

CONNECTIONS

the newsletter of the Connecticut Romance Writers Association
Romance Writers of America, Region One, Chapter One

President's Letter

I love maps.

At a recent holiday party, my older siblings recalled that by the time I was age nine or ten, I was in charge of the road map on family trips, as I could follow them better than anyone else in the family. I knew which routes were fastest and which the most scenic. I suggested unlikely shortcuts that even my crusty father learned to trust.

This doesn't mean that I had a need to plan every step of the trip in advance. But I loved knowing the options, or feeling that if we decided to take a side trip, we'd be able to find an alternate route to our ultimate goal.

I'll bet that most CTRWA members aren't really surprised to learn this about me. Anyone who has ever seen me give a workshop knows that I am a lover of planning tools. Charts, graphs, grids, step-by-step processes—I'm addicted. (As I write, the card outlining Michael Hauge's *Six Stage Plot Structure* is pinned to the bookshelf above my desk.)

So, as I begin on my reign, er, I mean my *term* as CTRWA President, I automatically start thinking about setting goals and planning routes to get there. And, luckily for me, I have some maps to look at.

The first is our outgoing President's amazing track record. A year ago, she set some goals, such as increasing membership and making the monthly meetings more dynamic and interactive, and she did an amazing job meeting them.

Another road map is available through our parent organization, Romance Writers of America. At any stop on the route, it's always a good idea to review the goals stated in their mission statement.

The most important maps, however, will come from YOU. After our October 2009 meeting, we held an open forum with our yet-to-be published authors, in which each of the attendees had the opportunity to talk about their current works, their goals, and their challenges. We learned so much about each other, and I really look forward to similar forums with our published authors.

So, I've got some maps. And, from my back-seat-of-the-family-car experiences, I know I don't need to plan the entire route at all once. January is, however, a great time to choose some of the stops we'll want to make along the way. Here are a few:

- ✓ Monthly meetings that not only educate, but that every member looks forward to attending.
- ✓ A successful conference that benefits our members, attracts writers from other genres, and enhances our prestige in the community.
- ✓ A growing, vibrant membership base.
- ✓ An organization that benefits every member, from those just starting out on their journey to those who have made writing their career.

I think it's going to be a fun trip. Won't you join me?

~Toni

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NEXT MEETING: Jan. 9th

Karen Laugel, M.D.
Medical Realism
in Fiction

See page 2 for details.

CTRWA MEETING SCHEDULE

Critique Group: 9:30
General Meeting: 10:30
Speaker: 11:00

Ask a Published Author (APA)
Craft Corner
General Camaraderie

LUNCH
(pay your own way)

CALENDAR

January 9th...Medical Realism with Karen Laugel. Most of us have at least one or two medical issues in our manuscripts...but how many of us are doctors, huh? Not that many. Lucky for us, Karen is, and she'll be on hand to give a great presentation on avoiding medical mistakes in your fiction. The founder of The Fiction Doctor, www.fictiondr.com. Karen is a practicing pediatrician and will take questions from members after the workshop.

February 1...Deadline for returning your judged copies for The Write Stuff...don't forget: manuscript, score sheet for each entry, plus the score tracker. Thanks, guys!

February 13th...speaker to be announced

Keep an eye out for notes on the RWA special board meeting at the end of January...

Our sister chapter, NEC, hosts the Bean Pot Award for Published Authors...deadline for entry is January 8th. Bound copies of e-books are welcomed.



CHAPTER NEWS

2010 CTRWA Board

If there is ever anything you'd like to discuss about the chapter, please let the board know! Names and e-mail addresses are on the last page of the newsletter. And if for any reason, you're uncomfortable sharing publicly, contact Bob. The member-at-large is the liaison between the members and the board. Put him to good use!

Contest Update

Entries went out! Boo-yah! Thanks to Cassy Pickard, Bob Bonitz and Jennifer Iszkiewicz

Conference Update

Connecticut FictionFest 2010 is scheduled for April 24th. Get ready for another informative, invigorating and fun day. For more information, visit www.ctrwa.org and click on FictionFest.

