

Jen FitzGerald

From: NTRWA Newsletter <newsletter=ntrwa.org@mail129.us2.mcsv.net> on behalf of NTRWA Newsletter <newsletter@ntrwa.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 1:46 PM
To: Jen FitzGerald
Subject: April Newsletter

Are you ready for summer? Remember to plan ahead to get your pages done when kids are out of school and conference season is upon us!

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Founded March 1983

April 2013

Chapter 33, Region 5

Volume 32, Issue 4

Letter from the President

Staying On Track

Wow. How awesome was that party?

Thirty years of romance is an amazing milestone, but not nearly as incredible as the number of people who participated in the Book in a Year program. We have great members endowed with talent and perseverance and resilience.

The toughest of the three is the last: Resilience.

The ability to cope with adversity is a cherished trait to everyone in the writing business. We pour our heart out onto the virtual pages of our computer, hoping our words will touch

a reader (preferably an agent or editor).

Sometimes we win. Sometimes we lose.

But we always start again.

I don't know about you, but I enjoy the process of writing. I get excited about new characters and fret about what kind of torture I'm going to inflict on them. I work hard to put together an interesting story with a little humor and some steamy love scenes. The only drawback, for me, is hitting that send button when I'm finished.

The dreaded '*Thanks but no thanks*' rankles.

At least, mine comes in the form of an email or letter. Think about what actors go through. Would you like to stand in front of an agent or editor while they read you partial?

And I'd hate to be that editor or agent.

When that email comes in, the one you dread, remember the strength of your convictions. Be resilient. Bounce back and start again.

Don't forget about the goals you set at the March meeting. Keep them in mind as you work, and we'll revisit them in April.

Happy writing!

-Michelle Welsh

2013 Great Expectations Winners

Historical Romance

Final Round Judge: Mallory Braus, Carina Press

Fool's Gold by Caril Davis **

The Lost Chord by Suzanne Turner**

Secrets and Sapphires by Diana Walker

The Tin Man's Heart by Laura Huskins

Edward Rochester: The Master of Thornfield by Nancy Hurst

Erotic

Final Round Judge: Kelli Collins, Ellora's Cave

Onyx by CT Green**

Her Guardian by CT Green**

Three Weeks with a Sheik - Casea Major

Secret Sin by Lisa McKinney

The Horse List by Anna Moder

Inspirational

Final Round Judge: Becky Monds, Thomas Nelson

In the Light of Day by Kristy Cambron**

A Virtuous Ruby by Piper Huguley**

Edward Rochester: The Master of Thornfield by Nancy Hurst*

Knowing Hope by Stacy Monson

Love's Forgiving Heart by Katherine McDermott

Mainstream with Romantic Elements

Final Round Judge: Emilia Pisani, Simon and Schuster

Unforgettable by Carrie Christie

The Day The Merry Go Round Stopped by Orly Konig-Lopez

The Duel by Catherine Lawrence

Love Sick Love by Barbara Flores

Divide and Conquer by Carmen Fox

Single Title

Final Round Judge: Sue Grimshaw, Random House

Second Times the Charm by Vanessa M. Knight

In Too Deep by Tracey Alvrez

By Proxy by Kary Regnery

Audrey's Promise by Susan Sheehey

Gravity by Julie Dove

Specialized

Final Round Judge: Deborah Nemeth, Carina Press

Guardian by Tara Sheets** - Tie for 1st Place

The Sins of Madeline Montgomery by Wendy Gray** Tie for 1st Place

Her Guardian by C.T. Green

Shift Happens by Jasmin McKenzie

Other Than by Mia Celeste

Jazz's Cubs by Nancy Corrigan

Young Adult

Final Round Judge: Erin Black, Scholastic

The Abolitionist's Daughter by Gigi Orlowski**

Awakening by Lori Freeland**

Dehtroned by Beth Burgoon

Charming Cassandra by Michele Griskey

Macha and the River Blue by Barbara Gabriel

Romantic Suspense

Final Round Judge: Libby Murphy, Entangled

Not Quite Legal by Christina Elle

Her Unreasonable Doubt by Anne-Marie Carroll

Shadows at Midnight by Kelli Carlson

Fighting Fear by Jo-Ann Carson

Starting Over by Brenda Roberts

Series Contemporary

Final Round Judge: Shana Smith, Harlequin

The Wedding Deception by Amanda Barber**

Second Time Around by Katalina M. James**

The Resort by Tami Lund

Buried Threads by Kaylin McFarren

One More Time by Catherine Cervantes

Congratulations to all of this years winners and thank you to everyone who participated!

Great Expectations 2014 will open in September!

** indicates a request for a full

* indicates a request for a partial

Do You Reward Yourself?

by Terry Spear

Do you reward yourself when you accomplish anything with your writing?

I used to celebrate agent rejections. Sound weird? That's all I received. How can you keep on going if all you're getting is agents and editor rejections? This was in the not too distant past before writers could give up the ghost and begin a successful self-publishing journey.

But my mom would laugh and say to her friends that I was the only one she knew who could say, "But, Mom, this is a good rejection. They liked what I wrote. And they want to see more."

My daughter got so mad about the rejections, she threw one out in my trash and I asked, "What was that?"

"A rejection," she said. "You don't need to see it."

I love my family.

