



2009 Officers

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Sisters in Crime is an international organization of women and men whose purpose is to promote mysteries written by women and to combat discrimination against them. Speakers include published mystery authors and technical experts who help writers craft better mysteries, and readers enjoy what they read. Meetings are free and open to all.

For more information, check out the Sisters in Crime website at www.hotxsinc.org

**Sunday, February 8, 2009
2:00 p.m.**

**Renowned Forensic Artist
Lois Gibson
presents**

The Art of Catching Criminals

Westlake Barnes & Noble bookstore
located in The Village at Westlake shopping center
at the southeast corner of Loop 360 and Bee Cave Road
512.328.3155



Lois Gibson has helped bring more than a thousand criminals to justice by drawing portraits from witness memory. She also recreates faces from the skeletal remains of unidentified murder victims. She is the artist who drew the "Baby Grace" portrait which helped identify two-year-old Riley Anne Sawyers. Riley's mother, Kimberly Treanor and step-father, Rayne Zeiler II, are alleged to have murdered Riley and thrown her body into Galveston Bay.

On Sunday, February 8, Ms. Gibson will share how her expertise landed her in the *Guinness Book of Records* as The Most Successful Forensic Artist in the World.

Ms. Gibson is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Fine Arts With Honors and the FBI Academy Forensic Artist Course. She now teaches at Northwestern University.

Her recently published true-crime book, *Faces of Evil*, profiles some of her most fascinating cases. The book was co-authored by Deanie Francis Mills. Ms. Gibson will bring copies of *Faces of Evil* to the meeting. It is also available in bookstores everywhere, and Amazon.com.

This meeting is free and open to anyone who enjoys writing or reading Mystery or True Crime.

March Spotlight Member

Mystery author and HoTxSinC member **Vallie Fletcher Taylor** will be spotlighted in the March edition of *HOTSHOTS!*



News and Announcements

Upcoming Chapter Programs

March 8 - Author Vallie Fletcher Taylor will present **Putting the Paranormal in Your Mysteries**.

April 12 - Author Micqui Miller will lead a panel discussion on e-books: *Go Green! Read (or Write) an eMystery and Save a Tree!*

2009 Texas Mystery Month

May 10 - Presenter T. B. A.

May 17 - Barbara Burnett Smith
Aspiring Writers Event

June 14 - P. J. Nunn, founder of **Breakthrough Promotions**, will present a program on **What You Don't Know About Book Promotion**.

July 12 - T. B. A.

August 9 - Chapter Indoor Picnic/Potluck - Presentation by **David Heavener**, Actor, Teacher, Filmmaker, Singer and Songwriter.



President's Corner: News and Information Important to HoTxSinC Members

Dear Members,

Your officers continue to discuss issues related to our HOTxSinC organization that might make it better.

One issue we want to address is the lack of participation by so many of our members. If you are a member but do not attend meetings, or only occasionally, I would love to hear from you. Please e-mail me at sylvia@sylviadickeysmyth.com with your suggestions on how we can make it easier or more desirable for you to do so.

Two issues that surface over and over again are that our meeting place makes it difficult for members to *roll up our sleeves* and *let our hair down*. A more private place might offer a more relaxed program with various activities and open discussions. More on that topic as things develop.

Please feel free to e-mail me any time with your concerns, questions, or suggestions.

Sylvia Dickey Smith
HOTxSinC President, 2009

New release from Sylvia Dickey Smith

Sylvia Dickey Smith is happy to announce that her third book in the Sidra Smart mystery series, *Dead Wreckoning* launches April 1, 2009.

Read what best-selling author **Deborah LeBlanc**, had to say about *Dead Wreckoning*: "Deliciously entertaining, laugh-out-loud funny and fraught with disaster after hilarious disaster, Sylvia Dickey Smith's novel, *Dead Wreckoning*, is engaging, fast-paced and filled with unforgettable characters. This is one book that won't be collecting dust on your nightstand!"

