

DARA NEWS



Pinterest for Authors: Grow Your Platform Without the Social Media Overwhelm ***With Melissa Bourbon Ramirez***

Tired of chasing algorithms and posting daily just to stay visible? You're not alone—and good news! You're not out of options.

In this eye-opening (and totally doable!) 1-hour session, bestselling author and writing educator Melissa Bourbon introduces authors to the *long game* of Pinterest—a powerful and *underutilized* tool for author visibility. With Pinterest, your content keeps working for you long after you hit publish.

With more than **465 million monthly active users** (98 million in the U.S. alone), Pinterest offers massive opportunity for discoverability—and yet, most authors aren't using it at all.

In this session, you'll learn:

- Why Pinterest isn't just "another platform" (hint: it's not social—it's searchable).
- What authors can pin—even if you don't have a blog.
- The basics of Pinterest SEO (and why keywords matter more than followers).
- How to use pins, boards, and lead magnets to build long-term visibility.

Whether you're traditionally published, indie, or just starting out, Pinterest can help you attract new readers, grow your email list, and build a platform that works quietly behind the scenes—while you write.

Come curious. Leave inspired and with a clear understanding of how and why Pinterest should be part of every author's marketing strategy.

About Melissa: Melissa Bourbon is a national bestselling author of more than thirty-five novels, including the *Book Magic Mysteries*, the *Magical Dressmaking* series, and the *Bread Shop Mysteries* (written as Winnie Archer), and the upcoming novel, *The House of Spells and Secrets*, written as Ivy Cassidy. A former secondary English/Language Arts teacher and seasoned creative writing instructor, Melissa brings her passion for storytelling and education to every workshop she leads. She is the founder of **WriterSpark Academy**, an online school dedicated to helping writers strengthen their craft, find their voice, and build sustainable writing lives. Through **in-person and virtual workshops, presentations, and online courses**, Melissa inspires writers at all levels with engaging instruction rooted in real-world experience.

Learn more at www.melissabourbon.com and www.writersparkacademy.com. You can also find her on Instagram [@bookishly_cozy](https://www.instagram.com/bookishly_cozy) and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@realbourbonandbooks>. Learn more about WriterSpark Book Cover Design at www.writersparkbookcovers.com.

President’s Letter

“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter.” — Brian Solis

Happy Halloween! It’s time for little ghosts and goblins to collect their annual treats. Unfortunately, I live too far from town, so the little ghouls don’t knock on my door. However, it’s a great thing when communities come together to support neighborhood kids and make trick-or-treat a fun time. Writers also need a community effort in their writing career. Why is that important, you ask?

No one understands your struggles like another writer who never quit. No one can offer you advice and encouragement like another writer who has made the same mistakes. No one will celebrate your successes like another writer who has walked the same path. DARA offers every writer a community of support and connections, so no one has to go it alone.

DARA was once a large chapter of close to 200 members before the RWA blowup. DARA had offered contests and conferences to the members. We’re not able to do that today, but we can offer other things such as:

- **Accountability and Motivation** with writing sprints and monthly meetings. Sprints can help you write regularly and keep up your progress. Sharing experiences at the meetings will help you work through your own challenges.
- **Learning** new skills by showing up to the meetings and engaging with speakers who share their knowledge and techniques of writing.
- **Networking Opportunities** during our meetings and RWA’s conference where you can connect with editors and agents.
- **Support and Inspiration** during rejection and creative slumps.

Being part of a community helps you stay committed to your writing. Staying with DARA is an important step in your career as you face the ever changing landscape of publishing. We can help by offering you motivation, inspiration, and practical help.

—*Donna McGoldrick*

Zoom Meeting For October 25th. Social Time: 9am. Business Meeting: 9:30 am. Speaker: 10am.

Click the Link to Join the Zoom Meeting. If you can’t click it, highlight the link and paste it in a browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89546354660?pwd=u21xAD6ii05leZd0bb6pCDwX8KyRiM.1>

Meeting ID: 895 4635 4660

Passcode: 897562



Holiday Breakfast - December 6th



We’ll meet in-person at the Hampton Inn & Suites on N. Central Expressway in Dallas. Jane Porter will be there in-person to present *Ten Keys To Success & Survival*. Raffle tickets will be sold on DARA’s website and at the meeting for baskets and centerpieces. More details will be in the Nov/Dec newsletter.

