

Liberty States Fiction Writers

New York - New Jersey - Pennsylvania



May 2010

Volume 2, Number 4

Let Freedom Ring!

www.lsfwriters.com

**Liberty States
Fiction Writers
PO Box 2914
Westfield, NJ 07090**

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[Liberty States Fiction Writers Newsletter](#)

(requires login to Members Only area of Liberty States Fiction Writers Website)

LINK TO PDF VERSION in Files Section:

[LSFW Announcements](#)

(requires login to Liberty Announcements Yahoogroups)

Please send information, news, and articles for the newsletter to the appropriate assistant editor (listed below) if one is specified and to Anne Walradt – newsletter@lsfwriters.com

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Member Spotlight: Kiersten Krum - kksquard@gmail.com

Contests, Conferences, and Classes: Monica Liming - mjliming@comcast.net

Author Spotlight: Kathye Quick - KathyeQ@aol.com

President's Column



Spring promises to be a very busy time for Liberty States Fiction Writers. First, we have the off-site meeting with all those law enforcement people. We thank member **Daria Ludas** for helping to arrange this joint event with the Sisters in Crime Chapter. Hopefully this will lead to future joint ventures with SIC and other writing organizations.

Read More . . .

"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself."

Albert Camus

★Articles★

Click on Title to Access Article

President's Column

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Moving On by P.K. Eden

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The Care and Feeding of Your Agency Relationship – Part 1 by Laura Anne Gilman

Liberty States Fiction Writers "Create Something Magical" Conference Agents Panel Recap by Lena Pinto

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Next Month's Meeting

The next meeting of the Liberty States Fiction Writers is on **May 8th at the Jamesburg Senior Center, 139 Stevens Avenue, Jamesburg, New Jersey. Please also note that this is a MEMBERS ONLY event for members of LSF Writers and Sisters-in-Crime.**

****Please do not bring any guests with you for the May 8th meeting.****

Crime X-Travaganza

The Crime X-Travaganza is sponsored jointly by LSF Writers and Sisters-in-Crime. Members will have an in-depth look at the functioning and weapons used by several different law enforcement and fire department personnel.

A catered lunch will be provided for \$10, but you must sign up and pay for the lunch ahead of time. If you're planning to attend this event and take advantage of the box lunch, please send a check for \$10 made out to *Liberty States Fiction Writers* to Michele Richter no later than May 1. Michele's address is available in the Members Only section and on the LSF Writers e-mail loops.

You may also brown bag your lunch. Sisters-in-Crime will be providing beverages. You do not need to pre-register, but this is a MEMBERS ONLY event.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

9:30 - 10:00: Registration/Coffee/Tea
10:00 - 11:00: Fire Marshal
11:00 - 11:15: Break
11:15 - 12:15: Undercover Narcotics Detective
12:15 - 1:00: Lunch
1:00 – 3:00: Weapons Display and Discussion presented by Jamesburg Mayor Anthony Lamantia and the Jamesburg S.W.A.T. Team Members

Crime X-Travaganza



Roundtable Sessions

In light of the Crime X-Travaganza, there will be no roundtables at the May meeting.

Networking and Snacks

A catered lunch will be provided for \$10, but you must sign up and pay for the lunch ahead of time. If you're planning to attend this event and take advantage of the box lunch, please send a check for \$10 made out to *Liberty*

States Fiction Writers to Michele Richter **no later than May 1**. Michele's address is 7 Fisher Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844.

Mayke It Happen Party

The Mayke It Happen Celebration will be held on May 15th at Michele Richter's home at 7 Fisher Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844.

LIBERTY STATES FICTION WRITERS



Come for critiques!

Come for help on your WIP!

Come for camaraderie!

Come rain or come shine!

Come if you're making it happen for the writing challenge
or if you're not!

Just come with a dish to share!

The home of Michele Richter

Date: Sat., May 15th, 2010

Time: 11 a.m. until ?

7 Fisher Drive Hillsborough, NJ 08844

908-369-8494

richterpa@comcast.net

Michele is breaking in her
rec room, but this party is
indoors and outdoors.
Bring your shades and
join the fun with friends!

MAYKE IT HAPPEN PARTY

Author Spotlight

No Spotlight in May

In light of the Crime X-Travaganza, we will not be having an Author Spotlight in May. There are open slots for the Author Spotlight for future meetings. If you are interested in being in the Author Spotlight and signing your books, please contact Kathy Quick.

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Meeting Review

How to Plan a Murder and Who Should Do It!

How to Plan a Murder and Who Should Do It! by Lori Avocato

Got a problem with characters and plot? Creating distinctive plot for your characters can be a challenge. **Lori Avocato** discussed ways to enhance character development though plot in a mystery/suspense, but also useful for a romance. Find out how to plan a murder and who should do it at April's meeting. Ms. Avocato also discussed:

- Characters that make you scream
- Characters that seem so nice yet... they really aren't
- How to plan a murder
- Scare the stuffing out of your readers before...THE END.



After serving in the Air Force as a registered nurse, Lori Avocato decided to write fiction. The best-selling author has sold a humorous mystery series about a burned-out nurse who becomes a medical insurance fraud investigator to Avon/HarperCollins Publishers. There are six books available in that series. She also sold twelve romance novels in the past and knows about the ins and outs of this crazy business. Lori has returned to writing romances with her humorous voice. If you need a chuckle, check out Lori's blog at www.loriavocato.com/blog. She writes about daily life in her Lori Tib Bits or LTBs. Lori's website is: www.loriavocato.com where you'll also find many self-promotion tips.

Guest speaker podcast info:

This month we will have a little something different for you – a videocast of

the April workshop in addition to the traditional podcast. Please login to the Motionbox account when the materials are available to view the video and/or listen to the podcast. We shall send out an e-mail on the loop to advise you of when the videocast and podcast for the April meeting are available.

To listen to any of the other monthly meeting podcasts, login to LSFW's Motionbox account with the following information:

User Name: podcasts@lsfwriters.com
Password: liberty

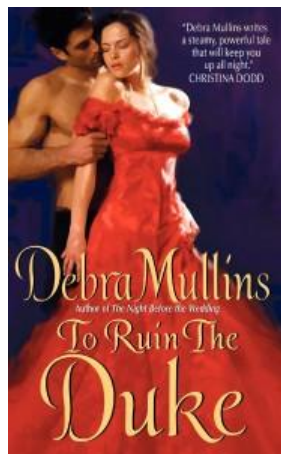
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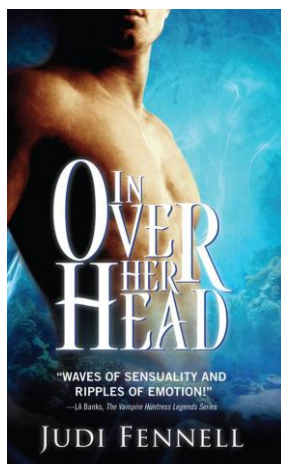
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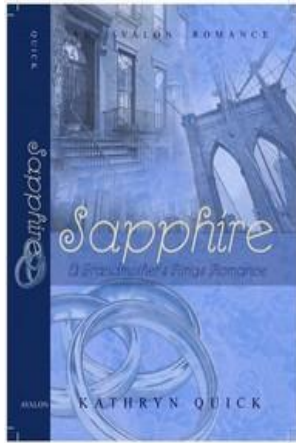
Member News



Debra Mullins is thrilled to announce that her historical romance **TO RUIN THE DUKE** has made the final round of the Book Buyer's Best contest, sponsored by Orange County Romance Writers. The contest is judged by booksellers, librarians and romance readers, and the highest score in each category will advance to the final round judged by Sue Grimshaw, romance book buyer for Borders.



Judi Fennell's **IN OVER HER HEAD** is a finalist in Best First Book for the National Readers Choice Awards.

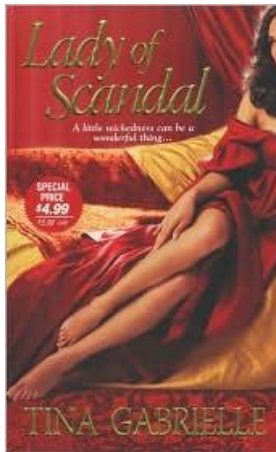


Kathye Quick 's SAPPHIRE, the second book in my Avalon series –Grandmother's Rings-- is a finalist in the National Readers Choice Awards.



Lois Winston will be teaching a 4 week online course beginning May 3 on "The Top 10 Reasons a Manuscript is Rejected." FMI and registration:

www.beginningwriterworkshops.com



Tina Gabrielle is pleased to announce her novel, LADY OF SCANDAL, is a finalist in the historical romance category of the 2010 Write Touch Readers' Award Contest sponsored by the Wisconsin RWA Chapter.



Rayna Vause is pleased to announce that her alter ego, R.A. Vaughn, accepted an offer from Lyrical Press for her next book.



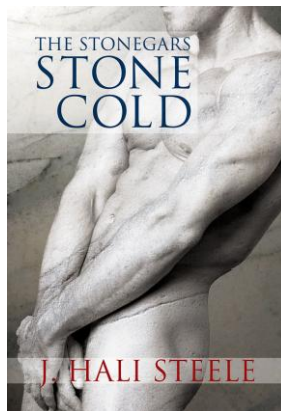
Kat Henry Doran's TRY JUST ONCE MORE, which comes out at the end of this month, received 3 stars from *RT Bookclub*. To celebrate, the heroine accepted an invitation to be interviewed today at www.lcySnowBlackstone.blogspot.com. Maggie will share her thoughts on blended families, the miracles of modern medicine, and leeches.



Bea Smith from *The Local Source* had this to say about **Joanna Aislinn's** NO MATTER WHY:

"For those who find enchantment in a simple romantic novel, readers will want to read NO MATTER WHY by Joanna Aislinn. . . Aislinn knows how to write about characters, how to make them realistic and complicated—and normal. The story she tells is an intriguing one. There's no question that NO MATTER WHY reaches out to the emotions of its readers.

...This entertaining book has found its place on the shelf of this reviewer's romantic, sometimes heartbreaking, novels."



Joann Hali Steele has accepted a contract for a second book at Liquid Silver Books. STONE DEAD will follow STONE COLD.



Anne Frazier Walradt will present her "Show, Don't Tell" workshop to the Valley Forge Romance Writers on June 12, 2010. The two-hour presentation will be at 10:30. Directions available at <http://www.vfrw.com/meetings/location-directions/>

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Member Releases

May Current Releases



TRY JUST ONCE MORE

by Kat Henry Doran

ISBN 1-60154-703X

Wild Rose Press

This contemporary romantic suspense is set in the Adirondack Mountains of Northern New York State. After she is cleared of homicide charges, and Maggie McGuire retreats to her childhood home to regroup and begin traveling the rocky road to sobriety. Now, after three years, her past rises up to bite her in the butt; this time it's aimed directly at her precious children. The new chief of police, who won't leave things alone, continually picks at her, trying to find all the puzzle pieces. She once trusted a cop and lived to regret it. No stranger to personal treachery or betrayal, Chief Mike Brandt will have to set aside personal biases in order to protect the McGuire family—and convince Maggie to try just once more.



FIREBRAND

by P.K. Eden

ISBN To be Announced

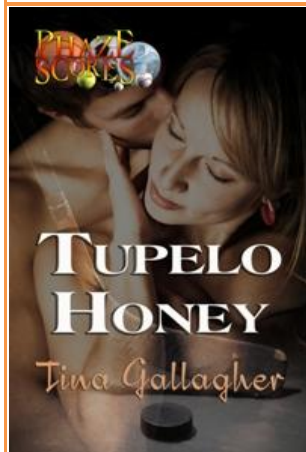
E-Wings Press

Amber Drake is the only person who can save three worlds from annihilation.

