



July 2020

Issue 6

Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

Central Ohio Fiction Writers (COFW) <http://cofwevents.org> is a non-profit professional association for romance writers and a local chapter of the Romance Writers of America® (RWA) organization that offers monthly meetings. Since 1987, COFW has promoted excellence in fiction writing, encouraging writers to grow and gain knowledge in their craft. Members provide a networking system to share knowledge and support the goal of becoming published.

2020 Leadership

Board

President: Janice Beckett.

Secretary: Sandy Kachurek

Treasurer: Stacy McKittrick

Non-Board Positions

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

Programs Chair: Vacant

Education Chair: Erin Novotny

Social Media Chair: Gina Smith

Incentives Coordinator: Julia Blaine

Ignite the Flame Contest Chair: Shari Heinrich

Monthly Meetings Facility Coordinator: Vacant

Equipment Inventory Coordinator: Robin Gianna

Meetings

First "Teen" Saturday of the Month. Social: Noon to 12:30. Business: 12:30. Guest Presentation: 1:30. Location: Check www.cofwevents.org

Dues

New Members: \$35

Renewal before January 31: \$30. After January 31: \$35.

- Dues run January to December
- Membership with Romance Writers of America required.

Follow COFW

Twitter <https://twitter.com/COFWriters>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/COFWriters>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cofwriters/>

Closed Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254 Dayton, OH 45424

Next Meeting: August 15, 2020; Evoking Emotion with Sherry Thomas

The success of a romance rests upon its ability to evoke emotions: The reader must care about the characters. Ever pondered how to give broad appeal to an otherwise deeply flawed character? Or how to make a two-dimensional character full-fledged?

This workshop teaches approaches that convey a character's humanity and vulnerability with maximum efficiency and minimum maudlinness.

Business meeting at 12:30 pm, Discussion at 1:30 pm

Our meeting will be held via Zoom. The password will be posted on the Central Ohio Fiction Writers Group page which can be accessed via the Romance Writers of America website under the Forums tab. If anyone has any questions, email authorkimberlybeckett@yahoo.com

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - East

Need a boost with a story idea that has yet to see words on a page? Can't get your protagonist out of a hole you've written her into? Not sure whether the antagonist is antag-ging enough? Consider stopping by the COFW Fiction Plotters group. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Panera Bread in Taylor Square in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 43068.

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: fyrefly93@gmail.com

Saralee Etter: saralee_etter@yahoo.com

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - West

All the same fun as above but located in Huber Heights. We meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Panera Bread off I-70 exit 36.

If you have questions contact:

Jeanne Estridge: jeanneestrIDGE@gmail.com

Rachel Dye: juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com

Minutes of the Central Ohio Fiction Writers via Zoom

July 18, 2020

I. Welcome.

II. Attendance/WIP:

Approximately 12 members in attendance plus two guests. Highlights of WIP included Susan Gee Heino meeting her new editor at Harlequin, who is excited about Susan's first three chapters, which gives Susan the go-ahead to meet its November deadline; August 5 is the release date for Janice Beckett w/a Kimberly Beckett's latest book from Soulmate and is currently tackling the final edits; Rachel Dye/Juliette Hyland is working on her fourth medical for Harlequin; and Bernie Miller/Jordan Riley Swan sat in on our meeting from Butte, Montana, one of many stops on his drive to Washington state.

III. Minutes from June were accepted as posted; motion by Rachel/Juliette, seconded by Andrea McConnell, approved by all.

IV. President's Report, Janice Beckett:

A. RWA

Upcoming Events:

1. August 3-18: voting window for RWA Board members.
2. August 9, 12-2 PM Central Time: RWA Town Hall Meeting for general membership, limited to 100 members.
3. August 28-30: RWA Virtual National Conference. The regular registration fee of \$189 is open until August 26.
4. Health Insurance: On July 7, RWA joined Book Industry Health Insurance Partnership (BIHIP), a coalition of 11 organizations, including RWA, in partnership with Lighthouse Insurance Group (LIG) Solutions to provide its members with a choice of health insurance options.

V. Treasurer's Report, Stacy McKittrick: not in attendance, report posted in Forum.

VI. Programs, Jeanne Estridge:

Programs following each meeting are posted on the COFWEvents Meetings page. A switch has been made due to the change in the 2020 RWA National Conference dates.

Today: Book Brush with Kathleen Sweeney

August: "Evoking Emotions" with Sherry Thomas of The Lady Sherlock series. Sherry describes her program: "The success of a romance rests upon its ability to evoke emotions. The reader must care about the characters. Ever pondered how to give broad appeal to an otherwise deeply flawed character? Or how to make a two-dimensional character full-fledged? This workshop teaches approaches that convey a character's humanity and vulnerability with maximum efficiency and minimum maudlinness."

September: "Fun With Plotting" with best-selling author Patricia Sargeant, who also writes as Olivia Matthews and Regina Hart, via Zoom.

October: Grace Burrowes, tentatively scheduled for the Norwich Township Building, 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard.

November: "Stronger Scenes" with Jeanne Estridge.

December: Holiday party.

VII. Education, Digital Classes, Erin Novotny/Tobi Doyle:

Erin/Tobi has sent the info on COFW digital classes to RWA for online and in *Romance Writers Report*, on the COFW websites and Facebook and on OFW's Facebook page.

Fees: \$25 COFW; \$30 RWA; \$35 All Other.