Nominees for the 2026 Board of Directors



Janet Leigh, a B.R.A.G. Medallion Honoree, was born in Garland, Texas, and has remained a loyal Texas native her entire life. She decided to take her love of storytelling and her archive of crazy family stories and write her own novel. She published her literary debut *The Shoes Come First* in 2015. Today, she is a full-time chiropractor and acupuncturist who splits her time between seeing patients and working on her next Jennifer Cloud novel.

President-Elect



Fenley Grant has always loved the written word. In her youth, books traveled with her on family adventures to various Army bases. North Texas is home these days, where she lives with her husband, two human children, and a furry dog kid. A perfect day includes writing, reading, family, friends, and sunshine. No snow. After a long stint in the northern climes, she's shoveled her last driveway.

Favorite books involve magical worlds, action, adventure, intrigue, and, of course, love. Fenley is an award-winning author, a 2019 Golden Heart® finalist, a 2024 double Diamond Heart® finalist, winner of the 2023 and 2024 PRISM award in paranormal romance, and she writes urban fantasy, time travel, and paranormal romances.

Secretary



Donna McGoldrick has always enjoyed reading mysteries and romantic suspense books. She decided to write her own stories and finished a romantic suspense titled *Deadline*. She's currently working on a futuristic YA and a mystery short story.

She is an active member of Dallas Area Romance Authors (DARA), Romance Writers of America (RWA), and Sister's in Crime (SinC). She writes mainly in the mystery and suspense genre with a little romance thrown in.

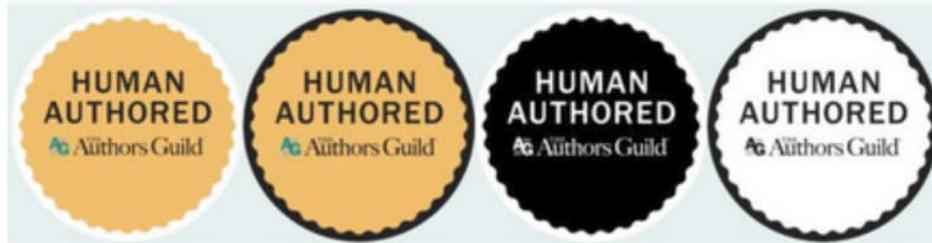
Treasurer

We still need to fill the following volunteer positions by January 1st:

- Program Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor

5 Easy Steps to Protect Your Work Against AI

By Jodé Millman - April 6, 2025 <https://jodemillman.com>



- 1) Take control of your work and join Created by Humans to license your AI rights. Created by Humans pursues deals with AI companies to use your books for training their AI models. For more information visit www.createdbyhumans.ai.
- 2) Certify your work as “Human Authored” by the Authors Guild and display the insignia (above) on book covers, following the usage guidelines at the [Authors Guild](#).
- 3) Search the The Atlantic Magazine search tool, the [LibGen Database](#), to determine if your books were pirated by META to train AI and send a letter of protest immediately to META.
- 4) Add the “No AI Training Notice” on your copyright Page. Click the link to the Author’s Guild’s suggested language for your notice:
NO AI TRAINING: Without in any way limiting the author’s [and publisher’s] exclusive rights under copyright, any use of this publication to “train” generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to generate text is expressly prohibited. The author reserves all rights to license uses of this work for generative AI training and development of machine learning language models.
- 5) Stay informed. Join the [Authors Guild](#) and sign up for their free newsletters, and the Copyright Alliance as a Creator for FREE.



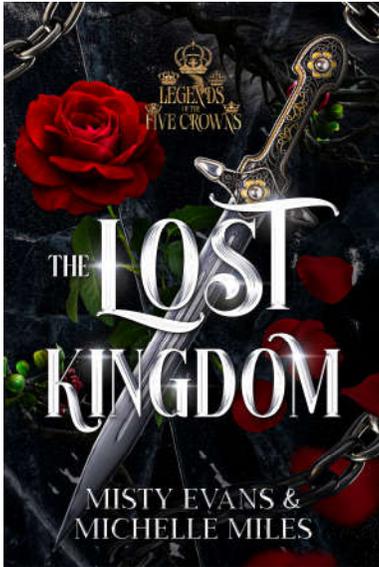
Jodé is a life long resident of Poughkeepsie, New York, which serves as the setting for her crime fiction. In her writing, she draws upon her many years as an attorney to capture the tensions that arise when a small community is rocked by tragedy.

