

*Sisters
in
Crime* 

HOTSHOTS!

HEART OF TEXAS Chapter
www.hotxsinc.org



Writer's Guide to Government Information

Daniel Cornwall is an ex-Austinite and a librarian living in Juneau, Alaska. He recently launched a web site that could be of use to mystery writers and members of Sisters in Crime.

The site is called Writer's Guide to Government Information and it can be found here:

<http://writersguidetogovinfo.wordpress.com>

The site features annotations on resources to help writers add details to their stories. Sections that may be of special interest to mystery writers include:

- Crimes, Criminals, Cops and Crimefighters
- Health Issues and Tragic Complications (Including disease symptoms and rare diseases)
- When Bad Things Happen (Including accidents, poisons and chemical and biological toxins)
- Everything and Everyone Dies (Including autopsy manuals, death certificate procedures and the process of dying)

Throughout the site, search tips are offered on how to tease information a writer might

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Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter meets at Recycled Reads (part of the Austin Public Library system). The address is 5335 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756 (512) 323-5123. Recycled Reads is located between North Lamar Boulevard and MoPac (Loop 1), near the intersection of Burnet Road and West North Loop Boulevard.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inside Photo Secrets for Authors

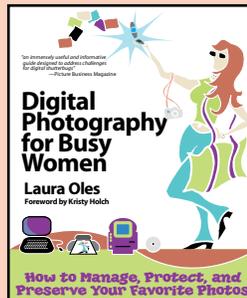
The March 9, 2014, speaker for Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter will be Laura Oles. Laura was fortunate enough to have entered the digital photography industry long before Photoshop had become a verb. She is a founding team member of Pixel Magic Imaging, which was purchased by



DNP Photo Imaging America in 2006,

and has continued to

advocate for digital solutions that improve the experience for shooters of all skill levels. She spent over ten years building and leading sales and marketing teams and understands the challenges of helping businesses establish a strong, unique presence in a crowded marketplace.



Laura has published over 200 articles in industry and consumer magazines and

has been a columnist for Digital Camera Magazine, Memory Makers Magazine, Picture Business, PhotoInduced, ClubMom (now Cafe Mom) and others. Her book, *Digital Photography for Busy Women*, was named a photography category finalist in USA Book News.com's 'Best Books' awards. In addition, she has served as an expert speaker for a variety of imaging conferences and conventions across the country. She continues to consult and write for the digital photo industry.

Are You Ready To Write?

Well, listen up, Pilgrim.

"The Halls of Mystery" is coming to *Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter on April 13, 2014.*

Seasoned literati Joan Upton Hall and Russ Hall will be fired up and ready to vanquish the mysteries that plague you about writing.

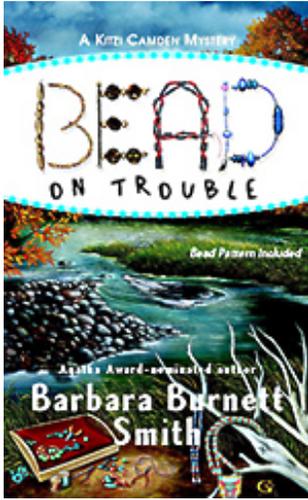
Got writing questions? Bring them to the meeting. Be ready to interact.

Want to know everything about writing from start to finish? Bring your notebook and questions and pull up a chair. Learn how to write the right way.

Then we'll all write out into the sunset.

Seeking Aspiring Mystery Writers

Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter (Austin) calls on all unpublished, aspiring writers of cozies, thrillers, true crime, noir, young adult, middle grade, and other mystery genres to submit the first 500 words of his or her mystery manuscript to the Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project (BBSAWP). Include a brief synopsis. Aspiring writers are chosen and matched with published author-mentors for one-on-one sessions and recognition at the Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event/BBSAWE on May 18, 2014. The submission deadline is March 31, 2014.



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 be mentored by published authors and recognized by the Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter. All aspiring writers MUST attend the Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event to be held Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Austin, Texas, at 2 p.m. at Recycled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78756.

