



# connections

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



## letter from the member-at-large

*In an effort to help you get to know all the members of the CTRWA board, this space will now be dedicated to a letter from a different board member each month. Barb is one of our two members-at-large, along with Bob Bonitz. Look for a letter from various board members in the future, including, of course, our President, Toni Andrews.*

Welcome to February the *love* month, which as romance writers we know all about. As crafters of this love-smitten genre, we know that being successful takes work and planning, or sadly it all falls apart. In last month's meeting we were given the tools, and the inspiration, to make sure our plans of a successful year do not go awry.

- ❖ Goals should be the right size – Okay, so I won't be a NYT best seller this year...I'll put that on next year's list.
- ❖ Milestones – Celebrate with a mani & pedi, or go out to dinner. Do something that doesn't involve writing.
- ❖ Set little goals – A weekly page count can be a great way to achieve your dream.
- ❖ Make yourself accountable – I have two amazing critique partners who are always inspiring me.
- ❖ Don't be afraid of change – Change is scary, but try it anyway what do you have to lose?

Hopefully you left January's meeting as invigorated, and renewed as I did. I am positive that with the tools above and with the encouragement we get from CTRWA we can reach our goals in 2011.

Barbara Gerwien  
Member at Large

*For a full list of methods to make your goals attainable, please go to the members only section on the CTRWA website.*

“Goals are dreams with deadlines”  
— Diana Scharf Hunt

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next meeting  
february 12<sup>th</sup>

rescue me  
first responders  
panel discussion

## regular meeting schedule

Critique Group: 9:30

Business Meeting: 11:00

Lunch: 12:00. Don't forget to use the website to RSVP for either hotel or brown bag lunch

Speaker 1:00

Bonus Session  
(check calendar)

## member news

**Paula Sharon** entered three contests in January and sent out five queries to agents, is teaching a 6 week writing workshop for teens at the Enfield Public Library this month and is working on her website. *Savage Cinderella* placed second in the Golden Palm with a request from an agent (woot woot!). Paula also got a request for the full of *On Thin Ice* from Jessica Sinsheimer with the Sarah Jane Freymann Agency. Go, Paula!...**Kate Smith's** digital prequel to *The Girl in the Steel Corset* has a title—*The Strange Case of Miss Finley Jayne*. Kate also had her gallbladder out. Living the life, Kate, and glad you're doing well!

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Speaking of doing well, our beloved **Shirley Webb** is in remission! Can't wait to have you back, Shir!... **ZsuZsa Simandy** is doing a reading/signing for her memoir, *Gathering Roses, Thorns and All*, on Feb. 3 from 12-1, at Gather in Ivoryton, co-hosting with Essex Bookstore, as well as a reading/signing called A Taste of Romance at Dagmar's Desserts & Cafe in Old Saybrook, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m.

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**Marian Lanouette** signed up for two seminars, both intense: Editpalooza, in which a professional editor critiques and suggests your work-in-progress; the second on how to produce multiple novels a year, offering some great time management and submission tips... **Tracy Gentes** is a PRO member of RWA! Yay, Tracy! **Kristan Higgins** finished the first draft of *Until There Was You*, due out in November, and is most relieved. Onto revisions...

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New member **Sharon Struth** just completed final draft edits on her second manuscript, *The Hour Glass*. Her first query to an agent for this work yielded an immediate response to send a proposal package. She's also celebrating the publication of her story 'Weighing In,' which appears in the recently released book *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Shaping the New You*. Go, Sharon!...**Kim Fox** was recently on Connecticut Style, Channel 8 on January 19, discussing her book, *To Be a Star*. So exciting, Kim!

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**Rhonda Lane** switched to revising my mystery novel in reverse, last scenes first, to avoid rushing the ending to fit a certain length. You'll have to let us know how it worked, Rhonda...From **Kelly Morse**: "After a bit of a funk, I'm in the process of sending out queries and buckling down to finish revisions on an old, but much beloved MS. And I've started reading again!"

