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Jan 2020 NTRWA Newsletter - NTRWA Response & Code of Conduct

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AMBER ROYER
Presents
**Archetypes
vs
Cliche**
JANUARY 18th

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

October 2019

Volume 38, Issue 5

2019 BOARD**President**

Jen FitzGerald

President Elect

Celia Naples

Secretary

Kaylie Greenig

Treasurer

Regina Richards

Communications**Director**

Susan Sheehey

Contest Director

Audra Lewandowski

Membership**Director**

OPEN

Program Director

Chrissy Szarek



Join us for Science Fiction author Amber Royer and her program,
"Archetypes vs Cliche."

Archetypes can be used as a shortcut to character development, which is effective as long

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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

will discuss how you can use archetype without falling into cliché. What are some of the worst character clichés you've seen? On the other hand, who are some of your favorite characters? Do you know what archetype to which they would likely belong?



#GETPUBLISHED - JANUARY
SUCCESSFUL BOOK LAUNCH PROMOTIONAL
STRATEGIES
with Priya Ardis

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strategies and techniques for a successful book
launch!



Happy New Year, Everyone.
I hope you're all well.

Sadly, this is not the letter I originally wrote for January.

As most of you are aware, RWA is embroiled in a bit of a mess. I won't even attempt to give a break down, because many people have already chronicled it and it's there online or you may have watched it unfold real time.

As people, as writers, and as members of RWA, we each need to determine our own course moving forward.

Should you choose to remain a member of RWA and NTRWA, the chapter is here for you. I am not going anywhere and will do my best to conduct business as usual insofar as is possible. Meaning mostly that meetings will be held as scheduled. Our contests will proceed as planned. Our core mission remains the same: to educate, support, and mentor published and unpublished members in the romance writing profession.

One of the most unfortunate issues to come to light is that an organization that is supposed to celebrate romance and love has discriminated against and marginalized several sub-groups of members. Namely people of color and those who fall under the LGBTQ+ umbrella.

Unfortunately, NTRWA was accused of exclusive practices prior to the holidays when a member of the RWA PAN forum felt the need to call out problematic wording on the GE's FAQ page. The language was updated to welcome all types of romance and an apology crafted. Before the apology could be posted by Leslie Scantlebury on my behalf, since I'm not a member of the PAN forum, the crisis at RWA hit. I've since reached out to Leslie and asked her not to post the apology. At this point, an apology seems anti-climactic in light of everything going on at the national level. Was the wording problematic? Yes. Has it been fixed? Yes and re-crafted based on language used by other chapters as referenced in the thread.

On another note, it was brought up on a post to our Facebook group that a former member of NT was made to feel unwelcome by a local chapter of RWA. Now whether that chapter was NT or not doesn't matter.

As said by Nora Roberts in a recent blog post, RWA stands for Romance WRITERS of America. It shouldn't matter in the least what that writer believes, looks like, or who he or she chooses to love. What matters is that they are writing romance.

Thank you to a certain member who has offered to research and collect some information

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And finally, please note that within the last several years, a six-point "chapter code of conduct" was appended to the uniform chapter bylaws. The irony has not escaped me. See "Code of Conduct" below.

I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting as well as weathering this storm together. For those of you who make the decision not to remain a part of the organization, I wish you every success in your writing endeavors.

Jen

CHAPTER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. General Principles.

1.1. RWA recognizes Chapters as an integral part of the organization. Chapter affiliation requires compliance with the rules, policies and procedures set out by RWA.

1.2. The RWA Code of Ethics set out in RWA's Policy Manual serves as a code of professional conduct for RWA members. It requires RWA members to exhibit integrity, honesty, and other good professional practices, thereby enhancing the romance writing profession. Chapter members must abide by the Code of Ethics and are subject to its provisions.

1.3. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, "Chapter Functions" shall include, but not be limited to, Chapter meetings, Chapter events, Chapter conferences and participation on Chapter forums.

1.4. In order to promote respect and professionalism among members, the Chapter Board of Directors has adopted this Chapter Code of Conduct and requires its members and attendees to comply with this Code of Conduct at Chapter Functions.

1.5. Chapters are expected to comply with all relevant State and Federal laws.

2. Inclusivity.

2.1. In order to create a safe and respectful environment, invidious discrimination is prohibited at Chapter Functions.

2.2. Chapters shall adopt a non-discrimination policy with regard to Chapter Functions, whereby no member, speaker or participant shall be discriminated against based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, or religion.

