

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

The Mid-Michigan Mirror



A Reflection of Romance

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

Volume I: Issue 4

May 2003

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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April Meeting at Retreat

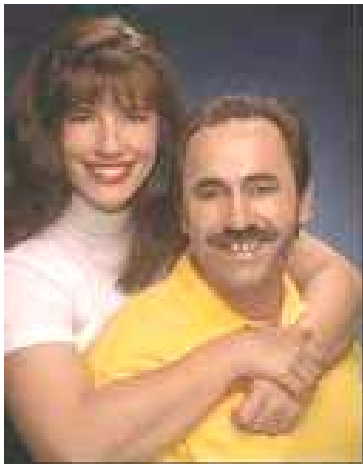
On April 25-27, instead of our April meeting, Mid-Michigan will meet at fabulous St. Ives Resort, Stanwood, Michigan, for our annual spring **Retreat From Harsh Reality**. Our guest

speaker is **Ruth Ryan Langan**, award-winning and best-selling author of seventy published novels and five time RITA finalist.

Besides fun, games and delicious food, we'll enjoy expert workshops, muse sessions, and one on one critiquing. There will be an open to the public book sale/book signing by many of our talented authors.

Proceeds from our wild and wonderful book-basket raffle/ auction go to the [Kalamazoo YWCA Domestic Assault Program](#).

Sunday morning we'll wind up our retreat with our monthly business meeting and depart refreshed and inspired.



The May 17 Mid-Michigan meeting is at Gilberts in Jackson.

Special guest speakers are the writing team of Tony and Lori Karayianni AKA **Tori Carrington**. Tony and Lori write steamy novels for Silhouette and Harlequin in the Temptation, Special Edition, and Blaze lines.

They have been nominated for Ritas in the short contemporary category for their April '02 Temptation **PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS**, and in the long contemporary category for their November '02 Silhouette Special Edition **WHAT A WOMAN WANTS**, so you'll definitely see them at RWA National in N.Y. this year!

But, before all that...we get 'em! You'll have a chance to ask this hot duo how they kept their marriage in spite of rewrites and revisions. LOL!

We could be totally jealous because they're gorgeous, prolific, and their career is on the fast track, but you have to be happy for them because they are just "good people"!

A book signing is in the works, but not solid at this time.

Pat Lazarus, Vice President



The Write Stuff . . .

Spring is here at last, but Old Man Winter hasn't given up yet. He's still throwing fits--the occasional snow shower, killer frost, howling wind--anything to hold back the change of seasons.

Old Man Winter isn't the only one resisting change. People resist change, too, especially if it's outside our comfort zone. Change can be daunting, even downright scary. It takes courage for some of us to try something new, while others are able to embrace change and go with the flow.

I know from personal experience how scary change can be, especially when it involves computers. When my husband brought home our first computer system, I was afraid to go near it. Every time I did, I was sure I would press the wrong key, and the dang thing would explode in my face. My young sons knew more about computers than I did, and they were fearless. That was humbling. I finally decided to sign up for basic computer courses at Lansing Community College. My main motivation was to learn word processing, as I was the worst and slowest typist in the known world. I had no expectation of becoming computer literate. The courses were a revelation. I gained confidence and discovered abilities I didn't know I had. I fell in love with my computer and became a middle-aged computer geek. I changed in spite of myself.

Recently, MMRWA underwent a number of changes. At our March 2003 meeting, we voted to hold a contest. Last year, we voted to move Retreat to a gorgeous new location, the St. Ives Resort. We elected a new Board of Directors. We appointed a new newsletter editor, Annette Briggs. And, at the end of last year, the chapter made two important changes to streamline the way it does business.

We created an additional list serve, the announcement-only MMRWABUSINESS, for the sole purpose of posting Board decisions, chapter bulletins, meeting minutes, meeting notices, and for online storage of important chapter documents. Other chapters do this. It provides a choice to those who want only chapter business news and the ability to limit the amount of their email. By providing online access to chapter documents, printing and postage costs to the chapter are eliminated and document updates are available to members instantaneously.

At our September, 2002 meeting, our former newsletter editor Nancy Gideon reported that nearly every chapter newsletter has gone to the online format. We decided, beginning in January of 2003, to publish the ***Mid-Michigan Mirror*** online. Aside from saving on printing and postage, we are able to do things with the newsletter online that we weren't able to do in the printed format, such as increase the length and incorporate links to various websites of interest.