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**Joy Smith** is slogging along on her new book (somewhere beautiful, no doubt), trying to work at least an hour a day. She hit the 100 pages mark last week, so congratulations on that, Joy!  
**Jennifer Fusco** will be a speaker at RWA National! Make sure you go to her incredible workshop, Creating Brand You, which she kindly presented to our group last year.

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And from **Allan Cooper**: "I continue to cleverly plagiarize and so far no one seems the wiser." Oh, Allan! You liar, you!

## calendar

**February 12<sup>th</sup>~Rescue Me: Emergency Services Panel.** Got a thing for those first responder types? Who doesn't? A 911 dispatcher, a firefighter, EMT, SWAT member, Emergency Room PA and a pathologist will take you through what happens when you call 911...all the way to the morgue. Don't miss it, gang!

**Fiction Fest Committee Meeting** after the panel. We need you! And it's fun (really!). Stay and hear some of the jobs we'll need help with at our conference in May, from scheduling agent pitches to welcoming people to the event. Don't forget too that volunteering for the conference qualifies you for free admission to the November all day special workshop.

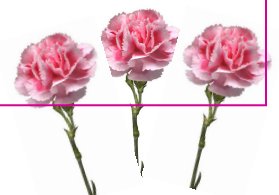
**March 12<sup>th</sup>~ Fran Friel's Roto Rooter for Fiction Writers.** Author and Bram Stoker Award finalist, Fran Friel, says, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that zing."

Your manuscript finally gets to the editor's desk, but what makes it shine from the murky depths of slushville? It's that Zing, baby! It's the thing that makes your writing uniquely compelling. So, how do you get your Zing to sing? This workshop offers practical information to help you discover and hone your zing. Learn to loosen the creativity sucking confines of the first draft internal editor. Find the vital feeling that translates into writing what is compelling for you and for your readers. This workshop will be experiential, so charge your laptop or bring a fresh notebook and pen. We'll be digging in!

## chapter news

**The Write Stuff...**If you haven't yet finished judging your entries, please do! The 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for all judged entries to be back with the coordinators. And thank you! ☺

**Board Meetings...**Remember that you are always welcome (and encouraged!) to attend CTRWA Board of Directors meetings and offer your opinions on the items discussed, which are always posted in the agenda before the meeting.



## member of the month...Stacy Werner, Esq.



### Tell us about what you're working on now.

I have two manuscripts completed, but the one I'm polishing right now is my romance novel *Diary of a Young Lawyer*. For the world's shortest summation:

Introverted and (internally) sarcastic Sue has to handle working for one of the firm's most demanding partners. Unfortunately, she has no experience in the area of law she was hired to practice. If she fails, she'll be fired, and back to being broke. Though Sue quickly excels at her job, she finds there's a new arena to butt heads with the partner - he wants to date her; she does not want to date him. Well maybe.

### What's the next major step you need to take in your writing?

Polishing is critical. A thousand blessings to Bob Bonitz for his amazing transformation of my writing! I hope to get a re-write up to publishable quality within the next few months.

### What's the hardest part of the writing process for you?

Seeing what I'm doing wrong, and, correcting it. (Did I mention a thousand blessings on Bob?)

### What's your favorite part of the writing process?

The complete absorption I have when I'm writing. I can write for hours without feeling time move. (Dangerous, because I can look up and see that it's 5:00 AM, which brings the "Oh, shi\*" response.)

### Any quirks or special talents you'd like to share?

Don't know if anyone would call my legal or political experience a "special talent." I did hold office for 6 years as an elected official, as a member of Trumbull's Town Council. I also ran for State Representative twice. Oh, and I can adequately paint nude figures on canvass.

### Have you been given any great advice on writing fiction, or do you have any to impart?

The Margie Lawson class we had in November was kick-ass (heck, if that's too vernacular, insert the word "inspirational.") It helped me finally catch on to how to improve the quality of my writing. (Loved learning about cadence.)