Only she doesn't know it yet. When the Garden fell at the beginning of time, the First One divided what was left into three: Humans—administered by the descendents of the Adam and Eve

The Fae—watched over and protected by those who came from the Angel of the Garden

Trolls—ruled by those who evolved from the Snake who tempted. Each world was given a sword to protect those who would come and hope for the future in the form of a prophecy that foretold the coming of one born of all three bloodlines who could bring peace and harmony to all worlds and restore the Garden to glory. But the tribred's birth also initiates a series of events that start the Arpeggio Clock to begin the countdown to Armageddon and not everyone wants the clock to stop.



TUPELO HONEY

by Tina Gallagher

ISBN Not Available

Phaze Books

When Tim cheated on Cassie and broke her naive heart, she left him without looking back. Fifteen years later Tim is back in her life and has made it clear he still has the hots for Cassie. She tries to stay strong, but it's hard to resist a hottie hockey player who has love on his mind, especially when she still has feelings for him.



Edge of Moonlight
by Stephanie Julian
ISBN Not Available
Cerridwen Press

Etruscan wolf shifter Kaine Giliati has longed for John Simmons since he willingly agreed to wipe all memory of her from his mind. The pain in her heart is only magnified by terror—the inability to call her wolf appears to have deserted her as well. For months after he and his sister escaped a crazed kidnapper, John has been dreaming about a beautiful woman he's never met but who seems so familiar—a woman he's shocked to find in a dark bar one night. A woman who agrees to come back to his apartment for raw, passionate sex. One erotic, stolen night reopens old wounds, uncovers buried memories and sets Kaine and John on a path filled with danger, magic, and potential heartbreak.



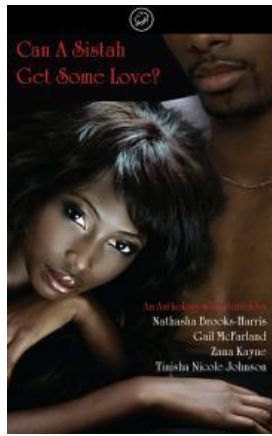
HARD MAGIC
by Laura Anne Gilman
ISBN 0373803133
LUNA Books

Welcome to P.U.P.I.—Private, Unaffiliated, Paranormal Investigations. A handpicked team trained to solve crimes the regular police can't touch—crimes of magic. My name's Bonnie Torres. Recent college grad, magic user and severely unemployed. Until I got a call out of nowhere to interview for a job I hadn't applied for. It smelled fishy, but the brutal truth was I needed the work—so off I went. Two days later I'm a PUPI—me and Nick, Sharon, Nifty, and Pietr. Five twentysomethings, thrown into an entirely new career in forensic magic. The first job we get is a doozy: proving that the deaths of two Talents were murder, not suicide. Worse, there are high-profile people who want us to close up shop and go away. We're sniffing out things they'd rather keep buried. Looks as if this job is gonna get interesting. The only problem is, we're making it up as we go along....



SILENT TRUTH
by Dianna Love & Sherrilyn Kenyon
ISBN: 141659745X
Pocket Books

A red-hot BAD boy teams up with a sexy television reporter on an explosive quest for revenge. Tough-as-nails Bureau of American Defense agent Hunter Thornton-Payne is no stranger to uncomfortable top-secret missions, but tonight takes the cake. He just needs to stick out a stuffy charity fund-raiser long enough to find the ruthless assassin he's hunted for four years. It's a rogue operation, but Hunter's got nothing to lose—until a beautiful brunette unexpectedly pulls him into her own dangerous agenda. Abbie Blanton will do anything to cure her mother's mysterious illness. When a high-profile heiress is murdered as Abbie tries to blackmail her for clues, Abbie realizes she's stumbled into an unforgiving conspiracy—and she's the next target. Soon, she and Hunter discover an alarming connection and begin a treacherous battle against an evil enterprise that *someone* will go to terrifying lengths to keep hidden.



**CAN A SISTAH GET SOME LOVE?
including TASTE FOR LOVE
by Zana Kayne (aka Patt Mihailoff)
ISBN: LLP-L0066**

Lady Leo Publishing

In the blink of an eye, 40-year-old Kayla Powell, the heroine of Zana Kayne's "A Taste for Love" goes from being downsized from her corporate executive position and losing her cheating boyfriend in one day to being the inheritor of Tasty Kakes, an upscale bakery. When Kayla finds herself a victim of a robbery, young and handsome detective Clay Weston is sent to investigate the crime, but she's more interested in investigating him. Can she give him a taste of true love?

If you have an upcoming release, please send your title, cover, release date and short blurb to Caridad Pineiro @ cpsromance@att.net so that we can include the release in the newsletter and on the website.

Member Spotlight

I Want It All: Balancing Writing and Motherhood by Shari Nieschmidt

Like shape shifters in the paranormal genre, women who balance writing along with a family are a rare and supernatural breed. We coexist simultaneously in two different worlds—within the unique lives of our characters— and in our daily regime of trying to be all things to all people.

Trying to balance, driving our kids around to their multitude of activities, getting them to their braces appointments on time, and checking that they've done their homework while writing the last scene or revising a chapter in our novel can be challenging ... to say the least. Trying to garner that critical support from your family when not yet published can be like running a hundred miles an hour into a brick wall. We feel bruised and battered, but we find a way to stand up, dust our-selves off, and get back on track to face yet another day of creativity. How do we as writers justify this passion that requires us to be attached at the hip to our computers and not to our children?

How do we formulate a scene that jumps off the page and draws the reader in while an angry mob of tweens shouts in the background, "Are you ever getting off that computer, Mom?" Like the colorful and alluring characters from our novels, we become imaginative with our time and resources. We have to write with one eye on the computer and one looking over our shoulders. I've started using a timer to monitor my children on the TV and play station while I'm busy pounding on the keyboard. But above all else I'm learning not to beat myself up if don't get everything done on my "to do" list.

In her article "The Harried Life of the Working Mother" Kim Parker of the Pew Research Center states that "75% of Americans reject the idea that women should return to their traditional roles in society, and most believe that both

husband and wife should contribute to the family income.” Couple that statistic with the fact that every child today is required to be a superstar athlete, a stellar musician, and a model student and where does that leave time for writing? Can today’s woman really have it all?

What if you’re confronted with a lack of support from your family, despite the fact that you’ve asked, even demanded, respect for your craft? What if one of your beloved children actually states what you fear the most? This question was in fact posed to me by my twelve-year-old son. “Why do you spend so much time doing this writing thing when you’re not, like, earning a penny from it?” Ouch! Do we lie down on the floor in fetal position and give up? Hell no. Like the heroes and heroines in our novels we learn conviction in the face of opposition and act like heroes in spite of our own misgivings.

In Donald Maass’s Book, “*Writing the Breakout Novel*,” a hero is someone who has the ability to overcome his own flaws, with tenacity, generosity and a sense of plenitude.” Life would be so perfect if we all learned how to apply this concept consistently in our everyday lives.

How do we fashion that enthusiasm and passion for our writing when the paycheck for that WIP we’ve been toiling over hasn’t yet materialized? We all write about larger than life characters that jump off the page, battle the villain, grow and change and learn life’s important lessons. In the end they get the reward of finding their soul mate or finding the Holy Grail ...maybe even end up saving the planet. But as mothers how do we become heroes in our own world? How do we add character dimension with goals, needs, wants, and longings that are in direct opposition to each other? Do we forfeit that baseball or softball game to write?

Every day I ask myself the question, how can I be a better mother? This is synonymous with being a better writer as well. We’re raising human beings that are going out into the world and become fully functioning, actualized human beings, the kind of people that we strive to create in our characters.

If only life were as simple as the happy endings in our stories where all the loose ends get tied up in a neat little package. So how do we learn not to beat ourselves up if we didn’t get to the gym or didn’t get our writing goal accomplished for the day?

I grew up in a family driven by guilt. I constantly feel like I’m not giving enough of myself to my writing or to my children. I need to keep reminding myself to ease up and let life unfold in the moment.

What have I learned through this journey like the hero on his? I try to keep reminding myself what’s at stake. No matter what the day holds, unless you write and revise you will never see your name in print and that dream fulfilled. Go easy on yourself. Laugh when your children want to know how come you’re not on Oprah twirling your feather boa with a never ending supply of bonbons at the ready.

Writing, like anything else worthwhile, takes time and lots of practice. And, Moms, remember you're not alone. Sometimes we get so caught up in our routines, we forget to reach out to this amazing, generous, supportive community. We all want perfection—but at what cost? When the voice in the back of your mind screams—the laundry is piled up, the house is dirty—what you're really telling yourself is *I'm not good enough*. This is the voice of the ego. With constant awareness and vigilance, we can learn to quiet it.

With Mother's Day around the corner while all of us are trying to juggle kids, work, and our writing lives, we need to remind ourselves that we are the true heroes.



Shari Nieschmidt

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Road Story

The Hardy Boys, Superheroes, and Dandelion Wine by João-Pierre S. Ruth

The mystery of “what happens next” led me to writing. As a boy, I spent many afternoons with my nose in books. The quest for more information often kept me up past bedtime with a flashlight under the bedcovers. After I solved mysteries alongside Frank and Joe Hardy, I wanted to do my own detective work in the world of storytelling.

What the Hardy Boys started, continued with Greek epics and comic books such as “Captain Carrot and His Amazing Zoo Crew.”

I became lost in the tales of Odysseus and his primary-color descendents, but the flash of swords was not enough. I needed to know where these stories of wonder came from. Why did these heroes put themselves in harm's way?

Early on I wrote stories that were pale imitations of the heroes I admired. However I dissected the sense of purpose that drove the characters I wanted to emulate. Heroes step forward because they care about the outcome. It does not matter if the challenges are rooted in the real world or a fantastic setting; the tension of the characters moves you to discover what happens next.

Unfortunately I found only a small population of heroes and books that spoke directly to me as an African-American. Batman is a great character, but he might behave differently if he got beaten with a baseball bat as a kid growing up in Plainfield, New Jersey. That was a different character. That was me.

At one point I wanted to write and draw comic books, but my family steered me to more grounded career paths. In college I tried my hand at mechanical engineering but that did not last very long. I needed to know “what happens next” in the fiction I read.

My first year of college was a disaster. I had fine grades in writing and literature but failed just about everything else. I knew exactly what would happen next if I did not take a new direction.

I nixed engineering and dove in headfirst into writing. A career in journalism brought structure to my amorphous aspirations and discipline to my writing habits. It also taught me to observe, investigate, and explore.

Much of my current writing voice developed from listening to family share their experiences.

My mother, for example, tells stories with the pluck of a six-year-old. She talks about women who made dandelion wine in the basement, husbands kicked to the streets by their wives, and great snowstorms that would make polar bears cry for mercy.

My father did not share his stories until much later in life. He just needed a push. I never really considered horse-drawn wagons once roamed the streets of Newark until my father told me.

I never forgot about my old heroes but I approach them from a new perspective with a sense of ownership. If Batman and the Hardy Boys do not exactly speak to me, why not create characters that can? African kings that sing their way into battle while riding black rhinos. Street magicians that battle demons in shadowy alleys. Those are the heroes I write about now.



