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Mar 2020 NTRWA Newsletter - Our latest Member Spotlight &
RWA National Recent Updates

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Diane K. Peterson
Presents
**The Evolution
of the
Romance Novel**
MARCH 21st

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
February 2019
Volume 38, Issue 7

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

Clover Autrey

Program Director

Chrissy Szarek



Join us for Diane K. Peterson and
her program,

"The Evolution of the Romance Novel"

Take a look at the world of Romancelandia – its history and influences. Beginning with the origins of the romance novel, we will examine growth and changes in romancing publishing, highlighting significant milestones in the genre including the Trailblazers list presented at the 2019 RWA conference. Understanding the development of the genre helps us interpret the status of romance writing today.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**2019
Committee
Chairs****PAN Liaison**
Chrissy Szarek**PRO Liaison**
Lisa Fenley**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**#GETPUBLISHED - MARCH**

**Amazon Advertising - Expanding Your Business
Through Amazon Ads
with Sally Britton**

Join us for a special opportunity to hear from Sally Britton, successful independently published author of historical romance, to hear how she's used Amazon ads to grow her readership and her sales. She's in town before leaving to live in Europe, so make sure to attend this workshop while she's still local.

Sally lives in Texas with her husband and four children. She's the author of numerous best-selling

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researching, hiking, and eating too much chocolate.



Hello NTers,
Happy March.

Several weeks ago, the whole of the remaining RWA board tendered their resignations in the hopes that a new slate of board members would be able to get the ball rolling to make the changes necessary for RWA to move forward into a better, more inclusive and hospitable organization than what it had apparently become. Self-declaring nominations are being taken through March 2nd. As of February 26, 2020, there were candidates for most board positions. You should have gotten an email regarding that. Voting begins March 13th. All info will be emailed to you directly. Be on the lookout.

An audit was done on the Ethics Committee Process in regards to Courtney Milan and results were mailed out to every RWA member. If you haven't seen that report and misplaced the email, let me know and I can forward you mine.

In addition, a DEI consultant has been hired and will be working with RWA's Interim Director Leslie Scantlebury and the new board, once they're elected, to create a plan for moving forward. She will also be helping to plan programming for the RWA National conference which is still being held in July in San Francisco.

Onto the NT front!

Both contests have closed to entries and despite some hiccups due to the issues going on at the national level, things are chugging along relatively well. There have been a few minor hitches on my part as I learned on the fly. Once again, I want to thank everyone who's helped me get the contest this far along: Kim Miller, Hattie Quinn, Sharla Wylde, Mary Beth Lee, and most especially Amanda McMurrey and Lisa Fenley. Lisa has been a great source of knowledge and behind the scenes help on top coordinating two categories. Thank you one and all. And thanks for having patience with me as I stumbled through the process.

I hope to see you at March's meeting where we will learn about the Evolution of the Romance Novel. Sounds fun and interesting.
Take care...

Jen

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NTRWA spotlights Fenley Grant

By KM Saint James

Writers, through the nature of our work, are solitary creatures; we spend our days – and nights – building fantasy worlds, exploring new places, breathing life into characters, and researching every detail. But each of us has so much to share.

After a long hiatus from RWA and NT, I returned to find so many new faces. It has been a wonderful opportunity, and my pleasure, to learn about the current members of NT.

I hope each of you will find something new, something more, something deeper about your fellow chapter-mates.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

-Be at the Louvre all day and soak up the history and the art or spend Christmas at Disney with my entire family (we are Disney people)

My bucket list:

Travel to Italy, Australia, and Greece.

GET TRADITIONALLY PUBLISHED (with a publisher from my target list.)

Win the lottery so I can travel to Italy, Australia, and Greece.

Kodak moments – memories – live vividly in a writer's mind: describe a favorite coffee shop, wine house, or café? Where is this location?

-All About Cha, in Southlake. My critique group meets there and both the staff and the food are wonderful. I go there by myself sometimes to write because I love the ambiance.

Authors who inspires you? Why?

Ilona Andrews, a wife / husband team writing under a pen name. They inspire me because they write together (and don't want to kill each other), they write kick-ass heroines, and they are amazing at world-building.

Jane Austen. Because she's Jane.

Patricia Briggs. Another author with crazy-good world-building ability, plus she writes rich, nuanced characters.

What motivates you to write?

-I always have, even when little. Now I write with a goal in mind (publication.)

How have your life experiences influenced your writing?

-I grew up an Army brat and changed schools every year from Kindergarten through 5th

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)***Plotter or Pantser?***

-I think of myself as a Pantser, but I'm actually a Plantser. I know the GMC of the hero and heroine, I develop the beginning and end and some key points that have to occur in the middle of a book before I start writing, and then I GO.

When is your favorite time, of day, to write?

-Morning. Hands down. I'm useless in the evening.

If you could have a personal one-on-one conversation with any person – fictional or real – who would it be? What is one question that you would ask?

-Eleanor of Aquitaine. She was the queen of two countries (France and England), she had thirteen children (most became kings / queens / nobles themselves), and she held her own with other powerful people at a time when women didn't traditionally do such things. My question to her would be, "What in your upbringing prepared you for the life you led?" I want her GM (I know her conflict--her husband, Henry)

What is something that you wished you had learned earlier in life?

-To say "No" when asked to volunteer for something I truly don't have the time to do in a way I'd like to do it.

Do you write to music? What type?

