

Come On Home!

To The Romance Slam Jam
THE Event for Readers and Authors of Black Romance



You are cordially invited to attend the Romance Slam Jam to be held in Chicago IL
April 30, 2008 - May 4, 2008.

November 2007, Newsletter

Greetings from the Chi-Town R.A.W. Sistaz and your Romance Slam Jam 2008 host authors!

FIVE SHORT MONTHS

Wow, I can hardly believe there are only five months until the Romance Slam Jam Conference. The next thing you know, I'll be with my Chi-Town RAW SISTAZ and other host authors welcoming you to Chicago.

I know you all get tired of hearing me drone on and on. Well this month I have a treat for you. A few friends have dropped in to say hi. I asked them to also tell us a word or two about their latest releases, seeings how we are all read-a-holics LOL.

IMPORTANT HOTEL UPDATES

I know many of you plan to arrive in Chicago on Tuesday April 29, to enjoy the city before the conference starts. We've made arrangements with the hotel to also give the discounted rate for 29 Aug! For those of you who have already made your hotel reservations, just call up the hotel to extend the stay.

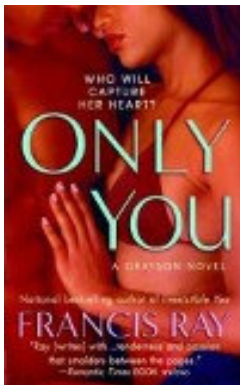
The hotel has been having technical difficulties with the online reservations. At times, the online service says the hotel is all booked. This is not correct. There are plenty of rooms. The hotel has even said they will give us additional blocks of rooms if needed. If this occurs when you are registering, please let me know:

deatri@romanceslamjam.org

I suggest folks call and reserve their rooms directly. The hotel phone number is (847)297-1234. Remember to let the clerk know you are reserving your room for the Romance Slam Jam Conference (Check in 30 April – 4 May 2008). And yes I HIGHLY suggest you check in Wednesday night. Again, if you would like to check in a day early to enjoy the city, you can reserve the room for 29 April also for the discounted rate. ENJOY CHICAGO!!!

Okay, I'll be quiet for now.

FRANCIS RAY



Hi. I can't wait for RSJ 2008. Unfortunately, I missed 2007 so you know I excited. The organizers are working non-stop to ensure that RSJ 2008 will be the best ever...and for those who have attended RSJ in the past, we know that is really saying a lot.

For me, as a writer and reader, it will be a special time to meet old friend and make new ones. We'll have time to talk books, discuss your favorite characters, and learn about those characters you'd like to have their own story. After the release of ONLY YOU, Sierra and Blade's story in early October, I already know you want Shane and Rio's story. I just love it when readers embrace characters and want to read more about them. Bless your hearts. I'm hopeful you'll feel the

same way about the people you'll meet in NOT EVEN IF YOU BEGGED, my February 08 mainstream release.

See you in Chicago.

Francis

<http://www.francisray.com>

LISA G. RILEY

I'm so excited about the 2008 Slam Jam! I've never been to one and am really looking forward to it—both as an author, and as a reader. I'm not really a "joiner," so I don't usually do the conference circuit, but the 2008 Slam Jam is going to be something special, I can feel it. Can't you? Anyway, I hope to see many old friends and make new ones in April, so welcome to Chicago!

Lisa G. Riley

<http://www.lisagriley.com/>

“Big Spankable Asses,” available now

“Bound to Ecstasy,” available November, ‘07

GLORIA MALLETTE

Over the years, I've heard so much about Romance Slam Jam and its very loyal readers, so I am exceptionally thrilled to be invited to personally bear witness to this great event. I am so looking forward to not only introducing romance readers to my books, but also to having a great time.

My latest title is Living, Breathing Lies, but I hope to introduce my upcoming 2008 title, Sassy, to those readers who like a little suspense and mystery in their romance.



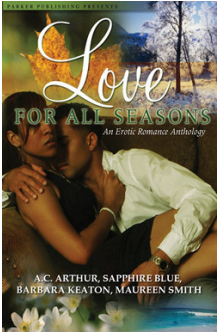
Gloria Mallette

[Living, Breathing Lies](#)

<http://www.gloriamallette.com>

NEWSFLASH: Gloria Mallette won the USA Book News National Best Book for 2007 Award for Fiction & Literature: African American Fiction for *Living, Breathing Lies*.

BARBARA KEATON



As the months draw near, I'm getting just like my counterpart in crime, Lisa G. Riley, and am quite excited about RSJ being here in my wonderful city! But in my excitement, I'm also attempting to keep my self on point in trying to plan the Friday Nite Entertainment: Mr. Romance Slam Jam 2008!

And while I consider myself a connoisseur on men (loves a good looking brutha w/all his teefs!), I did give a lot of thought to what Mr. Romance Slam Jam should look like: tall (I'm short), dark (loves sum chocolate), bald (ummm, smooth as butta) and built like L.L. Cool J (gotta be able to pick me up!). So, as we get a little closer, I'll be reaching out to several of you to assist - so be on the lookout!! Until then, much prosperity!