She has developed “[The Writer’s Law School](#),” which is an educational program designed to inform writers and artists about protecting their artistic rights. And she is a book reviewer for Booktrib.com and the New York Journal of Books.

Jode is a member of The Authors Guild, New York State Bar Association, Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, Sisters In Crime, Romance Writers of America, and Women Fiction Writers Association.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4b6iuvfcIvw&feature=youtu.be>

New Releases



Title: The Lost Kingdom
Author: Michelle Miles & Misty Evans
Genre: Romantasy
Release Date: October 21, 2025
Available In: eBook and Paperback
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

In a realm where stories shape reality, Dessalyn Lorewyn is one of the last Fae Storykeepers charged with protecting the realm's truths. But when she's given a fated quest to save a kingdom and the cursed dragon prince who still lives within its fading tale, she must journey to a border town to find the proof he exists.

Drakenholt has been erased from memory, and Prince Renwick Ravelle is cursed—his name, his legacy, even his dragon soul vanishing from the world page by page.



Title: Once Upon A Midnight Dreary
Author: Michelle Miles
Genre: Gothic Fantasy Romance
Release Date: October 28, 2025
Available In: eBook and Paperback
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

When tragedy shatters her family, Victoria Ravenwood inherits the crumbling estate of Ravenfell Manor, a place she once called home but no longer recognizes. Hoping to escape her grief, she returns to its ivy-choked walls and forgotten rooms, determined to start anew. But Ravenfell is no sanctuary--it is a house of sorrow, steeped in secrets, and alive with something that should be dead.

Gabriel Allward, the manor's reclusive caretaker, has remained at Ravenfell for years, his presence as rooted as the ancient stones. Cold and mysterious, he keeps to the shadows, guarding a truth he dares not reveal. Yet Victoria is drawn to him and to the darkness that clings to him like a second skin.



New Releases Continued



Title: The Beach House
Author: Stephanie Pass
Genre: Contemporary Romance
Release Date: October 29, 2025
Available In: Kindle
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

They shared a beach house.
A childhood.
A love that could’ve lasted forever—until a lie tore them apart.

Every summer since they were five, their families met on the Texas coast, returning to the same weathered beach house. Mallie Wright and Jace Smith built a world of their own on the shore—just the two of them, chasing waves and whispered promises.

By thirteen, they shared their first kiss.
By fourteen, they swore it was forever.
By fifteen, they believed nothing could break them.

But forever came undone.

Other Announcements:



Mary Karlik has a 4 book deal with Tule Publishing.

Nicky Lovick, with WGM Atlantic, secured a 4 book deal for Mary with Tule Publishing. The books are Cowboy Romances set around the fictional town of Spring Creek, Texas.

Michelle Miles will present the PAN Power Up Session on Nov. 4th

Michelle will present *Podcasting & Networking: Growing Your Author Career*. Register now at www.rwa.org/power-up-sessions for Tuesday, November 4th at 7pm CST.



DARA Newsletter

Our Mission: DARA is focused on providing education and marketing opportunities to the members. With monthly programs on writing craft, publishing business, and writing tools, we strive to improve our writing skills. We support and encourage our members no matter their writing level.

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 newsletter 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 information to Michelle Miles at mlmiles21@gmail.com.

Please include your name, title, date of publication, publisher, format, and whether or not it's your first publication.



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DARA Board of Directors for 2025

President—Donna McGoldrick

President Elect—Michelle Miles

Treasurer—Dren James

Secretary—Janet Leigh

DARA Leaders

Program Coordinator—Jennifer August

Membership—Donna McGoldrick

Member Awards (Roses) - Michelle Miles

Communications (Newsletter / Website) - Donna McGoldrick

Pan Liaison—Open

Pro Liaison—Open