MEMBER NEWS

From **Bob Bonitz**... "Many thanks to my friends in CTRWA. You guys have been wonderful. Your cards and emails and gifts have blown my mind. I am still regaining strength but actually feeling better than i have in months. Re: writing- It's a mixed bag...rejection letters on two stories, one of them not much of a surprise. Yuck, but good news too. I had been struggling the last month or two with my new book. With my health deteriorating I was about to pack it in but then came the heart business. When they opened up my arteries, They opened up the writing jam as well, and I feel like I'm on a roll with my best writing ever. so, thanks again to everyone and happy new year!"...**Linda Avellar** finished a book this year! Boo-yah, Linda! **Kate Smith** finished the rough draft of *Heavy Metal*, her YA steampunk book for HQN and has started work on my next historical...**Kristan Higgins** is gearing up for lots o' promotion for *The Next Best Thing*, which comes out February 1st, and also finished revisions on *All I Ever Wanted*, due out August 2010....**Toni Andrews** will be attending Florida Romance Writers' "Cruise with Your Muse" retreat from January 21-24th, and will no doubt get lots of pages done somewhere between Miami, the Bahamas and Cozumel. Honest. She will also be performing an all day work shop for the Southwest Florida Romance Writers on February 6th in Ft. Meyers, Florida...**Lindsay Downs** was nominated for a CAPA award in the historical category. Congratulations, Lindsay!... **Sandra Karakoosh's** paintings will be on display at "Scenes from the Outer Cape," at the Cheshire Library, from January 5- 30. The opening reception is on January 9 from 2-4...**New member Paula Robinson** says, "I actually started writing a manuscript, result of NaNoWriMo attempt. It still needs a lot of work, but I am following the rule of thumb, "spit it all out, and revise later." It is very hard to keep that internal editor at bay. The second is that I am almost done writing poems for my second poetry book. All I need to do now is type them and put them in some semblance of order. Thirdly, I finally got to hear Jessica Andersen speak about her process. It was very fascinating!"



Member of the Month...Paula Robinson

Tell us about yourself!

Hello all, my name is Paula Robinson and my name was drawn from that wonderful hat of Kristan's for member of the month. I can honestly say that I never thought I would be asked to do something like this. I am very new to the novel writing game. I started this journey very seriously this summer. Currently, I have a couple of things in the works. I am working on something entitled *Black & Blue*. It is still in the beginning stages, but I am still in the learning-the-character phase of my writing. I am also working on a WIP I started for NaNoWriMo, which I didn't win officially, but I call it a win anyway. For the first time, I actually sat down and wrote close to 10K on one particular thing. You see, I am a poet, so the fewer the number of words the better for me. I must say, that novel writing has been a fascinating journey so far. I am still trying to figure out what's going on with the characters in this story. They were college sweethearts, he left to join the military, she had a baby, and some other crazy things are starting to happen. I really don't know where things are going to go right now, but I am just spitting it all out until things make some sense to me. This WIP has no title.

Some highs of your writing journey thus far?

I have had some really amazing highs thus far on this writing journey. Going to RWA San Fran and meeting some of my favorite authors was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I was bowled over by the immensity (not sure if this is the right word) of it all. Then I got to go to the RWA DC, which helped to solidify my decision to join RWA. I was flirting with that idea for a while, but I kept telling myself, I could never write a romance novel. I have since learned that, I can pretty much write anything that I want, I just have to allow myself to get used to the idea of it all first.

Another high was visiting this chapter for the first time. Thank God for Jessica Andersen, because, honestly, I probably wouldn't have gone if she wasn't speaking. It was quite serendipitous when I saw she was the speaker. I loved listening to her talk. She is quite erudite, and the world she creates and her process is absolutely amazing. You see, I checked this chapter out online when I first joined RWA, but I was nervous. Honestly, I am still a little nervous, but you guys have been very open and friendly.

Finally, I would say that meeting the amazing Kristan Higgins was also a high for me. It really was, Kristan. (*Editor's note:* Blush!) I had been following her for about a year, and always wondered about what kind of person she was. I finally got my answer. It was by chance that I came across her. Her titles caught my eye, and then I started to read her blog religiously. I am a big fan-girl, but I try to contain myself. When I met her on my first visit, I was sort of, what's the word...oh, got it, dumbstruck. She came over introduced herself, and I swear my brain froze. It took me a little time to get my faculties back then I reintroduced myself. It was a real pleasure getting to meet her.

Favorite authors and books?

