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President's Corner

So it's June.

Finally.

whew

May was a crazy busy month for me and I'm very glad it's over. On the weekend of the June meeting, my life will become even calmer. My men will be heading to the wilds of central Texas to sell fireworks. If you're the praying sort, please pray that the drought index remains low in McLennan County. Last year, most of the state was under burn bans and ended up with fireworks bans (which are not one in the same), and we were unable to sell. Luckily we'd anticipated it and weathered the expense of fireworks vs. loss of income from the sale thereof without issue. A lot of other folks were not so lucky.

But enough of that.

Thanks to all our pubbed authors for their time and insights as they critiqued pages for our pre-pubbed authors at the May meeting. It was a great learning opportunity as well as a chance to get to know a chapter member you hadn't known well or at all before.

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May 19, 2012
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

**Board of Directors:
Officers**

Jen FitzGerald
President

Michelle Welsh
President-Elect

Nancy Connally
Secretary

Angi Platt
Treasurer

Nikki Duncan
Program Director

Jamie Webb
Membership Director

Heather Long
*Communications
Director*

Clover Autrey
Website Director

Committee Chairs

Roni Griffin
PAN Liaison

Carolyn Williamson
PRO Liaison

**Heather Long
Kim Quinton**
Great Expectations 2013

Marty Tidwell
Hospitality

Heather Long
Newsletter Editor

Dawn Clyburn
Spotlights

D'Ann Burrow
Audio Librarian

Chrissy Szarek
Writing Incentives

Nikki Duncan
Texas Two Step 2014

Angi Platt
Bylaws

**Michelle Welsh
Angi Platt**
30th Anniversary

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m. The minutes for the April meeting were approved as printed in the May newsletter.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- RWA affiliation packet has been filed.

President-Elect: Michelle Welsh had nothing to report.

Secretary: Nancy Connally had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Angi Platt reported:

- The Board reviewed the budget at this morning's board meeting. Changes were within \$100 and don't require approval by the general membership.
- The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Program Director: Nikki Duncan reported:

- The June meeting will be Reade Quinton on mentalism.

Membership Director: Jamie Webb reported:

- No new members.
- No visitors.

Communications Director: Heather Long reported:

- She will be assigning articles for the newsletter.
- Members should send information about sales and, when possible, provide cover art.

Website Director: Clover Autrey reported:

- Updating the website. Please advise about any broken links or new links that need to be added.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

PAN Liaison: In the absence of Roni Griffin, Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Explained the published author pencil recognitions and brought them up-to-date.

PRO Liaison: In the absence of Carolyn Williamson, Jen FitzGerald reported:

- To become a PRO, a member must submit a manuscript to an agent or editor and have proof of submission. Application forms are available.
- One of benefits of PRO is priority reservations [after published authors] with agents and editors at RWA National Conference.

Hospitality: In the absence of Marty Tidwell, Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Items are needed for the raffle prize baskets for the monthly meetings.
- Raffle tickets to win prizes are available for purchase at the monthly meetings.

Spotlights: In the absence of Dawn Alexander there was no Spotlight.

Audio Librarian: In the absence of D'Ann Burrow there was no report.

Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- The quarterly drawing will be held at the June meeting.

Texas Two-Step: Nikki Duncan reported:

- The 2012 Two-Step conference was a success and made a profit.
- Cherry Adair has been confirmed as the featured speaker for the 2014 Two-Step.

Bylaws: Angi Platt had nothing to report.

30th Anniversary: Michelle Welsh reported:

- Thank you to committee members.

• Book in a Year coordinator Angi Platt reported:

- Distributed incentives. Bracelets are on back order. Please report pages before meeting.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Jen FitzGerald presented Michelle Welsh with a plaque for her first book.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted electronically by Nancy Connally

