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## President's Corner

As I write, the Two Step Conference is less than a week away. I can't wait to spend a whole weekend with fellow writers and especially my CPs.

The timing also signals the end the month, when my CPs and I review our stated goals for that month. In addition, at our last monthly meeting, we opened the envelopes containing our quarterly goals.

In both cases, I failed to complete *all* my goals. I reached some, but not others. I never get down on myself because without those stated goals I probably would have accomplished much less. But I do ask myself why.

Were my goals to lofty? (no) Did real life get in the way? (no) Did something else with a higher priority come up? (no) Did something shinier come along? (YES!) Did I have enough accountability? (yes)

Lofty goals are great. They push you to reach higher, go farther. But if you consistently miss that goal, especially by large margins, then perhaps you need to reassess that goal. Take a long, hard look at it. Is it truly realistic when you look at your other obligations no matter what category they fall in to?

*Continued on page....12*



March 17, 2012  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Board of Directors:**

**Officers**

Jen FitzGerald  
*President*

Michelle Welsh  
*President-Elect*

Nancy Connally  
*Secretary*

Angi Platt  
*Treasurer*

Nikki Duncan  
*Program Director*

Jamie Webb  
*Membership Director*

Heather Long  
*Communications Director*

Clover Autrey  
*Website Director*

**Committee Chairs**

Roni Loren  
*PAN Liaison*

Carolyn Williamson  
*PRO Liaison*

Heather Long  
Kim Quinton  
*Great Expectations 2013*

Marty Tidwell  
*Hospitality*

Heather Long  
*Newsletter Editor*

Dawn Alexander  
*Spotlights*

D'Ann Burrow  
*Audio Librarian*

Chrissy Szarek  
*Writing Incentives*

Nikki Duncan  
*Texas Two Step 2014*

Angi Platt  
*Bylaws*

Michelle Welsh  
Angi Platt  
*30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. The minutes for the February 18, 2012 meeting were approved as printed in the March newsletter.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President-Elect: Michelle Welsh reported:**

- In Hospitality Chair Marty Tidwell's absence: raffle tickets to win prizes are available for purchase at the monthly meetings.

**Treasurer: In the absence of Angi Platt, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- No treasurer's report; will bring up to date at April meeting.
- Members may contact the Treasurer through the NTRWA website.

**Program Director: In the absence of Nikki Duncan, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- The April meeting will be Renee Jones and will be held in the front room at La Hacienda.
- The May meeting will be the Roundtable Critique. Members may send 20 pages of a manuscript to Nikki Duncan at the NTRWA website. Deadline in early April.
- The June meeting will be Reed Quinton on mentalism and illusions.

**Membership Director: Jamie Webb reported:**

- There are sixty-three members.
- There were four visitors: Sidney Bristol, Suzan Butler, Jenny McLeod, and Stephanie Maxwell.

**Communications Director: In the absence of Heather Long, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- Newsletter articles should be submitted by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- Newsletter articles are shared through RWA and can be printed in other chapter newsletters [with permission and acknowledgment].

**COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**PAN Liaison: In the absence of Roni Loren, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- Explained the writing incentives program for published authors.

**PRO Liaison: Carolyn Williamson reported:**

- To become a PRO, a member must submit a manuscript to an agent or editor and have proof of submission. Application forms are available.

- One of benefits of PRO is priority reservations [after published authors] with agents and editors at RWA National Conference.

**Hospitality: In the absence of Marty Tidwell, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- Items and critiques are needed for the raffle prize baskets for the monthly meetings.

**Spotlights: Dawn Alexander reported:**

- Spotlight presentation was Genevieve Wilson, a finalist in the Mainstream with Romantic Elements Category in the 2012 Great Expectations contest.

**Audio Librarian: D'Ann Burrow reported:**

- Discs are available for borrowing.

**Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:**

- Explained rules for the different incentive programs.
- Nikki Duncan (for most written) and Jerrie Alexander (for most edited) won the quarterly drawings.

**Texas Two-Step: In the absence of Nikki Duncan, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- There are open spots for appointments at the conference. Contact Nikki.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

**• In the absence of Angi Platt, Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- Explained details for earning a charm bracelet and charms in Book-In-A-Year challenge. Sign up form is posted at NTRWA listserv or can contact Angi through NTRWA website. The word/page count reported for the April meeting begins from sign-up date.

