story about when your great uncle exploded a cow with a firecracker in its ear. That could make people cringe in a story. The time your best friend ended up in a hot tub with the president's wife and daughter while in Hawaii. That would work in some story, some time. How did she feel? What was it like? She told you all about it. The whole event was so vivid it was almost your own.

If you use these experiences, toss them around in your head, add them to color a story or make it part of the heroine's background, they will enrich the character and perhaps fill out a gap in action that will leave a lasting impression on the reader.

*Write What You Know continued on page 10*

*Write What You Know* continued from page 9

Confession time. I've never employed a PI. My character in GLORY DAYS is a PI. The heroine works in a coffee shop. That I've done. She was born in New Jersey and so was I. They both reside in Asbury Park, and I've been there. The feeling I got driving down the deserted streets set the mood for the book. I've never met a gangster, but they show up in the book, too. I have met people who swear they have relatives who are in the mob. While it scared me, I filed the information away to use sometime. Sure enough, I used it in my book.

Every time you speak with people, they hand you information you can use somewhere, in some interesting way in your own writing. Listen to people. Listen to your kids. Listen to your husband and mother and grandparents.

Their little stories can be used to make your own story. You don't have to live it to write what you know. You'd be surprised what you already do know. It's your job to assimilate this and make a good story.

Write. Write every day. Ask questions. Remember facial expressions. File away those little phrases people come out with that sound different. Make use of them to bring your characters to life. Listen and observe. Write notes for later use. Write every single day you can. Send stuff out. Meet with other writers.

Finish the damn book and start another one.

*Irene Peterson is a product of Central Jersey where all the pools are above-ground and all the front doors come from Home Depot. She has never wanted to do anything but entertain folks with her writing. Glory Days is her first novel.*



### MMRWA 2006 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 MMRWA MEETING SCHEDULE (Tentative)

<b>MARCH 18</b>	<b>Grand Rapids</b>
<b>APRIL 21-23</b>	<b>Retreat at St. Ives</b>
<b>MAY 20</b>	<b>Kalamazoo</b>
<b>JUNE 17</b>	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>AUGUST 19</b>	<b>Lansing</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 16</b>	<b>Grand Rapids</b>
<b>OCTOBER 21</b>	<b>Portage Library</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 18</b>	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Christmas party in Lansing</b>



**Non-members seeking information about Mid-Michigan RWA, our meetings, and joining our chapter may email our membership chair at [members@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto: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](http://www.midmichiganrwa.org) and learn all about us.**



### **DIRECTIONS TO THE MARCH MEETING**

**Sayfee's Restaurant**  
3555 Lake Eastbrook Boulevard SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Phone number: 616-989-5750

#### **Directions:**

**From the East (Lansing):** Follow I-96 to the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Exit, Exit 43A (toward M-11/Kent County Airport). Merge onto 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE. Go 2 miles to turn Right onto Lake Eastbrook Boulevard. Sayfee's is a half mile down on the Right hand side.

**From the South (Kalamazoo):** Follow US-131 N toward Grand Rapids to the MI-11/28<sup>th</sup> Street exit, Exit #81 (toward Wyoming). Turn Right onto MI-11/28<sup>th</sup> Street SW and go 5 miles. Turn Left onto MI-37/E Beltline Avenue SE and go 0.1 miles. Turn Right and go 0.1 miles. Turn slight Left and go 0.2 miles. Turn Right onto Lake Eastbrook Boulevard SE. Sayfee's is 0.1 mile down on the Left hand side.

**From the Southeast (Jackson):** Follow US-127 N to the US-127/I-96 Merger (becomes I-96 W). Take I-96 W to the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Exit, Exit 43A (toward M-11/Kent County Airport). Merge onto 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE. Go 2 miles to turn Right onto Lake Eastbrook Boulevard. Sayfee's is a half mile down on the Right hand side.