Not everyone in our chapter is comfortable with these changes. A few suggested that we eliminate the business list and online file storage and go back to printing and mailing out the newsletter and chapter documents. Doing that would negate the printing and postage savings to our treasury, and in light of some of our recently-voted expenditures, would undoubtedly necessitate a hike in our annual dues.

Change takes getting used to. It has only been a few months, hardly time enough to work out all the kinks in our new endeavors. Eventually, it will work for everyone. We just need to give it more time. We're still in discovery mode. Some of us have taken to the changes like the proverbial ducks to water. Others are still learning and trying to muddle through.

For those who are comfortable around computers, but who have an occasional computer question, WoWTechnology, a Yahoo Group, could be the answer. This list serve is a resource for information about computer technology, the Web, the Internet, and publishing technology.

(To subscribe, send a message to WoWTechnology-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). For those who are still muddling, and who would appreciate help on a more basic scale, perhaps our chapter should consider creating an online computer tech help group of our own, moderated by our own computer-savvy members. If anyone would be interested in volunteering to start up a new MMRWA list serve for that purpose, please contact me (jlmiersen@cablespeed.com).

Let's keep in mind that progress isn't made by going back, only by moving forward. If we, as writers, want to remain competitive in the world of publishing, we must keep up with the times. We must learn to embrace change, not fight it. We need to make the computer and the Internet our friends, not our enemies.

So try putting a different kind of romance in your life. Learn to love your computer, and it will love you back. Figuratively speaking, of course. ☺

Lana Miersen, President



Happy May Birthdays

Alice Weidner 1
Leila Davis 21
Nancy Gideon 27

Rohn Federbush 27
Susan Crouse 28
Loralee Lillibridge 30



Energy Touch Healing

Tricia Eldridge enlightened members of the March MMRWA meeting about the depths and dimensions of her energy healing practice. Tricia is a graduate of the Barbara Brennan School of Healing and the Kalamazoo Center for the Healing Arts. Since 1999 her personal spiritual guide has instructed her to become aware of realms outside the auric field. She learned how to work with viruses and disease in the energetic field to affect healing in the physical bodies of her patients. Tricia works internationally, assisting clients with a variety of diseases and physical ailments and is a periodic guest healer at the Inner Wellbeing Center in Montreal, Canada.

As a prospective author of her own book, Tricia generously shared several of her reference titles with the group. "Animal Speak" by Ted Andrews, "Light Emerging" by Barbara Ann Brennan, "The Ancient Secret of the Flow of Life, Vol. 1," by Drunvalo Melchigeslek, and "Hands of Light" by Barbara Ann Brennan.

Tricia told us about her childhood experiences as a psychic and a Methodist minister who encouraged her to follow her curiosity. Nowadays her grandchildren freely express their visions and powers without Tricia's censure. She approached the Barbara Brennan School confidently

aware of her ability to identify fraud. After four years of training, Tricia began practicing energy healing with astounding results, which will be published in her upcoming book.

Her talk was awe-inspiring. Another member and I hope to visit the Barbara Brennan School at our earliest opportunity. In the meantime you all might profit by visiting the website of www.barbarabrennan.com

Rohn Federbush, Secretary



The Business of Writing, An Inside View: Part Two

From Mid-Michigan's published authors



Gail Martin's perspective:

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

The biggest surprise was the amount of time and energy it takes to be an author. Besides writing and submitting, an author soon learns that her life is taken over by line edits and promotion—web site events, book signings, personal appearances, requesting book reviews, making author review copies, preparing brochures and bookmarks, and keeping up a website.

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

The most important rule of etiquette is to respect an editor even when you disagree. Don't make demands, expect preferential treatment, expect early responses to your submissions, expect a personal rejection, or overuse his/her telephone number or email address. These people have hundreds of submissions piled on their desks and they have a life. Give them time and then query with a letter or a postcard

What were you least prepared for?

The first thing I was least prepared for was how quickly I sold my first novel. I'd only written one year before I sold and then continued to sell rapidly. The next surprise was how writing controls my life and changes my lifestyle. I've given up a tremendous amount of social life and outside activities to spend my time on this career. Finally—how name recognition affects my life. I'm contacted by people from all over and asked to speak, to do workshops, or to tell them where they can get my books. I meet people in so many unusual places who tell me they've read my novels.