News & Announcements (Continued from Page 2)

Texas Mystery Month

The purpose of Texas Mystery Month, held each May, is to spotlight Texas Mystery Authors. As a community service event, all Texas Mystery Authors are invited to participate, and do not have to be members of Sisters in Crime.

Activities include presentations, signings, radio interviews, workshops, the occasional cocktail party and The Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project. Meetings of the Texas Mystery Month Committee normally take place once a month at a place mutually agreed upon.

Texas Mystery Month Volunteer Opportunities

Opportunities abound for Chapter members who would like to become involved in this exciting annual celebration.

Author Committee:

- * Updates list of Texas Mystery Authors
- * Contacts Texas Mystery Authors and invites them to participate
- * Helps match authors with venues

Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project

- * Updates contact list for soliciting entries
- * Invites Aspiring Mystery Writers to participate
- * Recruits Mentor Authors
- * Helps match Aspiring Mystery Writers and Mentor Authors
- * Helps plan Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event on May 17, 2009

Bookstore/Venue Committee

- * Updates list of bookstores and other venues
- * Contacts bookstores/venues for participation
- * Helps match authors and bookstores/venues

Publicity Committee

- * Updates lists of contacts
- * Develops new sources
- * Prepares and sends News Releases
- * Keeps website updated
- * Keeps newsletter updated

Events Committee

- * Contacts previous Local Event Coordinators
- * Provides support for local events

The Fifth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event

Aspiring Writers of Cozies, Thrillers, True Crime, and other Mystery Genres are welcome to submit the first 500 words and a one-page synopsis of an unpublished manuscript to the **Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event**. This is not a contest. There is no judging and no fee. It is a wonderful opportunity for writers unpublished in the mystery field to get to talk to and be mentored by published authors.

The first six aspiring writers will be chosen and matched with published mentors. The mentoring will culminate in the Fifth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event (BBSAWE) to be held at the Barnes & Noble Westlake (701 Capital of Texas Highway South, at Bee Caves Rd., in Austin) on Sunday, May 17, when aspiring writers will meet with their mentors for in-person discussions about their submission or the publishing industry. The aspiring writers and their mentors will also be recognized at the BBSAWE.

For detailed submission information, visit:

<http://www.hotxsinc.org>.

Attention published mystery author:

This year Micqui Miller will be coordinating matching Mentoring Authors with Aspiring Writers. If you are a published mystery author, please consider participating in this fun event.

What's in it for you? The joy and satisfaction of meeting a new person and forming a lasting friendship; taking the lead in discovering new talent; a special place among your peers for ensuring the continued growth and appreciation of the Mystery Genre.

If you are interested in participating as a Mentoring Author--or know a published Mystery author who may wish to participate, please contact Micqui directly at micquim@earthlink.net.

REPORT: The Write Stuff Project by Sylvia Dickey Smith

During the “meet and greet,” dozens attended to find out more about the project, meet the judges and other participants and just to show their support. Among the judges present were authors **Sylvia Dickey Smith, Kia Stokes, Brian W. Smith, P. Elaine Archie, Elaine Flowers** and **Joseph Henderson**. It was the first time many of them had actually met in person, but you wouldn't have been able to tell by the conversations and the instant connections that were made.



The day of the auditions, Saturday, January 10, the lines weren't long; however, contestants came from Lake Charles, Louisiana to Orange County, Texas ready to show why they had The Write Stuff.

At the end of the day three contestants were confirmed for the show: **Tommie Townsley, Shanedria Ridley,** and **Jeremy Howard**. Another contestant, **Lakeisha Young-Sanders**, showed great promise and will be involved in another activity to see if she will be chosen to be a part of season one.

Aside from the actual activities of the weekend, The Write Stuff supporters were able to give back to others as well. Dozens of books were brought in as donations, totaling over \$450! These will be presented by author Sylvia



Dickey Smith to the Georgetown Public Library in Georgetown, Texas.



