

KEYNOTES



The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America / New York City Chapter #6 FEBRUARY 2018

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LOCATION: TRS, 40 EXCHANGE PLACE, 3RD FLOOR, 12-4PM

TOPIC: REVISION

SPEAKER:

MEGAN FRAMPTON

Definition: Revision is the stage in the writing process where the author reviews, alters, and amends her or his message, according to what has been written in the draft.

Megan Frampton writes historical romance under her own name and romantic women's fiction as Megan Caldwell. She likes the color black, gin, dark-haired British men, and huge earrings, not in that order. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and kid. You can find her at meganframpton.com, at [facebook.com/meganframptonbooks/](https://www.facebook.com/meganframptonbooks/), and @meganf.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



The Clock is ticking! Dues are due on March 3.

Remember to renew your Chapter Membership today at www.rwanyc.com OR use the renewal form at the end of this newsletter and renew at the January meeting.

To renew online, go to "Members Only" section. Password is membersonly.♥



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THANK YOU!

To Our Contributing Writers
LaQuette, Maria Cox, Maria Ferrer,
Barbara James, Falguni Kothari,
Jennifer Welsh,

MEETING INFORMATION

RWA/NYC meets the first Saturday of each month. Meetings are held at TRS, 40 Exchange Place, NYC. 12 noon. Membership is at the discretion of the Board. Annual dues are \$40. Make all checks payable to RWA/NYC. There will be a \$20 fee on returned checks.

ATTENTION: The Board welcomes all comments/suggestions/etc. Please send emails to info@rwanyc.com.

MARCH THEME

MARCHING TOWARD PUBLISHING

Its trials, errors and triumphs

PLUS! We welcome articles on all topics, book reviews, conference notes, etc., etc.

DEADLINE: 15th of the month

2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

Jan 6	Feb 3	Mar 3	Apr 7	May 5	Jun 2
Jul 7	Aug 4	Sep 8	Oct 6	Nov 3	Dec 1

RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: LaQuette
Vice President/Programs: Alexis Daria
Vice President/Communications: Harper Miller
Secretary: Jennifer Welsh
Treasurer: Maria Cox
Past President: Kate McMurray

LIAISONS & COMMITTEES

Keynotes Editor: Falguni Kothari
Blog/Social Media: Maria Ferrer
Critique Group: Ursula Renée
Publicity: Maria Cox, Jean Joachim,
Michael Molloy
Website: Ursula Renée
PAN Liaison: Stacey Agdern
PRO Liaison: Ann Bierhaus

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Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
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info@rwanyc.com
rwanycblogginginthebigapple.blogspot.com

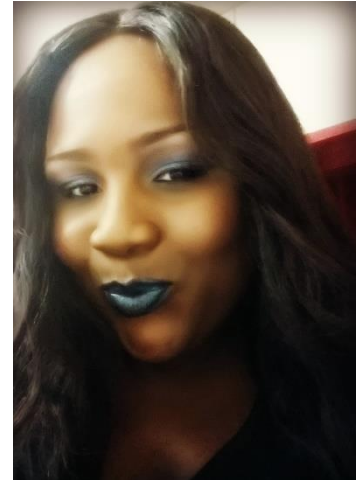
KEYNOTES DEADLINE

Send articles to keynoteseditor@gmail.com by the **15th of the month**. All articles must be typed and up to 500 words. Send pictures as attachments; not in article

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TOO SWEET TO LOVE
BY LAQUETTE**

Hello everyone!

It's that time of year again when the world says we should show love with depictions of pretty pink and red hearts stamped all over everything. Yes, dear hearts, Valentine's Day is upon us. The greeting card companies and candy manufacturers have all woven the perfect tale describing how beautiful and perfect love should be. But if you've ever tangled with love, in reality, you know it doesn't often pan out the way the Valentine's Day industry tells us we should expect it to.



As a romance writer, a person who writes about love, this day can make you feel pressured to write that sickeningly sweet story-very much like the candies that come in those heart-shaped boxes-where there is little conflict or chemistry for that matter between your characters.

