

KEYNOTES



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

SPRING BRUNCH - SATURDAY, MAY 4

GUEST SPEAKER: Rochelle Ahlers



WHERE: Bloom's Tavern
208 E 58th St, New York, NY 10022

TIME: 12:00 – 3:00 PM

PRICE: \$40 p/p (Includes salad, entree from Brunch Menu, dessert and two drinks)

Please pay online at www.rwnayc.com.
<http://www.rwnayc.com/may-brunch.html>

We will also be announcing the winners for this year's Golden Apple Awards!

RWANYC Editor/Agent Mixer
July 23, 7p
Save The Date!

RWA National Conference
New York City July 24-27
Register now.



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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LaQuette, Kay Blake, Maria Cox, Kate Dunn,
Maria Ferrer, Adriana Herrera, Barbara James,
Harper Miller

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.



JUNE THEME

IT'S RAINING MEN
How to write men that complement
their love interest(s)

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month

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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. Thanks.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
BY LAQUETTE



Time management is a skill we all need, but few of us have mastered. I include myself in that collective we, because some days it's a wonder I'm able to accomplish anything at all. But don't fret, even if you feel as if things have gotten away from you a time or twelve, it's never too late to try your hand at time management again.

First, you need to organize your tasks in order of priority. You can't do everything at once, so instead of staring at your to-do list with no idea where to start, think about the top three most important things you must get done in that day. Prioritizing things can help you focus your energy to help get things done.

Second, don't overload your to-do lists. Be honest about how much work you can get done in any given amount of time. Yeah, sometimes we need to get more accomplished in a short timeframe, however, piling on the work will only make you feel battle fatigued from the moment you look at your list. Instead of checking things off, you could find yourself avoiding it all together. Instead, put only the things on the list you know you can accomplish, and leave the rest for another day.

Third, plan your downtime. We do not possess endless stores of energy and focus. We need time off to enjoy life, refill our well, and actually go outside. Planning your breaks ahead of time can keep you refreshed and productive. So, if you really want to make that deadline, make sure you plan your breaks when you're calculating your work time.

Fourth, check your completed tasks off your lists. It may seem silly, but adding a check mark, or crossing something off your list can encourage you to stay on task. Each check mark is a win, and it always feels good to win something, no matter how small the something is.

Fifth, plan your work/writing day the night before. This will keep you from losing time trying to figure what should be done when. If you do it the night before, when you're ready to get started in the morning, you can jump straight into your to-do list.

Last, make sure you write your plans, goals, and tasks down somewhere. It doesn't matter if you're writing it into a planner by hand, or typing out the information on a digital platform, writing things down helps us remember them. Also, if you follow my philosophy, if it's written, it exists in a physical sense, and now you have to do it. 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 LCS Literary Agency. Websites: LaQuette.com, LaQuette@LaQuette.com.♥





MEMBER NEWS

Kate McMurray Joins the RWA Board of Directors. RWA President Helen Kay Dimon appointed Kate to the National Board of Directors. She will serve the remaining term of the seat vacated by Catherine Bybee. Congratulations, Kate!♥



NEW MEMBERS

Delilah Gray
J. L. Lora

CHAPTER MINUTES: APRIL 6, 2019
BY SECRETARY KAY BLAKE

Board Meeting was held on April 6, 2019.

Secretary's Report – Kay: 109 Members to date. Members are encouraged to invite authors to the meeting. For information about membership or access to the Yahoo Loop, please contact Kay Blake at info@rwanyc.com.

VP Report – Harper: Nothing new to report on the contest.

VP Report – Adriana: May Spring Brunch

Pay here: <http://www.rwanyc.com/401/login.php?redirect=/may-brunch.html>

WHEN: May 4th from 12:00-3:00PM

WHERE: Bloom's Tavern 208 E 58th St, New York, NY 10022

PRICE: \$40 p/p (Includes salad, entree from Brunch Menu, dessert and two drinks).

Guest Speaker: Rochelle Alers

We will also be announcing the winners for this year's Golden Apple Awards too!!!

