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# The Window

Official eNewsletter of Panhandle Professional Writers  
d/b/a Texas High Plains Writers



## HIGH PLAINS WRITERS

September 2017

A Bi-Monthly

Newsletter

*"Jodi Thomas is a masterful storyteller. She grabs your attention on the first page, captures your heart, and then makes you sad when it is time to bid her characters farewell. You can count on her to give you a satisfying and memorable read."*

-Catherine Anderson

New York Times Bestselling Author



## Jodi Thomas & Friends

### "Secrets to Success"

Join Multi-Award Winning Author Jodi Thomas and her guests, a panel of talented Authors, who will discuss issues relating to writing and answer your

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## Saturday, September 16

9:30 Registration, 10:00 AM Author Panel Q&A

The Oasis, Canyon E-Way, Amarillo

(Park in back near the Playground)



### From the President

#### Changing Pains

The only constant in life is change. Like it or not, everything around us changes—entertainment, technology, clothing styles, jobs, our bodies. Time keeps turning, and sometimes it can be painful.

The writing industry is no exception. Instead of magazines, people read blogs. Instead of tucking in with a 1500-page epic novel, people more often read 200-page novellas. Rather than the traditional route of publishing—agent queries, rejection letters, publisher shopping, and waiting for a year for publication—more writers are taking the indie path and self-publishing.

Ryan McSwain gave us a fantastic program in July about the self-publishing path, and I hope that, if you missed it, you'll make an effort to subscribe to his mailing list and learn everything you can about indie-publishing. Plus he gives you a short story in every newsletter--what a deal. Even if it's not the right route for you, knowing more about Indie Authors makes you more informed about the publishing industry and a better writer.

The August special event with Arianne "Tex" Thompson was mind-blowing. Finding just the right word to add more depth and imagery to your writing is something we all need to understand. The day was well spent with this charismatic speaker and creative writing instructor. Thanks, Tex, for stopping in Amarillo during your Tornado Alley

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Our organization is changing, too. We've almost got our new website ready to launch. To make things work more smoothly, we have changed our email server, and here is where we are suffering some growing pains. Our old server wasn't functioning correctly, and it was losing some of our emails.

If you have emailed us in the last few months, and you didn't get a response, your email may have been lost in cyberspace. Please bear with us as we get this all ironed out. I promise we haven't intentionally ignored anyone. Our new system is much more efficient and should make it easier to get your questions to the right people. And our website will make online registration possible and information sharing easier than ever. The process has been long, but the results will be worth it. No pain, no gain.

***Kim***

<http://www.kimblackink.com>

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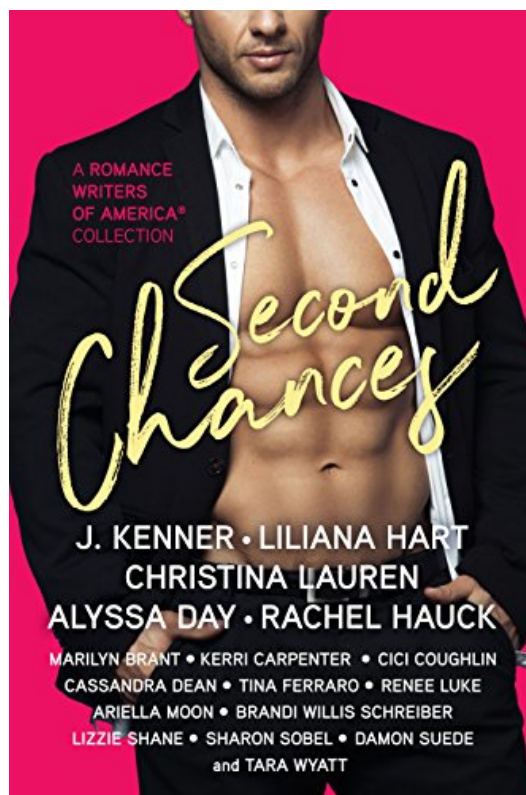
will be published by Romance Writers of America in their anthology, **SECOND CHANCES: A ROMANCE WRITERS OF AMERICA COLLECTION**. The book will release on September 12, 2017, and is available for pre-order on Amazon.

