

May 2020

HOTSHOTS!

sinc-heartoftexas.com



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Heart of Texas Chapter Members,

The world has turned upside down since we last met in person at our March general meeting. The public health orders issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have closed businesses and canceled a range of events around the country. Our chapter's April and May general meetings were supposed to comprise a two-part "hands on" event on lock-picking. Our Board agreed that these meetings would suffer if moved online. We hope to reschedule when public meetings are once again permitted and safe for our members to attend. In the meantime, we hope to hold a Zoom chapter meeting in June. More information on this will be forthcoming shortly.

Chapters around the country are holding free online meetings. As a SinC member, you can attend these meetings, providing you with a great opportunity to 'meet' other authors, and learn new things. SinC National is also holding events and Webinars. We will try to apprise you of these events so you can attend. Organizers may require you to request an access code by a certain date or time.

If you are feeling isolated, please check in with the Chapter via our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) feeds. I try to keep new information posted on these accounts. Comment or reach out and say hello! If you have links to share, send them! I am happy to repost your blogs, book release announcements, or share interesting articles with our membership.

Although we can't meet in person right now, please know that the Board is still working on your behalf. We look forward to the time when we can all meet again safely.

Sincerely,

Noreen Cedeño
AKA N. M. Cedeño
President - Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter

CONTENTS

Featured New Release – Ghost Cat by Helen Currie Foster - 2

The Indie Author (ISBNs)- 4

What's Happening & Opportunities - 6

OFFICERS & CHAIRS

Noreen Cedeño – President

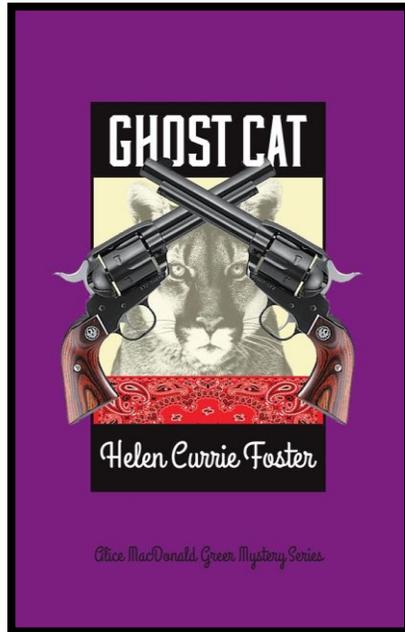
K. P. Gresham – Vice President

Fran Paino - Secretary

Dave Ciambrone – Treasurer

Kelly Cochran –
Communications Chair

Featured New Release



[Helen Currie Foster's *Ghost Cat*](#), published April 15, 2020, is now available through IngramSpark and Amazon.

Lawyer Alice MacDonald Greer finds real estate in once peaceful Coffee Creek, Texas, is hotter than ever—maybe too hot. An unscrupulous developer muscles in, abusing undocumented workers and menacing the neighbors. Ignoring threats, Alice challenges him in court. When one client is shot dead and another nearly suffocated in a wine vat, Alice has a target on her back.

A devious mastermind intends to stop her—permanently. Is she snakebit? She'll need more than legal skills to foil a scheme that threatens her town, her clients, her life.

A legal thriller—murder, romance, mayhem and suspense.

Ghost Cat is sixth in the Alice MacDonald Greer Mystery Series. Early praise:

Billy Kring, author of the Ronny Baca Mysteries and the Hunter Kincaid Mysteries: "Be ready for plenty of suspense and action, both from the humans and from mother Nature. This is an exciting, fast paced story, one of those you can't put down."

