



## April Meeting

By Shannon Canard

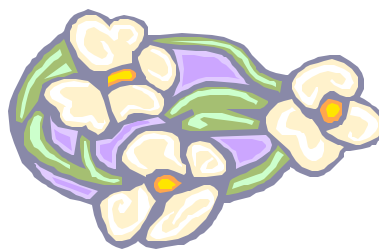
“This Little Book Went to Market, That Little Book Went Home” - a workshop by author, Sharon Mignerey

In this special two-hour workshop, members will learn how to analyze their books and target them to the correct market. Sharon will teach techniques to find the themes a writer really cares about; determine what's special about a writer's connection to the stories he or she wants to tell; and identify the elements common to the type of book in a writer's market.

The process Sharon has developed follows the assumptions that reading is

an important part of the creative process. She will show us how to breakdown the best and worst books we've ever read. Once we understand the frame of commercial fiction and the structure needed to be good storytellers, the more likely we are to write a novel that fits into the market place.

Sharon is a former technical writer from Colorado. She has written five books for Silhouette and this year, has two new releases with Steeple Hill and Love Inspired Suspense. Her single title release, A Sacred Trust published by Kensington, won the National Readers Choice Award in 1997. To visit Sharon on the Web, stop by: <http://sharonmignerey.com>



If you steal from one author, it's plagiarism;  
if you steal from many, it's research.

Wilson Mizner

### Inside this issue:

President's Corner	2
Feature Article	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Speaker Recap	5
Spotlight On...	7
Member News	8

### Special points of interest:

- *Many Happy Returns*, page 5
- *Poll Results*, page 6
- *Book Club News & Reviews*, page 8
- *PAN: In the Loop*, page 8
- *Classic Novels Word Search*, page 9
- *Jen's Journal*, page 10
- *The Truth About Publishing Myths*, page 11

## President's Corner

---

We have a great Spring line up of Speakers:

Don't forget our April Workshop featuring the Love Inspired and Silhouette Intrigue author Sharon Mignerey will be a longer format. Come comfortable and prepared to take in all the ups and downs of following a manuscript through the publishing process. If you haven't checked out Sharon's website, I recommend it.  
[www.sharonmignerey.com](http://www.sharonmignerey.com)

May will feature Bombshell author Cindy Dees on Writing the Military Hero. She should know. Cindy is a military hero. She's flown a list of missions longer than my arm. I could tell you, but ... you know the rest. Check out her website at [www.bombshellauthors.com](http://www.bombshellauthors.com) And don't forget to ask her about the belly dancing. <wink>

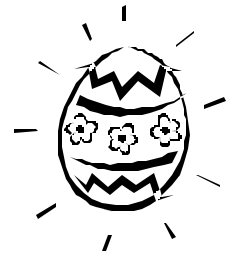
June is our Published Authors Round Table Critique, when our pubs agree to be corralled for the day and take a

look at the first ten pages of NT Member's manuscripts. This is a great opportunity to learn in a face-to-face environment. How many of us have tried unsuccessfully to understand those vague editor/agent rejections? A PAN member can help you put a finger on the elements missing from the work and give you a pat on the back for the things you're doing well. Who wouldn't want that? Better start polishing those first ten pages.

And don't forget our National Conference in Atlanta is coming up. Buy raffle tickets from our Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs if you'd like to win the conference fee reimbursement.

That's all for now.  
Happy Writing!