Date Approved: _____

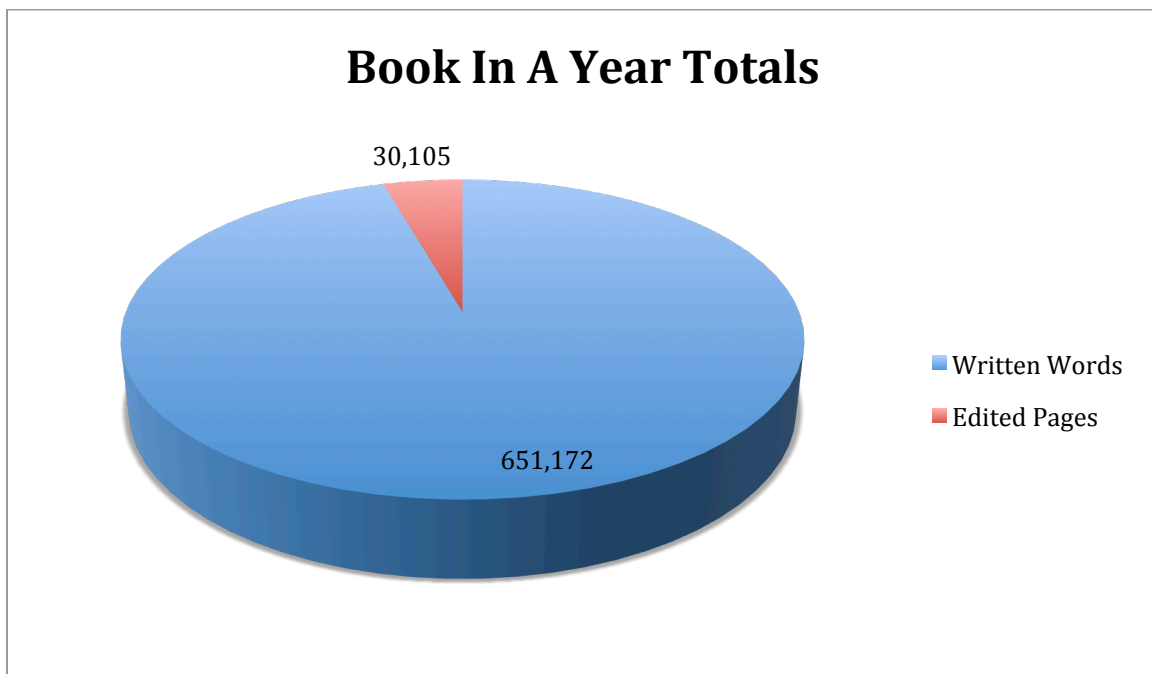
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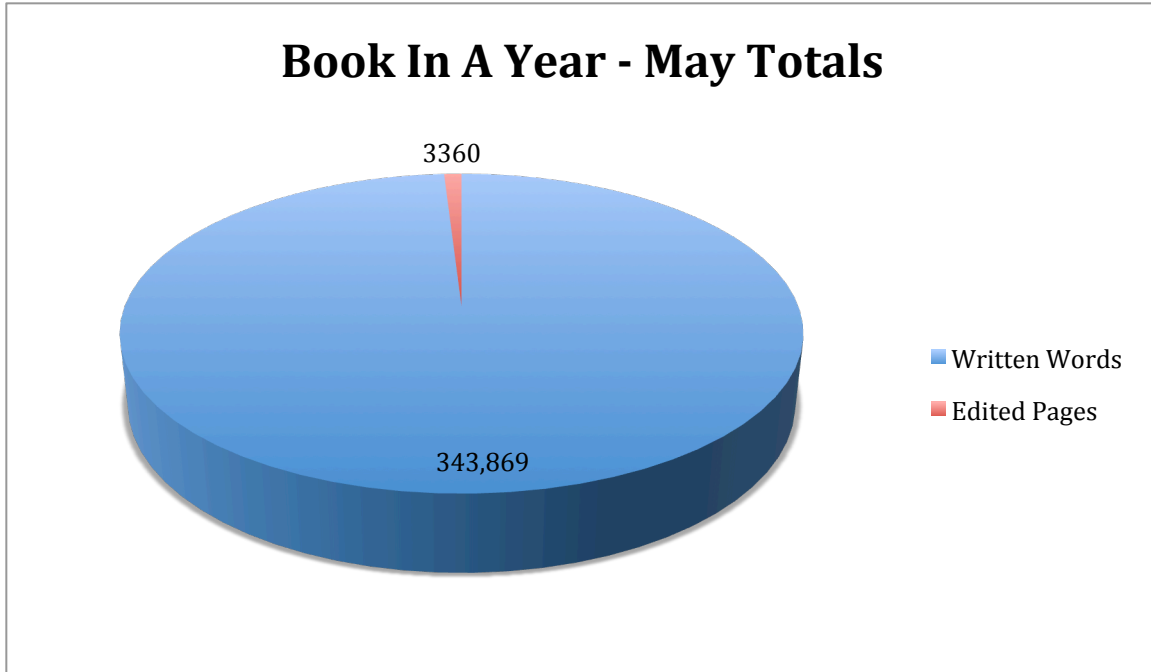
Charm Incentive