### Who are some of your favorite authors and why?

Charlaine Harris, because she creates a world (albeit one that's paranormal) where it's so holistic you actually live in it. Jennifer Cruise, because she is more my genre (contemporary single title), so I've looked to her books for guidance. (Though I've got to tell you, there's this Kristan Higgins chick, whose work has got a groove on, too! *all i ever wanted* has a style and story line developed the way I'd like my work to be.)

### Best CT restaurant in your humble opinion?

Central Steakhouse in New Haven is *killer*. NYC quality (think: Smith & Wollensky) at CT prices.

### If you could cast your current hero or heroine, who'd get the call?

Claire Danes as Sue. Danes portrays shy & introverted heroines with humor and depth (*Shopgirl* and *My So Called Life*). For the hero, I'm going with Daniel Craig. He's got the right age & looks for the hero, Jordan. Also, Daniel Craig is really freakin' hot. Major big time. I'm just sayin'.



### From the work of Stacy Werner

**My landlord passed on water and sewer fees to each tenant, a line-item in our monthly rent bill. Being broke, a premonition of unflushed TP gobs in my toilet bowl appeared before me. The ghost of toilets future.**

## Stimulate Your Imagination!

By Lauren Watson, CTRWA Member

EVER WONDER WHY some people can come up with wild, creative stories that involve twists and turns with dynamic characters you could never dream up? Is this an innate talent, a gift given by the cosmos at birth? Not so. This talent can be learned to the degree you're willing to explore your right brain.

You'll need an open mind. Be willing to learn new methods that are from new age origins. The human mind is powerful and barely understood by prominent scientists. Put the need for scientific proof aside. Explore a new frontier in novel writing with courage by stepping into the unknown.

Choose several techniques to explore each week and practice 15-20 min minimum. Do what appeals to you, chant mantras, focus on character pictures, what thoughts and visions come up, strong emotions, intuitions or instincts you feel around your quest. Journal these experiences. Over time, conversations, situations and events may align with some aspect of your novel making the right choice clear. This historical account will help you determine which techniques are most effective to stimulate new story ideas. You'll find your "magic combination" of techniques that enhance your imagination best to take your writing to new heights.

1. Web-internet Searches - Digging for material helps me unearth juicy tidbits that can build an intriguing story. In an open, receptive state, I'll read what was researched and let the stream of consciousness flow. Reading one topic lends itself to research another and so on. This entranced state provides all kinds of woven ideas to build a great story.
2. Meditation - A wonderful technique to develop a stronger imagination, visualizing colorful images with greater detail. Thematic or meditation music (non-vocals) are key to envision inspiring scenes that can take you away. The music is driving and takes your mind along for the ride.
3. Bed Time - Let your dreams do the work. Think about the characters or scene you'd like revealed during the night in its perfect scenario. Write it on a piece of paper, read it over and tuck it under your pillow. Record all the specifics you receive the moment you wake up as not to forget a single detail. This may take a couple of tries.
4. Tarot cards - Tarot is an artistic, creative option to reveal your story's potential. Allow your mind to present best choices through the interpretation of these cards by using your five senses. Follow your gut feelings and first impressions when interpreting the cards.
5. Go for a Drive - When I take a long journey listening to music, I can have a sudden epiphany in resolving problems with my novel. Record these impressions immediately. They can come and go in a flash.
6. Commune **with Nature**. Go for a hike in the woods or your favorite park. Being with animals and nature reconnects us to life. Problems drift away. Do what brings joy and stimulates creative energies in a different way.

*In the summer of 2007, Watson was compelled to write her first novel for a trilogy man's genetic and spiritual change during epic world events. Watson claims her stories allow her to express her deepest explorations in her own creativity and frequently astounds herself. She likens her work as a merging of Dan Brown's pieces-to-a-puzzle, Michael Crichton's realistic science, and Clive Cussler's adventures.*

## The Great American College Essay

By Linda Avellar, CTRWA Member

LAST FALL, MY daughter had to write the dreaded college essay. Thought writing a novel is hard? Try helping a hormonal 17-year-old sell herself in 750 words.

