



# The Oak Leaf

**April 2011 issue**

**Charter Oak Chapter # 194 Romance  
Writers of America**

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**From the Editor's desk:**

**W**elcome: It's hard to believe April is here already; this long awaited month of leaving snowy winter days behind, and anticipating spring. One thing about CORW is whether April or December we can be sure our chapter doesn't stand still. Rarely a month slips by when something new or exciting isn't happening or being planned. Plans for the retreat are well under way, as is the contest.

Be sure to check out our member of the month, featuring Tina Kane, who has served as CORW treasure for two years and is now in her second term as CORW secretary. Tina has been a contest coordinator for four years, and has also worked with **Stefani** to revamp the score sheets in order to use a semi-automated method to add up the scores. She is currently filling in for a judge for CTRWA.

A big **THANK-YOU** to all who replied to the survey on e-Readers. (see write-up). Hopefully this will be helpful for those who are thinking about purchasing an e-Reader in the future.

**An apology** goes to Jody. In the last issue I inadvertently cut and pasted her column in the wrong order.

**A reminder** - The Oak Leaf should be a whole member effort. Please contact the editor at [irisstjames@gmail.com](mailto:irisstjames@gmail.com) with ideas and suggestions of what you would like to see in future issues or if you would like to help with the newsletter in any way – even if it's only to collect columns and news from members will be a great help. Also, do we have a volunteer proof-reader to go over each issue before it's sent out? Does anyone have skills at laying out a newsletter? Future surveys and story ideas are always welcome.

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| President: Melva Michaelian                 |
| Vice President: Kathy Thornton              |
| Secretary: Tina Kane                        |
| Treasurer: Karlee Etter                     |
| Programs Chair: Kate Rothwell               |
| Member-at-large: Kristine Crimmins          |
| Contest Coordinator: Stefani de Ravin –     |
| Founding President: Helene Radjeski-Edwards |

## President's Corner By Melva

The year 2011 has started with a blizzard of activity. The weather came close to canceling our first two meetings, but it didn't dampen our spirits. The Book in Six Weeks event was extremely successful for the chapter, and there were numerous personal successes among our members as well.

Many of us have met some of our short term and long term goals, and an equal number are still in the process of achieving them. As wonderful as the destination is, it's necessary for us to remember to enjoy the journey. Being able to share our victories and valleys with others who understand the frustrations and thrills of the creative process and who can rejoice with us when one of us finishes a work or finally gets "the call" makes that journey much more pleasant. We seem to work well apart because we are also working together.

I cannot tell you how proud I am to be a part of Charter Oak Romance Writers, where we all contribute to each other's success. I look forward to the coming months, for I know they will yield some truly great experiences.  
Melva

**We seem to work well  
apart because we are also  
working together MELVA**

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## Writing for Harlequin By Amanda Berry

*The following article first appeared in the October 2010 Edition of the Ruffled Sheets, the newsletter for the Missouri RWA chapter. Permission is granted for other RWA chapters to use when appropriate credit given to the author - Shawntelle Madison – Editor*

I'm still a new kid at Harlequin. Last September I received the call from my editor for L.A. CINDERELLA. By June 2010, my book was on shelves. It's been an amazing ride so far.

I was asked to give advice on writing for contemporary series romance. My first advice is if you are targeting Harlequin, go to eHarlequin.com. There are amazing articles, what each line is looking for and a forum for questions.

The main thing with category romance, it has its own unique voice. It's not something you'll find by reading an article or trying to copy a formula. This same advice will help you pick which line feels like your writing. Read. Read a lot. Before I sat down to write L.A. Cinderella, I read almost a dozen Silhouette Desires, which had been my target line. Somewhere in the writing of it, Chase became a little less arrogant alpha. And the storyline suited Special Edition better.

Enter contests if you want feedback before submitting. Aunt Agnes is only going to tell you how cute it is that you wrote a book. Your friends don't want to hurt your feelings. But a judge in a

contest is there to judge your work (hopefully they are nice about it). That feedback can be invaluable to help you improve your story and if you final, generally it's a Harlequin editor who is the judge.

About editors in Harlequin, my editor is not an editor for the Silhouette Special Edition line. She's an editor of another line, but she does have a few authors who write for Special Edition. Just because the final editor judge of the contest isn't in the line you are targeting doesn't mean they won't request your full and buy you for another line or pass you on to the appropriate line.