I have always been an avid reader, and I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would be writing a novel of my own. I read all genres, and I cut my teeth on Woodiwiss, Devereaux, Mather, Mortimer, Jordan, Holt, and Cartland at a very young age. Some of my favorite authors are Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Nora Roberts/J.D. Robb, Jessica Andersen, J.R. Ward, Robyn Carr, Carly Phillips, Colleen Gleason, Julie Leto, Leslie Kelly/Leslie Parrish, Janelle Denison, Gena Showalter, Suzanne Brockman, Mary Higgins Clark, Kate Douglas, Tom Clancy, Jack Higgins, Stephen King, Robin Cook, John Grisham, Luanne Rice, Diana Gabaldon, and many more. I love these particular authors because they write stories that resonate with me on a personal and emotional level. I always get lost in their stories, and sometimes it is very difficult to separate myself from the worlds they created. The books they write are the best for me because being able to immerse myself in a story as if I am a character is one of the most amazing feelings I get as a reader.

My favorite books of all time are *Jane Eyre*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *When Twilight Burns*, *Highland Velvet*, *Outlander*, *Virgin River*, and *Skykeepers*. I have read a lot of really good books recently. Currently I am reading *Forbidden Falls* by Robyn Carr, and it is absolutely wonderful. I really missed my *Virgin River* family. I also read Leslie Parrish's *Black CATs* series, and I hope and pray that there is more to come. Jessica Andersen's *Skykeepers* was also a wonderful read. I really wish I could be a part of that world. I finished reading Colleen Gleason's *As Shadows Fade* and I was sad to see that particular series end as well.

What's the next major step for you in writing?

Now, the next major step I need to take in my writing is to finish the WIPs that I am working on. But, baby steps are the way to go right now. Once, I have figured out my own process and gotten more comfortable with my characters, I will be able to take the more adolescent step, and finally the adult ones.

Quotes from Paula's work

Grabbing the phone she yelled, "Look! I don't want what you are selling okay. So, just leave me the..."
 "Patricia," a deep male voice interrupted, "is that you?"
 —from the untitled NaNoWriMo WIP:

"You are gonna regret this bitch," he yells as he walks into the crosswalk. "I know where you live, so you better watch your back. Let's go Angela." —from *Black and Blue*

The Four Agreements for Writers

by Misty Evans

I RECENTLY READ *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz and am trying to apply them to my life, because, hey, like everyone else, I want to help change the world. It begins with me, right?

Applying the four agreements to every area of my life, however, feels like moving the proverbial mountain, so I decided to do a test drive with my writing career. So far, it's working. Better than working, it's actually providing what Miguel promised it would: freedom, happiness and yes, even beautiful art.

Agreement One: Be Impeccable With Your Word. In life, this translates to stop the negative voices in your head and quit gossiping about others. When it comes to writing, you can apply this agreement to the voice inside your head that insists your writing sucks. You can also apply this to your characters.

In the beginning of your story, your hero and heroine are probably lying to themselves and other folks as well, trying to keep a secret buried or their feelings under lock and key. As the story progresses, they should come to terms with their truth, internally and externally, in order for them to grow and achieve a happy for now or happily ever after ending. Be impeccable with your characters actions as well as their words and your story will be hard to put down. Make this particular agreement with your readers, deliver it faithfully, and you'll have fans forever.

Agreement Two: Don't Take Anything Personally. I struggle with this agreement a lot because I take everything personally. Once I came to terms with the idea behind this agreement, though, a weight fell off my shoulders. It's NOT about me. The way others react to me is a projection of their reality, not mine.

Same with my stories. I've learned it's not about me either. It's about The Story. As the insightful Stephen King tells us, we should serve the story, not our ego. When an agent or editor rejects what you write, it sucks, but 99% of the time, it's not personal. Many rejections are based in their reality. They have markets to abide by, budgets to keep in mind, office politics to deal with. They want a book they love and they also have to toe the line and produce a salable product. Yes, the story is your baby, but it's also a marketable (or unmarketable) commodity. The book of your heart is not the book of everyone else's heart. Do what you can to make it the best story out there – serve the story – and keep in mind that rejection isn't personal.

Yeah, I know, a rejection feels like a stake in your heart, but don't give up. Go back to your story, revise it if necessary, and send it out again. Repeat.

Agreement Three: Don't Make Assumptions. Personally, I spend too much valuable time reliving the past

and projecting into the future. If I'd only said this, or did that, or stood up to so-and-so, I'd be happier.

As writers, we make a lot of assumptions too. My critique partner said I better drop my prologue or every agent in the land will reject me. The hero and heroine must meet in the first chapter or I won't score well in this contest. I'm doomed because I've accumulated fifty rejection letters.

Can you feel the drama? The heartbreak? The despair? I know it's challenging, but save it for your characters. Channel it into them. And while you're caught up in their story, pause for a moment to realize you're living in the moment when you're writing. Not the past and not the future – well, at least not your past or your future. You're in the present, no assumptions in sight. Live it to the fullest, and I guarantee it will show in your story.

