



North Texas Romance Writers of America

HEART to HEART

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Chapter 33, Region 5

November/December 2011

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Star Awards

Most Pages Written

Raquel Rodriguez
1502 pages

Heather Long
945 pages

Candy Havens
370 pages

Most Pages Edited

Heather Long
1200 pages

Candy Havens
697 pages

Mindy Moore
520 pages



**Join us Saturday, Dec. 10
For our annual Christmas party!!!**

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President's Corner — Marsha West

Fall is my favorite time of year. Unfortunately, I didn't find many of those cool, breezy days I love—when you need a light jacket, the wind sends your hair swirling around your head and into your eyes, and the leaves rustle like someone whispering "hush." On most of our trip to New England in October, hot, muggy temperatures greeted us. The kind best suited for short sleeves, when I'd packed only long sleeves. :-)

Good excuse to buy a t-shirt with VERMONT written across the front. A friend from there recently sent me a news article about why leaves turn red. "Treeologists" have theories that explain the yellow and orange, but not the red.



I guess writing is a little like that. We've heard the experts tell what makes a great author or how you ought to write a book, but it's all just theories. In some cases nothing more than opinion with one person's opinion as good as anyone else's. Well, with the exception of a publisher whose opinion counts, because they will buy your book or not. Julia Quinn, our October guest, (and I'm sorry many of you missed her) spent time debunking many of the "rules" we try hard to live by in the writers' world. "Know the rules, but know when to break'em." Advice I've heard from others, too. Any of you who attended our retreat at Deer Creek a couple of falls ago will remember Candy and Rosemary focusing on the importance of believing in ourselves. If we don't, why should anyone else? We have to remember that when an agent or editor tells us they don't like dates and times at the beginning of scenes. We've all read plenty of published books, which use that technique. It's all about finding the editor/agent who likes what we write. Failing that, we can jump into the indie publishing ranks.

I've read what I thought were really well written indie books, and some not so much. Same is true for some of those that come out from the big New York publishers. Keeping a positive attitude is imperative if we intend to succeed. Amazing as it seems to me, big name, multi-published New York Times best-selling authors also have doubts.

The chapter's November retreat was wonderfully productive (12,000 words for me) and much fun. Thanks Nikki & Tracy for putting it together for us. In fact, as this will be my last article as president, I owe a big thanks to all the members of the board. You've been super to work with. An especially heartfelt "thank you," goes to Jen FitzGerald for stepping in as President-Elect, making my life incredibly less stressful. Thank you, NT, for giving me the privilege of serving as your president for 2010.

An anonymous quote to share with you this month. *People work well when they believe they are good at what they do.* So believe in yourself and keep on keeping on.



October Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, October 17, 2011 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President was present. In the absence of the Secretary Michelle Welsh took the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as they were printed in the October newsletter.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Marsha West reported: The Nominations Committee (Clover Autrey, Michelle Welsh, Jen Fitzgerald, and Marsha) announced the 2012 slate of officers:
President-Elect—Michelle Welsh
Secretary—Nancy Connally
Program Director—Nikki Duncan
Treasurer—Angi Platt
Membership Director—Jamie Webb
Web Site Director—Clover Autrey
Communications Director—Heather Long
The slate will be voted on the first of December on the loop.

The following are positions appointed by the board:
Newsletter Editor: Heather Long
PAN Liaison: Karen Whiddon
PRO Liaison: Carolyn Williamson
Hospitality: Marty Tidwell
Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek
Spotlight: Dawn Alexander
Audio: D'Ann Burrows

Marsha expressed thanks to all for being willing to serve.

Treasurer: Ron Campbell reported:

The September treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Program Director: Nikki Duncan reported:

The schedule for NTRWA 2011 calendar was reviewed as follows:
November – Members retreat at the Jefferson Street B & B in Irving.
This takes the place of the regular 3rd week meeting.
December – Christmas Party on the 2nd Saturday, Dec. 10 in the large room
First meeting of the new year will be Jan. 21, 2012



Membership: Jamie Webb reported:

There are eighty-eight members of NTRWA.
We had 7 visitors

Communications Director: Marsha West reported for Jean Marie Brown who was absent

Articles are due to Jean-Marie Brown by Sunday, October 23rd.

Website Director: Jen FitzGerald was absent

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

PRO Liaison: Clover Autrey reported:

To become a PRO you must submit a novel to an agent or publisher.

Hospitality Chair: Bab Han was absent

Great Expectations: Angi Platt reported for Wendy Lyn Watson-- Information is available on the website at the GE button. She made a general call for judges for this year's contest and explained that she'd be providing the judges' training again.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.
The Chapter Retreat at Johnson Street B & B will be from Friday, November 4 — Sunday, November 6. The next regular meeting will be December 10, the second Saturday.

Submitted electronically by Michelle Welsh, acting secretary.

Date Approved: _____

Date Corrected: _____



Spotlight on: Mindy Moore

By Carolyn Williamson

New member, Mindy Moore's life has been nuts lately, with a new release coming out on November 1st. Her career has taken an interesting twist with her current focus on self-publishing.

1. Are you married or single? Do you have children?

I'm single. My contribution to making my parents grandparents are currently my cats, though I might be a foster mom someday, when the finances are a bit steadier. I do have the most amazing nephew in the world, who tells me that I'm his "fravrite" aunt. I frequently refer to him as the Nephew Monster, because he's the sweetest monster I've ever known.

