

HOTSHOTS!

sinc-heartoftexas.com



SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS – VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM!

Tex Thompson – “Juice Box Hero: Squeezing Plot from Character”



Tex’s got ten hot tips to juice up a story whether you are still outlining or already deep in revision. Fire up your computer, hop onto Zoom and discover how to distill a story that readers will remember from characters they’ll never forget. www.thetexfiles.com

[JOIN THE MEETING!](#)

"Beyond Good & Bad Guys: Using Real Life Motivations in your Writing"



Explore what motivates people to engage the world, take risks, be cruel or kind, and keep going in the face of danger.

Bill Woodburn, MEd, LPC-S, LMFT-S
A counselor and presenter for over 30 years. Bill also writes historical murder mysteries. billwoodburnlpc.com

[JOIN THE MEETING!](#)

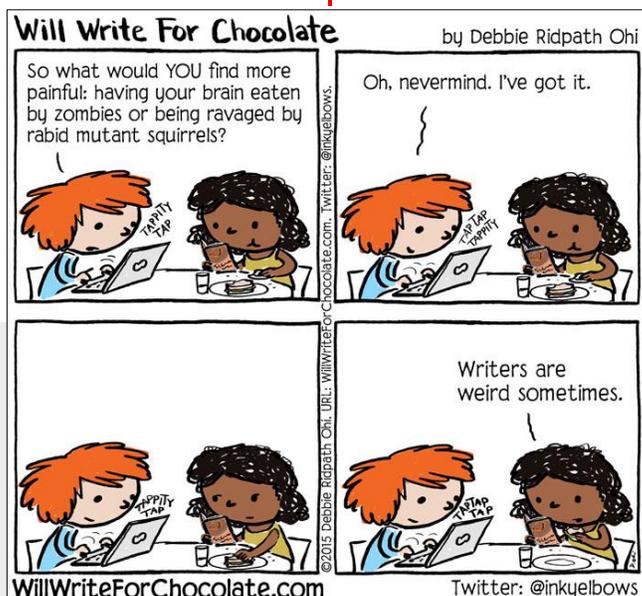
For details on past meetings, visit our website’s [Past Meetings](#) section

CONTENTS

- Meet our Members – 2
- Flash Fiction Fun – 4
- So Much to Share – 5
- Congratulations – 6
- What’s Happening - 8

OFFICERS & CHAIRS

- Noreen Cedeño – President
- K. P. Gresham – Vice President
- Fran Paino -Secretary
- Dave Ciambone – Treasurer
- Kelly Cochran – Communications Chair



A pleasure to
meet you!

Meet Our Members



Pamela Burford

Pamela Burford comes from a funny family. You may take that any way you want. She was raised in a household that valued laughter above all, so of course the first thing she looked for in a husband was a sense of humor. Is it any wonder their grown kids are into stand-up comedy and improv? Oh, and here's another fun family fact: Pamela's identical twin sister, Patricia Ryan, aka P.B. Ryan, is also a published novelist. Patricia is the Good Twin, and yeah, Pamela knows what that makes her. But hey, Evil Twins have more fun!

It should come as no surprise that everything Pamela writes is infused with her own quirky brand of humor, including her popular Jane Delaney mystery series, featuring snarky "Death Diva" Jane, her canine sidekick Sexy Beast, and a fun love-triangle subplot. The Jane Delaney series includes six books so far. The most recent installment is *Simmering Stu*, and Pam is hard at work on book seven, *Liquidating Larry*.

Learn more about Pamela on her [Website](#) and follow her on [BookBub](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)

Why do you like mysteries?

I'm drawn to the puzzle-solving aspect. I get a lot of pleasure from building the story and making the various pieces fit, so it culminates in a satisfying conclusion. I enjoy it much more than writing romances, which I did for the first part of my writing career. Plus, of course, I love reading well-crafted mysteries.

Continued

Describe your most productive place to write and why you like it.

