

DARA NEWS

President's Letter - *We Don't Write Alone*

May is a month of fullness.

The world is in bloom. The days feel longer, brighter, more expansive. And there's a sense—not of beginning, but of continuation. Of things growing, stretching, becoming more than they were just a few weeks ago.

Writing can feel like that, too.

Or... it can feel like the exact opposite.

Because while stories grow in beautiful, expansive ways, the act of writing itself is often solitary. It's you and the page. You and the cursor. You and the quiet voice in your head wondering if what you're creating is working.

And in those moments, it's easy to feel alone.

But here's the truth I want to center this month: You are not doing this alone.

Even when you're drafting in silence. Even when you're revising in circles. Even when you're staring at a blank page wondering what comes next.

You are part of a community of writers who understand exactly what that feels like.

That's what makes a chapter like ours so powerful.

This is a space where people know what it means to wrestle with a scene that won't cooperate. Where they understand the vulnerability of sharing your work. Where they celebrate not just book launches and contracts, but finished chapters, brave attempts, and the decision to keep going.

That kind of support matters.

Because writing romance is, at its core, about connection.

We write about people finding each other. Choosing each other. Building something meaningful together. And it's easy to forget that we need some of that same connection in our own creative lives.

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May 23, 2026 Meeting Information

Social Time: 9am. Business Meeting: 9:30 am. Speaker: 10am.

Non-members are invited to attend two (2) free meetings. If you want to attend a third meeting, you're required to join DARA and RWA. Go to <https://www.dallasarearomanceauthors.com/> and click the button to register for the meetings. After you fill out the Google Form and submit it, you'll receive the Zoom link in the summary.

Community doesn't just happen—it's built.

It's built when we show up to meetings, even when we're tired. When we offer encouragement in a group thread. When we share knowledge, resources, or hard-earned lessons. When we volunteer our time and energy to help something larger than ourselves continue to thrive.

It's built in small, consistent ways.

And every one of those actions contributes to a chapter where writers feel welcomed, supported, and inspired.

This month, I want to gently encourage you to lean into that.

If you've been quiet, consider stepping forward. If you've been unsure, consider asking a question. If you've been doing this on your own, consider reaching out.

You don't have to do everything. You don't have to be everywhere.

But even one connection can make a difference.

And if you're in a season where you feel strong—where the words are flowing, the ideas are coming, and your creative energy is high—this is a beautiful time to give back.

Offer a kind word. Share what you've learned. Encourage someone who might be where you once were.

Because every writer in this chapter is at a different point in their journey—but all of those journeys matter.

Romance, more than any other genre, understands that love is built through presence. Through showing up. Through choosing connection again and again.

What if we approached our writing community the same way?

Not as something we participate in when it's convenient—but as something we actively nurture.

Because when we support each other, we all grow stronger.

The writer finishing their first draft gains confidence. The author launching their next book gains momentum. The member navigating challenges gains encouragement.

And the entire community benefits.

May is a reminder that growth doesn't happen in isolation.

It happens in ecosystems. In networks. In spaces where things are allowed to take root and flourish together.

That's what we have here.

So wherever you are in your writing journey this month, I hope you'll remember: You don't have to figure it all out on your own. You don't have to struggle in silence. You don't have to carry the weight of this work by yourself.

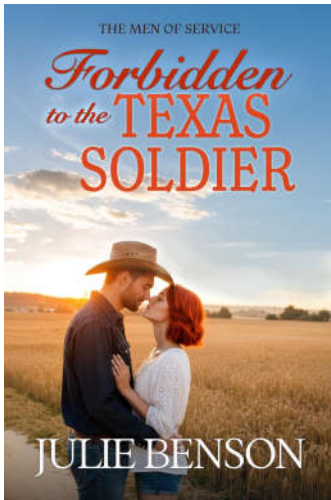
We are here.

And we're better—stronger, more creative, more resilient—because we are here together.