2. Where did you grow up? Did you go to college? If so, where?

I grew up in Denton, Texas. (Huh...I live in Denton, Texas again now. Guess I'm a bit of a homebody, even though I've lived as far as Juneau, Alaska.) I have attended college courses at the University of Houston, University of North Texas, Collin County Community College, and finally Texas Woman's University, but I have yet to obtain a degree. Perhaps someday.

3. How long have you been writing? How many manuscripts did you finish before you got the call?

I started writing poetry while I was in college, when my Creative Writing professor strongly encouraged me to pursue long fiction, as he described my style as "maximalist." I don't think he meant it as a compliment in terms of my poetry, however it set me on the course to writing romance. I started my first manuscript with the intention of pursuing publication in December of 2008, between college semesters. I got close to signing with an agent with that manuscript, but no cigar. Two manuscripts later, I was offered representation by an agent.



Spotlight on: Mindy Moore

A year after that, we parted ways, and I decided to pursue self-publishing, and then try to start over on the agent hunt at a later point in time.

4. What genres do you write?

I write Regency-set historical romance, and very short Regency-set historical erotica. I've tried venturing into something more contemporary, and failed miserably. So...I think it is better that I just stick with my Regencies.

5. Which publishers handle your books?

Currently, I am only self-published.

6. I understand you have done some self-publishing. Were those new stories or ones you received the rights back and published yourself?

None of my books have ever been contracted by any publishing house, even though every single one of my titles has landed on the Amazon best-seller lists. These are all new and owned completely by me.

7. How have the royalties you received from self-publishing and regular publishing compared money wise?

Since I've never been traditionally published, I can't really compare fairly. I am not disappointed in the least about the royalties I've earned to date through self-publishing. Six months ago, I was unemployed and struggling to get by, and hoping I could find a way to continue writing until such time as I could earn some money from it. Today, I have earned more in the last six months than I ever did in any four consecutive years of working in corporate America, and consider myself a full-time writer. I know I can support myself through this, and I can take my time to decide if trying for a traditional publishing contract would be worthwhile for me, or if I want to continue self-publishing everything.



Spotlight on: Mindy Moore

8. How do you promote your books?

I am on Twitter (@Catherine_Gayle) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Catherine-Gayle/49808371251>), and I blog every other week at <http://ladyscribes.blogspot.com> with my critique partners. This month, with the release of an anthology with 11 other authors, I'm taking part in a huge blogging/tweeting promotion. However, that is the first promotion of any sort I've done other than Twitter, Facebook, and the Lady Scribes blog. In January, I'm stepping way outside of my comfort zone, and I'll be doing a reading at Lady Jane's Salon, RDU.

9. What book do you have out now, and where can we buy it?

My newest release is a novella titled An Unintended Journey, which is part of A Summons From the Castle, a Regency Christmas Summons Anthology. You can buy it at Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/Summons-Regency-Christmas-Collection-ebook/dp/B0061EKDB0/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1320120150&sr=1-1
<http://www.amazon.com/Summons-Regency-Christmas-Collection-ebook/dp/B0061EKDB0/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1320120150&sr=1-1>,

Barnes and Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1107033633?ean=2940013240209&itm=11&usri=catherine%2bgayle>
<<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1107033633?ean=2940013240209&itm=11&usri=catherine%2bgayle>>,

or Smashwords: <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/98760>. For a full listing of my titles, you can visit my website at

<http://www.catherinegayle.com/books.html>.



Great Expectations 2012

North Texas Romance Writers of America is pleased to sponsor the Great Expectations Contest, an annual opportunity for unpublished writers of romantic fiction to obtain valuable feedback on their works in progress

Deadlines:

- To receive the "early bird discount," you must submit payment (via Paypal) by noon CST on Saturday, December 10, 2011.
- All entries and payments must be submitted electronically by midnight CST on Friday, December 30, 2011.

Entry Fee:

- All payments must be submitted via Paypal.
- A separate entry fee should be submitted for each contest entry.
- Entry fees are non-refundable EXCEPT in the event that a category is cancelled due to low numbers of entries.
- Early bird discounted rate (for payments received before noon CST on Saturday, December 10:
 - \$20 for members of NTRWA, DARA, and Yellow Rose chapters of RWA
 - \$25 for all other RWA members
 - \$30 for non-RWA members
- Regular rates (for all other entry fees):
 - \$25 for members of NTRWA, DARA, and Yellow Rose chapters of RWA
 - \$30 for all other RWA members
 - \$35 for non-RWA members

Eligibility:

- All work must be the author's original work that has not been contracted for publication prior to the entry deadline.
- This contest is open to all authors who have never been published in book-length romantic fiction as well as authors who have not been contracted or published in the entered category during the last three years (during 2009, 2010, or 2011).
- Previous first place winners may not re-enter the winning entry, even in edited format. They may, however, enter another work.
- Authors may enter as many times as they wish (in one or multiple categories)

Failure to comply with any of the rules may disqualify the entry resulting in a forfeit of the entry fee.

For more information ntrwagreatexpectations@blogspot.com



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NTRWA
2100 W. Northwest HWY
Suite 114-1081
Grapevine, TX 76051
NTRWA monthly meeting

**NTRWA monthly meeting
Third Saturday of the month
Doors open @ 10 a.m.
La Hacienda Ranch
5250 Highway 121 South**

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**Great Expectations 201,
Angi Platt & Wendy Watson**
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