

Chapter 33, Region 5

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Volume 24, Issue 11



NORTH TEXAS ROMANCE WRITERS OF AMERICA

Heart to Heart

Fall Writers Roundup November 4th ~ 9 am-6pm

Keynote Speaker: Cherry Adair. With over a million books in print, USA Today Bestselling author Cherry Adair has garnered numerous awards for her innovative action-adventure novels.

Author Cindy Dees. Cindy dropped out of high school at fifteen to go to the University of Michigan where she earned a degree in Russian and East European Studies.

Agent Elaine Spencer of The Knight Agency.

Editorial Assistant Tessa Woodward of Avon Books.

Panel of Career Experts: Sergeant Steve Safran of the Hurst Police Department; Commander Richard Obenhaus, US Navy Retired; Executive Deputy Fire Chief Hugo R. Esparza of

the Fort Worth Fire Department.

Saturday Workshops, 9a.m. - 6p.m.
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Q&A panel with Agent Elaine Spencer and Editor Tessa Woodward

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 Cherry Adair.
Noon – 1 p.m. Luncheon with Key-note speaker Cherry Adair

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Q&A panel with North Texas Heroes.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cindy Dees presents advanced techniques in characterization.

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Cherry Adair. Learn how to make your dialog sparkle and sing.

2007 Elections Ballot Enclosed

*A man falls in love through his eyes,
a woman through her ears.
Woodrow Wyatt*

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President's Corner

November for Writers -- A Cautionary Tale

The tricks and treats are over and another season of Thanksgiving approaches. Time to slow down, catch up with friends I haven't seen except for the occasional birthday celebration, family I put off to work on the WIP (except for the hospital visits), and that deep house cleaning I thought I'd get to way back in the Spring that can't be put off because the family is coming.

In short, time to touch base with all the things I'm thankful for, which include the seven million school events and fundraisers (believe me, this is a very small exaggeration), my family with eleven birthdays throughout the month and the Thanksgiving holiday.

I both anticipate and dread November. I'm a writer. Writers write. But when I don't, things get ugly. Serious funk ensues. By the time January rolls around, there is dust on the computer. (Dust! On my keyboard! On my 19-inch flat screen monitor!)

Last November, I decided to do something about it. I penciled in pages to be written every day, joined a fast draft Yahoo group and plunged in, certain with

all the accountability boundaries I'd put in place I'd be able to meet my goal.

I did write. But not well. All those things I was trying to write around pushed their way into my schedule, anyway. I was double busy and double stressed at the juggling act.

The moral of the story is November is a time of Thanksgiving. It's the gong for all those jugglers to drop some of the balls and take a breather. Slowing down doesn't mean giving up. It just means there's another perspective to be viewed.

So, instead of trying to fit everything in, I've decided to take a breath. If I don't see you at the Roundup, I hope all of you have a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving adding new memories to fill up the creative well inside.

Until then, happy writing (or not) and see you at the Christmas Party!

Sherry Davis
President



2006 NTRWA Board Members & Liaisons

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ◆ President
Sherry Davis
csadavis@swbell.net | ◆ Membership Director
Carolyn Williamson
carolynwilliamson@charter.net | ◆ Newsletter Editor
Jen FitzGerald
jen@stormsedge.com |
| ◆ Vice President/Programs
Shannon Canard
shannon_canard@hotmail.com | ◆ Recording Secretary
Paula Wachter
paula_wachter@comcast.net | ◆ PAN Liaison
Juliet Burns
julietburns@gmail.com |
| ◆ Treasurer
Tara Waldie
waldie@flash.net | ◆ Publicity Director
Angi Platt
angiplatte@aol.com | ◆ PRO Liaison
Sandra Ferguson
sandraferguson@sbcglobal.net |

Squanto

The following article was first published in the November 2006 edition of The Heart Monitor, the newsletter of the Heart of Dixie Chapter.