—Michelle Miles

Member's Corner

A place to celebrate success, recognize our members, and welcome new members



Title: Forbidden to the Texas Soldier

Author: Julie Benson

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Release Date: May 28, 2026

Available In: Kindle

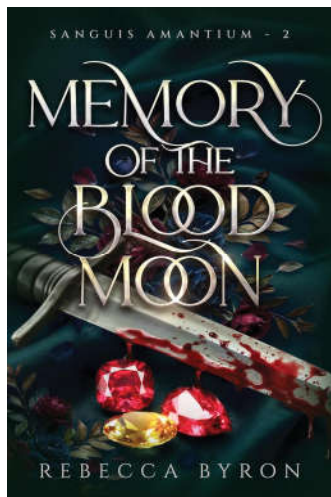
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

A soldier's promise. A stubborn cowgirl unwilling to admit she needs help. An immediate and sizzling attraction they're both determined to fight.

A bombing injury derails widower and former bull rider Dash Lange's army career, forcing him home to rebuild his life again. When a friend asks him to check on his younger sister as well as his father and struggling ranch, Dash agrees, happy to have a purpose. But when he meets the sister, it all goes sideways, starting with the bro code.

Lainey Gallagher counts only on herself. Her family is fractured—by abandonment, addiction, and a brother deployed overseas. She's holding her bookstore together through sheer will and hopes adding a coffee café will boost business. But her father's horse ranch is a money suck, and when his newly trained rodeo stock horses are stolen, Lainey steps in to save the ranch, find the thief, and keep her dad sober.

A take-charge cowboy riding to the rescue is the last thing she wants. Or is it?



Title: Memory of the Blood Moon

Author: Rebecca Byron

Genre: Paranormal / Vampire Romance

Release Date: May 5, 2026

Available In: Kindle & Paperback

First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

Whispers follow her touch. Fire and light answer her call. And a goddess begins to speak...

Mira Garvie thought love was the hardest truth she would ever have to face. But when an enchanted ruby awakens memories of a life lived—and lost—beneath a blood-red moon, Mira is drawn deep into the magic of her Garvie bloodline.

As she uncovers her family's devotion to Brigid—goddess of flame, metal, and sacrifice—her growing power comes with a terrible question: what does the goddess demand in return?

Centuries earlier, Magda, a Romani peasant, survives betrayal, brutality, and death itself—reborn with a single purpose. Damned by prophecy and bound by grief, she searches across time for the one woman powerful enough to restore what she lost.

As past and present spiral toward collision, Mira and the immortal man she loves must decide whether faith, love, and destiny can exist without cost. Because some loves endure beyond death...and some debts are written in blood.

Memory of the Blood Moon is Book 2 in the Sanguis Amantium series, it is intended for adult audiences due to its explicit content. Refer to content/trigger warnings inside for more details.

Member's Corner

A place to celebrate success, recognize our members, and welcome new members

Book Signing Events

June 3-6th

Michelle Miles, Janet Leigh, Sasha Summers - Reader & Author Get Together. The venue is at the Holiday Inn, Cincinnati Airport in Erlanger, Kentucky.

June 13th - Sharla Wylde - Wild Deadwood Reads in Deadwood, South Dakota

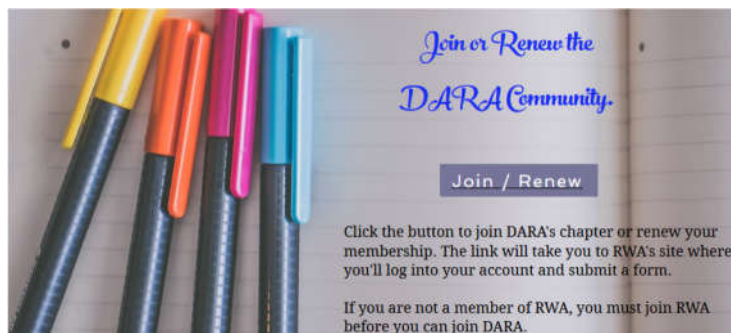
June 6th - Stephanie Pass - A Dance of Wings & Whispers. A romantasy inspired masquerade ball. Held at Cadence Bank Center, Assembly Hall in Belton, TX.

June 27-28th - Stephanie Pass - Texas Horror Lit Fest. Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas in Irving, TX.

