

KEYNOTES



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

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, MARCH

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

Meeting Topic: Let's Talk About Sex In Romance Novels



Workshop Description

Struggling with writing believable sex scenes? This is the workshop for you.

Learn how to create emotional, concrete, believable sex scenes and weave them seamlessly into your storyline.

Speaker Bio:

LaQuette is President of RWA/NYC, and 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. Learn more about her at LaQuette.com and LaQuette@LaQuette.com



1916 - Margaret Sanger opens the first birth control clinic

Women's History Month

1903 - Marie Curie is awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of radioactivity

1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first American woman to receive a medical degree

1854-1860 - Susan B. Anthony crusades for women's rights in the United States and internationally

1920 - With the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, U.S. women get to vote

1966 - National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded

1542 - Mary, Queen of Scots is the first known female golfer

1969 - Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel

2570 B.C. - Queen Nefertari rules Egypt, calling herself "God's wife."

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LaQuette, Kay Blake, Rosalie Brinn,
Wendy Guerrier, Barbara James, Jean Joachim,
Angela Lam, Joan Ramirez

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.



Our 2019 Board: Alexis, Kay, Adrianna, Harper & LaQuette.

APRIL THEME

THE SOCIAL YOU Social Networking: Pros and Cons

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month

RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President/Communications: Harper Miller
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Michael Molloy

Website: Ursula Renée

PAN Liaison: Stacey Agdern

PRO Liaison: Anna Bierhaus

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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. Thanks.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BREAKING FREE OF YOUR MUSE
BY LAQUETTE



Inspiration is a great thing. When found, it can motivate you to create, accomplish, and excel. However, relying on it too heavily can place you in a situation where you're compromising your productivity if you're not careful.

I've heard many writers credit their muses for their ability to write or not write. This is a problem. Relying solely on your muse—only writing when the mood strikes you—can lead you down the dark road of listlessness. Productivity is not a passive thing. It happens because of you doing the work. Don't allow a mood or feeling to hold your creativity hostage. Instead, treat your writing like a priority.

Treating your writing like a priority means factoring in your writing into your day. That entails sitting down and planning your day with the idea that your writing is important enough to include in your schedule. If you do this instead of relying on your muse, whether or not you feel like writing, you can still be productive. You can still work toward the goal of completing a project.

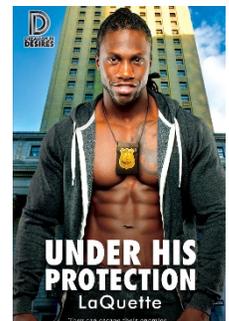
Writing is like anything else in life. If you don't make it a priority, it will never happen. Making it a priority means you've made a commitment with yourself to invest the energy into it. If you invest your energy into something, there is a higher chance you'll eventually complete it.

Let's face it. We make time for the things we've deemed important in life. We sit down and block out Netflix-and-chill times in our schedule. And although, I'm not knocking a good binge watch, if we can do it for our favorite television series, we can find a little time to dedicate to writing. Make it a non-negotiable thing on your to-do list. It doesn't have to be a block of hours. If thirty minutes is all you can spare, then allot that time to your writing and allow nothing or anyone to trample all over it, including you.

I know you're probably thinking you're too busy to write. As long as you hold that as your truth, it will always remain so. Again, writing doesn't have to be you locked away in a dark office banging against your keyboard for hours on end. It can be thirty minutes while you grab lunch. It can be a morning commute into work on the train, the bus, or a cab. It can be fifteen minutes on your phone typing away just before you crawl into bed at night. Whatever method you need to get it done, make it happen. Because once you invest in that habit, it will become second nature for you to write at your scheduled time, instead of when your muse tells you she/he feels like it.

So, let your muse inspire your ideas, but not your output. Never base it on a whim, but on forethought, planning, and commitment instead. Keep it sexy! 💋

LaQuette is President of RWA/NYC, and 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. Learn more about her at LaQuette.com and LaQuette@LaQuette.com♥



NEW MEMBERS



Jules Dixon
Ann Mills
Ishaani Sen
Katherine Strobos
Mel Walker
Nancy West
Kelly Zekas

CHAPTER MINUTES: FEBRUARY 2, 2019
BY SECRETARY KAY BLAKE



Attendance: 20 members

Treasurer: Alexis Daria called the meeting to order at 12:11pm
Board meeting was held on the previous Thursday Jan 31, 2019

Treasurer's Report (Alexis): \$3,946 in account (via PayPal)

Secretary's Report (Kay Blake): 98 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 Miller): Payment sent out to winners of last year's contest. Certifications are being printed. Currently working on next contest. Will create collateral for social media and sharing. Judges are needed. Any questions should be directed to vicepresident@rwanyc.com

VP Report (Adriana): Contacted Bloom's Tavern regarding our events for the year including The Golden Apples and the brunches. Members are encouraged to think about who they would like to nominate for Golden Apples early. Note: nominations are for people who have been nominated for the past 5 years.

