

*Sisters  
in  
Crime*



Heart of Texas  
Chapter  
[www.HoTXSinC.org](http://www.HoTXSinC.org)

**HOTSHOTS!**

December 2009

**2009 Officers**

**President**

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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](http://www.hotxsinc.org)

**Sunday, December 13, 2009**

**2:00 p.m.**

*From Out That Shadow:  
The Life and Legacy of  
Edgar Allan Poe*

Join us in the lobby of the Harry Hunt Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas for a docent-led tour of this exhibit.

**The tour will begin promptly at 2:00 P.M.**

*Please see Page 4 for directions and parking options.*



Edgar Allan Poe is considered the Father of Detective Fiction. In Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes we see many concepts introduced by Poe.

Poe's detective C. Auguste Dupin uses ratiocination (deductive reasoning based on observation + imagination) in his intellect, to solve mysteries. He shares quarters with a friend who is the narrator of his cases. They met by accident. Doyle drew on these characteristics in molding the character and circumstances of Sherlock Holmes.

*From Out That Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe* includes Poe's writing desk, a section on detection which looks at Poe's influence on mystery writers, including Arthur Conan Doyle. The exhibit also features *Beeton's Christmas Annual 1887* which has *A Study in Scarlet*, the first Sherlock Holmes story.

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



**News and  
Announcements**

**Meet your 2010 HoTxSinC Officers**

The slate of officers was presented at the November meeting and approved by acclamation. Board Members and Committee Chairs are as follows:

- President . . . . . Dave Ciabrone
- Vice-President for Programs/  
President-elect . . . . . Joan Upton Hall
- Membership/Treasurer . . . . . Sarah Ann Robertson
- Publicity . . . . . Joyce Arquette
- Web Maven: . . . . . Linda Bingham
- Library Coordinator . . . . . Jennifer Old
- Historian . . . . . Dolores Sullivan
- May Mystery Month  
Coordinator . . . . . Sarah Ann Robertson
- Mentor Co-coordinators . . . . . Helen Ginger &  
Sylvia Dickey Smith
- Newsletter Editor: . . . . . Micqui Miller
- Texas Book Festival Booth  
Coordinator . . . . . Sylvia Dickey Smith

**Congratulations, Sharon Richardson!**

On Wednesday, December 9 - 2008 Aspiring Writer **Sharon Richardson**, will show her art at **Café CastroNova ~ Cigar & Martini Bar**, in an exhibition titled, *Metaphoric and Representational Fine Art*.

Enjoy the subtle blend of Art, Wine and People in a special Happy Hour lasting from 4-9 p.m. Enjoy an evening surrounded by the *Landscapes, Skyscapes & Nature Series* with an opportunity to experience the vivid color and style with Sharon.

Cafe CastroNova is located at 900 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite C104 (near Lakeway Blvd & 620). Telephone: 512-263-3322.

For more information, visit: [http://web.mac.com/chinetics/Site/ART\\_SHOW.html](http://web.mac.com/chinetics/Site/ART_SHOW.html)



**President's Corner**

Dear Members,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your chapter president for 2009. January 1, 2010, our new president assumes his duties. I wanted to take this opportunity to say how much fun the year has been and to let you know how much I appreciate your support and encouragement. It has indeed been a successful year. Fantastic programs and speakers have led to good attendance and several new members. Our May Mystery Month and Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers program was bigger and better than ever. I will put our newsletter and website up against any others, confident ours will come out on top! The distribution of chapter and national news was handled with efficiency and promptness.

As good as our programs have been, the one element missing was a warmer, more intimate ambience. Many members longed for an opportunity to get better acquainted with each other and to give more support and have activities that challenged us. Hence our relocation to Mangia's Pizza on Mesa near Spicewood Springs. Last month saw a good many members venture out to find the new location and I don't think they were disappointed. If it's been a while since you've attended, we invite you to join us at the new location in January.

We have a great staff of incoming officers. Offer them your support and make 2010 the best ever.

All the best,  
Sylvia Dickey Smith

**Out and About with our Members**

**DAVID CIAMBRONE, Sc.D.,  
FIOF**

**\*Sunday, February 14 - 2:00 PM**  
Marie Callender's (US183 near the Arboretum)  
Speaking at the Austin, TX chapter of ASQC on the Effective Transition from Design to Production.



**\*Wednesday, February 10 - 5:30 PM**  
Mystery panel, Sisters in Crime, Austin, TX chapter at the Barnes and Noble at Bee Caves.

**\*Sunday, June 13 - 2:00 PM**  
Presentation on Sherlock Holmes, The Man. Sisters in Crime, Austin, TX chapter at the Barnes and Noble at Bee Caves.

**MICQUI MILLER**

**\*Mondays, January 4-February 8  
5:30-7:30 PM**  
Micqui Miller will conduct a 6-week workshop for first-time authors entitled, "Write the Book of Your Heart and Publish It--Now!" at the Bosque Arts Center, Clifton TX.



For further information, contact Micqui at [micquimiller@yahoo.com](mailto:micquimiller@yahoo.com)

**SYLVIA DICKEY SMITH**



**\*Saturday, December 5**  
**The Christmas Stroll**  
Hill Country Bookstore on the Square in Georgetown, Texas

**\*Wednesday, February 24**  
**Hyde Park Reading Club,  
Austin TX**

Luncheon: 11:30 AM  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**BOOK 'EM, DANNO!**

The Public Safety Writers Conference 2010 will be held from June 17 through June 20 in Las Vegas at the Orleans Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas.

