

*Sisters
in
Crime*



Heart of Texas
Chapter
www.HoTXSinC.org

HOTSHOTS!
January 2008

No meeting scheduled for January.

Officers

President

Sarah Ann Robertson
hotxsinc@yahoo.com

Vice Presidents

Linda Stranahan
influlindalou@yahoo.com
Marcia Spillers
spillersal2@att.net

Newsletter Editor

Micqui Miller
micquim@yahoo.com

Publicity Chair

Joyce Arquette
JArquette@austin.rr.com

Historian

Betsy Tyson
betsy.tyson@sbcglobal.net

Webmaven

Linda Bingham
linda@macrogirl.com

Coffee with Patricia Sprinkle!

Sunday, January 27

1:30-2:30 PM

Barnes & Noble Westlake

All Sister authors and readers are invited join us for an informal coffee hours with 2004-05 Sisters in Crime national President **Patricia Sprinkle**, Sunday, January 27.

For twenty years, Ms. Sprinkle has drawn on her southern heritage to write twenty mysteries in three series. Currently her *Family Tree* series uses genealogical research to solve mysteries. The debut novel in that series, *Death On the Family Tree*, appeared in January 2007, followed by *Sins of the Fathers* in October. *Daughter of Deceit* will be issued in October 2008.

Her best-selling *Thoroughly Southern* series features Georgia magistrate MacLaren Yarbrough and the fictitious Middle Georgia town of Hopemore. The tenth and last title in that series, *What Are You Wearing To Die?*, will be released next month.

In addition to mysteries, Sprinkle has written several non-fiction books and frequently leads seminars based on one of them, *Women Who Do Too Much*. She is in the Austin area to conduct a seminar on "God's Women Dream Big," on Saturday, January 26, for St. Philips Episcopal church in Lago Vista.

Sisters in Crime is an international organization of women and men whose purpose is to promote mysteries written by women. 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

Upcoming Chapter Programs

February 10 - Kathleen Davis Niendorff, Publishing Consultant and Literary Agent, and Attorney **Mike Tolleson** will present a program on Author Contracts.

March 9 - Dr. William S. Charlton, Associate Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A & M, will present a program on Nuclear Forensics.

April 13 - Dave Ciambrone will present a program on poisons referencing his new release, *The Poison Handbook for Writers*

May 18 - Texas Mystery Month and The Fourth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event

July 13 - Greg Lawson - Criminal Investigations and the Mentally Ill

February Spotlight Author

Sylvia Dickey Smith will be spotlighted in the February edition of **HOTSHOTS!** Sylvia is the author of *Deadly Sins - Deadly Secrets* and *Dance on His Grave*. Read more about *Deadly Sins - Deadly Secrets* on Page 3.

News and Announcements

David Ciambrone's new novel, *Left at Georgetown*, has been released by L & L Dreamspell. Read more about *Left at Georgetown* on Page 3 of **HOTSHOTS!**.

Dave's non-fiction book, *The Poison Handbook for Writers* will also be released in 2008, as well as *The Effective Transition from Design to Production*. Dave will speak to our chapter in April.

Judy Egner, writing as Kaye George, is pleased to announce her short story *Devil's Night* will appear in the Winter 2007-2008 edition of [Mouth Full of Bullets](#). The magazine can be purchased at [MouthFullofBullets.com](#). Note: This publication will soon be available for viewing online without charge.

L. C. Hayden, award winning author of the Harry Bronson mystery series, is looking for Guest Authors to feature in her newsletter, *L. C.'s Ramblings*. If you are interested in participating as a guest author, please contact L. C. directly at Ichayden@myeweb.com.

James Parker's new novel, *The Dark Side of the Cross*, released in December 2007 by Tate Publishing, is now available at bookstores and outlets in Austin. On Saturday, January 12, Jim will be signing copies at Hastings Book Music & Video, from 6-8 p.m. Contact Jim at james.parker317@yahoo.com for more information regarding the signing.

Patricia Sprinkle, 2004-2005 President of national Sisters in Crime, will be presenting a workshop 'Women of Faith Dream Big' on Saturday, January 26, at Saint Peter's Church in Lago Vista.

Announcing ... The Fourth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event and Second Annual Sage Award

The Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation is pleased to announce the Second Annual Sage Award. The Sage will be awarded to the Mentoring Author that demonstrates an outstanding spirit of service in mentoring, sharing and leading others in the mystery writing community.

