



Page Turners

Page Turners

This newsletter will also appear at: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/pageturner.htm> with authors' photos

The authors' cooperative, Page Turners, welcomes you to this free, monthly newsletter. We encourage you to forward it to others you think would enjoy it, print it to share with friends, and invite them to subscribe by emailing us. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Contact: PageTurnerHome@aol.com Editor: Joan Upton Hall

Vol. 4, No. 4

April 2010

Contents

Mail Bag: Readers Write	2
Author of the month: Sylvia Dickey Smith	3-4
Book of the month: Sass Southern – Classy Cajun	4-5
Welcome New Staff Member: Jeffrey Marks	5-6
Get 'em While They're Hot! (other releases & successes)	6-7
Book Sellin', Searchin' & Signin' Shenanigans	7-9
Fun Stuff, Contests, and Other Offers	9
Readers Ask Authors: George Wilhite on the HOT SEAT	9
For Readers who also Write:	
GetGlue Widgets Can Make You a Wizard by Gloria Oliver ...	11
What's in Your Drawers? by L.C. Hayden	11
Scribed: The Largest Social Publishing Site by M.D. Benoit	11
We welcome article submissions – see guidelines	12
Heads up for Author Sightings (calendar)	12-13

Need a speaker? Check websites below for a writer near you.

Meet our Staff: Authors whose pages you must turn!

M.D. Benoit	http://www.mdbenoit.com	Science Fiction Mystery, Alternate Reality
Mayra Calvani	http://www.mayracalvani.com	Horror Dark fantasy, Satire, YA, Children
David Ciambrone	http://www.davidciambrone.com	Mystery, Technical management, News column
Diane Fanning	http://www.dianefanning.com	Mystery, True Crime, Suspense
Jackie Griffey	http://www.jackiegriffey.com	Cozies, romantic suspense, horror, historical
Joan Upton Hall	http://www.joanuptonhall.com	Fantasy, Paranormal, Travel/History, Editing advice
L.C. Hayden	http://lchayden.freesevers.com	Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children
Jeffrey Marks	http://www.jeffreymarks.com	Mystery, Biography, Self-help
Gloria Oliver	http://www.gloriaoliver.com	Spec Fic, Fantasy/SF/Horror, YA
Sylvia Dickey Smith	http://www.sylviadickeysmith.com	Mystery suspense
Cheryl Swanson	http://www.cherylswanon.net	Contemporary thriller, self-help nonfiction
George Wilhite	www.drwrightgooder.webs.com	Mystery/Detective, Western, Speculative, Noir, Nonfiction

MAIL BAG – READERS WRITE

Have questions you'd like to ask any of these authors? Comments about their books?

Their favorite desserts? What pets they have?

Write to Page Turners at the email address shown in the masthead.

Be sure to state which author you are addressing.

Original Request from a reader: In your question suggestions, you mention “What pets [PT authors] have.” I'd like to know from each of you who will answer: What's your favorite pet and what can you tell us about it? (I believe we can understand a lot about someone by the way they relate to animals.)

—Mandy

Gloria Oliver responds:

Dear Mandy,

I've had many pets over the years and loved them all dearly. But my favorite of the lot was a happy surprise for Valentine's Day.

We'd not had pets for a year or two and hubby didn't seem like he wanted any so I did not press. So imagine my surprise one day when he tells me we're going to the pet shop for Valentines!

There was a cage full of kittens and so I went over. I stuck my finger in hoping to entice one over, and this tiny blue eyed creature immediately homed in on me and started purring even before I petted him. Love at first sight! So on the way home I needed to name him. Well, he was part aristocrat (1/2 Siamese), he had long canines, white blonde hair, and he was awake at night. There was only one choice – Lestat! And so he was dubbed.

The little bundle purred constantly. He would climb up my jeans when I rode the exercise bike and climb up on my shoulder – king of all he surveyed. He grew. He was a rascal! I was his #1 gal and he made sure the other cats we ended up with knew it as well. Only downside to his love was that he'd grow impatient on occasion on the weekends when I didn't get up fast enough to suit him. He'd normally pat my face, but occasionally a nail would catch inside my nostril. Big Mistake! I was awake then all right, but my wrath would follow! Never stopped him from trying again next time though. Lol.

He's been gone for several years now, but he will always be the closest pet to my heart. Miss you, boy!

— **Gloria Oliver**

Next month: another author/staff member will talk about his/her pets.

Dear Joan,

I'd enjoy receiving a review copy of your book *Just Visiting Old Texas Jails* for commentary in **my Texas Bookshelf**.