Sherry Davis  
President NTRWA



---

### 2006 Board Meetings

**The next board meeting will be May 20 at 9 am prior to the general meeting at La Hacienda Ranch Restaurant.**

**All general members are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

---

## 2006 NTRWA Board Members & Liaisons

---

◆ President  
Sherry Davis  
[csadavis@swbell.net](mailto:csadavis@swbell.net)

◆ Membership Director  
Carolyn Williamson  
[carolynwilliamson@charter.net](mailto:carolynwilliamson@charter.net)

◆ Newsletter Editor  
Jen FitzGerald  
[jen@stormsedge.com](mailto:jen@stormsedge.com)

◆ Vice President/Programs  
Shannon Canard  
[shannon\\_canard@hotmail.com](mailto:shannon_canard@hotmail.com)

◆ Recording Secretary  
Paula Wachter  
[paula\\_wachter@comcast.net](mailto:paula_wachter@comcast.net)

◆ PAN Liaison  
Juliet Burns  
[julietburns@comcast.net](mailto:julietburns@comcast.net)

◆ Treasurer  
Tara Waldie  
[waldie@flash.net](mailto:waldie@flash.net)

◆ Publicity Director  
Angi Platt  
[angiplatt@aol.com](mailto:angiplatt@aol.com)

◆ PRO Liaison  
Sandra Ferguson  
[sandraferguson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandraferguson@sbcglobal.net)

# Goals, Motivation, and Perseverance

---

By Sheri Adkins

GMC is for our characters—For Authors.... It's GMP!

As writers, we concentrate heavily on the goals, motivation, and conflict of our characters. Yet, perhaps we should be focusing some of that same wisdom on ourselves.

To succeed in this business we know we have to write on a regular basis—that means we have to have goals, and we need motivation, because there most certainly will be conflict (kids, laundry, work, husbands, errands—you name it). The way an author can overcome those all-too common conflicts is...perseverance.

The January meeting of COFW focused on how to use motivation and persistence to meet our goals in the New Year. Our first speaker was COFW member and contest chairperson, Beth Morrow. Beth offered the group a specific formula: visions plus deadlines equal goals. A vision will always remain in the future without a plan of action. Goals must be concrete, individual, and specific.

First, set a realistic, deadline-oriented goal. Then focus on how you are going to meet your goal, and not on the end result.

As creative writers, we often have a problem focusing our activities. Your behavior is the key to achieving your goal. Behavior is a skill you develop. Behaviors create a bridge between your goal and your actions. You need to modify your behavior in order to meet your goal. If your goal is to write 50 pages this week, try to figure out what in your past behavior has prevented you from accomplishing this. For example, if you are not writing consistently, then decide to develop a more stringent routine. Or if you see a behavior that is continuously obstructing your writing—such as if you have difficulty getting off the phone when friends or family call—decide to modify that behavior.

Be objective in evaluating your behavior; know your strengths and weaknesses in order to identify what behavior needs to be altered to successfully meet your intended goals.

The difference between a dream and a goal is what you do everyday. Your actions will determine the outcome of your goal. Actions are positive, realistic, and finite. Actions should have a deadline and are often kept in check by a support system.

You must lay out a plan of action: "I will write one page a day Monday through Friday" or "I will let the phone ring or the machine pick up during my writing time." Your actions will modify your behavior to meet your goal.

Our second speaker was Stephanie Shamroski, COFW president, who reinforced the importance of persevering until the goals are reached. We often have goals in the back of our minds, lingering there like cartoon bubbles. We have dreams and desires, but trying to transfer that dream into reality is where we get stuck.

*Continued on page 6...*

---

## Administration

**PAN** (Published Authors Network) is the name given to the discussion group intended to meet the needs of writers published or contracted to publish works in the romance genre.

**Heart to Heart** is published monthly by NTRWA, a non-profit organization founded in March of 1983 by aspiring and published writers of romance fiction.

**Heart to Heart** welcomes articles for publication in its monthly issues. Articles should contain fewer than 1000 words and pertain to matters of interest to romance writers.

**Heart to Heart** reserves the right to edit according to space or clarity, and to refuse articles that its editorial staff deems inappropriate for its readership. Deadline for publication is the 25th of each month.

**SISTER CHAPTERS:** Feel free to reprint articles from our newsletter as long as proper credit is provided for the chapter and the individual author.

