



# North Texas Romance Writers of America

## HEART to HEART

Founded March 1933

Chapter 33, Region 5

April 2010

Volume 29, Issue 3

### WRITTEN WORDS

#### RISING STAR AWARDS MOST PAGES WRITTEN in March

- Michelle Kopra - 200
- Ron Campbell - 169
- Mary Duncanson - 101
- Nikki Duncan - 100
- Jerrie Alexander - 80

#### STAR AWARDS MOST PAGES EDITED in March

- Shelley Bradley - 178
- Mary Duncanson - 166
- Ron Campbell - 129
- Jerrie Alexander - 100
- Clover Autrey - 100

### INSIDE

- Minutes .... Pages 8 & 9
- GE Winners ..... Pages 6-7
- PAN Meeting .... Page 7
- NT Two Step Photos ... Pages 9-11

Join Us April 17<sup>th</sup>  
To Learn

## THE SECRET OF MY “INSTANT” SUCCESS

(a.k.a Queries, Loglines and Pitches, Oh My!)

presented by  
R.ITA® Award Winning Author

### ROSEMARY CLEMENT-MOORE

See Page 3



NTRWA  
President  
GINA  
NELSON  
P. 2

### Spotlight on Heather Long

See Page 4

## The President's Corner

Wasn't this year's Texas Two Step incredible?

I had heard Michael Hauge present *Story Mastery* once before, during the 2009 RWA National Conference, which was held in Dallas. Truthfully, I wondered how much I would get out of it the second time around. What was I thinking?



Hearing his extended workshop up close and personal made a significant difference. He provided more handouts, charts, and examples from films. He answered our questions in depth, even coming to the aid of two of our published authors. Sunday morning many of us stayed as Michael analyzed *Lars and the Real Girl*, turning point by turning point using his story structure techniques.

I'd like to congratulate the many of you who pitched your stories to agents and received manuscript requests. Well done!

Thanks to Marty Tidwell, our conference chair, and her team for another fabulous conference. Congratulations!

Don't forget, it's not too late to sign up to attend this year's RWA National Conference, which will be held in Nashville, TN in late July.

Oh, and one more thing ... our Writer's Roundup Retreat will be here before you know it!

Gina Nelson, President

## Thanks for Support the Texas Two-Step

Thanks to all of you who brought door prize baskets for our March Texas Two-Step Conference. We raised almost \$250 because of your generosity, and the participants had a great time figuring out just which sack to put their tickets in. We won't ask you to do our Texas Two Step baskets until 2012. But we'd lose our truth in advertising status, if I wasn't up front about one basket for national conference this year and again in 2011. Watch for info about the Nashville basket for this summer's national conference.

Thanks again for what each of you do to make NT such a strong chapter. We heard lots of good comments from people attending last weekend. Special kudos to Marty Tidwell for chairing two conferences just three months apart.

Marsha R. West, President-Elect

## Lessons in how to Target Your Pitch and Polish Your Query

### At the April 17 Meeting!

By Kym Roberts  
Programs

You've written a fabulous novel, you've revised it so that it sparkles. Your mother thinks it's the best thing she's ever read. Now how to convince the rest of the world of that fact?

A targeted pitch and polished query letter is your ticket in the door of an editor or agent's office. Learn the secret of the "logline" and how to write a query that will up your chances for a request and move your manuscript to the top of the stack. Get step-by-step instructions on how to target your book to the right editor or agent, write an irresistible query letter, and make sure you and your book say "we are an incredible, sellable package!"



Rosemary Clement-Moore went from "going to finish a book someday" to a multi-book, hardcover contract in whirlwind time. Her query letter got an 89% request rate, and acquired representation in less than six weeks. Whether this was beginner's luck, tactical master planning, or simple brilliance, Rosemary is happy to share the secrets of her "instant" success (results not typical, your mileage may vary).

A recovering thespian and unrepentant book addict, Rosemary writes full time because she can work in her pajamas and doesn't have to wear makeup. Her books range from smart, funny and scary (Maggie Quinn: Girl vs. Evil) to spooky and romantic (The Splendor Falls), and have won the RITA award and been listed among the ALA Best Books for Young Adults and VOYA's "Perfect Tens".