My advice to you-don't do it.

Love is richer when the conflict is strongest. It's that conflict, the fight your characters must venture through, that makes the reader keep flipping the page to see how things turn out. It's the buildup of friction between them that makes the reader take that satisfying sigh at the end when your protagonists finally slay the last of their dragons and find their way into each other's arms.

Think about it. Would you want to be robbed of that?

Writing sweet characters is okay. It's even okay to depict those tender moments only two people in love can share. But, for heaven's sake, let them fight for that love. How else will the characters, you as the author, and the reader appreciate it when they finally obtain the ultimate goal of their happily ever after?

This is LaQuette, your friendly erotic romance author, embracing my crazy, one character at a time.

Keep it sexy!♥



LaQuette-President of RWA/NYC, is the 2016 Golden Apple Award Author of the year winner. She writes bold & sexy tales for diverse characters who are confident in their right to appear on the page. Represented by Latoya C. Smith of the L. Perkins Agency. Visit her at NovelsbyLaQuette.com and LaQuette@NovelsbyLaQuette.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Beryl
Susan Lee
Christina Lorenzen
Sofia Tate

CHAPTER MINUTES: JANUARY 6, 2018
BY SECRETARY JENNIFER WELSH

Attendance: 15 members

President LaQuette called the General Meeting to order at 12:15pm

Meeting minutes: Approved, motion by Harper Miller, Kate McMurray seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Maria Cox reported that we have \$5,328.20 in the bank.

Secretary's Report: 85 current members confirmed. As renewals and new members come in, this number will adjust.

VP Programming - Golden Apples: Alexis is getting a head start on organizing the event and looking for a place for us to host. She's also compiling an industry email list for invites.

VP Communications - Kathryn Hayes "When Sparks Fly" Contest: Harper is working on promotion for the contest and getting an ad into RWA magazine. Members are encouraged to think about judging when the contest comes around.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Newsletter, Blog and Social Media**

- Start the year off by using Keynotes articles for double promotion: Newsletter—Blog---Twitter---Book Cover Fridays. Articles for Keynotes are due the 15th of the month. Communicate your interest to Falguni. This month's theme: Romancing the Story. Write for Keynotes! Articles should be approximately 500 words. Send articles to the Keynotes team at: keynoteseditor@gmail.com

OTHER

- Future Speakers – Author Piper Huguley wants to speak at one of our meeting to discuss People of Color (POC) Characters in Historical Romance. The board discussed perhaps charging a nominal fee or hosting mini con. LaQuette will have more info as she gets it. Kwana suggested Farrah Radisson and options for a mini con such as publisher's conference rooms and Scholastic were discussed. If members have speaker suggestion, please reach out to Harper or Alexis.
- Chapter Logo – Member are open to options. Kate mentioned that RWA is also changing their website so we may move to that platform if it works for us. We have options.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- RWA/NYC is happy to announce the PAN Liaison is Stacey Agdern and PRO Liaison is Ann Bierhaus
- Critique group – Kate sent an email passing this on to Candace who is organizing the critique group. If you'd like to join the critique group please contact Candace Lucas via the Yahoo loop.

Round Robin begins and time capsule was opened.

Chapter meeting adjourned at 12:34pm.

January Speaker: Alexis Daria on Planning your Year.♥

MEMBER NEWS



Anna Bierhaus is editing her contemporary romance.

Kay Blake's second book in her Kim Brothers series, *FREE ME*, is out now. She's working on book 3.

Maria Cox recommitted herself to writing.

Alexis Daria's first book, *TAKE THE LEAD*, made all Best Books lists. *AND*, actress Gina Rodriguez read it and sees her character from *Jane, The Virgin* in Alexis' book!

Anna DePalo is pleased to announce that *CRUSHING ON THE MILLIONAIRE*, a Serengetti Brothers short story and her first self-published work, is available through her web site for newsletter subscribers.

Kwana Jackson is waiting on edits from Kensington and working on a Royal Wedding story due out in May to coincide with Harry and Meghan's fairytale wedding.

