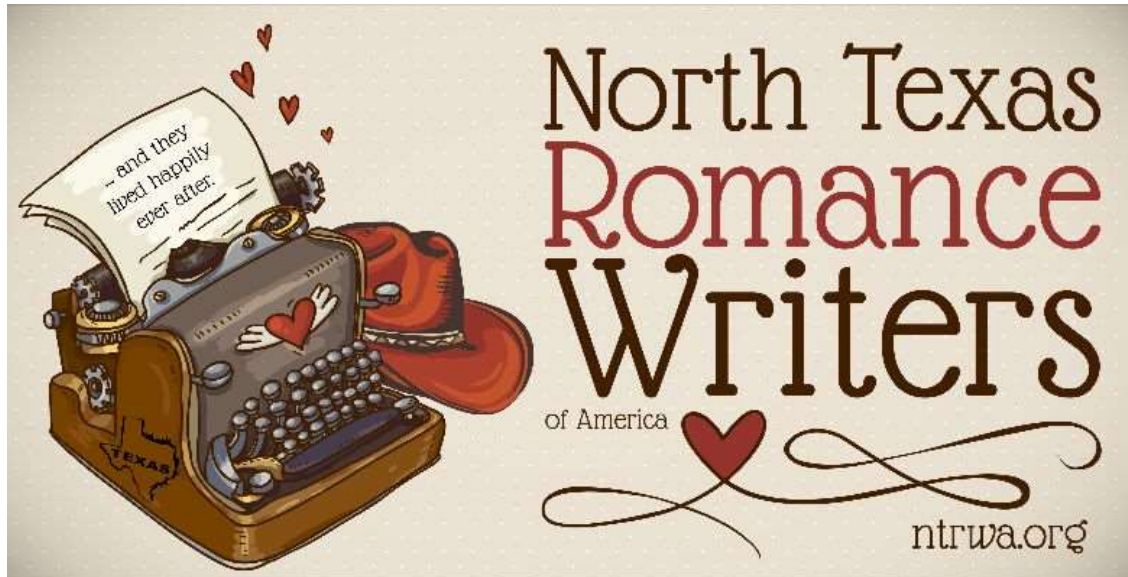


[View this email in your browser](#)

A Message From Your President

June 2020

Hello NTers and hello June!

I know some of you feel like the past couple of months have crawled by, but even so I can't believe it's June already.

In my May Meeting Report, I talked about NT's reduced member numbers and the need to scale back our offerings. In order to find out what y'all felt was important, I sent out a poll. I really appreciate everyone who took a few minutes to fill that out.

The board is gonna discuss the results and make some decisions. My goal is to have a few things ironed out by the third Saturday so that I can share them in the meeting report.

What I don't need to wait on the poll and board meeting to do is to address the elephant in the chapter—the need for nominees for board positions for the upcoming fiscal year. The positions we absolutely need to fill regardless of the poll results are President Elect, Secretary, and Programs Director.

Communications Director (Newsletter Editor), and Contests Director.

Please consider how you can help NT as we move forward. If you have any questions about any position, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Inquiries won't be taken as intent to run. :0)

In other news, the GE has finally wrapped up. Winners and finalists have been notified and official announcements made. Congrats to NT's own Kaylene Greenig whose entry was requested in full by Erin Molta from Entangled Publishing. **Best wishes, Kaylene!!**

Now that the GE is all said and done, I would once again like thank some folks without whom the GE absolutely would not have made it to completion:

Lisa Fenley, Amanda McMurrey, Kim Miller, Hattie Quinn, Marybeth Lee, and Sharla Francis.

Thank you, ladies, from the bottom of my heart.

One last piece of business...some of you have yet to renew your membership. I reached out to some of you and got your decisions. For those of you who said you were remaining with NT but haven't yet renewed—could you please go do that? :0) Here's the link to our RWA portal: <https://ntrw.rwa.org/>

June's meetings will be via Zoom again. NT's own Lisa Fenley and the Southlake Writers Group will discuss the Benefits of Critique Groups and How to Find Your Critique Partners for the GetPublished! Program. Elizabeth Essex will join us to talk about Character-Themed Words for our general NT programming. Links will be sent out the week of the meeting.