If you still haven't voted please make sure you do before we close voting on April 30th!

Blog, Social, Newsletter: Andrea handles FB and Twitter. Shoot her your information via the RWA Yahoo Loop if you have news to share.

Brooklyn Book Festival – Michael: Early bird fee for the festival this year has been paid. Will have more details soon.

RWA National Conference: RWANYC Editor/Agent Mixer: If you want some facetime with the industry professionals who'll be in town for the conference before things officially kick off, come to our mixer on July 23rd at 7p. Finalized details (cost and the specific agents and editors who will be in attendance) will be available soon.

Non-Prom For those who don't have a publisher party will tentatively be held on Thursday. Registration has already open. Early bird fee has ended. Fee is now \$549 until June 26th. Encourage members to come and represent for the chapter.



Speaker: for April's meeting was Adriana Herrera

Topic: Domestic Violence in Romance: Write the Story Survivors Deserve♥

WANTED: MEMBERS' SOCIAL LINKS
BY CHAPTER 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. ♥

CRITIQUE GROUP INFORMATION
BY KATE DUNN

The next critique group will meet on Monday, April 29, from 6-8pm (5:30 for eating/ chatting) on the second floor of Smiler's, 54th and Madison. If you would like to participate, please let us know and we will send you an invitation to the Google Group. All submissions are due by April 18. The rest of the critique group dates for 2019 are listed below. If you have any questions, please email us offline and we will be happy to chat with you. Happy writing! Kate and Candace ♥

July 1 August 12 September 16 October 21 November 18 December 16

CONTEST NEWS
BY HARPER MILLER

Our annual Kathryn Hayes "When Sparks Fly" Contest is underway! Launched on March 1st.

What is it we're looking for?
OFF THE CHARTS HOTNESS!



If you've published a romance in 2018 and believe your MCs have what it takes, by all means, send us your MS. Tell your writer friends!

We could also use judges. If you love reading romance you are more than welcome to judge! For full contest details and to sign up as a judge please visit: www.rwanyc.com

Please help promote the Chapter Contest on Twitter and Instagram. Here are some Hashtags to use on Twitter: #romance #romancereaders #romancewriters #RWA #kissingbooks #books #amwriting #librarians #agents.

Hashtags for Instagram: #romance #romancenovelist #romancewriters #RWA #authorsofinstagram #writersofinstagram #romancebooks #kissingbooks.♥

WELCOME TO MY WRITING DEN!©**BY MARIA COX**

YOUR BRAIN ON WRITING

I'm restless by nature. And, when not writing, I'm anxious. Guess what? A writer's brain is seldom at rest.

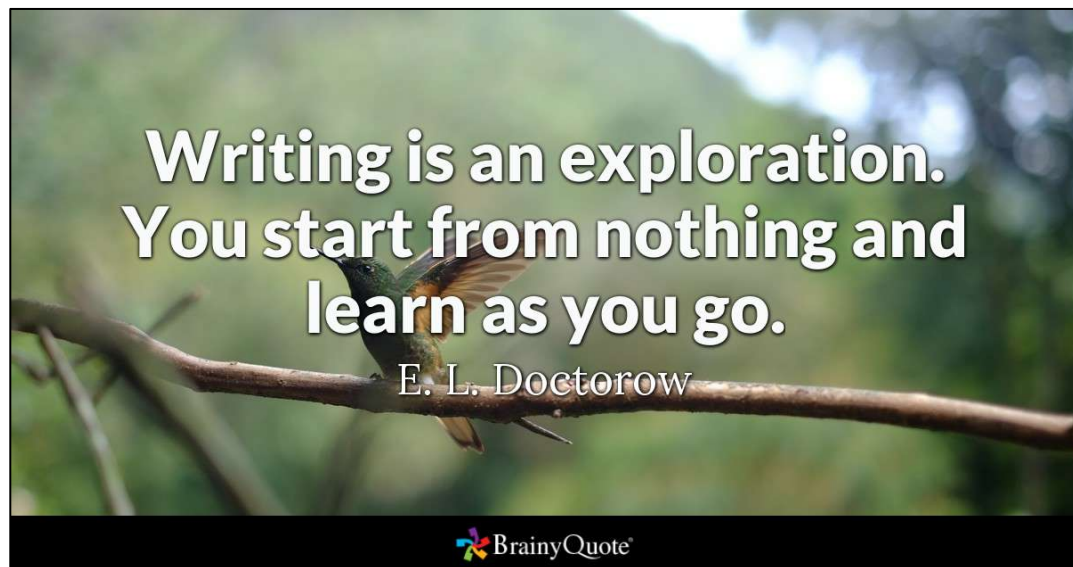
Take this for example, while in line at the supermarket or even while on a crowded subway I'm constantly watching people. In my mind, I have shamelessly flirted with good looking men on the train, even with some of the men in my office. Does that make me a bit of freak? Maybe. Or maybe, I could simply call this behavior *practice*.