<http://www.rosemaryclementmoore.com>

## Board Announcements:

The next meeting of the North Texas RWA Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, April 17 at 8:45 AM at La Madeline's French Bakery & Café, 900 Highway 114, Grapevine, TX 76051. All members of North Texas RWA are welcome to attend.

The Board will be proposing bylaw changes at the April meeting.



## Spotlight on Heather Long

Written by Kim Quinton

Heather Long lives in North Texas with her husband, daughter and their menagerie of animals. As a child, Heather skipped picture books and enjoyed the Harlequin romance novels by Penny Jordan and Nora Roberts that her grandmother read to her. Heather believes that laughter is as important to life as breathing and that the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus are very real. Check out her hedge witch, Chance Monroe in her free read, *It Happens*, from All Romance eBooks.

### Do you write full-time or do you have a day-job also?

I write full time and I have a day job. I work as a freelance copywriter for a company in Dallas. I also work freelance online for various websites creating content, researching and doing interviews. The goal, of course, is to write fiction full time!

### What do you write?

I write urban fantasy, paranormal romance and paranormal suspense. I enjoy stories with heroic twists, dark flaws and the need to build trust between the characters. I'm totally character dependent. A good plot helps, but you know I could go on an adventure with my hero and heroine to find the perfect cheeseburger if they were fun and intriguing.

### Are you working on anything now?

The short answer: yes.

The long answer: Currently I am working on the second of three books I plan for Chance Monroe. I have three other WIPs that I will be working on throughout the year. If all goes as planned I'll have at least two books shopping by late summer.

### Do you have an agent or are you looking for an agent?

Definitely looking for an agent, but I will be hard shopping for one in the second half of 2010. The first half is devoted to getting as many manuscripts polished up and ready to go as I can.

### Your character Chance Monroe as a hedge witch is an interesting twist on magic and witches. How did you come up with it?

To me, witches are a part of the natural order. They take their power from their connection to it and from their own heredity. You don't become a witch, you are born one. So with that thought in mind, I was living in Northern Virginia where there was a lot of construction and subdivision projects that were taking out huge tracts of trees and nature, I hated watching it – some were so startling, vibrant trees one day and razed down to the ground the next. It would leave me hurting and I began to wonder how someone who was really connected to the earth would feel and thus, Chance Monroe – hedge witch was born. Funnily enough, her name means good fortune from the mouth of the river. Not a bad name for a witch.

### Is there any genre you haven't written that you want to try?

I wouldn't mind writing a New York Times Best Seller.

(continued on next page)

## Spotlight on Heather Long (con't)

### Do you remember the first romance you read or perhaps ones that encouraged you to write?

The first romance that I read was a novel by Penny Jordan called *Escape from Desire*. Tamara and Zach were held by guerillas in this tropical location. Zach helped her escape and they got frisky in a cave while on the run. Then Tamara was bit by this nasty spider. Zach carried her out of the jungle and left. When Tamara recovered, she went home to England where she learned she was pregnant and ended up working for Zach Fletcher – at first not revealing that it was his baby. So much good stuff. I read that book a dozen times and to this day, I have never forgotten key parts of the story.

### Helpful tips or mistakes to avoid?

If you have an agent who wants to work with you and only asks you for a couple of minor changes, don't be so hung up on yourself that you aren't at least willing to try. I did that, sadly and ten years later, I'm back to looking for an agent.

Please list your websites, contact info and where we can get your books.

<http://www.twitter.com/hvlong>

<http://www.facebook.com/hvlong>

<http://www.myspace.com/hvlong>

<http://www.heatherlong.net>

<http://www.sapphirebluepublishing.com>

## Mark your Calendar for these Upcoming Meetings

May 15: Our annual **Author Critique Round Table**. The submission deadline will be available shortly (a couple of weeks prior to the May meeting). Those participating will receive a one chapter critique from NT published authors and should be prepared to submit via email. Most critiques will be in-person at the meeting, for those unable to attend, some critiques will be available via email.

June 19: Judy McCoy talks about the 5 Easy Steps to Self-Editing or Ask Me Anything about the Writing Business.

July 17: Georgette Radford with Barnes and Noble presents Everything You Wanted to Know About Book Store Sales.

Aug. 21: Shelley Kaehr talks about Website building.

Sept. 18: Wendy Watson discusses *The Wrong Man*.