**• Michelle Welsh reported:**

- Need volunteers to help plan the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to be held in March 2013.
- Considering anthology like published for 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Jen FitzGerald presented Christine Crocker her service pin for her service on the Audit Committee.

**New Business:**

- Reviewed goals written for January/February/March
- Reviewed goals for April/May/June (most people recorded goals for each quarter back in January, so it was just a reminder to see what you are supposed to accomplish for the next quarter)
- Carolyn Williamson announced information for DFW Writer's Conference. Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Submitted by Nancy Connally

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Corrected: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Charm Incentive

March 2013 will be the 30th anniversary of NTRWA. To help celebrate, the chapter is sponsoring a Book In A Year program for all members. For more information, visit the [Writing Incentives](#) page. (While you're there, you can see some of the other awesome ways we encourage our members to write.)

How Book In A Year Works:

- The program is open to all NT members, local and long distance.
- To sign up, please download and fill out [the BIA Y form](#) and then e-mail it to the [BIA Y Coordinator, Angi Platt](#).
- Complete your word goal each month.
- Charms will be earned in the following order . . . for example, if you meet your writing goal in March, but not in April, but then again in May, you will receive the cowboy hat in April (for March) and then the boot in June (for May).
- For those who earn all twelve charms, the last one will be a 30th anniversary commemorative disk.
- Alternative charms are available for those who participated in the 25th anniversary charm incentive.
- E-mail your word count/page count to the BIA Y coordinator each month ([biay@ntrwa.org](mailto:biay@ntrwa.org)) within seven days of each meeting, so that she can order your charm in time for the following meeting.

### THE COWBOY HAT

The hats cowboys wore can be attributed to a hunting trip by JB Stetson in 1865. It's reported that he made it for fun, to stay dry. But that has nothing to do with why NT chose a hat to be our first writing recognition charm. Those writing at least 25 pages in one month are beginning their journey to finish a book (or to keep/develop a consistent work habit). The hat was a simple choice, really. We have a hat in our chapter logo. So even if you don't write westerns. Or you don't write anything set in the west. The cowboy hat can remind you of the 30 years NT has been supporting writers--published or seeking publication. Writers just like you.



Haven't signed up for the BIA Y Charm Incentive? The form's on the website & in the YahooGroups file section. OR you can email [BIAY@ntrwa.org](mailto:BIAY@ntrwa.org).

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**Book In A Year Charm Bracelet Guidelines**

BIAY@ntrwa.org

Book In A Year Coordinator: Angi Morgan

NT MEMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

BIAY PROJECT TITLE:

HOW WILL YOU RECEIVE YOUR CHARMS?

I will be at meetings.

I am mailing self-addressed stamped envelopes to:

Angi Platt, 13405 Charcoal Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

HOW DO YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE?

I would like the coordinator to encourage me to FINISH MY BOOK.

Requires members to write 25 pages on the same book until finished.

Required for NT members who have not obtained PRO eligibility.

I am participating as an non-contracted author.

I have a book under consideration that may require me to change titles.

I am participating as a contracted author with multiple projects.

Feel free to list some of the titles:

IS 25 PAGES (OR 6,250 WORDS) PER MONTH ENOUGH?

My goal is 25 pages per month

I would like to set my goal at \_\_\_\_\_ pages or \_\_\_\_\_ words per month.

(cannot be lower than 25 pages or 6,250 words)

DID YOU PARTICPATE in 2007/2008?

No, this is my first time and I need a bracelet.

Yes, but I lost my original bracelet and need a new one.

Yes, and I earned several charms. Please find alternate charms for the following:

Boot       Cowboy Hat

STARTING DATE

March 2012

FINISHING DATE

March 2013

**Please note:** the BIAY program is to celebrate our 30th chapter anniversary in March 2013. Those beginning the program at a later date can still receive the recognition. The last month to begin the program will be January 2013.

