

Mar/Apr 2021

# HOTSHOTS!

[sinc-heartoftexas.com](http://sinc-heartoftexas.com)



## MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS – VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM!

### "HONORABLE ROBERT L. PITMAN"



Join us March 14, 2021 @2 pm when Hon. Robert L. Pitman, Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas and former United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas will discuss his current position and life as a United States Attorney.

[JOIN THE MEETING!](#)

### "SELF-PUBLISHING LOGISTICS 101"



Join us April 11, 2021 @2 pm when Cate Lawley (also writing as Kate Baray), author of over 58 mystery novels will present

the finer points of self-publishing your book. [catelawley.com](http://catelawley.com)

[JOIN THE MEETING!](#)

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

## CONTENTS

Meet our Members – 2

Library of Congress Control Number - 4

Naming your Characters – 6

Congratulations - 6

What's Happening - 8

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### OFFICERS & CHAIRS

K.P. Gresham – President

Kelly Manfredini – Vice President

Fran Paino -Secretary

Dave Ciambrone – Treasurer

Kelly Cochran – Communications Chair

WebDonuts.com



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*A pleasure to  
meet you!*

# Meet Our Members



**Thomas Orlando**

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Tom Orlando. Yes, I'm the fat balding guy with the grey beard who usually sits in the front row during presentations. I served in the Navy and Air Force during the Vietnam War, but through a very welcome blessing, was never "in-country." Instead, I traveled a great deal and lived in several friendly countries.

Over the years I have become a somewhat accomplished ballroom dancer and spend my quiet evenings writing short stories and memoirs of my adventures. I have been fortunate enough to have had several of my stories presented in a bi-annual anthology; The Re-Integration Project, a publication of VSA Texas, [[www.artsparktx.org/creative-adults/veteran-services](http://www.artsparktx.org/creative-adults/veteran-services)]

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## **What skill would you like to master?**

I am a ballroom dancer, and the one dance that fires my imagination is the very challenging and demanding Tango. But in the realm of writing, I've always admired mystery writers. I even tried to write a mystery — several times. Unfortunately, by the second page, I could see my approach was trite. Hopefully, my association with the outstanding authors in this club will result in the kind of talent/skill I need.

*Continued*

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

I think I really like Tlez-Atli', she is a powerful female Shaman in pre-Columbian Yucatan. She is prepared to sacrifice all, at the drop of a hat, for her little tribe.

**When did you know you wanted to write?**

I've always told lots of stories, relating my adventures from High School on, but I never thought I had any talent to write them down. Now that I am getting advanced in age, I figured, it's now or never, and if never my stories will die with me. I shouldn't let that happen.



**The following is an excerpt from one of Tom's short stories published in The Re-Integration Project**

**PRAYING FOR RAIN**  
**BY TOM ORLANDO**

Tlez-Atli' [*More of a title than a name, roughly translating as "Intercessor," reflects on her most important function.*] opened the large chest and examined her ceremonial clothes. She knew she had to wear something sophisticated befitting the situation, and yet easy to remove. Putting aside her cape and other finery, she pulled out a tapas cloth that had been made by her great, great grandmother. The old cloth, made by pounding the stems of cacogi and pu-ut plants, was soft and pliable. The sacred symbols painted on it in the blue ink of a chalotl snail were almost worn out, but this would be perfect.

She looked about the one-room, woven twig building that had been the home she shared with her husband. It wasn't much, but it was large enough to house their bedding, their dining and preparation area, and of course, the paraphernalia of the profession to which she had been called. For eight years now she had tended to the health, both physical and emotional, of her people.

With potion and wisdom, and intercessory prayer, she had nurtured them and now she would do so again, for the very last time.

No rain had fallen in months. The river had dried to a small trickle, barely enough to water the ever smaller gardens the women had scratched out of the hard dirt. The once lush, green valley that had been their home was dying. Yesterday, her husband had come to her after a meeting with the tribal elders, and gruffly told her to be ready for today. It was the spring equinox, and they needed her to perform an ancient ritual to appease Lalo, the God of Rain.

She was nervous. No one in the village could remember the last time this magic had been used, but all had heard stories about it. She also knew that after being touched by Lalo, she would be considered taboo, too powerful to stay in her community.