By Katherine Bone

One hundred and two English colonists first landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. Newly separated from the Church of England, these brave men and women, known today as Puritans, had previously fled to Holland where they lived in the Dutch settlement of Leiden before sailing to the new world. Financed independently of the Plymouth Company, they could not know their lives would drastically change when they reached what is now Providence Harbor and formed an acquaintance with an Indian who surprisingly spoke English. Through the Plymouth Company, which dispatched Captains George Weymouth, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and John Smith on explorations off the coasts of Penobscot, Maine, and Massachusetts, a man named Tisquantum, also known as Squanto, had been groomed for such a feat. His fascinating life journey had placed him in the Pilgrim's path precisely when they needed him most.

Known as Tisquantum, Squantum, and Squanto, Squanto hailed from the Wampanoag community of Patuxet, a village which held two thousand tribal members and stood exactly where the Pilgrims

would later erect their homes. During his adolescence, explorers began to make contact with his tribe and, being considered a sachem or potential sachem (spiritual leader), he was probably one of the first to meet them. French colonizer Samuel de Champlain was one of the first adventurers to trade with the Patuxet in 1605 and 1606. And in turn, the Patuxet were awestruck by European muskets, brass kettles, sharp knives and ax heads, piercing needles and fishhooks, and were encouraged to barter surpluses of maize and fur in exchange.

Not all early interactions with Europeans were peaceful however. Captain Weymouth was eager to prove his exploration prowess. He wanted to show his English backers the New World was ripe for the taking and, in order to do so, kidnapped five Indians, two brutally and three through bribery, before sailing back to England with them on board. The captured were Manida, Skidwarres/Skettawarros, Nahanada/Dehanada, Asacumet and Tisquantum. After visiting with Sir Ferdinando Gorges, two of the five were returned home, Nahanada by ship under Captain Thomas Hanham's command in 1606. Captains George Popham and Raleigh Gilbert returned Skidwarres in 1607.

While Gorges continued to outfit ships for trade and exploration, Squanto was taught English so Gorges could learn

more about tribes, chiefs, harbors, fishing, animals for skins, foods Indian's grew and crops English settlers might grow once they arrived. Trained as a guide and interpreter, Squanto now played an important role for the English, most notably to Captain John Smith who promised to return him to his home when his work was done. When Smith eventually returned to England, leaving Captain Thomas Hunt in charge, Squanto and nineteen other Indians left behind were kidnapped by the malicious Hunt and taken from Cape Cod to Malaga, Spain, where Hunt planned to sell them into slavery for twenty pounds each. Saved by Christian monks, Squanto and the others were taken to a monastery and spared Hunt's intended plot.

It is unclear what Squanto did during this time, but about two years later he somehow found his way to London where he found lodgings with Sir John Slaney, the treasurer of the Newfoundland Company in Cornhill. There he immersed himself in English culture and language, and on an expedition to Newfoundland, became reacquainted with Thomas Dermer, one of John Smith's officers in 1614. Dermer took Squanto back to England to meet with Sir Ferdinando Gorges, upon whom he made a good impression.

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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 for October 21, 2006

Meeting called to order at 12:37pm, by President Sherry Davis.

Notation that minutes will be taken for the October meeting by: Sandra Ferguson

President Davis called for the September minutes to be approved. Motion for minutes to be approved as listed in Heart to Heart: Jen FitzGerald. Motion seconded by Tara Waldie. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President Davis had nothing to report.

VP Shannon Canard revealed the November mini-conference had 30 registered attendees. Still in need of Cowboy boots and decorations. During mini-conference, 5-7pm on Friday night will be a book-signing, then adjournment to Blue Mesa Grille for drinks with the agent and editor. On Saturday, workshops will begin at 9am and continue until 6pm. Rooms were still available at the Courtyard Marriot for those who wish to stay overnight.

Membership Secretary Carolyn Williamson gave member count at roughly 77 members. New members: Joyce Broadbent who writes Historical Paranormal and Margaret Stricklyn who writes Romantic Suspense. Visitor: Francis Williams Koch

Treasurer Tara Waldie reported. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read: Andrea Geist. Motion seconded by Nikki Duncan Motion passed.

Newsletter editor Jen FitzGerald reminded members that any and all information for the newsletter was due to her by the 25th of each month.