Barbara James' second book in her Sweet and Sensuous Romance series, *GOING HOME: ROGER*, is out this month.

LaQuette signed contract with DreamSpinner and is teaching at RT's BootCamp.

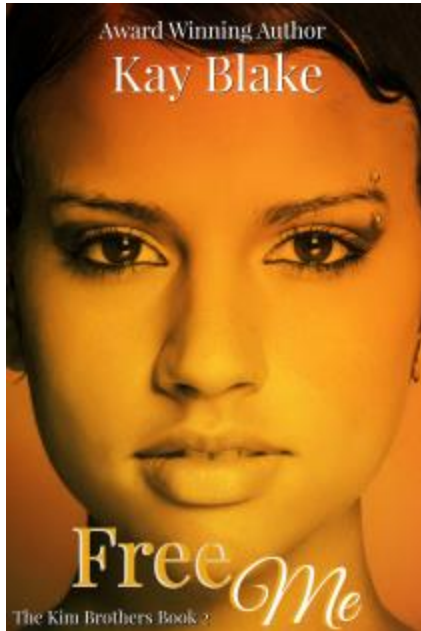
Kate McMurray signed a two-book contract with Carina.

Michael Molloy is working on a third romance; hopes to be done by Spring.

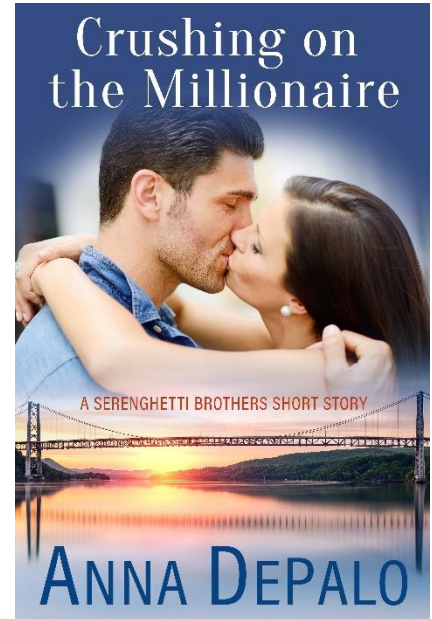
Harper Miller's goal for 2018 is to get an agent, and to finish two novels. She's already plotted out four books of a new series.