— Thanks kindly, Will

Will Howard 12618 Ashcroft, Houston 77035 C:832-633-0595 H:713-728-1981

Wills Texana Monthly, subscribe for free

Texas Parlor, <http://texasparlor.blogspot.com> Texas Bookshelf, <http://texasbookshelf.blogspot.com>

Young Texas Reader, <http://youngtexasreader.blogspot.com> Texas Blog Notes

<http://texasblognotes.blogspot.com>

Will's Texana Channel, <http://www.youtube.com/willstexana>

Editor's note: I'm passing this message along to anyone else with a Texas nonfiction book or reads them. AND to anyone else who would enjoy seeing what he does. Interesting and different. Also to say thanks to **Will Howard**

— Joan Upton Hall

Have a first book or other “first” to announce? Tell us about it. Here's all you need to do:

1. Mention PageTurners newsletter (something specific you like about it would be nice — but isn't required).
2. Announce the title of your book (or whatever), a short blurb about it, and where it can be purchased.
3. Include a short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: **Sylvia Dickey Smith**

Lives in: Gerogetown, Texas

Writing genres: Mystery suspense, cookbook

Website: www.sylviadickeysmith.com.

Blogs: www.sylviadickeysmithbooks.wordpress.com

and Rules To Live By, at www.sylviadickeysmith.blogspot.com

Falling In Love All Over Again by Sylvia Dickey Smith

People often ask me why I set my books in a small corner of Texas. I didn't know why myself until the **Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce** me to write an article for a magazine in their relocation packet. That is when I realized, after living elsewhere for over forty years that I'd fallen in love with my hometown all over again.

The best we can figure, the Scots-Irish Dickey clan moved to Orange, Texas, in 1917. The lot of them loaded up and moved to the area from Thorndale, Texas in Milam County. The women and children took the train, while the men loaded their belongings on wagons and trekked across the state. Dickey's have lived here ever since.

A couple years after high school, I climbed in my own “covered wagon,” a two-toned black and white Chevy, and headed to Fort Worth, Texas, off on my own adventure. Since then, I've lived in a number of towns across Texas and halfway back, with a six-year stint on the island of Trinidad, West Indies.

When I contemplated a setting for my Sidra Smart mystery series, I considered all of these locations and more, but none of them fit. Frustrated, I played with the idea of setting the series in Orange, but promptly dismissed it. After all, I argued, Orange was just home.

An ordinary town set smack in the middle of mosquito-infested swampland, a town full of ordinary people doing ordinary things. But once spurred by the idea, I felt like our old plodding horse “Molly.” Once you turned her towards home, it was Katy-bar-the-door. For the more I researched, the more I discovered the mystical and mysterious elements resident in this area.

Combine the colorful Cajun/Creole culture and superstitions with the proud, stubborn, hardworking Scots-Irish; the solid, dependable farmers and ranchers, with the late coming Northern executives, who came to establish and maintain the oil industry. Add the area's ghosts, like that of a police chief gunned down by, of all people, the pastor of First Baptist Church; the victims of vigilante lynching strung up on the gibbet limb of “The Hanging Tree”; the innocent slaves who didn't survive storage in shacks out at Deweyville; and even earlier still, the spirits left behind by the cannibalistic Atakapa Indians.

For texture, listen to the down-home southeast Texas accent, where verb tense is simple and seldom conjugated, where whole sentences get reduced to one or two words. (“Y'ont-to?” instead of “Do you want to?” or “Would you like to?”)

For spice, add a crawfish boil and fresh seafood gumbo or some of the best Southern cooking this

side of paradise. For flavor, add the mysterious Adams Bayou, meandering through town past the Survivor Tree, a Pond Cypress dated at 1,200 years old — older than Christopher Columbus, Shakespeare, and even Galileo. Then add the exotic Blue Elbow Swamp, flowing between Texas and Louisiana. The result? A perfect setting for a mystery series.

Plus, when you mix all this together, the result is a friendly town with a concern for others, a sense of belonging to a place with a unique history not found in other small towns, the determination to keep on keeping on, despite depressions, wars, hurricanes, and industrial flux. In every book of the Sidra Smart series, there are examples of people who take their neighbors seriously and are concerned for others' welfare. No wonder I fell in love with my hometown all over again.

Once called a “pretty as a fairy tale” river port city, today, a new opportunity awaits the greater Orange area. The tight, controlled grip of the past has lessened its hold. Orange stands on the edge of a bright new future. Fall in love with Orange all over again. Seek out its fascinating history and you will learn its mystery. It awaits your discovery.