The countdown is now on! Next will be Atlanta, GA.

To see the full photo gallery for the Houston, TX trip, visit this link: <http://thewritestufftv.webs.com/apps/photos/album.jsp?albumID=3722507>.

To keep up with other events and those associated with The Write Stuff, visit <http://www.thewritestufftv.com>

What you missed ...

... if you didn't attend January's meeting: a terrific presentation by Orange, Texas Chief of Police, Sam Kittrell. He shared with attendees first-hand info on what law enforcement is really like in small cities and how it compares to large-city forces.



Chief Sam Kittrell with HotxSinC members.

Photos by Sylvia Dickey Smith

Weslynn McCallister

February 2009 Spotlight Member

I was fortunate to have a chance to visit with **Weslynn McCallister** during last year's Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event. She is a charming, lovely woman, who graciously served as one of the chapter's mentoring authors. It was a pleasure to visit with her again this month, and learn more about her various careers — mystery and romance writer, professional model, poet, and real estate broker, just to name a few.

MM: At HoTxSinC, we know you as the author of *Skin Deep*, which you wrote as Jamie Cortland. I know you're also a poet, and write non-fiction and metaphysical books under the pseudonym, Wes Alistair. We'd love to hear more about these projects.

WM: After taking a creative writing class, I spent several years writing free verse poetry. A few of my award winning romance and nature poems are included in *Shifting Sands*, by Weslynn McCallister. It is available both through me and on-line at Amazon.com.

Romancing the Zodiac by Wes Alistair is currently out of print. A new re-edited version with additional content will be released at a later date. The book was initially designed as a poetic introduction to Astrology with herbal remedies for each sign.

Timing is Everything; Astrology is the Key by Wes Alistair is an introduction to Astrology designed for beginning students of the subject. It is available through Trafford Publishing.com; Amazon.com and through me. Though astrology is fun and entertaining, I have stressed in the introduction that our destiny is determined by the will of God and the choices that we make.

MM: Your romance *Apache Springs* was voted the Best Romance Novel of 2002 at the Florida Writers' Conference. Would you like to tell us about that book and is it still available? And about the conference, too.

WM: *Apache Springs* by Weslynn McCallister was set in New Mexico and southwest Florida during the late 50s and early 60s of the Twentieth Century. A review by Chas Ridley states,

"Weslynn McCallister's *Apache Springs* is Annie's story, and it is also the story of a small town in the late 1950s and early 60s. It is a story of families rooted and uprooted, of hearts bound by time and place, of hope everlasting and the possibilities inherent in true love." It earned 4 ½ Stars out of 5 from The Romance Studio.

Apache Springs is available at most online bookstores; through the publisher at <http://www.booklocker.com/books/1249.html>. Autographed copies are available through me.

Apache Springs won second place for Best Romance of the year at The Florida Writer's Conference which was held at The Hilton Hotel in Orlando. The conference, like many other writers' conferences, offered a weekend of seminars, editor and agent appointments, and several gala events which included a formal awards banquet and ceremony. The novels submitted to the contest were

judged by readers throughout the U.S. specifically for story content.

MM: What made you decide to enter the mystery field? Is there a special story behind *Skin Deep*?

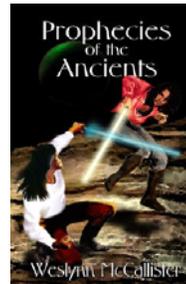
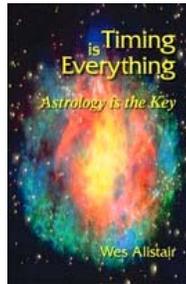
WM: As a young girl, I loved to read mystery novels, especially the Nancy Drew series by Carolyn Keene and the Judy Bolten series by Margaret Sutton. Though *Skin Deep* is a work of fiction, it is based partially upon a true story. The person upon whom it is based was a member of my extended family and is now deceased. I am an avid supporter of the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) and a firm believer that those with the disease of mental illness can, with proper therapy and medication, lead normal and successful lives.