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

What helped me the most going into my writing: was my organization skills and my persistence. I keep great records, organize story information, and regulate my time during the day. People always ask how I can write so many novels a year, and it's due to my organizational skills. Persistence helps me know that I can't stop growing as an author. I'm constantly trying to

perfect my craft, to learn new skills, to improve the ones I have. If a writer thinks he knows everything, he's doomed to fall on his face.

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

My advice is to accept criticism, especially when it comes from more than one person. I said it earlier. We all have to hone our craft--which includes workshops, study through reading novels and reading books on writing. We also must read the guidelines and novels from the genre and lines in which we want to submit. Nothing turns an editor off faster than seeing immediately that you have no idea what they publish. So, study your craft and study the lines.



From Arlene Hodapp's experience:

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

The total lack of control I had over a book once I sent in the manuscript. Title, pen name, line editing, copyediting, cover art, cover blurb, distribution, etc.

Laurie Kuna Carroll's point of view:

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

I knew this from observing the multi-published authors in our group: Being published is hard work. When you're unpublished, your whole concern is on writing for publication. Once you're published, your concern is not only with continuing to write and be published, but you've got to promote the book(s) you've got out.



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

Don't hawk a hairball onto an editor or agent's lap. Seriously, respect a writer's-agent's-editor's personal space. If s/he is having drinks with some friends, approach cautiously if at all. Unless you've got some previous connection to that person --like she was a Retreat speaker and you've emailed her about something she's an expert on-- don't intrude on a private event.

What were you least prepared for?

Two things: suggestions by my friends for sequels to the book I've got out, and fan mail. (I've actually only gotten a handful of letters, but they really blew me away.)

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

MMRWA and watching the true pros go about their careers.

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

If you're not writing what you want to write, then stop immediately. Don't ever write something because someone else thinks you should; write what you enjoy or the writing will be stiff and boring and you won't be happy either with it or with yourself.



Many thanks to Arleen Hodapp, Laurie Kuna, and Gail Martin for their Insider Views in this May Mid-Michigan Mirror

And

Thanks to Rosanne Bittner, Lisa Childs, Flavia Crouner, Nancy Fraser, Alison Hart, and Aileen Hyne, and for sharing their Insider Views on these questions in our March/April Issue.

The June issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror will feature Inside Views of Diane Burton, Wil Emerson, Dana Nussio, and Jean Drew.



The Importance of Maintaining Your Member Profile



By: Nancy Fraser, RWA Secretary/MMRWA Member

Over the past couple of months it has come to the Board's attention that while a large portion of the membership of RWA has accessed Members Only Section of the RWA website there are still many members who have never reviewed their member profile. It's certainly not a requirement of your membership but, rather, a benefit for your use. Your profile includes what RWA believes to be your most current address, phone number, e-mail address, GH/RITA judging preferences, chapter affiliations and a host of other important information. The office in Houston bases our membership roster on the information provided in the profile and uses the e-mail address there to send out blanket e-mail membership information, e.g., last year's proxy voting forms.

How important IS the profile information? Hmm ... that could probably be best answered by a recent GH finalist that almost DIDN'T get the call. She'd changed phone numbers since she'd entered the contest and hadn't provided the new number to the office. She'd also changed her e-mail provider. In neither instance had she updated her personal profile. Had it not been for the fact that she shares a chapter with one of our Board members we might not have had a way to reach her before publication of the finalist list.

The process for reviewing/updating the profile is simple. First, you go to the website at RWANational.com (.org will work as well). Then, select the bar titled "Members Only". If

you've never been to the member's only section, you will have to log in using a pre-determined password. To log in for the first time, follow these directions:

1. Under the first field enter your membership number. If you're uncertain of your membership number, it can be found on your RWR mailing label.
2. The second field asks for a password. Your pre-determined password is comprised of the first four letters of your last name and your membership number, e.g., fras0000.

These two simple steps will get you into the Members Only section. Once there, you can access your personal profile. The system will guide you through the process of updating any incorrect information. I would also suggest that you change your password so that your personal site is secure.