O.K., I said, let's brainstorm.

My daughter's life revolves around soccer, so that seemed a logical topic. But how to start? She had no idea.

You need a strong hook, I told her. The first paragraph has got to grab them. I figured college admissions officers are a lot like agents. A kid has about ten seconds to get their attention.

We talked about themes and the importance of a beginning, middle and end. The essay would be about her demanding soccer coach, but it would really be about her, and what she'd learned from him. The coach isn't applying, I told her. You are.

My daughter, who'd never particularly loved writing, was excited. This was no dull English assignment. This was about her. The essay began to take shape.

A week or so later she announced she was finished.

Oh, no you're not, I told her. You're just starting. Now you revise.

The first draft was pretty good, but nowhere near good enough. But how to critique her without making her defensive? Teenagers can be testy, insecure creatures. Kind of like writers.

Have fun, I said. Write like you're having a conversation.

The second draft was better and the third even better. We polished it until it shone. She read it out loud to hear what it sounded like. It sounded pretty darn good.

She submitted her application and we all held our breath.

In December, my daughter was accepted early decision to Skidmore College, the school she'd set her heart on. When she got the letter in the mail she burst into tears.

We'll never know if it was the essay that made the difference. But what I do know is that my daughter has a new confidence about writing. She dug deep and wrote something really good. And now she knows she can do it.

I know something too. After a college essay, writing a query will be a piece of cake.

*Linda Avellar writes women's fiction and has been through the college application process twice.*



## The Perils of Being Published: Voice Lessons

by Gerry Bartlett

I'VE BEEN IN the middle of a blog-a-thon recently as part of the launch of my latest book. So when my editor asked me to write a couple of blogs for my publisher's website, I dashed them off and sent them to her. No big deal. Imagine my surprise when I got them back with a slap-down. Yeah. Seems they weren't in my funny, Gerry as usual, voice. I needed to punch them up. Make them sparkle. Like my books do. Sure. I'd just gone through the rewrite from hell. Sparkle? My brain was fried, my bulb was burned out and I felt as funny as... fill in the blank. Obviously I can't think of anything here. And, by the way, getting a blog on the publisher's website was a **BIG DEAL**. Oh, and she needed it by the next day. Don't you love it?

Okay. Now the bottom line is that I do want to sell more books. So I attacked the challenge after I did the required amount of cursing, venting and complaining to close friends and family. I reread the first blogs I'd sent. Not bad. But, uh oh, a bit bland. Now my excuse is that these were the tenth or twelfth blogs I'd written in a week. But since this was a **BIG DEAL** and it was my editor, a woman who had just offered me another contract, putting on the pressure, well, I was suddenly feeling creative. I thought about what was missing. She was right. My voice wasn't there. Any relatively competent wordsmith could have hacked up those gems of wisdom on vampires. They didn't sound uniquely Gerry Bartlett.

Do I know my unique voice? You bet I do. I've lived with her (yes, my voice is a female) all my life. And she comes through in my writing whether I want her to or not. My best stuff happens when she is on fire, really paying attention to the way the words are hooking together, listening to the rhythm of the sentences and the pacing of the paragraphs. Yes, I can write funny stuff and the Glory St. Clair series, the one I was hawking with these blogs, is supposed to be light paranormal. It's not all a laugh riot, but the overall tone is fairly humorous. So I had to stick with that in those blogs. I rearranged sentences, made most of them a lot shorter and gave the pieces new titles. One was now called "Hot Heroes Can Bite Me." I'd only turned in two blogs but was allowed three so I added a new one. I sent them to my editor and she said she "loved" them but still used her red pen. I was fine with it. She's great at getting to the heart of a story and seeing where it needs a fix.