Aaron Hierholzer, editor, Texas CEO Magazine: "I relish every minute I get to spend with Alice MacDonald Greer, the small-town lawyer with a knack for crime solving. Foster's latest entry in her series, *Ghost Cat*, is another knockout mystery—a masterful blend of suspenseful storytelling, idiosyncratic characters, and a lovingly detailed setting...."

https://www.amazon.com/Helen-Currie-Foster/e/BooR1XgRXK%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share

Continued

PRAISE FOR THE ALICE MACDONALD GREER MYSTERY SERIES

Ghost Next Door: “...Watching Alice piece together the puzzle is riveting, as the tale showcases her sharp reasoning.” *Kirkus Reviews*.

Ghost Dagger: “The fourth novel in author Helen Currie Foster's simply outstanding 'Alice MacDonald Greer' mystery series, "Ghost Dagger" continues to document Foster's originality and complete mastery of the mystery/suspense genre. A deftly crafted and compelling read from cover to cover...” *Midwest Book Review*.

Ghost Letter: “A deftly crafted mystery suspense novel that reveals author Helen Currie Foster to be a true master of the genre, ‘Ghost Letter’ is the third in a series of Alice MacDonald Greer stories. Impressively well written from beginning to end, ‘Ghost Letter’ is an exceptionally compelling and thoroughly absorbing read that is especially recommended for the personal reading lists of dedicated mystery buffs and would prove to be an enduringly popular addition to any community library Mystery/Suspense collections....” *Midwest Book Review*.

Ghost Dog: “A lively and laudable protagonist will have readers hoping that she’ll soon stumble upon another murder.” *Kirkus Reviews*.

Ghost Cave: “Foster’s debut and series launch combines an independent lead with evocative descriptions of the Texas hill country. Foster balances plot and characterization effectively, which bodes well for the series’s next entry. —*Publisher’s Weekly-Booklife*



Helen Currie Foster lives north of Dripping Springs, Texas, supervised by three burros. She’s deeply curious, more every day, about human history and prehistory and how, uninvited, the past keeps crashing the party. Foster earned her BA from Wellesley College, MA from the University of Texas, and JD from the University of Michigan where she grew fascinated with dirt and water law. After practicing environmental law and regulatory litigation for thirty years, she found the character Alice had suddenly appeared in her life. Foster’s active with Austin Shakespeare and the Heart of Texas Sisters in Crime. Find her online:

www.helencurriefoster.com

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=helen+currie+foster&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

<https://www.facebook.com/helencurriefoster/>

THE INDIE AUTHOR

BY KELLY COCHRAN

And the paperwork continues! In the last column we covered copyright for the independent author. Another area a self-publishing author will want to know about is the International Standard Book Number (ISBN).

Does the independent author need an ISBN?

The ISBN is a unique number used to identify a specific book. Prior to 2007, the ISBN was 10 digits. After 2006, the number became 13 digits, making it compatible with the International Article Number also known as the EAN-13. The EAN-13 is used as a barcode that is printed on the back of books to identify not only the specific book, but also the price of the book. The ISBN identifies the country or language area, the publisher, and the title edition. In order to sell your books in a bookstore in the U.S. you must use the EAN Bookland bar code format.

The history and process behind creating the ISBN may appear to be complex and convoluted but to someone who is trying to find a book, like a library, or individual consumer, the ISBN is actually a simple and efficient identification method.

Requirement

As an independent author, you may or may not need an ISBN. If you will only be selling an electronic version of your book through Kindle Direct Publishing, for instance, you do not need an ISBN as Amazon assigns an Amazon Standard Identification Number (ASIN). For print books, however you will need an ISBN if you plan to sell your book through Internet or brick and mortar retailers. The

ISBN should be printed on the copyright page.

Most retail bookstores, colleges, and libraries use the ISBN system for ordering from publishers and wholesalers. Additionally, the ISBN is used in the development of book catalogs or databases that list available books.

When assigning an ISBN to a book, you must have a different ISBN for every format. A hardback edition and paperback edition of the same title would each have their own unique ISBN. If you choose to use ISBNs for your digital books, then each format will need their own ISBN. For example, a PDF version would have a different ISBN than an ePUB version.

