

DARA NEWS

February Speaker: Nadia Salem

The Heroine's Journey, mapping the Mythic Quest in Romance



The heroine's journey is a mythic quest that has its origins in the monomyth. This webinar explicates Maureen Murdock's conception of the heroine's journey step by step with complete examples from contemporary film to reveal an-age-old and successful storytelling pattern that creative writers can adapt to their novels.

Nadia Salem is a professor of creative writing and has taught mythic structure at Northwestern and Georgetown Universities. Her book, *The Monomyth Reboot*, is about how to work with the hero and heroine's journey in story, and she's also slated to present at the Spring Fling Writers' Conference in 2024.

As a mythopoeic scholar, Nadia Salem researches mythic structures in narrative throughout literature and film. By understanding mythology's influence in creating classics, bestsellers, and blockbusters, she studies cross-cultural, genre-bending, marginalized stories for popular and political impact. Nadia has a doctorate in English and Creative Writing from Aberystwyth University and a doctorate in law from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. Her academic interests are in law & literature, mythopoeisis, and transmodernism. She has taught mythic structure at Georgetown University and Northwestern University and currently serves as faculty at DePaul University. Nadia is also a playwright, having authored several produced plays about the American immigrant BIPOC experience.

Visit her website at <https://www.nadiasalem.com/>

Zoom Meeting For February 24th. DARA meeting starts at 9am CST.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83434280984?pwd=Y2NEZWJlNlhMOFYyaE1JWGM84ckp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 834 3428 0984

Passcode: 548934

President's Letter

Goals For 2024

There is something about the newness of another year that makes us want to do better, improve, and regroup. It may be that we feel blessed to see the new year, or that we see the new year as a restart opportunity. Regardless of the reason, we set goals. We create resolutions. We promise to do better.

It's February. Truth be told, many of us have already defaulted on our New Year's resolutions and discarded our goals for the year.

Why is it that we don't keep the promises we make to ourselves? We promise to lose weight, but we refuse to exercise and eat better. We promise to save money, but we continue to make emotional purchases. We promise to publish a novel, yet we refuse to write or create an outline.

For us to achieve the goals and resolutions we set, we must practice self-discipline. It is our ability to govern ourselves that will help us grow, achieve goals, and reach resolutions. If we want to write the book, finish the chapter, develop the characters, create the story arc – it all starts with governing ourselves.

We must implement personal discipline. Disciplines that may help with your writing journey include time blocking, setting reminders on your phone, rising early staying up late, writing daily, having an accountability partner, participating in writing sprints, and journaling.

It boils down to what is important, what has significance, and what should take precedence. If writing a novel, completing the chapter, proofing the manuscript is important, we must use our time wisely and make it a priority. Time is more valuable than money and what we do with ours will determine the success we have as writers.

Let's commit to our goals. Let's finish what we started. Let's get published!

—*Sharon Giddings Davis*

Dallas Area Romance Authors
DARA





New Challenges

The DARA Board agreed to add additional recognition for our members, when we close out the year at our December meeting. Additional recognitions will include the member who invited the most visitors, the member who recruited the most members, and the member who read the most books!

Recognizing that we are not just writers, but also readers, each month we want our members to submit to info@dallasarearomancewriters.com the books that you personally read. At the end of the year, we will recognize the member who is our top reader!

This should be fun. We will give a tally at each board meeting prior to December.

Okay, DARA, ready, set, read!

Critique Anyone?

DARA would like to start having live writing critique sessions after our hybrid meetings in the quarter months (March, June, September).

Hoping to get participation, we would like to have our first live critique in March. If you are a published author and would like to critique writing samples after the March meeting, let us know at the February meeting or by March 8, 2024. If you have a writing sample (10 typed pages max) that you would like to receive feedback on, send it to info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com by March 8, 2024.



The critique process will work as follows:

1. Members who desire a critique will submit writing sample by deadline.
2. Published authors, serving on critique panel, will review and make note of needed improvements.
3. At the meeting, members, who submitted a writing sample, will provide a 2 minute synopsis of work and then read the writing sample to the audience.
4. Published authors, serving on the critique panel, will provide feedback using the hamburger method. They will say what they like about the work, what needs improving, and what they like about the character(s).
5. Members who submitted a writing sample, will listen to feedback, without interrupting or explaining. Written work will be reviewed and critiqued by what is submitted.
6. Audience will observe and encourage the submitting members for their vulnerability.

This method of obtaining critical feedback is used by several writing groups and can be very beneficial to all our members. We will only have the critique session if we have submissions and panel participants.

Resources For Authors

Dallas Area Romance Authors want to always provide benefit to our members and encourage them in their writing. Below are podcast resources that may prove beneficial for you as a romance author.

Podcasts

- The Creative Penn
- Book Marketing Tips & Author Success
- Write Now
- Fated Mates
- Romancing the Story
- Authorpreneurs Unleashed
- Smart Podcast, Trashy Books
- Writer's Routine
- Helping Writers Become Authors



Hybrid In March



March isn't just for March Madness, green beer, and leprechauns. DARA will have a face-to-face meeting in March. If you can't meet face-to-face, no worries, we will have a hybrid option for watching online. Our March meeting is being hosted by member, Michelle Tanner.

The meeting location is: **Grand Treviso, 330 Las Colinas Blvd., E, Irving, TX 75039**. There is parking out front, on the first floor of the parking garage, on the street in front of the building, and on Mandalay.

When you arrive, tell the person at the desk you are here for the meeting, and they will put you in the elevator to the 6th floor.

Follow the signs to the Activity Room.

Thank you, Michelle, for making this possible.



New Releases

This year Mary Karlik will take care of the Rose Presentation at the monthly meetings. Send your new release information to her at: mary@marykarlik.com.

Please include your name, title, date of publication (if known), publisher, and whether or not it's your first publication.



White Rose = First Novel Sale

Pink Rose = Subsequent Novel Sale

White Carnation (or Tulip) = Subsequent Novella Sale

Sunflower = Short Story

Gold Rose = Diamond Heart Finalist (Formally called the Rita, and most recently, the Vivian. See RWA's site for details. https://www.rwa.org/Online/Awards/The_Vivian/Online/Awards/The_Vivian/Diamond_Heart_Award.aspx)

Writing Conferences

Writers' League of Texas

<https://writersleague.org/programs/a-e-conference/>

Romance Writers of America—July 31st—August 3, 2024

<https://www.rwa.org/>

DFWCon: DFW Writers Conference—October 5th and 6th, 2024

<https://dfwcon.org/>

2024 Writing Workshop of Austin

<https://writingworkshopofaustin.com/>

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 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 Mary Karlik at mary@marykarlik.com.

Please include your name, title, date of publication (if known), publisher, 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—Terry Gene
- 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