Do you have a distinctive voice? If you aren't sure, ask someone about it who reads your stuff. It may be the way you string sentences together, the words you choose or the kinds of characters you create. Whatever it is, it's important that you use that voice everywhere in your writing. I've tried to be pretty consistent on Facebook, on my website, and on twitter. Even in this column I bet

you've gotten used to the way I write my articles. I admit I knock them out pretty fast because I think about them awhile before they come pouring out. That's the way you know your voice is in charge—when the writing flows for you. It also sings when you're writing what you love, not what you think will sell but isn't exactly your favorite thing to read. That's a red flag. Don't go there. The writing will sound clunky. Out of voice.

Two lessons to take from this month's Perils: First, discover your true voice, own it and use it everywhere. Second, your editor buys you for your voice. It's what will make your book stand out from the slush pile and what will keep readers coming back for more. Lose it and you lose your place on the shelves. Lucky for me my editor saw the problem with those blogs right away. She knows my voice because we've done seven books together. And she won't accept less than the best from me. Which is what will help us both keep our jobs. At home I can be bossy and a b\*\*\*\*. But my editor will never see that side of me. I can't afford to be a Prima Donna, especially in this economy. So I have my meltdowns offline then do what needs to be done. Because while it may be perilous to be published, it's all I've ever wanted.

*Gerry Bartlett's latest Glory St. Clair book, REAL VAMPIRES HAVE MORE TO LOVE, hits bookshelves December 7, 2010.*

*This article first appeared in the December 2010 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA.*

### Trying to figure out the art of blogging?

These are among the best according to the Internet Writing Journal (they're alphabetical, so visit the website for more) [www.internetwritingjournal.com/authorblogs](http://www.internetwritingjournal.com/authorblogs).

- [Alison Kent blog](#) by Alison Kent
- [Between the Lines](#) by David Allen
- [Beyond the Beyond](#) by Bruce Sterling
- [Blatherings](#) by Debbie Ridpath Ohi
- [Book Tour Virgin](#) by Will Clarke
- [Buzz, Balls and Hype](#) by M.J. Rose
- [Cabbages and Kings](#) by PJ Parrish
- [Carolyn's Blog](#) by Carolyn Jewel
  - [C.J. Barry's Blog](#) by C.J. Barry
  - [Contrary Brin](#) by David Brin
  - [Craphound](#) by Cory Doctorow
  - [Dave Barry's Blog](#) by Dave Barry
- [Diary of a Mad Romance Author](#) by Kathleen O'Reilly

## The Joys of Editing Part II - Going Deeper

by Robin Haseltine

AFTER YOU'VE MADE a few editing passes through your manuscript, put it away. Take your mind off your current project. Read craft articles, enter contests, judge a contest, work on your blogs, catch up on correspondence, even <gasp> clean out a closet or two. List other story ideas, write a synopsis for one, or begin another project. Make sure to be away from your manuscript for a week or two.

You're ready for another crucial pass: Deepening emotion, and ensuring your story flows smoothly from start to finish.

### Storyline Analysis

Start by jotting (from memory if possible) a summary of your story in a logical sequence, highlighting the most important events, i.e. first meeting/inciting incident, turning points, climaxes, black moments, and conclusion. Then, search for these in your work and analyze each of these sections. While you're scanning, have you found important incidents you didn't include in your summary? Ask yourself if they add to the plot or characterization and forward your story. If they do, consider ways you can strengthen them to make them more memorable. If not, see if you can shorten them, roll them into another scene, or eliminate them altogether.

### Strengthen your Storyline

Follow your plot points from beginning to end. Check for that sagging middle, or those dead-end forks in the road. Add intermediate steps, or scenes, if necessary, although gaps can often be filled in with a few sentences. Next, keep your final summary as either a visual road map or bulleted list by your computer.

### Scene Analysis

Examine each of the important moments you highlighted in your summary. Are they clear and concise? Will you evoke the proper reaction from your reader? Is there a logical flow of emotions from your characters? Is the characterization even and predictable? Do you have sequels, where your characters react and make decisions for future actions based on what transpires during those most important scenes?