**Non-RWA organizations** please contact the editor regarding reprints.

# Meeting Minutes

---

By Paula Wachter

President Sherry Davis called the meeting to order.

Vice President and Programs Director Shannon Canard introduced our guest speaker Shannon Swendson. After Shannon's presentation, we had a short break to order lunch.

Recording Secretary Paula Wachter announced a correction to the minutes for February's meeting. It was Patricia Vermeire, and not Angi Platt, that stated that the audit committee met. Carolyn Williamson made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Andrea Geist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sherry discussed the RWA Presidents Hot Sheet and noted that PRO Pamphlets are now available for all members to download from the RWA National Web Site. She also encouraged all members to attend the open Board Meeting occurring directly after the General Meeting.

Shannon announced April's program: Sharon Mignery will present "This Little Book Went to Market" in workshop format. Shannon stated that plans for the mini-conference are progressing nicely and asked for several volunteers for the mini-conference committee.

Membership Secretary Carolyn Williamson announced our visitors: Regina Richards, Christina Cavener, and Fern Abbott. Carolyn also asked that all members please contact her with their RWA membership numbers so they can be submitted to the RWA National office along with the roster.

Treasurer Tara Waldie, read the treasurer's reports for February and March. Gina Nelson made a motion to accept the reports as read. Andrea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter Editor and Tape Librarian Chair Jen Fitzgerald requested articles for the newsletter. She reminded members that the deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Submissions may be sent to [jen@stormsedge.com](mailto:jen@stormsedge.com). Jen also announced that several tapes have been burned to CD-ROM and there are more to come.

Contest Committee Chair and Publicity Director Angi Platt gave an update on NTRWA's Great Expectations Contest. She stated that the winners will be announced within two weeks. Angi also announced the creation of the new PRO page on the NTRWA Web Site.

PAN Liaison Juliet Burns was absent. Sherry reminded members who have

RWA PAN status to send email to [julietburns@comcast.net](mailto:julietburns@comcast.net) to join the NTRWA PAN loop.

PRO Liaison Sandra Ferguson reminded members of the eligibility requirements for PRO status. Applications for PRO are located at the membership table at every meeting. Sandra requested articles from PRO members for the new PRO page on the web site.

Critique Advisor Chair Gina Nelson requested volunteers from PAN members to conduct critiques. She reminded general members to take advantage of this valuable feedback.

President Elect Informational Committee Chair Sandra Ferguson presented a special committee report. Patricia made a motion the board research the change in structure and provide two suggestions to the General Membership at the May General Meeting. Tara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl Hathaway made a motion that the board review the election date and come back with a recommendation. Arline Todd seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Andrea made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Obenhaus seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Visiting NTRWA

---

Anyone interested in the romance genre is invited to attend NTRWA meetings and workshops.

Visitors may attend three times before NTRWA requires they become members. All members of NTRWA must be members in good standing of Romance Writers of America (RWA).

Romance Writers of America  
16000 Stuebner Airline Drive  
Suite 140  
Spring, Texas 77379

**[www.rwanational.com](http://www.rwanational.com)**

Phone: 831-717-5200

FAX: 831-717-5201

[info@rwanational.com](mailto:info@rwanational.com)

# “Chick Lit: Hot off the Runway or in the Bargain Bin?”

---

**Presented by Shanna Swendson in March 2006**

Recap Written by Maya Reynolds

Our featured speaker for March was Shanna Swendson, a chick lit writer whose most recent books are *Enchanted, Inc.* and *Once Upon Stilettoes*. Shanna was a delightful speaker who clearly knows her genre.

She started by talking about the three essential elements of chick lit: An interesting, sympathetic heroine with a growth arc; female relationships; and a wry or sarcastic voice.