March 2013 will be the 30th anniversary of NTRWA. To help celebrate, the chapter is sponsoring a Book In A Year program for all members. For more information, visit the [Writing Incentives](#) page. (While you're there, you can see some of the other awesome ways we encourage our members to write.)

How Book In A Year Works:

- The program is open to all NT members, local and long distance.
- To sign up, please download and fill out [the BIAY form](#) and then e-mail it to the [BIAY Coordinator, Angi Platt](#).
- Complete your word goal each month.
- Charms will be earned in the following order . . . for example, if you meet your writing goal in March, but not in April, but then again in May, you will receive the cowboy hat in April (for March) and then the boot in June (for May).
- For those who earn all twelve charms, the last one will be a 30th anniversary commemorative disk.
- Alternative charms are available for those who participated in the 25th anniversary charm incentive.
- E-mail your word count/page count to the BIAY coordinator each month (biay@ntrwa.org) within seven days of each meeting, so that she can order your charm in time for the following meeting.





It's not too late to add your words to our pie! Join BIAY@ntrwa.org

Taking It With You

By Angi Morgan

I'm an unconscious ... I mean subconscious writer >>grin<<. Hearing Cathy Spangler's workshop made me aware of why I take parts of my writing with me everywhere--including the movie theater (I loved the movie theater BEFORE the commercials between movies).

First let me define what type of writer I am:

- Subconscious Pantser: usually I have a vague idea of who the characters are, a solid situational beginning, 4 major turning points (if I'm lucky), and a rough ending. I never know the true internal GMC of my characters until after chapter 3 and only with a lot of discussion and analyzing.
- I write linear (can rarely make a scene that I've written out of order actually ever work) and I layer: dialogue, then movement/direction, then description, then emotion.
- After a chapter is written: I tweak, send for critiques, talk about it, tweak, edit corrections, tweak some more, talk some more, then have a final read and tweak again.
- Most important: I write in some form every day. Whether it's at my computer or waiting in the car line (now at stop lights or at the bank)--I write, make notes, edit, revise, critique, or discuss my plot every day.

Like Cathy, I categorize my life. While I'm writing it's easy to let everything but essentials go. It's much easier to handle life if I make a list of reminders of what I need to do. I do things in order of deadline priority. In other words, whatever I need to do for what's happening that day--or the next--goes to the top of the list. But while I'm running errands or cooking dinner, luckily my subconscious is at work, getting prepared for that few minutes between things-to-do when I can sit at the computer or take out my journal.

TAKING IT WITH ME...

At the 2000 RWA conference, I began taking notes in a small journal, one that would fit in my purse. I now use a journal for writing. Like Cathy, I would take notes put them in a safe place and never look at them again. Now, when my journals fill up, I place them on the shelf--at least I know where they are. I began a journal for each manuscript. Notes, dialogue, characteristics, actual scenes...I don't misplace

notes if they're in my journal. And when my subconscious talks to me at a red light or through my dreams, I can make a note. Sometimes I can apply the inspiration to my manuscript, sometimes not.

One of my favorite places to make notes is the movie theater. In that 30 to 45 minutes before a movie starts (yes, we arrive early for good seats), I've "trained" my hubby (who I happen to LIKE to plot with) to discuss my work while we're waiting for the previews. Again, a small journal is ideal for making notes. You'll be amused at the conversations you'll overhear around you. Sometimes they spur story ideas or dialogue.

One of the weirdest places (for others) but one place I love to write at is Six Flags Amusement Park. We take a backpack and my smallest journal always makes it inside. There are a couple of rides I refuse to entertain myself with (bumper cars for one) so I sit on a bench and wait. I make notes about people, describe sounds, or work on my book of the moment. Since applying critiques is mainly correcting and not "thinking" work... Once when my agent asked for the manuscript, but my daughter begged me to take her and friends to Six Flags, I took three chapters to apply critiques while standing in line. Yes, I was a topic of conversation, but not as weird as the red and white leggings and pointed hat three people in front of me. Recently, I finished edits at a Ranger game and handed out bookmarks when people asked what I was doing.