### Strengthen your Scene

One of the easiest ways to make scenes pop is through deepening emotion via action, internal monologue, and dialogue. Use literary techniques like simile, metaphor, repetition, and ending your sentences on power words to blast your readers with feelings. Hate. Death. Anger. Joy. Hope. Consider a flashback to show why this scene hits the character so hard.

### Put it all together

For a final run, try to work one chapter at a time and finish in as few days as possible. First, read through an entire chapter, checking again for inconsistencies, which often occur after tinkering with characters and plot. If you've eliminated a scene, make sure you don't reference it later on. After editing for smooth, rhythmic writing, and variable sentence structure and length, run your chapter through [www.autocrit.com](http://www.autocrit.com) to check for phrase repetition and readability. Finally, have the computer read the chapter while you follow along.

As you work from one chapter to the next, refer to your bulleted list to ensure you've maintained a smooth path from start to finish. Once you reach "The End" use your summary guide to write your synopsis, short and long blurbs, and begin composing those important query letters.

*Robin Haseltine is an award-winning parenting columnist with articles appearing on Oxygen, Moms Online & Oprah.com. Robin has been writing fiction since 2006, finaling in several contests and working with an agent in pursuit of a book contract.*

*This article first appeared in the December 2010 edition of In Print, Houston Bay RWA.*

### Top Ten Most Romantic Valentine Gift Ideas...

- Something engraved or inscribed. Just spell the name right.
- Theater tickets to something your honey likes. Not something you like.
- An "of the month" membership.
- Something vintage. Chicks dig it. Men too.
- Something cashmere. Ditto.
- Weekend getaway

### ...and the Top Ten Least Romantic

- Celeb-designed jewelry. Come on. You can pick out something without Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.
- Work out gear. "Get your butt to a gym, hon."
- Gift certificates. "Didn't have time, didn't give thought."
- Self Help books. "You need work, babe."
- A stuffed animal. How old are we again?
- Tools. Should be self-explanatory.

*List edited from AskMen.com*

## The Two-Minute Pitch

Pitching is hard. You'll be nervous no matter what (unless you're that one in a hundred). But if you talk *to* the person rather than *at* the person, you'll feel less like you're reciting a summary and more like you're just talking about a project that's near and dear to your heart.

### A few ways to start...

- I love this story because...
- I came up with this idea when...
- I love stories about...

### Then move onto why your protagonist embodies a longing we can all relate to.

- All her life, Scarlett has wanted two things: be a great lady like her mom and marry Ashley Wilkes.
- Harry has always felt overlooked, but sometimes, strange things happens when he gets mad.
- Harper has a plan, and the first step is getting her boyfriend to marry her.

### Next step, the call to adventure.

- When Civil War breaks out, she finds herself caught up in an entirely new life, marrying a man just to stay close to Ashley.
- On his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, Harry learns that he's a wizard and has been invited to attend a special school.
- Then her sister calls with the news that she's getting married...to Harper's ex-brother-in-law. After 12 years, Harper will have to face Nick, her ex-husband, for the first time since their divorce.

### Then, what complicates matters.

- In and out her life comes Rhett Butler, a man different from the typical Southern gentleman, but someone who encourages her to be her true self.
- At Hogwart's, Harry learns more about the evil wizard who killed his parents.
- When her transportation plans fall apart, Harper finds herself going on a road trip with her ex.

### Finish with the main challenge of the book.

- Scarlett will have to survive the war and learn to negotiate a new world, in addition to discovering which man is really the one for her.
- Harry will have to face his mysterious past and confront the wizard the entire magical community fears.
- Harper will have to reexamine the past and possibly redefine her future to include the one guy who really broke her heart.

**And the final question...**"So can I send you a partial, or do you have any questions?" Either the editor simply needs more info, or the answer is "Yes! I'd love to read more." If the answer is yes, take her card, and get out of Dodge. Pitch complete!