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# THE INDIE AUTHOR

BY KELLY COCHRAN

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CONTROL NUMBER

The paperwork continues! In a previous issue, we covered International Standard Book Number (ISBN). In this issue we'll look at another number, the Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN).

### **Should independent authors care about the Library of Congress?**

The Library of Congress (LOC) is the largest library in the world whose mission is to support Congress in fulfilling its duties and to provide the American people with a wealth of information to encourage creativity and increase knowledge.

The LOC is important because it is where libraries and others can turn to find your book. However, getting catalogued into the LOC can be elusive for independent authors.

If you dream of being catalogued into the LOC, your dream is guaranteed to remain a dream without a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN). The number is what a librarian will use to access the catalog information in the LOC's national database. There are two ways to obtain an LCCN and both ways require that a book be sent to the Library of Congress:

#### **Cataloging in Publication Program (CIP)**

The program was established to provide libraries with bibliographic record information for a publication prior to it being published. Publisher can submit a request for bibliographic data; the LOC will catalog the information and send the CIP data back to the publisher who then prints this

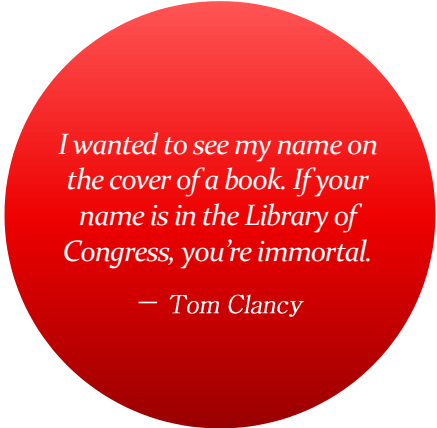
On the reverse side of the title page of the book. The LOC also distributes the CIP data weekly to libraries and to book vendors around the world. In turn, these organizations may use the information to alert others of the upcoming publications and facilitate acquisition.

Before you get too excited about your bibliographic information being sent around the world, you need to know that most likely you are not eligible for the CIP program. Only eligible publishers can obtain cataloging data before the book is published. To be eligible, the publisher must be a United States publisher and have already published a minimum of three books by three separate authors. The books must also have been widely acquired by libraries.

#### **Pre-assigned Control Number (PCN)**

The PCN is a catalog number you can obtain before publication. An independent author can act as publisher and apply for a PCN. To be eligible for the PCN program you must have a U.S. place of publication on your title page and a U.S. address.

Not all works are eligible for a PCN. Before applying you should



*I wanted to see my name on the cover of a book. If your name is in the Library of Congress, you're immortal.*

— Tom Clancy

*continued*

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## THE INDIE AUTHOR, CONTINUED

make sure your work is eligible. A few of those that are ineligible include:

- Books already in print
- E-Books
- Items under 50 pages except for genealogy and children's books
- Textbooks below the college level
- Mass market paperbacks

Here is complete a list of [ineligible works](#).

The Library of Congress has been busy improving the user experience. In 2019, the LOC implemented the PrePub Book Link (PPBL), a customer service application that brings together the CIP and PCN programs. The new application has made it much easier for independent authors and publishers to navigate the process. If you had an account for the prior PCN system, your old account did not transfer, and you will need to sign up for a new account in the PPBL system.

The LOC has also provided a user guide geared toward independent authors and the PPBL ( [Author Self Publisher User Guide](#)). Features in the PPBL include the ability to upload a copy of your title page as part of the application for a PCN for your book. This makes it easier for the LOC to process your application, but it is not required.

The time to process your application for a Pre-assigned Control Number (PCN) account can take up to 10 days. The library provides a [publisher liaison](#) who is responsible for approving your PCN account. Once you establish an account, you can then request a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN) for you unpublished work.

You may also use the PPBL system to check on the status of your request(s). Upon issue of your LCCN, you should include the number on the reverse copyright page of your book, as follows:

Library of Congress Control Number: 123456789

You must also deposit a copy of your book with the Library of Congress. This is different deposit than the one made as part of the copyright process. The address for deposit can be found on the [PCN FAQ page](#) on the LOC's website.

