

KEYNOTES



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

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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

**TOPIC: EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
RWA NATIONAL AND WERE AFRAID TO ASK**



**SPEAKER: RWA PRESIDENT &
FORMER RWA/NYC MEMBER
DEE DAVIS**

Dee Davis has a masters degree in public administration. Prior to writing, she served as the director of two associations, wrote award-winning PSAs, did television and radio commercials, starred in the *Seven Year Itch*, taught college classes, and lobbied both the Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

Her first novel was published in 2000. She's won the Booksellers Best, Golden Leaf, Texas Gold and Prism awards, and been nominated for the National Readers Choice Award, the Holt and two RT Reviewers Choice Awards. She is the author of 21 books. Dee also teaches writing for NYU's continuing education department. Her term as RWA President ends October 2018.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS!

We want YOU to run for Chapter Office.
Give back to the chapter by running for office.

ALL POSITIONS OPEN! All Members in good standing are eligible to run for office, as long as they meet the necessary qualifications. If you are interested in running for President, Vice President (2 spots), Secretary or Treasurer, please email President LaQuette directly at President@rwanyc.com. Please note the current holders of the Vice President of Programming and Treasurer positions will be stepping down at the end of their terms in December. These positions are open and need to be filled. Nominations will be accepted until September 30th. Voting will occur in October.♥



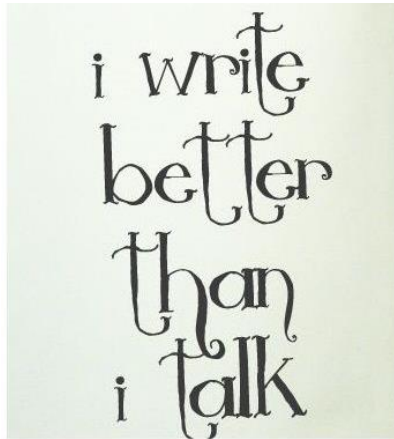


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page
3—President's Message
4—November Mini-Conference
5—Member News, Chapter Minutes
6—BKBF, Contest, Golden Apple
7—Monthly Theme: Back to School Don't Quit Your DayDream When Novelist is Perpetual Student
10—Plan with Anna: Time Management
11--#FOMO and the Romance Novel
12—Free Publicity, PAN, PRO

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Sharae Allen, Anna B, LaQuette,
Barbara James, JN 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.



Conte
OCTOBER THEME

MIXING IT UP! Writing Multi-cultural books

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month

2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

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

RWA/NYC, PO Box 3722,
Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
www.rwanyc.com
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: THE PITFALLS OF MISTAKING KINDNESS FOR WEAKNESS
BY LAQUETTE**



In the romance novel, the alpha male is the accepted standard archetype for heroes. Repeatedly we've seen dark, brooding, demanding, and controlling men willing to go to any lengths to have, keep, and protect their love interests. We've seen it so much, some of us believe it's the only way to characterize a hero. The unfortunate result of this is that now when we read a hero who isn't the big and brash alpha, we instantly think of this quieter, more considerate hero as weak.

Kindness is not weakness and should never be confused as being so. We have to let go of this idea that men who control and dominate are the only men who are sexy. Perpetuating this notion ignores the hero whose compassion, concern, and dedication to his love interest are just as fierce as the alpha's. It also supports a dangerous framework for what is now being termed as "toxic masculinity."

Toxic masculinity is a social construct that defines male gender norms as aggressive, violent, devoid of emotion, and dominant. These characteristics have become celebrated in society and sustain the expectation that real men take what they want without asking, and without contemplating how their actions and behaviors will impact others. Although it may be enjoyable to read about an unrelenting hero in his pursuit of his love interest, when taken too far, it can create a scenario where the hero crosses a line and becomes an alpha-hole instead of an alpha male.

As an alternative, it is perfectly acceptable to write about the beta hero, the sensitive man who is compassionate and caring and proud of it. It's also permissible to write the alpha who is also thoughtful and aware of how his strength and power can impact those around him, especially his lover. Don't get trapped in writing to a template for masculinity. Instead, define what you believe a hero should be on your own terms. Because individuality and free-thinking are the sexiest traits of all.