Jennifer Welsh got an agent and a contract with Carina!♥

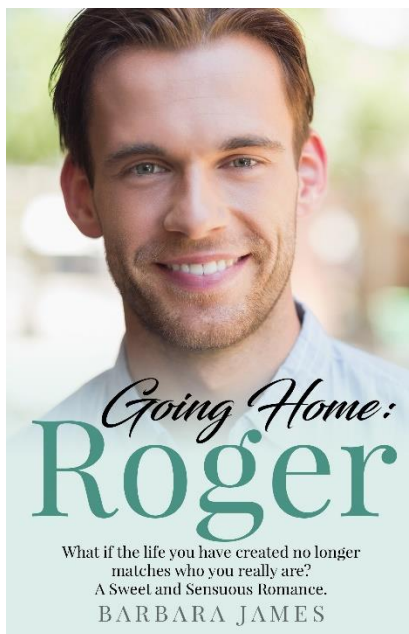
MEMBERS ON THE SHELF



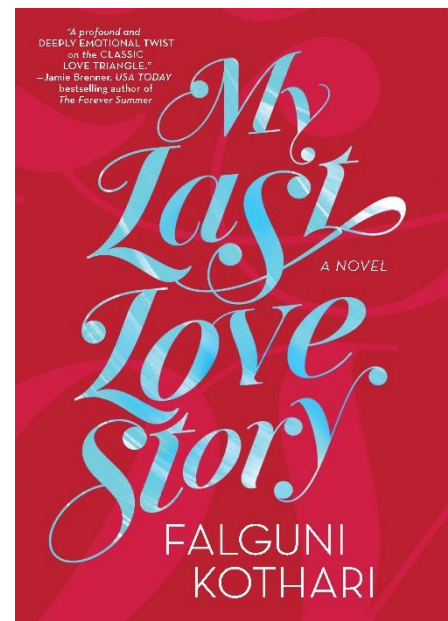
FREE ME
by Kay Blake



CRUSHING ON THE MILLIONAIRE
by Anna DePalo

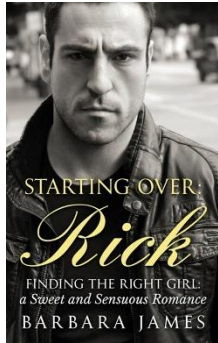


GOING HOME: ROGER
by Barbara James



MY LAST LOVE STORY
by Falguni Kothari

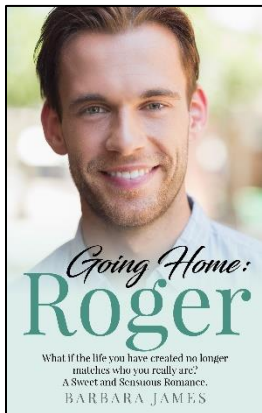
BOOK COVERS AND THE INDIE AUTHOR
BY BARBARA JAMES



Being an indie author appeals to me greatly because I value the independence of it, and especially when criticism persists about the serious flaws within the publishing industry.

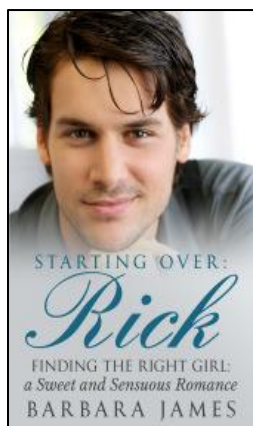
I enjoy challenging myself to learn new skills and grow. I like the process of writing and working with developmental editors, copy editors and proofreaders to make my work the best it can be. Finally, I enjoy the fun of choosing cover art and hiring graphics artists to make the covers for the books. There are plenty of freelancers who do great work.

Writer control over cover art matters, because I have heard stories about authors filling out publishing company questionnaires explaining exactly what the cover art should look like, but feeling let down when the art department presented them with an image that didn't match the book.



So, this month, my second book is coming out, GOING HOME: ROGER. My Sweet Romance Authors Facebook group hosted a Christmas party last December and it was a great opportunity to get feedback. I showed two different images of models and asked them which they preferred.

Making Roger's book available for sale six months after STARTING OVER: RICK came out on August 5, 2017, presented me with an opportunity to reflect on theme. Perhaps I should change Rick's cover? His cover reflected a certain image, that he was a man who had faced challenges in life, but that he was ready to start over in different ways. Yet, Rick and Roger were good friends on similar life trajectories and experiencing similar themes. Should their covers match, too?



It occurred to me that they should, since they are part of the same series. Once again, the fun part of the process involved polling members of my different writing groups on Facebook and Twitter, showing them the original cover and the second cover I had in mind. The polls indicated that the second/ new cover was the more popular one. Rick's first cover was good for a specific moment in time, but he was growing and developing, and so his cover demonstrated that growth. Changing the cover was a simple matter of sending the graphic artist the new image and waiting to see what she came up with.

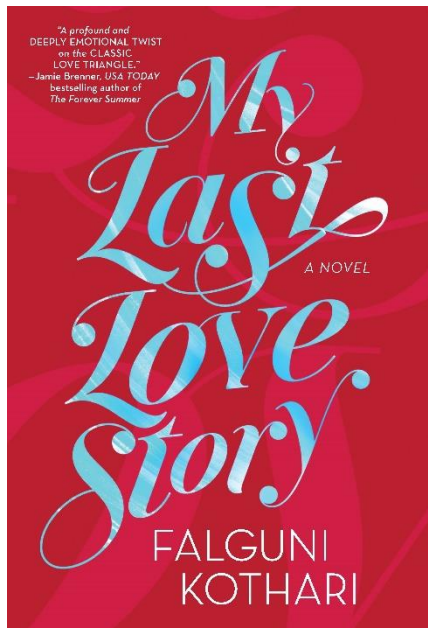
I hope you enjoy looking at the covers as much as I do. Go to my website for more information on my books at www.barbarajames.net. STARTING OVER: RICK is available now with various retailers, while GOING HOME: ROGER will be available on February 5.♥

Barbara James is an avid romance reader and a former academic writer who became inspired to write her own novels. Visit her at www.barbarajames.net.