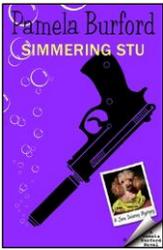
There's a sitting room behind my bedroom, and I've turned it into my writing space. I sit on a recliner with a lap desk for my computer, facing a wall of windows that looks out on a nature preserve located right behind my home. It's the most enjoyable and productive writing space I've ever had.

Of all the minor/supporting characters in your novels/short stories, who is your favorite and why?

Well, that has to be Sexy Beast, an apricot toy poodle who is my sleuth's seven-pound canine sidekick. Sexy Beast is modeled on my own wonderful dog Murray, who, sadly, has been gone for three years. But he lives on in my series. I guess you could call these books dog mysteries, but not in the sense of a humanlike animal who solves crimes. Jane Delaney, my human sleuth, solves the crimes, thank you very much. Sometimes she'll note Sexy Beast's expression or eloquent grumble and speculate on what he's thinking or trying to tell her, but he remains a real dog

Pamela Burford's Books

Simmering Stu (Book 6)



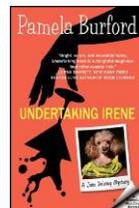
A hot tub can be a great place to decompress—provided your tub toy isn't a Glock 9-millimeter. When Death Diva Jane discovers that Stu Ruskin has taken decompression a little too far, everyone assumes his sudden demise was self-inflicted. The result of a guilty conscience perhaps? After all, no one who knew Stu would describe him as a Boy Scout.

Jane begins to suspect murder when disturbing revelations come to light, involving a blood feud, secret recipes, and a (haunted?) bed-and-breakfast inn with a dark history going back to Colonial times.

As if a hot-tub homicide weren't enough to deal with, Jane is more than a little conflicted about yummy bad boy Martin McAuliffe. All she really knows about the sexy bartender is that he has a mysterious past and is a darn good kisser. But hey, Sexy Beast approves of him, and when has Jane's neurotic canine sidekick ever steered her wrong?

Simmering Stu is available at [all retailers](#).

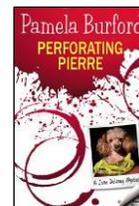
Jane Delaney Mystery Series



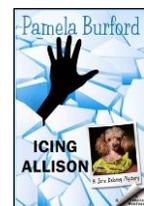
UNDERTAKING IRENE (Book 1)



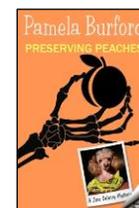
UPROOTING ERNIE (Book 2)



PREFORATING PIERRE (Book 3)



ICING ALLISON (Book 4)



PRESERVING PEACHES (Book 5)

Purchase the complete series at all retailers, including [Amazon!](#)



FLASH FICTION FUN!

Flash fiction is a genre of fiction that is basically a very short, short story. It can be anywhere from a few words to several sentences. What makes them crazy fun is that the story still includes character and plot development.

Enjoy reading a few flash fiction stories from our members!

'SHROOMS

by [Kathy Waller](#)

John ambled in. "What's cooking?"

"Mushroom gravy." Mary kept stirring.

John frowned. "Toadstools. Fungi. Dorothy Sayers killed someone with Amanita."

"These are morels." She added salt. "Everybody eats mushrooms."

"I don't."

"Suit yourself."

He sat down. "Where'd you buy them?"

"I picked them."

"You?"

"Aunt Helen helped. She knows 'shrooms." She held out a spoonful. "Taste."

"Well . . ." John tasted. "Mmmm. Seconds?"

"Yoo-hoo." Aunt Helen bustled in. "Like my new glasses? Got 'em this morning. Those old ones—I couldn't see doodly squat."

Mary looked at the gravy, then at John. "Maybe you should spit that out."

HIT GONE WRONG: A MICRO-THRILLER

by [N. M. Cedeño](#)

Marlen identified his target on the crowded subway platform. The man in the expensive suit wasn't a person. He was a walking dollar sign. Other people faded from view. Marlen prepared to strike. He readied the inconspicuous syringe.

