

How sad, no questions or comments from readers this month. We want to hear from you.
— Joan Upton Hall, PageTurner editor

Have a first book or other “first” to announce? Tell us about it. Here's all you need to do:

1. Mention PageTurners newsletter (something specific you like about it would be nice — but isn't required).
2. Announce the title of your book (or whatever), a short blurb about it, and where it can be purchased.
3. Include a short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.

Con Report-You Should've Been at A-Kon! by Gloria Oliver

I have to share some cool costume pics I took during A-kon 2010 (A Japanese Anime and more convention). Best part of going to this anime convention—all the costumes! Some really inventive stuff. Some awesome Steampunk outfits, western, and more!

<http://s86.photobucket.com/albums/k95/gloriaoliver/A-kon%202010/>

I swear I must have put a strain on Spaceman42's camera, but you can see my ugly mug and the costume contest for ConDFW judged by me, **Michelle Mienzler** and **Rie Sheridan** here.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/spaceman42#p/u/72/9vJ7B5iJOEM>

Editor's note: Wow! What costumes, and don't miss the Steampunk Captain's performance on the video! Just click Gloria's links above.

GUEST AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: William Russeth

Lives in: Georgetown, TX

Writing genres: historical fiction and fantasy

Websites: <http://whrusseth.blogspot.com/> and
<http://mysite.verizon.net/resr5omo/whrhomepage/>

William Russeth is originally from Minnesota and moved to Texas in 1984. After earning degrees in Fine Arts and Journalism, he spent the next thirty years working in advertising and marketing with a major company. He never saw himself as a writer, but looking back on it, he was constantly writing brochures, advertising copy and even magazine articles. History and Mythology have always been his passion. The first book he read as a child was a version of the *Iliad*.

William's first book, *Fires of Belenus*, is available directly from Wings Press (www.wings-press.com) in trade paperback and a variety of e-formats. It is also available on Amazon in trade paperback and Kindle versions.

New Book Coming Soon: ***Cult of Camulos*, Wings Press Sept. 2010**
After being captured by Romans, a young Celtic warrior must fight his way home through the ruthless ancient world that takes away everything he loves and threatens to steal the last vestiges of his humanity.

Guest's Book of the Month: *Fires of Belenus* by William Russeth

Most people think that Celtic culture originated in Ireland and Scotland, but thousands of years before Rome, Celtic tribes dominated the entire European continent. Celtic Culture was complex and sophisticated with laws, folklore, and religion that became major roots of modern European Society. But the Celtic world was a violent world controlled by mystical Druids and warrior chieftains ready to take the heads of their rivals over the most trifling insult. Chieftains and Druids often vied for power at the expense of simple freemen and artisans.

Fires of Belenus is a thrilling adventure that whirls the reader on a wild ride through the ancient Celtic World. It is a tale, that tantalizes readers with “edge of your seat action” and rational portrayals of mythical events inspired by Arthurian and Celtic folklore made believable by accurately portraying ancient Celtic culture.

When a meteorite plunges deep into the heart of Celtica, the blinding flash turns night into day and the impact flattens miles of countryside. A great sword, Clach na Adhar, is forged from the sky stone that is prophesized to shape the destinies of future generations. Warrior chiefs and scheming Druids vie for ownership of the wondrous blade, cutting a trail of blood and murder across the Celtic world.

Caught between contending factions, unpretentious Eoan embarks on a quest against insurmountable odds to retrieve the sword and rescue his love, Roisin. Beguiled by Roisin's mesmeric beauty, he is not even sure that she loves him in return. Pitted against Cimbri mercenaries and ruthless warlords, he races against time to save her before the “Fires of Belenus” as are ignited on the eve of Beltane.

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT (Other Releases & Successes)

New Show, Not Another Rerun by Diane Fanning

I've heard from a lot of you who have spotted me on reruns of a number of shows, but now there is actually a new episode coming to a television near you. *Unusual Suspects*, a new series on **Investigation Discovery (ID)** features me and the case of **Julie Rea Harper**. It premiered on the cable channel on Monday, June 28 at 10 pm Eastern/9 pm Central.

If you missed that premiere of the *A Mother's Conviction* episode, it will re-broadcast on **Sunday, July 4, at 6 pm Central time**. It is about the wrongful conviction of Julie Rea Harper and the confession to this crime given to me by serial killer **Tommy Lynn Sells**.

Time to Hunker Down by Diane Fanning

I recently appeared as a guest blogger on **The Stiletto Gang**, <http://thestilettogang.blogspot.com/>. In my post "Me and My Protagonist," I write about the creation of **Lucinda Pierce**.

The following day, Tuesday, June 29, I was **Jean Dean's** guest on **WRVC Radio** in **Huntington, West Virginia**. We discussed my newest fiction, *Mistaken Identity*, as well as my true crime books.