MONTHLY THEME

OUR ROMANCE WITH ROMANCE

**MY ROMANCE WITH ROMANCE
BY FALGUNI KOTHARI**



When the world is full of hate and negativity, I read a romance novel. Crazyness at home with the family? I read a romance. Worried about my aging parents all alone in India? I read a romance. In bed with the worst cramps ever experienced in the history of women issues? I read a romance. Laundry piled high?

Getting the picture?

Romance novels are labeled as “escapist reading” or “pure frou-frou entertainment” or “books mostly removed from reality.” Romance novels are all of that, yes. I certainly read romances for their escapist and entertaining qualities, and I definitely need to be removed from mundane reality on a regular basis. I love the fantastic and maybe part fantasy journey they take me on. I love them because they always bring a smile to my heart, no matter the kind of day I’ve had. I read them because in their pages my emotions are safe and thus could be explored, even justified. I can fall in love within the 300-odd pages without hedging my bets

because my HEA is guaranteed. Like a ray of hope on a dark and tempestuous shore, I wish more people would chase their daily dose of current affairs and news with a romance novel.



And then there are the lessons I've learned about life while reading a romance—of the truth about relationships and the work that goes into maintaining them; of character types and diverse personalities, none of whom are only good or only bad; of life's lessons that I've learned through the characters' trials and tribulations. All of which proves that romances aren't just escapist entertainment or silly reading, but "smart" reading in the right hands. Most of all, I've learned that through all the changes that I've experienced in life, there is that one constant I can depend on—a romance novel on my nightstand, waiting to be picked up and read so that it can bring a smile to my heart.♥

Falguni Kothari is the author of unconventional love stories and kick-ass fantasy tales. Her four novels, most recently MY LAST LOVE STORY, are all flavored by her South Asian heritage and expat experiences. An award-winning Indian Classical, Latin and Ballroom dancer, she currently spikes her endorphin levels with Zumba. She resides in New York with her family and pooch. She can be found online at FalguniKothari.com and you can get the latest updates at bit.ly/FKMailingList. Connect with her on Facebook @FalguniKothariAuthor and on Twitter and Instagram @AuthorFalguni

ROMANCING THE HEROINE BY MARIA FERRER

I've been reading romance novels since high school. I began with Barbara Cartland novels, then discovered historicals by Kathleen Woodiwiss, Johanna Lindsey and Judith McNaught, and then stumbled upon contemporaries by Janet Dailey and Nora Roberts.

My love of romance novels continues and, as in the beginning, as I read a romance, I become the heroine. It is I who gets kidnapped by the sheik, that nurses the Scottish Laird back to health, that makes the brooding alpha male laugh.

If I don't feel like the heroine, then the novel has failed to capture my attention and /or interest.

A good romance novel immerses the reader into its pages. We should all feel like the heroine. We too should catch our breath when we realize we love the hero; laugh or cry when the hero finally admits he loves us; dance and twirl as we begin our happily ever after.

The immersion is part of the delight and the escapism of reading romance novels.





Yes, we know the books are not real; Yes, we know real men are not much like fictional romance heroes; Yes, we know we are not Princesses, Ladies of the Ton, Wolf Shapeshifters or Futuristic Detectives.

Yes, we know....and, we don't care. Fantasy is Queen!

Now, as I write my own novels, I want to capture those same feelings that I love when reading romances. I want to grab my readers attention in the same way. I want them to immerse themselves in my story so much so that they become the heroine and they fight to win that Happily Ever After. And if they do that, then I've done my job as a romance writer, and my love with romance novels doubles. And, once again, I am the Heroine!♥

Maria Ferrer has been kidnapped by pirates; battled alongside Viking warriors; and, waltz with the most handsome of rake -- all in the past few months. She looks forward to starring in new adventures and writing some of her own. Her motto: Read Romance!