Dues: Member dues are due February 28th via the RWA Nationals website.

Survey: Please let RWA board know what topics you would like to hear about this year. The survey was sent around so please fill that out.

Mission statement: was read and discussed. Members did not have questions when asked for feedback. Mission statement ratified.

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

Keynotes topic for this month: Women who have inspired you in your writing for Women's History Month. Send articles to Falguni at keynoteseditor@gmail.com
Get Involved! Volunteer Participate or write for Keynotes. Members are encouraged to participate in their chapter. It's your chapter!

Critique Group (Kate Dunn and Candice): The Critique Group meets every 4-6 weeks on Monday evenings at Smilers on 59th Street. For more information contact Kate or Candice via the RWA Yahoo Loop or look out for their email announcement to the loop monthly.

Brooklyn Book Festival (Michael): We have an opportunity to pay an early bird fee for the festival this year. Will reach out to President LaQuette to organize payment.

February author events were announced.

RWA National Conference – Non-Prom For those who don't have a publisher party will tentatively be held on Thursday. Registration opens Tuesday February 5th. RWANYC is also thinking about renting a room to help members change for the RITA Awards Ceremony.

Round Robbins Begin. Meeting adjourned at 12:39pm (Break at 12:58)
 Speaker: Kate McMurray – World Building♥

MEMBER NEWS

LaQuette has a new book, UNDER HIS PROTECTION, due out in April from Dreamspinner Press. It received a great review from *Publishers Weekly*: "This is a must-read for fans of tropey contemporary romances."

Kay Blake had a cover reveal for her upcoming book, SOME KIND OF TOMORROW.

Adriana Herrera's debut book, AMERICAN DREAMER, debuts in March featuring a sexy Dominicano.

Barbara James has a new book out, THE WEDDING BET: LAUREN. The cover is gorgeous.

Arcs of **Falguni Kothari's** book, THE OBJECT OF YOUR AFFECTIONS, were given away at the 10th Anniversary of Lady Jane's Salon. And, it was featured in *Woman's World* magazine.

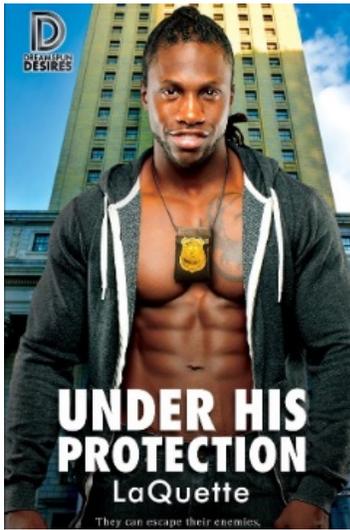
Angela Lam reveals the cover of her new sweetheart contemporary midlife romance, THE DIVORCE PLANNER. She also sold her second manuscript, FRIENDS FIRST, to The Wild Rose Press.♥