Every once in a while the computer has a brain-fart and refuses access. If you have a problem, please do not hesitate to contact the RWA office at info@rwanational.com.



Member News

Chris Allen-Riley: Working on a contemporary and a paranormal. Sent a manuscript to Mary-Theresa Hussey at Silhouette.

Jennifer Armintrout: preparing my first chapter and synopsis of my paranormal for a contest.

Dawn Bartley: still writing!

Rosanne Bittner: Had a new Forge hardcover out in March, *Into the Valley*, as well as a paperback of *Into the Wilderness*. I'm almost finished with my first inspirational for Steele Hill, *Where Heaven Begins*. Signed two new contracts for Forge and Harlequin.

Annette Briggs: contemplating which contest to enter next.

Diane Burton: submitted partial to Bombshell; did an author's tea April 12 at the Golden Rose Restaurant in Okemos.

Lisa Cardle: back to work on paranormal after unexpected 2 month hiatus.

Sue Charnley: had a request from an agent for a full manuscript.

Jodi Lynn Copeland: Coming Soon to Ellora's Cave is Jodi's, *Uncharted Waters*.

Flavia Crowner: Presented a workshop at her local library for Young Authors Week. Presented at Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Literacy Week. *Pie Pantry* and *Working an Herbal Garden*, the second in my Sunny Farnum series was released in March.

Rohn Federbush: submitting to contests to Harlequin and starting new contemporary.

Lori Feenstra: preparing my entry for "The Molly."

Jackie Braun Fridline: my book, *True Love, Inc.* is a Rita finalist. You could have knocked me over with a feather!

Peg Hanchar: working on a historical and starting a new contemporary.

Michele Hickerty: working on a contemporary and still awaiting word on my manuscript from AVON.

Shar Koenig: third novel in my YA mystery series, was due out on St. Patrick's Day. Also, the spinoff cookbook, *Is This Really Good, Or Am I Just Starved?* Was released in March.

Lucy Kubash: working on an entry for Haunted Hearts Contest.

Tammy Kearly: I week away from finishing a single title, sending queries and proposals out for it.

Laurie Kuna: a bit of writing, but more unpacking.

Pat Lazarus: not much writing, working on two covers and a song for retreat.

Loralee Lillibridge: finishing a proposal of a mystery series for Pocket—doing research for lighthouses in Michigan.

Melissa Ford Lucken: New contract from Hard Shell for *Four Weeks*, a contemporary romance.

Gail Martin: just returned from staffing a 5 day conference in Asheville, North Carolina. I was asked to launch a high suspense continuity series, Faith on the Line, for Steeple Hill Love Inspired. *Adam's Promise* will be released July 2004. Sold romance, *Out On A Limb*, to Barbour's Heartsong Presents line to be released May 2004. *Loving Treasures* received 3rd place in inspirational in the Blue Boa Contest sponsored by Pennsylvania's RWA Chapter. *A Love for Safekeeping* tied for 1st place in inspirational in the Texas Winter Rose Contest. I'm also a finalist in the inspirational category for the Holt Medallion. May 2-4th I'll teach two workshops at the Smoky Mountain Romance Writers Conference in Knoxville.

Lana Miersen: contacted Lucienne Diver of Spectrum Literary Agency, final round judge of the Suzannah. She asked to see a complete of *Falcon's Way*.

Kathleen Nance: submitted a new proposal and am working on another.

Marsha Ransom: taking an online journalism course through Central Michigan University and Michigan Press Association. (It's being paid for by MPA.) I'm writing for two local newspapers and finally seeing the light to work on my contemporary romance again. Thanks to Kathleen Nance for a good critique.

Victoria Schab: Dorchester is still considering my manuscript (since 11/ 2001), working on a contemporary.

Juli Schuitema: finishing synopsis and query letter; preparing submission to TOR.

Maris Soule: still writing.

Cheryl Steimel: concurrently working on two books, alternating each week, writing a chapter a week.

DeAnna Talcott: waiting to hear on a proposal/synopsis. Cupid Jones made top 20, will be on eHarlequin Spotlight.

Lisa Childs-Theeuwes: Won the first two contests I entered: the Lories and the Blue Boa and am still celebrating. I'm waiting to hear on proposals from a new editor.



Sincere condolences to Dickee Six on the recent loss of her husband.