Please e-mail entries to Project Coordinator Gale Albright at bbshotsinc@hotmail.com

If you have questions about submission guidelines or other concerns, please contact Gale Albright at bbshotsinc@hotmail.com.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Unpublished writers submit by e-mail a 100 word (maximum) synopsis and the first 500 words of a mystery short story or novel.
2. Entries should be in standard submission format: 12 point Times New Roman or Courier New font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
3. Attach Word file document with the synopsis (100 word max) on first page. Please put your name, e-mail address, phone number, and title of story or novel in the top left-hand corner of first page. Start story/novel 500-word submission on second page. Put name, title, and page number on all pages.
4. E-mail subject line: BBSAWP ENTRY
5. One submission per person
6. E-mail entries to bbshotsinc@hotmail.com
7. Submission deadline is March 31, 2014

For more on Barbara Burnett Smith, see page three.

Gulf Coast Prizes

The annual Gulf Coast Prizes award \$6,000 in total prize money to poets, essayists, and fiction writers. This year's judges are **Andrea Barrett (Fiction)**, **John D'Agata (Nonfiction)**, and **Rachel Zucker (Poetry)**!

The contest awards publication and **\$1,500 each to the best poem, essay, and short story**, as well as \$250 to two honorable mentions in each genre. The winners will appear in Gulf Coast 27.1, due out in Fall 2014, and all entries will be considered for paid publication on our website as Online Exclusives.

The entry fee includes a year-long subscription to Gulf Coast. **The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2014.** For information on how to enter, please visit- <https://gulfcoastmag.org/contests>

Who Was Barbara Burnett Smith?

By Gale Albright

Who was Barbara Burnett Smith?

According to author Bill Crider in his post of February 20, 2005:

Barbara Burnett Smith died in an accident in San Antonio Saturday night. Barbara and her husband were there to rescue a dog, and when they visited Remember the Alibi (bookstore), the dog ran from their car and into the street. It was raining and dark, and apparently Barbara stepped into the street to catch the dog. She was hit by a car and died in the hospital.

I'm still in shock over this. I've known Barbara for at least 15 years, and she was one of the nicest people you'd ever hope to meet. She was lovely and perky and a very talented writer. She was also the former daughter-in-law of another fine mystery writer, Thomas B. Dewey, whom she credited with helping her quite a bit when she was starting out.

I don't really have much more to say, except that the world is a poorer place without Barbara in it. (Bill Crider's Pop Culture Magazine)

Bill's comments about Barbara Burnett Smith are similar to everything I've heard about her. She was well-known and well-loved in the writing community. I wish I'd had the opportunity to meet Barbara, but her untimely death occurred before I joined Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter.

Barbara was a member of several writing groups and served as the president of Sisters in Crime International 1999-2000. She was a writer of cozy mysteries, including the popular Purple Sage series featuring heroine Jolie Wyatt, an amateur sleuth and radio newscaster in a small Texas town. Shortly before her death, she began a new mystery series with *Bead on Trouble*, whose main character, Kitzi Camden, was an amateur sleuth and beader. Her second book in the series, *Beads of Doubt*, was completed by fellow Sisters in Crime member Karen MacInerney.

On March 13, 2005, *A Celebration of Barbara Burnett Smith* was hosted by the Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter. The Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation is dedicated in her memory to support and provide a mentoring community for aspiring mystery writers.

We are now approaching the Tenth Annual BBS Aspiring Writers Event, to be held at Recycled Reads, on May 18, 2014, at 2 p.m. As Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project Coordinator, I'm calling for submissions of the first 500 words of an unpublished mystery story or novel. Each aspiring writer will be matched with a published mystery author for mentoring, culminating in the Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event on May 18, 2014. The submission deadline is March 31, 2014. For more information go to http://www.hotxsinc.org/Barbara_B_Smith_Project/barbara_b_smith_project.html



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want out of a given web site. For example, see the annotation of Drugs and Supplements from MedlinePlus at <http://bit.ly/writersguidegovt>.

Writer's Guide to Government Information is

completely free. The only compensation received is the creator's satisfaction of introducing people to government information resources.

Helen Ginger, Winner of the 2013 USA Best Book Award for Fiction: New Age

Just before her thirteenth birthday, Angel was taken 800 miles from her home in Oklahoma, given \$50 and left on South Padre Island, Texas. Four years later, Angel hitchhiked to Austin and got a job swimming as a mermaid in a bar in the music district. At twenty-two, she has friends, a place to live, and a future. When a homeless girl is beaten and a waitress killed, Angel realizes she will never be whole until she confronts her parents.