This July is a month for hunkering down. I have a deadline to meet on my latest true crime manuscript. I'm writing about 61-year-old **Raynella Dossett Leath**, convicted of the murder of her second husband and facing a trial on charges that she also killed her first husband.

Last month, I completed the copy edits for *Twisted Reason*, the fourth book in the **Lucinda Pierce** series. It will be released on September 30 in the UK and January 1, 2011 in the United States. In addition to murder, the book focuses on adults caring for elderly parents with dementia.

In Person and in Print by George Wilhite

I have received an invitation to participate in **ArmadilloCon32**, at **Austin, Texas, Aug. 27-29**, thanks in no small part to a **PageTurners** staff member who recommended me.

I am being profiled in the "Writing It Down" chapter of the second edition of *Taking Charge*, a publication by **TSTC Publishing**.

After a second edition of *Writing: Plain & Simple* in print-on-demand by **TSTC Publishing**, the developmental writing textbook is headed for a production run of 2,000 for the initial run. One of the publishing employees told me that they are getting intense interest at each book event they go to.

New E-book Available by Jackie Griffey

I have a new e-book on Kindle - L.I.F.E. Here's a thumbnail sketch of the plot: In about the 2060s two senior med students apply for part time work which offers no information except a thirty day probationary period at the coroner's office but promises "good pay." They find their patients as bizarre as the definition of life itself.

BOOK SELLIN', SEARCHIN' & SIGNIN' SHENANIGANS

(Or: A funny thing happened on the way...)

Careful How You Say that, Pahnner, by Joan Upton Hall

I once went to a small writers' retreat in West Texas, which even these days is pretty rustic. Indian Lodge, a delightful, historic hotel is a rambling set of pueblo-style buildings off the main roads in the Davis Mountains.

When I arrived (long-suffering husband accompanying me), the desk clerk said there were two groups meeting that weekend. She asked if I was part of the one claiming a discount.

"I don't know," I said, "but I'm part of the writers group."

“Oh, yes.” She showed us on the site map the section of rooms assigned to us and handed me the key.

I was surprised to see everyone in that patio area wearing leather and bandanas, but it didn’t stop me from striking up a conversation. After all, I was the one who looked out of place in my school-marm attire. It’s been said that I’d talk to a post, and it paid off when they handed beers to Don and me.

“I do travel articles,” I explained. “What do you write?”

“Oh, us Riders of the Purple Sage all ride Harleys.”

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

Get Your Pre-Order Copy by Sylvia Dickey Smith

Sylvia Dickey Smith announces the upcoming release of *A War of Her Own*, a forthcoming novel from Midwestern indie press, **Crickhollow Books**. Reviewers say “Austin–area author Sylvia Dickey Smith spins a captivating tale of Bea Meade, lady riveter, and the challenges she faces on the home front working on the Texas/Louisiana border in a booming shipyard.”

The historical novel is set in the summer of 1943 in Orange, Texas, a sleepy little town overrun with tens of thousands of new workers. With jobs galore at the wartime shipyards, the workers are rich with cash, eager for excitement, and looking for a good time. In the midst of this, Bea Meade, mother of an infant son, finds her life shattered when her philandering husband announces he is leaving her for another woman. To make ends meet, Bea takes a job at one of the shipyards as a riveter.

Life is good for ’most everyone in Orange—except Bea, who has to fight her battles against a no-good husband, the prejudice facing women in the workplace, and the mysteries of her past that keep her awake at night.

A War of Her Own offers a story of wartime passions on the home front as Bea seeks to discover who she really is.

The book will be **available in August, but can be pre-ordered at a \$2.00 discount and free shipping through July** by emailing Sylvia at sds@suddenlink.net for ordering instructions

READERS ASK AUTHORS

HOT SEAT

People are always asking us, “Where did you come up with (such-and-such character, idea, place, etc.)?” Okay, so here’s YOUR chance to find out. Each month, we’ll put the previous month’s Author of the Month on the hot seat to come up with a short answer.

William Russeth is our Guest Author for this month, so check out his website (listed with article) and book and ask away. **Of all questions received, we’ll draw one. Please send your questions by the middle of next month.**

Send your question (**and a sentence or two about yourself if you desire**) to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com or to the author directly through his or her website shown on Page 1.

If your question is chosen, we’ll credit you.

Diane Fanning on the Hotseat

(as one of last month's Featured Authors of the Month)

Question: I'm often asked about the murder scenes I write in fiction and where I get the inspiration for the killing methods.

Diane Answers: I suppose it would be natural to think that I grab murder scenarios from my non-fiction true crime and recycle them into fiction. But in reality it's more a matter of serendipity. The ideas come to me when I least expect them.