She spent some time differentiating between the typical romance and a chick lit:

**\*\*Central Conflict**

Romance: Central conflict is between hero and heroine

Chick Lit: Central conflict is between the heroine and some aspect of her life (job, family or her own attitudes). The heroine's journey is the focus, not the romance

**\*\*Hero**

Romance: Hero is a main character with his own story and growth arc; makes immediate appearance in first chapter

Chick Lit: Hero may be a secondary character with no growth arc; may not appear until late in the book; heroine may have multiple romances with other men

**\*\*Ending**

Romance: A HEA--happily every after--is necessary (meaning hero and heroine get together)

Chick Lit: The happy ending may be the heroine learning to live without a man

Shanna was quite frank about the glut on the chick lit market. She said that the publishing houses that had been releasing four books a month had cut back to one or two. She said it was much harder to get a contract on a chick lit book today than it was a year ago.

One of the things I found most interesting was that she described the early chick lit books as "coming of age novels" in which the heroine learned survival skills and found her place in the world much as an aborigine would go on "walkabout." She said, as the books became popular and everyone jumped on the bandwagon, later writers copied the superficial elements of the books and turned those very obvious elements into clichés.

*Continued on page 10...*

Romance has been elegantly defined as the offspring of fiction and love.  
-- Benjamin Disraeli

## Happy Birthday to You...

---



Sandra Ferguson, March 31

Sandra Freeman, April 3

Maryanne Romano, April 7

Yvonne Jocks, April 19



# Goals, Motivation, and Perseverance

---

*Continued from page 3...*

The problem is, a dream (like "I want to be published") is pretty vague. This isn't a goal—it's an aspiration. Goals need to be more specific. You must have a goal strategy. You must lay out what you want to accomplish and what steps it will take you to get there.

Don't fall into the trap of setting just the end goal, such as I will have a book completed by a certain date; set steps within the ultimate goal, such as I will write X number of pages every week.

A more specific goal is easier to achieve and less likely to fail. Make your goals attainable. If you set them too high you might be setting yourself up for failure.

Perhaps Nora can write four books in a year, but is that a realistic goal for you? Give yourself flexibility within your goals because life is full of road bumps—holidays, illness, etc. Build your goal strategy with that in mind, and adjust it to compensate. There are going to be events in your life that steal your time and siphon your creativity—don't let them discourage you.

Motivation is what spurs you on to achieve your goal. It comes from within you and pushes you to complete a task. Of course we want to be published, and naturally we seek positive feedback, but most of us are motivated by the desire to write. The key is how strong is your motivation? Are we willing to sacrifice other things we enjoy doing in order to meet our goals? Sometimes we can counteract the external motivation-stealers.

For instance, go to your writing "zone" (office, dining room table, Starbucks—wherever your creativity is nurtured). Re-create this "zone" over and over again until you find yourself motivated there. Enhance that experience with whatever helps you—candles, motivational sayings, music, or complete quiet. Challenge yourself, and then reward yourself.

Motivation often builds on itself, too. If you're motivated to write the next scene, that often leads to the next chapter before you know it. Immerse yourself in the craft of writing—go to conferences, chapter meetings, and workshops. Networking is a also great motivator.

Now that you have set your goal and

found your motivation, the most important part of the equation is perseverance—being able to persist in an undertaking in spite of counter-influences, opposition, or distraction.

- ◆ Hanging in there.
- ◆ Sticking to it.
- ◆ Figuring out your weaknesses and turning them into strengths.
- ◆ Revising and revising again.
- ◆ Sending your manuscript out again after countless rejections.
- ◆ Keeping your eye on the goal.

Nobody has big blocks of time. If you wait to write your book until you have the time, you will probably never write it. Discipline is the difference between those who want to write books and those who do.

Now write down your goals, find your motivation, modify your behavior, change your actions accordingly... and most importantly—Persevere!

COFW member Sheri Adkins has been writing historical romance for nine years.

The above article first appeared in the February 2006 issue of Write From the Heart, the newsletter of the Central Ohio Fiction Writers.