Author **Sylvia Dickey Smith** was born and raised in Orange, Texas — the land of Cajuns and cowboys. Through the years, Sylvia's family and career took her around the world and back to her roots for the **Sidra Smart Mystery series: *Dance On His Grave, Deadly Sins Deadly Secrets, and Dead Wreckoning.***

Book of the Month: *Sassy Southern - Classy Cajun* by Sylvia Dickey Smith

The spin-off from the *Sidra Smart Mystery Series*, my *Sassy Southern - Classy Cajun*, shares a mouthwatering assortment of Recipes. The term Sassy Southern - Classy Cajun may sound like an oxymoron to the average person, but in southeast Texas, where southerners and Cajuns all sleep under the same threat of hurricanes, and where mosquitoes grow big as dragonflies, good food is the common denominator. Gregarious folks welcome any excuse to get together for fellowship, fun and lively music.

Review of *Sassy Southern Classy Cajun* by Kevin Tipple

Good food always brings diverse groups of people together. That is the theme of this small cookbook from author **Sylvia Dickey Smith**. Well known by her “Sidra Smart Mystery Series” (all of which are good reads) Sylvia has now brought a few of the recipes mentioned by Sidra Smart in the books to life along with a number of others from various people.

After a dedication to her mother, Ruth Thomas Dickey and an opening preface and listing of the recipe winners, the book gets going with “Appetizers.” “Cajun Bowties” which features the pasta not the pastry, “Orange, Texas Party Punch” and “Swamp Dip” are just a few recipes covered in this section. While there aren't many pictures and there isn't any nutritional information, the recipes are simple and the instructions are concise. This same format holds true through the small cookbook.

Breads of various types such as “Apple Corn Bread” and “Buckskin Bread” are part of the five recipes in the following section simply titled “Breads.”

Three recipes make up the section on “Breakfast” including a “Breakfast Casserole” using crescent rolls, sausage, green chilies, black olives, and cheese and eggs. Since it takes nearly an hour to cook once everything is assembled this might also be a really good brunch on the weekends. This also might be one of those recipes one really doesn't want to know the nutritional information after all.

Surprisingly, the book next turns to “Desserts” starting on page 25. Expected ones such as “Green Tomato Pie” and “Peanut Butter Fudge” are here along with lesser known items such as “Peggie's Iron Skillet Chocolate Pie” contributed by Peggy Mcadams and “Southern Hot Milk Cake” contributed by

Carol Staggs spouse of author **Earl Staggs**. If, somehow, you have not read Earl's mystery novel, "**Memory Of A Murder**" you really should.

"Main Dishes" begin on page 50 with "Aunt Annie's Dirty Rice" and "Aunt Annie's Chicken Dumplings" both recipes frequently made by the fictional Aunt Annie in Sylvia's Sidra Smart Mystery Series. Also included is "Cajun Gumbo for Texans" contributed by Joan T. Hollier and "Crawfish Etouffe" among others.

"Vegetables" featuring such recipes as "Aunt Annie's Corn Patties" begins on page 98. Beyond "Cajun Potato Salad" and "Fried Okra" there are also ones for "Onion Pie" and "Sidra Smart's Sassy Pickles" among numerous others.

While this small 104 page cook book offers very few pictures (all black and white and small) as well as no nutritional information, the recipes are varied and will appeal to almost every taste bud. For the most part, the recipes are simple and easy to make and in every case the directions are clear and understandable. There is a lot of good eating in this book. Now you just have to make them and get some folks over to eat.

Publisher: L & L Dreamspell, December 2009
ISBN# 978-1-60318-174-7
Paperback, 104 Pages, \$9.95

Welcome to New Staff Member:

Jeffrey Marks

www.jeffreymarks.com

PT: You seem to have a knack for choosing catchy titles. (*Intent to Sell* comes to mind.) Which one(s) get the most "ah-ha" responses?

Jeff: I have very witty friends, what can I say? I have two friends who always throw out a few funny and catchy titles for me. *Intent to Sell* is usually the one that has people nodding their heads. It's a witty title that explicitly spells out what the book is about.

Who Was That Lady? is another title that has people asking the same question. The mystery about Craig Rice is that so many people seem to have forgotten her. *The Scent of Murder* is pretty easy to understand as well, a murder at the perfume counter. *The Ambush of My Name* is a title that gives away a part of the ending of the book, so it's the most difficult to explain without telling the plot of the whole book.