Oct. 16: Dallas Medical Examiner Reade Quinton "Reality is Stranger than Fiction" (Graphic topics—discretion advised).

## 2010 Great Expectations Winners

### Contemporary Series Category

Victoria Curran ~ Editor with Harlequin Books

FIRST: *Wanderlust* by Roni Griffin --requested

SECOND: *Redemption* by Nancy Evertz --requested

THIRD: *Wildfire On Roca Mountain* by Jennifer Stroka

HONORABLE MENTION: *Closer Than A Brother* by Carol Post

### Erotic Romance Category

Katherine Pelz ~ Editorial Assistant with Berkley Heat

FIRST: *Wicked Desires* by Eliza Lloyd

SECOND: *Wonderland* by Jennifer Ottolino

THIRD: *Beyond Redemption* by Linda Masterson

HONORABLE MENTION: *Roberta's Rules of Order* by Hailey Williams

### Historical Category

Danielle Poiesz ~ Editorial Assistant with Gallery/Pocket Books

FIRST: *The Blue Rider* by Cindy Nord --requested

SECOND: *The Devil May Care* by Elisa Beatty --requested

THIRD: *Between Heaven and Hell* by Jacqui Nelson

HONORABLE MENTION: *Heart Of The Knight* by Lynn Ward

### Inspirational Category

Natalie Hanemann ~ Senior Editor with Thomas Nelson

FIRST: *The Peacock Throne* by Lisa Karon Richardson

SECOND: *Prodigal Nights* by Lisa Buffaloe

THIRD: *Shattered Dreams* by Mindy Obenhaus

HONORABLE MENTION: *A Line in the Sand* by Stephanie Prichard

### Mainstream with Romantic Elements

Abby Zidle ~ Senior Editor with Gallery/Pocket Books

FIRST: *Saturdays at the Karma Café* by Edie Ramer

SECOND: *The Miser Who Bought the Farm* by Kendel Flaum

THIRD: *Misconception* by Christy Hayes

HONORABLE MENTION: *Gypolar* by Tracy Ward

### Romantic Suspense Category

Alex Logan ~ Assistant Editor with Grand Central Publishing

FIRST: *From Baghdad With Love* by Gail Zerrade

SECOND: *The Secret Life of Jennie Quinn* by Wendy Gray

THIRD: *Exile* by Anne E. Kyle

HONORABLE MENTION: *Behind Every Good Man* by Rebecca Neely

### Single Title Category

Holly Blanck ~ Assistant Editor with St. Martin's Press

FIRST: *Place Your Betts* by Katie Graykowski --requested

SECOND: *Royally Screwed* by Kelle Z. Riley

THIRD: *Wonderland* by Jennifer Ottolino

THIRD: *Hephaestus Unexpected* by Alexis Walker

Continued on the next page

## Great Expectations 2010 Winners Specialized Category

Talia Platz ~ Editorial Assistant with New American Library

FIRST: *Hearts of Darkness* by Ciara Stewart --requested

SECOND: *The Ocean Between Us* by Cate Rowan

THIRD: *Outer Planets* by Laurie Green

THIRD: *The Seduction of Phaeton Black* by G. Jillian Stone

## Young Adult Category

David Linker ~ Executive Editor with HarperFestival, HarperCollins

FIRST: *Doon* by Lorie Langdon & Carey Corp --requested

SECOND: *Forever Fifteen* by Tracy St. Hilaire

SECOND: *Getting A Clue* by Jennifer McAndrews

THIRD: *Mythic* by ChristaCarol Jones

## 2011 Updates

Rules, score sheets, deadlines, contest tips, and other questions will be updated on the website approximately during the month of May or June.

If you have any questions, please contact [Angi Platt](#), the 2010 contest coordinator.

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## ATTENTION: NTRWA Published Authors

At the April 17 meeting, we'll have our first PAN meeting in many years.

The topic? Achieving your writing goals. If you've thought, I have a career and I have goals, but how do I get from point A to point B or would like to hear how others have achieved theirs, please join us.

This time is just for YOU! We'll also be discussing what you'd like from our next PAN meeting, currently scheduled for September.

For this special opportunity to talk about matters relating to published authors, please join the regularly scheduled meeting at 10:30.

