



FOUNDED MARCH 1983 CHAPTER 33, REGION 5 JANUARY 2011 VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

**RISING STAR
Awards
Most Pages
Written**

Heather Long
385 pages
Linda Graves
240 pages
Kim Quinton
215 pages
Dawn Clyburn
202 pages
Jeannie
Guzman
75 pages

**SPUR
Awards
Most Pages
Edited**

Heather Long
1,500 pages
Shelley Bradley
818 pages
Jeannie
Guzman
355 pages
Angi Platt
160 pages
Carolyn
Williamson
131 pages

**JOIN US FOR OUR JAN. 15
MEETING**

DEAR EDITOR...

**THE KEY TO WRITING
QUERY LETTERS**

ROSEMARY CLEMENT-MOORE

**THE
PRESIDENT'S
CORNER
PAGE 2**

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MARSHA WEST

Happy New Year, NT members! I hope your holidays were filled with wonderful experiences and love. It's a little daunting to follow our past president Gina Nelson in writing this piece for our newsletter. She strings words together like she's writing a song with only the notes missing. As a reader, the beauty in her phrasing constantly struck me. (Huge thanks to her, the past board, and committee chairs for the great year NT had in 2010.)

Okay, gang, here's the deal, I write straightforward, a little wordy, but not lyrical. My critique partners help me cut the excess in my novels, and I'm sure I can count on Jean (our newsletter editor) and Kim (our new pres-elect) to assist me for this column.

As the time for this endeavor has drawn nearer, I've considered whether I'd have a theme for the year or just wing it every issue. Because

I consider honesty to be a very important character trait, (My fifth novel is titled Truth Be Told), I decided to fess up about an embarrassing issue. Writing has been so difficult for me the last half of 2010, I've considered quitting. I haven't for a number of reasons.

My critique partners would kill me, and I don't want them to go to prison.

I'm a responsible person and feel strongly about fulfilling commitments.

I made a commitment to you to serve as President this year. It's a job I'm grateful take on, because I've gained a lot from this chapter, and it's definitely time to pay back. Also, I'm an organization person and find it fun to help facilitate meetings and read bylaws. (Weird, I know.)

I'd be lost without this group of friends and acquaintances, the work, and challenges. I've never been one who can just sit around without a task at hand.

From the angst of my struggles, I've drawn a theme for the year. Keep on Keeping On. I heard a song of that name on a re-run of the TV show "Bones" a couple of weeks ago. I thought, that's it. (You will have noticed by now I talk in parentheses a lot. The point of this one is how much I dearly love "Bones.") Some of the various loops have dealt with this topic, too, and tried to answer the question, "How do you get through the tough times?" Anyone who's been writing at all knows this business is tough. That's what we'll try to address here every month. I know many of you have ideas about that from your own and others' experiences. I'd love for you to write me off loop with what you've found helpful, and I'll share with our members. mwest7012@sbcglobal.net

I always loved the quotes Gina included at the beginning and end of her column. When I taught, I shared quotes with my students. I believe we have to prime our minds with good, because society bombards us with junk. As a former theatre arts teacher, I know how true this month's quote is. I'm pretty certain it pertains to our writing, too. What do you think?



Skill to do comes of doing. Ralph Waldo Emerson

DECEMBER MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on December 11, 2010 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The president and secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 11:20 A.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted in the Newsletter.

Record Board Absences: Kym Roberts, Jean Marie Brown

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Gina Nelson: She presented service pins to the officers and committee chairs. She also presented the following awards:

Most pages written: **Rising Star** (unpublished) - Ron Campbell
Shining Star (published) - Heather Long

Most pages edited: **Silver Spur** (unpublished) - Ron Campbell
Golden Spur (published) - Nikki Duncan

Yellow Rose Award: **For outstanding service to NTRWA** - Carolyn Williamson

President-Elect Marsha West: She announced officers for next year and that we need more judges for the Great Expectations contest.

Treasurer Ron Campbell: The checking account balance was reported and will be filed for audit.

Program Director Kym Roberts: Gina Nelson reported for Kym that next month's workshop will be presented by Rosemary Clement-Moore on *Query Letters*. In February, CPA Ron Campbell will speak on *Taxes and Writers*. Misa Ramirez will tell us about *The Naked Hero* in March.

Membership Director Jeannie Guzman reported: As of today, we have 86 members. In attendance we had 4 visitors, including Cassidy Long (Heather Long's daughter), Donna Stockton, who writes erotica as Sophie Oak, and Patricia Wolf who writes for Siren as Morgan Fox. (Her latest book is *Seduced by the Moon*.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Great Expectations Chair Angi Platt reported: Eighty entries have been received for this year's contest.