---

## Favorite How-To-Write Book Poll Results

---

Thanks to all of you who responded to my online/email poll of your favorite or most-used how-to-write book... The results are: Writing the Breakout Novel (4/26 votes); The Complete Writer's Guide to Heroes and Heroines: 16 Master Archetypes (3/26 votes); The Elements of Style (2/26 votes); The Writer's Journey, Second Edition : Mythic Structure for Writers (2/26 votes); On Writing (2/26 votes)

Other titles cited, in no particular order, are: Write Away; The Chicago Manual of Style; Goals, Motivation, and Conflict; Beginnings, Middles, and Ends; How to Write a Damn Good Novel; Scene and Structure; Plot; How to Format Your Manuscript; The 38 Most common Fiction Writing Mistakes; and Write & Wrong—actually a column in the Star Telegram each Monday.

# Spotlight On... Tara Waldie

---

By Gina Lee Nelson

*After finding out a little more about our friendly, hard-working NTRWA Treasurer, I decided to count my blessings and never, ever moan about not having enough time to write again!*

**Good morning, Tara. Tell us a little bit of your background, where you went to school, how long you've been writing, stuff like that.**

Let's see. First of all, I'm married to my high school sweetie and we have three wonderful children. I run a pre-school from my house, so I pretty much have no contact with the outside world, except my poor critique partners and the characters I create in my head. Luckily, I've always been very good at talking to myself! I've been writing unofficially all my life and officially since the end of 2000. That's when I sat down and wrote a 100,000 word futuristic in a couple of months and mailed it off to Avon. I just knew I'd be published immediately--it was the best story... with just one little problem. There was no (and I do mean NO) dialogue. I didn't know how to put everything in the proper order and just paragraphed every once in a while!

Needless to say, I really needed NT. I received the form rejection letter and immediately looked on the internet and found them. They had just started to hold the meeting in Grapevine...about 5 minutes from my house... and it seemed like a sign. I've

made some of the best friends of my life here and learned so much about writing.

I am a very positive person and would love for everyone to just have more fun with their life and not dwell so much on the negative stuff. Life is a continuing process...we should all try not to miss out on all the wonderful things that are happening around us every day.

**Too true. Where did you grow up and go to high school? If you're not from North Texas, what brought you here?**

I was born in Germany--my dad was in the military and my mom's a nurse and didn't want to miss out! I've been in Texas since I was 7. I lived in Irving and graduated from Irving High, which is where I met Chris while working at McD's my junior year.

**Tell me about your critique partners.**

I met Angi while we were working together on the Dreamin' in Dallas conference about four or five years ago. (Oh my goodness, can it be that long already??!!) We hit it off right away and she is an amazing critique partner. Terri is a bit newer...about three and a half years ago when she first joined NT. Same thing...we hit it off immediately. All of us are at very different stages in our writing and it helps so much to get the other points of view.

I have been with other critique groups and I think the main thing is to be comfortable with each other.

But, always remember the point is to write, and the group needs to help you, not just be your friends. You can be great friends with someone and have a lousy critique relationship with them. It just doesn't work sometimes.

Now, I'm writing a couple of mystery stories and have also completed a 'steamy hot' manuscript, which is sitting under the bed. That's the one I used to get my PRO pin. I didn't think the one with no dialog should count. LOL. Right now I am working on a couple of young adult stories. One of them is about werewolves. How's that for hopping around on subject matters?

**Now, about werewolves. . . who's the hunky werewolf that inspired you to write this story, or was it a favorite author?**

The werewolf is because I love Laurell K. Hamilton. Yes, I know, not much Young Adult inspiration in those! Anyway, I love the way Laurell has an alternate universe within our 'normal' everyday world. That's what I'm trying to accomplish with my YA.