Brandi's contemporary romance short story about a young woman who discovers a second chance at love and family in the unexpected city of Edinburgh, Scotland will appear along with sixteen other authors, including *New York Times* best-selling authors J. Kenner, Christina Lauren, Alyssa Day, Rachel Hauck, Liliana Hart, and others.

Says Romance Writers of America, "With characters who find love through tough situations, in an elegant 1800s ballroom, with an old friend who shows up when least expected, at a tender age when cliques and homework get in the way relationships, or after a random encounter in an unlikely setting, *Second Chances* delivers romance to strike every reader's fancy."

Here is the link to Read it NOW: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B073ZL166F>

And for more information, visit Brandi's website at: [www.brandiwillisschreiber.com](http://www.brandiwillisschreiber.com)



## *Your 2017 Board Members*

*President: Kimberly Black*

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*Technology: open*  
*Membership: Molly McKnight*  
*Hospitality: Ryan McSwain*  
*Publicity and Newsletter: Natalie Bright*  
*Conferences and Workshops: Carleta Fernandez*  
*Programs: Linda Broday*

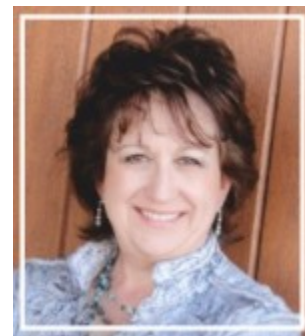
*The Technology Chair is open: update the website and help with IT issues.*  
*Thanks to these volunteers who are willing to give their time and knowledge to TPHW in 2017!*



## From the Editor's Desk:

Being a part of an organization can be a very different experience for each person, and yes, it takes effort. Time away from other obligations, family, or your writing can be draining.

One thing for certain, the people you'll meet through Texas High Plains Writers will become your biggest inspiration. They are the folks who will listen with sympathetic ear when you're stuck on a scene. This group will become a huge resource of knowledge from finding new markets for submitting your work, to figuring out how to upload your book to CreateSpace. There's a whole lot of industry know-how within this group, and they are more than willing to share. Their expertise can save you days, even weeks, of trial and error. These are the people most likely to retweet and



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One of our long-standing members, who has tirelessly given back to the local writing community, has graciously stepped in to present the program for September. Bringing together a panel of experienced authors for a Q&A, **Jodi Thomas** has titled her program **"Secrets to Success"**. You will not want to miss this opportunity to learn and ask questions. Everything you've ever wanted to know about writing and publishing your book.

I met the people who would become my writing critique group through THPW. We've been meeting together almost ten years! At last week's critique meeting, a member of the group pointed out that my character would not react that way and the suggestion was made that I go back to edit Chapter 1 and shed light on my character's reaction in Chapter 6. It was a brilliant idea! That detailed insight could only come from some one who understands my story and my writing style. We also run a blog about writing, if you have a chance to check it out at <http://www.wordsmithsix.com>. I am fortunate to have found these people, and it was because of my involvement in Texas High Plains Writers.

I hope you'll make an effort to participate in all that THPW has to offer by attending our meetings and special events. More importantly, being in a room full of creative people is just plain intoxicating; you can't help but leave feeling inspired.

<http://nataliebright.com>

*Meetings are held on the third Saturday in odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, and November.*

*Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. There is no fee for members of Texas High Plains Writers to attend our regular bi-monthly meetings. A \$10 fee may apply to nonmembers.*

*Unless otherwise specified, 2017 meeting location is:  
Oasis Church  
8201 Canyon Drive  
Amarillo, Texas*

*(Note: We must occasionally switch our meeting location, or we may need to change the date to avoid conflicts. So, please check the address and date for each meeting.)*

*Our meetings/programs follow this schedule:*

*Check-In and Meet & Greet  
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.*

*Business Meeting  
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.*

*Program/Presentation  
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.*

*Lunch - On Your Own  
12:15 - 1 p.m.*

*Critique Session, if Announced  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

*Need to contact us?  
You can write to us at:  
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