But I learned to celebrate rejections. You know why? It meant I made the effort to send out my work into that harsh, cruel world. I've known writers that have been writing the same book for fifteen years and never have finished it or have taken the chance to send it out, fearing? The rejection.

We never know which books will resonate with readers or which ones won't. We won't, until we let go.

Every step of the way, we need to celebrate. Finally finished the halfway point of the book? Celebrate! Broke through writer's block? Celebrate! Reached the end? You know what to do.

Revised it umpteen times? Ready to send it out? Take a moment to enjoy!!

This can be anything from a special dinner out to watching your favorite TV series, or reading a book you've set aside as your reward.

You deserve it.

I celebrated the end of revisions on three books due out this year and bought myself a new pair of jeans, shirt, and shoes. I deserved it. Although I'll have to admit some of that celebration was for finishing up my taxes!!!

6

I'm a total workaholic. So I have to force myself to do stuff that is just for fun. To celebrate those special moments. Maybe not this day, or tomorrow, depending on other deadlines and commitments, but that celebration will be enjoyed soon. Because I expect another one after that too. As soon as I accomplish another great writing feat.

What about you? Do you take the time to reward yourself for the effort?

We all need to!

This article first appeared in the FF&P Newsletter 1st Quarter of 2013.

About Terry Spear:

Bestselling and award-winning author Terry Spear has written a couple of dozen paranormal romance novels and two medieval Highland historical romances. Her first werewolf romance, *Heart of the Wolf*, was named a 2008 Publishers Weekly's Best Book of the Year, and her subsequent titles have garnered high praise and hit the USA Today bestseller list. A retired officer of the U.S. Army Reserves, Terry lives in Crawford, Texas, where she is working on her next werewolf romance and continuing her new series about shapeshifting jaguars. For more information, please visit www.terrypear.com, or follow her on Twitter, [@TerrySpear](https://twitter.com/TerrySpear). She is also on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/terry.spear>.

March 16, 2013

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President was present. The Secretary was absent. The President-Elect recorded the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m. The minutes for the February 16 meeting were approved as printed in the March newsletter.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Michelle Welsh reported:

- T-shirts have been located and are \$10.
- Quarterly Goal envelopes were distributed and collected.

President-Elect: Clover Autrey: No report.

Secretary: Nancy Connally was absent.

Treasurer: Angi Morgan reported:

- The Great Expectations Contest did not generate as much money this year.
- The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Program Director: Lara Lacombe reported:

- The April speaker will be announced later.

Membership Director: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- There are 67 members, including the newest member Julie Haza.
- There were three visitors.
- Jen updated the members only section of the website.

Communications Director: Heather Long was absent.

Website Director: D'Ann Burrow: No report.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

PAN Liaison: Nikki Duncan: No report

PRO Liaison: Jeanne Guzman: No report

Hospitality: Sidney Bristol: No report

Spotlights: Gina Nelson reported:

- Chrissy Szarek was the Spotlight

Audio Librarian: Clover Autrey reported:

- Handed out two CDs from the audio library.

Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Explained the qualifications for receiving a prize from the Treasure Chest.
- The report of most written and edited pages as published in the newsletter was incorrect. Cindy Dees wrote the most pages last month.

Texas Two-Step: Nikki Duncan: No report.

Bylaws: Angi Morgan: No report.

30th Anniversary/BIAY: Angi Morgan reported:

- Will continue to give out any of the twelve BIAY charms earned for those who started the program late.
- The BIAY program had 32 participants, 76 books were completed, 5 million words written, almost 100,000 words written, and 382 charms awarded.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Jen FitzGerald announced the Published Author Contest, named the Carolyn Reader's Choice Award in honor of founding

member Carolyn Williamson. Carolyn received a special charm for her 30-year anniversary for her BIAY charm bracelet.

- The Carolyn Reader's Choice Award contest page is on the website and will open for submissions November 14. Readers are judges. The prize will be a Big Ad valued at approximately \$500-\$575.
- Carolyn Williamson announced she sold "Searching for Gold" to Noble Publishing.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 20
at La Hacienda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Submitted electronically by Nancy Connally

Date Approved: _____

Date Corrected: _____

Most Pages Written

- Candace Havens - 863
- Michelle Welsh - 113
- Susan Welch - 70
- Chrissy Szarek - 64
- Roni Loren - 60

Most Pages Edited

- Candace Havens - 1273
- Chrissy Szarek - 1158
- Lara Lacombe - 827
- Carolyn Williamson - 727
- Gina Nelson - 645

News News News

Congratulations to Barb Han on achieving her PAN status!

Eden Bradley, Shayla Black, Sophia Oak aka Lexi Blake and I will be doing a signing at Bondage Expo Dallas on April 26-28 in the vendor area. There's also a 50 Shades crowd friendly track.

Heather Long sold her contemporary romance series including Some Like It Royal and Some Like It Real to Carina Press!

2013 Meeting Schedule

Join us April 20th as NT's own Clover Autrey shares the Step by Step Process of How to Start Self-Publishing

Future Meetings:

May: published author lunch (pubbed authors sit one or two to a table, according to genre; members can sit at their genre table and ask questions about writing/getting published in that genre)

June: Sylvia Day

Email questions, comments, or articles to newsletter@ntrwa.org.

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