## Spotlight on Genevieve Wilson

By Dawn Alexander

*The following article should have appeared in the March newsletter.*

**Tell us how you came to be a writer. Did you start penning stories with a number two pencil and a Big Chief tablet in kindergarten or is it something you can tapped into recently?**

*It's been a pretty recent endeavor. I've always been an avid reader, but when I graduated from UT with an English degree I was pretty burnt out on all things literary. Years later (I won't say how many), when I started to get the itch to write, I denied it for a long time because I knew it wouldn't be easy. I was right.*



**The question we all have to ask ourselves. Are you a pantser or a plotter?**

*I'm a plotting pantser. What? It can happen.*

**How did you become involved in NTRWA? What do you remember about your first meeting? What do you like best about the organization?**

*I entered last year's Great Expectations contest on the last day when I saw one of Roni's tweets about it. When Wendy and Angi contacted me to say I finaled, they invited me to a meeting. I didn't know unpublished writers could join. I remember meeting a bunch of gorgeous women and feeling like I was way out of my league. I love the community of NTRWA and how generous the published writers are to the unpublished.*

**Tell us about GOOD LIARS. Did you have any particular source of inspiration? Is the story what you thought it would be when you set out to write it or did it take several twists and turn itself into something different?**

*I refuse to answer that question on the grounds that I might get into big trouble with my family. Just kidding. I think. I read in Betsy Learner's THE FOREST FOR THE TREES that you should write about what scares you. Both my grandmothers died in nursing homes, one peacefully. The other? Not so much. Dying miserably in a nursing home scares the holy Life Alert out of me. GOOD LIARS opens with a woman who is full of regrets over how she lived, dying in a nursing home and surrounded by her children who are glad she's dying. Uplifting, right? It can be pretty dark, but it's got some humor, too. I knew how it would begin and end, but the middle was a bit surprising to me.*

**I know you received an honorable mention last year in GE and finaled this year. What was your reaction to the news you made the final round? What do you think is the greatest benefit of entering contest like the GE?**

*I was surprised and elated when I got the email that I finalized. I knew my category, Mainstream with Romantic Elements, was a hefty one, and I kept thinking about all the little details I missed when I sent out my entry. The greatest benefit is definitely the thoughtful feedback. After judging this year, though, I think I got just as much out of giving the critiques. When you have to articulate what's not working with a story, it forces you to understand the problems with your own writing.*

**What is something about yourself you think would surprise your chapter mates? (That you are willing to share, of course.)**

*I don't like babies. I'm also very judgmental of bad ponytails.*

**You have a whole weekend to write. Where do you go? What do you take with you? Do you go alone or take someone to bounce ideas off of?**

*A whole weekend to write? Assuming the Apocalypse hasn't come, I would go to a hotel or resort with a suitcase full of comfortable clothes and my laptop. And I'd go alone. If the Apocalypse has come, I'd go to Walmart.*

**If you could chat over lunch with any author, who would it be and why?**

*Brennen Manning. His book, RAGAMUFFIN GOSPEL, changed the way I look at my life and faith.*

**What are you working on now?**

*Still getting GOOD LIARS ready to send out. I'm also working on reworking my first novel. I've learned a lot since I wrote it, and I think it's salvageable.*

**Random person in the waiting room at the doctor's office tells you she is writing a novel. What is the one thing you would tell her?**

*Wait. Why am I in the doctor's office?*

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## *Deep POV Means...*

By Angi Morgan

EVERY word and phrase has a purpose & should be used to its fullest potential.

Deep Point of View refers to getting inside your character and writing almost from their first-person perspective. It's POV that connects the reader to the character's emotions, letting the reader become closer to the story, more involved.

Even without "Deep POV," you can tighten your writing by being aware that EVERY word counts. Each word, phrase, paragraph, scene, and chapter should work together to progress your story either by revealing GMC or dropping a clue that will help the reader understand something at a later point.

Deep POV ties emotion to actions and reactions, and connects the current action to what's going on inside the character's head (introspection, emotion, reaction).

Since people think in specifics, letting our characters think in specifics brings the reader closer to that character and WHY they're thinking what they're thinking at that exact moment. When you're deep in a character's POV, the character doesn't keep secrets from himself (a Suzanne Brockmann tip I learned many moons ago).

**DEEP POV** lets the reader experience the story...instead of someone telling them the story. Very simple changes subtly change a sentence from "telling" into "showing" and bring us closer to the character, giving us insight into their world.

As writers we're consistently told to avoid using "telling" words and phrases: felt, saw, heard, just as, plus, because, knew, little does she know, without thinking, however, she continued, he thought, she realized, couldn't help but, can't help noticing. **BUT WHY?** As a writer, have you dissected your favorite type of book and looked at the type of sentence structure that excites you as a reader?