João-Pierre S. Ruth

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★This Month's Articles★

President's Column Gail Freeman



Gail has been writing for twelve years and is a yet to be a published author. Ms. Freeman served as President of another writing organization for two years and has also served as Vice President, Treasurer, Special Events Chair, and Hospitality and Critique Chair in that organization. On a national level, Gail was one of the founding staff members of the Romance Writers of America's electronic newsletter, eNotes and served as editor of that publication for a number of years. In 2005, she was awarded the RWA's

Spring promises to be a very busy time for Liberty States Fiction Writers. First, we have the off-site meeting with all those law enforcement people. We thank member **Daria Ludas** for helping to arrange this joint event with the Sisters in Crime Chapter. Hopefully this will lead to future joint ventures with SIC and other writing organizations.

The Board is considering a list of projects. One is the donation of a conference fee for next year's event. We have approved this donation for the Brenda Novak Auction for Children's Diabetes. Included in the package will be priority appointments with an attending editor and agent. We will also include an invitation to enjoy lunch at the President's table with our headline speaker. Bidding starts on May 1st and concludes on May 31st. We'll post further details and the link for bidding on the loops when they become available.

Next on our list are the street fairs. These events feature any published member who would like to attend and has proven to be an excellent promotional tool for LSF Writers. Several venues are being considered. In a perfect world we would have an event in each area of the state, and they would all be on a date when the sun shines and the temperature is a balmy 75 degrees and there's not another event in the tri-state area. Oh, and we wouldn't have to work within a budget. Updates on this will be posted soon.

Once we make this decision, the Board will move on to consider an author promotional mailing. Last year's mailing went to over 500 booksellers and

prestigious Service Award for her commitment and volunteer efforts. She also chaired the RWA's 2007 Chapter Newsletter Contest and the 2008 ad hoc committee for reform recommendations and changes to that contest. For the past eight years she has been a member of the RWA Communication Committee. After being out of high school for twenty years, Gail went back to college and obtained her associate degree in accounting. A lifelong resident of the Jersey Shore, Ms. Freeman believes in happy endings and working towards your goals, no matter how long it takes.

librarians. At this point we do not know how much an author will have to contribute to be included in the mailing, but we hope to have all the details worked out before the next meeting.

As I said, we've been very busy. One thing all the Board members feel strongly about is the establishment of a scholarship fund to help members pay their dues if they are suffering from a financial hardship. We have all agreed that it is something we want to do and are now working on guidelines to bring to the membership as well as how the scholarships would be funded. Member thoughts and ideas are welcomed since it will probably take us several months to hammer out all the details.

Last, but by no means least, we're working on those bloody policy and procedures. Now that we've been at our jobs for over a year, we sort of know what we're doing. Sorta, kinda. Each Board member is working up a job description. In addition, we're gathering up all the items that we have approved to add to the manual. One item that we know we have to devote some time to is elections. According to our By-Laws, we elect our six officers for a two year term. A member may run again for a Board position and serve up to six years in the same office. Another perk is that we allowed for electronic elections to be green and eliminated the expense of printing and mailing ballots. Soon we will be sharing the guidelines and looking for nominations for next year.

I'd like to close by congratulating all the members who have shared good news this past month. We had a couple of sales due to conference appointments. We had contest announcements, other sale announcements, signings with agents, and general good news all over the place. It is wonderful to see the progress everyone is achieving. I applaud you all and hope to see it continue.

Gail

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Confessions of a Research Geek by Stephanie Julian

Whether you're creating an entire world from the ground up or moving a modern family of werewolves into the big city, it's the details that make the difference to the story.

But where do you find those details?

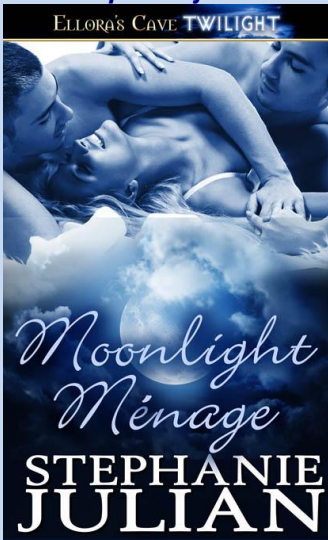
Hi, I'm Stephanie Julian and I'm an admitted research geek.

Give me a huge, old dusty textbook and I'm in heaven. I love to cruise Amazon for anything that has endnotes, footnotes, appendices, and indexes.

But I also love to cruise the web for out-of-this-world websites that have the



Stephanie Julian is the author of the *Magical Seduction* and *Lucani Loves* series from *Ellora's Cave*. A great fan of magic and romance, Stephanie has a dark secret: She loves research books, huge, dusty volumes more at home in the stacks of a major university than on her office shelves. For more on the world of Etruscan magic, go to www.stephaniejulian.com.



most far-out theories and ideas.

Here are a few tricks and tips on where to look and what to look for when blending folklore and mythology with modern genre fiction for extraordinary world-building.

I've got this idea ...

So you want to write about fairies. How do you decide between *sidhe*, *folletti*, or *djinni*?

Well, where do *you* come from? What's your history? Pick a mythology that resonates with you.

I'm Italian on my dad's. So instead of writing about Celtic fairies, I found an entire mythology dealing with Italian fairies. And to make it even better, no one else was writing with this angle.

Something else to consider—what do you like to read? Take your own interests into account. Do you enjoy magic or werewolves or ghosts? Writing about something you're interested in will show in your story.

So where do you find the nitty gritty details of your mythology?

If you're a traditionalist, you can't go wrong with Amazon. You simply need to find the right keywords to make the right books come up. Same for doing a website search. The right keywords are essential.

If you're looking for gods and goddesses, make sure you narrow it down to a certain pantheon. You can refine that even further by searching for specific names spelled in their native language.

Rupert Giles is so hot...

When you find the perfect book, but it's 500 pages long, no, you don't have to read every single word.

If the book has a lot of pictures, the captions can provide you with an amazing amount of material in condensed form. Check the index for keywords, then read only those pages. It'll save you from reading the entire book if all you want is the few pieces of information relating to the death practices of the Etruscans.

Children's books—in particular, the Eyewitness Books from DK—are an amazing source of primary information that will get your brain going in the right direction.

Who's Larry Talbot...

So you want to write vampires or werewolves, but everyone's doing vampires

and werewolves.

Pick and chose pieces of the various legends to create a new angle. There's always something you can add to the legend that will make your story unique.

JR Ward did this with her vampires. Instead of being undead humans, her vamps are a different race. Yes, they drink blood and have fangs, but Ward took her creation in a different direction and that helped her stories stand out.

Almost every civilization has legends of mythical creatures, magical spells, and demonic creatures.

Just because Bram Stoker believed vampires had to sleep in the dirt of their home country doesn't mean your vampires have to.

Where do I find...

If you're creating a unique civilization with roots in history, such as I've done with my Etruscan series, current archeology can be great fodder.

Archeology Magazine is a great source of information, as is its website. Museum websites can also be gold mines. The larger ones, such as the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, list recent acquisitions, current excavations, and almost always have a section with articles.

Now, since we're talking about paranormal, there are many websites out there that deal with the weird. Crystal skulls, anyone? How about the Antikythera device? Ley lines?

Do a Google search and you'll have hundreds of websites at your fingertips.

Even if you don't believe that aliens visited the earth and helped the Egyptians build the pyramids, who's to say it won't spark an idea or two for you?

These are a few websites I love:

Encyclopedia Mythica

<http://www.pantheon.org/>

The mythology section is divided into six geographical regions: Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Oceania. Each region has clearly defined subdivisions. The folklore section contains general folklore, Arthurian legends, and folktales from many lands. There is also a bestiary, legendary heroes, image gallery, and genealogical tables of various pantheons.

Crystalinks Ancient and Lost Civilizations

<http://www.crystalinks.com/ancient.html>

Good jumping off point if you're looking for something to kickstart your creativity.

Pib Burns Cryptozoology

<http://www.pibburns.com/cryptozo.htm>

Want to read about weird creatures? Here's the place to find some.

World Mysteries

<http://www.world-mysteries.com/index.html>

Another weird stuff site but full of interesting tidbits to make you go hmm.

Skeptic's Dictionary

<http://www.skeptdic.com/>

The other side to some of the weird stuff you're going to find on the other sites.

Rick Richards

<http://www.rickrichards.com>

A little bit of everything here, from Jesus to Mayan temples with lots of pictures.

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Moving On by P.K. Eden



Patt Mihailoff, a sixteen year former New Yorker and the author of Four digital novels, and one half of the P.K. Eden writing team, authors of FIREBRAND. In addition to fantasy romance, she has written and published mainstream fiction, erotica in a NY Times best selling author's anthology, romance and over a hundred short stories, and recently awarded Author of Year by the RWA New York Chapter

What happens when you take a job and you work there for a while—then all of sudden it's no longer what you want? What do you do? You move on, get a new job, and hope that it will be a fit for you. In this day and age of ever-changing publishing rules, regulations, and practices, you simply must be on top of your game.

There are various reasons why an author might decide to change publishing venues. Revenue, exposure, or sometimes it's just no longer a good fit. Usually, the original contract advises the authors how long the rights are retained and, most of the time, will tell the authors that they may re-new the contract or ask for a release.

In the beginning when digital publishing wasn't what it is today, the fledgling publishing businesses were trying to get authors on board as fast as they could, and there might have been a gray area between when and IF a book was ever going into print.

I have seen authors express enough anger to power a nuclear war vessel when asking for their rights back because of reasons that they feel were in the control of the publisher who didn't hold up its end of the bargain. E-publishers have become a lot smarter and now usually *s-p-e-l-l* out the terms, so that there is no mistake, and, as frustrating as that can be, at least your work is in some format that will be accessible to the masses.

Kathye Quick and I decided to pull our novel FIREBRAND, which received many rave reviews, including a multi-page spread in *Affaire De Coeur Magazine* in 2009, from a prominent E-publisher and place it with another venue in order to get better exposure. It worked! Our baby will be printed next month by eWings Press and we couldn't be happier.



I love E-publishing and it has helped to get me where I am today (not Kathye, she was hot already), but sometimes you just NEED to hold your “baby.”

Just like publishers both traditional and electronic are in the business of making money, writers are no different. While there may a vast difference in the ways those ends are achieved, sometimes writers must do what they think is best for them and as it was said in the Godfather, “It’s not personal; it’s just business.”

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From Jewelry Box to Bookshelf by Kathryn Quick



Three of my best friends are leaving me. Not really, but it feels like that.

Somer, Trent, and Ali Archer are the siblings I invented for AMETHYST, SAPPHIRE, and CITRINE, the three books in my Contemporary Romance Series, Grandmother’s Rings for Avalon Books, but over the 18 months I knew them, they were real to me. Now, with the publication of the last book due in August, the Archers have other things to do than hang out with me. I’ll miss them; I really will. But I have other people in my head screaming to get out.

The question I most get about this series is “How did you come up with the idea?” Believe it not, the original concept was nothing like the end product.