And of course when I'm stuck, just getting away from the computer helps. Taking my journal to the pool, on a walk, or the park is easy. I use a writing exercise to jump-start my subconscious. I describe the five senses: what I hear, smell, see, feel and taste. Many of these exercises turn into non-romance short stories or end up as descriptions in my manuscript.

I'm always amazed at how writing about nothing at all can free up my muse to connect all the dots and bring me back to my story.

2012 ADDITION

Many of us have smart phones or tablets to make notes. But I challenge you to put a pen on paper and see if that frees up your muse. Ink instead of click. Look up around you every once in a while to experience what's going on instead of just reading about it.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

This article first appeared in North Texas RWA's Heart to Heart, 2004.

AND AT THAT TIME: *Having just finished one manuscript and tweaked a second, Angi was dog-tired of an elusive scene in her next book...so elusive she quit writing on this particular manuscript last September. Writing TAKING IT WITH YOU was an exercise to free up her muse.*

NOW? ANGI MORGAN writes Intrigue where honor and danger collide with love. You can find her regularly on Facebook (Angi Morgan), follow her on Twitter (AngiMorganAuthr), or check out her website (AngiMorgan.com).

What Do Certain Kisses Mean?

By Heather Long

Writing romance or inviting romance into your story means that you will write about kisses, soft kisses, cheek kisses, earlobe kisses, eye kisses, finger kisses and wet, warm spine tingling kisses. So the question then becomes what do certain kisses mean? What does a kiss say about your characters and where they are in their relationship?

The butterfly kiss is a soft, fluttering kiss that flutters the heart. It's teasing kiss, a flirtatious kiss. It awakens feelings, desires and promises provocative ideas. Butterfly kisses are just a breath away from the flesh.

Soft kisses are delicate, like the petals of a rose. They can be reserved for close friends and small children. Soft kisses to the lips play the prologue to deeper, wetter kisses in the future.

Kisses to the cheek are friendly kisses. They can be patronizing, too. They can be a devilment, a tease and a slap in the face of someone who wants more. Cheek kisses can amp up the tension between your characters, particularly if one is fighting their attraction for the other.

The earlobe and eye kisses are far more provocative. The earlobe kiss nips gently at the soft flesh of the ear, suckles on it and often includes the gentlest brush of the tongue against the soft flesh. The eyelid kiss can be a

butterfly kiss, but when a couple is exploring their passion, the eyelid kiss seasons the desire. It can be among the more intimate, trustworthy kisses that happens in the depths of passion.

Finger kisses can be playful and pleasurable. These are most likely to occur while basking in the afterglow, limbs entangled together. Nibbling, soft kisses along the fingers is seductive and a reminder of seduction.

Originally published as a blog in May of 2009.

Oh My Gosh, I've Been Shot... Where's the Bullet Hole?

By Angi Morgan

Saturday morning I was shot. I swear. Everyone heard the gunfire. Half the people in the bleachers hit the ground. The other half stared at the white smoke billowing around my feet. And me? Well, I froze. My life didn't flash before my eyes, but I assure you, a thousand thoughts raced through my mind in a millisecond.

I can laugh about it now. Now that I know it was an over-aired inner tube exploding. But for all purposes, I experienced something as close to the real thing as I ever want to get.

I froze. My heart landed in my throat. Not just figuratively, but viscerally. I couldn't move, speak, blink. I had no clue what was happening around me. It took me a good thirty seconds before I felt my chest to verify I was still whole. Honestly, I knew I'd been shot at. Just knew it. The emotions ranged from astonishment to relief and back again to laughter once I moved the tire and saw the rather large hole in the side of the wheel.

To give you a better picture of what happened... I set softball fields for the city where I live. The stands were full of college students and parents at the Red River Conference tournament. I push 90 pounds of chalk and machine (hopper) around the field. One of the front tires had been over-inflated and decided to blow out. The sound was incredibly close to a gunshot and managed to echo off the buildings. People really did think we'd been fired at, going so far as to dial 911.

What does any of this story have to do with writing?