Woman's World Book Club *This week's best new books*

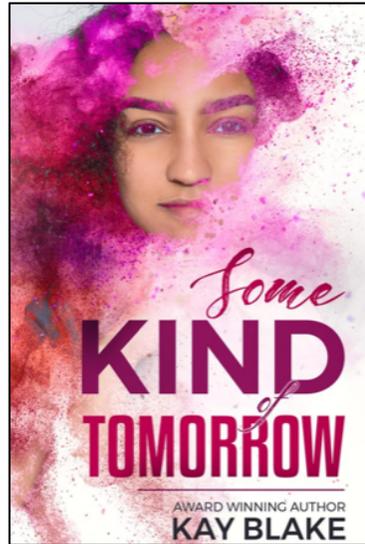
HISTORICAL	FAMILY SAGA	COZY MYSTERY	ROMANCE
THE MOON SISTER by Lucinda Riley This beautifully written series—in which each novel can be read as a standalone—follows the adopted sister, Mimi Tigg, the face-plant "Moon Sister," who has penchants for nannies and resides in the sweeping Scottish Highlands. One day, Tigg receives a letter with details on how to find her birthplace, then meets an old gypsy named Chibi. What follows is a magical adventure through Tigg's rich family history in 1933 Spain.	THE OBJECT OF YOUR AFFECTIONS by Falguni Kothari Paris Kuhn Fraser has it all: a successful career, a gorgeous home in New York City, and a wonderful husband, Neal, who chose her over her high-society, unable-to-have-children, first love. But then she loses any sense of control when Paris' best friend, Nita, comes to town. As Paris and Neal weigh a difficult decision that may finally give them a family, true love and friendship are put to the test.	PAST DUE FOR MURDER by Victoria Gilbert Beginning with small town charm and quirky characters, this mystery begins when the mayor of Tidewater, Virginia, kicks off the May Day Celebration to soon mourn. As part of the event, literary decoy Amy Wilcox is put together a presentation by a local folk singer and all is going well until a university student vanishes at the beach and Amy's neighbor Richard becomes a suspect. A fun and cozy book and a great read!	MORNINGS ON MAIN by Jodi Thomas New York Times bestselling author Jodi Thomas has penned more than 50 novels, and her focus is on heartwarming sagas about love, family and second chances. Jillian James lands in the Texas town of Laurel Springs with one goal to find the father who abandoned her, but during her search, she didn't expect to meet handsome single dad Connor Lantry. As sparks fly, Jillian realizes that sometimes family can be chosen.
NONFICTION COZY: The Art of Arranging Yourself in the World by Isabel Gillies What do you do when what it means to be cozy, most of us think of as fuzzy blankets or a mug of tea on a chilly day. For bestselling author Isabel Gillies, the meaning of cozy is far more than just an comforting, but rather also infusing our inner troubles and carrying them in our hearts wherever we go. In this practical, easy-to-read, part-memoir, Gillies offers easy-to-follow tips and warm wisdom for making hectic days an uncomfortable situation more comfortable (and cozy) no matter where we are.			

8 • 24-25 • Woman's World

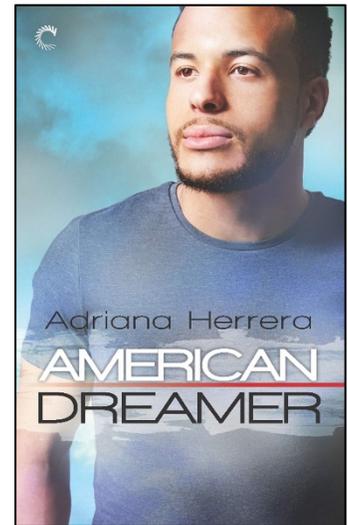
MEMBERS ON THE SHELF



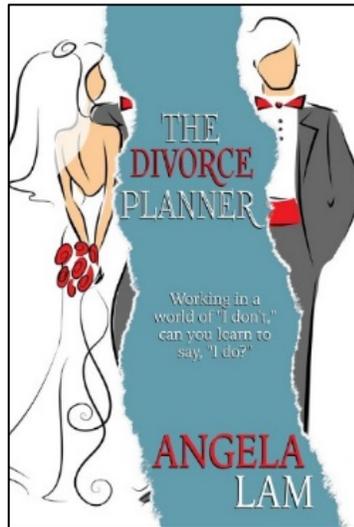
UNDER HIS PROTECTION
by LaQuette



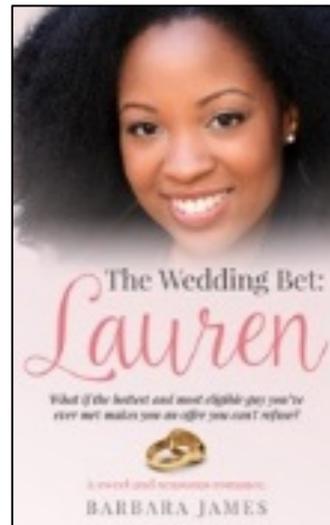
SOME KIND OF TOMORROW
by Kay Blake



AMERICAN DREAMER
by Adriana Herrera



THE DIVORCE PLANNER
by Angela Lam



THE WEDDING BET: LAUREN
by Barbara James



MONTHLY THEME: WOMEN WHO INSPIRE

WOMEN WHO INSPIRE
March is Women's History Month

**Here are snippets about the Women who have inspired
 Our members and their writing**



Friends

From Jean Joachim: Tina Fey inspires me. As a comedy writer and a woman, she charged through the incredible barriers to women comedy writers to produce high quality work, totally hilarious and funny stuff and become a success in the male-dominated world of network TV. She's amazing, and she did it without coming across as hard or tough, though she must be to have made her mark. Hats off to Tina!

From Angela Lam: Toni Morrison is an African American woman who inspires me. I read SULA when I was 14-years old. I didn't know you could write about your skin color, your culture, your non-whiteness. As a Chinese American, I previously had only read the classics. Toni Morrison inspired me to write from my experience. She helped me find my voice.