Publicity/Web master Angi Platt was absent. No report was provided.

Committees and Liaisons

PAN Liaison Juliet Burns was absent. Report was given of the Nora Roberts talk @ TCU on Nov 7th, 7pm. All interested should contact Nikki Duncan. For book club meetings, check NT website for book to read and date/time.

PRO Liaison Sandra Ferguson reported two new PRO members: Laura Martello and Nikki Duncan. Nikki Duncan was presented with her PRO pin by President Davis.

Ways and Means Committee: Mindy Obenhaus and Michella Chapel were absent. No report was given.

25th Anniversary Chair: Jen FitzGerald reported on the progress of the committee:

- 1) Special \$25.00 gift cards will be given away at each meeting.
- 2) Charter members will be provided

- lifetime memberships in NT
- 3) Book in a year. General guidelines were provided at the meeting. All suggestions should be forwarded to Jen. General guidelines will be posted on the website. Project will start in March 2007, with charms going each month of accomplishment for those participating.
 - 4) NTRWA shirts are being considered.
 - 5) Southfork excursion is under discussion for 2007 Conference.
 - 6) Short Story contest for NT members. Top 25 will be published. Guidelines were provided at meeting. Guidelines will be posted to website.
 - 7) 25th celebration dinner at 2007 conference is under discussion and planning.

Tape Librarian: Jen FitzGerald reported new CDs available.

Critique Advisor: Gina Nelson was absent. No report was given.

Nominations & Elections Chair: Tara Waldie, Co-Chair: Patricia Vermeire
Patricia Vermeire provided the following slate of officers for 2007-08:

President: Jennifer Fitzgerald

VP: Tara Waldie

Treasurer: Angi Platt

Membership: Carolyn Williamson

Newsletter: Kim Campbell

Recording Secretary: Open

Publicity/Website: Open

Continued on page 8...

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

Phone: 831-717-5200

FAX: 831-717-5201

info@rwanational.com

Why Judge?

By Mindy Obenhaus

Last year at this time, I was relatively new to the writing world and RWA. So when my local chapter needed judges for their contest, I ignored their plea. I couldn't judge. I wasn't qualified. Who was I to judge someone else's work when mine probably wasn't that great?

Well, a few weeks later when my dear friend, and contest coordinator, sent an e-mail begging for judges, I couldn't let her down. She gave me a few pointers, hooked me up to an online judge's loop and set me free. Yikes!

I stared at the five titles she'd sent me. Okay, breathe deeply. You can do this.

Double clicking on the first entry, I began to read. It was an enjoyable story with minimal errors, in my opinion. Then I boldly went through the score sheet trusting my instincts on

each point. All right, one down, four to go.

The next story read beautifully--completely different writing style from the first. Did that mean the first one hadn't been as good as I thought? I went back and read it again. No, I still liked it. As I worked my way through the remaining entries, the "ah-ha" moment hit.

Judging was a learning process as well. I saw what worked and what didn't. How things could fall apart when details were missing. That too much description can lose the reader. Not to mention how writing styles differed.

I can't tell you how freeing it was to realize that my writing style didn't have to resemble Nora's. They talk about finding "your voice." With a glazed over look, new writers respond, "yes, I must find my voice," when they really have no idea what "they" are talking about. All I have to do

is be myself. I don't want to be Nora or anyone else. I want to be me.

So to new writers everywhere, don't be afraid to judge. Not only is your opinion valuable, what you take away from it will help you in your journey. When's the next contest?

Mindy Obenhaus is a mom of 5 and grandma of 2. She's been writing for two and a half years, starting about the time her youngest entered kindergarten. She's a PRO member of RWA and has been a member of North Texas Romance Writers since May of 2005. Her first manuscript, Willow Springs, won first place in the Happily Ever After contest and is currently under consideration by Steeple Hill.

Sign up to judge the GE by contacting Angi @ AngiPlatt@aol.com

Many Happy Returns...



Tara Waldie, November 8
Cathy Spangler, November 15
Sherry Davis, November 17
Chris Keniston, November 17
Paula Wachter, November 17



NT Celebrates 25 Years

By Jen FitzGerald

Dearest Chapter Mates,

The chapter's 25th anniversary year is almost upon us. A committee was set up several months ago to think up and research some fun ways for the chapter to celebrate.

