

KEYNOTES



The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America / New York City Chapter #6 December 2019



HOLIDAY BRUNCH & BOOK SWAP SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7



Join RWA/NYC at Bloom's Tavern at 208 East 58th Street from 12 noon – 3:00 pm.
Cost is \$40/member, includes appetizer, entrée, dessert and two mimosas.

We'll introduce the 2020 Board of Directors, the Member of the Year and raffle off a free membership. Plus, we'll continue our Chapter tradition with a **Book Swap**. This year, instead of just wrapping books, Members are encouraged to label the wrapped packages with "hints." For example, include subgenre, tropes, heat level, etc. (NO title or author.)♥

Welcome to the 2020 Board of Directors

President:	Adriana Herrera
VP Programs:	Victoria Luce
VP Communications:	Sharae Allen
Treasurer:	Lory Wendy
Secretary:	Kay Blake

Happy  Holidays!



FROM THE EDITOR
FALGUNI KOTHARI

The New Year brings exciting changes to our Chapter -- a new Board of Directors, a new chapter loop and a new schedule for our newsletter. Keynotes will now be distributed quarterly. Look for the next issue in April 2020, and watch the Chapter Loop for further news.

Maria Ferrer and I wish everyone a Happy New Year!♥



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.

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2019 RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: LaQuette
Vice President/Programs: Adriana Herrera
Vice President/Communications: Harper Miller
Secretary: Kay Blake
Treasurer: Alexis Daria
Past President: Kate McMurray

LIAISONS & COMMITTEES

Keynotes Editor: Falguni Kothari
Board Liaisons: JN Welsh and Maria Cox
Blog/Social Media: Andrea Obaez
Critique Group: Kate & Candance
Publicity: Maria Cox, Jean Joachim,
Michael Molloy
Website: Ursula Renée
PAN Liaison: Stacey Agdern
PRO Liaison: Anna Bierhaus



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
BY LAQUETTE**



Time really doesn't wait for anyone. And before you know it, a beautiful thing winds down to its inevitable end. Although the end of my presidency is the milestone I'm quickly approaching, you might be in the same boat. Maybe you're facing the end of something important in your careers too. If you are, here's my last pearl of wisdom to you. Instead of seeing this as the end of something great, embrace it as the start to an equally great new beginning.

Endings often get a bad reputation. We see them as sad, something to be mourned. But honestly, they don't have to be. You can celebrate the closing of one chapter as a needed precursor to the transition of your next great adventure. To get ready for the next fantastic thing, here are a few steps.


First, you need to acknowledge what you've accomplished in your current circumstance. Reflect on your time spent in your current position and analyze what you've learned from your experience. Highlight the areas where you excelled and take notice of the areas where you need improvement. Taking stock of your overall experience will help you transition smoothly into the next phase of your career.

Second, tie up your loose ends. Make sure you've finished as much of the job as time allows, so you can be free and clear to focus on your upcoming move. There is nothing worse than having one foot in the past as you struggle to walk into your future.

Third, remember your past prepares you for your future. Your soon-to-be yesterday is part of the foundation of your future successes of tomorrow. Good, bad, or indifferent, everything you're experiencing now is part of the tapestry of your career path. Accept it and use it to your advantage.

Last, take it all in and know you've been a part of something great. As you're closing the door to your past, know there are more successes in your future awaiting you. It's not over by a long shot. There's still work to do and you need to hit the ground running if you intend to make the same, if not a greater impact on your future. Remember, greatness doesn't happen in an instant. Instead, it's one step, one advancement at a time.

This is LaQuette, thanking you one last time for all the support you've shown me during my presidency. I am so proud of this chapter and all we've accomplished together. I look forward to seeing the incoming board accomplish greater things that will continue to show the world that RWANYC really is the jewel of Romance Writers of America.

Keep it sexy! 
LaQuette

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 LCS Literary Agency. Visit her at: LaQuette.com and LaQuette@LaQuette.com.♥

ATTENTION: NEW CHAPTER LOOP



The Chapter Yahoo Loop is no more. Members are asked to join the RWA/NYC Forum on the RWA.ORG site. We are reprinting President LaQuette's message from last month, which contains the instructions on how to sign up for the new loop.

As of October 17, 2019, the RWA NYC forum on RWA.org is our new chapter communication home. Please follow the follow steps to access it.

1. Sign in to RWA website
2. Click on "Forums" tab
3. Click on "Communities" Tab
4. Click on "My Communities" Tab
5. Scroll until you see "Chapter: RWA NYC" forum and then click on it to enter
6. Click on "Settings" (directly next to the forum name) and add/edit email you wish to use to receive forum messages
7. Decide on the frequency of those emails.

If you have switched over, but you're not receiving messages from the RWA NYC forum on RWA.org, here are the most likely reasons. First, you're not included in the chapter portal because your membership has lapsed. If this is the case, then simply renew your membership on the chapter portal on RWA. Remember, all chapter dues must be paid via RWA as of February 2019. Once your payment is processed, you'll need to follow the steps above to access the forum.