Pro Liaison Clover Autrey: She presented Jamie Webb with her PRO pin.

Pan Liaison Shelley Bradley: Said that she hoped the chapter would plan two PAN meetings in 2011.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Shelley Bradley moved that we adjourn. The motion passed.
The business meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m. and the members and guests were entertained with magic tricks by Reade Quinton.

Submitted electronically by Carolyn Williamson

WOULD YOU VISIT A BOOK CLUB

By Jason Boog
www.galleycat.com

Would you travel to visit a book club and talk about your book? [Email us](#) your name, distance you are willing to travel, and a description of your book—we'll add your information to our upcoming (and free) Authors Who Visit Book Clubs directory. Before the holidays, we wrote about [what authors can learn](#) from indie rock. In this digital age, musicians have to work for every fan, from blog interviews to hanging out after the show. Writers need to do the exact same thing with readings, Skype, book clubs, and school visits. [Skype an Author Network](#) will help you connect with readers on video and [Author School Visits by State](#) will help you reach schools. Contact Jason Boog at jason@mediabistro.com.

BOARD CHANGE

At the NT Transition Board meeting on Saturday, January 8, the board accepted with regret the letter of resignation from Roni Griffin who is unable to continue as the Program Director for 2011.

The board then appointed Nikki Duncan to the position with thanks to her for being able to serve.

As program director, Nikki is responsible for coordinating speakers for our monthly meeting and planning the November retreat.

Marsha R. West, President NTRWA

**DON'T FORGET 2011 DUES
ARE DUE NOW
IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID BY
FEB. 28,
YOU WILL BE DROPPED
FROM
THE ROSTER AND THE
LOOPS
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
CONTACT**

Membership Director, Jamie
Webb

Membership@ntrwa.org

2011 NTRWA Schedule

We have a great line-up of speakers for next year's meetings.
Mark Your Calendars

January: Rosemary Clement-Moore *Query Writing*

February: Ron Campbell- *Taxes for the Writer*

March: Misa Ramirez and Tonya Kappas- *Naked Hero*

April: Sue Grimshaw, Borders with a tour of the store

May: Round Table

June: Victoria Chancellor *Synopsis*

July: *Speed Pitching for Nationals*

August: TBA

September: TBA

October: Julia Quinn *Dialogue: It's more than what you say.*

November: *Retreat*

December: *Party*

SPOTLIGHT ON LINDA GRAVES

BY CAROLYN WILLIAMSON

Fort Worth native, an accomplished belly-dancer, and director of a dancing troupe, Linda Graves has catapulted into published fame in a few short years and is excited to announce the issuing of her first novel, Shimmying Faith, by Whiskey Creek Press.



1. When did you begin writing novels? **I began short stories in elementary school about horses and dogs (too young for romance, Eew Yuckey, boys) but novels didn't start seriously until about three years ago when after my Middle-eastern dance troupe disbanded leaving me with time on my hands and still the need to continue entertaining.**
2. When did you begin writing seriously? **A few years ago when my teenage daughter and her friends got me talking about my past love life and some of the crazy dates I had. They got me to start writing them down, and from there I got involved in writing each relationships as a short story. About the time I finished my 'Boyfriend Book', I heard on KSCS that Candy Havens would be talking about writing at the library. She was so excited about the joy writing gave her, I became hooked.**
3. Why did you pick an e-pub press? **I really didn't have enough knowledge when I started to know the difference. Actually, I submitted to several publishers and received several rejections. First came the form letters politely saying they were looking for something different and a couple that weren't taking submissions at that time. Then Whiskey Creek Press offered me a contract and I was too excited to give it a second thought!**
4. Have you ordered a printed copy to see what it looks like? **Oh yes. I have ordered copies for myself. I want to hold it in my "wittle hands." Also I needed print copies to use as promotions at Dance seminars and such.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LINDA GRAVES

5. What did you think of the cover? Did you get any input on its design? **I love the cover. Yes, my cover artist Gemini Judson took the physical description of my heroine and viewed sample covers I had made for my own benefit with Photoshop. She came very close to the dancer I had imagined.**

6. How have the editors treated you? Did they ask for any rewrites? **Actually, my editor was not very helpful at all. I believe the story is very good and my marketing plan was very strong. I'm sure those were the incentives for the manuscript purchase. The manuscript was submitted early on in my writing career, and I have learned so much. While waiting for the first contact from the editor I did rewrites, but she was not very interested in them. She seemed to just want to finish and move on with just punctuation corrections. After a bit of nagging, I finally got the changes done, but I know from what I have learned since, with a more supportive editor the finished product could have been improved. Still, the story is strong, and so far, the feedback I have received from readers have been excellent.**