Look some of the bestselling authors out there have imaginary foes and friends. Many brilliant novelists –in fact – have spent many years developing relationships with make-believe pals. This writing acumen doesn't happen by chance, this acumen is perfected over many years of researching, observing, mimicking...*practicing*.

So, if I ever appear to be staring into space, know I'm not daydreaming, I'm just formulating my next sexy love story. Practice makes perfect!♥

Maria Cox is an award-winning romance author. Maria is also a PRO member of Romance Writers of America and the past Treasurer of RWA/NYC. Maria served two terms 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](https://twitter.com/mariacox).



MONTHLY THEME: TIME MANAGEMENT

QUICK TIPS ON HOW TO MANAGE LIFE MORE EFFECTIVELY

BY HARPER MILLER



Time Management techniques are something every writer needs to consider. Most of us have incredibly busy lives where we're juggling multiple projects, families, and in many cases, other full-time jobs. There is no one size fits all solution when it comes to time management, but below, you'll find methodologies and thought processes I've found helpful in allowing me to meet word count goals, live a more focused life and be a healthier and happier person. Hopefully, some of these will work for you too.

The Pomodoro Method

You can find more information about it here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomodoro_Technique
You work in twenty-five minute increments with varying timed breaks in between. This technique has changed how I write. One day it will hopefully make me a faster writer, but for now, getting good content onto the page before the timer goes off is always my goal.

The Productivity Planner

Once you've begun utilizing the Pomodoro Method, I suggest purchasing this planner. It's so simple, but it will change your life! I've posted on Instagram about it (<https://www.instagram.com/p/BrRBt-wFyfe/>) and I've also told all my writer friends about it. The friends who've purchased the planner find it extremely useful and cathartic. You feel so accomplished filling in those little bubbles!
<https://www.intelligentchange.com/products/the-productivity-planner>

Five Things

I read an article once that said the most successful people do these things before 7 am:

- They plan for their day the night before
- They meditate to help clear their minds and facilitate productivity
- They listen to/read uplifting content
- They do hard physical activity
- They eat 30grams of protein for breakfast
-

Fitting these things into your morning schedule will set the tone for your day. It may mean waking up earlier for some people who wouldn't consider themselves early risers but doing your most challenging work before the sun is up can benefit you in a host of ways. I wake up daily between 4-5 am on weekdays and 6-7 am on weekends. If you would've asked me to do this ten years ago, I would have called you crazy. Now, I wholeheartedly consider myself a morning person.

By the time 10 am rolls around, I've already accomplished most of my toughest challenges for the day! Your brain is its most productive the first couple of hours after you wake up. Take advantage of this! If waking up early is difficult for you, start by waking up at least five minutes early every day. Those five minutes add up, and before you know it, you'll be rising with the sun.