A report of what's been thought up was given at the October meeting. So, for those of you who were unable to attend, here are the highlights:

Honorary Lifetime Memberships for all charter members of NT. Due to the guidelines of RWA the complete details of this have not been finalized.

"Where Are They Now?" feature in the NT newsletter on each charter member of NT.

Silver Anniversary Dinner ~ All current and charter members would be invited to attend an informal dinner at a restaurant located near the conference hotel. A special 25th anniversary memento is being researched and may be given to each member in attendance. The individual would pay for his or her own meal.

NTRWA Shirts ~ We are researching offering NT shirts once again. And not just polos this time, but t-shirts and long-sleeve button-down denim shirts. Shirts would be offered on a pre-

order/pre-pay basis so that the chapter will not have any expenses associated with this.

Special Door Prize Drawings ~ We would like to have four (4) \$25 gift cards available each month to various books stores and maybe an office supply store. Ultimately, we would like this program to be self-sustaining and not have to have the chapter eat the cost of this, but we will be asking for money upfront to get the ball rolling.

NT Sponsored Excursion in conjunction with the RWA National Conference ~ Right now we are considering a trip to Southfork Ranch in Parker, Texas – the place where the hit TV show 'Dallas' was partially filmed. The trip would include a tour of the facility and a true blue Texas style meal.

A Book In A Year program ~ Each participant will get the chance to earn a complete charm bracelet by the end of the year. The bracelet and charms will be issued on a monthly basis to each participant who meets his or her monthly writing goal. We will be asking the chapter to completely pay for the bracelet and charms, with an approximate cost of \$15 per participant. Total cost if every NT member participated and earned the complete bracelet would be \$1140.

Short Story Contest ~ A contest open only to current or past NT members. The top twenty-five (25) stories will be included in a published anthology to be available at the RWA National Conference. We are also working with The Wild Rose Press to offer the top three to five stories a chance to be contracted/published. More contest story/entry details are available in the files section of our Yahoo loop.

Special 25th Anniversary Charm to be included in the charms available for the bracelet, but also as a prize in the chapter's Great Expectations Contest.

If anyone has any questions, comments, suggestions, etc. or if interested in being a part of one of these sub-committees, please contact Jen FitzGerald at jen@stormsedge.com or 817-457-6414.

Here's to an awesome 25th anniversary year! Hope to see you there.

Jen

The written report and supporting documents are available in the files section of the NT loop. If you are not on the loop, but would like copies of these reports, give Jen a call at the number listed above.

Spotlight On... Barbara Woodward aka Lynn LaFleur

By Gina Lee Nelson

Good morning, Barb. Tell us a little about yourself and your family? Are you new to Texas?

I was born and raised in this area. I married at 18 to a "Yankee" and moved to the West Coast at 19. Nine years ago, we moved back to Texas, where I work for my local weekly newspaper. My husband passed away two years ago, so being close to family meant a lot to me. I have a sister I adore, the best nieces and nephews in the world, and wonderful friends who are as close as sisters to me.

Who are your favorite authors and why?

Angela Knight, Sandra Brown, Nora Roberts, Micqui Miller, Nikki Soarde. A favorite author, to me, is one whose book you will buy no matter the cost, sit down in your favorite chair even if there are twelve loads of laundry to do, and READ without letting the world intrude on your time.

Why are these my favorite authors? Because they all make me do exactly what I said. They're the authors who make me take out my credit card and buy their books as soon as they become available. (Of course, Micqui gives me hers. <g>) They're the authors that I hurry and read their books as fast as possible, yet am disappointed when I'm through with the book because I want MORE.

What do you enjoy reading?

Romance. Sweet, sensual or spicy, I want a happy ending.

So, what do you write and how did you get started?

I've been writing forever! I started out writing sweet romances, moved up to sensual, and now write erotic romance. I'm published by both Ellora's Cave and Avon Red.

That's quite a leap from sweet to erotic. How did that happen?