The Sage recipient will be honored at the Fourth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event on Sunday, May 18, 2008, at Barnes & Noble Westlake in Austin, Texas. The recipient will offer the Keynote Speech. In addition, each of six aspiring writers will have the opportunity to meet with his or her mentor for an extended discussion. This event is the culminating activity of the Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project. The Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project is co-sponsored by Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter.

In a one page e-mail, please send the name and contact information of your nominee and your reasons for your nomination to The Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation at Info@PurpleSageTexas.com. **NOMINATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2008.**

Nominees must agree to be present at the Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event and agree to give the Keynote Speech. More prized than an Emmy The Sage Award promises to be the most sought after award since the New York Times Best Sellers List.

The Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support and encouragement of writing mentors, and the growth and development of young writers in the mystery community.

For more information, please contact The Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation at Info@PurpleSageTexas.com or by phone (512) 258-1185 or (281) 704-0180.

DEADLY SINS - DEADLY SECRETS

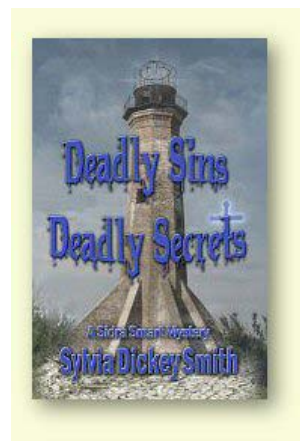
By Sylvia Dickey Smith

Published by L & L Dreamspell

November 2007

Bloody Ax Slaying. Headlines shout the front page story of Abe and Cherrie Collins' death. Middle-aged couple, faithful members of local Baptist church, dead at the hands of Tilly Durwood, local artist. Motive: unknown. Evidence: fingerprints on the murder weapon, bloody shoe prints at the foot of the Collins' bed, and Durwood's apparent suicide on the railroad tracks behind the Collins house.

DEADLY SINS - DEADLY SECRETS, the second book in The Third Eye mystery series set in Orange, Texas.



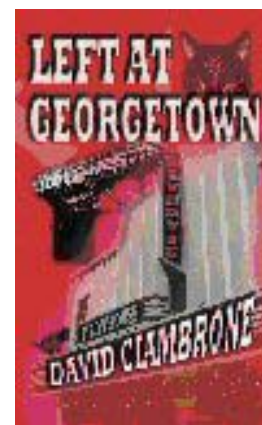
LEFT AT GEORGETOWN

By David Ciambrone

Published by L & L Dreamspell

November 2007

Virginia Davies has a lot going on in her life - a new marriage, new city, new job, a new play - and murder! She married her longtime boyfriend Dr. Andy Clark, then they moved from Orange County, California to Georgetown, Texas, where she took a job as a curator at the prestigious San Gabriel Museum. Her main source of pride, her manuscript - Murder as a Community Project - was optioned for production as a play. Unfortunately, Virginia's propensity for finding trouble followed her from the west coast - at the first Georgetown Community Theater rehearsal she discovered one of the actors, a reporter for an area newspaper, with a knife stuck in his chest, and it's not a prop. Dragged into the action-packed mystery by strange photographs and actors' antics, Virginia's husband is kidnapped to stop her from nosing around. Snooping around in her usual unorthodox manner, while people keep trying to kill her, she manages to rummage through trouble in Georgetown, Austin, and Williamson County, Texas - while befriending the police and the Mafia.



THE DARK SIDE OF THE CROSS

By James Parker

Published by Tate Publishing

December 2007

A disturbingly successful string of thefts of ancient, religious artifacts from Catholic churches in the New England area has left police baffled. Then a priest gets a call from one of the thieves, offering the artifacts back for a considerable ransom. Acting as agents for the church, James MacBridan and the Hawthorne Group are called in by the archbishop to handle this most delicate situation. The thief and MacBridan meet, but they are not alone. Something else has been waiting for them, something dark and terrifying. The simple exchange ends violently, leaving MacBridan unconscious and the thief brutally murdered. Although many of the artifacts are recovered, MacBridan sets off to find the most important of the missing artifacts, the Cross of St. Patrick. MacBridan finds himself up against an enemy more ruthless, more deadly than he has ever faced before. The body count and the terror continue to rise the closer he gets, all in a place where no one is who they appear to be. In James Parker's The Dark Side of the Cross, MacBridan finds that in order to survive he will have to lean on a faith that he has long since cast aside.