WELCOME TO MY WRITING DEN! GALENTINE'S DAY BY MARIA COX



Valentine's Day is just a few weeks away and already I've been subjected to an explosion of everything pink and red or at least that's been my experience walking into any drugstore in Queens. I got to thinking, recently, about how many women and men go out of their way to celebrate their special someones on this day. A lot, it would seem from an online search.

For most of my adult life I recognized Valentine's Day as a romantic holiday, but in recent years with the inclusion of friendship, I've come to appreciate Valentine's Day as a general day of Love. In fact, I send Valentine's Day cards to close family and friends (yes, I do!).

The celebration that most resonates with me is Galentine's Day.

What is Galentine's Day, you ask? This term was coined a few years back by Leslie Knope - a fictional character from the popular sitcom *Parks and Recreation*. Leslie declared, "Every February 13th, my lady friends and I leave our husbands and our boyfriends at home and we come and kick it, breakfast-style. Ladies celebrating ladies." What a great concept.



In the spirit of Galentine's Day I'm channeling Leslie Knope and suggest ways to celebrate:

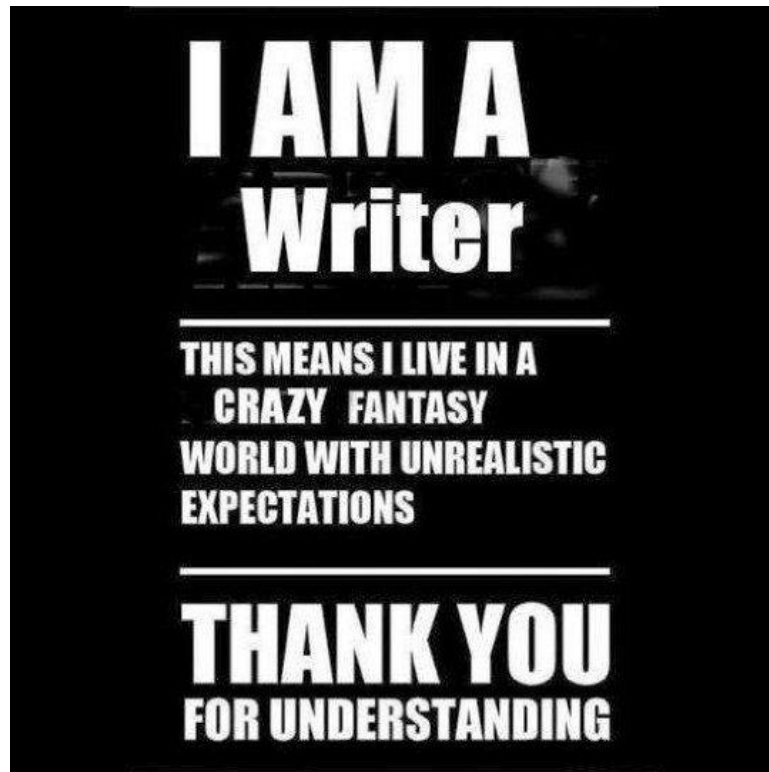
- * Brunch date with gal pals – send Evite
- * Eat waffles – a Leslie Knope must!
- * Exchange gifts – who doesn't want gifts?
- * Consume fizzy drinks – ok, so I'm partial to Merlot, but even I'll

drink a sugar-laden frou-frou drink for my lady friends

Whether you are taken, or happily detached, I'm sure you too can appreciate a different type of celebration. In fact, how about we declare February 15th Bromance Day?♥

Sources: www.npr.org and www.hgtv.com

Maria Cox is a PRO member of Romance Writers of America and also the Treasurer of RWA/NYC. Maria has also served as President of the Phoenix Writers Club. Maria has been writing stories since she was a young girl. She picked up her first romance novel when she was just eleven years old and has loved the genre ever since. Maria writes sensual romance, stories that showcase strong, sassy, and sexy characters. When not writing fiction, Maria works as a technical writer. She lives in Queens, New York. Please visit her site www.mariacox.net and/or follow her on Twitter.



