

DARA NEWS

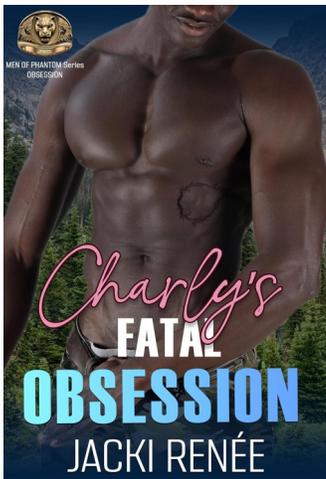


Developing Your Business Plan

An author's business plan can be either a living summary document or a detailed, evolving document. What matters most is that every authorpreneur has a plan that serves as the roadmap for their writing career. In this workshop, we will take a deep dive into your mindset, examine your behaviors, and understand the value of your author business to help you develop an effective Author Business Plan.

Bio:

Jacki Renée is a lifelong learner and a self-published author with a passion for ideas. She leverages her educational and professional backgrounds, along with her love of research, to help authors develop business plans that focus not only on visions, strategies, and short-term and long-term objectives but also on understanding the business side of writing. She creates fiction that blends authenticity with imagination to form stories that resonate with you. Visit her website at: <https://www.iamjackirenee.com/>



Charly's Fatal Obsession by Jacki Renée. Published July 4, 2024.

I ran from Boulder, Colorado eight years ago wearing my wedding dress, leaving behind family, good friends, and the man I was minutes away from marrying. I had to. I overheard him in the groom's dressing room with someone he was sleeping with while he was with me. Starting over in Los Angeles with a new business, a new friend, and eventually a new fiancé was the best thing for me. But I never expected my obsession with infidelity to unravel my entire life.

My name is Charly Clarkson, chocolatier and pastry chef extraordinaire, and licensed private investigator. I turn chocolate into works of edible art and specialize in investigating infidelity. On the eve of the biggest job of my chocolatier career, someone threatens my life. And poisons the chocolates.

Zoom Meeting For August 24th. Social Time: 9am. Business Meeting: 9:30 am. Speaker: 10am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83434280984?pwd=Y2NEZWJ1NlhMOFYyaE1JWG84ckp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 834 3428 0984

Passcode: 548934

President's Letter

Back To School

It's August. Whether you are a mother, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or friend of the family – August is when many of us bid the little ones (and big ones) off to school. The new school year holds promise for advancement, learning, and new knowledge.

Like those going back to school, as writers, we must be intentional about keeping our writing knowledge and learning current. How can we do that? For starters, we can be sure to attend our chapter meetings, in which we have presentations from writers, publishers, and others that provide information that is helpful for us in honing our craft.

We can also attend conferences, read books, attend webinars, take classes, listen to podcasts, and participate in other activities that help improve our writing, productivity, and marketing abilities. Doing so will not only make us better writers, but better readers, better critique partners, better editors, and better people. That's right. Learning and writing have more benefits than you may have thought.

An article from Personal Productivity by Fransico Saez points out 10 benefits derived from writing (that's supported by research). These benefits are:

- You will communicate with clarity
- You will eliminate stress
- You will be more productive
- You will learn more
- You will gain awareness of your reality
- You will make better decisions
- You will be happier
- You will live more focused
- You will overcome tough moments faster
- You will have a lot of written memories

These benefits help both the artistic side (right brain) and the logical side (left brain).