And of course, *Anthony Boucher* is the easiest title to explain.

PT: Do those catchy titles pay off as a marketing tactic?

Jeff: They do. I've been blessed with incredible cover art as well. The combination of great covers and catchy titles do help sell books. The Craig Rice cover is fantastic and I can't tell you how many people have stopped at stores to take a look at the glamorous photo of Craig and ask me who she was.

PT: Have you worked at jobs other than writing? Did any job(s) inspire, trigger, or play a part in a writing idea?

Jeff: I've always worked in other jobs while I write. I worked at GE for 16 years in the computer field. I enjoyed the work when I started, but it became more and more intrusive. Phone calls became beepers became cell phones to laptops, etc. The constant intrusions became a lot to deal with.

I worked as a magazine writer for a few years. It taught me a lot about how to structure stories and how to catch a reader's interest. From that I went into marketing and promotion. That job led to my work with *MurderMustAdvertise* and *Intent to Sell*. That's been a lot of fun to do.

And for the past six years, I've taught middle school math. It's a very different set of skills from writing and so I find that I can do both things without trouble. Plus the time off during the year and in the summer allows me time to write and tour when needed. So it's been a great job for me.

PT: When not writing, what diversions interest you most?

Jeff: I love to read. I could do that for days on end. It's fortunate that I like to read. I was one of the judges for the **Edgars** two years ago and read 540 mystery novels that year. I was introduced to a number of authors I wouldn't have otherwise read, and I enjoyed many of them. So now I have more reading to do in order to read their backlists and new titles.

I collect mysteries too. I have a full collection of **Agatha Christie American** first editions, which I love to read. I've collected a number of the early **Ellery Queens** and most of the **Alice Tiltons** as well.

Besides that, I do martial arts, try to stay in shape, play with the dogs, collect Rookwood Pottery (my great-grandmother worked there), and spend time with family. It's a full life, but very fulfilling.

PT: Of the many awards you have been nominated for and/or won, which one means the most to you?

Jeff: Well, there are 2 that stand out for me. My **Edgar** nomination is a wonderful one in my mind. When I was growing up, I always wanted to go to **Bouchercon** and the **Edgars**. So the nomination was a way for me to complete that dream. The whole evening was wonderful, and to get that for my first book was even better.

After that, I was nominated 10 more times. My friends had started to call me the **Susan Lucci** of the mystery world.

And of course, I won the **Anthony** this year for *Anthony Boucher*. I was there with what I dubbed 500 of my very closest friends. My agent sat next to me, and friends were all around. Then I was able to share the evening with some of the wonderful people I've met through my writing. How great is that?

PT: What is your current project?

Jeff: I'm working on a biography of **Erle Stanley Gardner** at the moment. Of course, the title will have to include "The Case of" Gardner wrote over 100 titles, so I have to read all of them. And his personal papers, all 600 boxes of them, are in Austin at the **University of Texas – Austin**. I'll be spending part of the summer there, doing more research and trying to polish up the book. It's a much bigger book than some of my others, and so it's been a stretch for me as a writer. I like that.

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT (Other Releases & Successes)

Book Launch for a REAL-LIFE Page-Turner

Has your life ever been as spine-tingling as a best-selling thriller? It has been for thriller author **Cheryl Swanson**, who turned her harrowing year of cancer treatment into a book so positive and encouraging it will make you smile, laugh and shiver, all at once. (Not to mention the tips and suggestions could save your life.) The book is being launched in Hawaii in the next few months. If you're in the islands, lucky you. Stop by!

(Editor's note: See "Author Sightings" at the end of the newsletter for details)

Two Title Updates by L. C. Hayden

Even if you didn't win *Bell Shaped Flowers* on my most recent contest (see **Contest** section), it is now available. You can order it from your favorite bookstore, the Internet, or from me.

Next month, on April 16, **Five Star** will release the next **Harry Bronson** novel, *When Death Intervenes*. Although it's a bit too early to buy the book, you can now pre-order your copy from your favorite bookstore or from www.amazon.com

Thanks! I appreciate your support.

Free Online Workshop by Mayra Calvani

Mayra Calvani and her co-author **Anne K. Edwards** will be giving a free, one-week workshop on the "Art of Book Reviewing" this **October 2010**. The workshop will take place online, forum-style as part of the **Annual Muse Online Conference**. For details on how to register, visit <http://www.freewebs.com/themuseonlinewritersconference>. Many other workshops will be offered as well.

