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President's Corner

Hello friends, chapter mates, and fellow writers...

We're nearing the end of the year and my tenure as president. I'm definitely ready to pass the torch, but I should still be on the board and ready to lend Michelle Welsh a helping hand if needed. If you're interested in helping out some way, somewhere, let Michelle know. Being a part of the board is a rewarding experience.

Elections will be held online at the end of November. Please be sure to take a few minutes to vote. Candidates and instructions will be along in plenty of time, so don't worry that you've missed anything. Also, all of you new members will definitely have access to the members only portion of our website by then. I sincerely apologize for the delay in getting your access setup. There's an issue at GoDaddy with the program we use to keep all y'all's login information and we're working to get that resolved. And just so you know, there's nothing that exciting to find there at the moment. Just meeting minutes, newsletters, and the like, so that nothing gets lost.

In other news, October has come to a close, thank goodness. It was a rough ride and I'm definitely glad it's over. And now that it has, it's time to turn my attention back to writing and revising. If only I could. I ran into a stumbling block that I'm still trying to figure out (these things are not intuitive to me) and then real life decided to strike a couple of blows as well. *Calgon, take me away...*

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BIAY Charm

2.6 MILLION WORDS

WOO HOO ! Can you believe that number? Words add up fast. Twenty-nine participants in our 30th anniversary Book In A Year program have already racked up more than 2.6 million new words since March. Wow, we definitely deserve chocolate.



AND THAT'S just what we'll get for our December charm. (Remember that since we didn't meet in November, there is a combined charm for Nov/Dec---numbers are due early, before the 2nd Saturday.)

"Life is like a box of chocolates," Forest Gump's mother always said. And writing is about life. So make sure to enjoy life this holiday season. And don't forget the chocolates!

New Words	Edited	
165,071	3,213	Monthly Total
2,603,504	69,007	BIAY TOTAL

CONGRATULATIONS on your FINISHED BOOKS:

- Suzan Butler, OFF HER GAME
- Suzan Butler, O CHRISTMAS THREE
- Heather Long, WAITING IN THE WINGS (40K)
- Heather Long, Whiskey Tango Foxtrot (30K)
- Sydney Bristol, ONCE UPON A TIME IN MUKDAHAN (short)

2013 Nominees for Board

Voting will take place online. Stand by for notice to be sent to the loop.

Nominees:

- President: Michelle Welsh
- President Elect: Clover Autrey
- Secretary: Nancy Connally
- Treasurer: Angi Platt
- Website: D'Ann Burrow
- Communications: Heather Long

Finding Time for Your Dream

By Carolyn Williamson

Do you find that your job and housework limit the time you have to spend on finding your dream? Don't let them. You want to be ready for opportunities when they arise.

Decide what it will take to achieve your dream. If you can write an hour a day and finish one page, you will have 365 pages done in a year. Make the page number per day a goal you can easily meet. Some days you may even write more. Of course, there will be rewriting, but you will have a start on achieving your dream of finishing a book.

MAKE GOOD USE OF TIME WHEN YOU WRITE

Choose the right thing to write. That works best if it is (1) something you have a passion for, (2) something you have some talent for--you can always learn more, and (3) something the market will buy - mixing genres is risky, concentrate on one for your first few novels.

HOW CAN YOU FIND TIME AND KEEP MOTIVATED?

Set goals. Set a big one and choose small ones that will help you get there. Figure out why you want this--recognition, money, pleasure or all three? Knowing why you write helps keep you going. Make an outline or a working synopsis (not the one you send to an editor, but a plan for your story). That helps you keep focused on where the story is going and the developing character arcs for the main characters. An outline or working synopsis cuts down on revision and plot holes. It also helps avoid your staring at the blank screen wondering what to write next. However, if you're a pantzer, you many just want to figure out the ending and try to write toward it.

Keep a chart and check off goals. Reward self for each goal or number of pages set for the day. Keep carrots in front of you (chocolate, something to buy, promise yourself a treat - play game or read after writing a certain number of pages). If the whole book seems too daunting a task, concentrate on one chapter or one section at a time, then go on to the next. Write affirmations and post them on your computer or mirror or cupboard. Some examples are: (1) I AM A GOOD WRITER, or (2) DAY BY DAY I AM BECOMING A BETTER WRITER

RESEARCH

The library isn't the only place you need to do research. You need to figure out (1) what will it take to achieve your goal, (2) what mistakes you should avoid, and (3) what obstacles you may run into. Alice Orr's book, *No More Rejections*, written by a former author and editor, details many mistakes rejected writers make and how to avoid them. Checking editors' and agents' websites as well as networking with other writers will tell you what type of stories certain editors and agents want and don't want so you will know who to pitch to when you're finished.

