

DARA NEWS



Ten Keys to Success & Survival: What Every Romance Author Should Know

With Jane Porter

Jane will go over the *Ten Keys to Success & Survival: What Every Romance Author Should Know*. The workshop examines the ten things Jane knows now but wishes she knew earlier about the industry. Obviously every writer's experiences are unique, but we all should know the basics, and this is Jane's list of basics every writer will want to know. The workshop covers: craft know how, mental strength, personal & professional relationships, publishing hurdles, reviews, and more.

About Jane: *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Jane Porter holds an MA in Writing from the University of San Francisco and has written more than 75 novels since getting her first sale to Harlequin Presents in 2000. Jane's runaway bestseller, *Flirting with Forty*, became a Lifetime movie starring Heather Locklear in 2008, and in 2021 Jane had two of her Tule Publishing romances adapted for GAC TV movies. A six-time RITA finalist, and RITA winner in July 2014 for *Take Me, Cowboy*, Jane founded Tule Publishing in 2013 and is known for her passionate, powerful stories and relatable heroines. You can find more about Jane at www.janeporter.com.

The Holiday Party Location:

Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Dallas Central/North Park

10370 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX. 75231

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/dfwnphx-hampton-suites-north-dallas-central-expy>

Breakfast is from 8:30am to 9:30am. Business meeting starts at 9:30am. Guest speaker starts at 10am. No charge to DARA members. Non-members must register for the Holiday meeting and breakfast on DARA's website.

DARA will also have the annual raffle baskets. If you'd like to donate a basket, please contact Michelle Miles at mlmiles21@gmail.com.

Go to DARA's Website at <https://www.dallasarearomanceauthors.com/> to prepay for raffle tickets.



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 table centerpieces.

Breakfast is free to DARA members. Non-members must register for the breakfast and the meeting at DARA's website <https://www.dallasarearomanceauthors.com/>.

Breakfast is from 8:30am to 9:30am. We'll have a short meeting at 9:30 for awards and introduce the new board members for 2026. Jane will begin her presentation at 10:00am. We need to be out of the room by 12:00pm.

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Zoom for out-of-town members and guests. The Zoom link will be sent out by Wednesday, December 3rd. If you live in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, please come to the breakfast and meeting in-person.



Get Your Raffle Baskets Ready!

Please donate a basket with your books, wine, office supplies, or just anything you want to put in it. If you'd rather donate your time instead of books, you can raffle off a free critique by printing a card with instructions and slip it in an envelope. I put a basket together with how-to books and Christmas ornaments. The baskets are a fundraiser for DARA. Your donation is appreciated.

If you're interested in donating a basket, please contact Michelle Miles at mlmiles21@gmail.com.

Tentative Agenda:

8:30 - 9:30 Breakfast / Socializing

9:30 Business Meeting

-Rose Presentation

-Service Awards

-Robin Teer Award

-Introduce New Board

9:50 - Zoom opens for online attendees

10:00 - Keynote Speaker, Jane Porter



A sample of last year's baskets.



President's Letter

"Your intuition knows what to write, so get out of the way." — Ray Bradbury

It's November as I write my last letter as President. What do these last two months mean? It's the holidays! Time for family gatherings. Time to celebrate all the things you are thankful for. Time to spread the generosity of Christmas and goodwill towards others. I'm always excited for the end of the year holiday party with DARA.



One of the things that make our holiday party special is the gift baskets that are raffled off to raise much needed money for our chapter. You don't have to be published to donate a basket. The basket itself can be as small as you want, or as large as you want to make it. In the past, we've raffled off baskets with books, wine, chapter critiques, one-hour sessions for brainstorming, and much more. Please consider donating a basket.

The end of the year also brings the changing of the guards, or in our case, board members. I want to say a big "THANK YOU" to Michelle Miles, Janet Leigh, and Dren James for your leadership, your support, and your friendship over the year. Thank you, Jennifer August for setting up so many wonderful speakers that make attending our meetings so much fun. And a very heart-felt thanks to Anita Learned for letting me lean on you for advice and direction. Thank you ladies for a great year.

I know next year will be just as great. DARA will be in good hands, guided by a new board to continue its romance mission.

—Donna McGoldrick

*Merry
Christmas*

HAPPY
Holidays

Zoom Meeting For December 6th. 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

Meet DARA's 2026 Board of Directors



President

Michelle Miles believes in fairy tales, true love, and magic. She writes heart-stopping urban fantasy, young adult and adult fantasy, and paranormal romance with an action/adventure twist that will leave you breathless. She is the author of numerous series that includes everything from angels and demons to fairies, dragons, and elves. A native Texan, in her spare time she loves reading, listening to music, watching movies, hiking, and drinking wine. She can be found online at Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and more!



President-Elect

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.



Secretary

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.



Treasurer

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.

New Releases



Title: Once Upon A Woven Wish - A Rumpelstiltskin Retelling
Author: Michelle Miles
Genre: YA Fairy Tale / Novella
Release Date: November 28, 2025
Available In: eBook and Paperback
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

A desperate girl with everything to lose. A cursed man bound by ancient bargains. And a final wish that could either save them both—or destroy everything she holds dear.

In a crumbling village at the edge of the kingdom, Serena knows survival is a daily battle. When heavy taxes threaten to steal her family's home, she turns to the ancient Well of Wishes—now little more than legend—and makes a dangerous plea for help. That night, a stranger answers.

As magic breathes life into the dying land, Serena finds herself tangled in an invisible bargain. The stranger is no ordinary man. He's a prisoner of the Well, cursed to grant wishes until someone dares to break the spell. And if Serena can uncover his true name before she loses herself completely, she might just rewrite both their fates.