I belonged to a critique group several years ago in Sacramento. My critique partners would listen to my love scenes and always comment that I should make them hotter. At the time, I was shooting for Silhouette Desire, which was the hottest series published. I came close so many times, but never quite managed it "over the hump."

How did you break through to being a published author?

A good friend of mine (our own Micqui Miller) told me about a new epublisher, Wings ePress. I submitted a manuscript that had been turned down by the New York publishers. Wings accepted it. They accepted two more manuscripts before I discovered Ellora's Cave on the Internet. I liked the idea of writing a sexier book, so wrote a story for them. It was accepted in one day. Seven books later, I'm still writing erotic romance.

Do you have an agent?

Yes. Jessica Faust of BookEnds.

What advice do you have for those of us still struggling for publication?

Never give up. Yes, that's a cliché, but it's so true. If writing is in your blood

and you can't imagine NOT writing, then keep trying. Read, read, read what you enjoy writing. Learn from your favorite authors. Join a critique group, or find writers who will help you via email. One of my critique partners lives in Canada. You'll get rejections. Have some chocolate, shed a tear or two, and get back to writing.

As a writer, what do you struggle with the most?

Getting enough emotion into my books. I love writing dialogue (probably because I talk so much) and it comes easily for me. Balancing that with narrative is sometimes difficult for me.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

Wow, hard question! In writing, I would have to say it was when Lucia Macro of Avon emailed and asked me to be one of the launch authors in their new Red line.

Gina Lee Nelson is working on her first manuscript, a contemporary romance set in New York City, her home for seven exhilarating years.



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.

Minutes Continued...

Continued from page 4... comptroller candidate, Fred Head. Meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.
Motion was seconded by Delores Schaffer. Motion did not pass.

New Business

Motion had been made by Ron Campbell to send a letter of censure to Texas state Geist. Motion was seconded by Rosemary Clement Moore. Motion passed.

Member News

Congratulations to Victoria Chancellor - she sold two more books to Harlequin American Romance. The titles are not set yet (currently titled Falling in Love... Naturally and Caught Red-Handed) and will change. They are the first two books set in a new fictional town near Graham, TX -- Brody's Crossing. The first book will be released in July 2007 and the second book will come out later in 2007.

Congrats to our two latest PROs: Nikki Duncan and Laura Martello.

Congratulations to Laura Martello, whose paranormal entry, Chasing Midnight, finaled in the RWA-East Texas Chapter's Southern Heat Contest.

Wow, you all were a prolific bunch this past month... 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...

So many people have been writing and adding their name to the list and that's a very good thing. Everyone keep up the good work!

NEW PAGES ~ Top 5

Nikki Duncan, 288
Rosemary Clement-Moore, 175
Candy Havens, 150
Micqui Miller, 150
Beth Shriver, 120

EDITED PAGES ~ Top 5

Sherry Davis, 488
Carolyn Williamson, 415
Micqui Miller, 300
Candy Havens, 250
Beth Shriver, 240

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

The Truth About Publishing Myths ~ Myth #10

By Shelley Bradley

10. By my 10th book, I'm likely to be an NYT bestseller.

Are you done laughing yet? I'm not sure I am. I've already seen the publication of my 10th book. Um, I haven't appeared on this list. In fact, I know more than one writer who has sold over 50 books and hasn't made this list.

In genre fiction, NYT bestsellers are tough to come by. First, genre fiction, by its nature, appeals to a certain segment of the population, not necessarily all of it. But you knew that.

Another big reason is the way NYT bestsellers are made. Yes, made. The NYT list doesn't reflect actual sales to the public, but publisher sales to retail outlets and distributors. What does this mean? If a publisher is really behind you, they can make you an NYT bestseller with a big push and a big print run. There's no guarantee that people will buy those books, however, so publisher don't often ramp up for this kind of action unless they're pretty sure of the paybacks. (Remember the bean counters from lesson 1? They are en force here, too.) In this event, it's been suggested that the minimum print run needed to make an appearance on NYT is about 250,000 copies. Your average debut author's print run with an NYC publishing

house will run somewhere in the 20K-30K range for mass market paperbacks, give or take a few. As you can see, you'd have to have a lot of growth in order to meet that minimum NYT number.

