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April 2019 NTRWA Newsletter

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North Texas  
Romance  
Writers  
of America  
ntrwa.org



**SQUEEZING PLOT**  
FROM A CHARACTER  
TEX THOMPSON  
**MAY 18**

**GET PUBLISHED 10:00 to 10:30****BUSINESS MEETING & LUNCH 12:15 to 1:30*****The Heart to Heart***

NTRWA

Founded March 1983

Chapter 33, Region 5

April 2019

Volume 37, Issue 3

**Meeting Dates:****March 16:** Kat Baldwin,

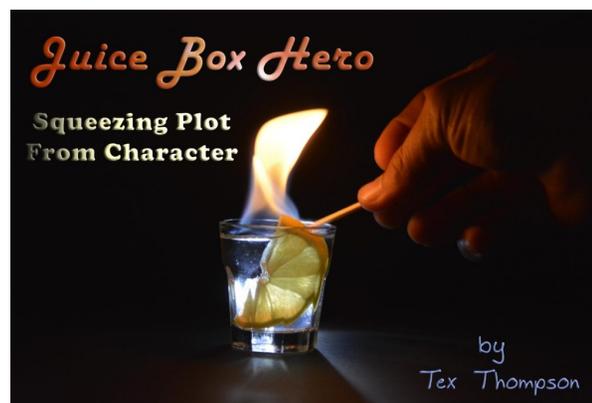
Getting Emotions Write

**April 6, 2019:** Damon Suede**2019 BOARD****President**

C.A. Szarek

**President Elect**

Susan Person Miller

**WORKSHOP: MAY**

Join us May 18th for Juice Box Hero: Squeezing Plot From  
Character a presentation by Tex Thompson

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)**Secretary**Carolyn R.  
Williamson**Treasurer**

Regina Richards

**Communications****Director**

Lizzie Bailey

**Contest Director**

Audra Lewandowski

**Membership****Director**

Ranee Leigh

**Program Director**

Linda Bolton

Want to be a part of the  
NTRWA machine?! Contact  
Chrissy - [president@ntrwa.org](mailto:president@ntrwa.org)

**2019  
Committee  
Chairs****PAN Liaison**

Chrissy Szarek

**PRO Liaison**

million characters – and a great one can make an author’s career.

If you have an AMAZING character (or ten), but are struggling to sustain their storylines – or if your intricate, masterfully-crafted plot feels a bit flat on personality – have no fear. Come on out and discover how to distill a story that readers will remember from characters they’ll never forget. Bring your enthusiasm and all your burning questions!

About Tex: Arianne “Tex” Thompson was once described as “an explosion of 52 enthusiastic kittens latching onto everything at once.” In addition to writing the ‘Children of the Drought’ epic fantasy Western series, Tex is the founder and ‘chief instigator’ for WORD – Writers Organizations ‘Round Dallas. When she’s not leading the charge at home in Dallas, Tex brings her particular brand of ‘red-penthusiasm’ to conferences, conventions, and workshops all over the country – as an egregiously enthusiastic, endlessly energetic one-woman stampede. Find her online at [www.TheTexFiles.com](http://www.TheTexFiles.com)!