Mayra Calvani is noted as: **National Latino Books Examiner**, and this workshop pertains to her book, *The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing*.

Now and Coming Soon by Jackie Griffey

Dead on Arrival (HC, **Five Star**) is now out, and I am waiting for it to go live on **Kindle** also.

The Worldwide mass market of *Recipe for Trouble* will come out in May.

I have a funny (I hope) article up on my blog. It's titled MARCH FREEBIE at: jjgbreaktimewithjackie.blogspot.com.

By June 10, Mass Market of *Recipe for Trouble* will be out from **Harlequin's Worldwide Book Club**.

BOOK SELLIN', SEARCHIN' & SIGNIN' SHENANIGANS

(Or: A funny thing happened on the way...)

Dragons? Reminds Me of... by Gloria Oliver

How to Train your Dragon is a fabulous movie in IMAX 3D! It's the bomb diggety! If you've seen it and enjoyed it, and liked the give and take relationship between a dragon and his rider, as well as them having to cooperate to fly, you might give my book, *Cross-eyed Dragon Troubles* a look. More info at: www.gloriaoliver.com/crossed.html

Ups, Downs, & Who Knows? by Diane Fanning

On May 1, you'll find me in **Kerrville** at the **YO Ranch Resort** and Conference Center for the **Toastmasters District 55** conference. (You can find full details about the conference at <http://www.TMD55.org>) I'll be Saturday at 9:10 am for a panel session with two other authors, **Ben Rehder** and **Joan Upton Hall**. We'll be talking about what we get out of writing. If you want to be a better speaker, you might consider coming to the whole conference. I joined Toastmasters a decade ago and went from a scared rabbit to someone who can talk to any size group without the anxiety that used to make me a basket case.

But just when I thought I had this writing career thing figured out, in comes a curve ball. My third book in the **Lucinda Pierce** mystery series, *Mistaken Identity*, was supposed to be released on May 1. But in mid-March, I noticed it was available on-line. Then, I get a call from **Murder by the Book** in Houston telling me that the books are in house. So, I got busy trying to do all the things I thought I had six weeks to accomplish now had to be done yesterday. I'm still working on it.

Homicide Detective Pierce tracks down a double murder while exploring the depth of childhood scars and the price of irresponsible parenting.

The Library Journal recommends this mystery series for readers who enjoy **Alex Kava** and **Jan Burke**.

See the book trailer video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG_4FPbVS3M

Read the first chapter at: <http://www.dianefanning.com/mistakenidentitychapter.html>

And get your copy of this new, exciting adventure today.

I did get my interview with **Kathryn Casey** moved up to **Women In Crime Ink** on March 19, my guest blog slot on **Lesa's Book Critique** moved from May 3 to March 24 and the post I had scheduled for early May on **Helen Ginger's** blog, **Straight from Hel**, will be up April 8. Other things just weren't negotiable. Anyway, if anyone has any ideas on how I can pump up the jam over the next couple of weeks, please let me know.

I do have a couple of events scheduled in the next thirty days. Go to Author Sightings on the last page:

Under-cover-Agent-of-Sorts: The Life of a Program Planner by Joan Upton Hall

I never knew my new job with **Sisters in Crime** (SinC), would provide such adventure. The job? It's not espionage, hit-woman, or even a role in the TV series "Survivors." No, it's the non-illustrious position of Program Planner for SinC mystery writers' organization—the old "Show-must-go-on" thing.

Bless her heart, my predecessor, **Sarah Ann Robertson**, handed me an almost-filled roster for 2010. What a gift. Who knew when April rolled around, that the bottom would fall out like the infamous Crash of '29? Despite the erstwhile dilemma of speakers changing addresses, emails, or even careers, our April 11 program promised to be a sure thing. The Austin Police Chief would deliver a talk. Except that said chief was jockeying for a bigger job in Dallas by then, so he cancelled due to far too many duties on the day we wanted him. That schedule kicked SinC out of the picture without a stand-in.

(Good thing Sisters in Crime doesn't play the "women-scorned" game.)

In the interests of replacing the Chief with a similar law enforcement figure as a speaker, I've embarked on my quest, sweating not to be an April Fool.

I'm now hanging on decisions from both the Sheriff's Department and the Texas Rangers for a yea or nay to speak to us. Either will be terrific that day or later on, but what do I do if they both agree at the same time?

(To be continued...)

Stay tuned for next month's May issue:

Will Joan succeed or fail? Will Sisters in Crime have a speaker?
What happens if a Texas sheriff and a Texas Ranger agree to speak
at the same time and run into each other on the same podium?!!