If your membership hasn't lapsed and you're not receiving email notifications from the loop, then the likely culprit is your notification settings haven't been activated. The default setting in the forum is "No Email". So, if you want to receive notifications of newly posted messages, you have to change the default to a selected frequency. To change it, go into the settings and select "Real Time" in order to get notifications as messages are posted.

If you need a visual aid, I've added one on our website in our "Members Only" section. Click here to view. <http://www.rwanyc.com/nyc-forum-on-rwas-website.html>.♥

President LaQuette
RWA/NYC
November 2019



CHAPTER MINUTES: NOVEMBER 2
BY SECRETARY KAY BLAKE



President LaQuette called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Adriana (VP, of Programs) approved October's minutes.

Treasurer's Report (Alexis not present): There is \$1,348 in PayPal. There is also \$4,164 in the bank account. Leaves the total amount of money to \$5,512. December Brunch still needs to be paid for.

Secretary Report (Kay Blake) (not present): We are currently at 106 members as of right now.

Adriana Herrera, (VP, Programs): Dec's Brunch. Blooms Tavern 208 E 58th St, New York, 10022. First or Second Saturday in December. Most likely first weekend. \$40/ a person. 2 Hour open bar and appetizers. 25 professionals confirmed. A mix of agents, editors and journalists. Tickets are available on the website.

Harper Miller, (VP, Communications- not present): Kathryn Hayes When Sparks Fly Contest –. Second round judges have stories and winners will be notified at the December Brunch.

Yahoo Forums are going away. Keynotes and Communications will go to RWA Forums. Choose settings and following guidelines for communication frequency. There will be a visual aid on the RWA NYC website. All membership dues to RWA and RWA NYC need to be paid and up to date.

Stacy Agdern (PAN/PRO): If there are any questions about PAN or PRO, ask Stacy!

Kate Dunn (Critique Group): Next meeting is Monday, November 18, from 6-8pm (come at 5:30 for eating/ chatting; critiques start promptly at 6pm). We will be meeting at Cafe Isadora (www.cafeisadoras.com) 16 East 52nd between Fifth and Madison, on the second floor.

Google form will be sent out for speakers and topics for 2020.

New board begins on January 1, 2020.

A big thank you to LaQuette for her two years as President of the Chapter.

Round Robin begins. Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

November Speaker: Nisha Sharma on How to Crossover Genres.♥





MEMBER NEWS

Anna DePalo is a finalist in the Published Contemporary category of the Mid-Michigan RWA Best Banter Contest with her submission **ONE PERFECT DATE**.

Adriana Herrera is all ears! Her book, *AMERICAN DREAMER*, was named one of the Best Audio Books of 2019 by AudioFile. Her book was read by Sean Crisden. Plus, her novella, *MANGOS & MISTLETOE*, was included in Entertainment Weekly's list of "19 Christmas Romances to Keep You Warm This Holiday Season."

LaQuette is thrilled and amazed to be part of both St. Martin's Press and the Harlequin Desire families. She has signed *three-book deals* with both publishers. The Savvy, Sexy and Single Club series about a divorce support group was sold to St. Martin's, while the Devereaux Incorporated about three Brooklyn heiresses was sold to Harlequin Desire.

Mary Sheeran just found out that her novel, *BANISHED FROM MEMORY*, has been cited as a Distinguished Favorite in Entertainment by the NYC Big Books Awards. It had previously been cited as a Distinguished Favorite in Historical Fiction by the International Press Awards a few months ago. Another novel, *A DANGEROUS LIBERTY*, that sat forgotten in her computer for seven years, is being published in January by Prairie Rose Publications.♥

CRITIQUE GROUP INFORMATION
BY KATE DUNN

The next RWA-NYC Chapter critique group will take place on Monday, December 16, from 6-8pm (come at 5:30 for eating/ chatting; critiques start promptly at 6pm). We will be meeting at Cafe Isadora (www.cafeisadoras.com) 16 East 52nd between Fifth and Madison, on the second floor. There are plenty of good food options there.



This group is open to all chapter members. We welcome participants willing to read submissions and offer feedback, even if you don't have anything to submit that month. Thinking critically about other people's work is a great way to learn how to improve your own.

If you would like to participate, let us know and we will send you an invitation to the Google Group. Submissions of approximately 20 pages. If you have any questions, please email either one of us and we will be happy to chat with you. Dates for the rest of the year appear below. Happy writing! ♥

For more info, write to Kate (kdunn707nyc@gmail.com) and Candace (cklucas1949@gmail.com).

Future 2020 dates: January 13 February 10 March 16 April 20 May 18 June 22



**WANTED: MEMBERS' SOCIAL LINKS
BY CHAPTER SECRETARY KAY BLAKE**

For new members, and members who have been with RWA /NYC, I am sending a call for social media links. If you have any website links, Twitter links, Instagram links, or Facebook links that wasn't given or you just want to update them, please send the links to me at info@rwanyc.com. Thank you. ♥

**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.♥

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!