This was an easy hit. The death would be reported, and he'd be paid. After this job, he was giving up the business.

Killing unsuspecting targets wasn't stimulating. He considered opening a pizzeria.

Marlen aimed the syringe. He hadn't noticed the bodyguard, who tripped him. He hadn't realized that he was too close to the edge. Marlen never saw the train coming.

If you would like to submit a flash fiction story for print in our newsletter, please submit via email to kelly@kellycochran.com and write "flash fiction newsletter" in the subject line. Your story will be printed in a future edition. You retain your rights. We provide no compensation but are extremely appreciative for your contribution to our newsletter.

SO MUCH TO SHARE!!!

I don't know about you, but I am so glad we have the Internet! Though the unending highway and the stops along the way might be frustrating at times, it truly is what has allowed us to keep connected during this time. We'd like to share with you what others have shared with us. Interesting links and podcast and even free conferences! Hope you enjoy this new column.

AN INTERESTING WEBSITE. BIG SHOUT OUT TO THE NEW SINC TEXAS CHAPTER IN HOUSTON! The group formed in Fall of 2019 and we are excited they are here. In August, their speaker was from the Houston Forensic Science Center and provided this website that the Houston chapter would like to share with us. <https://records.hfscdiscovery.org/> The site contains information on policies, standard operating procedures, and training guides.

FREE WRITER'S CONFERENCE. HIGH FIVE TO THE SISTERS IN CRIME DESERT SLEUTHS IN PHOENIX ARIZONA! They have opened up their annual WRITE NOW! Conference for 2020 AND for this year they are making the conference FREE, yes, FREE! The conference is going virtual and runs Sept 11-12, 2020. Lineup includes Michael Connelly, Matt Coyle, Naomi Hirahara, Jessica Page Morrell, and Kirby Kim. There will also be limited opportunities to pitch to agents for a small fee. Check it out and make sure to register! <https://desertsleuths.com/write-now/2020conference/>

THE ORANGE TREE MURDER CASE PODCAST. THANK YOU TO DETECTIVE DAVE FUGITT! Det. Fugitt spoke at one of our meetings in 2019. He remembered us and wanted to share the link to *The Orange Tree*, a podcast about the infamous Austin, Texas murder of Jennifer Cave. Detective Fugitt was involved in the case. Check out the 6 episode podcast <https://thedragaudio.com/show/the-orange-tree/> Here's a brief description of the case provided by N.M Cedeño:

On August 18, 2005, the body of Jennifer Cave was discovered in an apartment at The Orange Tree apartment complex a few blocks from the University of Texas in the West Campus area. The apartment's occupant, a friend of Jennifer Cave's named Colton Pitonyak, was discovered to have fled to Mexico with another woman, Laura Hall. Pitonyak and Hall were soon captured and returned to Texas for trial. The case caught the public's attention because of the gruesome nature of the murder, which included partial, postmortem dismemberment of the victim.

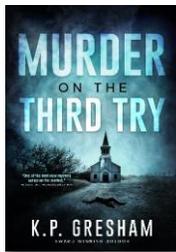
Rumors surrounding the murder swirled and each successive group of students at the University of Texas at Austin heard versions of the story as they arrived on campus. The podcast was created by two UT journalism students who heard tales of the murder when they arrived at UT and were surprised to learn it happened not "a few years ago" as the stories said, but almost fifteen years earlier. The students, Haley Butler and Tinu Thomas, searched court records and interviewed those involved in the case to create their podcast which raises the question of whether the right person is still incarcerated for the murder.

DEEP VELLUM EMERGENCY FUND. A big thanks to member Sylvia Forbes for passing along information about the Deep Vellum emergency fund for Texas writers. The Dallas based non-profit awarded 43 grants for writers in need. Contributions can still be made to the fund and will go toward Round Two which will open when funds become available. To read more visit <https://www.lonestarliterary.com/content/deep-vellum-awards-43-emergency-grants-texas-writers> - And you can [donate here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS!