*Continued on page 11...*



---

**Newsletters are now available in electronic format.**

**If you are interested in receiving your newsletter via email,  
please contact Jen FitzGerald at [jen@stormsedge.com](mailto:jen@stormsedge.com) or 817-457-6414.**

## Member News

---

Candy Havens' Charmed & Dangerous was nominated for two RITA's in the Best First Book and the Strong Romantic Elements categories.

Willie Ferguson's Colorado Cowboy placed 3rd in the Contemporary Category of the West Houston RWA Emily Contest.

Beth Shriver's 85,000 word historical, Remnant of the Fall, was requested by Steeple Hill.

You guys are doing great! Kudos to all of you who wrote and edited and proudly listed your totals, but due to space considerations, only the top five producers will be listed... Watch out for Ron Campbell—he's been consistently writing 50+ new pages a month this year.

### NEW PAGES ~ Top 5

Candy Havens, 130  
Missey Hart, 95  
Ron Campbell, 75  
Shannon Canard, 50  
Mindy Obenhaus, 50

### EDITED PAGES ~ Top 5

Angi Platt, 210  
Candy Havens, 200  
Ron Campbell, 125  
Missey Hart, 120  
Carolyn Williamson, 109

Way to go everyone. Keep those fannies in the chair and the fingers on the keyboard!

## Book Club News & Reviews

---

Join the NTRWA Book Club monthly at the Barnes & Noble in North Richland Hills. The group usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. All members of NTRWA are welcome to join the discussion.

In March, the book club read Bound and Determined by NT's own Shelley Bradley. Juliet Burns said, "Man, oh man, it was wonderful! Hot, Burning up the page sex, and a good mystery sub plot." Shelley was able to join the group and shared her shift from writing

historical to contemporary and her inspiration for the story idea.

### Upcoming book selections:

April 6th: Evelyn Vaughn's Something Wicked  
May 4th: Don't Look Down by Jennifer Crusie & Bob Mayer  
June 1st: Jenna Mills' Killing Me Softly  
July 6th: Karen Kelley's Hell on Wheels

## PAN: In the Loop

---

NT is delighted to present a monthly online session with our authors entitled IN THE LOOP!! On the first full week of each month one of our authors will present a daily article on writing. Anyone who is subscribed to the NT Yahoo loop will automatically receive this free monthly post presented by NT PAN members.

April 3rd - 7th

Juliet Burns  
Presents  
The Basics in a Nutshell, By a Nutcase

May 1st - 5th

Karen Kelley  
Presents  
Making Your Book Stand Out Above the Rest



# Classic Novels Word Search

---

Z K A F A R E W E L L T O A R M S E H O D V P S  
 L M X U E D B L P E G A D N O B N A M U H F O N  
 T H E S C A R L E T L E T T E R D E U J D G D E  
 P Y T H O N A C M E N I B A C S M O T E L C N U  
 M I H L D A V N X S T O Y K L D H R E W E R Z L  
 C J E D U R E T Q S M L G D S A M B O C I X P I  
 Y R J W Q K N H V O J A N E E Y R E S T F E A R  
 H R U P B N E X U F R W L H F S A D U G R J O L  
 Z C N B A M W X V T M Q E T U O W R R Y E I F P  
 S K G O N E W I T H T H E W I N D I C K P V M E  
 L A L A I N O Y R E D X P K W J A C N X P R I K  
 E V E R M O R E Z D O M V R M F I S O B O A C H  
 V O B R A M L X D U B K D M Y A P E S X C I E L  
 A N O D L R D T S R O I W T A Q U I N T D U A M  
 R V O E F K O S A B J N I B N C X T I Y I Q N P  
 T T K D A W N L R E T N U Y T L J F B D V I D C  
 S H Z P R S Q R I R A L B X O I R O O M A S M L  
 R E V O M K U G S V B O X M N O M W R J D I E S  
 E H Q Y T P I B S I E K N T I W P X D L Y W N J  
 V O R N S B X O Q L B R A T A L E C O S V Z P W  
 I B E X J L O C R L D E T A M K D C U R P W N D  
 L B E P V E T K D E B B Y W H I T E F A N G X O  
 L I M H E Y E S T S J E D L I T T L E W O M E N  
 U T X D G J O U T W B C Z H I S P M F K G E W C  
 G L X U R W P U T H D C X K H Q T N P D A B S T  
 P Y T H E G R E A T G A T S B Y V L D G Z J F U