Receipt of an LCCN, does not guarantee your work will be chosen for inclusion in the Library of Congress's collections. In fact, it doesn't even guarantee preliminary or final cataloging information will make it into their catalog. The decisions are made by the selection librarian and recommending officers. However, you do have your very own LCCN, and can be very proud of that fact!

The Library of Congress is located in three buildings on Capitol Hill:

The Thomas Jefferson Building

The James Madison Memorial Building

The John Adams Building

Take a virtual tour of each building by clicking on the photographs



Thomas Jefferson Building



James Madison Memorial Building



John Adams Building

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# NAMING YOUR CHARACTER

## Authors, how do you name your characters?



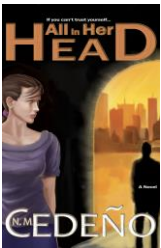
Name Cloud by Wordcloud

The average person only has to come up with names when they are naming their children. As anyone who has enjoyed the privilege of naming children knows, this task can be fraught with difficulties. Everyone has different criteria for what they consider important: family connections, name meaning, how well it fits with other family names, how well it sounds when yelled, how common or uncommon the first name is, how many other people have the exact same first and last name combination. Some names come easily months before they are needed and others aren't finalized until someone threatens not to let a parent leave the hospital until a form is filled out.

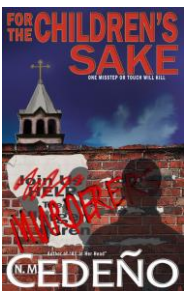
Naming a character can be like naming a child. While my characters don't have a flesh and blood life to ruin if I name them poorly, I do have readers' responses to worry about. Will the name fit the character in a way that enhances the story? Will readers hate it? Will an unknown person somewhere in the world sue if the character has their name?

Some authors have a gift for inventive naming. J. K. Rowling, for instance, takes the prize for the most-creative names, as far as I'm concerned, with Ian Fleming as a close second. For a great review of some fabulous character names, see [this blog post](#) by John Floyd, who provides lists of character names placed in categories such as light-hearted, strong, mysterious, and evil.

Lacking a flair for naming, I resort to a baby name book and Google.



In my first book, a suspense novel called [All in Her Head](#), the main character is named Martha because of the biblical story of Martha and her sister Mary. In that story, Martha is the worrier who doesn't sit down and relax, the one trying to get everything done for her guests. My character in the book suffers from crippling anxiety. She's the queen of worriers facing anxiety-inducing life changes: she recently relocated to a new city to start a new job and hasn't made any friends yet. On top of that, I made her a witness to attempted murder. The poor girl has a lot to handle, but, in spite of her mental health issues, she fights to keep her focus in the face of murderous assaults, explosions, attacks, and car accidents.



In my second novel, a medical mystery entitled [For the Children's Sake](#), the victim and the main protagonist are twin brothers name Ingall and Ignatius. I chose the names by their meanings. The character of Ingall is a murdered, saintly Catholic priest, while his twin Ignatius is a red-headed Chemist with a temper, who fights to solve his brother's murder. Ignatius means fiery, ardent, which fit the character. The name Ingall I chose for alliteration with Ignatius and because it was a variant spelling of Angell, meaning angel or messenger of God, which felt appropriate for a saintly clergyman.

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Sometimes, I can't come up with a first and last name combination that I like so I delay by only calling the character by one name. In my Bad Vibes Removal Services paranormal mystery series, the main character is a history graduate student who sees ghosts and likes to try out clothing and hairdo's from ancient civilizations. Her first name, Lea, came to me easily. However, she didn't have a last name through multiple short stories until I finally tagged her with Saroyan.



Lea's detective/ inventor boss was named only as Mr. Montgomery in several short stories and through the novels. I finally gave him a first name in a bonus short story at the end of the second novel, [Degrees of Deceit](#). Since Montgomery is described as six feet tall, pushing 300 pounds, and is a force to be reckoned with who seeks justice for others, I named him Orestes. Orestes means "mountain man," which fit my mountain of a character, and the original Greek Orestes sought justice for his father's murder. This delaying in naming a character may be the equivalent of not officially naming your kid until he's four years old, but at least I got there in the end.