MMRWA Authors Invited to Tea

The **Golden Rose Restaurant at Okemos** hosted the "**Meet the Authors Tea**" on April 12. Featured were three of our MMRWA authors: **Diane Burton, Laurie Carroll Kuna, and Melissa Ford Lucken**. Each of our ladies spoke in turn about herself, how she became a writer, and about her books (which were available for purchase and signing). All gave a very good account of themselves, delighted their audience -- and sold books!

It was a delightfully civilized and delicious afternoon, and I wish more of our members could have been there to enjoy it. However, as your president, I did my best to enjoy it for all of you who couldn't be there. Just ask Diane, Melissa, Laurie, and my bathroom scale.
Lana Miersen :-)

Finalist

Our Korean connection, Jennifer Smith, is also a GH finalist in the Paranormal category.

Conferences

Keynote update for the **Beau Monde Conference** to be held in New York July 16th, 2003. We regret that Mary Balogh has had to bow out as our keynote speaker due to unforeseen circumstances. We are very excited to announce that Julia Quinn has graciously stepped in to provide our keynote address. Julia is the New York Times best selling author of *The Further Observations of Mrs. Whistledown*, *An Offer From a Gentleman* and *Romancing Mister Bridgerton*, which has been voted one of RWA's Top Ten Favorite Books of the Year 2002.

Please join the Beau Monde Special Interest Chapter in New York for "Ladies, Gentlemen, Servants and Arts & Letters of the Regency," the 2003 Beau Monde conference will be held in New York at the Hilton, New York, on July 16th, 2003.

We are pleased to announce Julia Quinn as our Keynote speaker this year. Other confirmed presenters include: Candice Hern, Gail Eastwood, Jo Ann Ferguson, Liz Carlyle, Regina Scott, Susannah Carleton, Victoria Hinshaw and William Haggart.

In addition to the Three tracks of workshops the day includes: Luncheon; A refreshing spot of tea and treats. (The silent auction will be held at this time.) Later that night we will hold the Regency Soiree with cards, dancing, gossip, and presentation of the Royal Ascot winners. (Last year we were pleased to announce a three-way-tie. All three winners received two book contracts.

Early Bird Fee until May 15: \$125 Beau Monde members, \$135 non-Beau Monde members.
After May 15, 2003: \$140 Beau Monde members, \$150 non-Beau Monde members. After June 15, 2003 through morning of Conference: \$150 Beau Monde Members, \$175 non-Beau Monde members. Soiree is included in full conference price.

Soiree only \$25 Registering before July 1st, \$30 after July 1st and at the door.

FMI, contact Gabrielle Pantera, 109 Bayside Court, Richmond, CA 94804,

gap@MovieEditor.com Website: www.thebeaumonde.com

Hope to see you there! Gabrielle Pantera, president elect the Beau Monde and editorial advisor for the Quizzing Glass

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Silken Sands 2003 Conference

Silken Sands presented by the Gulf Coast Romance Writers is coming sooner than you think. Make plans to join Award-Winning Authors Katherine Sutcliffe, Gayle Wilson, and Vicki Hinze at White Sands Resort, Gulf Shores, Alabama, April 25th - 27th. Workshops, Editor and Agent Appointments, Book Fair & signing.

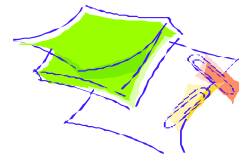
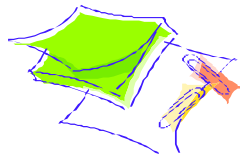
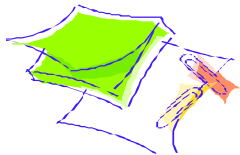
Fee: \$125 - \$150 after April 1st -- Includes all Workshops and Appointments, Friday Evening Luau (cash bar), Saturday Breakfast, Box Lunch, Evening Banquet, and Sunday Breakfast and Book Fair.

Hotel Rates are \$74.95 Standard; Gulf Front \$104.95

You could Win! Agent & Editor Critique \$5 Raffle Tickets. Bring the first 30 pages of your manuscript in case you are one of the lucky winners in our Agent & Editor Critiques Raffle. Winners will have their manuscripts read and a 15 minute critique session with the editor/agent of their choice.