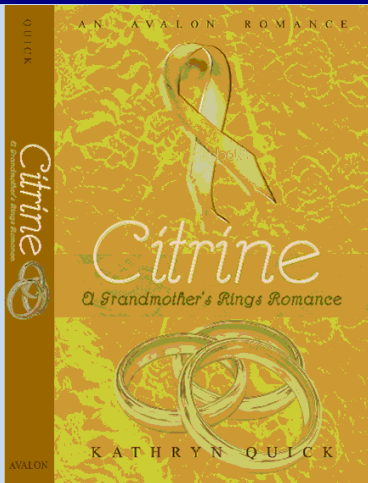
I was feeling melancholy about my grandmother one day and thought that I wanted to put her in one of my books. The original concept was a heroine who talked to her grandmother, who was a ghost. Only the heroine could see her. Gram then decides it’s time for the heroine to find the right guy and sets out to do just that for her favorite granddaughter using otherworldly happenings.

But when I pitched the concept to my editor at Avalon, she gently reminded me that the story sounded too paranormal for the line. She was right, of course, but I wasn’t ready to let go of the idea; I just needed to rework it somehow.

I sat down to watch Gem Week on my favorite shopping channel—QVC—and a beautiful amethyst ring was being featured. As soon as the show host mentioned “birthstone,” my problem was solved. I would write a series in which siblings were directed by their mom to use one of their grandmother’s rings to find love and happiness.

It then became a family affair. Amethyst is my mother’s and grandmother’s birthstone, Sapphire is my sister’s, and Citrine is my dad’s and mine. A quick “Google” of the traits that are believed to be associated with the gems and I had the basis for my characters.

Kathye Quick has been writing for more years than she would like to admit and has the fossil wrinkles to prove it. She is one of the founding members of LSFW and loves hearing about new writers getting that first contract. She writes in numerous genres and has a lot more people she needs to get out of her head on down on paper.



Those having the amethyst birthstone are said to be intelligent, clever, determined to reach goals, daring, and stubborn. Somer Archer, the oldest, is all of these things. She's a newspaper reporter hoping someday to be a news anchor and is determined and focused on achieving that goal before she's thirty. Nick Daultry is a New York City police officer, temporarily assigned to rural New Jersey as part of Homeland Security Training. Reporters and cops—natural enemies, but a perfect recipe for romance.

Sapphires promote clear thinking and wisdom and can help center a person. Since Trent Archer, the second sibling is a local police officer, he needs everything a sapphire can give him. Provided, that is, he can get through the torture of being in his sister Somer's wedding, and his pairing with Nick's NYC partner in the wedding party, Linda Wolff, veteran female cop who looks like anything but fun. But as the wedding weekend progresses, Trent sees something he likes in Linda's eyes.

A Citrine is believed to protect from injury and offer beauty and joy. Ali Archer, the youngest and most free-spirited of the three Archer siblings, is counting on it. She is the last one standing and determined not to fall for the new family curse. But at her nephew's first birthday party she runs headlong into Nick's cousin Jake, a red, white and blue hero soldier on leave for 30 days before returning to the Middle East for another tour of duty. But 30 days isn't long enough to build a relationship. Or is it?

As I wrote the series, the Archers became as real to me as my neighbors. But that's what supposed to happen, isn't it?

I hope all of you who get to know the Archers feel the same way. Maybe somewhere out there, they really do exist.

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Write What You Know by Kat Henry Doran



Author Kat Henry Doran, aka

Over the years I've had the honor to work at a number of occupations: nurse, malpractice insurance investigator, forensic nurse examiner, victim advocate, and now—the best job of all—Nana to Meredith, Ashlin, Owen, and Kieran.

Even though I sometimes wish they'd remain in the closet, the years I spent working in the Operating Room and ICU, later advocating for victims of sexual violence, have contributed significantly to the voice of my writing. You can't spend thirty years playing loyal serving maid to fast-handed surgeons, or haunting police stations, emergency rooms, and criminal courts without learning firsthand about rampant misogyny, overwhelming apathy, or overt bigotry.

I retired my speculum a few years ago but continue to advocate, quietly, for disenfranchised populations through Panties for Peace and Doctors Without Borders.

In my latest release, TRY JUST ONCE MORE, a contemporary romantic

Kathy Cottrell, brings a varied background to her role as Senior Editor for The Wild Rose Press: wife and mother, nurse-paralegal, victim advocate, and—her most favorite job of all: Nana to Meredith, Ashlin, Owen, and Kieran. As a nurse she spent years in the Operating and Delivery Rooms, the ICU, in the classroom and clinical setting, teaching adult learners in a school for practical nursing. As a paralegal she investigated allegations of medical malpractice. As a victim advocate, she paced the corridors outside police interrogation rooms and Grand Jury courtrooms while standing for victims of sexual violence. In that same role, she also trained community professionals, including law enforcement officers, on appropriate intervention techniques in crisis situations. Between that “ah ha” epiphany all authors experience when they suddenly know they can/should/must write, twenty years passed before she [writing as Kat Henry Doran] held her first published romance in her hands. Her second novel went on to win the coveted Barclay Brooch for best in Romantic Suspense in 2008. She remembers that sense of limbo, waiting for word on the partial she submitted months before. She also knows the feeling of reading a form rejection letter which told her little or nothing about what the story lacked, but more important where it shone. Stick around for her thoughts on “Write What You Know.” Visit Kat at her website www.KatHenry.com or her blog: www.WildWomanAuthor.blogspot.com

suspense set in the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York state, I brought in my years as a nursing supervisor to give the heroine something to do besides twiddle her thumbs. Drawing the hero was easy; I just thought about a cop I once (in my younger, much thinner years) lusted after. Plus, he helped me with a crucial scene in the book—not the love scene (darn it). To learn more about mounted patrol officers and their horses, I spent a day with an equine veterinarian while she made rounds, another with the mounted patrol unit of the Rochester Police Department.

For OUT OF THE DARK, an anthology from The Wild Rose Press due out in September 2010, I used my experience organizing marches during the month of April (when we traditionally honor crime victims) protesting violence against women. The book focuses on three women and how time behind bars changes their lives. My heroine, an award-winning television journalist, is covering a protest march when it turns violent. The police, who arrived too late to stop the majority of the damage, arrest everyone still standing, figuring God will sort it all out in the end. Enter the hero, the Public Information Officer for the police department, whose job it is to put a spin on the event and make the cops look good. Fortunately, the heroine comes equipped with film at eleven.

I was raised in a religion which employed men who dressed in black suits and wore their collars backward and women who wore long black dresses with starched bibs and large wing-like things on their heads. We called them penguins—or sailboat sisters if the hat was large enough and, of course, aerodynamic. I like to put the clergy in my stories. I'm warped that way. Of course it helped that I had two uncles who were also priests and a penguin cousin who gave me tons of insider information right down to how to get around the silence of the confessional booth in TRY JUST ONCE MORE.

For my last bit of brilliance, I'd like to talk about setting, which I believe should be treated like another character who deserves equal care in development. Currently, I am involved in a series with WRP titled the Class of 85, as in “have you ever wondered what happened to the prom queen or the class nerd or . . . the boy most likely to spend time behind bars?”

I was there at ground zero when the series was in its infancy and, with the help of two other writers, invented the town where the reunion will take place. We took a historic neighborhood in Rochester, which features stone and brick mansions built around the turn of the century, picked it up, dropped it on the shores of Lake Ontario, and called it Summerville. It's been a real treat watching this series take shape out of what's available to anyone who just looks around and uses what they know.

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The Care and Feeding of Your Agency Relationship—Part 1 by Laura Anne Gilman



*Laura Anne Gilman started her professional life as a book editor for a major NYC house, fitting her writing into the remaining available hours. In 2004 she switched that around, becoming a full-time writer and freelance editor for www.carinapress.com. Laura Anne is the author of the popular *Cosa Nostradamus* books for Luna (the "Retrievers" and "Paranormal Scene Investigations" urban fantasy series), and the award-nominated *The Vineart War* trilogy from Pocket. She is a member of the on-line writers consortium *BookVew Café*, and continues to write and sell short fiction. She also writes paranormal romances as Anna Leonard.*

Follow her on Twitter: @LAGilman or visit Laura at www.lauraannegilman.net.

Part 1: Finding the Balance

One of the things you hear a lot in this industry is how difficult it is to find an agent. And it is—absolutely. But what you don't hear a lot of is the balancing act of having an agent.

Some people on the outside might think that's because it's all peaches and cream once you're signed. And it is...except when it isn't.

Let me state up front that I've been with my agent, Jennifer Jackson of DMLA, for nearly a decade now. Clearly, the relationship is working. But it is a relationship, and prone to the ups and downs—and maintenance—thereof.

Ask any writer and, if they're honest, there will be days when they're very unhappy with their agent, no matter how fabulous they might be.

Any working writer knows (or should know) that her editor is busy, both with other writers and the daily business of publishing (meetings, more meetings, conferences, more meetings, etc). We don't expect them to read our minds, respond instantly, or even keep us at the forefront of their minds every moment of the business day (if you do, get over it, now).

Our agent, on the other hand, is our advocate, our direct line into the business side of things, while we're often isolated at our desk, head down and working.

We want to believe that they're spending every single minute of every single business day striving to make our career better. And they are—along with all the other active writers on their list.

And there's the rub. We want to believe that we have something special going. We want to believe that we're the most important person in our agent's life (after their therapist and the FedEx guy). And we are—for a certain percentage of their working life. But only that percentage.

I admit it: there have been days, on hearing about a stablemate who just got an amazing deal, or was written up in my agent's blog, or is crowing about something marvelous going on, that I rock back on my heels and think "well, why not me? Am I not as good/loved/important as that person, to warrant X?"

The first few times this happened, I felt guilty, and selfish, and reminded myself, rather harshly, that I have wonderful things happening and who's an ungrateful bitch now? Then I decided that no, this was probably a healthy response—so long as I kept it within reasonable limits. Why shouldn't I want the most out of my career? Why shouldn't I aim high and hope my agent is doing the same? So long as I remember the most important maintenance item: Everyone gets their time in the spotlight.

Some days, it's not your time.



Your agent has a number of clients. Some of them are up-and-coming hotshots. Some are reliable bestsellers. Some are shaky newborns who need nurturing. Some are jaded pros who can be left on their own unless something's under submission/in the pipeline. Some are needy, some are self-reliant. Being a professional (hell, being an adult) means being aware of your own needs and how to manage them.

Some agents are directors. Some agents are hand-holders. Some are therapists, and some are business managers. If you did your homework, you knew which when you signed up. If you were honest with yourself, you chose the right one.

If not, then it may be time to reconsider.

But if you did, if you trust your agent to be honest and hard-working, then you also need to trust that she will get to you—in the right time and place. You're not being abandoned or neglected—she's busy doing her job. If you feel like you need reassurance, or feedback on something specific, then get on the phone or send an e-mail, and ask.

And then put your head down and get back to work.

Coming soon: "How to Know When Something Is Wrong – And What to Do about It."

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Liberty States Fiction Writers "Create Something Magical" Conference Agents Panel Recap by Lena Pinto

Lena Pinto is a two-time Golden Heart finalist and has placed in numerous RWA chapter contests. A life-long resident of the City of Brotherly Love, Lena writes contemporary romances with a distinctive Philadelphia flavor.

Participants: Michelle Grajkowski, Three Seas Literary Agency
Stephanie Evans, Fine Print Literary Agency
Lois Winston, Ashley Grayson Literary Agency
Naomi Hackenberg, Elaine English Literary Agency
Marisa Corvisiero, Lori Perkins Agency
Sandy Lu, Lori Perkins Agency
Lori Perkins, Lori Perkins Agency

What types of books do you represent?