NYT is different from other lists like Waldens and USA Today which reflect actual sales to the public, although to certain stores in both cases. In the case of a USA Today bestseller, I've heard that you really need about a 70K print run to hope to make it. 100K makes it much more likely. Why? If your print run is that big, your books are peppered in nearly every store, everywhere, available for folks to buy. The same can't be said for that debut author.

Does that mean that anyone who's published 10 books or more and hasn't become a staple of the NYT list ought to hand in their computer and take up something new?

Nope. You never know when you're going to write that book that's going to put you over the top. We all like to think that one special book is going to catapult us to the top. The reality for most writers is that they ascend the ladder of publishing slowly, over multiple books. Few writers in history have had success anything like J.K. Rowling's, for example. Maybe folks like Dan Brown and John Grisham can relate. The rest of us...will need to understand that a fan base is built slowly,

line by line, book after book.

Despite all the talk about lists, what interests publishers most when you're new isn't lists. They know they probably haven't given you the print run for that. They call about sell-through, meaning what percentage of the copies they did print actually sold (after returns are calculated)? An average sell-through is 55-65%. Above 70% is damn good. Above 80% and you're smoking! These are numbers that impress publishers because they say you have fans who will buy books, and that's what they want to hear. So if you start with a smaller print run, it's easy to despair, but don't. That may enable you to achieve a great sell-through. After all, I'd rather be the 25K print run author who sells 20K of those books, rather than the 40K print run author who sells the same number of copies...

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.

Enter NT's Great Expectations Contest

Enter the first 25 pages, either electronic or hard copy entries accepted
Cost: \$20 for NTRWA members

Check the website for all the details: www.NTRWA.org or call Angi for entry forms: 214-727-3398

Squanto Continued...

Continued from page 3...

Pleased with Squanto's ability to learn, his loyalty and tribal standing, Gorges agreed to let Dermer take Squanto back to his people.

In 1619, Squanto returned to his beloved New England coastline, but fused with the scent of pine was an eerie quiet. No welcoming arms awaited the prodigal son's return. Instead, he found his village abandoned and his homeland haunted by the dead. Through the Wampanoag he learned that in 1617, his people had succumbed to a horrible plague, one which had annihilated nearly eighty percent of the Indian tribes in southern New England. Many told him his people 'died like rotten sheep and their bodies, before and after death, were exceedingly yellow'. Though survivors banded together to fight the healthy Narragansetts and Micmacs, he would soon learn the horrible truth. He was the only known Patuxet left alive.

Forced to accept this horrible revelation, Squanto sought to build bridges between Indians who blamed the English for their miseries and English who set their eyes upon land and trade. In the meantime, he continued to sail with Dermer, helping him map out resources off the New England coast. He also served as Dermer's interpreter while venturing into Pokanoket territory. There, he intervened on Dermer's behalf in a meeting with Massasoit, the Wampanoag's Pokanoket sachem, whose real name was Wasamegin, meaning 'Yellow Feather'. Once assured that good relations with Massasoit would continue, he and Dermer began to explore the coast again but were attacked by the Nausets. This time, Dermer was taken hostage forcing Squanto to negotiate his release. Once reunited, the two men set out on an expedition to Martha's Vineyard but Squanto was captured there and returned to the Pokanokets. During the subsequent melee, Dermer was mortally wounded and died shortly after reaching Virginia.

In November of 1620, nearly a year

later, the Pilgrims arrived. Pleased with the land, they decided to settle upon the haunted/cleared ground that once housed Squanto's Patuxet village; a village Captain John Smith had previously renamed Plymouth. Two months later, Samoset, a local sachem, walked right into the colony and began to speak to the wide-eyed English. After conversing with them day and night, and trading with the Pilgrims several times, Samoset returned to Massasoit and told him that the Pilgrims wanted to make peace. Massasoit, being a wise diplomat, sent Squanto, who spoke more fluently in English than Samoset, to the Pilgrims as his interpreter. Squanto met with the Pilgrims for the very first time on March 22, 1621, and was successful in negotiating a peace between Massasoit, the Wampanoag, John Carver and the Pilgrims.