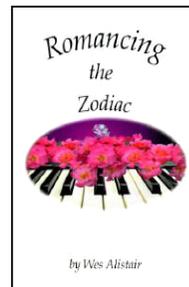
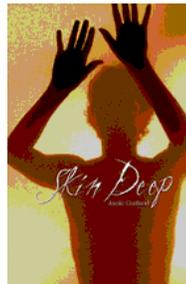
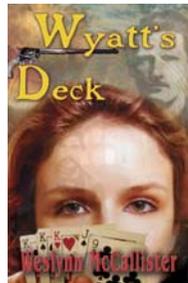
Spotlight Member - (Continued from Page 5)

MM: You write full time. Tell us about your other careers since your tastes and interests are so varied.

WM: After working as a secretary, a real estate sales person, and a high fashion runway model, my former husband and I owned an import business for fine liquors. My part in the business was designing the labels for the bottles as well as working side by side with him in obtaining contracts in Mexico and South America. It was a glamorous, exciting time in my life, filled with adventure. Though it didn't prove to be as successful as we had hoped, I wouldn't have missed it for the world.



MM: You were a professional model. I'm sure you have several stories to tell about that profession. Have you written a novel centered around that industry or where your heroine (or hero) may have been a part of it?



WM: To date, I have not written a novel centered around the industry.

Being a runway model was not as glamorous as one might think. The modeling agency that I worked for insisted that we appear perfect at all times even while in the grocery store or shopping. Being on your feet for hours at a time can be painful; dressers can be irritable; wigs are hot, and alterations before a show is a necessity for a woman of my height. As a young divorcee with two babies and a six year old daughter, hiring a baby sitter and preparing to go to work after a morning of changing and washing diapers was quite a challenge. Modeling is great for building self-confidence and offers experience as far as appearing "on stage," is concerned. As authors, it helps to have both of those qualities in order to promote our work.



MM: You lived in Roswell, NM and write Science Fiction as well as mystery and romance. Did your interest in sci fi and the paranormal start during your years in Roswell? Have you ever had a UFO experience?

WM: Absolutely. I was a young child living in Roswell when the UFO crash occurred just outside

of town. My step-father was a physician and we did not speak of the crash at home though my parents were well acquainted with the owners of the radio station. Recently, I met Stan Friedman, a nuclear physicist, UFO researcher, and author at a book signing in Roswell, N.M. I was signing *Prophecies of the Ancients* while he was signing *Crash at Corona* which he co-authored. Mr. Friedman was the original civilian investigator of the Roswell incident. If you are not already a believer, he just may convince you that UFO's and aliens do exist.

As far as UFO experiences are concerned, many

times, over New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas skies I have seen unidentified flying objects. On March 13, 1997, I saw the Phoenix Lights while driving North on Hayden Road in Scottsdale. Huge aircraft flying in V formation were directly overhead. The experience was awesome, but at the same time, frightening. Though the video doesn't do the event justice, you may view the lights at <http://www.thephoenixlights.net>. On May 18, 2008, Dr. Lynne Kitel, noted researcher and author, appeared on Dateline NBC. The Phoenix Lights is featured as the number one UFO sighting caught on tape by Dateline in their review of the top ten UFO photographs of all time.

Spotlight Member (Continued from Page 6)

MM: Many authors start writing during their childhood. Did you start at an early age or acquire the "bug" as a teen or in your early twenties or thirties?

WM: I began writing skits or plays as a young child. My friends and I later preformed the plays for our parents and other friends.

MM: You were educated in the fine arts. Tell us which is your favorite. Have you shown in galleries and is your artwork available?

WM: My favorite is oil painting...seascapes. Years ago, my paintings were in a few galleries. One, an acrylic which I won an award for, was shown in a museum. I haven't painted in years and no longer have anything available. I have canvasses on hand as well as an easel. When I have the time, I may take it up again.