From Wendy Guerrier:

“It's in the reach of my arms,
 The span of my hips,
 The stride of my step,
 The curl of my lips.
 I'm a woman
 Phenomenally.
 Phenomenal woman,
 That's me.”

These lines are what started my love of poems. And writing poetry is what paved my love into writing romantic fiction. At a quick glance, it would seem, then, you might say Maya Angelou is my biggest inspiration and you wouldn't be wrong. However, my mother is the one who introduced me to this poem in the first place. So for argument's sake, let's call this one a tie. Maya Angelou inspires the masses, in including me, but my Mom inspires me every day.

From Rosalie Brinn: I am amazed that not only do I write but was one of the first woman BBAs and MBAs. I earned the money to permit me to have the leisure to write.

From Joan Ramirez: The woman who inspires me is my friend Carol. A colleague with whom I worked for a few years before she retired from kindergarten teaching. A model of professionalism, she has inspired me to go for it with my own literary agenda. In fact, she provided the ending to my historical suspense. ♥

THE PUNCTUATION POLICE**BY BARBARA JAMES**



Discussions among writers about punctuation sometimes seem like an exercise in extreme nerdiness! All kinds of talk about Oxford commas, em-dashes, colons and semicolons. But does it really matter? The significance of the debate didn't come to me from a writing group discussion, although it was one we talked about in a recent @rwchat.

I read a New York Times article about the problems court reporters have in understanding African American Vernacular English. The lack of comprehension had major consequences for freedom as opposed to incarceration, as well as life or death.

Court reporters are charged with accurately reporting witnesses' testimony at depositions and trials. They produce transcripts which become the official record of court proceedings. Writers are merely tasked with writing for clarity; diction and punctuation are the means of making sure our words are understood.

I was struck by an observation. The linguists who did the study played audio recordings for the reporters. The researchers then asked the reporters to write what they heard and to paraphrase as well. But they had a difficult time doing each. Yet, the reporters weren't asked to punctuate.

The article quoted a defendant's statement: "I know that I didn't do it so why don't you just give me a lawyer dog 'cause this is not what's up."

Reading it, I thought about how punctuation might have made the difference in meaning, but that wasn't even discussed. If I were writing, how would I punctuate a sentence like that in order to convey the character's meaning?

In oral communication, it is easy to understand pauses and what they mean. In written communication, punctuation matters more because they are markers that help explain the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences.

So "eats, shoots and leaves" is hilarious, while "eats shoots and leaves" is a mundane observation which doesn't evoke the same imagery. A misplaced--or even nonexistent--comma can change a whole sentence's meaning.♥

Barbara James is the pen name of an Episcopal clergywoman and romance writer. She writes sweet and inspirational romances. You can find her at www.barbarajames.net. If you are interested in learning more about LAUREN, her book recently came out on Amazon.

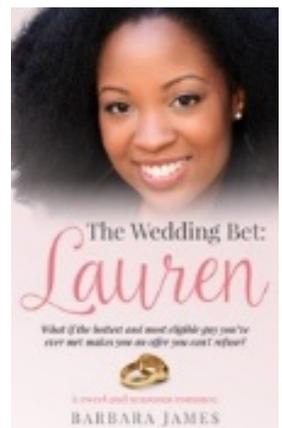
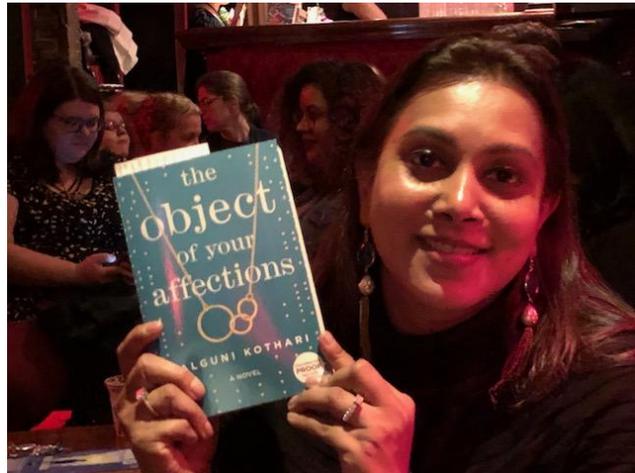


PHOTO ALBUM: LADY JANE'S 10th ANNIVERSARY



Lady Jane's Salon celebrated 10 Years on February 4. Reading that night was RWA/NYC Member **Falguni Kothari**. And Chapter Members were in the house to help cheer her and the Salon on. ♥



HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY !

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.♥
