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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, January 10, 2010**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Pat Ricks**

**a.k.a. Patricia Wynn**

**presents**

***History: The Greatest Mystery –  
Three hours research for three lines. Really.***

**Please note:** we are returning to our former meeting venue, the Barnes & Noble bookstore in the Village at Westlake shopping center. The shopping center is located at the southeast corner of Loop 360 and Bee Cave Road  
512.328.3155



Pat Ricks was born in Houston and earned a history degree from Rice University in 1972. She later attended the American Graduate School of International Management (fondly known as Thunderbird) in Glendale, Arizona, for her Masters, and gave up a respectable career in international banking to make an abortive attempt at entering veterinary school. Deciding to stay at home and take care of her children instead, she has dedicated the

remainder of her life to being a starving author with a passion for history.

The first novel in her **Blue Satan Mystery Series**, *The Birth of Blue Satan*, won an Honorable Mention from Writers Digest, a Silver Medal from PMA, and was a finalist for a Herodotus Award for Best First Historical Mystery. The second title in this series, *The Spider's Touch*, won the Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Genre Novel in 2003. The third, *The Motive from the Deed*, received a starred review from Library Journal.

When Pat's at home, she occupies an empty nest in Newport Beach, California, with her husband and a spoiled little mutt named Puppert. Her proudest achievement is founding the [Texas Lyme Disease Association](#), which she still serves long distance as a member of the Board of Directors.

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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**

**Applause please, for Caroline A. Shearer!**



Congratulations to 2009 Aspiring Writer, **Caroline A. Shearer**, on the publication of her first novel, *Adventures of a Lightworker: Dead End Date*.

For more information, please turn to Page 3.

**Out and About with our Members**

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

**\*Wednesday, Feb. 10 - 5:30 PM**  
Marie Callender's (US 183 near the Arboretum)

Speaking at the Austin, TX chapter of ASQC on the Effective Transition from Design to Production.



**\*Sunday, Feb. 14 - 2:00 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.

**SYLVIA DICKEY SMITH**



**\*Wednesday, Feb. 24**  
Hyde Park Reading Club,  
Austin TX  
Luncheon: 11:30 AM  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**Upcoming Chapter Programs**

**February 14** - Love Them to Death: Mysteries with Romance Panel - Panelists: Dave Ciambrone, Russ Hall, Micqui Miller and 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**

**June 13** - Dave Ciambrone - *Sherlock Holmes, the Man: Who Is He?*

**July 11** - Jerry Hurst - *The Evolving Science of Fire Investigation and the Role of Personal Bias*

**August 8** - Sylvia Dickey Smith - *Jessica Fletcher: Why America Loves Her*

**September 12** - Ed Martin - *An Update on the Case of Madelyn Murray O'Hair*

**October 10** - T.B.A.

**November 14** - T.B.A.

**December 12** - T.B.A.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29** is the deadline for News, Reviews, Announcements and Articles for the **FEBRUARY 2010** edition of **HOTSHOTS!**

Send info to Micqui Miller at micquim@yahoo.com

**Opportunity for HoTxSinC Published Members**

Sisters in Crime has asked **HoTxSinC** member, **L. C. Hayden**, creator of the **Harry Bronson mysteries**, to take on the job of editor for the next *Breaking and Entering*. L.C. is very enthusiastic about getting this project started and hopes it will be ready for distribution at Malice, which is at the end of April.



For those of you who are not familiar with this SinC Booklet, it contains a series of articles written by you, the SinC members. Topics can include anything that the beginning author would like to know about publishing. Each article should be six to seven pages, double-spaced, or between 1,500 and 1,700 words.

At this time, L. C. is looking for suggestions so she can give contributors the go-ahead. She does not want to waste a member's time writing about a topic that someone else is already doing. Once L.C. gives an author the green light, she may go ahead and write the article. However, L.C. cannot guarantee publication. The piece must be reviewed by SnC's Editorial Board, where all decisions will be final.

This is not an all-inclusive list, but please feel free to suggest a different topic or a variation of the ones below. Also indicate which aspect you would like to cover. For example, for "Agent": would you write about finding an agent, how to approach an agent, who needs an agent, what makes a good agent, etc. Please include your qualifications to write the piece—a sentence or two only.

Here are some of L.C.'s suggested topics:

- \* Getting Published
- \* Query Letter
- \* Professional-looking manuscripts
- \* Getting an Agent
- \* Genre Organizations
- \* Finding markets for your work
- \* Self-publishing
- \* E-publishing
- \* How to begin a writing career
- \* Networking

- \* Rejections
- \* Small, independent publishers
- \* Internet
- \* Contests
- \* Moving up the ladder
- \* Copyrights
- \* New York publishers
- \* Stand alones vs. series

Please send your ideas, suggestions to [lcauthor@yahoo.com](mailto:lcauthor@yahoo.com). In the subject line please put "Query Idea".

Okay, Sisters in Crime, let's climb on the bandwagon and make this a very successful and informative booklet that beginning writers—and even experienced writers—would love to have. L.C.'s waiting for your queries!

**New On the Shelf****ADVENTURES OF A LIGHTWORKER: DEAD END DATE**

**By Caroline A. Shearer**

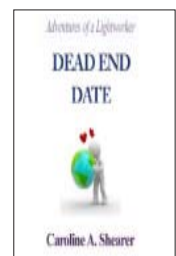
**Publisher: Unconditional Love**

**Release Date: December 9, 2009**

**ISBN-10: 0615339328**

**ISBN-13: 978-0615339320**

A woman named Faith is jolted from her simple existence when she learns she is a lightworker, an evolved soul sent to Earth to increase love. Complicating this startling news is the revelation that she hasn't been fulfilling her life's purpose and has one year to prove herself - or be pulled from her assignment! As Faith confronts this daunting task, she faces very human concerns, including releasing her own negativity, searching for love, and even a dead blind date! How will Faith fare as she begins her spiritual journey and finds her gifts tested beyond anything she's known?



You can order **Adventures of a Lightworker: Dead End Date** through a link at Caroline's website and also at Amazon.com.

Caroline A. Shearer is a professional writer residing in Austin, Texas. This is her first novel. You can visit Caroline at [www.CarolineShearer.com](http://www.CarolineShearer.com).