Agreement Four: Do Your Best. Unlike life, you can redo and rewrite your stories ad infinitum. At some point, however, you have to send them into the world. Don't send your stories out until you've done your best, and if your best still isn't cutting the mustard with contests, crit partners, or agents/editors, figure out why and address it. Stop sabotaging yourself, learn all you can, and you'll end up with a wonderful story you'll be proud to show the world. And hopefully, it will be marketable, too, and an agent or editor will also be proud to show it to the world.

Finally, even if you're not a writer, you're an artist of your dreams, your life. Check out the four agreements, take them for a test run, and see what comes of it.

You might just make beautiful art.

Constantly struggling to improve her life and her art, Misty channels her frustrations into the numerous characters in both her Super Agent and Witch Lit series. Her latest free short story, White Collar Christmas, will be available in December at www.samhellion.com. Visit Misty at www.readmistyevans.com or chat with her at www.twitter.com/readmistyevans.

This article first appeared in the January-February issue of Sandscripts, the newsletter of Cactus Rose RWA.



Revisions: The Good, the Bad, and the Wordle

byCarolynn Carey

Note: Carolynn Carey has no affiliation with Wordle.

FROM WHAT I'VE I've heard about other writers' likes and dislikes, the aspect of creative writing they dislike most is the process of revising their work. I, on the other hand, much prefer revising sentences to actually creating them.

I suspect that my many years as an academic editor contribute to my preference for editing. After all, it's what I'm most comfortable with and what I'm most practiced in doing.

Writing, on the other hand, often makes me feel as though the words I'm seeking are mired in quicksand and it's a pure struggle to grasp them and pull them to the surface so I can transfer them to paper.

Once they're on paper, then it's usually easy enough to see which ones are best left as they are, which need to be tweaked, and which need to be tossed back into the quagmire. Taking a lousy sentence and changing it into one that reads well, that has a pleasing rhythm, and that is imbued with originality is, in my opinion, its own reward.

However, one aspect of revising that is not especially rewarding for me is the process of locating my repetitions and correcting them. Using the same words over and over is one of my problems, and I'm aware that I must be vigilant where some words are concerned. I know, for example, that I tend to overuse the word "felt" and because of this awareness, I stop and think whenever I type that word. Sometimes I decide to leave it, but most of the time I revise the sentence to omit the word.

But what about the words we overuse without being aware that we're doing so? Some people do a search for words, but if you don't suspect you're overusing a word, you'd have no cause to search for it.

Recently I became aware of www.Wordle.net. If you're not already familiar with Wordle, check it out. It's easy to feed text into Wordle, which transposes your text into a "word cloud." The words you use most often in the text become the largest words in your cloud. Generally, the names of your hero and heroine will be the largest because they're the ones you use most often.

However, you may be in for a surprise. I certainly was when I tried Wordle with my work in progress. I first copied chapter one and pasted it into Wordle. Besides character names, the two largest words (meaning they appeared more frequently than the smaller words) were "just" and "back." Truthfully, "just" didn't surprise me that much. I'd been somewhat aware that I was overusing that word.

But "back"? Why was I using "back" so much?

Next I copied chapter two and fed it into Wordle. Again, "back" was one of the most prominent words in the word cloud.

I decided it was time to look into my use of the word "back."

I did a search and sure enough, I had used that particular word over and over. Sometimes I repeated "come back" in consecutive paragraphs and could either substitute "return" or rephrase the sentence. Other times I could omit the word "back" altogether without changing the meaning of the sentence.

Wordle highlighted other words that I also plan to watch for as I write. But be forewarned. Wordle can become a time suck. Once you get your word cloud formed, you can change the font, the colors, and the layout, and the variations appear to be endless. In fact, Wordle reminded me of a kaleidoscope because no two clouds appear to be the same, and once you move away from a cloud for whatever reason, you can't go back.

Wordle is, however, a fun way to help identify words that you use most often and if this aspect of revising is one of your weak points, as it was for me, then give Wordle a try. At worst, you'll waste a little time and at best, you'll identify some areas you need to address when revising your work.

Carolynn Carey's is the author of Cotillion Christmas Spirits, a paranormal Regency. Visit www.CarolynnCarey.com. This article first appeared in the December 2009 issue of Smoke Signals, newsletter for the Smoky Mountain Romance Writers.