MM: You were kind enough to be a mentoring author for the 2008 Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event. This isn't your only mentoring endeavor. Will you tell us about the others?

WM: Most everyone who has read my bio on my website is aware that I am one of the founding members of a large writers group in Florida which was organized for the purpose of "Writers Helping Writers." We did not mentor one author at a time, but held seminars at our monthly meetings and organized email groups for writers and aspiring writers to voice their concerns and seek help. A few of the articles that I have written for aspiring authors are "How to Write the Book of Your Dreams," "How to Write and Publish Your Novel" and "Now that I have Written it, What do I do With it?" Aspiring writers are always welcome to email me with their questions. I will be happy to offer suggestions or direct them to a source that will benefit them.

MM: Success as an author begins with "THE END." That's when we must begin the marketing phase of our work whether we're published by New York or have chosen small press. You've done a lot of signings and appearances, as well as had strong media coverage in the past year. Do you mine these opportunities on your own, or do you use a publicist?

WM: Both. *1001 Ways to Market Your Book* by John Kremer offers many suggestions in regard to marketing. Currently, I am using a publicist.

MM: Do you have any advice for new authors who are wondering the best way to get their work noticed in this very competitive field?

WM: If you cannot hire a publicist, prepare a marketing plan and be consistent. You will need a professional website and great business cards to begin with. Be sure to send out galley to reviewers at least three months before your release date. This may not be possible if you are self-published or if you are published by a small traditional publisher. Ask your publisher to issue Press Releases. Arrange to be interviewed on radio shows and TV if possible. Join local writers groups and network. Don't miss an opportunity to mention your new release; carry a copy of your book on planes, trains, in restaurants and while dining alone, etc.

MM: Tell us a little about each of your books and where they rank in your heart as your favorites.

WM: *Wyatt's Deck*, a time travel romance novel by Weslynn McCallister is about Cally Sullivan, a young single woman who is propelled backwards through time. Awakening in Tombstone, Arizona, 1881 she believes that she is still in the Twenty-first century witnessing an historical reenactment of the Old West. It is only when two people who have recently betrayed her convince her that she has traveled through time just as they have, that she realizes her enemies in this time are Johnny Ringo and the Clanton gang, not her ex-fiancée and her former friend. Joining in their frantic battle for survival, they become allies, along with Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp. When Drake Butler, Cally's secret love and Wyatt's look-alike discovers she is missing, he makes his way through time to search for her, arriving just in time for the O.K. Corral shootout. *Wyatt's Deck* is available through most online bookstores and through me.

Wyatt's Deck required a great deal of historical research, but was my favorite to write. I love stories of the old west, its history, its lawmen, and outlaws.

Prophecies of the Ancients, a sci-fi fantasy novel by Weslynn McCallister, is about Jenna Harper who is rescued in the midst of a disaster by the man of her dreams, Prince Karo. Injured in the disaster, she awakens from her semi-unconscious state only to discover she is on her way to cities beyond her wildest imagination.



Fireside Reviews

Paint the Town Dead: A Judge Jackson Crain Mystery By Nancy Bell

From Publishers Weekly

From the beloved author of the Biggie Weatherford mystery series comes this third thrillin' installment featuring Texas judge Jackson Crain.

An old love, a new flame, and the murder of a real estate tycoon thrust County Judge Jackson Crain smack in the middle of the most baffling case he has ever seen. Add a glamorous lady evangelist and a victim's tipling wife, and suspects abound. It is only through delving into the past that Jackson is able to unravel the mystery and see the killer brought to justice.

Paint the Town Dead is a sure-to-please cozy that should win Nancy Bell many new fans.