3. Inappropriate Behavior.

3.1. In order to create a safe and respectful environment, harassment is prohibited at

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3.2. Types of conduct that RWA considers inappropriate includes, but is not limited to:

3.2.1. Harassment, which is defined for the purposes of this policy to include: (i) offensive comments related to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, or religion; (ii) inappropriate physical contact; and (iii) unwelcome sexual attention;

3.2.2. Deliberate intimidation, inappropriate photography or recording;

3.2.3. Sustained disruption of talks or other events; and

3.2.4. Public broadcasting of others' private or sensitive information without explicit consent.

3.3. Personal disagreements and differences of opinion, even if strongly worded, will not be considered inappropriate conduct under this policy.

4. Conduct at Chapter Functions.

4.1. Chapter members and attendees shall address each other and treat participants, sponsors, exhibitors and speakers with respect at all times.

4.2. Chapter members and attendees must recognize that whenever competitors within an industry gather, appropriate care must be exercised to ensure that violations of anti-trust laws do not occur.

4.3. Chapter members and attendees will not make inaccurate or misleading representations or disparaging statements about fellow members, competitors or attendees which are intentionally misleading or inaccurate.

4.4. Chapter members and attendees should avoid any real or apparent conflicts of interest in performing their duties and obligations, and to promptly disclose any such conflicts to the Chapter Board of Directors.

4.5. Chapter members and attendees shall meet all financial obligations of participation in any Chapter function. In order to participate in any Chapter event at the member price, members must keep their membership active and renewed.

5. Compliance.

5.1. Any issue arising between members or attendees at Chapter Functions should be reported to the Chapter Board of Directors in writing and shall be handled, in Executive Session, as follows:

5.1.1. The Chapter President immediately shall inform RWA's Executive Director of the issue and ongoing status, and the Executive Director will provide assistance and potentially remove the issue from the Chapter if, in the Executive Director's discretion, it cannot be handled at the Chapter level.

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written complaint and have an opportunity to provide a written defense in a timely manner. Both sides will have an opportunity to review any and all evidence provided in support of the other side's claims and defenses. Neither the complaint nor any evidence may be provided anonymously.

5.1.3. After receipt of all evidence, the Chapter Board of Directors, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire voting membership of the Chapter Board of Directors, may issue a warning or reprimand to the member or prohibit the non-member participant from attending other Chapter Functions.

5.1.3.1. The Chapter Board of Directors, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire voting membership of the Chapter Board of Directors, may vote to recommend the termination or suspension of a member's chapter membership. If so, the Chapter Board of Directors will put its recommendations and the basis for the same in a written report and submit it to the national Board of Directors for consideration and further action. The Chapter Board of Directors shall not have the authority to terminate or suspend a member.

5.1.4. If the issue involves a member and rises to the level of a potential Code of Ethics violation, the issue can be brought to the RWA Ethics Committee at any time in accordance with the Code of Ethics rules and procedures.

5.1.5. Non-RWA Members who are found to be in violation of the Chapter Code of Conduct may be barred from attending future RWA conferences, and from future membership in RWA. This decision shall be made at the national level by the national Board of Directors.

5.2. Additional consequences specific to harassment during Chapter Functions.

5.2.1. Anyone asked to stop harassment at Chapter Functions is expected to comply immediately.

5.2.2. The Chapter Board of Directors, by a majority vote, may take any action they deem appropriate and necessary during a Chapter meeting, Chapter conference or Chapter event to ensure the safety of attendees, including warning the offender or expelling the offender without a refund.

6. Chapters shall not amend this Code of Conduct without prior approval by the RWA Office.

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Did you forget to submit your manuscript/story? There is still time!
We have 2 awesome contests, one is just right for you!

Great Expectations

For unpublished authors (or unpublished in a specific category).

Submissions close Jan 20th, 2020.

More about the Great Expectations Contest: <https://ntrwa.org/contests/great-expectations/>

The Carolyn Readers Choice Award

For published works.

Submissions close Feb 15th, 2020.

More about The Carolyn Readers Choice Award: <https://ntrwa.org/contests/the-carolyn/>

Please help spread the word.

Copy and paste either or both of the following into your social media to help share!

Calling all aspiring [#romance](#) [#authors](#). Enter the Great Expectations contest for unpublished works, 8 diff. categories!

*<https://ntrwa.org/contests/great-expectations/>
[#writingcontest](#) [#writingcommunity](#) [#RT](#)*

The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest is live! Enter your 2019 published, romantic works. 6 categories. Bagging rights and boosted exposure for a year!

*Details here: <https://ntrwa.org/contests/the-carolyn/>
[#WritingCommunity](#) [#authors](#) [#indieauthors](#) [#writers](#) [#writingcontest](#) [#RT](#)*

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LIVE VIDEO FOR AUTHORS

by @MiaLondon - Audra Lewandowski
@NTRWA Social Media

Live Video!

You can do it!

You will see **135%** more engagement with live video than a regular post/recorded video. Wow!

Here are tips to have the most success with Live Video.