Three of our members have been nominated for the Silver Falchion Award! The Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Awards recognize the best stories from the previous year utilizing the elements of mystery, thriller, and/or suspense. Although voting the voting process has ended for the award, it is never to late send our sisters special mojo and keep our fingers crossed!

K. P. Gresham's book *Murder on the Third Try* - nominated in the Suspense category.



Murder on the Third Try is the third book in the Pastor Matt Hayden Mystery Series.

Mike Hogan, former Miami undercover cop, wakes up in an Austin, Texas hospital's ICU missing part of his skull and four years of memories. He learns that, in those four years, he's become a pastor in rural Texas and fallen in love with the beguiling, red-headed owner of the town's local bar.

One memory is clear, though. Mike knows he's in the Fed's Witness Protection Program on the run from Howard Rutledge, former Miami Chief of Police and the man who killed Mike's father and brother. Mike's testimony will put Rutledge in jail for racketeering, smuggling, and murder. Now that Rutledge has apparently found him, Mike's life is in even greater danger.

Can Mike trust the kindly town sheriff? Or the woman whom his soul remembers but his brain does not? Mike must uncover his friends and foes, so he can stay alive to put Rutledge away, and the hole in his head and his piecemeal memory are not going to stop him.

Check out [Murder on the Third Try!](#)

Manning Wolfe and Laura Oles - co-authored *Last Call* (Bullet Books Speed Reads – Book 10) - nominated in the Short Story/Anthology Category.



In *Last Call* Jackie Rome is pulled into darkness when she inherits from her estranged father a bar in Colorado Springs called The Rabbit Hole. When she arrives to assess her bequest, Jackie finds herself entangled with an organized crime family and learns she is burdened with a dangerous debt. Can Jackie save her father's legacy? Can she save herself?

Or... will she disappear down the rabbit hole forever?

Check out [Last Call!](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Upcoming Meetings (details at www.sinc-heartoftexas.com)

Due to Covid-19 all meetings for the remainder of the year will be held **virtually via Zoom**. Please view our website for details and up-to-date information about our meetings, and for links to join these meetings.

<https://sinc-heartoftexas.com/meetings-events/3105-2/>

- **September 13, 2020** – "Juice Box Hero: Squeezing Plot from Character." – Tex Thompson
- **October 11, 2020** – "Beyond Good & Bad Guys: Using Real Life Motivations in Your Writing" – Bill Woodburn
- **November 8, 2020** – She Spies Private Eye, Inc – Anji Maddox
- **December 13, 2020** – Holiday Zoom Party!

Call for Submissions (deadline dates)

- **November 1, 2020** – **Bouchercon 2021 Anthology**
Short Story (< 4000 words). **Payment of \$75** if selected for publication. Theme: Second Chances. For the details visit – <https://www.bouchercon2021.com/anthology-information>
- **September 15, 2020** – **Hossier Noir – Indiana Crime Fiction** – Short stories 2,000 – 5,000 words (payment \$15) and Flash Fiction < 1000 words (payment \$10) - <http://firstcitybooks.com/hoosier noir/>
- **Ongoing** – **Mystery Weekly Magazine** – Short Stories 2500-7500 words. A penny per word. Response time is now 3 to 6 weeks. For details - <https://mysteryweekly.com/submit.asp>

Contests (deadline dates)

- October 1, 2020 – **Tennessee Williams Festival – One Act Play** - \$1500 + Professional Stage Reading + VIP All Access Pass + publication in *Bayou* Magazine. Finalist receive \$100 panel pass. \$25 entry fee. For details <https://tennesseewilliamsfestival.submittable.com/submit/158445/twf-one-act-play-contest-2020-2021>

Other Business

Announcement from SinC about events for the rest of the year:

<https://www.sistersincrime.org/news/512054/COVID-19-Update.htm>

Updated Code of Conduct from SinC:

<https://www.sistersincrime.org/news/513012/Updated-SinC-Code-of-Conduct.htm>