

# KEYNOTES



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

## CHAPTER BRUNCH! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Venue: Bloom's Tavern, 208 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Time: 12:00 – 3:00 pm  
Fee: \$40, includes tax and tip  
Register: [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com), Members Only



Food: Appetizer, entrée, dessert platter, two brunch drinks

Announcements: Introduce new Chapter Board, Name Contest Finalists & Other Updates

Book Swap: Yes, we are doing a book swap again, but this year, we want the wrapping to give a “hint” to the subgenre, tropes, heat level, but NOT title or author.






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**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

LaQuette, Alexis Daria, Kate Dunn,  
Candace Lucas

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**MEETING INFORMATION**


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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](mailto:info@rwanyc.com).




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**JANUARY THEME**


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**TIME CAPSULE:**
**SETTING GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

How do you know what goals to set for 2019?

Do you make yourself a year calendar?

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

DEADLINE: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

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**RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**


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President: LaQuette

Vice President/Programs: Alexis Daria

Vice President/Communications: Harper Miller

Secretary: Jennifer Welsh

Treasurer: Maria Cox

Past President: Kate McMurray

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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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[rwanycblogginginthebigapple.blogspot.com](http://rwanycblogginginthebigapple.blogspot.com)

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**KEYNOTES DEADLINE**


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Send articles to [keynoteseditor@gmail.com](mailto: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

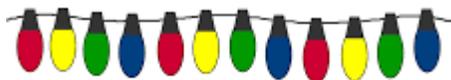
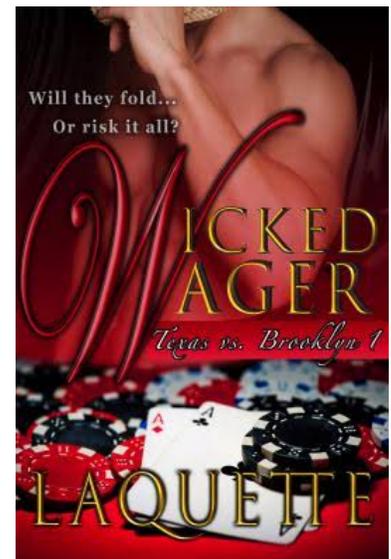
**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:****LEARNING FROM FAILURE: AN END OF YEAR ASSESSMENT****BY LAQUETTE**

December is the traditional time of year for us to assess ourselves, our productivity, and whether we've met our projected goals. Taking stock of our writing life and our writing goals is a good thing. It allows us to see what things worked, and what didn't. It helps us gather information to further guide our professional aspirations and efforts in positive ways.

I focus on the word "positive," because many of us use this time to list our failures, instead of listing the learning opportunities our "failures" provide. We look at our lists of goals and feel ashamed because we didn't accomplish everything on the list. We get upset with ourselves because we started strong, but possibly didn't finish the same way. Or worse, we see the successes of our colleagues and find our careers lacking by someone else's measurement. These things aren't productive. In fact, this sort of thinking will land you in the sunken place where all creativity goes to die.

To illustrate how this works, I'll use myself as an example. My goal was to self-publish at least four books this year. I only published one. By the time June arrived, I felt as if I was failing because I knew there was no way I could complete my projected goals before the new year rolled in. But as I began to feel myself slipping into the bad place where no author should voluntarily go, I got up, and forced myself to write a different kind of list.

I wrote down all the things I didn't complete on my goal list for this year in one column and wrote the thing I was doing instead of publishing a book in the next. During the time when a second book should have been published I was writing a manuscript for a book I'd contracted to Dreamspinner Press. When book three should've been published, I was learning how to effectively put together a book proposal and developing a story that would receive multiple print offers, and eventually sell to Sourcebooks. And when the final book of the year should've been ready for publication, I was both fighting for diversity in our industry, while simultaneously attempting to plan an inaugural educational conference for RWANYC.



Happy  
Holidays!



As I sat back and read the information on my list, I realized that what I thought were failures were just moments that I needed to reallocate my time to do some unforeseen, yet awesome things in my career. It was a rare opportunity for me to level up and do something I had not done before. So yeah, I didn't self-publish four books the way I wanted to. However, I used that time spectacularly and accomplished things that I'm pretty damn proud of, namely being your RWANYC president. I encourage you to look over what you consider your failures and find something positive about them. I guarantee you, there's more to learn from them than just placing a check in a completed column. 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. Visit her at [LaQuette.com](http://LaQuette.com) and [LaQuette@LaQuette.com](mailto:LaQuette@LaQuette.com).*

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**CHAPTER MINUTES: NOVEMBER**

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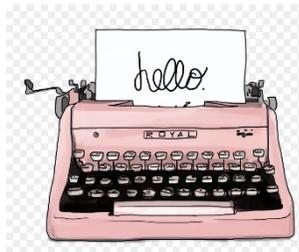
There are no Chapter Minutes from November as there was no Chapter Meeting, but instead we held RWA/NYC's first annual Love & Literature in the City conference. See Photo Album pages.