She knew she had to run, but it felt like her feet were stuck in quicksand.

VS

Run. Now. Make your quicksand feet move before you're dead.



The first sentence is very passive. (Very Telling, as if I'm telling you how a third person felt.) Several years ago, the second example would have appeared in italics. It's as if the character is talking to herself. Let's think about this for a minute. If we're in a character's POV, we're already in their... You got it! We're already in their thoughts. So write as if you're thinking. When thinking, we're not formal. We use the same verbiage. We think in the same phrases. My writing "style" is to italicize for emphasis and when the character is directing a thought AT themselves (i.e.: I can run).



### **DEEP POV THROUGH SETTING**

If the description doesn't impact the character, it won't impact the reader.

Setting is more than just describing the landscape or type & color of the furniture. It's the tone of your characters' surroundings and the attitude in which they think about it. If a man walks into a room and notices the paisley print curtains, he better be an interior designer or those curtains better look just like the set at his mother's house. It's not "in-character" for the

Average Joe to notice curtains. The same goes for a heroine standing on her porch and describing the surroundings she sees every day. The author needs a reason for the heroine to be thinking about her surroundings.

At least one of your characters will be very familiar and comfortable with their corner of the world. The other will be observing not only the new locale, but also the way another character moves through it. Setting includes the observations about the actual way things look vs. the way things make a character

feel. One or two words throughout a character's thoughts can set the tone of your book and give you an excellent backdrop.

A FEW QUICK EXAMPLES:

It rained on them.

VS

Rain pelted them like ice shards.

They got in the rental car trying to get warm.

VS

They were both soaked to the skin, making him wish he'd rented a car with warming seats.

### **DESCRIBING ACTION**

Let the reader experience the story instead of telling them the story...

When an author "lists" what a character is doing, they are viewing the scene from somewhere else-- meaning another character or an omniscient POV (and the author usually ends up "telling" what's happening instead of "showing" the action). By "list" I mean what they do through the scene step-by-step. To get deep POV, the author concentrates more on emotion and/or WHY the character is consciously thinking about his own movements.

Combining action, emotion and scene pulls the reader in and keeps them turning pages. Another outside character can't know the true emotional reaction of what's happening to the characters involved in the scene, and an omniscient POV places an interpretation upon the feelings the characters are experiencing.

The following is from my new book *DANGEROUS MEMORIES* (title may change) coming from *Harlequin Intrigue*. The first paragraph is how NOT to write an active scene, followed by what I actually wrote.

#### **NOT ACTIVE, NOT DEEP POV**

Levi watched while people ran to safety at the funeral. He needed to get Joseph's daughter to safety so he ran through the flower arrangements and tackled her to the ground. He watched the wreaths fall onto the casket as roses and rain pelted them.

#### **DANGEROUS MEMORIES (hopefully active and half-way decent)**

Levi hurdled a flower arrangement to get her to safety faster. He should have listened to himself earlier and stood next to her. He heard the shot. Choices? Either hit the dirt or run like those in his peripheral vision. He leapt in a flying tackle to take Joseph's daughter down with him.

He'd pushed hard off the slippery grass, heavily landing on top of Jolene. He turned as much as he could to take the brunt of the fall. Their bodies slid off the fake-grass rug, into the mud.

Wreath stands fell onto the casket.

Roses and other flowers fell on their heads.

Rain pelted them like ice shards.

Levi rolled on top of her, keeping his weight on his elbows and knees, using the bullet-proof vest he wore to shield her heart. If it were only that easy.

**CAN YOU TELL A DIFFERENCE?** The first paragraph *tells* the same information, but doesn't get my heart racing like the section from my book. There's one last thing you need to know about "telling" -- always remember when it's used correctly, it can be a good way to cut to the chase and get the information you need onto the page in the quickest fashion. Bottom line? Be aware of how you're writing and manipulate how it affects the scene and what you want the reader to feel as a result of reading it.



### I CAN'T INCLUDE EVERYTHING SO...

For more Examples of "DEEP POV" go to my [website](#) article.