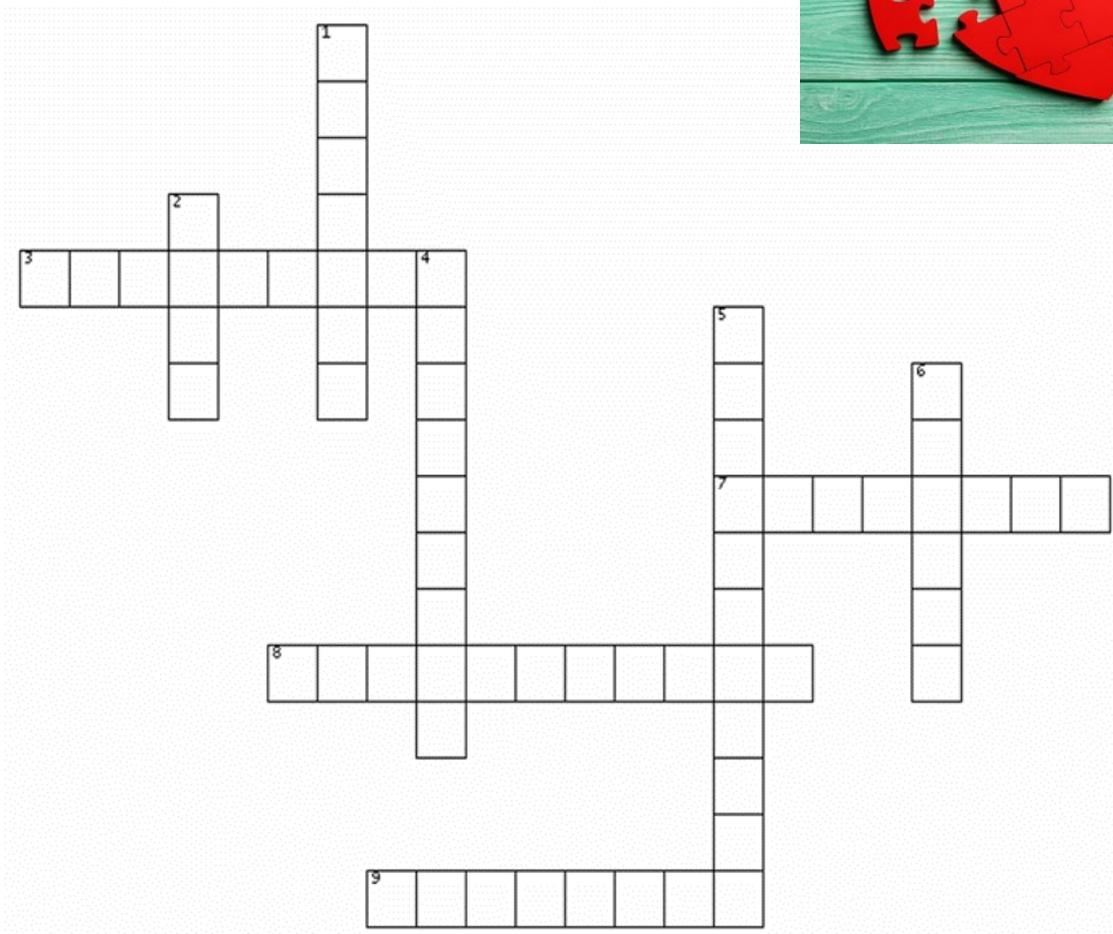
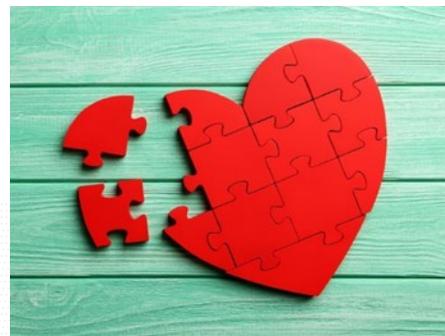
We are now out of excuses. We should write, even if we never publish, just because it benefits us as a whole person. It's not just reading that is fundamental, so is writing.

Also, it's not just for the kiddos that are headed back to school, it's for all of us – especially those of us in a national writing organization. Let's get it. Let's read. Let's write. Let's do what we can to hone our skills, be more productive, write more books, and sell, sell, sell!

—*Sharon Giddings Davis*



Romance Trivia Puzzle



ACROSS:

3. Which country celebrates Valentines Day in the summer?
7. What is the name of the iconic dance scene in Dirty Dancing?
8. In what rom-com did Julia Roberts play Vivian Ward?
9. Which hormone is known as the love hormone?

DOWN

1. Who played Noah in The Notebook?
2. Which musical features the song Seasons of Love and is set in New York's East Village?
4. Who is the goddess of love?
5. The song "I will always love you" was made famous by Whitney Houston, but who originally wrote and sang the song?
6. In which Italian city does Romeo and Juliet's balcony scene take place?

DARA 2025 Elections

It's that time again for DARA elections. I had sent out a form to everyone on the newsletter list and also posted it on the groups.io. The Self-Nominated Form is for anyone who would like to volunteer for a position as well as a board position. We will gather nominations from August to September 10th. I'll publish the nominees in the September newsletter with their bios. On October 10th, we'll vote for a new incoming board. The results will be published in the October newsletter.

Please take the time to volunteer and send your form to the Election Coordinator, Michelle Tanner, at michelle@tannercomm.com, or bring it to the September meeting.

Description of Job Duties (as best I know it):

President:

- Maintain DARA's email account at dallasarearomanceauthors@gmail.com
- Serve as spokesman for the chapter.
- Call meetings.
- Preside over all meetings of the Board and the Chapter.
- Appoint such committees as may from time to time be necessary (provided such appointments are subsequently ratified by the Board).
- Serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
- Execute established RWA policy as indicated and Chapter business as specified by the Executive Board.
- Coordinate all activities of the Chapter.
- Shall be a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors, except that the President may vote in the event of a tie.