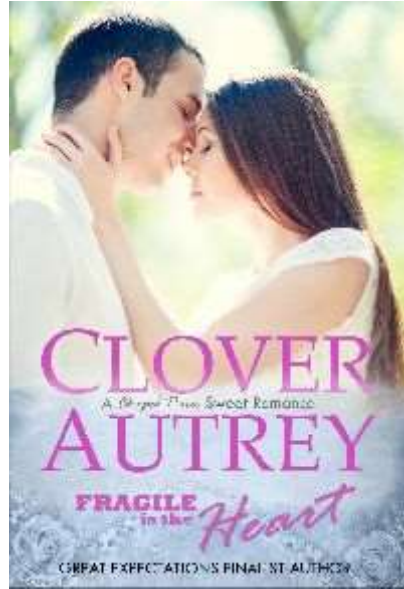
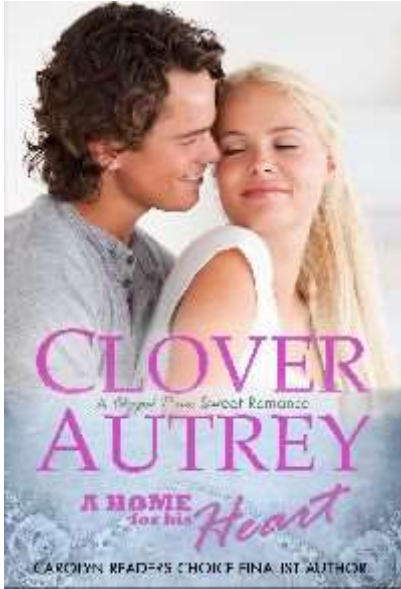
And I think that's all I have for now...but I'll be sending out that meeting report right before June's meeting, so if I've missed anything it'll show up there.

And as always, if you have any questions, hit me up.

Take Care!!

Jen

Jen FitzGerald finished a manuscript.
Rookies at Love clocked in at 22.2K words.



Clover Autrey released *A Home for His Heart* and *Fragile in the Heart* in May.



Lynda Rees published *Hart's Girls* on May 1, 2020.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

**Congrats to Julie Abdinoor writing as April Goodwin
on the release of her debut novel,
Love's Enchanting Elements.**

ARTICLES

The following article first appeared in the January 2020 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Thanks,
Leslie Marshman
Editor, In Print!

2020 - THE YEAR OF FACING DOWN FEARS: JANUARY

by Ann Peake

Do something that scares you every day. Someone once said that to me, and at the time I remember thinking, yeah sure, that sounds like a credo to live by. Challenge yourself. Who wouldn't want to do that? In principal.

In reality though, I immediately began rationalizing to myself. A wife and mother didn't just go off and bungee jump or skydive. I had responsibilities, people who depended on me, not to mention the financial burden of such activities.

from being inspirational to being downright foolhardy?

A decade (or perhaps more-no old jokes, please :o) passed and January 2020 rolled around. Another new year had dawned, always a time of reflection, hope, and optimism when we commit to getting ourselves in order, to bettering ourselves. Yes, you know exactly where I'm heading. To resolutions, and in this regard, I proved no exception to the rule. Lose weight. Get in shape. Clean out my closet. But then . . .

But then, on this mild, sunny January day, my mind wandered back to the do something that scares you every day. That decade (or perhaps more) since I first heard the saying has brought with it a tad more wisdom, and I realized the challenges that the saying was talking about wasn't bungee jumping or skydiving. Not really. Not even facing down cockroaches, grasshoppers, and feral pigs (stories for another day). What fundamentally scares us the most is seldom external.

My mind circled back to my resolutions. With a mental shrug, I thought, might as well add completing a manuscript to the list. I'm as likely to make that goal as I am to lose weight. Consider this: I've been a member of RWA since the days when floppy disks were still in use and I've only one submitted MS to show for it. Nothing published at all. Why not? Not a simple answer, but I know (and have for some time) that I am my own worst enemy. Digging deeper, I know that my single greatest fear is embarrassment and ridicule. After all this time, how could I bear it if I put my writing out there only to discover that "people" thought it was crap. And so, with one exception, I haven't put anything out there.

Instead, I edit, edit, edit, rewrite then edit some more. Super awesome way to never finish a manuscript. Heckfire, these days I can't even finish a chapter. Why? Because I'm striving for the perfect chapter, the perfect scene, the perfect word. Worse, I know how ludicrous this is, yet the compulsion to edit continues to live strongly in me.

So, I asked myself: Do you want to publish? Without hesitation, my answer was yes. Great, but apparently to succeed at this goal, the fear of embarrassment and ridicule needs to be faced down. Okay, how?

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Step 2 – Limit editing (for me, I have promised myself that editing will only happen AFTER I get something back from my crit partner. All other writing must be Go-Forward writing).