Moby Dick  
 David Copperfield  
 My Antonia  
 Animal Farm  
 Brave New World  
 Oliver Twist  
 Robinson Crusoe  
 Rebecca

Don Quixote  
 Vanity Fair  
 The Scarlet Letter  
 White Fang  
 Gone With the Wind  
 Gulliver's Travels  
 Uncle Tom's Cabin  
 Of Mice and Men

The Great Gatsby  
 Tess of the D'Urbervilles  
 The Jungle Book  
 A Farewell to Arms  
 Jane Eyre  
 Little Women  
 The Hobbit  
 Of Human Bondage

## “Chick Lit: Hot off the Runway or in the Bargain Bin?”

---

*Continued from page 5...*

As examples, she pointed to the following: lots of bad dates; shopping as an obsession; the gay best friend; the job in publishing or a low-level job in a glamorous field. Shanna's editor recently said that her publishing house would no longer touch a book with those elements because they had been so overdone.

So, is chick lit dead? Shanna doesn't think so. She believes that the genre is consolidating and is also exporting its voice to other genres. She pointed to Janet Evanovich (mystery) and Mary Janice Davidson (paranormal) as prime examples.

Shanna offered the following advice: If you want to write a chick lit, use either first person or deep third person. Look for a high concept, something new and different and be sure your character has complex emotional depth. It helps if you can say something about the world in general or society.

Maya Reynolds has been published in short fiction and non-fiction. She is one of the founders and the current membership chair of Passionate Ink, the RWA chapter for erotic romance. In 2005, she entered five contests and snagged two first place wins and two second place wins. She is currently represented by Jacky Sach of BookEnds Literary Agency.

---

### Join Tex-Critiquers

NTRWA has it's own critique service!

Join our group and trade critiquing with fellow chapter members.

For more information, contact Gina Nelson at [nelsonwriting@yahoo.com](mailto:nelsonwriting@yahoo.com).

---

## Jen's Journal

---

*Goal: To write every day.*

*Motivation: The hero I really want to flesh out and bring to life.*

*Conflict: My kids, my day job, the PTA presidency, NTRWA newsletter, housework, church commitments, the dogs, the hubby...*

And the list goes on and on, varying from day to day, but only a little.

Last December, Angi Platt passed out four index cards and had us write

a goal for each quarter of the new year. She would then bring them at the end of each quarter so we could see our progress. I thought I was going to have achieved my goal. But no. My goal, which was to write every day, had *not* been achieved. I thought my first quarter's goal was to complete the first three chapters of my WIP. I'm pretty sure, then, that that goal is for the second quarter, and I'm probably well on my way despite not writing every day.

But my goal to write every day, even just 30 minutes to start, is still something that weighs on my mind (even though I forgot I had actually written it down). Will I ever get to write every day, even for just 30 minutes?

*Maybe when the kids leave home, my husband sells his business, I've outgrown the PTA, I'm just a general member, and I have a maid...*

Just do it...

# The Truth About Publishing Myths ~ Myth #2

---

By Shelley Bradley

2. After you sell the first book, your editor will want to buy others from you quickly.

Maybe...maybe not. Publishers are very conservative these days, as books sales remain fairly flat. So they don't often have multiple open contracts open on any one writer, not unless they are fairly established. This is because they have no idea how you'll perform in the market, so they prefer not to tie up a lot of their money on a total unknown. In most cases, as a first time author, you'll be offered anywhere between a 1 and 3 book contract. If you're offered a 1 book contract, the publisher is being conservative--and that could be for a variety of reasons that have nothing to do with you. Don't panic. But if

you've sold that 1 book on a full manuscript, don't imagine you can send them 3 more manuscripts right away and have them bought on a new contract as well. And what they will be willing to do for you will depend largely on the genre you're writing, your relationship with your editor, HER rapport with the powers that be. And of course, your option clause.