MG –all types of romance; women's fiction; children's books; young adult

SE – all genres of fiction; memoirs; various non-fiction

LW – all types of romance, except inspirational, westerns, and erotica; middle grade children's books; young adult; self-help; selected "coffee table" books

NH – all types of romance; women's fiction; young adult; thrillers; most types of non-fiction, except memoirs

MC – suspense; thrillers; young adult; children's books; fantasy; horror; good chick lit

SL – mystery; thriller; literary fiction; urban fantasy; suspense; narrative non-fiction; food; pop culture

LP – all types of fiction and non-fiction

What do you consider an ideal submission?

MG – a professional submission; an e-query made to look like hard copy, even if it's being sent to many agents; a first chapter that starts in the middle of the action, with a good hook at the end of the submission.

SE – a personal letter, even though it's an e-query; the reason why you're asking for me; in fiction—a fresh, strong voice that makes me care about the story, and engaging characters; in non-fiction—a subject that interests me, that makes me want to learn something.

LW – a submission that shows you've done your homework—sending me the type of book I represent; the personal touch in a professional, business letter with proper spelling and grammar. If the query is not well written, I'm not likely to read your pages. Embed the first five pages of the manuscript, and a three to five page synopsis in your e-mail. Do not send your pages as an attachment.

NH – a well-written e-query with a personal touch; pages that convey a sense of your characters and voice; including the word count.

MC – a professional e-query; launch into your story after a brief paragraph of your personal information; a one paragraph synopsis.

SL – a professional e-query; information about your story—think back cover blurb; the first five pages of your manuscript; a high concept approach helps, but don't force it.

LP -- a one-page query; explain how you learned about the Perkins agency; include what you bring to the table, e.g., your credentials, organizations, conferences you attend, etc.

*******All the agents advised that they prefer an e-query.*******

What is your turnaround time?

MG – one to two months.

SE – tries to respond to an e-query within a few days; about three months for a requested proposal.

LW – tries to respond to an e-query within a week; several months for a requested proposal.

NH – about 2 weeks for a query; it is all right to follow-up if you haven't heard

after a reasonable amount of time; see the agency's website
www.elaineenglish.com.

LP – (speaking for MC and SL, also) not quickly for the agency as a whole—
three to four months.

How do you feel about author promotion?

MG – keep your website updated, even if you don't have a book coming out
shortly, keep your readers up to date on what you're doing; build a mailing list
with a "members only" page.

SE – a team effort with your publisher—be sure your picture and bio are
included on your publisher's website; join writers' organizations in your area,
and in your genre; continue to write good books

LW – It depends on the author and the book. If you're not a comfortable public
speaker, use the Internet for promotion; spend your promotional money
wisely—discourages spending money on items such as chip clips, coasters,
etc.; ultimately, write good books.

NH – use the Internet; group blogs; conferences and networking.

MC – self-promote as much as feasible; use blogs, the Internet, Facebook—
just a few minutes each day to establish a presence; if comfortable for you, do
book signings and speaking engagements; try to do book signings outside
your immediate geographical area.

SL – try to do book signings in locales that are specific to your book, e. g., if
your story involves a knitting group, try to do a signing at a yarn shop.

LP – use the Internet, Facebook, Twitter, etc.; follow other authors; join
writers' organizations in your area, and in your genre.

Are you taking on new clients?

MG – looking for new authors.

SE – open to new clients.

LW – open to new clients.

NH – actively seeking new clients.

MC – building her client list.

SL – building her client list.

LP – currently full and not seeking new clients.

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★This Month's New and Noteworthy★

★New and Noteworthy Publishing News★

Click on Title to Access Article

Danielle Steele Assistant Sentenced for Embezzlement

Apple Sells Over 300K iPads on First Day

NY Times Ethicist on Illegal Downloads

Oprah Considering Book Club for New Channel

Plastic Logic Announces Date for Que E-Reader

2011 Budget Cuts Funding for Reading is Fundamental

Harlequin Expands German Operation

Best Buy will Carry B&N Nook

Amazon Wins Approval to Open Distribution Center in Canada

Simon & Schuster Launches YA UK Imprint for Simon Pulse

Google Judge Moves Up and May Pass Case to Another Judge

Blowout Quarter for Amazon

Contests

BREAKOUT NOVEL INTENSIVE—STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

For session: September 13-19, 2010—Charlotte, NC

Application deadline is April 30, 2010 (POSTMARKED).

Offered to both new and returning students, the Free Expressions Student Scholarship is presented to a writer, working in any genre of fiction, who has already developed significantly in his or her craft and who demonstrates a clear need for financial assistance. Both published and pre-published writers are invited to apply. The scholarship, valued at approximately \$1875, covers the cost of a student's tuition, workshop materials, lodging, and meals at the 2010 Breakout Novel Intensive in Charlotte, NC. Transportation and incidental expenses are the responsibility of the student. Scholarship recipient will be notified by May 30, 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.free-expressions.com>.

The 2010 Al Blanchard Award, sponsored by Sisters in Crime—New England and New England Mystery Writers of America **Deadline: April 30, 2010**

The rewards? A cash prize, publication in the next Level Best anthology, and free admission to Crime Bake!

GUIDELINES:

–The story must be a crime story of no more than 5,000 words, by a New England author OR with a New England setting.

–The story must be previously unpublished (in print or electronically).

–Genres may include mystery, thriller, suspense, caper, and horror. (Please, no torture or killing of children or animals.)

HOW TO SUBMIT:

–Send your submissions to: _contest@crimebake.org
(mailto:contest@crimebake.org)

–Include "Al Blanchard Award" in the subject line. Without it, attachments will not be opened.

–Include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, as well as your story title and word count, in the main body of your e-mail. Do NOT include personal information in the body of your submission.

–Send your story as an attachment in Word format, double-spaced.

–We will promptly acknowledge the receipt of your submission. The attachment will be coded to insure anonymity and be sent on to the judges. Therefore, your name should not appear anywhere in the attachment.

–There is no entry fee.

–Limit of TWO stories per person.

–Deadline for submission is April 30, 2010.

THE PRIZE:

ALA State of Libraries
Report

Bransford's This Week in
Publishing

From Rejection to
Pulitzer: Paul Harding

★Current Bestsellers★

Click on Name to Access List

Booksense Indie
Bestsellers

NY Times Bestsellers

Publishers Weekly

USA Today Bestsellers

Washington Post

Bestsellers

★Contact Us★

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Become a Friend on
Facebook!

Become a Fan on
Facebook!

-\$100 cash award.

-Publication in Level Best Books' eighth Crime Fiction anthology.

-Admission to the Crime Bake Conference.

You do not need to attend the conference to win. Get those submissions in now! Sheila Connolly, Registrar, New England Crime Bake 2010

WOW! Women On Writing Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: MONTHLY

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Prize: Cash: \$200, \$150, \$100, Plus over \$2,000 in Prizes + publication + \$50 gift certificates

WOW! Women On Writing hosts a quarterly flash fiction contest open to English-speaking contestants across the globe. For more information, please visit www.wow-womenonwriting.com.

Electric Dragon Cafe Science Fiction and Fantasy Quarterly Short Story Contest

<http://www.electricdragoncafe.com>

Deadline: MONTHLY

Entry Fee: None

Prize: 1st place: \$25 Barnes and Nobel gift certificate 2nd place: \$10 certificate

Seeking short fiction contest entries. Must be science fiction, fantasy or horror with fantastic elements and adhere to a theme which we will provide. Please visit the website for full contest details and guidelines.

E-mail: contest@electricdragoncafe.com

Courtesy FictionFactor.com

Whim's Place Flash Fiction Contest

<http://www.whimsplace.com/Contest/Contest.asp>

Deadline: QUARTERLY

Entry Fee: \$5

Prize: \$250 plus publication

A quarterly flash fiction contest. Deadlines for each quarter are March 30, June 30, September 30, December 30. Submit flash fiction of 500 words or less. Submit by regular post or e-mail. Full contest rules and regulations available on website. *Courtesy FictionFactor.com*

Writer's Choice Award

http://www.editred.com/writing_competition_stories.php

Deadline: MONTHLY

Entry Fee: Free

Prize: Published in the Writer's Choice Award anthology and automatically entered for the Editor's Choice Award - \$500

Details/Restrictions: Sign up to Edit Red (which is free). Upload one or more stories (also free). *Courtesy FictionFactor.com*

The Writer's 2010 Short-Story Contest

Prize: \$1,000.00. Entry fee: \$10.00. Deadline: 05-31-2010.

Looking for original fiction on any theme that is brilliant, bold, and concise

(no more than 2,000 words). First Place: \$1,000; publication, along with the finalist judge's comments, in *The Writer Magazine*; a free 10-week creative writing workshop offered online by Gotham Writers' Workshop (\$420 value); and one-year subscription to *The Writer Magazine*. We're looking for original fiction on any theme that is brilliant, bold, and concise (no more than 2,000 words). We're offering great prizes and great exposure for your work, including publication in *The Writer*.

<http://www.writingclasses.com/ContestPages/writer.php>

Wag's Revue Summer Contest

Prize: \$1,000.00. Entry fee: \$20.00. Deadline: 05-31-2010.

Wag's Revue invites you to enter its Summer 2010 Contest in fiction, poetry, and essays. Submissions of electronic writing are also encouraged in any of the above genres. First prize receives \$1,000 and publication in *Wag's Revue*; second prize is \$500, third is \$100, and all submissions are considered for publication. The contest deadline is May 31, and winners will be announced June 21. There is no limit to the number of entries an author may submit, but each entry must be accompanied with its own submission fee of \$20. Submissions of poetry may include multiple poems but should not exceed 10 pages. Fiction and essay submissions should not exceed 10,000 words. All submissions should be previously unpublished.

<http://www.wagsrevue.com/submit.php>

Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction

Prize: \$1,000.00. Entry fee: \$25.00. Deadline: 05-31-2010.

Each year the University of Georgia Press selects the winners of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. Authors of winning manuscripts receive a cash award of \$1,000, and their collections are subsequently published by The Press under a standard book contract. The Press may occasionally select more than two winners. The competition is open to writers in English, whether published or unpublished. Stories that have previously appeared in magazines or in anthologies may be included.

<http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/series/FOC>

The Elixir Press 2010 Fiction Award

Prize: \$2,000.00. Entry fee: \$35.00. Deadline: 05-31-2010.

Elixir Press is sponsoring a fiction contest open to all writers writing in English. Both short story collections and novels are eligible. The prize will be \$2000, publication by Elixir Press, and 25 copies of the book.

Manuscripts should be 120 pages to 500 pages in length.

<http://www.elixirpress.com/guidelines.html#poetrycontest>

L. RON HUBBARD'S WRITERS OF THE FUTURE CONTEST

DEADLINE: June 30, 2010

OPEN TO: Authors with No Published Books: The Contest is open only to those who have not had professionally published a novel or short novel, or more than one novelette, or more than three short stories, in any medium. Professional publication is deemed to be payment, and at least 5,000 copies, or 5,000 hits for online publication.

DETAILS: Fantasy, Sci-Fi or Horror: All types of science fiction, fantasy

and horror with fantastic elements, are welcome. 17,000 words welcome. PRIZES: \$1,000 first prize awarded each quarter; one of those winners also receives the \$5,000 annual "Gold Award" grand prize. Each quarter, 2nd Prize \$750, 3rd Prize \$500; winners and finalists receive all-expense-paid trip to the award ceremony in Seattle and tuition for week-long workshop with science fiction professionals, plus publication in the award-winning anthology series 'L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future' <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/index2.htm>

2010 HILLERMAN MYSTERY COMPETITION

DEADLINE: June 1, 2010

OPEN TO: Authors with No Published Books: The Competition is open to any professional or non-professional writer, regardless of nationality, who has never been the author of a published mystery, and who is not under contract with a publisher for publication of a mystery.