Another thing to remember is write what you love. If you sell a Special Edition, they are going to want more Special Editions. If you sell a Blaze, they are going to want more Blazes. It may be a while before you hop lines. This goes for almost any writing though. If you have one book that's a genre you aren't passionate about, it may not be the best book to sell first. Your publisher is going to see more of not the same, but similar books.

About the waiting, I received a full request on my contest win and after 3 months of waiting I received the call. My second manuscript we sent at the beginning of March. I received a revise and resubmit and got it back to them in July. I'm still waiting to hear whether I'll get an offer on it. So the waiting game doesn't end and rejection doesn't end with publication. It's kind of like when they tell us as teenagers that our pimples will magically disappear when we turn twenty. I'm still waiting for that day.

Read until you find what you love and then write that. Enjoy your writing and it will shine through. Good luck!

## The Write Way - By Jody Lebel



**W**hich phrases were coined by William Shakespeare? (No peeking on the Internet!)

A foregone conclusion.

A drop in the bucket.

All's well that ends well.

All that glitters is not gold.

At his wits end.

Eat, drink and be merry.

As pure as the driven snow.

As old as the hills.

As dead as a doornail.

A sorry sight.

Answers: #1, #3, #4, #7, #9, and #10

## How I Got Back to Writing By Kris Crimmins

Just like so many others, life gets in the way of writing. Family, health, and home maintenance spoke very loud to me as well as the opening of a cooperative gallery. My writing projects were literally tabled in boxes including cardboard, fancy artistic, and basket type files. So much so that my son commented, "Ma, this room is starting to look like you belong on 'Hoarders'." Alas, Book in Six Weeks came along.

Thank you CORW for making it a two times a year event . . . BISW to the rescue. The encouragement and the knowledge that others I knew were out there typing away are a good motivator. And not only that, but the daily sprints I participated in with two other writers are incredibly helpful. The combination has met my needs and kept me thinking not all is lost. The sprint group turned into a critique group, one in which we can give each other minute by minute inspiration and helpful writing tips. Three minds are better than one

(Proof that critiquing is valuable, important and a necessity) and is another step toward publication.

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## Acorns - Helene-Radjeski-Edwards



Any gardener knows the value of mulch. Mulch cools the roots in the summer, shelters small plants, smothers weeds and warms during the winter. Mulch can add color as well. The right type can decompose and feed the plants. The variety available – rocks, wood chips, plastic sheets, shredded tires.

So why discuss mulch? It occurred to me the right “mulch” helps me write. Yep. Picture me as a plant wanting to blossom, in other words, an author writing a book. What do I need?

Protection from the elements, maybe a quiet corner. How important have you found that small special place to spread your writing roots? I usually need my own desk, a comfortable chair, my computer to settle, but there have been times when a beach chair and a legal pad worked. I surround myself with that blanket.

Stimulation? We need mental nourishment. Do whatever is necessary to fire up the fires of imagination. Go to a movie, read a book, knit a sweater, take a nap. Wait, nap? Einstein slept in short naps and look what he did.

Food. Maybe. I've cut back on snacking because of the secretary spread, but I do indulge in hot tea, a piece of fruit or whatever I need for comfort food. Writing can be an emotional drain.

Plants don't need exercise, but people do. I just learned it's better to move for five minutes every hour than to wait to do twenty minutes after four hours of sitting. So stretch those leaves and roots frequently. It gets the sap flowing.

Think about our needs and use the best mulch for your garden.



### Meet Long-Time Member - Tina Kane

**Do you have a pen name?** (If so, what is it?) I am thinking

of using the pen name of my heroine from my last MS that was told in the first person (she is a writer of romance novels). I had a lot of fun using her voice and my current WIP is also being told with her as the narrator. Since I may well be submitting that work to the Golden Acorn Contest, I don't want to tell you what it is at this moment in time.

**How long have you been an RWA member?** I believe it is five years.

**How long have you been a member of CORW?** Five years.

**Do you have another job besides writing?** (What is it?) Oh yes. I'm a project manager at Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company. I work primarily on Compliance and Regulatory Projects, which I find fascinating. I'm currently in the fourth and final year of a project, and have another 'small' one I am also leading. I am currently responsible for leading about 30 developers, business analysts, testers, as well as subject matter experts, attorneys, compliance specialists and others. I work a lot with a huge variety of people, everyone from processing clerks to senior VPs. Talk about being exposed to many different slices of life...