**ABOUT PAN
(PUBLISHED AUTHOR NETWORK)**



The purpose of the Published Authors Network (PAN) is to establish within the RWA framework a network of communication and support to effectively promote and protect the interests of published romance authors; to open channels of communication between those romance authors and other publishing industry professionals; and to encourage professionalism on all levels and in all relationships within the publishing industry.

To be eligible for General PAN Membership: RWA General or Honorary members in good standing should have earned at least \$1,000 on a single novel or novella that meets the definition of Romance Fiction.

To be eligible for Provisional PAN Membership: RWA General or Honorary members in good standing should have: (1) contracted for the publication of a novel or novella for an advance of at least \$1,000, but said work is not yet commercially available ("Option One"); or (2) published a novel or novella, but not yet earned \$1,000 ("Option Two"). Works offered through Predatory Publishing companies shall not qualify.♥

About PRO



The purpose of the PRO Community of Practice is to establish within RWA a network of communication and support to effectively promote and protect the interests of romance writers in the areas between manuscript completion and PAN eligibility.

To help members reach the next level, PRO focuses on the business side of writing rather than craft. This program is available to any active General or Honorary member who: (1) is not PAN-eligible and (2) has one complete original work of romance fiction of at least 20,000 words, or multiple complete original works of romance fiction which combine for a total of at least 20,000 words.♥

FREE PUBLICITY!



Have a new book out? Entered and won a contest? Have an interesting topic, research, tips you want to share? An event, book, conference you'd like to review?

Keynotes is a FREE Promotion Opportunity. We welcome all subjects.

Send in your articles, news, book covers, reviews, etc., to keynoteseditor@gmail.com. Articles will also be published on the Chapter Blog for DOUBLE the promotion!

Deadline: the 15th of every month.

Take advantage of us!♥

RWA/NYC MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

DATE: _____ CHECK ONE: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

NAME: _____ NATIONAL RWA MEMBER # (required) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME TEL: _____ EMAIL: _____

***NOTE: All RWA/NYC Members must be members of RWA National.**
 For national membership form, visit www.rwanational.org.

CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT: Please volunteer to help in at least ONE (1) chapter event.
 (check all that apply): contest awards reception newsletter website ALL!

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US? RWA Facebook/Twitter Website Other: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter dues are due March 3, 2018. Make checks payable to RWA/NYC.

There will be a \$10 late fee for all renewals after March 3rd; and, \$20 fee on all returned checks. Return completed form with your dues to RWA/NYC, POB 3722 Grand Central Station, New York, NY10163, or you can pay via PayPal at www.rwanyc.com.

_____ GENERAL MEMBER -- \$ 40/year (Dues: Jun-Jul= \$30; Aug-Sep= \$25; Oct-Dec= \$20.)

_____ CHARTER MEMBER --\$ 35/year (ONLY for members continuously since 1989)

_____ ASSOCIATE MEMBER -- \$ 35/year (Dues: Jun-Jul= \$25; Aug-Sep= \$20; Oct-Dec= \$15.)
 (ONLY for related members who do not meet the qualifications for General Membership)

OPTIONAL: _____ Check here if you are making an additional contribution to the chapter in the amount of \$ _____. You can also pay via PAYPAL at www.rwanyc.com.

WRITING CREDITS
CHECK ONE: PUBLISHED UNPUBLISHEDCHECK ONE if you are an RWA National Member of: PAN PROIf UNPUBLISHED, tell us at what stage you are: New or Pre-Published (have submitted something)

If PUBLISHED, in what format? i.e., book-length romantic fiction, short fiction, electronic, confessions, etc.

PUBLISHER(S): _____ PSEUDONYM(S): _____

WEBSITE(S): _____ BLOG: _____

FACEBOOK: _____ TWITTER: _____