DETAILS: Murder or another serious crime or crimes is at the heart of the story, and emphasis is on the solution rather than the details of the crime. The story's primary setting is the Southwestern United States, including at least one of the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and/or Utah. Minimum 220 pages/60,000 words

PRIZES: \$10,000 advance against royalties and publication by St. Martin's Press.

URL: http://www.wordharvest.com/novel_contest.php

The Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

\$2000 Awaits Winners of Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

Deadline: May 15, 2010

The Saturday Evening Post To Publish First-Place Winner

The competition has a twenty-nine-year history of literary excellence, and its organizers are dedicated to enthusiastically supporting the efforts and talent of emerging writers of short fiction whose voices have yet to be heard. Lorian Hemingway, granddaughter of Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway, is the author of three critically acclaimed books:

Walking into the River, Walk on Water, and A World Turned Over.

Ms. Hemingway is the competition's final judge.

Prizes and Publication: The first-place winner will receive \$1,000. The second and third-place winners will receive \$500 each. Honorable mentions will also be awarded to entrants whose work demonstrates promise. <http://www.shortstorycompetition.com/>

Please note that we do not endorse any of these contests and/or publications ask that you check the fine print regarding the contest rules, publication terms and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Online Courses

GUERRILLA TACTICS FOR WRITERS IN A SLUMP

INSTRUCTOR: Lori Wilde

May 3rd - 30th, 2010

COST: \$15 - Members, \$25 - Non Members

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 1st, 2010

FMI: <http://www.oirw.net/campus/currentcourselist.htm>

Have you been writing a long time and while you've received some recognition for your work you're just not getting the attention you deserve? Or, were you published once, then found yourself without a publisher and now you can't get break back in? Or are you currently published but your career seems to be barely bumping along? This workshop is designed provide answers to those questions and catapult you onto the publishing fast track. "Guerilla Tactics for Writers in a Slump" will illustrate exactly what's holding you back and keeping you from being the writer you're truly meant to be.

BIO: Lori Wilde has sold fifty-two novels for four major New York Publishing houses. She holds a bachelors degree in nursing from Texas Christian University and a certificate in forensics. She volunteers as a sexual assault first responder for Freedom House, a shelter for battered women. She has also served as the RWA National conference workshop chair and PAN retreat chair. She is an instructor for a company who provides online community education to over 1500 colleges and universities. Lori is a past RITA® finalist and has four times been nominated for *Romantic Times* Reviewer's Choice Award. She's won the Colorado Award of Excellence, the Wisconsin Write Touch Award, The Lories, The More Than Maggie, the Golden Quill, The Laurel Wreath, and The BestBooks of 2006 Book Award. Her books have been translated into 22 languages and excerpted in *Cosmopolitan*, *Redbook*, *Complete Woman*, *All You* and *Quick and Simple* magazines. She's appeared numerous times on the Waldenbook's bestseller list, The Barnes and Noble bestseller list, Bookscan Top 40 and Ingram's Top 50. She lives in Texas with her husband, Bill. Find out more: <http://www.loriwilde.com/>

TOP 10 REASONS A MANUSCRIPT IS REJECTED

May 3, 2010 – May 22, 2010

Most manuscripts get rejected by agents and editors for one or more of 10 basic reasons. Writers have control over some of these reasons but not all of them. In this workshop Lois Winston discusses these 10 reasons and how writers can control more of their destiny by not falling prey to them. This will be a hands-on workshop where students are encouraged to participate so that everyone has the benefit of learning what works and what doesn't in their writing as well as in various parts of the submission process. Topics covered will include: knowing and understanding various genre conventions, editing and proofing, writing dynamic query letters, how to write a synopsis, the all-important first pages of the manuscript, technical skills, storytelling skills, voice and style. Instructor: award-winning author and literary agent Lois Winston. FMI and to register: www.beginningwriterworkshops.com

Savvy Authors Presents Growing More Words

ADDING UP TO 5,000 WORDS TO YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO MEET PUBLISHER GUIDELINES

May 3 - May 10

COST: \$10 or 10 Points for Members - \$15 for NON-Members

REGISTRATION: <http://www.savvyauthors.com/event.cfm?EventID=267>

You know your market, you've written your story, avoided the worst case scenarios of writer's block or smite them with your pen (far mightier than the sword) but now you have yet another problem. Your tale falls short of the required minimum word count the publisher wishes. And this can really happen if your first choice publisher's guideline was met but they passed on the project. The next publisher – or even the one after that – has an entirely different word count minimum and it's higher than what you've currently got. Does that mean you need to junk the idea of ever finding a home for this story? NO! It means you simply have to grow a few words...well, maybe more than just a few, but in the grand scheme of things, it really is just a few. So how do you do it? Funny you should ask. In a mini-workshop lasting a spare week, you can find ways to beef up your word count without bogging down your manuscript. Trust me on this. I've had to do it myself a couple times. Particularly when a publisher changed their guidelines while I was diligently writing to the old ones.

Day One: Introductions, confessions on how many words need to be found, and finding places to feed in the first steroids to enhance our word count.

Challenge: find homes for at least half of the additional word count needed.

Day Two: Work on the first Challenge.

Day Three: Bulking up the story's muscles. Challenge: to add at least half of the remaining required word count. The end result here is that we should have been able to add 75% of the words needed now.

Day Four: Work on the second Challenge.

Day Five: Chocolate and other desserts. Challenge: Taking care of those remaining words required.

Day Six: Work on the third Challenge.

Day Seven: Running over what we need. Reports and final questions and answers.

WHO: Beth Daniels currently writes as Beth Henderson and J.B. Dane, though she answered to Lisa Dane and Beth Cruise in the past as well. She has worked with editors at Berkley, Zebra, Leisure, Harlequin/Silhouette, and Simon and Schuster's Aladdin Paperbacks, done e-books for a now defunct company (not her fault, she says), and began her writing life with hardcover books slated for library use with a publisher that got out of the romance business (again, not her fault). More recently she's had a number of articles about writing picked up by e-zines, saw a short story published in a mystery and suspense magazine that turned up its toes the next year (really, really not her fault), and has a story in the MOTHER GOOSE IS DEAD anthology slated for publication by Dragon Moon Press sometimes in 2010. For over a dozen years Beth taught college level composition, both in the classroom and online, and a credit course on Novel Writing. Five of her former Novel class students are now published. Twenty-six of Beth's manuscripts have appeared in print or e-book format. These have been historical romantic adventures (6), romantic comedies (10), romantic-suspense (3), and young adult romantic comedy (7). Her titles have appeared in 12 different languages in over 20 countries. At the moment she is working on various manuscripts and attempting a collaboration with another RWA member on a contemporary/fantasy/romantic adventure. She also ventured into self-publishing to keep her out-of-print backlist in print, but previous e-books in print, and in frustration, to move beyond a manuscript she'd been reworking for editors for a decade with no bites, released a previously unpublished historical romantic adventure set in the American West. She is currently/or has been a member of/about to renew membership in Romance Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, Novelist Inc., and Historical Novelist Society.

savvyauthors.com - Writers Helping Writers

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

Snakebite Scenes and Hollywood Plots: Enhancing Action and Emotion in Romance

May 3 - 17, 2010

Instructor: Carrie Lofty

Sponsored by : Heart of Dixie, RWA (www.heartofdixie.org)

Cost: \$20

Class Description: You have the beginning. You know how it should end. But what to do with those hundreds of pages in the middle? Carrie Lofty, author of sexy, adventurous historical romances for Kensington, will demonstrate how action can make your novel more exciting and more emotional. Use Carrie's so-called "snakebite scenes" to help characters acknowledge their deeper passions and bond over moments of danger or everyday drama, and analyze films and novels to see how Hollywood tells rip-roaring, action-packed stories. For plotters, pantsers, and everyone in between, this course can unblock your creativity and help you power through that draft, adding action and heart to every page.

Instructor Bio: Born in California and raised in the Midwest, Carrie Lofty found the love of her life in England . She earned her MA in history from Ohio State University with a thesis on Old West legends in post-Civil War society. Now she writes, raises two precocious elementary-aged daughters, and manages Unusual Historicals, a blog she founded in 2006 to celebrate romances set in unusual times and places. Carrie's debut, *WHAT A SCOUNDREL WANTS* (Zebra: 12/2008), is the hot, adventurous tale of Will Scarlet and his dangerous lady love. Register at www.heartofdixie.org by May 1. Questions? Contact the online coordinator at online@heartofdixie.org

Understanding Scene: How Goal, Motivation, Conflict, and Disaster Factor into It

May 3 - 30, 2010

\$25 BDRWA members/\$30 non-members (4 week class)

According to Dwight Swain, author of *Techniques of the Selling Writer*, a scene is identified by action. The sequel is the reaction. But what does this mean in terms of your writing? What goes into a scene? Heck, what IS a scene? This online course will take you through the process of understanding the elements of a scene and will introduce the concept of sequel. You will use your favorite fiction to identify how authors use Goal, Motivation, Conflict, and Disaster, as well as write your own scene(s) using these crucial 4 elements. You will come away with a PDF file detailing everything discussed in the course.

Instructor Bio: Misa Ramirez is the author of the Lola Cruz mystery series: *Living the Vida Lola* (January '09) and *Hasta la Vista, Lola!* (February 2010) from St. Martin's Minotaur. A former middle and high school teacher, and current CEO and CFO for La Familia Ramirez, this blonde-haired, green-eyed, proud to be Latina-by-Marriage girl loves following Lola on her many adventures. Whether it's contemplating belly button piercings or visiting nudist resorts, she's always up for the challenge. Misa is hard at work on a new women's fiction novel, a middle grade series, is published in *Woman's World Magazine* and *Romance Writers Report*, and has a children's book published. Read more about Misa at her website: <http://misaramirez.com> For more info: www.bdrwa.com click on online classes or contact mrsgodiva@comcast.net.

Special workshop to fund the Passionate Ink Perseverance Fund* –

WRITING EROTIC ROMANCE with Angela Knight

May 3, 2010 – May 31, 2010

In this class, New York Times bestselling author Angela Knight will discuss the techniques of writing erotic romance she used to make the leap to New York publication. She'll cover creating heroes, heroines, and villains for erotic romance, as well as how to structure a plot that combines sexuality, sensuality, and conflict to create a story readers can't put down. She will discuss creating intense internal, external, and romantic plots for erotic romance, as well as how to write multiple love scenes in such a way that each one is different and advances the plot.

Bio: Angela Knight is the *New York Times* bestselling author of books for Berkley, Red Sage, Changeling Press, and Loose Id. Angela lives in South Carolina with her husband, Michael, a polygraph examiner and hostage negotiator for the county's Sheriff's Office. You can find out more about Angela at her website – <http://www.angelasknights.com/>

For more information: workshopchair@passionateink.org

To Pay Online : Using PayPal (PayPal), send payment to

perseverance@passionateink.org with "WORKSHOP – Perseverance" as the subject. In the "message" section, include Your Name and Email

Address. Cost: \$25 To pay by check, print this page and send with a check to Passionate Ink Workshops – Perseverance c/o Robin L. Rotham P.O. Box 2412 Norfolk, NE 68701

*100% of all entry fees from this workshop will go to fund the Passionate Ink Perseverance Fund.