President-Elect:

- Shall assume the duties of the President, in presiding over all meetings of the Board and members in the absence of the President.
- Shall develop a working knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order, chapter bylaws, chapter policies and procedure; and fulfill any other obligations designated by the Board.

Secretary:

- Records the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership.
- Keeps chapter records, including copies of newsletters, RWA communications, chapter business correspondence, committee reports, chapter contracts, and all other official documents.
- Mails out any notices.
- Fulfill any other obligations designated by the Board of Directors.
- Shall comply with the Chapter Record Retention Schedule.

Treasurer:

- Shall collect membership dues.
- Notify the Board of delinquent members.
- Supervise the collection, and disbursement of chapter funds.

Continued - Next Page

- Keep the financial records of the chapter in good order.
- Work with the Membership Director in maintaining the list of chapter members.
- Provide an accurate and up-to-date financial statement to the Board at least four times a year.
- Present the annual audited report to the members and, if required, to RWA.
- Maintains and checks the PO Box.
- Fulfills any other obligations designated by the Board of Directors.

Communications (Newsletter Editor & Website):

- Create the chapter's monthly newsletter.
- Get a current roster from the Membership Director in order to keep an accurate newsletter mailing list.
- Maintain the website to keep the pages updated.

Program Coordinator (PC):

- Arranges for speakers for all DARA meetings.
- Work to ensure that over the course of the year, the speakers will be diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
- Speaker topics shall be focused on the goal of educating members on the craft of writing, the business of writing, writing career development or informing members on writing related topics.
- Provides a list of speakers to the membership as far in advance as possible (suggested minimum of three months).
- Will turn in a voucher to the Treasurer letting them know how the speakers wishes to receive their honorarium.
- Sends speaker announcements to the RWA groups.
- Will provide a speaker bio and photo as well as a synopsis of the workshop to the newsletter editor.
- Setup and control the ZOOM meetings.

Membership Coordinator (MC):

- Takes care of the sign-in sheets at the door during face-to-face meetings.
- Collects membership dues, if the Treasurer is not at the meetings.
- Keeps an accurate membership roster.

Member Awards (Roses):

- Will ask membership for currently released books.
- During the meetings, present the Rose award to the author for her/his current release.

PAN Liaison:

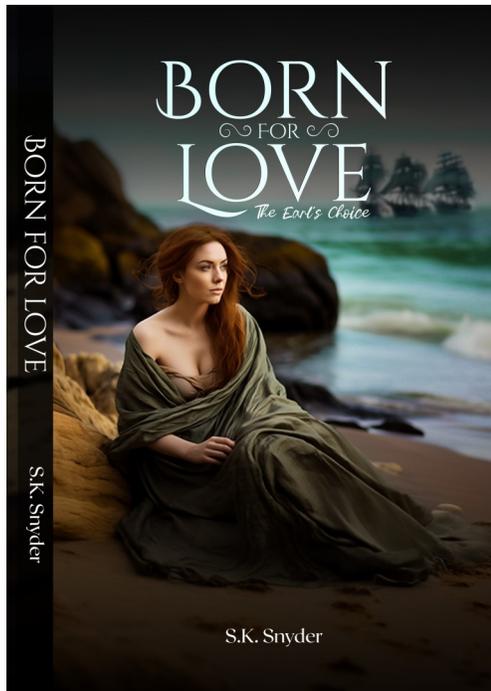
- Will look for opportunities for the Published Members to appear at panels, events and signings.
- Coordinates PAN activities and PAN-sponsored events as desired by PAN Members.

PRO Liaison:

- Reminds members at each meeting about the PRO program, it's requirements and procedures for applying.
- Direct potential members to the National website application.
- Disseminate information about PRO events and events of interest to PRO members.

—Donna McGoldrick

New Releases / Member's News



Title: Born For Love, The Earl's Choice

Author: Sharon Snyder (S.K. Snyder)

Release Date: July 18, 2024

Available In: eBook, HC, PB

Genre: Historical Romance

First Sale / Subsequent: Subsequent sale.

Richard Hawthorn never wanted an aristocratic title. Being a well-borne non-titled gentleman has its advantages and privileges, without the trappings.

A commission purchased in his majesty's service as a military spy swiftly transforms into a life filled with peril, excitement, and independence. However, when a triple tragedy befalls his family, Richard finds his life profoundly altered.

His final assignment is certain to be his dullest, aiding in the retrieval of classified items from the Sea Horse disaster off the coast of Ireland in January of 1816. His assignment completed, the war department

asks one last favor of the new earl. To escort a mysterious survivor back to London.