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.



RWANYC PRESENTS...



Love & Literature
In The City
A Day Conference Featuring...



Piper Huguley



Farrah Rochon



Eloisa James



Erin Galloway



Jin Yu

Saturday, November 3rd, 2018
Fordham University
(Bronx Campus)
McGinley Center Room 237 9a-4:00p
Registration: \$99
www.rwanyc.com/loveandliterature

Tickets Available At: RWANyc.com/LoveandLiterature

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members: Lory Wendy, Maya Rodale, Tee O'Fallon, Megan Frampton, Jessica Scott and Joanna Paez.

Jean Joachim's THE HOUSE-SITTER'S CHRISTMAS wins Oklahoma RWA contest. This is the third win for this book!!!

Ursula Renée was interviewed by www.wandalotus.net. Great article about how Dave Freeman encouraged her to follow her own adventures. Here's link to article: <http://wandalotus.net/2018/07/31/susbs/susbs-superstar-ursula-renee/>

JN Welsh's IN TUNE book releases on October 1. AND, she has another book about to be released as well -- BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE. ♥



**CHAPTER MINUTES: AUGUST
BY SECRETARY JENNIFER WELSH**



Meeting called to order at 12:11pm by President LaQuette

Publicity – Michael wanted to remind everyone that there are two author spots left for the Brooklyn Book Festival on Sunday, September 16th 10-11am and 4-6pm. Both spots have been very lucrative for authors in the past. Michael is also seeking volunteers to help with the festival so email him.

Treasurer's Report: Balance is 6,090.04

Secretary's Report: 84 members including an in meeting signup.

Golden Apple Awards – Winners have been selected. Alexis is organizing the ceremony. More details on location coming soon.

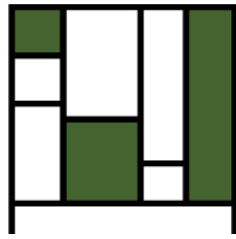
RWA/NYC Mimi Con – Event will be held on Saturday November 3rd. It will be an all day event from 8am – 4pm at Fordham University in the Bronx. Advertisements start on August 13th. Light refreshments will be served. (See poster on page 4.)

Kathryn Hayes Contest – Need judges so please sign up and spread the word. We currently have 60 plus entries. Deadline for the contest is September 1st

Keynotes – Topic is Back to School. Send articles to Keynoteseditor@gmail.com

Round Robins begins. Speaker: Sarah MacLean on Conflict.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26pm. ♥

2018 BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL

BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL

When: Sunday, September 16th, 10 am - 6 pm, Rain or Shine. BOOTH #353

Where: The area adjacent to the Kings County Courthouse and Brooklyn Borough Hall at Montague and Court Streets. Serviced by a majority of subway lines.

JOIN US! RWA/NYC members will be signing books and helping out at the booth.

10am-12pm: JN Welsh & Tee O'Fallon

12-2pm: Joan Ramirez & Kay Blake

2-4pm: Harper Miller & Krystal Ford

4-6pm: Maria Vale

If have questions, please email Michael Molloy at michaeljmolloy@aol.com. ♥

WHEN SPARKS FLY CONTEST

The Kathryn Hayes "When Sparks Fly" Contest is now closed.

Vice President Harper Miller has sent entries to the judges. We should have final results late Fall. ♥

**GOLDEN APPLE HONOREES 2018
BY VICE PRESIDENT ALEXIS DARIA**

RWA/NYC is proud to announce the 2018 Golden Apple Honorees:

Lifetime Achievement: **Rochelle Alers**

Author of the Year: **Alexis Daria**

Agent of the Year: **Sarah Younger**

Editor of the Year: **Elle Keck**

Publisher of the Year: **Dreamspinner Press**

Bookstore of the Year: **The Ripped Bodice ♥**



dreamspinner.com

MONTHLY THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL: WRITING YOUNG ADULT NOVELS