Obtaining an ISBN

In the United States, the ISBN Agency is the only agency that can supply ISBNs within the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Bowker is the official U.S. ISBN agency. You can purchase an ISBN directly from Bowker or you can have an ISBN assigned to your book by your publisher of record for free or at a minimal fee.

Publishing services like Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) and Direct2Digital can provide a



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THE INDIE AUTHOR, CONTINUED

free ISBN. However, this comes with caveats. The free ISBN is owned by the service and cannot be used if you decide to publish your book using another service like Ingramsparks. The publishing service for a book with a free ISBN will be the publisher or record or in the case of KDP it shows the publisher of record as Independently Published.

You can purchase your own ISBN through Bowker or if using KDP you can forgo the free ISBN and purchase a single ISBN at a discount. If you want to purchase your own ISBNs, and you are purchasing multiple, I recommend purchasing them direct from Bowker.

Current cost for an ISBN through Bowker at their site www.myidentifiers.com:

Single ISBN - \$125
Block of 10 - \$295
Block of 100 - \$575

The Bowker website contains a lot of useful information and I recommend spending some time reviewing their website before making your decision.

Once you purchase your ISBN, you will have an account with Bowker and a portal through which to manage your ISBNs. Through this portal you will assign your title to an ISBN and complete

the required information about the title, such as format, contributor name, publication date, and price. There will also be fields for optional information, such as subtitle, description, and language.

Bowker will also provide the option to upload your book in PDF format. Although these are optional, it is recommended that you complete as much information as possible as this will make your book easier to find in searches of Bowker's database. The PDF is not shown to their customers (generally those who use the Bowker Book in Print catalog) and they will not resell your PDF.

The PDF is used as a tool to obtain keywords. Bowker will index the PDF version of your book for keywords that Bowker's Customers (libraries, retailers, school systems) can use to find and learn more about your book.

Bowker has two great guides: Bowker's [*ISBN Guides: Basics*](#) and Bowker's [*ISBN Guides: Title Setup & Registration*](#).



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming meetings, contests, conferences, book signings, etc.

Upcoming Meetings

(details at www.sinc-heartoftexas.com)

- Due to Covid-19 many meetings have been canceled or rescheduled. We are trying to start meeting again in June via Zoom online. Please view our website for up to date information on meetings. www.sinc-heartoftexas.com/

Call for Submissions

- June 30, 2020 – **Anthology – The Killer Wore Cranberry #6**
(50% of net Royalty Share (net = cover price – vendor commission) – Short Story 1500 – 5000 Words. Details at <https://www.untreedreads.com/submission-guidelines/tkwc6/>
- July 15, 2020 – **Anthology – Cozy Villages of Death**
(Royalty Share) – Short Story 5000 – 8000 words - Details at <http://www.camdenparkpress.com/cozyvillages/>

Contests

- June 1, 2020 – **Anthology – People are Strange (Writers' Police Academy)**
(\$35 submission fee) – Short Story 3500 – 5000 words – Details at <https://writerspoliceacademy.com/people-are-strange/>

CONGRATULATIONS!

We Love Bookstores!



A special congratulations to Bookpeople, Austin's neighborhood bookseller, for receiving a \$500 award from Sisters in Crime National as part of their *We Love Bookstores* monthly award program. This year, due to Covid-19 Sisters in Crime National awarded all 12 awards immediately.

Sisters in Crime National also noted on their website that due to two generous Sisters in Crime members, they were able to award two bonus \$500 awards. Check out the 2020 winners here - <https://www.sistersincrime.org/page/WeLoveBookstores>

New Column!

In case you didn't notice, we started a new column which will feature a member author's newest release. If you have an upcoming new release and would like to be featured, please send an email to kelly@kellycochran.com Please include the word "newsletter" in your subject heading!

Editor's Note: Thank you to [Freepik](https://www.freepik.com) for free use of the person reading drawing used in the creation of the Featured New Release heading image.