Step 3 – Continue to address and face down other fears that hold back my writing.

I may have no greater luck keeping my resolutions this year than in any other year, but I still intend to try. I hope you will too. I'll end by stating one of my husband's favorite quotes – The Man in the Arena, motivating words from Theodore Roosevelt.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

What is the fear you plan to face down this year?

Ann Peake wrote her first ditty at age 10 to the sound of rolling waves on a quaint English seashore whilst visiting her British grandmother. Years later, she tossed down a particularly bad novel and thought, "I could do at least that well." She's been pursuing the elusive published novel ever since. Ann loves a good romance – all the more if it is wrapped in a great fantasy world. She lives on the Texas Gulf Coast with her husband of 35 years, happily surrounded by a loud, boisterous family.

The following article first appeared in the January 2020 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Thanks,
Leslie Marshman

LEVELING UP YOUR WRITING CAREER

by R. R. Born

"Leveling up" is a term gamers use. Their entire focus is to move from the current board (or level) to the next, where a maze of traps and pitfalls even worse than what they've already completed awaits them. Once they defeat the biggest, baddest "Big Boss" on that board, they level up again, until they finish the game.

Right now, I want you to think about something you've always felt was unattainable. Something that is so far beyond your reach, there's no way you could ever achieve it. But you've seen others grab that brass ring, crack that glass ceiling – better yet, shatter that glass ceiling. Why not you? What did they do in their career to reach that which you covet so much?

Many people say: "It was hard work and perseverance. That's how she became a bestselling author." "Preaching the good word and doing the good works. That's how he won the Nobel Peace prize."

Hmm. Yeah, that works.

Finding a four-leaf clover, rubbing a rabbit's foot, or having a horseshoe next to the computer are all lucky, but not very realistic, ways to make things happen. Some people have even had the fluke chance of getting trapped in an elevator with their future editor. But what if we don't want to wait for luck to happen? What if we want to make our own luck?

This year, challenge yourself to level up in whatever way you choose for your career.

I want to get better at marketing and ads without spending every dime I own. I researched a few marketing plans online, attended some author marketing webinars, and investigated step-by-step procedures on how to create an annual business marketing plan. Based on my writing path, I've chosen the ones I think will work best for what I plan to accomplish this year.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

year, but it is absolutely possible to find more new readers than I would have, had I not done any kind of marketing. And in the process, sell more books.

So, think about the next level in your author plan. Do the research. See what others have done to reach that level, and DO IT!

Let's make 2020 the year we all level up.

R.R. Born lives in Houston, TX with her husband and an orange tabby terror named Pele. She has a degree in Photography from Houston Community College and a BA in Film/Screenwriting from Long Island University in Brookville, NY. She's worked as a Production Coordinator, Second Assistant Director on local commercials, TLC & HGTV shows, and movies.

TRAVEL FILES



One of Jen FitzGerald's favorite places is this lovely house on one of the many inlets of Lake Conroe.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Hattie Quinn's beloved writing retreat cabin, view from kitchen, Tillamook, OR; taken October 2019, return delayed.



Lynda Rees's favorite travel destination is Alaska.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Marsha West loves the view from her own back yard. As well as that of Booth Bay Harbor in Maine.



Hills Inlet, Australia is one one place on Chris Keniston's bucket list she's actually been.

UPCOMING MEETING INFO

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

GetPublished! Programming

June 2020 : Lisa Fenley and The Southlake Writers Group, The Benefits of Critique Groups and How to Find Your Critique Partners

July 2020 : Priya Ardis, Author Branding

Regular Programming

June 2020 ~ Elizabeth Essex : Character-Themed Words

July 2020 ~ Sophie Jordan : TBA

August 2020 ~ Krystal Shannon : Newsletter Automation

Officers

President: Jen FitzGerald

President-Elect: Celia Naples

Secretary: Kaylene Greenig

Communications: Susan Sheehey

Programs: C.A. Szarek

Contests Coordinator: Audra Lewandowski

Membership Director: Clover Autrey

Committee Chairs

PAN Liaison: C.A Szarek

PRO Liaison: Lisa Fenley

GE Contest Coordinator: Jen FitzGerald

Carolyn Readers Choice Coordinator:

Audra Lewandowski

Hospitality: Clover Autrey

Newsletter Editor: Susan Sheehey

Get Published! Coordinator: Lisa Fenley

Conference Coordinator: Audra Lewandowski

Bylaws Chair: Madison McCall



Copyright © 2020 North Texas Romance Writers of America, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