Registration: Classes Page on COFWEvents.com

Calendar:

*August 1-31: "Characterization: Making Strengths and Weaknesses Work for You (or No More Mary Sues!)" with Linnea Sinclair.

*September 1-30: "Emotion Without Purple Prose" with Alicia Rasley.

*October 1-31: "Being the Extroverted Introverted Writer: Developing Your Author Platform" with Eliot Parker.

*January 1-30, 2021: "The Book Writing Checklist Class" with Linnea Sinclair and Stacey Kade.

VIII. Newsletter, Rachel/Juliette: Sandy Kachurek will write the recap for today's program.

IX. Incentives: During a recent event by the Romantic Novelists' Association (RNA) of the UK, Harlequin used Rachel Dye w/a Juliette Hyland's third book to demonstrate an excellent example of conflict; also

her *A Stolen Kiss with the Midwife* releases in February 2021. Gina Smith w/a Rochelle Bradley's *Here We Go Again* is out today in an anthology about second chances; it's a fundraiser. She's having a cover reveal of her latest book on Saturday, July 20.

X: Continuing Business:

A. Voting for Meeting Locations: The majority voted for using Zoom if we cannot meet in person; Zoom will be used in the foreseeable future. Discussion included the problem that if we wanted to meet in person, most locations, such as public library meeting rooms, are closed. Bernie/Jordan offered to look into a Columbus gaming bar called Forged Tavern that has a room for 30 people; it is closed in the afternoon but could open for us.

B. Officers for 2021: Sandy will be asking members who currently hold non-board positions if they wish to continue for 2021. Regarding board positions: Janice is not seeking another year as president; terms are up for Stacy, treasurer, and Sandy, secretary.

C. NEORWA (Cleveland-based romance chapter): Andrea reported that NEORWA, as a result of the negative atmosphere created by past actions of the RWA board, has lowered its dues, eliminated its annual contest and is working to maintain the chapter's assets. They are also waiting to see if RWA can "right the ship" following voting in August. Their current president resigned and on June 16, a new NEORWA president, Chris Anna w/a Chloe Flowers, began.

Andrea updated NEORWA on what COFW has done, including forming the foundation for Ohio Fiction Writers (OFW). Anyone seeking to reach out to NEORWA, contact Andrea.

Adjournment: 1:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy

Sandy Kachurek, Secretary

Book Brush: Creating the Perfect Book Cover and More

by Sandy Kachurek

We are word artists who enjoy controlling the way our stories unfold. Many of us, however, are not graphic artists, yet we still wish to control the look of our book covers, how our ads appear on social media, and the design of our business cards and giveaways.

How can we be successful in a field we're not too comfortable in but one that is a critical aspect of being a successful writer?

We can turn to an online company called Book Brush at <https://bookbrush.com/> that offers the tools we need to produce a product we can be proud of, however limited or gifted we are in graphic design.

Customer manager and marketing lead for Book Brush, Kathleen Sweeney took us through an hour-long presentation that focused on the accessibility and use of most of the company's tools to produce a myriad of stunning marketing products.

Kathleen's enthusiasm was a key component of her talk. Her joy in using Book Brush tools made it look fun, even exciting. She personalized her demonstration using book covers by Janice Beckett w/a Kimberly Beckett's *Her Forever Love* and Jeanne Oates Estridge's *The Demon Always Wins*.

She showed us how easily we can choose a book cover design from scratch or upload a sample cover from over 90 templates. From there, we could individualize any template using 1000s of colors, borders, overlays, filters, font styles, shadows, and apply over one million images.

Kathleen gave the cover designs an even more professional look with the addition of stamps, buttons and ribbons that might say "Free!" or "Available at Amazon" or an author's own logo.

A finished book design can sit by itself in an ad as if it came from a hardback, in a Kindle format, audio book, a box set, a cover reveal, or 3-D book with a spine. We could also gather the format together as a collage. Not just made for Facebook, the design could be converted to fit ads specifically for Instagram, Twitter and other media outlet.

Book Brush has the right filter and easy-to-learn steps to adjust book covers to fit for any advertising needs. If time is important, than Instant Mockups will produce a professional look in no time.

The Book Brush team is always looking for "easy to use tools," said Kathleen. If authors need extra help in learning the terms and applications, Book Brush provides a few, 20-30 minute how-to videos, such as "Book Brush 101."

Book Brush tools give us authors as much or as little control over marketing designs as we want. In addition to book cover designs, the company now offers tools to make bookmarks and business cards and is currently testing animation tools.

Four plans are available: a free plan with a limit of 15 images, and three paid plans including Plus, Gold and Platinum, each one providing additional templates, backgrounds, images and video credits.

Kathleen left COFW members with a lifetime deal: 15% off our purchase of a Book Brush plan. Type in OHIO15.

Kathleen Sweeney says Book Brush, at three years old, is a "small company with big dreams." They may not remain small for long. With the company's commitment to professional and creative tools and with testimonials from well-known people like Mark Dawson, bestselling author and creator of the *Self Publishing Formula*, and *USA Today* bestselling author Tamara Leigh, their future looks exciting.

**You can view the recording of the Book Brush presentation on
COFW's closed Facebook site.**

COFW has a goal sheet!!!



Want to track a daily word count and compete with your fellow COFW members for the highest point total? Add your name and goals to our Magic Spreadsheet here:

<https://bit.ly/2Wprwt0>

June Winner: Ann Chlovechok

The winner gets Eddie!