To find facts for your novel, you can buy booklets (at a place you want to use for a setting), use the library, search the Internet, or ask knowledgeable people. Three books are usually enough on any subject. Children's books are a good source. Easily understood, they will give you the basic facts. Double check Internet information by looking at other sites. However, don't get so caught up in doing research that you spend more time on that than writing. Use XXX to mark spots where you need to research later.

People with knowledge about a career or process are usually happy to tell you what they know. For police procedure, you can take a citizen's police academy class. Many let you ride along with a cop for a shift. Since police procedures differ from town to town, call the police in the town you plan to set your story in or make up a town.

FINDING TIME

Work with your body, not against it. Figure out what time your body is at its best for writing. That depends on your personal body rhythms and whether you are a lark or a night owl. It also depends on the time when you are least likely to have interruptions so you can concentrate on your story world and characters. Set a specific time each day, at least an hour, to write so your brain will keep thinking about your story. Your subconscious mind will work on what can happen next or solve problems with your story so you will be ready to write when the time comes.

You may be able to choose a time when you are most creative, and there are few interruptions, but jobs and housework seem to take up most of your time. Here are ten ways to free time to write.

1. set priorities, do important stuff first--like writing
2. curtail TV, choose favorites
3. Use answering machine - return calls later
4. clean less often (do some chores every other week)
5. delegate - kids can do lots of jobs - make allowance depend on that
 - a. give money for keeping toys picked up in common areas
6. Do yard work less often (or get your husband or kids to do it)
 - a. plant low maintenance landscaping
 - b. use heavy mulch chips to avoid weeds
7. don't do some things, identify time wasters, learn to say 'no.'
8. let fingers do walking
9. don't shop unless you need things, throw away catalogues without reading
10. bunch errands (saves gas too)

A DayTimer or calendar or lists will help you set and keep track of times for jobs. Do mindless jobs when tired - grocery shop, vacuum, dust, dishes. Organize belongings to save time. Having a regular place for things helps avoid that pile on the table or your desk. Make good use of the dishwasher by setting table with clean dishes right from the machine. Empty it right away, so it's easy for everyone to put dirty dishes in it. Use the microwave for cooking vegetables so you don't have to stand and watch them. Dovetail your work by combining two jobs at the same time. You can empty the dishwasher while you wait for water to heat for coffee.

CONCLUSION

Make up your mind to go after your dream. Motivate yourself by using affirmations, checking off goals and rewarding self when you achieve them. Do your preliminary research, but don't spend too much time on that. Make an outline or at least know the end of the story so you will write toward the conclusion. Choose the best time to write and stick to it each day. Set time aside religiously - tell family that's your time. Spend less time on other things.

Remember the four Ds, (1) Dovetail, (2) Delegate, (3) Do less often, and (4) Don't do some things. Then spend your "Found Time" working on your dream

Carolyn Rae Williamson is the author of *There IS Life After Lettuce* and five romantic suspense novels.



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On the submission front, no news is good news. At this point. Back in August I submitted my short story to Entangled for their

Flirt line. I hadn't heard back in the time frame specified (plus a few weeks). So I reached out to the editor and asked for an update. She'd passed my manuscript onto another editor who was juggling fewer books. So I'm still waiting.

As I write this, the retreat is mere days away. Unfortunately, finances will not allow me to attend the B&B. I wish good writing and great progress to those of you who go. As for me, I've got some alternate plans in place so I'm hoping the family cooperates, and I can still manage a productive weekend.

Remember, the next meeting is the second Saturday of December instead of the third. We're doing a gift/book exchange. Bring a wrapped, gently used book with a 2012 publication date if you want to participate.

And that's all folks!

See you in December!

Jen

Newsletter Changes Coming

Newsletter Changes Coming

By Heather Long

Stay tuned for notes in December about how to sign up for the new newsletter for 2013. We're going to migrate to a mailing list once more through a managed server like MailChimp and streamline the article submission process so newsletters are sent out in a more timely fashion.

December Meeting and Christmas Party

Be sure to join us Saturday, December 8th, for our end of the year holiday party and we're doing a gift/book exchange. Bring a wrapped, gently used book with a 2012 publication date if you want to participate. The meeting will take place in the front room rather than our normal one. Have a great holiday season!



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