We will order lunch. Just before the general program begins, we'll step into the adjoining room and spend that time in our meeting, then join everyone else for lunch, social time, and the business meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

—Shelley Bradley, PAN Liaison

## Minutes from the March 13, 2010 Business Meeting

Compiled by Carolyn Williamson, Secretary

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on March 13, 2010 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The president and secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:33 A.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted in the March Newsletter with corrections. (Edited word count to earn a bead in the BABS program is 40 pages.)

Board Absences: Jean Marie Brown, Newsletter Editor

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President Gina Nelson reported:** The top five writers according to number of pages written during the month and the top five writers according to edited pages during the month.

**Treasurer Chris Keniston reported:** The amount of the checking account balance. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**Program Director Kym Roberts reported:** Next month's workshop will be presented by Rosemary Clement-Moore on writing query letters. Kym directed members through several speed pitching sessions with volunteer "agents" and "editors."

**Membership Director Jeannie Guzman reported:** As of today, we have 68 members. The 2 visitors were Tish Sanders and Ann Bahnmillier.

### **COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**PRO Liaison Clover Autrey reported:** In early March, she initiated a discussion on pitching to editors and agents on the PRO loop.

**PAN Liaison Shelley Bradley reported:** There will be a meeting of NTRWA PAN\* members in April during the program part of the chapter meeting. After their meeting, NTRWA PAN members will join the rest of the membership for the business meeting and lunch.

\*The decision by RWA to align chapter PAN groups with RWA PAN was made on March 20-21, 2010.

Nikki Duncan presented the cover of her new book. Alley Hauldren was this month's Spotlight.

(Continued on the next page)



## Minutes from the March 13, 2010 , 2010 Business Meeting

Compiled by Carolyn Williamson, Secretary

The business meeting was recessed at 10:47 a.m., reconvened at 12:48 p.m. and adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Submitted electronically by Carolyn Williamson

## Scenes from the North Texas Two-Step



Check-in Time



Becca Stumpf, Agent, Prospect Agency



Adam Wilson, Associate Editor, MIRA



NT Two Step Chair, Marty Tidwell

More photos on the next page

## More Scenes from the North Texas Two-Step



Meeting and Greeting



Holly Blanck, Assistant Editor, St. Martin's Press



Joy Azmitia, Agent, Russell and  
Volkening



GE Winner Roni Griffin

## More Scenes from the North Texas Two-Step

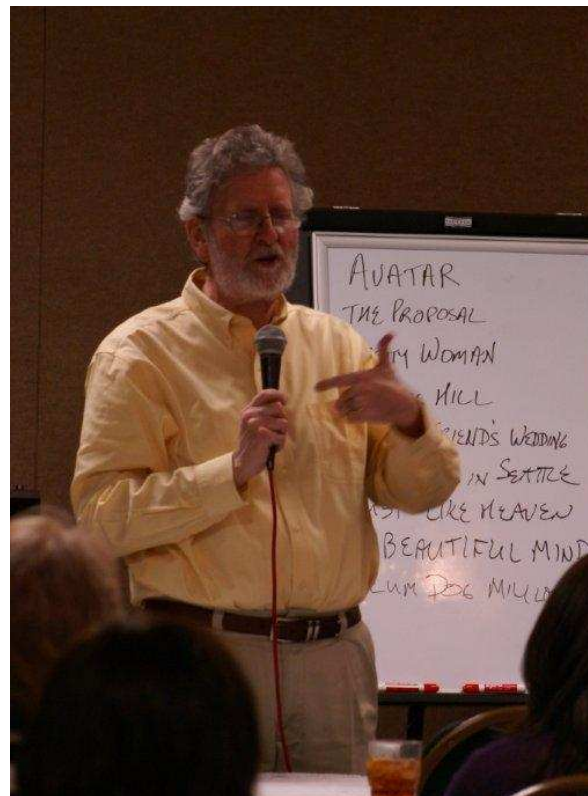


NTRWA members Kym Roberts and Tracy Ward



NTRWA member Ron Campbell

Photos courtesy of Jeannie Guzman



Michael Hauge



newsletter@ntwra.org

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Grapevine, TX 76051

NTRWA Monthly Meeting  
Third Saturday of the month  
Doors Open 10 a.m.  
La Hacienda Ranch  
5250 Highway 121 South\*  
Colleyville, TX

### Board of Directors

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