Headlining this year is crime fiction and horror author *Simon Wood*, who will discuss Creating Suspense. *Michael A. Black* will give us a lesson in putting together a plot in an hour. Forensic expert, Steve Scarborough, is returning, and *Sunny Frazier* will speak on "How Much Sex Is Too Much?" in the mystery genre. Next year's conference will be attended by three publishers and a Hollywood connection.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.police-writers.com>

Founded in 1997 as the Police Writers Club, the Public Safety Writers Association is open to both new and experienced, published and not yet published writers. Members include police officers, civilian police personnel, firefighters, fire support personnel, emergency personnel, security personnel, lawyers and others in the public safety field. Also represented are those who write about public safety, including mystery writers, magazine writers, journalists and those who are simply interested in the genre. The association also welcomes publishers, editors, agents and others who help writers realize their writing goals. This is the group for anyone who has questions concerning real procedures in their writing. Networking opportunities abound.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26** is the deadline for News, Reviews, Announcements and Articles for the **JANUARY 2010** edition of **HOTSHOTS!**

Send info to Micqui Miller at [micquim@yahoo.com](mailto:micquim@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Chapter Programs

**January 10, 2010** - Pat Ricks - *History: The Greatest Mystery-Three Hours Research for Three Lines. Really.*

**February 14** - Love Them to Death: Mysteries with Romance Panel - Panelists: Dave Ciambrone, Russ Hall, Micqui Miller, Weslynn McCallister, Sylvia Dickey Smith

**March 14** - Greg Lawson - *The Media, GPS and Serial Killers*

**April 11** - Chief Art Acevedo - *Update on Policing in Austin, Texas*

**2010 Texas Mystery Month**  
**May 9 - T. B. A.**  
**May 16 - Barbara Burnett Smith**  
**Aspiring Writers Event**

### Directions and Parking Information for *From Out That Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Edgar Allen Poe*

#### Directions

The Ransom Center is located at the northeast corner of 21st and Guadalupe Streets on The University of Texas at Austin campus. The [campus area map](#) shows the Center's location on campus.

#### Parking

Paid parking is available in the Dobie Center parking garage on the corner of 21st and Whitis and in various nearby surface lots. Information about University-operated parking garages and shuttle service routes is available [online](#). Limited street parking is available in the neighborhood west of Guadalupe Street. [Capital Metro](#) offers several bus routes that stop near the Ransom Center, including 1M and 1L.



### **Texas Mystery Month**

The purpose of Texas Mystery Month, held each May, is to spotlight Texas Mystery Authors. As a community service event, all Texas Mystery Authors are invited to participate and do not have to be members of Sisters in Crime.

Activities include presentations, signings, radio interviews, workshops, the occasional cocktail party and The Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project.

Meetings of the Texas Mystery Month Committee normally take place once a month at a time and place mutually agreed upon.

### **Texas Mystery Month Volunteer Opportunities**

Opportunities abound for Chapter members to become involved in this exciting annual celebration.

#### **Author Committee**

- \* Updates list of Texas Mystery Authors
- \* Contacts Texas Mystery Authors and invites them to participate
- \* Helps match authors with venues

#### **Bookstore/Venue Committee**

- \* Updates list of bookstores and other venues
- \* Contacts bookstores/venues for participation
- \* Helps match authors and bookstores/venues

#### **Events Committee**

- \* Contacts previous Local Event Coordinators
- \* Provides support for local events

#### **Publicity Committee**

- \* Updates lists of contacts
- \* Develops new sources
- \* Prepares and sends News Releases
- \* Keeps website updated
- \* Keeps newsletter updated

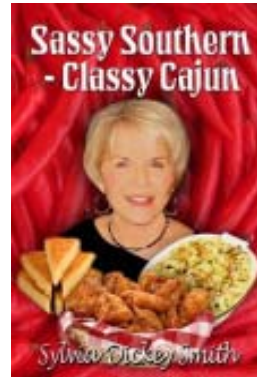
#### **Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project**

- \* Updates contact list for soliciting entries
- \* Invites Aspiring Mystery Writers to participate
- \* Recruits Mentor Authors
- \* Helps match Aspiring Mystery Writers and Mentor Authors
- \* Helps plan Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event on May 16, 2010

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Sarah Ann Robertson at [hotxsinc@yahoo.com](mailto:hotxsinc@yahoo.com)

### **New on the Bookshelf**

## **SASSY SOUTHERN - CLASSIC CAJUN** By Sylvia Dickey Smith



The term, *Sassy Southern Classic Cajun* may sound like an oxymoron to the average person. But in a land where folks live to eat rather than eat to live, good food becomes a passion. In southeast Texas, where southerners and Cajuns all sleep under the same threat of hurricanes and where mosquitoes grow as big as dragonflies—almost—

gregarious folks welcome any excuse to get together for fellowship, fun and lively music. Food is the common denominator, an important part of any gathering.

One Sidra Smart fan, says, “Cooking is home, Momma’s kitchen, where everyone gathers, where aromas bring back precious memories of the family sitting around the table talking and waiting for the gumbo to get finished, eating crackers with Tabasco Sauce poured on them and raw oysters out of the jar, the juice dripping down your chin. You can’t wait for that first taste of the simmering pot of goodness, Christmas tree lights glittering on the tree in the corner of the living room. Good food brings families home to love.”

Another says, “Cooking brings home to wherever you are. We moved five times when I was a kid. The only thing that stayed the same was my mother’s special dishes. Passion and comfort. Reassurance and recognition. I remember her stuffed peppers on a winter day—how warm it made me feel, inside and out.”

No wonder Sidra Smart has fallen in love with the area, the people, and the food. She offers a sampling of a few great recipes. And in the end, shares her famous *Sassy Pickles* recipe.

For more information or to order an autographed copy, contact Sylvia at [sds@suddenlink.net](mailto:sds@suddenlink.net)