PAINT THE TOWN DEAD By Nancy Bell

Publisher: St. Martin's Minotour

Released: First Edition,

August 2008

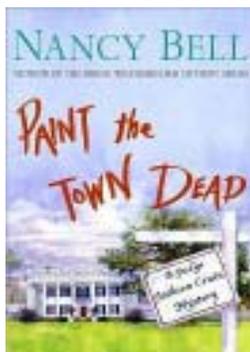
ISBN-10: 0312362811

ISBN-13: 978-0312362812

The lovable hero of Bell's light second Judge Jackson Crain mystery (after 2005's *Death Splits a Hair*) lives up to his reputation for sticking his nose into any crime committed in the small East Texas town of Post Oak.

When hotshot realtor Tom Delgado is found with a neat bullet hole in his head at his desk, Jackson doubts the killer is Tom's wife, Dovie, who becomes a suspect after it's revealed that the realtor's will names Sister Mary Dobbs McDermott, a flashy Dallas evangelist, as his primary beneficiary. Adding spice (and angst) is the middle-aged Jackson's sudden fling with Roxanne Kruger, a visiting artist whose rancher mother is dying. As spring blossoms into summer, the heat's on to find the real killer, who may well strike again. While some readers may wish there was more meat on the bones of this country-fried cozy, Jackson's keen sense of humor and justice will leave them eager for further adventures. (Aug.)

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What They're Saying About Nancy Bell's Other Work

"Brings to life the townsfolk (and a few corpses)...of down-home Texas. Jackson is a delightful main character."— *Midwest Book Review* on *Restored to Death*

"Quaint characters and locales, frequent humor, and comfy prose commend this to all collections."— *Library Journal* on *Restored to Death*

"A good country cozy...Bell's vivid portrayal of small-town Texas life will make readers feel as though they're drinkin' coffee with Post Oak denizens in the Wagon Wheel Café."— *Booklist* on *Death Splits a Hair*

"Fans of Bell's six cozies about small-town Texan Biggie Weatherford...should saunter on down to Post Oak, Texas, and meet Judge Jackson Crain."— *Publishers Weekly* on *Restored to Death*

"Very entertaining...will please Bell's many fans." — *Midwest Book Review* on *Death Splits a Hair*

Fireside Reviews features the reviews of novels by author members of HoTxSinC and Texas mystery writers. Due to space constraints and to avoid redundancies, we will only print one review of each book.

Please send reviews to Micqui Miller at micquim@yahoo.com.

FACES OF EVIL

By Lois Gibson and Deanie Mills

Publisher: Expanding Horizons

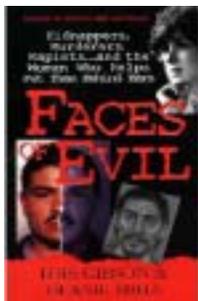
Release Date: September 2007

ISBN: 1933893060

ISBN: 978-1933893068

Murderers, Kidnappers, Rapists and the Forensic Artist Who Puts Them Behind Bars

Every day, Lois Gibson is able to put power, control and a sense of justice back into the hands of victims of violent crime, heinous rapes, kidnappings and murders. Gibson, herself the victim of a violent rape, uses her skills to coax from the memories of victims the most intimate details possible and, with the stroke of a pencil, reconstructs the faces of their tormentors. These eerily accurate portraits have been directly responsible for the capture of over 700 vicious criminals for which her skills are noted in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.



Faces of Evil is Gibson's riveting story of how she became the world's most successful forensic artist, interwoven with her thirteen most suspense-filled cases. Gibson takes you with her inside the gritty atmosphere of forensics, putting you behind the scenes of terrifying enigma after enigma and into the victims' mindset as they seek vindication. Follow the nine-year-old girl who sees and helps catch her mother's killer, the pregnant blind woman who identifies and aids in the capture of her rapist, and the hero cop whose deathbed description leads police to his killer.

This is a fascinating true crime book like no other, mixing chilling crime scenes with the inspiring story of one woman's passion for justice.



Circle March 8 on your calendar when the HoTxSinC Chapter presents

Vallie Fletcher Taylor

The paranormal is one of today's hottest elements in fiction and its subgenre. Mystery is no exception. Next month, we are pleased to have HoTxSinC member **Vallie Fletcher Taylor** present: **Putting the Paranormal in Your Mysteries**.