BACK TO SCHOOL-DON'T QUIT YOUR DAYDREAM: WRITING WHILE WORKING!
BY SHARAE ALLEN

I like to call myself a romance writer who moonlights as a high school teacher. As much as I enjoy and take pride in my everyday job, I also enjoy coming home and adding pages to my Work In Progress and increasing my word count. Between writing engaging lesson plans, collaborating with co-teachers and colleagues, creating teaching materials, modifying materials and reading for students and giving constant actionable feedback I am surprised that I can write my own name, let alone be creative, when I'm done with the work day! This year however, I am making a sincere and effort to write using the following four goals.

Goal One: Write every day. Make no excuses.

I'm going to write as much as I can in an hour. No word count-just write for an hour. I am not going to make excuses about not having enough time because I have to make the time for myself. Even if you can't write for a whole precious hour, find a time limit that works for you. Which brings me to...

Goal Two: Block out a clear writing time and be ruthless with that time!

I am a Happy Planner and sticker addict (if you don't know about Happy Planner, Google it. Trust me.) and I love being able to write down and plan out my writing time. However when I have school work to complete and papers to grade every single day, I feel SO guilty about taking time out for my own creative work. Now, I am making a clear plan to commit and stick to my writing time. An hour a day either before work or after work to write as many words as I can-I'll even time myself. I am a night owl writer! I can miss an episode of Master Chef if that means I add 800 words to my draft!

**Goal Three: Be prepared for sudden creative thought!**

Annie Dillard from the writing life book *Bird by Bird* suggests that writers write down ideas on index cards whenever the creative mood strikes them. I commute to work by public transit which allows me time to use index cards plot out the next part/scene/conflict of my novel. I have countless wonderful bites of dialogue and sparks of inspiration I've gotten and written down on the bus, in the classroom, during lunch break, after school and going home just because I had a pack of dollar store index cards in my bag.

Goal Four: Treat yourself when you hit a writing goal and celebrate.

Just wrote a query? Treat yourself! Hit 3,000 words this week? Treat yourself! Did you write and finish that oh so difficult prologue/opening/conflict/love scene/dark moment/epilogue? Treat yourself! I am not saying you should buy yourself a Marc Jacobs bookbag every time you complete your writing goal, **but** you deserve a sticker. No seriously, find your calendar/planner/checklist and every time you complete a writing goal-give yourself a star. When you collect at least thirty stars, then treat yourself to something big-like a new notebook or a nice outfit for your next conference. Can you imagine how awesome you'd feel when see an entire month filled with stars? I can. Start now and don't apologize for making your writing a priority. ♥

Sharae Allen is a proud member of RWA/NYC. She writes light paranormal romance and contemporary romance featuring diverse characters and worlds while living in Brooklyn with her Viking husband. Her short stories have been published by Shotgun Honey and Pro-Se Press. Follow her on writing adventures on Twitter @jellybeanrae

WRITING ABOUT NEW ADULTS:**WHEN THE ROMANCE NOVELIST IS A PERPETUAL STUDENT****BY BARBARA JAMES**

I feel like I have been a perpetual student all my life. With the exception of about three years of working in the "real world" of a government agency, I spent all of my adult life in university settings, as a student, or as an employee. Even my most recent training to become a minister had its own elements of school, retreats taking place one weekend per month over the course of three academic years.

So, when I began writing romance novels, new adults appealed to me the most. Young adults embarking on their grown-up life, there was always something about it. The excitement of being in one's twenties and in school appealed to me, the whole process of learning in all kinds of ways, with new people to meet each semester.

Yet, at the same time, I think there is room to challenge the age groups by which we typically define "new adult." I sense the convention is that these are young adults who are in their early twenties. Yet, there are plenty of young adults in their mid-twenties and even older who are dealing with these major milestones.