For more information, contact Fran McNabb mcnabbf@bellsouth.net ...

or visit the website at www.gccrwa.com Permission to cross-post to loops/forward is granted



Contests

10th Annual Ignite the Flame Contest

Central Ohio Fiction Writers, RWA #48, is seeking entries for the 10th Annual ITF contest.

Contest winners' entries will be read by top editors:

Erotic romance: Cindy Hwang, Berkely Jove
Romantic Comedy: Wanda Ottewell, Harlequin
Romantic Suspense: Miranda Stecyk, Mira
Contemporary/Single Title: Kelly Harms, Avon
Paranormal: Chris Keeslar, Dorchester
Historical: Melissa Endlich, Harlequin

Entrants must be unpublished in book length fiction.

Need: four copies of your hero & heroine's first meeting, up to 15pages (you can include a one-page set up if you choose).

Entry fees: \$20, COFW members; \$25, non-COFW members.

Deadlines: Entries must be postmarked by MAY 1, 2003--Winners will be notified by August 31, 2003.

For more information: email: Julie Glista: summerlvr88@hotmail.com

(OR)

Carla Johnson: johnson.722@osu.edu

(OR)

Check out our website at www.cofw.org <<http://www.cofw.org/>> for an entry form, rules, and judging questionnaire.

Posted by: Karin Gall, Newsletter Co-Editor, Central Ohio Fiction Writers (COFW), RWA #48

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11th Annual 2003 First Impressions Contest

Sponsored by Tampa Area Romance Authors (TARA) for unpublished authors

Fee: \$25/Deadline: May 1, 2003.

Enter the prologue and first chapter of your unpublished mss. up to 20 pages (short synopsis is optional and will not be scored)

Categories include: Historical, Short Contemporary, Long Contemporary, Romantic Suspense (NEW CATEGORY), Inspirational, Single Title, Paranormal and Women's Fiction (NEW CATEGORY)

Trained judges, both published and unpublished

FINAL ROUND JUDGES ARE ACTIVELY ACQUIRING EDITORS

For detailed entry guidelines and additional information see our website:

<http://tara.writerspace.com> or send SASE to Tara First Impressions Contest

17255 Constance Lane, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Email Contest Coordinator at Vczaja@msn.com

Please feel free to pass this information on to other loops

Orange Rose Contest for Unpublished Writers

Orange County Chapter

Postmark Deadline: May 1, 2003

Synopsis, beginning of manuscript (55 pages Max)

http://www.occrwa.com/unpub_rules.html

Share The Dream

Scriptscene Chapter

Postmark Deadline May 9, 2003

First 15 pages of your screenplay

<http://www.geocities.com/rewrit2002/entryform.html>

The Molly 2003

Sponsored by the Heart of Denver Romance Writers, the Molly honors excellence in aspiring romance writers in six categories: short contemporary, long contemporary, single title contemporary, historical, inspirational, and paranormal/time travel.

There are three rounds of judging - with the second round judged by published authors, and the third round by these fabulous editors:

Brenda Chin- Harlequin, Short Contemporary;
Allison Lyons-Silhouette, Long Contemporary;
Kelly Harms-Avon, Single title;
Cindy Hwang-Berkley, Historical

Synopsis, 5 pages max. First chapter, 30 pages max.

Received by May 10, 2003

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

For eleven years, Northwest Houston Romance Writers of America, the Original Chapter of RWA, has been holding the **Lone Star Writing Competition**, a first chapter contest with a consistent record of connecting writers with their future editors. Known for its high caliber of feedback and challenge, the Lone Star Competition allows not only unpublished writers, but any author not published in a particular category for the past five years to enter that category. The result? A blind contest that more closely emulates the editor's desk--and more finalists who sell their books. In the preliminary round, each entry will be judged by 3 qualified judges, at least two of whom have published in book length romance fiction.

Final round entries will be judged by New York romance editors, including:

Stephanie Maurer, Silhouette Books: Contemporary Series
Adriana Nova, Ballantine/Ivy: Single Title Contemporary
Ann Leslie Tuttle, Harlequin, New York: Historical/Regency
Christina Boys, Pocket Books: Romantic Suspense
Marsha Bushko, Berkley/Jove: Paranormal/Futuristic/Time Travel
Joan Marlow Golan, Steeple Hill: Inspirational

Entry Deadline: June 13th, 2002

Entry Fee: \$30.00 (\$20.00 for NW Houston members)

Top Prize: MICA Award.