Because publishers will often wait and see how the public receives you before buying another book/offering another contract, this can mean up to a 2-year wait before you sell another if you're option clause isn't well worded (which we'll talk about later). This is where a good agent can really come in handy, but the point here is, you may not get a rocket start in this business--but don't assume that's

because your publisher no longer has faith in you/has only interest in that one book. Like all fiscally-minded businesses, they're probably taking a wait and see approach.

More next month!

The author of sizzling contemporary, erotic and historical romances, Shelley Bradley lives in the southwest with her husband and daughter, juggling the many roles in her life: writer, mother, wife and all around laundress. In her "free" time, she is a reality TV junkie, enjoys reading, obsessively studying all things Harry Potter, doing step aerobics and weightlifting, and listening to an eclectic blend of music.

## Spotlight On...

---

*Continued from page 7...*

### **Why Young Adult?**

Hmmm... good question. I was writing steamy-hot like crazy and waiting for Harlequin to get back to me on the full they had requested, then it was like I needed a totally new direction. I mean really, steamy-hot love scenes and then suddenly I'm writing first crush/kiss scenes. It was so much fun again! All the excitement that young people have when they are looking at the world around them is very cool. Where else except jr. high and high school do you truly get to have archenemies and superheroes? Remember the guy that held

your locker open and rolled his eyes after some evil kids tried to trip you between classes? LOL.

### **What do you struggle with as a writer?**

Time! There is never enough of it to do the stuff I want/need to do. Right now it's a big struggle to find time to write. I have been very bad about it this last year and I am going to make it more of a priority.

### **What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

Well, first of all it would have to be my family and friends. I am very blessed to have wonderful kids, a supportive husband and the very best

of friends. I wouldn't make it through a single day without them! I am so very proud of all of them. As far as writing goes, it would have to be my PRO pin. It's a symbol that I can see and touch of what I want and what I am doing to accomplish my goal of being a published author.

New to romance writing, Gina Lee Nelson is still working to complete her first manuscript, a tender romance set in NYC, her stomping ground for seven exhilarating years.



**Jen FitzGerald**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**7000 Robinhood Lane**  
**Fort Worth, Texas 76112**

[www.NTRWA.com](http://www.NTRWA.com)

NTRWA  
2100 W. Northwest Hwy  
Suite 114-1081  
Grapevine, TX 76051

## Meeting Information

April 15, 2006

NTRWA Monthly Meeting

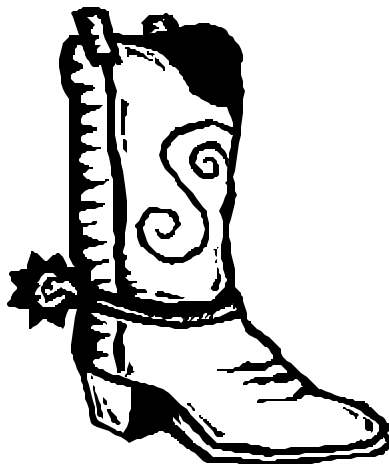
La Hacienda Ranch

5250 Highway 121 South

Colleyville, TX

10:00 ~ 10:30 Meet & Greet  
10:30 ~ 10:45 Welcome & Announcements  
10:45 ~ 11:45 Workshop  
11:45 ~ 12:00 Break/Order Lunch  
12:00 ~ 1:00 Business Meeting

**Visitors Welcome**



“This Little Book Went to Market,  
That Little Book Went Home”  
Sharon Mignerey