Based on Michael Hauge's  
*Mastering the Two-Minute Pitch.*

## Who Does What On the CTRWA Board

Have a question about CTRWA? Not sure whom to ask? The following is a list of who handles which responsibilities on the board...take a look so that if you do have a question, you can go directly to the source.

**First of all, please check our website, [www.ctrwa.org](http://www.ctrwa.org).** Meeting info, membership benefits, workshops, conference, contest, etc. And please check out the Members Only Section, which was designed just for you! There is a wealth of information there; the password is wallingford, all lowercase. If you can't find the answers on the website, for questions on...

Programs, workshops, bonus sessions, speakers, conference, anything related to the meeting venue services, your ability to get free stuff for our chapter:

**Jennifer Fusco, VP/Programming**  
[jenniferafusco@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferafusco@gmail.com)

Loops, member benefits, when to pay, change in email, phone or address, where to find general information, how to become involved in the chapter:

**Jennifer Iszkiewicz, Membership Director**  
[jmp3274@gmail.net](mailto:jmp3274@gmail.net)

Having our meetings featured in your local paper, press contacts you may know, angles you think might get CTRWA media coverage:

**Susan Hanniford Crowley, Publicity Director**  
[onlyladyknight@yahoo.com](mailto:onlyladyknight@yahoo.com)

When and how and where to pay for your membership, contest, conference, meals:

**Janet Messina Treasurer**  
[janmessina@comcast.net](mailto:janmessina@comcast.net)

Writing an article for our newsletter, having your website/name/PRO or PAN status on our website, featuring your news on our Facebook page

**Kristan Higgins, Media Director**  
[k.higgins@snet.net](mailto:k.higgins@snet.net)

Mentorship program, difficulty in accessing loops, issues within RWA National or the publishing industry at large:

**Toni Andrews, President**  
[toni@toniandrews.com](mailto:toni@toniandrews.com)

Concerns with or suggestions for the chapter you wish to have addressed confidentially:

**Barbara Gerwien**  
[gerwienb@yahoo.com](mailto:gerwienb@yahoo.com)  
**Bob Bonitz**  
[bonitz99@yahoo.com](mailto:bonitz99@yahoo.com)

pointless but fun

What's the most memorable line  
you've come across lately?

"An artist should create beautiful things, but should put nothing of his own life into them." — Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, courtesy of Kate Smith.

"When Love cast me out, Cruelty took pity on me."—Kushiel's Dart by Jacqueline Carey, courtesy of Shaune Cole

“Clete Purcel had heard of people who sleep without dreaming, but either because of the era and neighborhood in which he had grown up, or the later experiences that had come to define his life, he could not think of sleep as anything other than an uncontrolled descent into a basement where the gargoyles turned somersaults like circus midgets.”— *Swan Peak* by James Lee Burke, via Toni Andrews

“And in the midst of that single breath, as her shoulders fall, and she looks down and slowly exhales so she won’t explode, I spot that little dark terrified space that she reserves for just herself.” Brad Meltzer, *Inner Circle*, submitted by Rhonda Lane

The one thing nobody asked in casual conversation, Darcy thought in the days after she found what she found in the garage, was this: How's your marriage? - Stephen King, *Full Dark, No Stars*, courtesy of Jennifer Fusco

"When you persevere, you find out who you are." Thomas Wolfe, via by ZsuZsa Simandy.

"I don't know how it happened or what sort of backroom deal went down, but apparently I'm living in a small Texas town with two culturally clueless imposters for legal guardians, when I just know my real parents are out there somewhere." -- from *Whip It* by Shana Cross, submitted by new member Christine Wunch

“Don’t sit down! You’re not tired!  
You’re fine. Get that outta here! He  
don’t need it! Is he looking over at  
you? Shake your head like you don’t  
need it. Shake your head like you  
don’t want it. There.”

—Jou Gould (Paul Giamatti) to  
James J. Braddock (Russell  
Crowe) during the title fight for  
heavyweight champion against  
Max Baer in *Cinderella Man*

2011 ctrwa board

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