Barbara Keaton
<http://www.bkeaton.com>

LACONNIE TAYLOR-JONES

Greetings:

I can hardly wait for next April to get here and the 2008 Romance Slam Jam Conference is where I intend to be!! For twelve years this single event has offered so much, to so many. Allow me to tell you why.

In March 2005, I hopped in my car, weaving through late morning traffic towards the San Francisco airport to attend my very first RSJ conference. I had only two goals in mind: meeting others who had a passion for African American romance and trying to learn something, anything that would make a story burning deep in my spirit, better.

Three and a half hours later, I landed in Dallas, TX. I was on a mission.

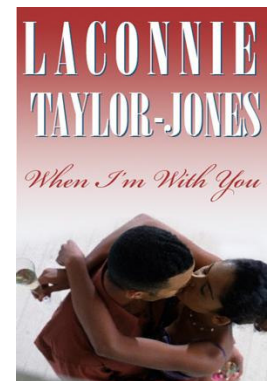
While in Dallas, I got much more than I bargained for. I attended an awesome workshop for aspiring authors led by Gwynne Forster and Donna Hill. Thank you ladies for sharing things it would have taken me months, if not years to learn. Also, I fostered friendships with readers that still exist to this day, and met my two author mentors, Beverly Jenkins and Marilyn Tyner. Needless to say, I left Dallas with more than I came with. In the November 2007 issue of *Romantic Times*, my debut novel, *When I'm With You* was rated 4-stars.

Mission accomplished, and then some.

Not only do I look forward to meeting the many readers who have so faithfully supported African American romance over the years, I plan to chat with my favorite authors, too. After all, I'll always be a die-heart romance reader.

Until then, stay safe, be blessed, and I'll see you in Chicago!!!

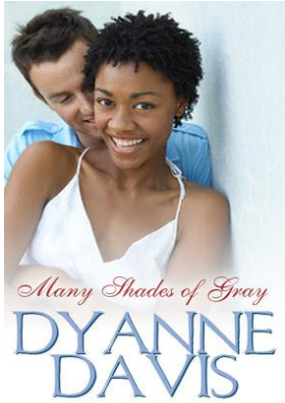
LaConnie



DYANNE DAVIS

Hello everyone,

I can't wait to welcome you to Chicago, our host city. I've been to only two RSJ conferences and have heard about the others. Being a part of this committee has been a wonderful experience if somewhat scary. Maybe it comes from being a writer and having to suck up bad reviews. LOL. I don't know. But I do know that we have some mighty large shoes to try to fill, and we're trying so hard to not have the bad reviews. If you knew how many actual man, or should I say WOMEN hours, have already been expended you would be tired for the entire committee.



We have passed our one year mark with the planning, and it seems we're now in the home stretch. Believe me, every conceivable bug we're doing our best to work out so you will not even be aware that there was any unless we told you. And guess what? We have no such plans. <G>

Besides the down home feel, listening to the readers in Miami and making sure you have plenty of face to face time to just hang with your favorite authors and even authors that you may not yet know, we have workshops for those who want to attend. We are planning on having you all leave our fair city so refreshed from having been here, but so tired from all of the fun.

You never know what can happen at the Romance Slam Jam. The one I attended in 2004 was the catalyst for my book that was just released in Oct. *Many Shades of Gray*. Evelyn Palfrey spoke to us about the dwindling African American bookstores, and on the way home I began writing a romance based on her speech. She also spoke to us of the need to have more African American writers writing stories for young adults. I will say here first that I have just completed my first work in that genre, and my agent is excited about it. Thank you Evelyn for a speech that inspired my life and my writing.

Something else that was discussed at the Miami Slam Jam was on mentoring. I'm happy to say that connections were made in Miami, and I invited aspiring writers to join me in the new children's anthology. They have great voices and great stories. I'm happy to have been able to put my money where my mouth was, so to speak.

Like I said, come on home. You never know what's going to happen. Take care and I'll pop in from time to time to keep you updated.

Namaste
Dyanne Davis

ONE MORE THING

I'm back more terrifying than before. I know you all love me, but were glad for a little break, huh? LOL. So how do you like the new format for the newsletter? Let me know what you'd like to see. This is your monthly slice of romance paradise.

Thanks to the leadership of the Romance Slam Jam's founders Emma Rodgers, Ashira Tosihwe and Francis Ray, the Romance Slam Jam has come a long way in twelve years. I know I'm grateful to them for creating this forum.

We've come a long way baby, and you ain't seen nothing yet!

See you at the Slam Jam!

Deatri King-Bey

<http://www.romanceslamjamconference.com>

Please forward the newsletter.

If you were forwarded this newsletter, you can sign up for it at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RomanceSlamJamNews/>