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Dec 2019 NTRWA Newsletter - Annual Holiday Party! Bring an ornament!

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NTRWA  
Presents  
**Annual  
Holiday  
Party!**  
DECEMBER 14th



**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  
December 2019  
Volume 38, Issue 4

### **2019 BOARD**

#### **President**

Jen FitzGerald

#### **President Elect**

Celia Naples

#### **Secretary**

Kaylie Greenig

#### **Treasurer**

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Audra Lewandowski

#### **Membership**

##### **Director**

Stephanie Blackhart

#### **Program Director**

Chrissy Szarek



**December 14th is our Annual Holiday Party!**

Meeting starts 10:30am.

***Bring an ornament for the traditional  
ornament exchange!!***

We'll play a game and hand out writing awards  
as well as the Yellow Rose Award.

Come celebrate the season and your fellow  
chapter mates with food, fun and fellowship.

See you there!

## **The Yellow Rose Award**

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## 2019 Committee Chairs

### PAN Liaison

Chrissy Szarek

### PRO Liaison

Randee  
Paraskevopoulos

### Bylaws

Madison McCall

### The Carolyn

Audra Lewandowski

### Great Expectations

Lisa Fenley

### Hospitality

Clover Autrey

### Writing Incentives

Lisa Fenley

### Get Published

Lisa Fenley

### Spotlight Chair

K.M. St. James



Be thinking about your fellow chapter mates and which of them are deserving of the chapter's highest honor, the Yellow Rose Award.

The Yellow Rose Award is our way of acknowledging that chapter member who goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve the chapter and to serve its members.

We'll send out the call for nominations here in a couple of weeks. Voting will unfortunately have to take place over Thanksgiving week so that we can tally votes and announce the winner at December's meeting, but the process should be quick.

*Bear in mind that the following members are not eligible for nomination at this time as they've won in the past five years: Cindy Dees, Amanda McMurrey, Lisa Fenley, Chrissy Szarek, or Jen FitzGerald.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT  
JEN FITZGERALD

Howdy NTers--

I really don't know how it's December already. I lost a week in November somehow, thinking I had another week in there before Thanksgiving. But nope... Life has been going greats guns and I'm ready for a slow-down...that comes when my husband harks off to the wilds of Central Texas to sell fireworks for three weeks and my

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And you know what else is the fun:

That's right—our December meeting and holiday gathering. Don't forget an ornament for the annual exchange. That is one of my favorite traditions, so bring on the quirky, funny, ugly or writing-related ornaments. I can't wait to see what I'm gonna take home and hang on my tree.

For Thanksgiving, the FitzGeralds, sans one, drove ten hours to Omaha to see my family and back again. There were eighteen people taking up space in my stepmother's small house that Thursday, but we hadn't gathered everyone together in ten years and three of those precious bodies hadn't been brought into the world at that point. The only one missing, sadly, was my precious Sunshine (aka my son Tim). But we FaceTimed him in for a few minutes to say hello. I hope your day was just as full of food, fun, and fellowship. In the meantime, both of our chapter contests have opened for entries. Which means it's that time for you to consider judging. We can't have a contest without our judges and that begins here within NT. Once you decide, please take a few minutes to fill the application out so we know what to send you. Thanks in advance for your service to the chapter. And THANKS! to everyone who has already made the decision and signed up. Judge Application: <https://ntrwa.org/contests/great-expectations/great-expectations-judge-application/>

Also—many thanks to the following members for acting as category coordinators: Lisa Fenley, Marybeth Lee, Kim Miller, Amanda McMurrey, Madison McCall, Hattie Quinn, and Sharla Francis. There will absolutely be coordinator training, and we'll get you that information soon. An especially profuse thanks to Lisa Fenley who will be holding my hand as I navigate coordinating this thing.

As for the Carolyn...it's in Audra's capable hands once again. Since we utilize non-writer readers to judge, you could help simply by entering if you're so inclined.

I've had a particular chapter member ask me about the cruise every time our paths cross online... The quick answer is that the board will be discussing the cruise in depth in January and will make the decision one way or another.

And on that note...hope to see you on the 14th.

*Jen*



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## NTRWA Social Media

First thing to know- anytime you post on social media, the objective is not to get sales. The objective should be generate interest. You want ppl to comment or do more than "like". So let's talk about sharing **You**. Ppl are fascinated by writers. Use social media to connect with your audience. The more they know and like you, the more they are likely to buy from you. Here is one approach:

1. Pick one part of your story to focus on for each post.
  - a. Don't tell your whole story at once (too long). Break it up. Example: one way writing has affected you, how publishing has affected you, or how you tackled a problem.
  - b. Be clear and concise.
  - c. Pay attention to your spacing (as writers we know the value of white space). :)
  - d. Emojis are good for emphasis; do not go overboard. Too many make it harder to read.
2. Have a call to action- what do you want ppl to do? Asking ppl to comment below won't always work for Facebook. This would be a good place to insert an emoji, then add "write below".

Note: FB and Instagram will not limit your words. To share on Twitter (280 characters), start your story, then post the link to Facebook for ppl to read the rest.  
Happy connecting!



Be sure to contact K.M. St James to be considered for our monthly Spotlight Feature! Each meeting, we do a brief spotlight on fellow NT Members to get to know each other. She'll send you a quick form to fill out with any tidbits you care to share.

**[k.m.saint.james@gmail.com](mailto:k.m.saint.james@gmail.com)**



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DARA (Dallas Area Romance Association)  
Holiday Party

<https://www.dallasarearomanceauthors.com/2019-workshops/>

**December 7th, 2019**

Humanities Texas Holiday Book Fair

<https://www.facebook.com/events/770084786773453/>

**December 15th, 2019**

The Editing Mindset with Writing Workshops  
Dallas

<https://writingworkshopsdallas.com/the-editing-mindset>

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**  
**None for November 2019**

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Be sure to check out the schedule for the rest of the year's meetings and speakers on our website, including the Get Published topics!

<https://ntrwa.org/meetings/>

Dec 14th - Holiday Party

Jan 18th, 2020 - Amber Royer - Archetypes vs Cliches

Feb 15th - L.C. Hayden - How to Perfect Your Writing Technique

Mar 21st - Diane K. Peterson - The Evolution of the Romance Novel

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[www.ntrwa.org](http://www.ntrwa.org)

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