The survivor, a young female, was found unconscious on the copper shores of Tramore Bay, tied to one of the ill-fated ship's military trunks, with no recollection of the catastrophic shipwreck or any other memory from her past.

The mundane final assignment for the earl has now become one of his most intriguing. But can Richard help the amnesiac girl piece together her lost memory, without losing something of his own?

Visit Sharon's website at <https://sksnyder.com/>

New Releases



Send your new release information by the 10th of the month to Mary Karlik at: mary@maryjwilson.com.

Please include your Name, Title, Release Date, Available In (what format), Genre, and whether or not it's your first publication.

Please also include a blurb and your website.

RWA 2024 Annual Conference



The RWA Conference is in Austin, TX this year. DARA will have a giveaway to put in the goody room as a way to promote the Chapter. We'll have small burlap bags with a journal inside. The journal will have a DARA sticker on the front with a pen. The bag will also have some candy and DARA bookmarks. We encourage all DARA authors to bring their bookmarks to the September (face-to-face) meeting. Your bookmarks will be added to the bag. If you can't make it to the meeting, you're welcome to send your bookmarks to Donna McGoldrick at 3195 Dry Branch, West, TX. 76691.

Thanks, Donna McGoldrick

[Puzzle Answers](#)



1. Gosling
2. Rent
3. Argentina
4. Aphrodite
5. Dolly Parton
6. Verona
7. Lover Boy
8. Pretty Woman
9. Oxytocin

Writing Software

There are many options available when it comes to software for writers. We've gathered some of the most popular ones and listed them here for you to contemplate.

1. Scrivener
2. Google Docs
3. Dabble
4. Google Sheets or Excel
5. Vellum
6. ProWritingAid
7. Publisher Rocket
8. Atticus
9. Freedom
10. Microsoft Word
11. Any handy note taking apps
12. Google Drive or Dropbox
13. Plottr



Below are some free (or almost free) writing applications that you may want to consider, also.

1. FocusWriter
2. WriteMonkey
3. LibreOffice Writer
4. Microsoft Word
5. Author

Our hope is that these tools will prove useful in helping you on your writing journey. Happy writing!



Let us hear from you!

If you have ideas for DARA or would like to help us improve our organization, please share them with our board. Send your suggestions to info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com. We want to hear from you.

DARA Newsletter

Our Mission: To inform the membership about chapter events, RWA news and classes, our member’s good news, and other things important to our members.

DARA welcomes letters, comments, and articles on writing and publishing. The DARA News is seeking articles that cover self and traditional publishing, author interviews, genre and subgenre writing techniques, grammar, reports from conferences, marketing / promotions, social media, and many other writing advise and tips. You don’t need to be a published author to submit an article. Send your submissions in MS Word format to Donna McGoldrick at dsmcgold@donnamcgold.com

The DARA News is published monthly from January through November. DARA does not publish a news- letter in December. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION is the 10th of each month.**

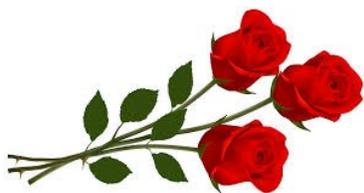
SUBMISSION POLICY

In the interest of good journalism the editor reserves the right to refuse or edit any material that could offend our readers and the right to edit to meet space requirements. Accuracy of the articles, announcements, and informative statements are the sole responsibility of the submitting author and not this publications or its supporting Executive Board. DARA does not endorse any person, firm, partnership, or corporation mentioned in this newsletter. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability, integrity, and financial responsibility of those with whom they deal. DARA makes no warranties or representation, either expressed or implied.

To our sister Chapters: We invite you to use any part of our publication with proper credit to the author and chapter.

If you have a new release, send your in- formation to Mary Karlik at mary@maryjwilson.com

Please include your Name, Title, Release Date, Available In (what format), Genre, and whether or not it’s your first publication..



DARA’s Website:
dallasarearomanceauthors.com

Mailing Address:
Dallas Area Romance Authors
PO Box 833092
Richardson, TX. 75083-3092

DARA Board of Directors for 2024

- President—Sharon Davis
- President Elect—Donna McGoldrick
- Treasurer—(Acting Treasurer, Sharon Davis)
- Secretary—Janet Leigh

DARA Leaders

- Program Coordinator—Anita Learned
- Membership—Carolyn Williamson
- Member Awards (Roses) - Mary Karlik
- Communications (Newsletter / Website) - Donna McGoldrick
- Pan Liaison—Open
- Pro Liaison—Open