**How long have you been writing?** In one way or another, all my life. I started my first romance novel in my twenties, but I had no idea what I was doing. I began writing seriously about eight years ago, as time and my other responsibilities (family, work) allowed. In fact, I started writing seriously when I was working for someone who made my work life miserable. I needed to take my future in my own hands and find an alternative...follow my bliss as it were. I haven't stopped since.

**Have you had anything published?** (Please explain) Ack. When I was much younger, I had an article published in an insurance company newsletter. The only other thing truly was my father's obituary last year. I'm actively looking for representation however.

**Do you have a favorite "craft" book that you would recommend that helps you with writing?** It's hard to think of just one. It really depends on where I am in the process. I focus mostly on craft books such as Bird by Bird by Lamott, Story by McKee, and The Writer's Journey by Vogler. I know I should be reading more about strategies to get published.

**Tell us about your "work space" for writing.** I have two places I like to write. One is the family 'den' where I have a laptop stand and a canvas hung up which I can use to pin inspirational items to (photos, quotes, reminders). The other is an easy chair in my living room with my laptop on a lap desk. It all depends on my mood, and if someone

else is using the den at the time. I find for me that the best writing ‘space’ is more a state of mind, providing I have something to write with and a place to keep my note cards.

**When you’re stuck in your writing, what do you do to get “unstuck”?** I will just keep at it. I have so little free time, that I’ve trained myself that my evenings, after dinner is done, when everyone else is busy doing what they are going to do, is my writing time no matter where I am. For my past several MS, I’ve done a lot of research ahead of time on my characters, their professions, hobbies, the plot and conflict, so I usually have a very good idea of where the story is going to go and what needs to happen. That is not to say sometimes things ‘happen’ in the story that make me veer away from my careful plans, but that’s when things get exciting and the words really flow. I think I find my ‘stuck’ times more when I’m plotting, so I just keep going over what I have from different angles until something clicks. I also have several books that inspire me, along the lines of ‘what would your character do if...’

**What was the last book you read that you would recommend to others?** Spellweaver by Lynn Kurland. About six months ago, I found a book of hers on my shelf... I don’t recall when I bought it, but I had nothing else to read one day and started it. She does mostly medieval romances with some paranormal, and all paranormal with some romance thrown in. They’re not very sexy but they are very emotional and satisfying. This is the second in a series and I hate that I have to wait a whole year until the final in the series is published. I’m also a big fan of Susan

Elizabeth Phillips and just started reading Dream a Little Dream for the fifth time.

**What inspires you to write?** The stories in my head, snippets of conversation I overhear. Dreams of fame and fortune...

**PERSONAL INFO:**

I’ve been happily married to the same man for 23 years. I have a daughter Emily, 20. She’s a junior studying education at Central Connecticut State University. I also have a son Jonathan, 17. He’s a senior and we’re waiting to hear from several schools to determine where he’ll be heading in the fall to study music composition, viola and possibly physics.

**In which state do you reside?** (speaking geographically not emotionally here!) I’ve lived in Connecticut most of my life, though I spent several years in both Worcester MA and Madison WI.

**Any goals or dreams either personally or professionally?** I would love to publish some of my stories. It’s a dream to be able to supplement my income that way, and perhaps be able to retire early and continue to write. I’d love to begin to travel once my kids are done with school, and what better way to see the country than on a book tour.

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## **The Key to Marketing Your Book: Be Everywhere** **By Ophelia Maynard**

*(printed with permission)*

Back in July, I sold my first completed work of romantic fiction to **Amira Press**. My debut release is entitled - **The Arrangement**. As an unknown author, I had to figure out how to get sales. My mailing list consisted of friends, family, and a few fellow authors, so I really needed to expand my customer base. Treating my book as a product, I created a marketing strategy. Because of this strategy, **The Arrangement** debuted at number two at my publisher's site. It quickly became and **remains a number one bestseller**.

So, how do you get sales when no one knows who you are? Be everywhere.