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**CHAPTER CONTEST: UPDATE**

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We received many entries this year. The entries have moved to the second round of judging. Finalists will be announced at the Chapter Brunch in December.



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**CHAPTER CRITIQUE GROUP: DECEMBER 17 (MON)  
BY KATE DUNN & CANDANCE LUCAS**

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The RWA/NYC Chapter critique group will meet on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 17**. This is a group for members to share works in progress, receive constructive and encouraging feedback, and read the work of their fellow writers to offer them the same. All meetings take place Monday nights from 6-8pm (approximately) on the second floor of Smilers on the northwest corner of 54th and Madison. The dates for our upcoming meetings are:

December 17

January 28

February 25

March 25

April 29

Please send copies of your submission of up to 20 pages to Kate and Candace approximately two weeks prior to the meeting date and we will distribute to the other people who plan to attend that night. If you have nothing to submit, but would like to read and be part of the critique process, you are welcome to join us as well. If you have any questions about the group, please email either one of us off the loop and we'd be happy to share more. Happy writing! ♥

Kate Dunn, [kdunn707nyc@gmail.com](mailto:kdunn707nyc@gmail.com) & Candace Lucas, [cklukas1949@gmail.com](mailto:cklukas1949@gmail.com)

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**VISITING THE RWA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING  
BY ALEXIS DARIA**

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The most recent RWA national board meeting was held in November over three days. Members are invited to sit in on these meetings, provided the board is not voting on something. Since the most recent meeting was being held in New York City and I was interested in hearing the board discuss possible replacement programs for the Golden Heart contest, I decided to attend the first day.

One might think it would be boring to sit in the back of a room watching other people conduct a meeting all day, but it was anything but. In fact, it was fascinating to see the behind-the-scenes inner workings of the board and staff. Running RWA is clearly a tremendous amount of work.

The Golden Heart ended up being the last topic addressed, so I was privy to a lot of other board business. (I was also the only general member in attendance.) A few things surprised me about watching the meeting play out. For one thing, RWA uses *Robert's Rules of Order* to keep things orderly and ensure that everyone is heard, without cross-talk. According to Wikipedia, this method is “the most widely used manual of parliamentary procedure in the United States.” In addition, major issues and feedback from the membership are taken seriously and discussed among the board.

It was also interesting to note how closely the board and staff work together during the meeting. They mentioned that in previous years, voting was only done four times during the year--during the three in-person meetings or the October conference call. Well, no wonder change in the organization used to happen more slowly! Now, however, there is a rapid response team in place to address emergency issues and create interim messaging. Also, thanks to email, the board is able to vote on things as a group without all being present in the same location. As a result, change can happen more quickly. I hope this means good things for the future of RWA.



Finally, while I expected to hear a definitive plan for the Golden Heart replacement, that didn't happen. Instead, the board held a strategic planning discussion to brainstorm ideas for programs that RWA could implement to meet the needs of the membership as a whole, but especially with an eye toward the section of membership most feeling the loss of the Golden Heart.

The aim of the discussion was to generate ideas. Those ideas will then be compiled, narrowed down to a handful, and then there will be further discussion about how to implement those new programs. So, in essence, it was a discussion to determine talking points for the next discussion. It was then that the enormity of the task hit me.

After experiencing the meeting firsthand, I would recommend that anyone who is thinking of running for the national board attend. It provides a clear view of how the board operates, and you can learn a lot about RWA as an organization. The next meeting in NYC will be in July, the weekend before the 2019 national conference, and it would be great to see more RWA-NYC members in attendance to witness the proceedings. ♥

*Alexis Daria is an award-winning contemporary romance author, artist, and native New Yorker. Her debut, TAKE THE LEAD, was a 2018 RITA® Award winner for “Best First Book” and was named one of the Best Romance Novels of 2017 by The Washington Post and Entertainment Weekly. Her next book, DANCE ALL NIGHT: A Dance Off Holiday Novella, will be out December 11th. Alexis is also the recipient of RWA-NYC’s 2018 Golden Apple Award for Author of the Year. She loves social media, and you can find her live-tweeting her favorite TV shows at @alexisdaria, or talking about writing and books on her blog at alexisdaria.com.*

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## MEMBER NEWS

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**Congratulations to all our RWA/NYC NaNoWriMo Winners & participants! Shirley, Jen, Ursula, Ruby, Kate D, Kate M, Jean, Harper, Maria, Daphne, Andrea, Sharae.**