To do that, she needs three things: her high school diploma, a car and a gun. She has a car. She's finished her final test for her GED. The only thing she needs is the gun and she knows where to get one.

Vividly rendered in razor-sharp prose, this haunting book is a riveting journey of trust betrayed -- and the courageous struggle to rebuild. Fast-paced, with a knockout twist, Helen Ginger's "Angel Sometimes" features an unforgettable heroine as fascinating and multi-layered as Austin's Music District itself.

Early Review Excerpts:

"When I finished reading "Angel Sometimes", I was filled with a desire to examine all my perceptions and look for any mistakes in judgment on my life's path." Diane Fanning, author of *The Trophy Exchange*

"Powerful story, beautiful descriptions, heart-felt emotions, and believable, genuine characters--a truly great first novel." Christa Polkinhorn, author of *An Uncommon Family*

Helen Ginger started writing "Angel Sometimes" when twelve year old Angel appeared in her head and started telling Helen about her life. "So I began writing her story. I had completed almost a full length novel when I realized I had to stop. She was still twelve. What happened to her as a child was pivotal, but her true story could only be told through the eyes of the woman she became." Helen had just started writing Angel at 22 when she was awarded a fellowship from the Brown Foundation to spend four weeks at the Vermont Studio Center. She spent those weeks writing and interacting

with writers and artists from around the world. By the time Helen returned home to Bee Cave, Texas, "Angel Sometimes" was almost complete.

AUSTIN--Helen Ginger taps into one of the most intriguing aspects of her life to create her first novel, *Angel Sometimes*. Ginger spent her college days in the early 1970s swimming as a mermaid at Aquarena Springs in San Marcos, Texas.

"What I get asked about most often are those three years," says Ginger. "Swimming with a shimmering tail, picnicking underwater and performing synchronized ballet, blowing air bubbles--all year round, even in the winter. My heroine, *Angel Sometimes*, swims in a tank as a mermaid."

Ginger brings the tough-talking heroine, with a heart of gold, to life for readers who will stand up and cheer *Angel's* Texas gumption. She expertly writes about the challenges of the hard-working mermaids, who not only face death if something goes wrong when they enter the tank tube, but have to deal with the nightly ogling of the bar sharks.

Ginger was president of Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter in 1997, served as executive director of the Writers' League of Texas, 2003-2005, is an active member of Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter and the Story Circle Network and is a

longtime Volunteer Chair for the Texas Book Festival. She engages writers from all over the country through her blog, *Straight From Hel*, winning multiple awards.

Her second suspense novel, "Dismembering the Past", will be released in early 2013.

Helen Ginger has been writing since she was a child. She went from tragic love stories at Lockhart High School to angst-filled poetry in college to character-driven books as an adult. She holds a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Speech Communication. She uses both since the two things she does most is write and talk. She put both these skills to work after college as an instructor at San Antonio Community College



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Pen 2 Paper a disability-focused creative writing competition

The 2014 Pen 2 Paper creative writing contest is open! Any new writers are encouraged to show off their skills and all past entrants should dazzle the judges with new work for their fifth year. Current rules and details for this year's contest can be found at- <http://www.txdisabilities.org/p2p-submission-rules>

MenilFest is Coming!

On May 3, 2014, Gulf Coast -- in partnership with the Menil Collection, Inprint, the Houston Center for Photography, the Rothko Chapel, SWAMP, Da Camera, and the Orange Show -- will present **MenilFest**. MenilFest, formerly the Menil Community Arts Festival, is a one-day celebration of art, words, and noise that brings together visual, literary, and performing arts organizations located on and around the Menil Collection campus. As always, at the center of the festivities will be an independent book fair hosted by Gulf Coast. If you're an author, publisher, magazine, bookstore, or literary organization interested in becoming a vendor at the book fair, you can contact book fair coordinator Lauriston Brewster at indiebookfest@gmail.com for more information.