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

Have I Got a Deal for You!

by Diane Fanning

I gave away three copies of *Mistaken Identity*. One to **Joanne Tombrakos**, my 1000th follower on Twitter, one to **Cordelia Mendoza**, a random follower there and another to **Patricia Stoltey**, a random follower on my personal blog site, **Writing is a Crime**. I'll give away more books in the future. To get in on the action, follow my blog at <http://dianefanning.blogspot.com> or follow me on Twitter—if you already tweet, all you need to know is [@dianefanning](https://twitter.com/dianefanning); if not, you can find my Twitter page at <http://www.twitter.com/dianefanning>.

And the Winner is...

by L. C. Hayden

I'd like to congratulate my latest winner: **Raymond L. Madson**, who sent me a bunch of names to add to my newsletter list. Thanks to all who entered.

Raymond, your free book is on its way.

George Wilhite on the Hotseat

(as last month's Featured Author of the Month)

Q: The most common questions I get are, "Why do you write?" and, "What is your favorite of the stories you've written?"

George answers: I like to change that second one to, "Which of your stories has been the most important?" With that change I can answer both questions at once.

Back when I was still working for newspapers and clowning rodeos on the weekend, my wife and I had an English Bull Terrier (like Spuds McKenzie, if you can remember back that far). We didn't have kids yet, and that dog was just like a kid to us. He wore miniature clowning togs and shades, and he had a personality all his own.

When he died, my wife and I were pretty broke up. We mourned for weeks, I wrote an editorial about losing my "pard," and at one point in there, I wrote a pretty maudlin short story called "Puppy Love."

In it, a rodeo clown has become disillusioned with his career. The crowds want dirtier jokes, the kids can get downright mean, and people just didn't seem to appreciate what he did in the arena—either humor-wise or in his life-saving capacity. So, he makes it through one more performance, but he has decided to commit suicide in his trailer that night by turning on the gas and going to sleep.

But as he is leaving the arena, a young boy with a dead puppy asks his help because, in one of his acts, he sends a puppy away and then brings it back. He wants the clown/magician to bring his puppy back. The clown spins some fantastic yarn about the puppy's love being bigger than his heart, and in trying to share that love, his heart burst, but the little boy could always remember his puppy every time he heard a person laugh. (I warned you it was maudlin, didn't I?). Anyway, the clown gives the little boy tickets for him and his family to the next night's rodeo and promises to meet them at the gate. As he heads for the trailer, we realize he's made a commitment to stick around for one more day.

About eight years later, I was working for a company as a newsletter editor and officed next door to a fellow editor. He'd been divorced a couple of times, broken away from his parents, and was on the verge of losing touch with his own sons. He'd read a few of my then-unpublished short stories and asked to read more. So, that night I went rummaging in some old drawers looking for other stories.

I ran across "Puppy Love," which I had not seen since I had written it. So, I dusted it off and left it on his desk the next morning when I went in. That was on a Friday. The next Monday he handed it back to, telling me I should get it published. I laughed and put it away. Maybe, someday, I thought.

Later that year, the company moved to Dallas. My friend went with them, and I stayed in Waco. A few years later, we ran into each other. We had coffee, and as I was getting ready to leave, he stopped me.

"I need to tell you something," he said, holding onto my elbow until I sat down again.

"That Friday that you left "Puppy Love" on my desk," he said, "I was going to go home that night and kill myself."

I was amazed. I'd never thought he'd even contemplate such a thing.

"But I went home and read that story, and I decided to go back to work one more day, just like the clown in the story. I wanted you to know that your story saved my life."

Since that decision, he said, he went back to a family reunion and found that the father he thought was disappointed in him for becoming a journalist was really very proud of him. They mended their relationship and enjoyed each other's company for several years before the father's death. He'd also strengthened his bond with his own sons.

So, you see, the most important story I ever wrote was never published and never made a dime. It has been read by only a handful of people. We never know what repercussions there might be to one of our stories, including ones we'll never know about. What we write matters. And that's why I write.

READERS ASK AUTHORS

HOT SEAT

People are always asking us, "Where did you come up with (such-and-such character, idea, place, etc.)?" Okay, so here's YOUR chance to find out. Each month, we'll put the previous month's Author of the Month on the hot seat to come up with a short answer.

Sylvia Dickey Smith is our Featured Author for this month, so check out her website and books and ask away. **Of all questions received, we'll draw one. Please send your questions by the middle of next month.**

Send your question (**and a sentence or two about yourself if you desire**) to:

PageTurnerHome@aol.com or to the author directly through his or her website shown on Page 1.