Title: Loving the Highland Warrior - Book 2 in the Highland Destiny Series
Author: Michelle Miles
Genre: Fantasy Historical Romance
Release Date: December 5, 2025
Available In: eBook and Paperback
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

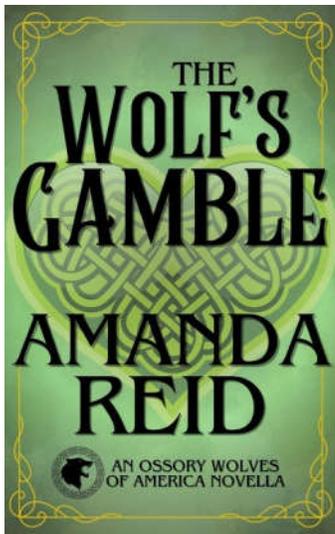
Three pieces of stone. Two ancient bloodlines. One divine destiny.

Chloe Sinclair is desperate to find her sister who vanished under mysterious circumstances. Retracing her footsteps the day of her disappearance, she finds nothing but dead ends. Until she makes her way to an antique store in the heart of Edinburgh with an eccentric shopkeeper who gives her a strange looking stone and a cryptic message. When the man she thought she loved attacks her to take the stone for himself, it transports her back in time to medieval Scotland,

dropping her in the middle of dangerous territory.

Malcolm MacLeod is faced with a deadly mission—a raid on his rival clan. But when he finds a lovely lass in the midst of battle, he has no choice but to rescue her and take her back to his clan. Upon his return, he realizes she possesses part of the missing ancient keystone he and his brother vowed to protect.

New Releases Continued



Title: The Wolf’s Gamble
Author: Amanda Reid
Genre: Historical Paranormal Romance / Novella
Release Date: December 1, 2025
Available In: eBook and Paperback
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

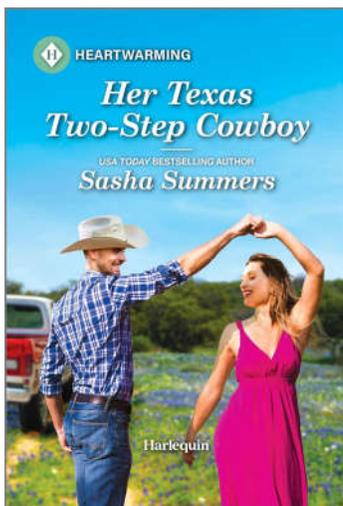
A woman’s promise turns to a desperate scheme for survival...

Aaron
 After receiving a cryptic letter, I journeyed to Deadwood, South Dakota to investigate the murder of my cousin, an Ossory wolf just like me. I never expected to find a petite thief rummaging through my belongings minutes after I stepped off the train. While my feral side is far too interested in Josephine Lukas’s wits and beauty, to solve the mystery of my cousin’s death, I must quickly scent out her secrets.

Josephine

He’s finally arrived, and Hera’s toga! Not only can I not use my mind-reading abilities on Aaron Monaghan, but with his auburn hair and powerful physique, he’s an Adonis, someone far too tempting for my sensibilities. Instead of fantasizing about him, I should focus on my mission: to learn if he’s worthy enough to receive his cousin’s most precious gifts...or decide if I should flee before I’m killed just like my friends.

Danger stalks the two through the rough and tumble turn-of-the-20th-century mining town. When Aaron’s wolf claims her as his mate, he must rely on all of his wiles to protect Josephine and her incredible secret from the killer’s crosshairs.



Title: Her Texas Two-Step Cowboy
Author: Sasha Summers
Genre: Contemporary Romance
Release Date: December 31, 2025
Available In: eBook and Paperback
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

He’s bonding with her son, but can he win her heart?

Single mom Gretta Williams has her hands full keeping her rebellious son, Levi, on track while running her dance-studio business. When Levi steals from Rusty Woodard’s family store, the charming Texas cowboy offers a solution—Levi can work off his debt instead of facing the police. Rusty is more surprised than anyone in Garrison that he voluntarily gets involved! As his admiration of Gretta grows, their connection deepens in ways neither of them expected. They begin to wonder if their lonely lives could change forever—and be filled with love and family.

Announcements From RWA

As a valued member of Romance Writers of America, you have exclusive access to affordable health coverage options through Gallagher, one of the world's leading insurance brokers.

Open Enrollment is approaching fast. This is your annual opportunity to review, compare, and select coverage that best fits your needs for 2026.

Key Enrollment Dates:

- Medicare Annual Enrollment: October 15 – December 7, 2025
- Under 65 Open Enrollment: November 1 – December 15, 2025
- Coverage for Your Employees: Available year-round

Your Member Benefits Include:

- Unmatched access: We work with a wide range of carriers and plan types available in your area
- Personal guidance at no cost to you
- Coverage options for individuals, families, and businesses

Plan options change annually, so even if you're happy with your current coverage, it's worth reviewing what's new for 2026.

- Call 888-908-1886 to speak with an advisor today
- Visit <https://AHS-Member-US.AJG.com/romancewriters/> for more information

Medicare Disclaimer:

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently, we represent 7 organizations which offer over 200 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options.

RAMP Mentee Applications

The next cycle of the Romance Author Mentorship Program (RAMP) started **November 1st and closes November 21st!** Here's your chance to fine-tune your unpublished manuscript with guidance from a published author and industry pros!

And it's FREE to RWA members in good standing.

RAMP pairs pre-published Mentees with Mentors who are experienced published authors from both Indie and Traditional pathways.

RAMP's 18-week program begins with 16 weeks of one-on-one time. You and your Mentor will:

- polish your manuscript
- demystify the querying and publishing process
- plan your career as a professional author

For the final two weeks, all Mentees will learn directly from industry professionals like agents, editors, and publishers how to pitch their project.

Click [RAMP](#) to learn more about the program's requirements.

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