Spring Writers' Retreat in Alpine, Fort Davis April 11-13, 2014

Lisa Wingate: Award winning, best selling, fiction author of twenty-one books
WC Jameson: Prolific, nonfiction author of adventure, western research, memoir
Becka Oliver: Literary agent with major publishing house experience & WLT

Mountain Trails Lodge in Fort Davis

www.texasmountaintrailwriters.org

Reba Cross Seals 432-837-2919

Jackie Siglin 432-364-2399

Ginger from page four

and Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas. In addition to the newly released "Angel Sometimes", she has three non-fiction books published with TSTC/Texas State Technical College Publishing.

She has a husband, two children, and a house that is always in need of dusting. She's not wild about cooking, but for some reason her family likes to eat.

Born in Georgia, she grew up in Texas, where she's lived since she was ten. She's got relatives spread all over the States, from Texas to California to Minnesota to North Carolina to Alabama to Florida. A few of them actually admit that she's family.

Member of:

Writers' League of Texas
Story Circle Network
Sisters in Crime, Heart of Texas chapter
Sisters in Crime, National

Online:

<http://helenginger.com>
<http://www.facebook.com/AuthorHelenGinger>
<http://straightfromhel.blogspot.com>
<http://twitter.com/MermaidHel>

MURDER AT BARNES AND NOBLE

Wednesday, March 12th, 7:30 p.m.

The Mystery Book Discussion Group meets in our store monthly to discuss great selections in the genre. This month's selection is *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie: Flavia de Luce Series #1* by Alan Bradley. Join us for a lively discussion!

Barnes & Noble Arboretum is located at 10,000 Research Boulevard, Austin, TX 78759. For information on these and other events, call 512-418-8985

MURDER AT BOOKPEOPLE

Sunday, March 9th, 1:00 p.m.

MysteryPeople Presents CARA BLACK speaking & signing *Murder in Pigalle*

Join us as we welcome Cara Black, author of the popular Aimee Luduc series, with her searing new thriller set in Paris in 1998. Cara Black is a San Francisco Library Laureate and a member of the Paris Societe Historique in the Marais. Her book *Murder in the Sentier* was nominated for an Anthony Award for Best Novel.

Monday, March 17th, 7:00 p.m.

MysteryPeople Presents CJ BOX speaking & signing *Stone Cold*

Tonight we're thrilled to welcome back MysteryPeople favorite C. J. Box with his latest Joe Pickett mystery, *Stone Cold*. Box will be joined by his friend and fellow writer, David Hansard, author of *One Minute Gone*. Box is the author of fourteen Joe Pickett novels and three stand-alones, and has won the Edgar, Anthony, Macavity, Gumshoe, and Barry Awards, as well as the French Prix Calibre .38. His most recent Joe Pickett novel, *Force of Nature*, debuted at #3 on the New York Times bestseller list.

Thursday, March 20th, 7:00 p.m.

MysteryPeople Presents CHRIS PAVONE speaking & signing *The Accident*

We're thrilled to welcome Edgar Award-winner and author of *The Expats*, Chris Pavone with a new thriller that rockets around Europe and across America, with an intricate web of duplicities stretching back a quarter-century to a dark winding road in upstate New York.

Friday, March 28th, 7:00 p.m.

MysteryPeople Presents BRUCE DESILVA speaking & signing *Providence Rag*

Bruce DeSilva spent forty-one years as a journalist before writing *Rogue Island*, his first novel, which won the 2011 Edgar and Macavity Awards for Best First Novel. Now he returns with Liam Mulligan, an old-school investigative reporter for a dying newspaper in Providence, Rhode Island. Mulligan, his pal Mason, and the newspaper they both work for about to hit an ethical crossroad.

Monday, March 31st, 7:00 p.m.

MysteryPeople Presents STEVEN SAYLOR speaking & signing *Raiders of the Nile*

Internationally bestselling author Steven Saylor returns, chronicling the early years of his detective, Gordianus, before he assumed the title of *The Finder*. *Raiders of the Nile* is the latest in his much-loved series of mysteries set in the late Roman Republic. Join us as we welcome him tonight!

BookPeople • 603 N. Lamar Blvd • Austin, TX 78703 • 512-472-5050 ext. 404

Sisters in Crime is an international organization of women and men whose purpose is to support women mystery writers, and 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 Heart of Texas Chapter website at www.hotxsinc.org.

For more information on the Heart of Texas Chapter contact- hotxsinc@yahoo.com

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