If your question is chosen, we'll credit you.

FOR YOU READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

GetGlue Widgets Can Make You a Wizard by Gloria Oliver

There's a neat new tool for authors to use to make their lives and that of readers easier. It's a widget from **GetGlue** - <http://getglue.com> . What the widget does is allow authors to put up a nice little box to show their book covers with a little info. For readers interested to learn more, they can put their cursor over the book that interests them and it will show more information like reviews and inside book content. If this in turn leads to wanting to purchase the book, the widget will also give them several links to places where they can purchase them online and not just to Amazon.

Even better, for fans really excited by the author, a single button will allow them to get their favorite author's widget and put it up on their own websites or blogs, making it easy for you all to also spread the news!

GetGlue will ask the author for some links to Amazon, then they ferret out the others and will email you back with a url to take you to the widget. The Copy button at the top, will take you to a screen where you can copy the script.

So far it has worked like a champ on blogger. For a peek, check mine out at www.gloriaoliver.blogspot.com

What's in *Your* Drawers? by L.C. Hayden

Most writers have unfinished manuscripts stuffed in their drawers. One reason for this is that we're told to make sure we do this or that and of course never do it this way. We get so bogged down trying to follow all of these rules that we spend all of our time rewriting and revising our work and we never seem content with what we have. Frustration sets in and eventually, we give up and start a new project.

Consequently, if I were to give only one piece of advice, it is this: never go back and re-read what you've written. Instead, write until you finish.

Once you've finished, you can rewrite and re-vise as much as you want. But the key here is that you will finish.

Scribd: The Largest Social Publishing Site in the World by M. D. Benoit

Recently, for Read an ebook Week (<http://ebookweek.com>), my publisher **Zumaya Publications**, made available for free my SF Thriller, *Synergy*, along with **Gloria Oliver's** *Vassal of El*, and two others. With the help of Twitter, nearly 600 people downloaded *Synergy* as a .pdf and were able to read it on their computer, their ereader, or their mobile. I was thrilled.

On their site, **Scribd** (<http://scribd.com>) states that their "vision is to liberate the written word, to connect people and organizations with the information and ideas that matter most to them." Millions of people visit the site every month to read, for free, what others have to offer. Communities range from artists to businesses to teachers to publishers and there are tens of millions of documents available.

You might wonder why I was thrilled that my publisher offered my book free on Scribd. I was glad of it for two main reasons. The first is that, like all writers, I want to be read. Very few authors decided to write in order to become rich. They have stories to tell, and they want people to read them. This brings me to the second reason: building readership. In offering my book free, I hope people will read my book, like it, then want to read other books I've written.

Scribd is a free service for anyone who wants to use it. It is very easy to upload documents. Readers can either go on the site to read the document, download it; if there is new material regularly from an author, readers can subscribe and be notified when a new document has been added.

For any aspiring authors who want to share what they've written, Scribd is an ideal way to start.

If you want a taste of what Scribd can do, Zumaya Publications offers, in addition to the full text of my first novel, *Metered Space*, several excerpts of its catalogue. Go check it out at <http://www.scribd.com/zumayabooks>.

Have an article about writing or book groups? If it would interest our readers, we'll be happy to print it. We can't pay at this time, but it will serve as a published clip with your byline. Reprints accepted with notice of first publication. Submission guidelines:

1. Send as an attached Word document.
2. Up to 800 words (If editor condenses it, you will have a chance to approve before printing)
3. A short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.
4. Email to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com or jmuHall@aol.com with subject line: "PT submission"

HEADS UP FOR AUTHOR SIGHTINGS

April through early May, 2010- If you're in the area, stop and see us!

(For private appearances, such as private book clubs, check with author)

(Listed alphabetically by authors' last names)

David Ciambrone

April 3: **Houston Book Festival**

April 6: starting a evening mystery writing class at the **Temple, TX Public Library**

April 10, Sat., 10:30-12:30: **Pflugerville Public Library**, "Mystery Readers Social" to meet area mystery readers & writers.

April 17: **Hill Country Book Festival**

April 22: Speaking at the **Taylor, TX library** book festival

April 24th - 25th: Speaking at the Weatherford College (**Weatherford, TX**) **Book and Jazz festival**

May 15, Sat., 2-3:30: **Round Rock, TX Public Library**, Area Authors Book Signing Party

May 23, Sun., 3 PM: **Book People, Austin, Texas**, Mystery Panelist

Diane Fanning

April 17, 1 - 4 pm: Sophienburg Museum and Archives, 401 W. Coll Street in New Braunfels, for their first Meet the Local Authors day and book signing.