You'll also be a lean mean, time management machine! ♥

Harper Miller is a thirty-something native New Yorker. She's traveled the world and lived in a variety of places but always finds her way back to the Big Apple. A lackluster love life leaves time to explore new interests; for Harper it is writing. THE SWEETEST TABOO: AN UNCONVENTIONAL ROMANCE is her debut novel. In her mind, the perfect Alpha male possesses intellect, humor, and a kinky streak that rivals the size of California. When she isn't writing, Harper utilizes her graduate degree in the field of medical research. She enjoys fitness-related activities, drinking copious amounts of wine, and going on bad dates. Harper may have sworn off online dating, but she loves writing about couples who connect via this medium. If you're interested in erotic short stories, give the Kinky Connect Chronicles a whirl. All stories in the series are standalones.

TOUGH LOVE TIME MANAGEMENT BY MARIA FERRER



It's always something! You sit down to write. Your outline is set. Your characters are ready to dance across your page and...the alarm clock rings. Someone has to go to work to feed the fur babies and put chocolate in the cupboards. Or the phone pings. A new Instagram / Twitter or Facebook post demands your immediate attention. Or the kids want to play. Or the significant other is feeling frisky.

Life is full of distractions, which play havoc with your writing schedule. So You have to resort to **Tough Love**.

You need to set a time for writing and stick to it. If that means getting up earlier or staying up later or having someone else feed the kids or even schedule "date nights" with your lover, then that's what needs to be done.

This is YOUR career. How much do you want it? Let your answer be your guide.

So put your phone on mute, lock the door and sit down at your computer and start writing. Don't open the door or answer the phone until your time is done. Doesn't matter if it's one hour or half or 15 minutes. The time to write is the time to write, and nothing else. Be tough with yourself. Protect your time to write and make sure all others respect it too.

And if you can make more time to write, then Write On!♥

Maria Ferrer has problems with time management, but she continues to write. Her mantra -- one page is better than none. Happy Writing.

**ROMANCE WRITING: PRURIENT INTEREST IN OUR NOVELS?
BY BARBARA JAMES**



I saw some tweets not that long about Stacey Adams' interview with Stephen Colbert. He was interviewing her about her political career. Knowing how high profile she is, one might have expected the focus to be on her background in law and public policy and a recent book she wrote about activism. Instead, he read excerpts from the romance novels she once wrote as Selena Montgomery, even though she didn't want him to.

Romance writers and readers were indignant, and rightfully so, because he was feeding into a prurient interest in her romance writing that diminished her as a lightweight, as many tend to see romance writing as a silly women's thing, as though love and companionship isn't a universal desire.

It was as though Ms. Abrams' novels was all that mattered about her, because romance writing can be seen as a reflection of the writer herself, and in very personal ways. Was she writing about things she experienced or things she has fantasized about? One's writing can never just be an entertaining story.

Various authors noted that romance writers come from all types of backgrounds. They are lawyers, doctors, and professionals of all types. They tweeted the excerpts of their books they would have liked to hear out loud. They all referred to those where the heroines indicated their intelligence, strength and resilience, not just their characterization as sexual beings.

One writer asked whether a male writer would have been questioned like that about a thriller he might have written.

I thought that was an interesting perspective. Romantic suspense novels are the flip side of thrillers and spy novels like those written by Ian Fleming of the James Bond franchise. But we don't see them as romance novels, because the stories are from the perspective of the male protagonist. The romance is secondary to the high level drama of the thriller. In romantic suspense novels, the heroine is not a secondary character, and the romance is part and parcel of the suspenseful story. Yet only one genre is dismissed as being less important. Only one genre is targeted for prurient interest.

It seems to me that the topic of sex scenes in romance novels fuels debates within the genre in important ways and it's directly tied to the prurient interest in what we write. Those writers and readers who argue that women's sexual empowerment is paramount are the ones who demand women's sexual agency notwithstanding the dismissal which might follow. Others believe, in turn, that sex scenes aren't crucial for the development of a romance and that women's empowerment can be demonstrated in other ways. So an author noted a criticism that she wasn't really writing romances because her sex scenes were closed door.

When these debates abound within the world of Romancelandia, I think it's important to step outside for a bit and remember that these discussions indicate some underlying tensions that persist in society about romance writing.♥

Barbara James is a member of RWA-NYC. She writes contemporary novels. An earlier version of this essay appeared in her blog.

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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.♥