Wicked Awesome Quotes

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." – Aristotle

"Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." – Booker T. Washington

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." – Thomas Edison

"All that is necessary to break the spell of inertia and frustration is this: Act as if it were impossible to fail." – Dorothea Brande

We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn." – Mary Catherine Bateson

Get Out of the Scene and Let Your Characters Live Their Story

Notes from a presentation by Wenda Dottridge

THERE ARE FIVE important things to remember about readers:

1. They are fascinated and threatened by significant change;
2. They want the story to start with such change;
3. They want to have a story question [in romance, a character or characters] to worry about;
4. They want the story question answered in the story ending [in romance, a happily ever after];
5. They will quickly lose patience with everything but material that relates to the story question.

*Good stories are driven by cause and effect/stimulus response. In real life, a person's fate is often determined by circumstance, luck or coincidence. Fiction must make more sense than real life and a character's decisions must propel the action, NOT fate or coincidence. And NOT an author's plot choices.

*Popular fiction has a structure, and that structure is based on the scene. Each scene follows a pattern.

1. Statement of a goal.
2. Introduction and development of conflict.
3. Failure of the character to reach his goal, a tactical disaster.

The character must have a long-term story goal, and then a short-term goal for each scene that is reasonably attainable and will help the character attain his/her long term goal. This goal is not subtle. It must be stated or thought and it must be the character's goal, not the author's.

Take three minutes to brainstorm the following for your current WIP:

1. Your protagonist's story goal; and
2. Your protagonist's first scene goal (and resulting or sequel decision).

Generally, we talk about two kinds of fiction: Plot driven fiction and character driven fiction. In my mind, though, all good fiction should be character driven. In plot driven stories, external events push the character's decisions and actions. In character driven stories, character's actions create situations that propel the action. A good example of a plot driven story is *The Da Vinci Code*. Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series is also plot driven and has not a small amount of author intrusion later in the series.

External plot elements can enhance any story, but should not drive the action forward. Think of a strong character driven sit com's like *Frasier*. The external plot element might be *Frasier's* falling ratings. But the conflict and the story action comes from *Frasier's* response to the problem, not the problem itself.



Author intrusion happens when an author's idea for the story (plot) is imposed on the characters, forcing them to act/react in order to meet the author's next plot point.

Now, write out for YOUR story goal for your current WIP. Does it match with your character's story goal? If it doesn't, that's okay. Your goal may be to explore a theme or idea. So long as that theme or idea doesn't clash with the character's goal, you're okay. But if your theme or idea imposes decisions or actions on your character, you're in trouble.

Now, write out your first scene goal for your current WIP. Compare this goal with your character's scene goal. Do they match? Do they clash?

Examples of author scene goals that hurt a story:

1. You have selected a setting for the story, so you have your character make a decision to go to a specific place, or you write a transition scene to get them there.
2. You want the hero and heroine to meet by point A in the story, or you want them to have a love scene, OR they have to have a love scene due to editorial requirements.
3. You have worked out a story plot or outcome that you won't relinquish, even when your characters are moving in a different direction.
4. You have written your characters into a corner with no logical solution to a problem without adding a coincidence or new information.

Brainstorm three other forms of author intrusion.

How to avoid author intrusion: For every scene, either during plotting, writing, or revisions, write down each character's goal and then write down your goal. If they are incompatible, adjust your story goal so your character's goal propels the action, not you.

**Taken from Jack M. Bickman's Scene & Structure, 1993, Writer's Digest Press, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

This article was first used in the July 2008 issue of The Writer's Saddle, the newsletter for the Calgary chapter (CaRWA).

The Writers' Coach: Time and Commitment

by Katey Coffing, Ph.D.

"DON'T SAY YOU don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein."
— H. Jackson Brown, author of *Life's Little Instruction Book*.

Sigh. The truth hurts, doesn't it? Ouch. I'm feeling some twinges myself.

We all lead busy lives. We all have a crazy number of obligations. Sometimes there are things that just get in the way. Life happens.

Even so, there's probably some time in the week that we could all be using a bit more wisely.

I'm not suggesting that you be a slave to your writing. (After all, where's the fun in that?) And you absolutely need to take time off for yourself, to recharge and relax.

But inside, you probably know when you've slid out of relaxation and into procrastination.

"The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." – Michelangelo

Sure, when time gets scarce and our "to do" list could wrap around the world, we tend to aim a little low.

But take some time this month to consider your big goals—things you want for your writing, and things you want for your life. Ask yourself three simple questions:

- (1) Have you decided what your goals are?
- (2) Are you committed to accomplishing them?
- (3) What more could you do this week to reach them?