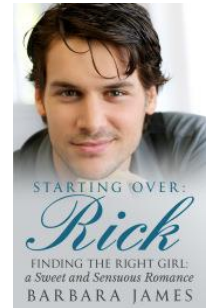




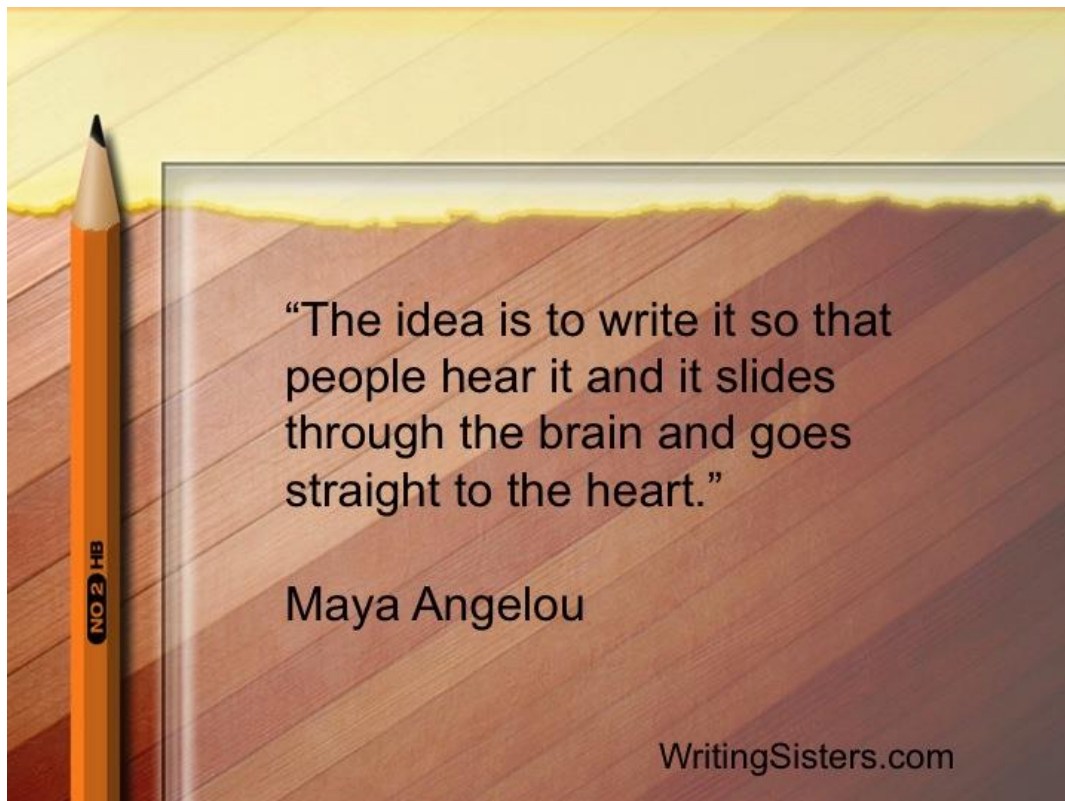
I modeled the heroes of my first series of novels upon my husband. He is ex-military and got out of the service when he was twenty-six. That is when he began training for his "real world" career. Rick was the first of his friends to leave active duty service for the Coast Guard Reserves. He returned to college when he was in his late twenties. Roger did as well, except that he remained on active duty until he retired years later. Their third friend, Don (The Wedding Bet: Lauren, work in progress) took a path similar to Roger in order to change career tracks within the service.

Do we expect our heroes and heroines to be young adults of the same age? I remember seeing a Facebook group for readers of new adult books. One rule was that both the hero and heroine were supposed to be new adults, and so a book with a hero or heroine older than twenty-five could not qualify. That seemed odd to me. As long as one main character was in the traditional age range, the book should fit, especially if the novel traced the path of the character's development into adulthood.

Without question, Annelise (Starting Over: Rick) and Denise (Going Home: Roger) fit the new adult category. They were young women navigating very serious relationships on the road to their happily ever after. By the time they graduated college in their early twenties, they were already wearing their wedding rings. ♥



Barbara James is an Episcopal clergywoman and romance writer. Her website is www.barbarajames.net.