#### **REVISED DIRECTIONS for those coming from the south/southwest area of the state. Here they are:**

Go NORTH on 131 to Exit #77 (which is the M-6 exit)  
Go EAST toward Lansing  
Take Exit #15 (Ford Airport/M-37/GR/Hastings exit)  
Turn LEFT (which is NORTH) on M-37 (also called Broadmoor out there)  
Drive about 5 miles straight north. You'll come to a stop light at 29th St. Keep going north through the second light (28th St), to the 3rd stoplight (Lake Eastbrook Blvd). The east entrance to Woodland Mall will be the left turn. You'll see Penny's to your left, too.  
Turn RIGHT (EAST) on Lake Eastbrook Blvd.  
Sayfee's is on the LEFT (NORTH side of the street), about 1/4 of a mile from the light, across from Nordstrom Rack in the Eastpoint Mall.

## CONTESTS

**Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux**

Check out Contest Alert-All the news on upcoming contests, plus Finalist & Winner listings, questions, etc. Sign up now! [ContestAlert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ContestAlert-subscribe@yahoogroups.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.

E = Electronic Format Available

MO = Members Only

P = Published

three years

Pnr = Published, but not by RWA standards

PC = Not published in category selected

EO = Electronic Only

U = Unpublished

P/3 = Not published in

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>

The Madcap Award (P - Pnr)  
Heart & Scroll RWA  
Received by April 1, 2006  
Copyright of 2005  
[http://www.heartandscroll.com/contest\\_Madcap.htm](http://www.heartandscroll.com/contest_Madcap.htm)

Touched by Love (U - P/3)  
Faith, Hope & Love RWA  
Received by April 1, 2006  
Up to first 30 pages + one page unjudged synopsis  
<http://www.faithhopelove-rwa.org/contests.htm#tbl>

The Royal Ascot (U - P/5 - Pnr)  
Beau Monde Chapter  
Postmarked by April 1, 2006  
Beginning and synopsis not to exceed 30 pgs.  
<http://thebeaumonde.com/royalascot/>

The Shelia (U - P/5 - Pnr)  
Valley Forge Romance Writers  
Postmarked by April 1, 2006  
Beginning + synopsis (up to 7 pages) not to exceed 35 pgs.  
[http://www.vfrw.com/contest\\_entry.htm](http://www.vfrw.com/contest_entry.htm)

Spring Into Romance (U - P/3)  
RWA San Diego  
Received by April 7, 2006  
First thirty pages.  
<http://www.rwasd.com/>

Orange Rose for Unpublished (U - P/5)  
Orange County Chapter RWA  
Received by April 8, 2006  
Synopsis + beginning not to exceed 55 pages.  
<http://www.occrwa.com/contestold.htm>

We Dare You  
Saskatchewan Romance Writers  
Postmarked May 15, 2006  
First twelve pages  
<http://www.saskromancewriters.4t.com/>

TARA (U)  
Tampa Area Romance Authors  
Received by April 10, 2006  
The first chapter, up to 25 pages, including prologue, if applicable.  
<http://tara.writerspace.com/firstimpress.htm>

Texas Gold (P)  
RWA - East Texas Chapter  
Received by April 15, 2006  
Copyright of 2005  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~ralsobrook/texgold.htm>

Contests continued on page 13

Contests continued from page 12

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.grrrrwa.org/contest.html](http://www.grrrrwa.org/contest.html)

Indiana's Golden Opportunity (U  
- Pnr)  
Deadline May 17, 2006  
Total entry (manuscript +  
synopsis) not to exceed 55  
pages.  
[http://home.insightbb.com/~irwa/  
contest/contest.htm](http://home.insightbb.com/~irwa/contest/contest.htm).

Haunted Hearts (U - P/5 - Pnr)  
Gothic Romance Writers  
Received by May 31, 2006  
First chapter + one page  
synopsis not to exceed 26 pages.  
[http://www.gothrom.org/hhguideli  
nes.html](http://www.gothrom.org/hhguidelines.html).

### **2006 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers**

**President:** Wil Emerson      **Secretary:** Cathy McClain, [info@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:info@midmichiganrwa.org)  
**Vice-president:** Laurie Kuna **Treasurer:** Lisa Childs Theeuwes, [treasurer@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:treasurer@midmichiganrwa.org)

### **2006 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Committee Chairs**

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