Now remind yourself about #2...and go forth and conquer.

Goalmeister Katey Coffing, Ph.D. is a 2007 Golden Heart® finalist and a certified life coach who guides women writers to success. She delights in helping her clients complete and polish their manuscripts, create kick-ass queries and synopses, and get The Call from agents and editors. Discover more at Women-Ink.com.



Keep On Keeping On

by Kristan Higgins

WRITING AN ENTIRE novel can be a very daunting task, to say the least. Here are a few methods taken from successful published authors that keep things moving forward.

- 1) Write down a list of your personal strengths and tape it near where you write. You have qualities that are going to help you do this. Remember them.
- 2) Write down a few successes in your life. Are your chocolate chip cookies the best in Texas? Do children love you? Do dogs obey you? Can you tell a great joke?
- 3) Save notes from people telling you how nice/talented/helpful you are. They're not lying.
- 4) Keep a quote nearby that motivates you. Thomas Jefferson, Helen Keller, Fyodor Dostoevsky... whoever speaks to you and hits a nerve, take a look at that before you start writing for the day.
- 5) Keep a copy of your favorite book close at hand. That author once struggled as you are, and she did it. So can you.
- 6) Choose your writing friends well. Surround yourself with people who really believe in you, understand what you're going through and want nothing more than to see you succeed.
- 7) Get help if you need it. Crit groups, writing groups, friends, websites, mentors, teachers...this is tough stuff, this writing! You don't have to go it alone.
- 8) Write every day. Even if it's a line or two, even if you delete it tomorrow. You can't get better if you don't exercise that part of your brain. And you need to get better. We all do!
- 9) Keep an open mind. Try new methods. Listen to those who take a different approach. Maybe there's something there for you.
- 10) Set a timer. Some days, it's really hard to get that butt in chair, hands on keyboard. But if you devote an uninterrupted block of time, whether it's 10 minutes or six hours, you're going to produce something.
- 11) Take some time off. Really rest your brain. You don't finish a marathon, then run another one the next day, do you? Rest. Restore. Relax. You're a human, not just a writer.



Pointless But Fun

What New Year's resolutions have you actually kept?

I'm not big on resolutions, but I met some huge goals in 2009. I'm happy to say that I completed a manuscript this past year and made it to the National convention for a second time. Let's see if my goal of getting an agent and a publishing contract in 2010 comes to fruition. Good Luck to all and a happy and successful New Year. — Paula Sharon

My recurring resolution is to be one of those people incredibly wonderful things just happen to. And with a lot of hard work and a bit of luck, it seems to always happen! — Noelle Brunelle

Years ago I made one and have kept it every year. 'No more New Year Resolutions.'" — Lindsay Downs

Yikes! I don't usually make them, but I have made it to the pool with regularity this past year. — Karen Pinco

In 2005, having just started my first novel, I resolved to have a book contract by the end of the year. I got the first contract in July, and a second one in December! Neither were for that first novel, which I did end up selling in 2006. — Toni Andrews

To keep up my membership at the gym and (gasp) actually go there and actually work out. — Susan Andrews

One was to do NaNoWriMo or attempt it, and I did that. Another was joining RWA and I did that. A third was joining my local chapter, which I am doing now with you guys. — Paula Robinson

My life time record is absolutely perfect. I have forgotten every new year's resolution I have ever made by the next day. — Bob Bonitz

Years back, I complained that I was getting no responses, although I had about 35 pieces out there. My friends suggested I send a 36th, as a New Year's resolution. I did, and before January was out, I had sold 5 or 6 of the pieces and kept going in that direction all year. I've always been grateful for their input and the excitement it brought to my work. Keeping the work out there is a great New Year's Resolution! — Ellie Sullo

Reasons to write an article for your our lovely newsletter

1. You'll realize that even though you struggled with something, you learned something from that struggle.
2. You'll share whatever you've learned with your writing buddies, and they'll appreciate it.
3. You'll have your article posted on the RWA Newsletter loop, and other chapters will pick it up and your words of wisdom will go forth.
4. You'll have something to put on your writing résumé.
5. You'll make Kristan's life easier. She will probably even bribe you.

Articles on just about any aspect of writing are most welcome! They should be 200-500 words long and sent to your beloved newsletter editor at k.higgins@snet.net. Don't be shy! You know how she gets! She'll be on your doorstep, smiling ruthlessly, and she'll wait in your kitchen, drinking coffee until you've finished the article, so...let's just save us all some time, okay? Okay! Thanks!

CTRWA 2010 Board Members

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