This basically means have a presence wherever your customers are located. I've seen statistics that state a customer has to see your product from seven to ten times before they'll act. There's no way for us to know how many times a potential customer has seen or will see our products. Therefore, we just have to be everywhere. Think about when Reebok launched the Easy Tone shoe. It seemed like their ads were all over the place, promising to firm your thighs and butt. The ads were on television, in magazines, and there were special displays in department stores.

As writers, we need to generate the same visibility and buzz. No matter how great our books are, if no one knows about them, they won't get read. Since we don't have the personnel and advertising dollars Reebok does (at least I don't), try these zero cost and low cost ideas for creating visibility.

1) **Guest blogging. Create visibility** by guest blogging on popular sites to generate interest in your book and drive traffic to your Web site. Blog on the sites of established authors and romance reader sites, and you'll have exposure to thousands of potential readers. Google "top 50 romance blogs" for a great selection. Bloggers are often looking for good content, and it doesn't cost you anything but your time.

2) **Participate in groups. Join groups**, but don't limit yourself to reader groups. Join writer groups too. Romance writers are good customers because we read the genre in which we write. Writer groups are also good for getting information about promotions by other authors, publisher submission calls, and learning about the romance industry in general.

**Pay attention to** how many members are in the group. Remember, you're trying to get the most exposure possible, so the larger the group size, the better. By spending just a couple of hours a week joining in the conversation, you greatly increase your exposure to potential readers. Be sure to have at least your Web site and your book in your e-mail signature. Check out Yahoo groups and Goodreads groups. In Goodreads, set up an author profile. Find what works for you, and work it. There are so many choices!

3) **Author interviews**. Once again, sites are often looking for good content. I've done

several interviews as part of my virtual book tour. It's a great way for potential readers to learn more about you as a person, and you have the opportunity to plug your book by sharing an excerpt, the cover, and maybe even your book trailer. Romance at Heart online magazine will do an interview at no charge, but so will established authors who want to generate good content on their Web site. I've done several author interviews and gotten free publicity from answering the call in the forums from authors who are willing to offer free promotions on their site.

4) **Ads.** I was surprised to find so many places online where I could get inexpensive ads. By inexpensive, I mean \$5-\$35 per month. Set a budget and then do your research. You want to get the best bang for your buck. I focused on sites that allowed me to place a one month ad, instead of being locked into a multi-month agreement. I also asked the sites how many members they had and how many hits they received per month. If you have \$35 to spend, would you spend it on the site that gets 1,000 hits per month or the site that gets 10,000? Here are a few places where you can run inexpensive ads and get lots of exposure: Long and Short Reviews, Night Owl Reviews, and Affaire de Coeur magazine.

5) **Offer free reads.** I have a free read on my Web site entitled Model Behavior. It gives visitors to my site a taste of my writing style. Free reads can also be a good marketing tool on other Web sites. I used the same story and offered it on my publisher's site, there's a link to it at Romance at Heart magazine online, and it's available at AllRomanceEbooks.com. (I believe you must have a publisher to get your free read on AllRomanceEbooks.com. Amira Press posted my story for me.)

I hope these tips from a newbie helped. Good Luck!

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Ophelia Maynard has an MA in Marketing and works as a freelance writer and copyeditor in Atlanta. She writes sweet and sensual romantic fiction as Delaney Diamond. Her debut novel, *The Arrangement*, is currently available at Amira Press and received 4.5/5.0 blue ribbons from RomanceJunkies.com. Go to <http://delaneydiamond.com> to read excerpts. Join her on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/delaneydiamond>.

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### Books for Living and Giving By Ellie Sullo

This week's reviewed book is a thick one that was highly recommended to me by a thoughtful young man disturbed about what he finds on his plate these days. I was also interested in the sources of our food, but when I picked the book up at my library, I sighed at its weight and thought, I'll read a couple of chapters and bring it back. Trust me, I didn't bring it back until I had read the

first few chapters twice, and then went on to complete every other chapter, too.

If you are interested in making sure your family eats the healthiest food you can find for them, give *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan a try. The author examines what he calls "our national eating disorder" and traces the problems with our food today through a clear-headed journey up and down

the food chain, from farms to feedlots to fields and forests. You can't help but get involved in the narrative when you discover how most beef is raised, how corn and soy products are causing the rash of obesity in our country, and how maneuvered we've all been by giant agribusiness. Chicken McNuggets, Twinkies and yes, even Whole Food stores get the glare of the spotlight, and trust me again, you just may change the way you shop for food and prepare your family's meals in the future if you read even a few chapters of the Omnivore's Dilemma.

