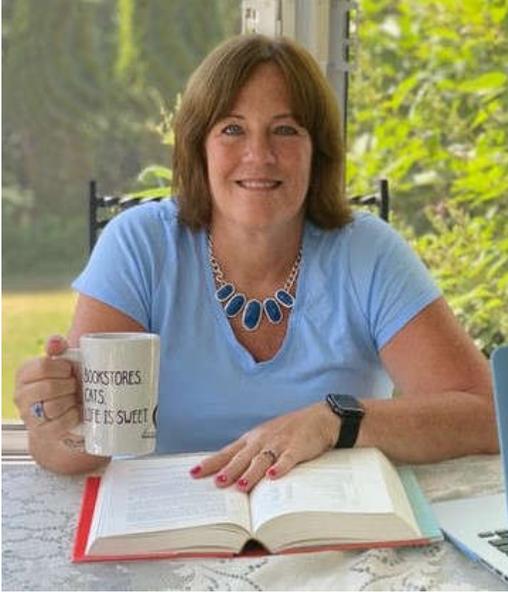


# DARA NEWS



## *A Deep Dive Into Developmental Editing*

### *October Speaker: Sue Toth*

As an author, you've probably heard that several of your writing colleagues use a developmental editor for their romance novels. But what exactly is a developmental editor? Do you need one? Why?

We'll examine what a developmental editor looks at, including:

- Story arc
- Plot holes
- Tropes
- Characters
- Setting
- Inconsistencies

We'll also talk about:

- Who would be the best developmental editor for your job?
- How do you find a developmental editor?
- What your developmental editor expects from you.
- What you should expect from your developmental editor.

We'll answer these questions and leave time for any additional questions you may have.

#### Bio:

Sue has dedicated most of her professional life to honoring the English language through editing and teaching. Ever since she learned to read, Sue has loved words and you can most often find her somewhere quiet with her nose stuck in a book. She passionately believes in the power of great writing. Her goal is to help authors make their writing shine. She specializes in developmental editing, concentrating on character development, pacing, story arc, and plot holes. She also offers book coaching packages.

With her experience as an editor, book coach, and writing teacher, words are at the heart of what Sue does, and she's ready to help you turn the story in your brain into the book that readers just can't put down.

In addition to her career in editing, Sue has taught journalism, writing, and editing at the college level and worked as a news and sports reporter.

When Sue isn't working, she enjoys reading (imagine that!), hanging with her family, watching the New York Mets and New York Jets, and listening to 80s rock music. Oh, and her cats...can't forget the cats. They command a lot of Sue's attention.

You can find out more about her at <https://suetoth.com/>

**Zoom Meeting For October 26th. 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

### Why Write Romance?

On the first Saturday in October, I stood in line for almost an hour to enter a bookstore. The bookstore, which puts a new spin on an old concept, is *Blush*. It is a bookstore that only sells romance books! This idea should have been born from DARA (or RWA). However, the important thing is, it was born.

Since I had nothing to do but wait with the other patrons, I decided to chat with those in line. My primary question to them was “Why do you like romance?” The answers were not surprising:

*“Because I like escaping to a world that always have a happy ending.”*

*“I like fantasy romance. The worlds that the author’s build always intrigue me and allow me to visualize things I wouldn’t otherwise think about.”*

*“Modern romance builds on the fairytales I grew up reading, Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty.”*

*“Because the conflict in romance keeps you guessing until the end. It’s magical.”*

*“Romantic suspense is the best. I like a little mystery with my romance. I love the who-done-it with romantic elements.”*

*“I like romance because I know that no matter what happens in the beginning, or middle, the end will be great.”*

*“I like the cat and mouse chase between the two main characters. I like how their differences become what attracts them to each other.”*

So, for those of you that have not completed your manuscript, or published your completed work, know that there are those that are awaiting your contribution. Writing is good for the soul, but writing romance is also good for the heart. What we do enlightens the world. It provides hope. It provides love. It provides optimism.

People write for various reasons, including: to leave a legacy, to share a political opinion, to emphasize a point, to share a story that only they can tell, and to memorialize either themselves or someone else. People write romance for these reasons also. However, they also write romance because they love a good meet-cute, because the happy-ever-after or happy-for-now is too good not to write, because creating sexual tension is fun, and because romance writers make the world a better place.

If you are looking for inspiration, motivation, or just plain willpower – in the words of Nike, just do it! Write your romance novel.

Romance is the number one selling and most profitable book genre and we need your story in the marketplace. Share your love for romance, and all its wonderful sub-genres, with the world. We’re waiting on you.