-I have a playlist for each book (a song per chapter reflecting the mood / tone I'm going for in the chapter) and I only listen to the playlist during edits.

Do you write early in the morning? Late at night? All day long?

-In an ideal world, early in the morning. Life rarely works that way, so morning through early afternoon.

What's the hardest thing – to you – about writing?

-THE GREAT SOGGY MIDDLE OF THE BOOK. I love to start books and wrap-up the books at the end, but I hate the middle.

Do you currently – or in the past – work in a field not related to writing?

In another life-time, I worked as a Human Resources Director.

Is there an interesting story that you can share about that field?

I have a lot of weird stories from that experience, most notable was discovering a camera in the ceiling of the women's restroom and dealing with the case resulting from the discovery.

What brings you joy?

-My family and friends and community and the ability to express myself creatively.

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Romance Writers of America
The Voice of Romance Writers

Recent Updates

[2020 Special Board of Directors Election Vote on March 13th-20th](#)

Information on the vote as well as how to nominate for one of the open positions, of which are due March 2nd.

[RWA Nationals Received the Final Independent Ethics Audit Report](#)

from PillsburyWinthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP Law Firm regarding the events that transpired since December 2019. Please read through it as you have time, by clicking on the link above. There is a lot of information about the history of the issues and recommendations moving forward.

[RWA Nationals has Hired a DEI Consultant, Michelle Silverthorn](#)

from Inclusion Nation (pictured right) to help address the issues of diversity, inclusion and equity in the organization as a whole. Read their official announcement and Michelle's first letter to the membership.



[RWA Interim Executive Director Leslie Scantlebury Latest Message to Members](#)

after the release of the Independent Ethics Audit Report is released.

[Smart Bitches Trashy Books podcast interviewed Sunny Lee-Goodman](#)

the previous DEI Consultant for RWA, about her experiences and her role in building a more diverse and inclusive organization that we thought you would be interested in hearing. There is an official transcript below the interview, if you'd prefer to read than listen to an audio.

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WRITE-IN!

Mar 29th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MARCH WRITE-IN!!

March 29th, 2020

3:00pm-6:00pm

Lisa Fenley's home
1305 Pecos Dr, Southlake, TX 76092

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



SOCIAL MEDIA

TIPS AND TRICKS

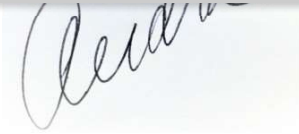


@NTRWA

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP FOR ROMANCE WRITERS!

by @MiaLondon - Audra Lewandowski
@NTRWA Social Media

We have started a Facebook Group in the hopes of keeping in touch with our fellow romance authors around the world. It's called United Romance Writers. It is a place to post workshops, contest, events, and meetings. Please join and invite your romance author friends!

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF NTRWA February 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, February 15th 2020 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m. The minutes for the January 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jen FitzGerald reported:

- We need members on the diversity committee. Please volunteer.
- WORDfest is on the same day as our next meeting. If anyone is going, would they be willing to represent us?

President Elect Celia Naples reported: No report

Secretary Kaylene Greenig reported: No report

Treasurer report:

- The report was sent to members via email and will be filed for audit.

Program Director Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Our speaker for March will be Diane K. Peterson.
- We still need someone for April.
- Our speaker in August will be _____

Membership Director Clover Autry reported:

- We have two new members.
 - Jennifer Looft – YA, Sweet Contemporary and Rom. Com.
 - Brandi Shaddick – fantasy.
 - She's a great resource for military, veterinary, and legal advice.

Communications Director Susan Sheehey reported:

- Send her new publications.
- We can access the newsletter on Facebook and the forum if you don't get it in the email.

Contests Director Audra Lewandowski reported:

- Both the GE and Carolyn Contests are closed for entries.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS

PAN Liaison Chrissy Szarek reported:

- PAN is for published authors who have made \$1000 on any single title or have 10 published books.
- Tell Chrissy if you've had a book published so you can get a pencil.

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- The GE contest is closed. All entries are in the hands of the judges. (Thank you, Lisa!) A shout out to Audra for rounding up final round judges.

Carolyn Contest Chair Audra Lewandowski reported:

- The contest has almost a hundred entries and is going well. Judging is on schedule and we should be wrapping scores up in April.

Hospitality Chair Clover Autrey reported: No report**Writing Incentives Coordinator Lisa Fenley reported:**

- February write-in was 2.5.20 @ TCU
- We need a host for the March write-in

Most Written:

- Rifi Strawn
- Susan Butler
- Rita Ward

Most Edited:

- Susan Butler
- Rifi Strawn
- Carolyn Rae

Completed Manuscript

- Rifi Strawn – Echoes in the Mist

Published Manuscript

- Jen FitzGerald – Defending the Drag Queen

GetPublished! Coordinator Lisa Fenley reported:

- Sally Britton will speak at the March meeting.
- We need speakers. Please Volunteer.
- Kim Packard volunteered to teach Vellum.

Bylaws Chair Madison McCall reported: No report.**Unfinished Business:**

- Two-Step is set for April 3rd, 2021. Landra Graf has been asked to speak on plotting.

New Business:

- A new Facebook group has been created to interface with other groups regarding contests, programs, etc. It's called "United Romance Authors".

Next Business Meeting: March 21, 2020 @ 10:30

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM
Submitted electronically by Kaylene Greenig.

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/>

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May 16th - Sasha Summers

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