PLAN WITH ANNA: TIPS TO COMBAT TIME MANAGEMENT**BY ANNA B**



Like all you other Super Soulers out there, I love listening to Oprah’s podcast *Super Soul Sunday*. On one podcast—and I’ve re-listened to so many to try to figure out who said this but to no avail—someone was talking about the importance of “treating yourself like a puppy dog.” And I loved that.

When I’m writing, it’s easy to keep pushing because it can be hard to judge when you’re “done” for the day. If I’m writing content, it’s easier to measure because I can go by word count. But when I’m editing, it can be tricky. Some chapters take more work than others. So it’s up to me to decide when I’m done for the day. I struggle with conflicted emotions. If I stop working, I wonder if I could have kept going longer, and I feel guilty. If I don’t stop, I can tire myself out to the point where I’m not doing anything constructive.

That’s why I like this quotation. After I heard it, I began to ease up on myself. I began to trust in myself and the process. And then a funny thing happened. I became more productive. Maybe it’s because it takes energy to be hard on myself and then that saved energy was getting redirected towards work. Maybe I just cleared out anxieties and that created more mental space for the work to occur. Regardless, it helped.

Whether you’re a pantser or a plotter, we can all benefit from treating ourselves like the adorable puppies we are.♥

Anna B is a proud member of the RWA-NYC chapter. She's currently working on a contemporary romance.

As a writer
you try to listen
to what others
aren't saying...
and write about
the silence.
- N.R. Hart

#FOMO AND THE ROMANCE NOVEL**BY BARBARA JAMES**

What implications might FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) or its closely related cousin YOLO (You Only Live Once) have for the romance novel?

This question came to my mind not that long ago when I saw an alumni bulletin from a school where I have a very loose connection. Some years ago, before I began the process towards ordination, I did a distance learning program offered by one of the Episcopal seminaries. As a result, I am on their mailing list. Go figure. I have never been on the campus, but I suppose I'm an alumna, because I pursued a certificate program with them.

Anyway, this recent bulletin had a story that was just lovely from a sweet romance standpoint. The woman in the story matriculated in the early 1970s. She was a freshman when she met a senior who asked her out. She didn't want to go out with him, but his response stopped her in her tracks: "You know, you might be missing out."

Missing out for her meant missing out on a chance to go on a date with a young man she came to enjoy getting to know. She wasn't willing to take that chance, and the rest was history.

She dropped out of school to get married because he was about to go to law school and long distance would not have worked. She then worked for a number of years before she quit to become a stay-at-home mother. She only returned to school years later, once her children were themselves done with their college educations and out of the house. The alumni magazine commemorated her recent graduations: college and graduate school.

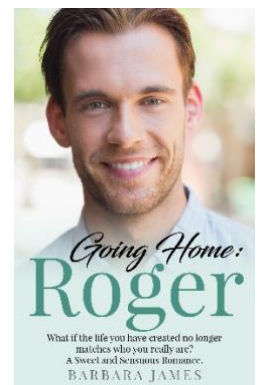
I loved this story because she was willing to take a chance on building something lovely and substantive, a decades-long marriage with children and grandchildren. Her husband and family were there to support her every step of the way.

I must admit that I had a quibble, though. I didn't like that she dropped out of school. It seems that she should have been able to transfer to a college nearby her fiancé and finish at the same time he was in law school.

The heroines of *Starting Over: Rick*, *Going Home: Roger*, and *the Wedding Bet: Lauren* (work in progress) were faced with similar dilemmas. They were dating men who were older and more established. So the question for them was whether they were willing to make a sacrifice and dedicate themselves to building a valuable long term relationship at a fairly young age, when they were in their late teens.

Each did so, and quite gladly, but they didn't drop out of school. They could be in college and date. They could be in college and be married. ♥

Barbara James is an Episcopal clergywoman and romance writer. Her website is www.barbarajames.net.



FREE PUBLICITY!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US! 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. ♥

**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.♥