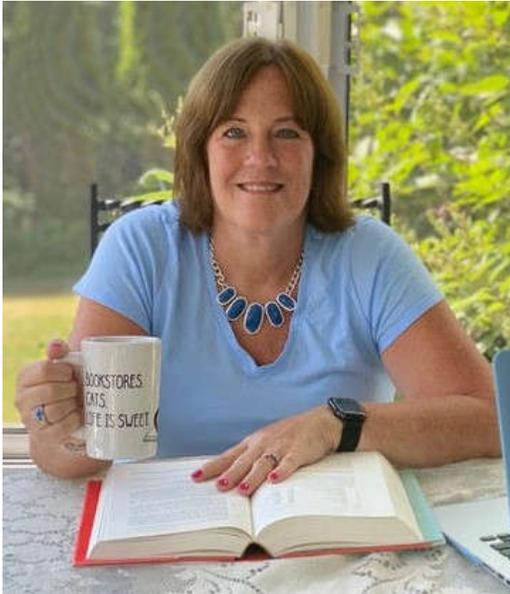


# DARA NEWS



## *A Deep Dive Into Developmental Editing*

### *April 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 April 27th. 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

### Spring Cleaning

I love reading self-improvement and productivity books. I recently finished reading The One Thing, by Gary Keller. The thesis of the book is 'what is the one thing I can do now that makes everything else easier or unnecessary?' For many of us, the answer to this question, this time of year, is spring cleaning.

Like January, April brings with it a renewal that makes us want to do better and be better. The advertising industry has capitalized on this by promoting the idea of spring cleaning. After all, it is in April when we clean those items that we don't like dealing with like windowsills, junk drawers, closets, garages, and more.

We have all heard of the many benefits to having a clean environment. Benefits like improved focus and productivity, reduced stress and anxiety, and enhanced self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. These benefits alone are good reasons to engage in creating a clean living and working environment.

However, environments aren't the only things we may want to clean, this spring. Not on the traditional spring-cleaning list is cleaning up your relationships and your thoughts.

Do relationships impact our thoughts or do our thoughts impact our relationships? Both. The people you spend time with should be people that bring you joy. They should be individuals that are for you and bring out the best in you. It has been said that we tend to be like the five people we spend the most time with. Take inventory. Are these people who encourage, support, improve, challenge, and honor you? If not, it may be time to do a little spring cleaning. It's not necessary to announce that you are leaving a tribe that no longer serves you, just limit your exposure to negative people and circumstances. Don't let the hurt people, that hurt people, hurt you.

The thoughts that you have about yourself, your circumstances, your writing, your self-worth are influenced by those you spend time with. They are also influenced by your exposure to media, the things you read, and the experiences you encounter. We often forget that we control our thoughts. Joel Osteen says whatever follows your 'I Am' will eventually find you. What are you saying about yourself? What are you saying about your writing and publishing goals? What's following your 'I Am'?

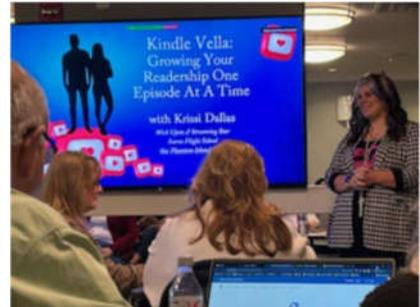
I challenge you to change your thoughts, watch what you say, clear the clutter, and enhance your relationships. All will help you finish strong, in writing and in life.



—Sharon Giddings Davis

## *We Were Hybrid In March*

We had a blast at our first face-to-face meeting of 2024! As you may recall, DARA’s board voted to host a hybrid meeting during the quarter months (March, June, September, December). The meeting was well attended, members enjoyed having an in-person option, and we had fun! Hope you can make it to our next in-person meeting in June!



## *Clean Thoughts or Dirty Mind*

### *What Am I?*

Here’s a fun game. You can find the answers at the end of the newsletter.

- 1) What’s white, gooey, sticky, and better to spit than swallow?
- 2) What’s long and hard and has cum in it?
- 3) What gets long when pulled, fits between breasts, slides neatly into a hole, chokes you when used wrong, and works well when jerked?
- 4) I’m great for protection. You can use your fingers to get me off.
- 5) I have a stiff shaft and I penetrate. I come with a quiver.
- 6) When you blow me, I get bigger and the tighter you wrap your lips around me the quicker I enlarge.



## Craft Books For Romance Writers



Even after spring cleaning, there is always room for more books.

With so many writing books on the market, it's often hard to discern the best resource. Below are some of the most recommended craft books for romance writers.

- 1) Romancing the Beat by Gwen Hayes
- 2) Save the Cat Writes a Novel by Jessica Brody
- 3) Story Genius by Lisa Cron
- 4) The Emotional Craft of Fiction by Donald Maass
- 5) On Writing by Stephen King
- 6) The Trope Thesaurus by Jennifer Hilt
- 7) Thinking Like a Romance Writer: The Sensual Writer's Sourcebook on Words and Phrases by Dahlia Evans
- 8) Romancing the Beat Story Structure for Romance Novels (How to Write Kissing Books) by Gwen Hayes
- 9) Writing the Romance Novel: Crafting a Love Story that Sells by Leigh Michaels
- 10) Crafting Category Romance: The Art of Fiction Haiku by Amy Lane
- 11) How to Outline a Romance Novel by Julie L. Spencer
- 12) How to Plot Romance Fiction: How to Outline a Romance Novel When You Are an Intuitive Writer by Nina Harrington
- 13) Romance Tropes & Hooks: Over 500 Tropes and Hooks to Plot Your Next Best Selling Romance by Karen Winter
- 14) Romance-ology 101: Writing Romantic Tension for the Inspirational and Sweet Markets by Julie Lessman
- 15) Writing the First Kiss: How to Write a First Kiss Scene That Will Leave Your Readers Breathless by Karen Winter

## Don't Forget Our Challenges!



A little competition never hurts, right? We want to have the biggest and best chapter in RWA. Taking a straw poll at the last RWA conference, it seemed as if we had the second largest RWA chapter, behind Las Angeles Romance Authors (LARA). Wouldn't it be great to be number one?

We want to encourage every member to invite others to visit, and join, our chapter. The member who invites the most visitors and recruits the most members will be recognized at our annual December meeting.

We are also challenging our members to a read-off. What's a read-off? It's a year-long, honor-system, read-a-thon. Send in the books you've read, every month, this year (send to [info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com](mailto:info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com)). We want to honor the member who reads the most this year. Afterall, we're not just writers, we're readers!

### *Upcoming Meetings*

May 25 - Plottr - Troy Lambert

June 22 - Blurbs: The Tiny Terror or Your Main Marketing Marvel? -  
Amanda Reid

July 27 - TBD

August 24 - Developing Your Business Plan - Jacki Renee

September 28 - Writing 201: 15 Random Things I've Learned in my 30 Years  
of Writing - Linda Steinberg.

October 26 - TBD

December 7 - TBD



Dallas Area Romance Authors had two new members join in March. Yay!! Please join us in welcoming back Michelle Miles. Michelle was a member of DARA years ago and has recently rejoined.

Kelly Rose and Tami Victor also joined in March. Michelle, Kelly and Tami, we are happy you joined our chapter. We wish all of you ladies continued writing, publishing and equally important – sales success!!



### What Am I Quiz



- 1 - Toothpaste
- 2 - Cucumber
- 3 - Seatbelt
- 4 - Gloves
- 5 - Arrow
- 6 - Balloon

**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.

### 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 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](mailto: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:**

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**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