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*Angi Morgan writes "Intrigues where honor and danger collide with love." She combines actual Texas settings with characters who are in realistic and dangerous situations. Hill Country Holdup went on sale the very night it won the RWA Golden Heart® award and is a Bookseller's Best & Romantic Times Best First Series Book Nominee. Her second Harlequin Intrigue®, .38 Caliber Cover-Up, is a Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence Nominee.*

### FIND ANGI

- Website: [www.AngiMorgan.com](http://www.AngiMorgan.com)
- Facebook: Angi Morgan <http://www.facebook.com/AngiMorgan>
- Fan Page: Angi Morgan <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Angi-Morgan/226637606456>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/#!/AngiMorganAuthr>
- Goodreads: [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4002542.Angi\\_Morgan](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4002542.Angi_Morgan)
- Get Lost In A Story <http://getlostinastory.blogspot.com>
- Intrigue Authors <http://www.intrigueauthors.com/>
- Breathtaking Romantic Suspense <http://intrigue-authors.blogspot.com/>
- A Picture A Day <http://angimorganauthor.wordpress.com/>

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## Spotlight on D'Ann Burrows

By Dawn Alexander

### First, share your good news!

*I just signed a contract with Crimson Romance for an e-book that will likely be published at the end of the summer. I should have more details in the next few weeks.*

**How long have you been writing? When and how did you decide to become a writer?**

*This sounds like such a non-answer, but I really can't remember a time I wasn't writing. One of my most vivid school memories was winning a creative writing contest with a story about a haunted house where everyone who dared to enter...turned into a rubber band.*



*More recently, I was encouraged to become a writer by my husband. I'd taken to writing fan fiction as a way to save my sanity during the time I home schooled my kids. When returning to work as an elementary school teacher began looking less and less likely, Steve encouraged me to consider it a sign that maybe I was supposed to concentrate on my writing. He's been amazingly supportive in the process.*

**What do you write? Tell us about your working in progress.**

*I write a few different genres. My original love is YA paranormal. However, after talking with an editor at a national convention, I learned that breaking into the YA market is insanely difficult. The editor liked my work, though, and encouraged me to try to get published in a different genre so agents would be more open to representing me.*

*So....since I was already wanting to refine my ability to write romantic tension between my characters - turning to romance seemed a natural (and helpful) step. *Small Town Secrets*, the working title of the novel I just signed the contract for, is my first contemporary piece.*

*I also have two additional romantic suspense manuscripts in different stages of the writing process at the moment. I've discovered that romantic suspense is my favorite to write, and I'm about to begin a rewrite of my YA manuscript mixing more suspense in with the paranormal element.*

*Here They Lie is a cross between Nancy Drew and "Medium." Julia and her mother have relocated to a small town following the deaths of her brother and her father. Her mother thinks they need a new start, but Julia would have been far happier if they'd picked a house that didn't come with its own secrets attached. When the ghost of the former occupant begins to try to contact her, she discovers a web of lies and secrets that impact some of the most respected leaders of the town. Christian has grown up in the shadow of a perfect brother. He's worked hard to develop his bad boy image. When he meets Julia, sparks fly, and opposites most definitely attract.*

**What is your writing process like? Do you plot every word or just sit down and start pouring out words?**

*Hmm.... I always have my last chapter written before I get started. I don't think I'd know if I "got there" without a destination in mind. I normally have a couple of middle chapters written as well - for the romantic suspense stories; I try to write my "big climax" scene before getting too far along in the story.*

*Other than that, I'm not a big planner. I'm very much a "by the seat of my pants" kind of writer. I have my destination in mind and I just write till I get there.*

**What made you get involved with NTRWA? What do you remember about your first meeting?**

*Oddly enough, a friend of mine in Canada sent me. I'm a member of SCBWI, and I've gone to one of their national conventions - that's where I met my Canadian friend. Since we both write YA (with more than a hint of romance), she recommended I get involved with my local RWA chapter. It sounded like a good idea. I'd been part of an online critique group that just hadn't worked out because we were all spread out between states (and continents). When my friend said she was really enjoying her local RWA group, I thought it would be fun to try.*

*I remember very little about my first meeting - other than where I was sitting, standing up and telling my "a friend from Canada sent me" story, and sitting next to Clover.*

**What has been the best part of being involved?**

*I'm not overly talkative. I tend to absorb more than I share, but I would never have been brave enough (or understood the ins and outs of the process of submitting) without coming and listening to what everyone has shared.*

*Also, while writing is great from a creative standpoint...it can be really isolating. It's nice to know that once a month I get to hang out with other people who are exactly where I am in the writing process (or they've been where I am).*