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Randee  
Paraskevopoulos

**Bylaws**

Angi Morgan

**The Carolyn**

Audra Lewandowski

**Great****Expectations**

Amanda Byrd

**Hospitality**

Amanda McMurrey

**Writing****Incentives**

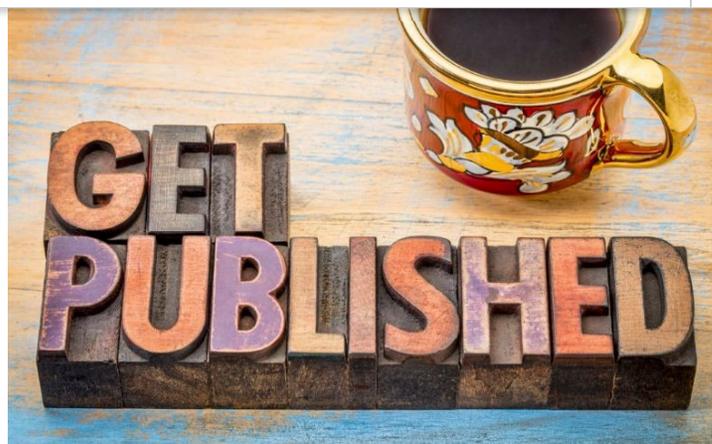
Kim Miller

**Get Published**

Jen FitzGerald

**Two Step 2019****Conference**

Linda Bolton



**#GETPUBLISHED - May**

**Audra Lewandowski**

Learn all about business plans for authors from the one-woman show, "Mia London".

Join us @ 10am sharp for a brand new year of GET PUBLISHED! Please see the article below from Jen FitzGerald for more info. Our great club will help YOU finally grab that spanking new publishing contract or enable you to hit PUBLISH on that e-book you've been dreaming about publishing!

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT CHRISSY SZAREK



I feel like it's becoming a theme in my President's letters, but wow, I genuinely can't believe another month has passed. May? Really?

May 1<sup>st</sup> was MayDay! Did you dance with flowers around the May Pole? I didn't, but I remember fun festivals when I was a kid. Fun times!

I hope you've accomplished all you've wanted to so far this year. I hate to admit I've not gotten there, but I'm not giving up yet. Never give up, Never Surrender (Galaxy Quest, yes my nerd is showing, LOL!)

Time; there never seems to be enough. But as I've said in previous letters, we need to make it for ourselves, and I admit, I still struggle with this myself.

May brings us Mother's Day, and what a perfect excuse to let our families' know what we want for OUR day? LOL! Convenient, right? Well, for those of us who're moms. I'm not (except to furbabies; they count!)

So for Mother's Day, tell them you appreciate the cards and flowers, and even a spa day? But also tell them you want some YOU time, to...you guessed it, WRITE!

Get some words down that Sunday. I know I'm gonna try!

I hope you're working hard toward "the end," like I still am. Whether it's a few stolen words at midnight, or a whole writing day or two (thank God for writer's retreats) I'll get that next book done, and so will you!

Happy early Mother's Day, and Happy Writing!

See you at the next meeting! Hopefully you'll have tons written to tell me all about!

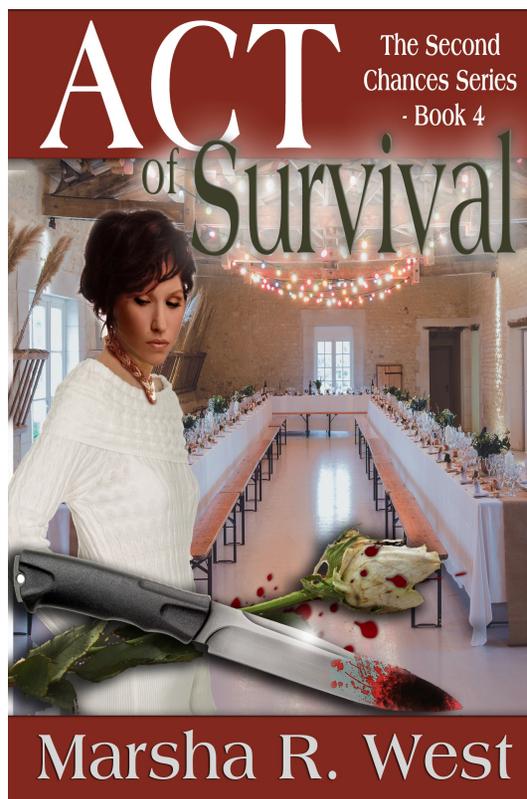


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### **5 Ways to Engage Your Reader** by @MiaLondon - Audra Lewandowski @NTRWA Social Media Goddess.