Step 1: introduce yourself, and what is the value you are going to bring? What are you going to talk about?

Step 2: have them introduce themselves. Say something like "If you're hopping on live, introduce yourself and where you're tuning in from."
(This can work for the replay stuff too. 80% of the ppl that watch will be catching the replay. Have them comment too.)

Step 3: this is where you give your value. For example: a new book release, a new promotion/contest, updating them about yourself/being vulnerable, something educational, etc. Be organized about this step. Be prepared before you go live!

- You can engage with ppl during this step too. Ask a question, then say "drop me a Yes or No if this has ever happened to you."
- Show that you are real. There will be mistakes, and that's ok.

Step 4: Call to Action. What do you want them to do? So important. Some examples: "Message me for more info." Or "Click the 'Shop Now' button to grab this deal." Or "Comment below to be entered in the contest."

Reminders:

Embrace imperfections. People want to see you being real. Just have a plan in place and be you.

Have good lighting. Facing a window to get natural light is awesome.

Have a tripod/stand for your phone (if that's what you're using).

Do not fidget with your hair, necklace, anything.

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Happy videoing!



WRITE-IN!

Jan 25th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE JANUARY WRITE-IN!!

Saturday, January 25th, 2020

2:00pm-5:00pm

Location TBD

(Lisa Fenley will send out the location on the loop)

Join the group for concentrated writing sprints (or editing). Bring your beverage of choice, a snack, and your laptop or notebook, and plan on getting in as many words as your fingers can manage!

Congratulations on NTRWA Members with new releases!
Check out these amazing stories!

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF NTRWA
December 14, 2019

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14, 2019 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the President-Elect were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:51 a.m. The minutes for the October 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Budget for the year approved by the board. Available to view on the member forum.
- Jen will send the instructions on how to use the new RWA forums to access member information.
- If you need reimbursement for expenses, a reimbursement form is available on the website through the member page.
- The chapter is going paperless as much as possible, so member information is available through the website and the RWA forum.
- We need a new website chair. Please see Jen FitzGerald if you are interested.
 - Carolyn Williamson volunteered.

President-Elect Celia Naples reported:

- Yellow Rose Award presentation to Carolyn Rae Williamson, The Yellow Rose Award recipient for 2019.

Secretary Kaylene Greenig reported:

- Minutes were approved and filed for audit.

Treasurer report:

- Treasurer's report was presented and is available for view and will be filed for audit.

Program Director Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Today's Meeting: Holiday party / end of year celebration.
- If you have ideas for 2020 programming, please see Chrissy. Programs are planned through March of 2020.
- 2020 Upcoming programs:
 - January 18th: Amber Royer—Archetypes vs. Cliché
 - February 15th: L.C. Hayden—How to Perfect Your Writing Technique
 - March 21st: Diane K. Petersen—The Evolution of the Romance Novel

Membership Director Stephanie Blackhart was not present. Jen FitzGerald reported:

- 56 members to date.

Communications Director Susan Sheehey reported:

- Please submit articles, book release information, and reports to her by month's end to include in next month's newsletter.

Contests Director Audra Lewandowski reported:

- Both of our contests opened in November:
 - The Carolyn (published works) opened November 17, 2019
 - The Great Expectations Contest (unpublished works) opened November 30, 2019.
 - Please sign up to judge on the website.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS

PAN Liaison Chrissy Szarek reported:

- No report

PRO Liaison Lisa Fenley reported:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Great Expectations Chair Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- We need member assistance in finding final editors in the Mainstream with Romantic Elements and Historical Romance categories for the second round of judging.
- Great Expectations opened for early bird entries November 30th. Early Bird pricing will close 12/31/19.

Carolyn Contest Chair Audra Lewandowski reported:

- The Carolyn opened November 17, 2019 for entries.

Hospitality Chair Clover Autrey reported:

- Gift raffles held and prizes distributed.

Writing Incentives Coordinator Lisa Fenley reported:

- December's write in is at Lisa Fenley's home.

Most Written Pages:

- Cindy Dees: 180
- Kym Roberts: 120
- Jerrie Alexander: 100

Most Edited Pages:

- Kym Roberts: 155
- Eve Cole: 60
- Carolyn Rae Williamson: 52

GetPublished! Coordinator Lisa Fenley reported:

- We will not have a Get Published meeting for December, as it is a holiday party format.
- Get Published programming resumes in January at 10 am prior to the January 18, 2020 meeting.
 - Priya Ardis will discuss Book Launch Promotion Strategies.

Bylaws Chair Madison McCall was not present:

- No report.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business.

New Business:

Next Business Meeting: January 18, 2020 10:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Submitted electronically by Lisa Fenley for Kaylene Greenig.

Date Approved: 12/30/19 by Jen FitzGerald & Celia Naples

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/>

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

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