



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, June 14, 2009

2:00 p.m.

P. J. Nunn

BreakThrough Promotions

Presents

Debunking the Promo Myth

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



P.J. Nunn left a job teaching psychology at the Dallas County Community College District in the mid-1990s to become a freelance writer, but found that a few favors she was doing for friends — writing press releases and setting up book signings — was better suited to her talents and her drive.

In 1998, she founded BreakThrough Promotions, now a national public relations firm helping authors, mostly of mystery novels, publicize themselves and their work.

When asked about her topic for Sunday, she replied, “It will be something along the lines of Debunking the Promo Myths (How to Avoid Hamster Wheel Promotion).” Sounds like something we all should hear.

This meeting is free and open to anyone who enjoys writing or reading Mysteries: Whodunits, Cozies, Thrillers, Suspense, True Crime.

Upcoming Chapter Programs

(Continued on Page 2)

July 12 - Val Smith - The Internet: Spies, Criminals and Saboteurs

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



News and Announcements



On Sunday, May 31st, our dear friend **Vallie Fletcher Taylor** suffered a heart episode while attending a church service. Fortunately, a physician was present and Vallie was whisked off to the ER. She's recovering nicely at home, with an excellent prognosis.

Vallie was once again a Mentor Author in this year's Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event as well as our March program presenter. She is a loved and valued member of our chapter. We wish her a full recovery and send our best wishes, healing thoughts and prayers.

The July edition of *Waco Today Magazine*, a special features monthly magazine of the *Waco Tribune Herald*, will contain an article about 2009 Sage Award winner **Micqui Miller** and Waco romance author, **Ann Whitaker**. *Waco Today* is a four-color slick, published the first of each month and distributed with the daily newspaper.



Out and About with our members...



David Ciambrone, Sc.D., FIOF
June 20th, Dave will be appearing at *Hard Boiled Heros and Cozy Cats Mystery Conference*, Dallas, TX

Jan Grape has been named **Fan Guest of Honor** at *ConMisterio 11* July 14-16, at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, TX. **Margaret Maron** and **James Crumby** are Guests of Honor and **Bill Crider** is Toastmaster. Info about *ConMisterio* can be found at their website: www.conmisterio.org.



Elmer Grape was also named as **Guest of Honor**. However, with his untimely passing this past December, he has been named **Ghost of Honor** and will attend in spirit.

Russ Hall

Russ will be signing and presenting at the following events. More information to follow.

September 13th - 6th *Annual Mike Blakely Fandango*, Luckenbach

October 31st-November 1st - *Texas Book Festival*, Austin

November 13th - *University of Texas Forum*, Thompson Conference Center on campus, Austin, 11 a.m.



Karen Swartz MacInerney



June 19th-20th — Karen will be presenting the workshop "Cooking up Characters" and moderating a panel at the *MWA-SW* regional conference in Dallas.

Sylvia Dickey Smith

Sylvia will be signing and presenting at the following events:

June 5th - *Georgetown Public Library* Georgetown, Texas

June 20th - *Hardboiled Heroes & Cozy Cats* -MWASW Chapter, Dallas, Texas

June 25th - *Mixer at Sundown*
Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce, Orange, Texas



Upcoming Chapter Programs

(Continued from Page 1)

September 13 - Author **Joan Upton Hall** - *Location, Location: Where Characters Come to Life*

October 11 - **Sylvia Dickey Smith** - *Marketing for Fun and Profit*

November 8 - **Jim Bryant** - *Sherlock Holmes, Mysteries and Statistics*

December 12 - **Field Trip: Docent-led Tour of the Edgar Allen Poe Exhibit at the University of Texas** - **Harry Hunt Ransom Humanities Research Center**

January 10, 2010 - **Pat Ricks** - *History: The Greatest Mystery*

What you missed ...

... if you didn't attend the regular chapter meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009 — a lively, entertaining and informative panel presentation led by author **Micqui Miller** on the many facets of e-publishing.

Panelists included **Dindy Robinson**, *Swimming Kangaroo Books*, who shared with eye-opening candor the pros and cons of this emerging technology from an e-publisher's perspective. Ms. Robinson did not shy away from discussion of the financial opportunities and disadvantages for both authors and publishers.