Mauled Men, Drowned Dames, and Crispy Critters; a Body Disposal Primer for Writers

May 9-22, 2010

Jeanne Adams

Cost: FREE to FTHRW members; \$15.00 for all others

Registration Deadline: May 5, 2010

Course Description: *You've axed, shot or otherwise knocked off a key character in your latest book, now what? You have to do SOMETHING with the body! Even if the forensics, murder, or death aren't central to the story, there is that annoying dead guy to dispose of. So, decisions, decisions. Is an autopsy necessary? A funeral and burial? Lots of plot possibilities, but the details! Can you bury a body in Maine in February? Most states require "two containers" for burial, do you know what they are? And what about timing? If a body's found on Friday, can you bury it on Sunday? Do you know the difference between a coffin and a casket? And then there's cremation... Find out everything you ever wanted to know about the pernicious particulars of body disposal and how to use minutiae of death to throw your characters together or drive them apart. Learn about embalming, vaults, cremation, reconstructive cosmetics, coroner's reports, death certificates, and more at this get-the-basics research track seminar. About the Instructor: It's wonderful for a writer to live near Washington, DC, as I do. The research resources are fabulous, the scenery is great – complete with monuments, gorgeous public buildings, and the most amazing, weird, convoluted, political people – and I get to be here with the most awesome family, friends, and neighbors in the world. I live here with

my wonderful husband (he's my personal hero), my two delightful, growing-too-fast sons, and my silly Dalmatian. As former marketing executive, I worked for research parks, governmental concerns and not-for-profits, (which is also great fodder for the writer's mind!) but now I'm happily employed as a consultant and full-time writer. I'm a member of Romance Writers of America, Science Fiction Writers of America and Thriller Writers. I'm also a proud member of the Washington Romance Writers, an RWA chapter, as well as several online RWA chapters. One of the most enjoyable things I get to do as a consultant and writer, is to teach.

I enjoy connecting with my clients, readers and other writers. In addition to my marketing work, I've gotten degrees in interior design and landscape design, which I use to teach a class on Creating the Write Environment. Having also worked in the funeral and cemetery business for nearly thirteen years, I teach a class on Body Disposal. I'm also very proud to work with bestselling author Madeline Hunter to teach a class on Surviving Almost There. You can check those out on the Classes button. Being part of the Ad(d)ams Family, as you can imagine, Halloween is my favorite holiday. I love to work in the garden, run my Dalmatians, hang out with my family, and write. Other than that, as another, more famous author says, the rest is subject to change without notice.

How to register: *http://fthrw.com/workshops/wkshop_2010_05.php

Click here <<http://fthrw.com/workshops/classes.php>> to register before May 5, 2010.

CREATING A WEB PRESENCE FOR THE TECHNO-CHALLENGED

May 10 - 23, 2010

\$15 BDRWA members/\$20 non-members

A self-confessed techno-klutz and tightwad, Anne Marie Novark will explain how to create do-it-yourself websites for free or on the cheap. Get the down and dirty regarding domain names and hosting services. Learn about blogging, Facebook, MySpace and more. The class will consist of five lessons every other day over the space of two weeks with handouts loaded with resources and information. "Believe me, if I can set up an eye-catching, cost-effective web presence, then so can you!"

Ann Marie's Bio: Anne Marie Novark is a Texas girl, born and raised. She loves to read and write about men and women falling in love, overcoming life's obstacles, and living happily ever after. She writes spicy Contemporary Western novels, as well as Regency historicals. Anne Marie is published with The Wild Rose Press. Visit her at www.annemarienovark.com.

For more info: www.bdrwa.com click on online classes or contact mrsgodiva@comcast.net.

Todd Stone Presents - Character(s) and Conflict—More Is More and More Is Better

May 10 - Jun 6

Six lessons, four weeks

Presenter: Todd Stone, the Novelist's Boot Camp guy

Ever hear an editor say "Sorry, your story has too much conflict?"

Didn't think so. And you probably won't, either. In this workshop we'll

provide you with how-to techniques excerpted the award-winning "Novelist's Boot Camp" (from Writers Digest Books) and the Novelist's Boot Camp workshops that will help you amp up your story's internal and external conflict, build in conflict from the very beginning of your story, help simplify plotting, make setting a character, and make you smarter and more confident about your writing process and product. This workshop works for all genres, for aspiring and published authors, and for both pantsers and plotters.

COST: \$15 for Members * \$25 for NON-Members

REGISTRATION: <http://www.savvyauthors.com/event.cfm?EventID=109>
MORE INFORMATION:* workshops@savvyauthors.com

BIO: With a camouflage kilt as his trademark, former Army Infantry Airborne Ranger and Instructor at the US Military Academy at West Point is the multi-published award-winning author of NOVELIST'S BOOT CAMP from Writers Digest Books and the presenter of The Novelist's Boot Camp Workshops. The NBC Workshops have been featured at venues such as RT, RWA National, The University of Wisconsin Writers Conference, Love is Murder Mystery/Suspense Conference, DUCKON Science Fiction Convention, The School of the Arts at Rhinelander, and at RWA chapters across the country. Visit his website at www.storytellerroad.com for free downloads.

"Storyboarding" with Shayla Black (aka Shelley Bradley)

May 16-22

RRRW Members - \$15; Non-members - \$20

Hate blinking cursors or rewriting? Have a very time-pressed schedule? To avoid all of those and maintain sanity in the middle of deadlines and challenging books requires a little more pre-plotting than Ready with some characters, Set with an opening scene, Go! Storyboarding for the Story Challenged uses different formats (and thus, different parts of your brain) to help you construct your plot. Part visual, part analytical, this method of storyboarding allows you to plot the skeleton of a story or put all the story flesh on its bones, right down to the last freckle or drop of sweat.

Bio: Shayla Black (aka Shelley Bradley) is the national bestselling author of 25+ sizzling contemporary, erotic, paranormal, and historical romances for multiple print and electronic publishers. She lives in Texas with her husband, munchkin, and one very spoiled cat. In her "free" time, she enjoys reality TV, reading and listening to an eclectic blend of music. Shayla has won or placed in over a dozen writing contests, including Passionate Ink's Passionate Plume, Colorado Romance Writers Award of Excellence, and the National Reader's Choice Awards. Romantic Times has awarded her Top Picks, a KISS Hero Award and a nomination for Best Erotic Romance of 2007. A writing risk-taker, Shayla enjoys tackling writing challenges with every book.

FMI -- <http://redriverromancewriters.com/workshops.php>

June 7—21, 2010

Airing Dirty Laundry—Use Family Stories, Eavesdropping, and Cable TV to Create Writing Income

Instructor: Marilyn Puett

CLASS DESCRIPTION: “Airing Dirty Laundry” offers information and tips on how to create a source of outside income by writing short stories for the confessions and romance magazines. This two-week workshop is geared for writers who want extra income while waiting to sell their first book, are between royalty checks or simply want an extra income stream. This course takes students step by step through writing a confession. It begins with learning the market, developing hooks and compelling story lines and structuring a story properly. By the end of the course, students should have a story ready for submission. Additionally, participants will be given the opportunity to submit the first few pages of a story they start during the class and have the pages critiqued by published writers. Two stories will be selected toward the end of the class to receive a full critique.

INSTRUCTOR BIO: Marilyn Puett has sold over thirty stories and a half-dozen short feature articles to the confessions and romance magazines. She has also sold to an e-zine called Chick Lit Review and an anthology titled, appropriately enough, I Confess. She appears in both the 2008 and 2009 Bylines Writers’ Desk Calendar and her article “Short Shorts—Not Just a Fashion Statement” was featured on the Writing for Dollars website. In November 2008 she took the NaNoWriMo challenge and wrote 50,000 words on a book she started way too many years ago. When Silhouette Special Edition announced an online pitch contest several months later, she hunkered down, finished the book and submitted a synopsis to the contest. One of eleven finalists, she received a request for her full manuscript, putting her a tiny step closer to the dream of being published in novel format. The book was ultimately rejected but is awaiting revision and submission to a different line. Marilyn is a member of Heart of Dixie RWA and serves RWA on both the local and national levels. A founding member of The Writing Playground, a website for aspiring writers (www.writingplayground.com), she lives in her empty nest in north Alabama and dotes on her granddaughter.

Cost: \$20 - Submit the payment via Paypal below or mail to the address listed. All payments for a workshop **must** be received by the registration deadline—**June 5th**. Please email the [Online Class Coordinator](#) with questions.

Please note that we do not endorse any of these online courses and ask that you check the fine print regarding the online course rules and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Conferences

RWA/NYC May Brunch

May 1st at 11:30 at Kennedy's

327 West 57th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenue

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SUZANNE BROCKMANN

The price of \$29 includes choice of brunch entrée, one cocktail, dessert, coffee, tea and soda.

**MERWA (Maine RWA) 4th Annual Writer's Retreat
Friday, May 14 - Saturday, May 15**

Limited seating for an intimate experience and great networking - we have filled to capacity the last three years, *so register early*.

Portland, Maine (off 295 about 2 hours north of Boston)

\$65.00 (or join MERWA for \$30 and save \$5 on retreat registration)

Featured Speaker, Terry McLaughlin. multi-published Harlequin Super Romance author, presenting two Saturday workshops, *"First Kiss Scenes *with* Blush Free Writing: Crafting the Love Scene" *and* "Voice: "What It Is; What It Isn't."*

Friday night: Special Program Maine Ghost Hunters, paranormal investigation team, workshop, *"Maine Ghost Hunters: We face Your Fears,"*an in depth review of basic team processes with a focus on the scientific approach to discovering what lurks behind the veil. MGH client-centered methods toward investigating possibly paranormally charged environments serve to bring comfort, understanding, and awareness to those who seek their services.

Saturday workshops include *"Blending Paranormal with Other Genres"*presented by Joyce Lamb, Berkley author of COLD MIDNIGHT *,* a romantic suspense, and the upcoming paranormal romantic suspense trilogy beginning with TRUE VISION in June, followed by TRUE COLORS and TRUE CALLING, and *"Brainstorming"* facilitated by Diane Amos, a Harlequin, Five Star and Wild Rose Press author. This session is a big hit each year.

Retreat attendees bring WIP or ideas for new work to the session. Attendees provide great ideas and guidance.

Editor Pitches: Cynthia Thomas, Lyrical Press, pitches on Saturday afternoon.

Retreat Registration: checks can be sent to MERWA - Writers' Retreat, PO Box 6478, Brunswick, ME 04011 - or pay through PayPal on the MERWA website <http://mainerwa.com>. Retreat brochures (with workshop and registration details) can be downloaded from the site, as well. Registration includes Friday and Saturday workshops and Saturday lunch. Many choose to stay Saturday night and go out to dinner as a group.

Hotel registration: a room block under MERWA with special rates is available if *registering by April 24, 2010.* \$109, double occupancy, plus tax per night, includes Friday evening manager's reception and full breakfast. Call 1-800-362-2779. Mention MERWA to get the special retreat rate. Hotel features Jacuzzi, lap pool, fitness room, business center, bar and restaurant open until 10 p.m., and huge lobby with tables and sofas, perfect for writing and networking.

The 2010 LIRW Luncheon

June 11, 2010

**Special Guest Speaker—Steven Zacharius, President
Kensington Books**

So far..... here is our roster of editors/agents attending:

GUEST AGENTS

Stephany Evans -- FinePrint Literary Management

Heather Evans -- FinePrint Literary Management

Suzie Townsend -- FinePrint Literary Management

Jennifer Didik -- Loretta Barrett Books, Inc.