Engaging your reader can be positively crucial to the success of your writing career. Art is successful or complete when the reader/viewer completes it in their mind.

Don't feel like this is thrust upon you. That can be terrifying. Think of it as building a connection and trust, not as marketing. You are building a tribe. And these days it's easier than ever!

1) think about doing something to reach out to a reader once a week—ask a question, share a photo and its significance, your inspiration, a funny story about everyday life.

Instead of asking yourself, "How many new people have I reached this week? How many new 'likes' and 'follows'?" Ask yourself "What have I learned about my ideal reader this week?"

2) learn what matters to them. How do you do this? Pick a few books that are very similar to yours, then hop on to Goodreads and Amazon and read the reviews. You will see what is important to your reader (plus maybe find

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3) be a student of readers. Ask people what they read and why. It doesn't matter who these people are or what they've read. They can be a friend or colleague, or a stranger sitting next to you at a local cafe. You can ask questions such as:

- What was it about the book that stuck with them weeks, months or even years after they read it?
- What was the most unexpected part of it, the element that got them thinking or surprised them?

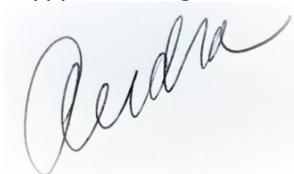
This will quickly tell you the identity your readers seek and what lights them up, gets their attention, and gets them talking.

4) talk about the process. A lot of people are intrigued by why you write, how you create, the experiences you have, the people you meet, the wisdom you pick up. This is also great content for a blog (and places that take extended posts, like Instagram and Facebook).

5) Connect to a person, not an audience. So your homework here will be practice engaging someone. In this case, it will be an author. Write and email to an author whose book you've read and enjoyed. You will make their day, right?

Best of luck!

Happy connecting!



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)[RSS](#)**UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS****June 8, 2019**

Boas &amp; Tiaras hosted by Fresh Fiction

<http://www.freshfiction.com>**August 9-10, 2019**

Book Bonanza

<https://bookbonanza19.com/>**October 27, 2019**

Buns n Roses Literacy Tea

<http://www.bunsandroses.org>**November 14-17, 2019**

Readers n Ritas hosted by Fresh Fiction

<http://www.freshfiction.com>

Have an event you want to share? Email us via [newsletter@ntrwa.org](mailto:newsletter@ntrwa.org) so we can add it to the list!

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**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF NTRWA**  
**April 20, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 11:28 a.m.

No corrections were presented to the minutes of the March meeting, so it will be filed.

Treasurer Regina Richards presented the treasurer's report and made copies available.

The audit of the treasurer's records was completed on April 6, 2019, and the committee approved the records.

Lisa Fenley reported the G.E. finalists' entries had been sent to editor judges.

Audra Lewandowski, chairperson of the Carolyn Contest, announced the finalists and stated the winners will be

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Jen FitzGerald, chairperson of the Get Published Program, announced Audra Lewandowski will speak on making a business plan at the May meeting.

Lisa Fenley, chairperson of the Writing Incentive Program, announced Suzan Butler's name was drawn from the names of those, who'd written the highest number of pages. She won a \$10 Amazon card. The name drawn for the most edited pages was Stephanie Peterson, who also won a \$10 gift card.

While the financial figures were not complete for the Two Step Conference, the workshop was considered a big success. Cindy Dees announced Damon Suede's Verb Thesaurus book had been published.

Visitor, Rose Jeudi, writes contemporary romance.

New member, Nirvana Keightley, has had three books published.

Gina Nelson, cruise chairperson, announced Kay, the travel agent, is on vacation, but will provide information on the cruise. Members will have to find a roommate and pay \$150 to reserve a room. A \$25 deposit may be required. A sign-up form with a secure link is available from the NTRWA website. Carnival Cruise Lines are on probation, and the judge will make a final decision in June.

Amanda McMurrey was presented a certificate of appreciation for all the hard work she did for the 2017-2018 G.E. conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Ray Williamson, Secretary.

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