**What is something about yourself no one in NT knows (yet :) ) ?**

*Hmmm....I'm not very talkative, but I've shared most of my better stories. I can tell you how I picked my pen name. I write my YA stuff under my real name (well, DK Burrow), so I wanted to distinguish my non-YA writing so a 12 year old wouldn't accidentally get ahold of something I never intended them to read, so I'm writing under the name of Molly Kate Gray.*

*Molly is my dog. She's the schnauzer on my Twitter feed.*

*Kate is my daughter's middle name.*

*Gray is a family name. It's the last name of my maternal great grandparents. The Grays helped found a town a few hours north of here. Several streets are named after family members - including "Gray Street." Since my stories revolve around small towns, the name seemed appropriate.*

**Where do you get inspiration for your stories?**

*I honestly have no idea. Small Town Secrets started while I was on a trip to Walt Disney World with my family. The story opens amid the chaos of families attempting to escape the "happiest place on earth" when a hurricane is bearing down on Orlando.*

**What is the best book you have read recently?**

*I read a lot of YA paranormal - not so much romance. I've recently read *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* and I really liked it because I totally didn't see the ending coming. My favorite YA series right now is *The Body Finder* series. I love how the author balanced the "best friends to lovers" storyline - very tasteful, and it felt very real. Also, the paranormal element of those books is totally amazingly well written - when an author can describe colors and sounds....that's impressive.*

**Where do you see your writing journey five years from now?**

*I honestly don't know. I hope *Here They Lie* has been completed by then. It's an awesome story, and I want to share it. I do think, though, the side trip I've made into romance writing will only benefit the overall story.*

**If you could take a peek into anyone in the world's diary, whose would you read and what would you want to know?**

*Um....honestly, I have no idea on that one.*

**What is your first reaction when someone says, "Oh, I would love to write a book." ?**

*I wonder if they're feeling okay. I adore writing, and I can't complain about the road I've chosen...but I know how very isolating it can be. I've had several people talk with me about the idea of writing a book, and I always recommend finding a group like this chapter to link up with.*

**Do you have a website, blog, twitter, facebook?**

Website - [www.mollykategray.com](http://www.mollykategray.com) <<http://www.mollykategray.com>> I'm normally a pretty computer-savvy person, but I'm not pleased at all with my website at the moment. Primarily, the blog's here as a space holder while I keep researching someone to design a site for me.

Twitter - @MollyKGray

Facebook - I have my personal one, but I haven't created my "author" page yet.

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## *Congratulations NTRWA Members!*

Congratulations to **Barb Han** for selling her sexy contemporary novella *Seducing Avery* to the Champagne Line of The Wild Rose Press.

Congratulations to **Chrissy Szarek** for selling *Sword's Call! It* to Gypsy Shadow Publishing for a 2013 release!

Congratulations to **Cindy Dees** for finaling in the 2012 Rita for Contemporary Series Romance: Suspense and Adventure with *Soldier's Last Stand*.

Congratulations to **Jamie Webb writing as Jamie Wesley** for finaling in the 2012 Golden Heart for Contemporary Series Romance with her *Tell Me Something Good*.

Hats off ladies!

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### Most Pages Written

Suzan Butler - 150 pages  
 Michelle Welsh - 83 pages  
 Jen Fitzgerald - 63 pages  
 Barb Han - 57 pages  
 Dawn Alexander - 50 pages

### Most Pages Edited

Marsha West – 1200 pages  
 D’Ann Burrow - 402 pages  
 Jerrie Alexander - 375 pages  
 Sidney Britol - 330 pages  
 Carolyn Williamson- 270  
 pages

...continued from page 1

Be honest with yourself. It’s good to push yourself, to strive for more, but setting yourself up for failure serves no purpose.



**North Texas Romance  
 Writers of America**

Sometimes real life gets in the way. There are deaths and births or graduations and illness. These events require our attention, pulling it away from our writing and even affecting that writing once the event is over. And that’s okay. Those events add to our life experiences and will help make future books richer.

One of my goals was to take a class this quarter. I did, and I just finished it. Did I learn something? Sure. But it really had nothing to do with the subject of the class. Remember I said I still hadn’t officially finished a manuscript, hadn’t become an RWA Pro? What I learned was that for whatever reason I chose not to finish. *Well, duh*, you say. But what I mean is that when I got to the hard part (which is where I am now on the current WIP) I chose to stop, to not push through, to not do the work necessary to finish. After doing the homework for my class. I’d get back grammar corrections. That tells me I *\*can\** do it. I *\*know\** how to do it. I just . . . didn’t. But knowing, realizing that I can—and maybe that was something I learned how to do these past years—is encouraging to me.