FMI, entry form and rules, send SASE to Jo Anne Banker, P.O. Box 980758,

Houston, TX 77098-0758, phone 713.523.3549, email skpr@airmail.net or visit our Web site at:
<http://nwhrwa.freesevers.com>.

Lowcountry RWA is very pleased to announce the **2003 Jasmine Contest** for unpublished writers. Please note there have been several exciting new categories added to the Jasmine this year! Also note that we only use published authors as judges. Deadline is May 15, plenty of time for your members to get their entries in. Here are the basics:

The **Jasmine Contest** has two rounds. Deadline for first round entries is May 15th, 2003

We now have 11 categories:

1. Series contemporary (Long & Short)
2. Single Title contemporary romance
3. Mainstream fiction with romantic elements
4. Romantic suspense
5. Erotic romance
6. Inspirational romance
7. Short historical
8. Long historical
9. Regency
10. F/F/P/TT (paranormal)
11. Southern Theme

ALL judges are published authors and editors.

The Jasmine Contest offers entrants an in-depth scoring sheet to see exactly where problems lie, plus judges are encouraged to write directly on the entries, which are returned. Finalist entries are judged individually as an editor would, and not against each other. Top prize for each category is the new Jasmine Medallion, a certificate, and a mention in the RWR. Finalists receive a certificate and mention in the RWR.

Each finalist will receive a FINALIST sticker for their chapter or national badge.

Please note that, should not enough entries arrive to fill a category, that category will be dropped and entries moved to their second choice category. I will send a second email containing an attached entry form and rules. But fyi, forms and rules can also be found on our website: <http://www.lowcountryrwa.com/> or may be obtained by email from me NinaBruhns@aol.com. Snail mail: Nina Bruhns, POBox 2216, Summerville, SC 29484-2216. Editor finalist judges are still being gathered, but I'd be happy to share the names I already have, if your members are interested in a specific editor. Please specify category when requesting judges via email.

Thanks! Looking forward to seeing entries from your chapter members!!! Please feel free to post on your chapter loop, other writing loops, BB's, or forward to anyone you feel might be interested in entering! Thanks again! Nina, LRWA 2003 Contest Chair

Enter the **2003 Aspen Gold Contest!**

Sponsored by the Heart of Denver Romance Writers, the Aspen Gold honors excellence in romance writing in six categories: short contemporary, long contemporary, single title contemporary, historical, inspirational, and paranormal/time travel. There are two rounds of judging - the first by romance readers/writers, and the final round by authors published in romance - so this is a peer judged contest! Deadline for entry is May 12, 2003. Join HODRW at the same time, and you receive both a discount on membership and a discount entry! Check <http://www.hodrw.com/aspen.htm> or email Kathy Elbinger, ZBEEWMN@aol.com for more information on entering. Please forward this message to list where interested romance writers congregate! Good luck!
Diana Rowe Martinez diana@dianarowe.com

What's My Line

http://home.att.net/~jrock008/What_s_My_Line_Questions.html

If you're trying to break into romance writing via Harlequin/Silhouette, check out this website to see how your manuscript measures up:

From the First Draft list hosted by Donna Caubarreaux

Directions to Gilberts for MMRWA's May Meeting

Gilbert's Steak House
2323 Shirley Drive
I-94 and 127 North
Jackson, Michigan 49202
(517) 782-7135

Take I-94 to the US-127/M-50 exit- exit number 138- toward LANSING/JACKSON. 0.33 miles:

Take the ramp toward LANSING/CHARLOTTE. 0.11 miles

Merge onto MI-50 W/US-127 N. 0.34 miles

Take the exit toward SPRINGPORT RD. 0.16 miles

Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto SHIRLEY DR. 0.12 miles



Revised MMRWA Meeting and Speaker Schedule 2003

Month/Day	Restaurant, City	Speaker/Program
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	Gail Gaymer Martin
December	Christmas Party, TBA	Santa Claus

2003 Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America Officers

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j.l.miersen@cablespeed.com
Secretary: Rohn Federbush
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Vice-president: Pat Lazarus
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**Deadline for submissions to the June issue of Mid-Michigan Mirror is May 10.
Your input and submissions are welcome.**