April 21, 3pm central: Blog Talk Radio show of victims' advocate **Susan Murphy Milano** on Wednesday, <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/susanmurphymilano>

May 1: You'll find me in **Kerrville** at the **YO Ranch Resort and Conference Center** for the **Toastmasters District 55** conference. (You can find full details about the conference at

<http://www.TMD55.org>) I'll be Saturday at 9:10 am for a panel session with two other authors, **Ben Rehder** and **Joan Upton Hall**.

(Turn page for more "AUTHOR SIGHTINGS")

Joan Upton Hall

- April 10, Sat., 10:30-12:30: **Pflugerville Public Library**, “Mystery Readers Social” to meet area mystery readers & writers.
- April 16-18: **Nebraska Writer’s Guild Spring Conference**; 2 workshops: “Ready, Set, Publish – Top Three Self-Editing Strategies” and “Help! Is there a Book Doctor in the House?”
- April 24-25 weekend, Downtown **Georgetown Poppy Festival**, book signing with **San Gabriel Writers League** members.
- May 1, Sat, 9:10: **Kerrville** at the **YO Ranch Resort and Conference Center** for the **Toastmasters District 55** conference. (details at <http://www.TMD55.org>) With **Ben Rehder** and **Diane Fanning**.
- May 8, 1-3 PM: **TWIG Bookstore, San Antonio**, Mystery Panelist.
- May 13-June 10, Thursdays, 7-9 PM: **Temple Library College Classes**: “So You’ve Finished Your Book; Now What?” team-teaching with **Sylvia Dickey Smith**.
- April 27-May 25, Wednesdays, 7-9 PM: **Same class in Georgetown Library College**.
- May 15, Sat., 2-3:30: **Round Rock, TX Public Library**, Area Authors Book Signing Party
- May 23, Sun., 3 PM: **Book People, Austin, Texas**, Mystery Panelist

L.C. Hayden

- March 30 & Thurs, April 1, 6-8 PM.: **U. T. El Paso** workshop, “How to Make Your Writing Sparkle”
- April 29, Wed., 7-9 PM: Panel presentation at **Howard County Central Library, Columbia, Maryland**;
- April 30 – May 2, Thurs. – Sun.: **Malice Domestic, Arlington, VA**. Panel and signing Sunday morning; Malice-Go-Round: Friday, April 30, 10 AM.
- May 3, Monday, Doors open at 4 PM: Festival of Mystery held at the **Greek Orthodox Church, Oakmont, PA**.
- May 11, 13, Tues. & Thurs., 6-8 PM: “Dynamic Dialog,” **UTEP**
- May 7, Fri. 7:30-8:30 AM: “Amusing Things that Happen to Authors,” **Denny’s on Transmountain Rd., El Paso, TX**,
- May 19, Wed.: “How to Keep the Readers Interested,” **Westin La Paloma Resort, Tucson, Arizona**

Gloria Oliver

- April 23-25: Guest at **Conestoga in Tulsa, OK**. For more info on the convention, please visit <http://www.sftulsa.org/>

Sylvia Dickey Smith

- April 10, Sat., 2-4 PM: **Madisonville, Texas**, “Writing Character From The Inside Out”
- April 7, 14, 21, 28, Wed., 7-9: PM: **Georgetown Library**, “Writing Historical Fiction”
- April 17, Sat., **Hill Country Book Festival, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce** Conference Room, book signing
- April 24, Sat., all day: **Downtown Georgetown Poppy Festival**, book signing with **San Gabriel Writers League** members.
- April 22, 29, May 6: **Temple Library**, “Writing Historical Fiction”
- May 8, Sat., 1-3 PM: **Twig Bookstore, San Antonio**, Mystery Panelist
- May 15, **Hastings Bookstore**, Mystery Panelist
- May 23, **Book People, Austin, Texas**, Mystery Panelist

Cheryl Swanson

- May 1, Sat., 2 PM: **Borders bookstore, Kauai** book-signing of *Busting Loose: Cancer Survivors Tell You What Your Doctor Won’t*. Prizes, free food, tips to keep yourself healthy. If you happen to be traveling, come join the fun.
- April 11, Sun., 4 - 10 P.M.: Featured author **Second Saturday Event**. (A great arts event in **Hanalei, Hawaii**, the little town of Puff the Magic Dragon fame.)