I’m struggling now. I want to put this manuscript aside, but conversely I want to finish it. I’ve new motivations and I’m in a different place than I was a year ago, two years ago. I can do it. Now, I’m choosing to.

Another goal was to write every day, Sunday to Saturday. I have daily goals and I have weekly goals. Even when I didn’t make the daily goal, I always reached the weekly goal. I’ve done that since the beginning of the year and it’s given me the courage/confidence to take part in this year’s Book in a Year program. Last count, there were about twenty of us signed up.

If you haven't, why not? Yeah, twenty-five pages a month may seem like a lot. But it's a page a day. A mere 250 words. Maybe, just maybe, you can do it. Push yourself a little bit. ☺

As for the aforementioned SHINY, I came up with a new plot idea for the class I took. The failure to meet one goal was a deliberate choice I made to focus on the new story rather than the old one. So does that count as a failure? I'd say yes. And no.

If you need accountability, how much? Do you have critique partners that can help you? Is a spreadsheet enough? If answer to both those questions is no, figure out what you need and post to the loop. Maybe someone else needs a helping hand too.

So as we head into April, it's time for my CPs and I to state new goals. Some stay the same: to write everyday and make a specific daily & weekly word count. Others change based on prior accomplishments or decisions. If I've finished a manuscript, it's time to revise and edit and then begin the next one.

On another quick note, I'd like to send out a special thank you to Cindy Dees, published author, and new NT member. She attended our March meeting where we read our blurbs. She was very gracious with her experience and knowledge and commented on each and every blurb we read. I really appreciated her insights and her willingness to share.

Have a great writing month!

*Jen*

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## *Golden Heart Nominee Jamie*

### *Wesley*

By Heather Long

Jamie Webb writing as Jamie Wesley's *Tell Me Something Good* earned a spot as a Golden Heart Finalist for Contemporary Series Romance. Jamie's excitement was contagious and the chapter couldn't be happier for her.

**A Little About the Book:** Two radio talk show hosts, who don't like each other, are forced to do a show together to boost ratings after they call into each other's show when they hear something they don't like. Of course, they discover that first impressions aren't always right. It's funny, sexy, and modern.

**What the nomination means for you:** I'm not a hack! I've never had much luck with contests, so I wasn't expecting to final. I was just hoping to improve on my scores from last year. I'm getting closer to being published-worthy. Hopefully, my dreams are getting closer to becoming reality.



*Seen at the Texas Two Step*



Figure 1 Mari Mancusi (l) and Roni Loren at Friday's signing



Figure 2 Editor/Agent Panel



Figure 3 Loving Reading



While the final figures are still being tallied the Texas Two Step Literacy signing sold \$2200 worth of books! Good job authors!

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## *Don't Forget the May Round Table Critiques!*

In case you aren't aware, May is the month when we strap our published authors to the chairs and beat critiques out of them for the pre-published authors. Okay, it's nothing quite as brutal as that, on either side, but May is the month when pre-published authors can get one on one feedback from our published authors. We have several great authors who've volunteered their time for the May meeting including Shayla Black, Cindy Dees, Wendy Watson, Heather Long Gina Nelson and Nikki Duncan. Also, in the event you cannot attend the meeting, but would like a critique, the lovely Victoria Chancellor and Claire Ashgrove have volunteered to do a long distance critique.

**How many pages?** 20

**Should they be the first 20?** They don't have to be.

**The deadline?** April 16th

**Where do we send the pages?** [nikki@nikkiduncan.com](mailto:nikki@nikkiduncan.com)

If you have any other questions, email Nikki.

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## *Join Us April 21, 2012 for Hypnotism*

Hypnotism. It's more than watching a shiny object swing before you do the duck walk.

Renee Jones is a certified hypnotist who currently works as a counselor, hospital chaplain, hypnotist, writer, and real estate mogul. She says she never wants to grow up because where's the fun in that? Renee will be joining us April 21st to share some insights about hypnotism and who knows what other fun facts!

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newsletter@ntrwa.org  
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**