Consider that of the 45,000 items in a supermarket; more than a quarter contain corn. Pollan "meditates on the freakishly protean nature of the corn plant and looks at how the food industry has exploited it, to the detriment of everyone from farmers to fat-and-getting-fatter Americans." But Pollan writes more as a naturalist than a whistle-

blower, and his research is impeccable. And he doesn't just garbage-dump his horrifying facts; he offers hope through several food side trips, one to a small utopian Virginia farm, and assembles a feast from things he's foraged and hunted. Never preachy, Pollan is too thoughtful a writer and too dogged a researcher, as one reviewer says, to let ideology take over. He's also funny and adventurous, and gets right into the action of whatever he's exploring.

As fascinating as best-selling fiction, The Omnivore's Dilemma is unfortunately an honest and frankly worrisome non-fiction look at what we eat today. As for the weight of the book, I've now ordered my own copy and will return to Michael Pollan's important work time and time again.



## CORW Tape Library By Anna Bowling

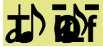


This month Anna reviews RWA 2008 Disc 1 – selection #9-104 A and B. "What Every Beginning Romance Writer Needs to Know but is Afraid to Ask," - By Diane DeSpain, Diana Rowe Martinez

This two part workshop, geared toward the beginning romance writer, is a great place to learn the basic terminology - how is ms different from mss? What does "industry standard" mean? What kind of books are you writing, anyway? What's an imprint? Is it different from a sub genre? How is category different from single title? What is head-hopping and how do I avoid it?

Touches briefly on the (then) soon to explode YA market and a trip down memory lane through the then-hot chick lit genre provides a unique insight for those who want to infuse their work with a touch of romantic comedy.

Learn what the rules are and how and when to break them while still giving editors what they need. Nuts and bolts information, delivered in a friendly, accessible style will be a useful tool for those new to writing, or experienced writers new to the romance genre. Exercises provide



opportunities to explore voice and style for writers of any level, and can be done alone or in groups. A Q&A session addresses valid and vital concerns as well as offering helpful pointers for those starting out, ending the workshop on an inspiring and encouraging note.

Anna C. Bowling - Orphans in the Storm  
available now from Awe-Struck E-Books  
[annabowling.blogspot.com](http://annabowling.blogspot.com)

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## Member Survey – The e-Reader by Iris Alderson



The response to the survey on eReaders was overwhelming. It seems the Kindle and Nook are the most preferable, although several members own an iPad. If you are debating whether to purchase a Nook or a Kindle there are two significant differences. Price is one, the other is that the Nook Color allows you to download library books – but with the Kindle you can't. Having seen both the Nook Color and the Kindle, it seems the Kindle has an easy to read screen which looks more like the page of a book, while the screen on the Nook Color is more like reading from a computer. The Nook Color is also heavier than the Kindle.

Here are just a few of CORW member's replies.

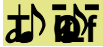
**Laurie** said she was hesitant to buy an e-Reader because she couldn't imagine not holding the book in her hand. "Now I can't imagine not having one," she said. "My guilty pleasure is to take a book to a restaurant all by myself and sit and read while I'm eating. With a regular book I always had to find things to weigh down the pages so I could eat and read at the same time. With my Kindle, I just set it in front of me and push the button to turn the page. I LOVE that aspect of it. I also like the fact that when I'm traveling I don't have to carry several books with me. My daughter gave me the cover with the built in light for Christmas and that makes it all even better. I wouldn't trade it for anything now."



**Kate** said she has owned a Kindle for two years and loves it. When asked if she would recommend it she said, "Yes." She says she also purchases more eBooks now than print books. . She says she never thought she would be an eBook convert, but she is, and likes the adjustable front size, and the fact that her "TBR" pile isn't falling off the bedside table.

**Elaine** confessed to being in a quandary over buying a Kindle or investing in an iPad. She stated she had played a bit with an iPad in an Apple store and was amazed at the technology. "I realize cost and size are a factor," she said, and told of how she spoke to a woman who was using an iPad and highly recommended it over the Kindle. Elaine said she is interested in hearing the opinion of others.