Welcome To The Chapter

Rebecca Byron joined our chapter on April 29th. Visit her website to learn more about her. <https://rebeccabyron.com/>

Renew Your Chapter Dues on DARA's Website



Your Chapter dues are due on the month you joined DARA. Please go to DARA's website to renew your chapter dues for 2026. Click the **Join/Renew** button. This will take you to RWA's site first, then the chapter will be notified of your renewal. You'll receive an email to pay chapter dues via PayPal. You can also write a check and send it to our post office box.

Website: <https://www.dallasarearomanceauthors.com/join-renew>

Welcome to the Inkers Con 2026!

DARA has partnered with Inkers Con to bring this experience to our members.

Inkers Con is a learning company focused on accelerating the success of indie fiction authors through conferences, workshops and communities.

Inkers Con runs **May 30 – June 12, 2026**, featuring:

- 24 expert presentations (Marketing, Business, Craft, Advertising)
- Two weeks of live Q&As, roundtables, networking, and co-working
- 6 years of replay access
- 30-day money-back guarantee

Promo Window is May 1st to June 12th. Go to <https://inkerscon.com/2026-digital-conference/>

Following Is Your Affiliate Details:

Your Coupon Code: DARA26

DARA members must enter this code at checkout for the Chapter to receive credit.

Commission:

The Chapter earns **\$99.50 per ticket sold (50%)**.

To give you perspective:

- 5 sales = \$497.50
- 10 sales = \$995
- 20 sales = \$1,990

Payouts will be sent via PayPal on July 10, 2026.



Other Conferences In 2026

DFW Writers Conference - October 3rd - 4th, 2026 <https://dfwcon.org/>

⇒More than 300 attendees, 90+ classes, panels and workshops, 13 agents and editors, and a full weekend of networking.

⇒Held at the Hilton Garden Inn Dallas, Hurst, TX.

WriterCon - September 4th - 7th, 2026 <https://writercon.com/about-writercon-2026/>

⇒Whether you're an aspiring author, a seasoned writer, or a publishing professional, WriterCon is the place to connect, learn, and grow.

⇒Held at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK.

Self-Pub Con (Online) - October 17th - 18th, 2026 <https://selfpublishingadvice.org/conference/>

⇒For all indie authors, whether you're just starting or scaling up. Sessions cover everything from beginner basics to advanced strategies in publishing, promotion, and making a living from your writing.

RWA 2026 Annual Conference

Why Attend?

- Inspiring workshops, deep dive sessions, and insider access sessions
- Pitch appointments with agents and editors actively acquiring romance manuscripts
- Networking events that bring writers and industry professionals together
- Author Book Signing open to the public
- Prestigious Golden Heart Awards, Diamond Heart Awards, and more at our Saturday Awards Dinner & Ceremony
- Marketplace featuring vendors July 16-18
- Exclusive discounts for local businesses and restaurants
- Plus... the always-popular **Scavenger Hunt** and unforgettable after-hours fun!



Tentative Conference Schedule Outline

- **Wednesday, July 15:** Retreats, Deep Dive Sessions, Chapter Expo, Welcome Reception
- **Thursday, July 16:** Workshops, Pitch Appointments, Vendor Marketplace, Evening Get Together with Featured Speaker, After Hours Networking & Fun
- **Friday, July 17:** Workshops, Pitch Appointments, Vendor Marketplace, Librarians & Booksellers Event, Evening Get Together with Featured Speaker, After Hours Networking & Fun
- **Saturday, July 18:** Workshops, Pitch Appointments, Vendor Marketplace, Author Book Signing, Awards Dinner & Ceremony, After Party Celebration

Conference Hotel

Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque, 1000 Woodward PI NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Writing Sprints 2026 ZOOM Link

Janet Leigh host the Writing Sprints every Monday night at 7:30 CST. Look for the link in Circles and on DARA’s Facebook. Join the sprinting action on Zoom.

If you can’t click it, highlight the link and paste it in a browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86099936742?pwd=ApZiLtnB0J0PX30lcia4fHbHuXWeab.1>

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: 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, the title, the genre, release date, format, and whether or not it's your first publication.



DARA's Website:

dallasarearomanceauthors.com

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DARA Board of Directors for 2026

- President—Michelle Miles
- President Elect—Janet Leigh
- Treasurer—Donna McGoldrick
- Secretary—Lisa Fenley

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