Writer, speaker, teacher, poet, former journalist, and 2008 Mentoring Author, Val Taylor was named "A Visionary" by the Brain-Mind Institute of Los Angeles in 1989. She now lives on a small ranch near Hico and teaches "The Story of You" to adult students at a fine arts conservatory in Clifton.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 is the deadline for News, Reviews, Announcements and Articles for the for the **MARCH 2009** edition of **HOTSHOTS!**

Send info to Micqui Miller at
micquim@yahoo.com

Spotlight Member - (Continued from Page 7)

She encounters Drona, the Sorcerer, who vows to make her his or destroy both she and the planet of Aime. Refusing his attentions, Jenna soon falls ill to a deadly virus. When Karo and his crew of men travel to the isle of Beasts to search for an antidote, she and her rival, Elena, fall into the very heart of the prophecy...one that foretells their destiny and that of Aime. Will they be able to put their personal feelings toward each other aside long enough to join forces and save Aime, or is it too late? This novel is available through the publisher at www.mmpubs.com; most online bookstores and through me. You may order directly from my website at www.weslynn.com

This book began as a dream that came to me one turbulent night when I was living on a ranch in east Texas. A 420-page novel, it was great fun to write.

Apache Springs, which I have already mentioned, was based partially upon a true story and specifically written for my mother-in-law who was dying of leukemia. I am happy to say that she read it shortly before she died and enjoyed it very much.

Skin Deep by Weslynn McCallister, writing as Jamie Cortland, is about a divorced single mother's involvement with the wrong man. Ignoring the warnings of her friends and family not to rush into a new relationship with this handsome and compelling stranger, Evelyn Valentino ignores them. Bit by bit the madness that drives her new love is revealed. Her ex-husband, Thomas, still loves her and pleads with her to end the destructive relationship before it is too late, but escape is easier said than done. The novel is available through the publisher at www.mmpubs.com, and at most online bookstores. Autographed copies are available through me.

This novel required a great deal of research but was well worth it and provided me with a great sense of accomplishment.

MM: Who are some of your favorite authors, or the authors who influenced your writing?

WM: Ernest Hemmingway, Janet Evanovich, James Patterson, Robert B. Parker, Nora Roberts, Linda Lael Miller, and Nicholas Sparks.

MM: What is your favorite writing medium – poetry, fiction, non-fiction? Or is it impossible to choose one over the other?

WM: Fiction

MM: What are some of your favorite mysteries, and why?

WM: All of Janet Evanovich's mysteries. I love her writing, not only for her great plots but also for her humor and dialog.

MM: Do you have a new book in the works? Would you like to tell us about it?

WM: I am working on my first draft of *Survivors*, a sequel to *Skin Deep*. My antagonist is a mentally ill man who has Borderline Personality Disorder. Obsessed with protagonist, Danielle Giardini, he views anyone close to her as his enemy.

MM: Some authors believe it's easier to find a publisher than an agent? Do you work with an agent? If you do, is it a project-specific relationship, or does he or she represent all of your work.

WM: No, I don't currently have an agent.

MM: Tell us about your life when you're not writing? Do you live close to your family? Any pets, or special projects or community service that is close to your heart?

WM: My daughter and son-in-law live in Austin; my stepdaughter in Dallas. I do not have any pets, mostly because I love to travel and am allergic to most dogs and all cats. I belong to several groups in Lakeway and am active in my church as well.

MM: If you had three wishes, what would they be?

WM: I believe in the old Chinese saying, be careful what you wish for, your wishes just might come true. My wishes are not for me, but for the state of our world with the hope that they do come true.

1. Peace
2. A greener world
3. Abundance for everyone

MM: Any closing thoughts you'd like to share with our members?

WM: Follow Your Dreams!

For more information about books by Weslynn McAllister, visit: www.weslynn.com.