

2011 Writer of the Year Candidates

Determining the candidates for the 2011 Writer of the Year was both interesting and fun, but narrowing that list down to the best possible three finalists was an imposing mission. There were almost thirty Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers members who had published at least one book in 2010 to consider. That is a lot of accomplishment from within our organization, and the WOTY committee would like to say kudos to each one of you.

That being said, they did whittle down the finalists to the three they felt were the best candidates for the 2011 Writer of the Year Award. Each one of these three candidates has met the criteria for the award, as stated in the P&P:

"The following criteria shall be considered when determining nominees and should be considered by RMFW members when voting:

- A.) Participating member of RMFW.
- B.) The quality of the author's writing measured against other writers of his/her genre.
- C.) Significant professional achievement."

They felt these three authors not only met these criteria, but excelled. **Now it will be up to you, the voting membership, to decide which one of these stars shines the brightest.** Voting information and ballots will be in the May newsletter. So, we are proud to announce the three finalists for the 2011 Writer of the Year Award (in alphabetical order):



Laura Reeve began writing SF and Fantasy in the fifth grade, but it took her thirty years to learn to *finish* her novels. Along the way, she spent time as an US Air Force officer and a software developer. In 2007, her dream of becoming an SF "paperback writer" came true with a 3-book contract from Roc. *Peacekeeper* debuted in 2008, followed by *Vigilante* (2009) and *Pathfinder* (2010), all centered on the Major Ariane Kedros character. They were born out of Laura's frustration with many military officer heroines. Major Kedros is a thinker who rarely resorts to using a weapon, contrary to what the covers insinuate. The books also ignore the genre convention that "military SF must be set during wartime" and Major Kedros struggles with peacetime missions after playing a tragic role in the past war. However, even though she breaks from the pattern, readers still voted Major Kedros as one of the top *Formidable Female Protagonists in Science Fiction* at the Cybermage SF fan site. Laura lives in Monument, Colorado, where she's working on more fantastical worlds. She also produces the RMFW Published Author Liaison mailer and battles with high-altitude xeriscape gardening (so far, the climate is winning).



RITA® Award Winning novelist **Robin D. Owens** credits the telepathic cat with attitude in selling her first futuristic/fantasy romance, *HeartMate*, published in December 2001. Since then she has written ten books in the series. Her five book Luna series included average American women Summoned into another dimension to save a world. Her new Luna book, *Enchanted No More*, January 2011 is a paranormal romantic fantasy. She is profoundly thankful to be recipient of the RITA Award, the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers' Writer of the Year award, the Colorado Romance Writers' Lifetime Achievement Award, and the 2010 Best Paranormal and Best of the Best Daphne Du Maurier Award. Lungfish Writer of the Year from Denver Area Science Fiction Assn, 2 Prisms for Best Fantasy, 1 More than Magic in Best of the Best, Beacon Award.



Maggie Sefton is the *New York Times* Bestselling author of the Berkley Prime Crime Knitting Mysteries. **SKEIN OF THE CRIME**, 8th in the series, was Barnes & Noble's #5 Bestselling Hardcover Mystery after its release June 2010 and on their Bestseller list five months. First in the series, **KNIT ONE, KILL TWO**, released in 2005, was an Agatha Award Nominee for Best First Mystery. All of the mysteries have been Barnes & Noble Top Ten Bestselling Mysteries. Attending her first Colorado Gold conference in 1988, Maggie promptly joined Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers and apprenticed herself to the writing craft. She credits RMFW's seminars, conference workshops, and rigorous critique groups for her foundation as a writer as well as the many opportunities to present her fiction to editors and agents. Maggie was first published in historical romance fiction in 1995 with **ABILENE GAMBLE**, Berkley Jove, under the pen name Margaret Conlan. She had written over a million words of historical fiction before she ever wrote the first mystery. **DYING TO SELL**, with a real estate agent sleuth, was published by Five Star Mysteries in 2005. Maggie has been a CPA and a real estate agent in the Rocky Mountain West, but finds nothing can match creating worlds on paper. Mother of four grown daughters and guardian of two demanding dogs, Maggie lives in Northern Colorado.

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