—Sharon Giddings Davis



## *We Were Hybrid In September*



In September, we hosted our DARA meeting both live and virtual. Thanks to our own Amanda Reid for presenting and to those that were able to make it in person. The benefit of being in person is that we get to visit and have lunch after the meeting. Our next hybrid meeting will be December 7, 2024.

## *A Store Just For Us — Romance Lovers*

*Blush*, a bookstore that sells only romance novels, just opened their second location. It is in Bishop Arts, in Dallas. Their first location is in Kansas. The owner said she is open to selling books from DARA members. Currently she purchases most of the books through IngramSpark. If interested in speaking with them about selling your books, complete the contact form on their website and tell them you are with DARA, you're local, and that you would be willing to do a book signing. Below are photos of the long lines to get in, the books, and the novelty items they sell. Happy shopping!



## 2025 Nominees For DARA Board



**President-Elect**

**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.

She is a member of Romance Writers of America (RWA) and Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association (SFWA). 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!



**Treasurer**

**Dren James** is a long standing member of DARA who writes modern romance with a comedic twist and diverse characters. She loves reading, writing, paper crafting, watching sports and has previously served as treasurer and secretary.



**Secretary**

**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.

Leigh lives in Dallas, Texas, with her husband and a dog with allergies. After working all day, and writing at every opportunity, she enjoys relaxing with a funny romance or mystery novel. Her favorite authors are Nora Roberts, Janet Evanovich, Diana Gabaldon, Sandra Brown, and for those times when she needs a good cry, Nicholas Sparks.

### Go Vote!

Voting for a new board is open until October 31st. Click the following link that will take you to Survey Monkey and cast your vote. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZFZBH9>

## ***DARA Volunteers Still Needed***

Below are volunteer positions we still need to fill. Please consider volunteering and help keep our community growing.

- Program Coordinator
- Membership Chair
- Communications (Newsletter / Website)

Donna McGoldrick will move into the President’s position from President-Elect.

## **Free Membership Drawing**

DARA had a table at the Expo during the RWA2024 conference. If you stopped by to checkout the table and talk with us about our chapter, you probably put your name in our drawing for a **free 2025 membership to DARA**. When the Expo was over, we drew a name, and we’re excited to announce that **Jen Bokal** won the raffle. Thank you everyone who dropped your name into the fish bowl.



## **NaNoWriMo**

It’s time once again for NaNoWriMo. November is in two weeks. Use that time to plot/pants/plan your next book, or race to the finish line with the one you’re currently writing.

Join us in November for NaNoWriMo writing sprints, encouragement, and community. Log into the October meeting on the 26th and we’ll discuss days and time to come together on Zoom.

NaNoWriMo has a website where you can find other communities of writers. <https://nanowrimo.org/>

# Are You Game?

## Word Search

D F X C L R S A Z S  
 I F L A I O T T D E  
 N C S N C M R T F X  
 N A M D K A O R L Y  
 E R O L K N K A U L  
 R E O E I C E C T O  
 L S C S S E H T T V  
 O S H M S X Z D E E  
 O U N D R E S S R M  
 K W I N K T O U C H

Romance  
 Flutter  
 Stroke  
 Smooch  
 Wink

Candles  
 Dinner  
 Touch  
 Sexy

Undress  
 Caress  
 Attract  
 Look

Lick  
 Love  
 Kiss

### 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](mailto:info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com). We want to hear from you.

## Funnies For Writers



- *How to cook crack and clean a crab. Step 1: Use commas.*
- *Farmers writing romance novels: Her body tensed and quivered as she felt wave after wave surge through it. I probably should have told her about the new electric fence.*
- *Lance is an uncommon name these days, but in medieval times, people were named Lance, a lot.*
- *Woman: Name a book that made you cry.*
- *Guy: Algebra I, Math for the Modern World*
- *A woman is riding with her husband through the neighborhood, and they see a nice-looking man jogging without his shirt on. “Now see, that’s a six pack,” she points out to her husband. Not missing a beat, he says, “Why would you want a six pack when you’ve got a whole keg?”*

## New Releases / Roses

Michelle Miles will take over the Rose Presentation at the monthly meetings. Send your new release information to her at: [mlmiles21@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiles21@gmail.com).

Please include your name, title, date of publication (if known), publisher, available in which format, 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

**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](mailto: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 men- tioned in this newsletter. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability, integrity, and finan- cial responsibility of those with whom they deal. DARA makes no warranties or representation, either ex- pressed 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](mailto:mlmiles21@gmail.com).

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



**DARA’s Website:**

[dallasarearomanceauthors.com](http://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) - Michelle Miles
- Communications (Newsletter / Website) - Donna McGoldrick
- Pan Liaison—Open
- Pro Liaison—Open