Amy Boggs -- Donald Maass Literary Agency

GUEST EDITORS

Alicia Condon -- Editorial Director Brava

Stacy Boyd -- Editor, Feature & Custom Publishing, Harlequin Magazines Inc.

Latoya C. Smith -- Assistant Editor, Grand Central Publishing

Linda Ingmanson -- Editor, Samhain Publishing

Please keep checking the LIRW webpage to get the latest updates to this list! Plan now to join us at our lovely new location: The Inn at Fox Hollow (which has sleeping rooms available if you wish to spend the night!)

www.theinnatfoxhollow.com <<http://www.theinnatfoxhollow.com>>

CAPITAL REGION Romance Writers Conference

June 12

Speakers Jenna Peterson and Caridad Piñeiro

Registration includes Friday night reception, continental breakfast and buffet lunch on Saturday, all four workshops, handouts, and door prizes. Also included is editor/agent appointments and admission to Saturday's book signing/book sale event. Please go [here](#) for more registration information.

Accommodations: This year's event will be at the beautiful [Hilton Garden Inn](#), located in Troy, New York. Overnight accommodations are \$99/night as long as you reserve by May 12, 2010. Use code CRRC when making your reservation.

THRILLERFEST V

July 7-10

Grand Hyatt, New York City, New York

Thrillerfest has several different packages and tracks for aspiring and published authors. Please visit the website at

<http://www.thrillerwriters.org/thrillerfest/> for additional details.

RWA National Conference

July 28-31, Nashville, TN

Registration for RWA's 30th Annual Conference is now open. RWA members who register by May 19 pay the \$425 early member registration fee. Visit www.rwa.org to register online, to learn more about the conference, or for hotel information. Please consult the [Conferences & Events section](#) of the RWA site first before contacting RWA (conference@rwa.org or 832-717-5200, Ext. 128). *Note regarding hotel reservations:* The Gaylord charges one night's room fee as a deposit when the room is booked. Also, questions about or changes to hotel reservations should be directed to the Gaylord at 1-888-777-6779. The RWA staff does not have access to the hotel's reservation system and cannot make any changes.

Please note that LSFW does not endorse any of these conferences and asks that you check the fine print regarding the conference and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Promo Opportunities

Ozark Romance Authors

Deadline May 1

A Non-RWA Chapter is seeking 50-60 stuffers, books for their conference. Before May mail your promotional items to: Beth Carter, 5263 E. Farm Road 174, Rogersville, MO 65742

RomanceUniversity.org is dedicated to helping writers establish and advance their careers, introducing readers to a variety of authors, and delving into the ever-inscrutable male mind. It's the sassy brainchild of ADRIENNE GIORDANO, KELSEY BROWNING and TRACEY DEVLIN. RU currently is taking applications for the position of junior faculty member. Get deets and apply here: <http://bit.ly/aTn8kj>

Los Angeles Romance Authors is looking for promo items for goodie bags for our annual one day workshop on May 15th. New York Times Bestselling author, Bob Mayer, is the workshop instructor/speaker. We expect 50 to 60 people. Please send your promotional items **by May 7th** to:

Tammi Flora (LARA Workshop)
625 The City Drive, Suite 310
Orange, CA 92868

We will also have raffle baskets. We accept books, cds, other items and baskets themselves for this fund raiser. Items should be sent to Tamera at the above address by May 7th to ensure timely receipt. For more information on the workshop, please go to: <http://www.lararwa.com/workshop.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Tammi Flora at programming@lararwa.com.

Please note that LSFW does not endorse any of these promotional opportunities and asks that you check the fine print regarding the conference and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Editor/Agent News

Lia Brown is a new editor with Avalon Books. Formerly with Oxford University Press, Ms. Brown has also worked for Marvel Comics, St. Martin's Press, HarperCollins, and Random House. At Avalon, she's looking for "wholesome family-friendly romances, historical romances, mysteries, and westerns." She likes character-driven stories and good dialogue. You can read more about Ms. Brown at the Avalon books blog. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Juliet Grames will join Soho Press as an editor on May 3. Most recently she was an editor at The Overlook Press. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Jeremie Ruby-Strauss is returning to Gallery Books as a senior editor in early May. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

The Rights Factory has hired **Ali McDonald** as associate agent, expanding the agency in children's middle-grade and YA properties. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

In Harper's creative development team under Lisa Sharkey, **Matt Harper** has been promoted to senior editor and **Amy Bendell** has moved up to associate editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

In promotions at Bloomsbury/Walker/Bloomsbury Press: **Benjamin Adams** has become a senior editor; **Pete Beatty** moves up to editor; **Margaret Maloney** is now an associate editor; **Rachel Mannheimer** becomes an assistant editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Harper, **Maya Ziv** and **Jason Sack** have both been promoted to assistant editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Ballantine, **Mark Tavani** has been promoted to executive editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Marcy Posner, formerly agent and foreign rights director at Sterling Lord Literistic, has joined Folio Literary Management as an agent specializing in children's and young adult as well as women's fiction, romance and serious and commercial non-fiction. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At the newly merged Random House/Ballantine Bantam Dell, editorial directors **Linda Marrow** and **Kate Miciak** report to publisher Libby McGuire while all other editors will report to new editor-in-chief **Jennifer Hershey**, who also reports to McGuire. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Aaron Schlechter has been promoted to senior editor at The Overlook Press. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Devin McIntyre has opened his own agency, The McIntyre Agency. He was previously an agent at Mary Evans Inc., which he joined in 2002. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Martin Literary Management, **Bree Ogden** has been made an associate agent representing children's, young adult and graphic novels. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Scribner **Anna deVries** has been promoted to associate editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Georgia Cool will join Mary Evans Inc. as an agent. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Wylie O'Sullivan has been promoted to senior editor at Free Press.

Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.

Zondervan laid off 30 employees as part of a streamlining of its workforce of 374 people. However, the company is hiring for its digital and multimedia operations, with the [Grand Rapids Press](#). *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

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Publisher News

HCI Books has announced a new line, Vows, combining romance and memoir, to launch in October 2010. They dub it "reality-based romance," producing novels "based on personal interviews with real couples whose love stories read like the best in romantic fiction." *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Passion In Print—a MLR Press imprint coming in July 2010 Open Submissions Call for Destination: Desire Our new erotic romance specialty line.

Destination: Desire is open to any sexual heat level, any genre but sci-fi and fantasy, and the relationship must be M/F. The romance should conclude with a "happily ever after" or "happy for now". Word count range should be between 65K and 120K. Any manuscript submitted with less than 60K or more than 125K will be rejected without having been read. To submit a manuscript for consideration, please follow the guidelines below.

Tame: Mild sensuality, mild heat, occasional love scene, no graphic euphemisms.

Racy: Moderate sensuality, moderate heat, increased frequency of love scenes, some graphic language.

Spicy: High level of sensuality, detailed love scenes, graphic description of anatomy and of sexual acts.

Scorching: Intense erotic scenes. May include BDSM.

SUBMISSION: Your submission will have three parts: a cover letter, a synopsis, and a partial or full manuscript. Each and every one of these items should be proofread and spellchecked.

The letter: In your cover letter, include your real name, your pen name (if any), your manuscript's genre, heat rating and word count, your contact information, and a summary of your writing or publishing experience. (If you're a first-time author, say so. We won't hold it against you. All our authors had a first time.) Point us to your promotional website if you have one. Tell us, for instance, to which writers' organizations you belong or in which writing contests you earned a prize or mention. Describe why you think your story should interest Passion In Print and its readers.

The synopsis: Give us a synopsis of your story. You might open it with brief descriptions of the major characters. Then, in one to three pages, detail the *significant* action in the story. A synopsis is not a blurb. Don't end the synopsis with a blurb-style teaser—*Can Jack save Diane from the forces that threaten to tear their world apart?* Tell us how the story ends.

The partial or the full manuscript: The final component is the story itself. We'd prefer to see the first three chapters plus the final one. Prologue and epilogue do not count as chapters. If the first sexual encounter doesn't happen within the first three chapters, please forward the chapters up to and including the first sexual episode.

In the subject line of your email, please state: **DESTINATION: DESIRE**, and send the cover letter as the body of your email and the synopsis and manuscript as an attachment to: submissions.pippress@gmail.com.

Submissions are open until October 15, 2010. At this time there is no limitation on the number of openings for this line, but Passion In Print reserves the right to determine a finite number of acceptances at a later date. All manuscripts will be given serious consideration. Rejected submissions will receive constructive critical feedback. Any questions with regard to submissions or the **Destination: Desire** line specifically, should be emailed to the submissions address above.

Carina Press, the e-book press of HQN, is looking for historical romances. Details are at:

<http://riskyregencies.blogspot.com/2010/01/carina-press-call-for-submissions.html>

and here's the link to their submission guidelines:

<http://carinapress.com/submission-guidelines/>

Realms of Fantasy has scheduled a special "Women in Fantasy" issue for August 2011, and the editors are looking for contributions now. If you are a woman who writes short fantasy fiction, this issue is for you. Stories should be no longer than 10,000 words. Payment is 6 cents a word for the first 7500 words and 4 cents a words thereafter. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2010. Check their [writer's guidelines](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

The 25th annual anthology of *Sword and Sorceress* is now accepting submissions. Send your sword and sorcery story with a strong female protagonist. No explicit sex, gratuitous violence, or profanity. Stories may be up to 9000 words, but shorter stories are preferred. The deadline for entries is May 14. Find the guidelines [here](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Ellora's Cave is launching two new lines of erotic romance. **GenEdge**, aimed at 18-25 year old female readers, should feature 18-25 year old female protagonists. The heroes in these stories may be the same age as the women or older. These stories should have a young voice. These are erotica, so the sex is explicit and steamy. The length can range from 10,000 words to 125,000 words. **Branded** is a line of erotica aimed at women who enjoy reading about explicit sex but who believe sex should only take place only within marriage. These stories may be set in any time and place, but the couples involved must have made a commitment the equivalent of our understanding of marriage. These aren't religious or inspirational stories and the sex is as explicit as any other Ellora's Cave story, but the commitment to

monogamy within marriage is part of the story. These stories also range from 10,000 to 125,000 words. For more information, check out their [Call For Submissions](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Orbit Books, the science fiction and fantasy imprint of Hachette, has announced they'll begin publishing short fiction electronically this fall. Though right now they'll publish only stories by authors already published in book length fiction by Orbit, if the line is successful it could launch a new outlet for short fiction. The stories will sell for \$1.99 and the authors will receive royalties on their sales. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

The **International Thriller Writers** are putting out a call for submissions for a Thriller Anthology. You can read more about it here:

<http://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=110228af76af71c6de2847e2a&id=9ba436029a&e=efb572e90e>

Eternal Press now has a new home and a new look at www.eternalpress.biz For those who don't remember, my husband and I own Damnation Books and we acquired Eternal Press on January 1, 2010. Both are small pubs. We've changed the contracts somewhat and are now offering 40% royalties on digital/ebooks and 25% on print. We're asking for five years. We're looking for novella and novel length works 20,000 words and up. We have also reopened EP to young adult. Submission guidelines are at

<http://www.eternalpress.biz/submissions.php>

Distribution includes LSI, Amazon Kindle, Kobo, Blio, Fictionwise and more. Print includes US, Canada and UK through Lightning Source.

Kim Richards, CEO Damnation Books/Eternal Press

www.damnationbooks.com, www.eternalpress.biz

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