What Squanto learned from the Pilgrims saddened him. Half had perished that first winter. In order to correct this, he began to teach the English how to use fish fertilizer, how to plant maize, beans and pumpkins, by mixing seeds in the same hills. He taught them to use cornstalks as supportive structures for their beans and showed them how legumes added nitrogen to the soil. He also showed them where to catch eels and fish, and acted as their interpreter and guide for many years, always with Samoset at his side.

Power makes men do strange things. After a time, Squanto began to show signs of superiority or perhaps became jealous of Hobbomok, a Panseis and Sagamore Indian who lived permanently with the English. In the end, he instigated a great fear within Indians for the English. He often told them the English kept barrels of plague buried underneath a storehouse and threatened to have the English unleash their toxic power should the Indians not do as they were told. Indeed, these barrels did exist, but they were barrels of gunpowder not plague. Nevertheless, their existence gave credence to Squanto's story.

Hobbomok, on the other hand, confided to some settlers that he had heard rumors about a plot against the English and that Squanto was at the heart of it. Governor Bradford investigated the complaint and Massasoit appeared in the settlement to clear his name of any wrong doing while accusing Squanto of assisting in spreading the rumor, a punishment befitting death by Indian law. As sachem, Massasoit demanded that Squanto be turned over to the Wampanoag. Governor Bradford, having depended upon Squanto for so long would not relinquish his friend even though Miles Standish trusted Hobbomok and believed his accusations.

With the disappointment of a second harvest and a long winter ahead, the Pilgrims set off in January, 1623, to search for corn taking Squanto with them as their guide and interpreter. Governor Bradford led the expedition around Cape Cod with every intention of meeting with the Nausets to trade for corn and beans, and did so, for a time, with great success. Tragedy struck amidst the peaceful negotiations however. Squanto, 'bleeding much through the nose', died of Indian fever. Before succumbing to death, he asked Governor Bradford 'to pray for him, that he might go to the Englishmen's God in heaven'. Squanto, according to Bradford, 'was also their pilot to bring them to unknown places for their profit, and never left them till he died'.

Like Homer's Odysseus, Squanto was restless, clever, even tricky, and possibly, if you believe Hobbomok, an inventor of lies. Like the Odyssey, his tale teaches us about the human journey, fate, assimilation, and crossing boundaries. More importantly, without him and his adventurous spirit, Thanksgiving might not be as we know it today.

Katherine Bone is a member of the Heart of Dixie, Southern Magic, NAWW and Hearts Through History.

NORTH TEXAS ROMANCE WRITERS OF AMERICA ELECTION BALLOT 2007 BOARD

INSTRUCTIONS: Check one box for each office. For write-in candidates, fill in the candidate's name and also check the box. To be included, write-in candidates must accept nomination. Be sure to sign and date the ballot at the bottom or your vote will not be counted.

PRESIDENT

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennie Fitzgerald
<input type="checkbox"/>	

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

<input type="checkbox"/>	Carolyn Williamson
<input type="checkbox"/>	

VICE PRESIDENT / PROGRAM DIRECTOR

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tara Waldie
<input type="checkbox"/>	

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

<input type="checkbox"/>	Kim Campbell
<input type="checkbox"/>	

TREASURER

<input type="checkbox"/>	Angi Platt
<input type="checkbox"/>	

PUBLICITY / WEBSITE DIRECTOR

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

RECORDING SECRETARY

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

PLEASE BRING THIS BALLOT TO THE DECEMBER MEETING.

Or mail your completed ballot to:
 Patricia Vermeire
 NTRWA Elections
 PO Box 1921
 Burleson TX 76097

Mail-in ballots must be received no later than Thursday November 30, 2006.

 Member's

 RWA

 Please

 Date



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



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

2007 Elections Ballot Enclosed

Meeting Information

November 3 & 4, 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



Fall Writers Roundup
Visit www.NTRWA.org for
Speaker & Signup Info