7. Where did you grow up? **I was born and bred right here in Fort Worth, TX.**

8. How many novels did you write before selling this one? **I was one of the lucky ones. This was my very first completed manuscript.**

9. Describe your family? Do you have a significant other? **I have a loving husband. This year will be our twenty-first anniversary together. My children are Whitney Houston - my daughter is Whitney, my son is Houston. Accidental name play, but it makes their names easy to remember. I have a wonderful four-year-old granddaughter who claims me to be her best friend. And recently I found out my daughter will be having my second grandchild in late summer.**

10. Since you write a very sensual book (or is it erotica?), what would you say to a radio or TV announcer if he asks how you did research for your book? **Shimmying Faith is indeed a sensual book. But it also rather light hearted. Having milkshake spilled on me at a restaurant by a skating waitress, hitting a prospective employer with a door that left him with a black eye, having a gentleman in the audience accidentally slice open his hand when I explained how a dancer hides her tips, those were just some of my real life**

SPOTLIGHT ON LINDA GRAVES

experiences that ended up in this manuscript. I have been a professional belly-dancer for the past thirty years, so the dance scenes were easy. I was co-director of a troupe that varied in numbers from nine to twenty women. Belly-dancers tend to be rather open-minded sexually, so road trips were full of stories of personal experiences shared by my very experienced group of ladies. Yes, I'll say all the experiences came from them, as I was always the sweet and innocent one. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Linda Graves can be reached at <http://lindagraves.com>

CHAPTER EVENTS LOOP

The chapter will no longer be responsible for sending info about contest and conferences to NT members on our loop. All of that is available to each of you on the Chapter Events Loop. See below for how to join that loop.

Thanks,
Marsha West
NTRWA President
President@ntrwa.org

The email address to send messages to the Chapter events loop is:
chapterevents@yahogroups.com.

To subscribe, the web address is:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chapterevents>.

If you were a member of the previous Contest Loop, you do not need to subscribe.

Thank you,
Leslie Scantlebury
chapters@rwa.org

MEMBER NEWS

SEVEN SOULS A LEAPING

Seven Souls A Leaping is an anthology of three interconnected tales of love, danger and a war against evil written by *Lisa Pietsch, K.F. Zuzulo and Heather Long.*

At the New England New Age (NENA) Investigations, no case is too weird. The paranormal detective agency relies on the familial talents of siblings Duncan and Samantha MacDougal and their cousin Tara Conroy. While Duncan and Samantha tend to the field work, Tara mans the office tapping sources in both the physical and spirit world. Fate takes a hand when a killer named Jeffrey Wiles begins a death-dealing spree that puts the lives and loves of these investigators on the line.

Published by Sapphire Blue Publishing, January 3, 2011.



38 CALIBER COVER-UP BY ANGI MORGAN

Undercover DEA agent Erren Rhodes was used to working alone. So the very idea of teaming up with Officer Darby O'Malley to ferret out a killer wasn't exactly how he thought this critical mission would go. But thanks to information only the beautiful cop possessed, finding whoever was responsible for shooting Erren's friend made Darby a valuable -- and irresistible -- partner. Digging into the case, though, revealed a far-reaching conspiracy...and angered all the wrong people. Now, trying to bring a killer to justice while keeping Darby safe was making Erren remember why he was better off on his own. Especially when Darby made him long to hole up with her in the safe house and never let her out of his sight.

Published by Harlequin Intrigue, Feb. 1, 2011



SECRET CRAVINGS BY KRIS COOK

Kate Bullion's chance to surprise her grandmother for the holidays goes awry when, instead of Gran, she comes face-to-face with twins Rance and Troy Keekoti, her childhood best friends. They've grown up into two very sexy men, but pain from their past still stings Kate. Rance and Troy have never forgotten Kate--the girl of their dreams, now a woman they crave to possess. Yet tribal law prevents them from coming clean with her about their true nature as shifters. They can't resist being near her, though, no matter what the risk. Kate bakes some of Gran's famous cookies for Rance and Troy, but what none of them know is that one of the ingredients magically lowers inhibitions in humans. In the twins, it unleashes primal urges that scorch her to the core.

Will she be able to let go of old pain and choose the love of her two wolf-shifters?

A Siren Erotic Romance





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NTRWA MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
DOORS OPEN @ 10 A.M.
LA HACIENDA RANCH
5250 HIGHWAY 121 SOUTH
COLLEYVILLE, TX

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