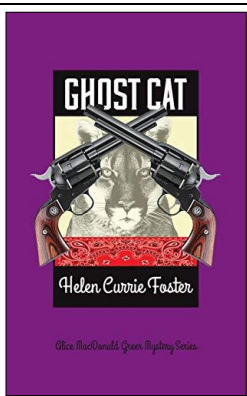
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[N. M. Cedeño](#) is a short story writer and novelist living in Texas. She is currently working on a paranormal mystery series called Bad Vibes Removal Services. The second novel in the series, entitled [Degrees of Deceit](#), came out in August 2019. Ms. Cedeño is active in Sisters in Crime-Heart of Texas Chapter.



## CONGRATULATIONS!



### Helen Currie Foster

– Author of the Alice MacDonald Greer Mystery Series is happy to announce that *Ghost Cat* (#6 in the series) is now available on Audible!

Check out *Ghost Cat* and all the other books in the series on [Amazon](#)

Congratulations on the newest addition to your audible collection!



### Some light news!

During the unprecedented Texas February winter storm, Dave Ciambrone brought his pineapple plant into his garage. His thoughtfulness was rewarded with a baby pineapple growing on the top of his plant!

Congratulations on your new baby, Dave!

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

All meetings are currently held **virtually** via **Zoom**. Details <https://sinc-heartoftexas.com/meetings-events/3105-2/>

- **March 14, 2021 – The Honorable Robert L. Pitman**, Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, will discuss his current position as well as his life as a United States Attorney for the same jurisdiction - K.L. Pittman, Judge from the U.S. District Court
- **April 11, 2021 – Logistics of Self-Publishing 101** – Presented by Cate Lawley (also writing as Kate Baray), author of over 58 mystery novels
- **May 16, 2021\*** – **Writing the Historical Mystery Novel** – Presented by Anna Castle, author of the highly acclaimed James Moriarity series and the Frances Bacon series

\*This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

## Sharing – Chapter Meetings

- **March 21, 2021 (Houston – Virtual) - Writers and Diversity – Dr. Frankie Bailey** – Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Albany (SUNY). She is also the author of five amateur sleuth mysteries and two police procedural novels. [www.frankieybailey.com](http://www.frankieybailey.com) and [www.albany.edu/scj/faculty/frankie-bailey](http://www.albany.edu/scj/faculty/frankie-bailey) (details [houston-sinc.com](http://houston-sinc.com))
- **March 28, 2021 (North Dallas -Virtual) – Story Like a Journalist – Amber Royer** - Author of multiple series, and the *Story Like a Journalist: A Workbook for Novelists*. She also teaches creative writing for both UT Arlington Continuing Education and Writing Workshops Dallas. If you are very nice to her, she might make you cupcakes. [www.amberroyer.com](http://www.amberroyer.com). (details [www.sistersincrimenorthdallas.com](http://www.sistersincrimenorthdallas.com))
- **April 25, 2021 (North Dallas - Virtual) – Writing Crime Fiction – Getting it right – Dr. Doug Lyle** – Award winning author, lecturer, and story consultant D.P. Lyle will talk about writing crime fiction. He is author of multiple mystery series and multiple non-fiction forensic books for writers. [www.dplylemd.com](http://www.dplylemd.com) (details [www.sistersincrimenorthdallas.com](http://www.sistersincrimenorthdallas.com))

## Call for Submissions

- **March 14, 2021 – Chilling Crime Anthology – Flame Tree Press**  
Short Story (2000 – 4000 words). Accepts reprints. Exclusivity not required. **Payment .08 per word (.06 for reprints)** [blog.flametreepublishing.com/fantasy-gothic/chilling-crimeshort-stories-call-for-submissions-0](http://blog.flametreepublishing.com/fantasy-gothic/chilling-crimeshort-stories-call-for-submissions-0)
- **March 31, 2021 – Black Cat Mystery Magazine – Special Edition: Black Cat Mystery Magazine Presents Cozies**  
Short Story (1,000 – 8,000 words). **Payment .03 per word - \$250 max & 2 copies of magazine**. For the details visit – <https://wildsidepress.com/submissions/> then scroll to bottom
- **Open – The Strand Magazine**  
Interested in any length, but prefer works 2000 – 6000 words. **Payment \$100 - \$150**. <https://strandmag.com/guidelines/>