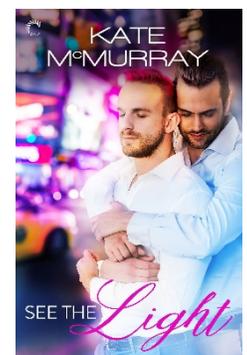
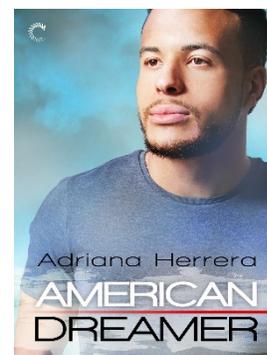
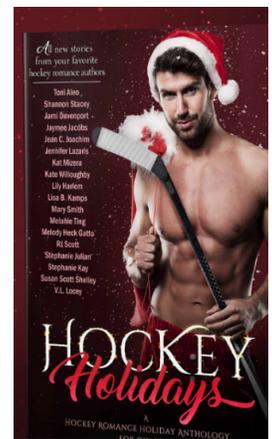
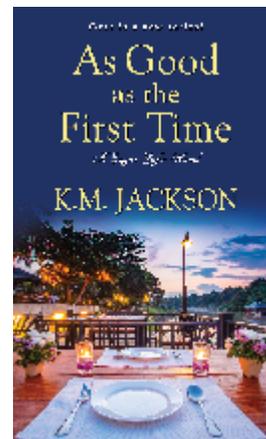
Next Lady Jane’s Salon, Dec 3, will feature readings by **Alexis Daria** and **Adriana Herrera** at Madame X at 7pm.

**K.M. Jackson’s AS GOOD AS THE FIRST TIME**, book #1 in her Sugar Lakes Series from Kensington Publishing, was picked as one of Amazon Books Best Romances of November. Plus, she sold a 4-book series to Berkley Publishing / Romance about four brothers brought together by their adoptive mother’s knitting store in Harlem. Series due out 2020.

**Jean Joachim** makes USA Today’s Bestseller List with story in HOCKEY HOLIDAYS anthology. Plus, two of her other books placed second and fifth in other writing contests.

**Adriana Herrera’s** spring book, AMERICAN DREAMER, has a gorgeous cover. It the story of Nesto and Jude, two strong men ready to take a chance on the kind of happiness that has always been just out of reach.

**Kate McMurray** has a new book due out in January, SEE THE LIGHT. Set amid the Broadway theatre; it’s a story of friends to lovers and the Great White Way. ♥

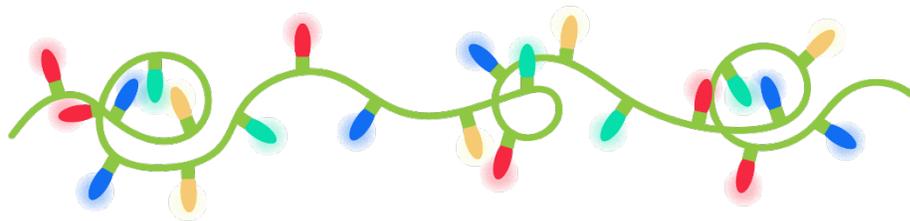


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**PHOTO ALBUM: LOVE & LITERATURE IN THE CITY**

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RWA/NYC put on its first conference in 20 years. **Love & Literature in the City** was a success, with headliners Piper Huguley, Eloisa James, Farrah Rochon, Erin Galloway and Jin Yu. Below are some pictures from the conference. Happy Writing to All. ♥



LOVE & LITERATURE IN THE CITY...CONTINUED



LOVE & LITERATURE IN THE CITY...CONTINUED



CHAPTER TRIVIA! RWA/NYC's first annual conference in the 1990s was called From Dream to Reality and revolved around the writer's journey.

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**FREE PUBLICITY!**

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**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](mailto:keynoteseditor@gmail.com). Articles will also be published on the Chapter Blog for DOUBLE the promotion!

**Deadline: the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. ♥**

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**ABOUT PAN  
(PUBLISHED AUTHOR NETWORK)**

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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.♥

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**About PRO**

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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.♥

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**RWA/NYC MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**


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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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Chapter dues are due March 2, 2019. Make checks payable to RWA/NYC.**

There will be a \$10 late fee for all renewals after March 2nd; and, \$20 fee on all returned checks. Return completed form with your dues to RWA/NYC, POB 3722 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, or you can pay via PayPal at [www.rwanyc.com](http://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](http://www.rwanyc.com).

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_



**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!**  
**Renew your membership by December 31, 2018**  
**and take \$5 OFF!**