**Sandra** replied to Elaine. "The iPad" she said, "is gorgeous--but consider size, weight and-for lack of a better word "heft." The Kindle fits into a pocketbook. It's whisper-light. The Kindle truly "feels" and "looks" like a book since the leather case opens exactly as would the cover of a book. The Kindle-case combo also affords some privacy when reading on a plane or in a restaurant, while and the iPad offers no privacy at all." Sandra said these were the reasons she went for the Kindle.



**Kris** said it took her a long time to purchase an eReader because she spent time reading the ads and reviews and collecting user comments for all the competing devices. She took a workshop at her local library and said she decided the iPad was the thing for her. I always wanted an eReader and I needed a lightweight laptop that would travel easily. Being a writer and an artist I read lots of books, I study their format; I admire the illustrations so it is still important to me to physically hold a book. I purchase a lot of hard covers and paperbacks, old and new through various outlets like BarnesandNoble.com, Amazon.com and Half.com, etc. Kris said she loves the feel and touch of a book, but she loves the convenience of having access to any book she wants in a matter of seconds.

Despite the love for books we all share, it seems the eReader is here to stay - one more reason to love books even more.

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## **Top 4 Reasons to Write for Your Chapter's Newsletter – And Maybe a Few More - by Lisa McManus Lange**

*The following article appeared in the December 2010 issue of Tide Lines, newsletter of the Vancouver Island chapter of RWA. Permission to use by other RWA chapters with proper credit given to author and chapter.*

### **Experience**

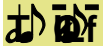
Never tried writing an article, personal essay, or interviewing another author before? The newsletter is a perfect opportunity to try something new. If your main forte is writing fiction and you suddenly find yourself stuck, switch gears and try your hand at something for the newsletter. Not only will it test and hone your skills writing in another format, but it will also give you the experience of working with an editor and meeting that dreaded "D" word' deadline.

### **Exposure**

The newsletter editor sends out articles (with your permission, of course) to the Editor Link loop. What does that potentially mean for you? Exposure. Other chapter editors often pick up articles to post to their chapter's email loop, or publish in their newsletter. Having a byline with your email address, website or blog address (if applicable) makes you accessible, attracting fan mail and visitors to your site/blog.

### **\*Portfolio\*.**

If your article has been picked up by another chapter's newsletter, write the editor and ask for a copy of their newsletter for your portfolio. Although writing for newsletters is sometimes not considered a "clip" in the magazine article writing world, being able to say you have published in a RWA newsletter does hold weight. More pieces published in-chapter, and out, builds your list of published works; keeping a list of them keeps you organized. Mentioning these credits in a query to an agent or editor can only help you.



**\*Motivation.\***

Seeing your name in print is motivation for any writer. It's only a taste of what being published in fiction format is like, but it could be just enough to keep you going on those days when you feel like concussing yourself with the keyboard and giving up. There is nothing like the looming date of a deadline to motivate, but the fact that your words might help someone else can be motivation in itself.

**\*Courage.\***

It takes courage to put yourself out there. Not only to submit your work for consideration, but doing so for a publication to be read by your peers. Once you have submitted, the newsletter comes out, and no one hates you after, it will be all the much easier next time around. And heck, you might want to do it again, and maybe try submitting elsewhere, outside the chapter.

**\*Support.\***

Giving and receiving support is part of being in a chapter. Not only are you supporting your fellow chapter members by sharing your experience and expertise, but the support you receive not only from the newsletter editor, but also from members, is likely just what the doctor ordered if you are in a slump.

If you have any inclination to share, be heard, inform, or entertain, go for it. What have you got to lose? Not only have you supported the editor and the chapter, but you will have supported your own writing career by /writing/. You never know what path publishing in the newsletter, as well as potentially in other chapter newsletters, might lead you to. You are a writer'· write.



**Congratulations Kate:** Kate's new book release - "The Gentleman and the Rogue," with co writer - Bonnie Dee

**Congratulations Sandra** who says she's thrilled to have been asked to participate in this summer's Connecticut Author Trail. Sandra will be speaking at the Aldrich Library in Mossup on the evening of August 23 – topic - (of course) - the romance genre!

She says the culminating event of this amazing summer-long series will be the Grand Finale at Mohegan Sun, Thursday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Next Newsletter - August 1 2011 – preferable length 500 words or under if possible.**