Author **Sylvia Dickey Smith** and author/editor **Rie Sheridan** discussed the opportunities and realities of e-book marketing, and described in-depth the various options available to authors, from publishers who paid advances and royalties to various forms of self-publishing.



Photos by Dolores Sullivan

The panel presentation concluded with a fun, hands-on demonstration of several e-readers, including the new Kindle 2, by author **Lynn LaFleur**.

Panelists took questions from the audience both during and following the presentation, shedding new light on an often misunderstood form of publishing and demonstrating the excitement that is the future of publishing in general.

The July issue will contain a recap and photos of the Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event, held May 17th, as well as the events of Texas Mystery Month!

Another face of e-publishing:

The Espresso Book Machine can print any of 500,000 titles while you wait!

"It's not elegant and it's not sexy – it looks like a large photocopier – but the Espresso Book Machine is being billed as the biggest change for the literary world since Gutenberg invented the printing press more than 500 years ago and made the mass production of books possible. Launching today at Blackwell's Charing Cross Road branch in London, the machine prints and binds books on demand in five minutes, while customers wait.

Signaling the end, says Blackwell, to the frustration of being told by a bookseller that a title is out of print, or not in stock, the Espresso offers access to almost half a million books, from a facsimile of Lewis Carroll's original manuscript for *Alice in Wonderland* to *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Needlework*.

Blackwell hopes to increase this to over a million titles by the end of the summer – the equivalent of 23.6 miles of shelf space, or over 50 bookshops rolled into one. The majority of these books are currently out-of-copyright works, but Blackwell is working with publishers throughout the UK to increase access to in-copyright writings, and says the response has been overwhelmingly positive."

See a video of the **Espresso Book Machine** in action at:

<http://www.ritholtz.com/blog/2009/04/espresso-book-machine/>

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 is the deadline for News, Reviews, Announcements and Articles for the **JULY 2009** edition of **HOTSHOTS!**

Send info to Micqui Miller at micquim@yahoo.com



Poolside Reviews

ROMANCED TO DEATH *An E. J. Pugh Mystery* By **Susan Rogers Cooper**

Review by By
Joseph K. Burkholder II
Kannapolis, NC

Romantic novelist E. J. Pugh is back and in rare form! She has been nominated for a Lady, a coveted award from the American Romance Writers' Association. The convention is to be held in nearby Austin, Texas so E.J. is going and will be sharing a room with bestselling author Maybella LaRue, aka Jane Dawson. Through Jane, E.J. meets a group of mostly well-known writers, all a lot of fun, and all united in their dislike of aspiring but unpublished Angela Barber, the drill sergeant who is in charge of the convention.

ROMANCED TO DEATH

An E. J. Pugh Mystery

By **Susan Rogers Cooper**

Publisher: Severn House Publishers

Released: May 2009

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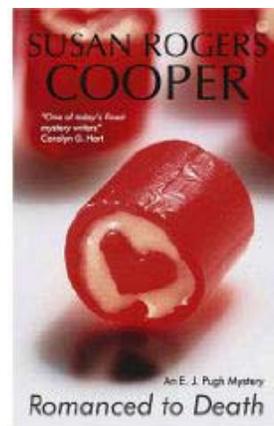
Susan Rogers Cooper Does It Again!

Rated: 5 Stars out of 5

It's been seven years since Susan Rogers Cooper (and the rest of us) visited E.J Pugh - wife, mother of three, romance novelist, and sleuth. Was *Romanced To Death*, the new E.J. Pugh mystery worth the wait? You better believe it!

The book follows E.J. to the American Romance Writers Association convention in Austin, TX, where she almost immediately is embroiled in murder, mayhem, and catty backstabbing. Interspersed throughout E.J.'s escapades is a deeper, darker story involving her thirteen-year-old adopted daughter, whose family was brutally murdered nine years before. Cooper uses flashbacks to her first E.J. Pugh mystery, *One, Two, What Did Daddy Do?*, to set this part of the story up, which allows new readers to appreciate this book as a stand alone, if they've never read any of the previous books in the series. For fans and faithful readers, Cooper's characters are still fresh, her plotting is first rate, and the resolution is very satisfying!

Visit Susan Rogers Cooper at:
www.myspace.com/susanrogerscooper



Poolside 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.