Well, I can tell you that I'll be able to draw from that adrenaline rush for some time to come. I write romantic suspense, writing about gunfire and shots fired several times. And I'd say that I'm actually used to gunfire having been raised around guns. But this experience was different. The world really did move in slow motion for at least thirty seconds. My thoughts followed a progression from: I've been shot. Should I move? I'm okay—no wounds. Did kids put firecrackers in my hopper? If I move it will something else happen? What DID happen? Oh, goodness, the tire exploded! "It's okay everybody, it was the tire."

Again, you're probably asking, what does this story have to do with writing?

It's added a deeper perception to my gun scenes—that's for certain. But it also reminded me that getting into the real world is important for authors. Life experiences are what we bring to our writing to make it unique. An emotional connection is what we share with our readers. That connection is what brings them back for the second, third, or a lifetime of reads. It earns us a place on their keeper shelves.

As for those over-inflated tires... I can blame my husband for that. Helping me out, he aired the hopper's tires the night before. Unfortunately, he'd forgotten his glasses and just guessed at how high to fill them. LOL

I'll be around to chat throughout the day and would love to know what unusual, silly, or dangerous thing has happened to you because someone forgot their glasses.

Originally appeared as a blog in May of 2011.

Congratulations NTRWA Members!

Congratulations to **Angi Morgan** for finaling in Daphne du Maurier Category (Series) Romantic Mystery/Suspense Finalist with .38 Caliber Cover-Up.

Hats off!

Most Pages Written

Heather Long - 320 pages
Suzan Butler - 183 pages
Cindy Dees - 127 pages
Ron Campbell - 122 pages
Sidney Bristol - 118 pages

Most Pages Edited

Heather Long – 1225 pages
Angi Morgan - 460 pages
Renee Jones - 350 pages
Sidney Bristol - 345 pages
Chrissy Szarek- 260 pages



...continued from page 1

At the June meeting, we'll revisit our goals and see how we fared.

Do you remember what those goals were? If so, how are you doing?

I know how I'm doing because most of my life revolves around goals. You're probably thinking, "WHAT??" But, in reality, a goal is just another item on your *to do* list. And I make a *to do* list every day. When I'm able to cross something off the list, I feel accomplished. The more things I cross off, the better I feel.

I also have weekly goals. Those include a word count goal, but also getting the laundry done over the weekend and going to the grocery store. Sometimes it includes a larger household task, like mopping the floor or bathing the dogs. (No. I don't do those on a weekly basis, though I should, but I sweep A LOT.)

Anyway.

(A conversation with my husband and a phone call later...)

Where was I? I don't even know. ☺

Which seems as good a segue as any to wrapping this up. I don't have a whole lot to say at the moment other than write, write, write and I'll see you on the 16th.

Have a great writing month!

Jen

Mentalism - Truth and Fiction!

Be sure to join us Saturday, June 16 for Mentalism in truth and fiction.

Mentalism is a branch of the art of magic in which the performer appears to demonstrate highly developed mental or intuitive abilities, including the ability to read minds, control thoughts and actions, and predict the future. Other abilities may include psychokinesis, metal bending, and even communing with spirits. Aside from entertainment, these abilities are employed by many others including psychic investigators, spirit mediums, fortune tellers, psychic healers, and many others.

The art of mentalism has gained more public awareness recently with the television series "The Mentalist," in which a former psychic entertainer uses his abilities to help solve crimes. As both a magician and a death investigator, Dr. Quinton gives his own perspective on the topic of mentalism and how the hit television show stands up to reality.

About Reade Quinton, M.D.

Reade Quinton, M.D. is a practicing forensic pathologist in Dallas, Texas and an associate professor in the Department of Pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center. However, his medical training inadvertently led to a second passion: the art of magic and sleight of hand. Dr. Quinton first began learning magic in medical school as a way to connect with patients, but this hobby blossomed into much more after completing his medical training and having his own family. He is currently a member of two of the most prestigious organizations in magic – the Society of American Magicians (SAM), and the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) - and serves as a board member for the Dallas chapters of both organizations.



newsletter@ntrwa.org
NTRWA
2100 W. Northwest HWY
Suite 114-1081
Grapevine, TX 76051
NTRWA monthly meeting

**NTRWA monthly meeting
Third Saturday of the month
Doors open @ 10 a.m.
La Hacienda Ranch
5250 Highway 121 South**