For example, one day I was sitting in **Gruene Hall** (oldest dancehall in Texas in continuous operation) watching a guitar player perform. Suddenly I thought: I wonder if you could kill someone with a guitar string? That one stray question became the starting point for a whole book. I keep wondering if I will ever find a real life murder perpetrated in the same way.

(Editor's note: We have to wonder what Diane was drinking at the time, don't we?)

Cheryl Swanson on the Hotseat

(as one of last month's Featured Authors of the Month)

Question: Do you use real people as characters in your books?

Cheryl answers: I love this question, because it gives me an excuse to talk about something authors almost never admit, yet it can be so embarrassing! Authors don't live in a vacuum. If they write fiction, their characters are composites of people they actually know. And since the person we all know best is ourselves, well!

Writing a book for me means I have to be willing to stand buck naked in front of the world. (And I'm past the age when that's a pretty sight.) Because of this, I never do a book signing or public appearance about my books without wishing I could hide under the nearest table.

Now, I'll admit the exposure is worse for me than most authors, because I just wrote a memoir about my journey through breast cancer. In *Busting Loose: Cancer Survivors Tell You What Your Doctor Won't*, I'm not hiding behind a character. Readers learn all about my (blush) love-life, sex-life, divorce, health problems, failures and personal weaknesses. They even learn how I did something that a lot of people might think is both immoral and illegal, when I defied immigration authorities in two countries to adopt my daughter.

My "nakedness" in this book was a deliberate choice—cancer is a powerful enemy and you don't beat it by being squeamish. But it has caused me a lot of embarrassment. Recently, a six-by-eight picture of me without hair, eyebrows or eyelashes was featured in my local newspaper in Kauai—as part of an article on my cancer book winning a silver medal in the IPPY. I know everyone on the island saw it, because half of them commented on that picture. Personally.

My fiction books also elicit a lot of reactions I could do without. A brother of mine (ahem, I'll leave out his name) did not speak to me for over a year when my thriller, *Death Game*, came out. My family background is very conservative and he told me I was writing pornography. My ninety-something mom, bless her heart, felt otherwise and loved it.

From my friendships with other authors, I know the personal attention is something we all dread. Authors are shy people. The boy or girl who rarely speaks in school, who wouldn't perform in the talent show if they won an I-pod for it, that's your future, best-selling author. So please...readers, understand how exquisitely embarrassed authors feel much of the time. So even if you religiously buy all their books, please help them maintain their incognito. If you happen to see them at a grocery store, pretend you don't recognize them!

(Editor's note: Better yet, tell her *quietly* that you've read every one of her books—and that her secret identity is safe with you.)

FOR YOU READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

How to Form a Critique Group

by Dr. David Ciambrone

How you form a writing group will vary due to why you want to do it and what you expect to get out of it. For this paper, we will discuss forming a critique group. What you will need to do:

1. Is it a general critique group or genre specific?
2. Where to meet? You will need a place that is relatively quiet but not so quiet you will disturb others.
3. When to meet and how often?
4. Will you provide copies of your work to members ahead of time via E-mail, handouts, or bring copies and read at the meeting?
5. Will it be more a working meeting or a social time? Are you serious?
6. You will need to develop rules for critiques and being critiqued
7. Do you want to eat while you're doing the critiques?
8. Follow the rules of critique groups (another handout)
9. Determine the method that you will critique during the sessions. For example: One person at a time talks or everyone can jump in when critiquing a paper.
10. Have some fun, too.

These questions must be addressed first.

Membership:

1. The group should be 5 to 8 people in size.
2. The make up should be of people who are seriously interested in improving their writing
3. The members should be willing to openly participate and not just come for praise
4. You must feel comfortable with the members and like them.
5. The members should be there for encouragement and support of each other as well as the critiques.
6. You will need every ones phone numbers and e-mail addresses for emergencies
7. Members agree to seriously try to make all the meetings. (sickness, vacations, work and other things will interfere, but strive to make as many as possible. Make it a "standing meeting" on your schedule.
8. Appoint a member as the ex-facto leader to keep order and be the contact person for the group.

Rules for critiquing:

Being in a critique group can be extremely valuable to a writer. Having this feedback can help make a manuscript and improve your writing. Getting in a good one is important in this age of high competition for the few publishing slots at publishers. However, there are rules that every critique group should follow to make the process work and these rules are for the members. The following I consider the golden rules of the critique process. I hope they help you.

1. Comment on the Text, not the author
2. Speak from your own perspective
3. Be willing to give honest feedback
4. Remember the writer's work and the conversations about it in the group are Private
5. Start with positive comments and end with positive comments
6. Honor the writer's own voice
7. Consider the writer's GOALS in asking for a critique
8. Be specific with suggestions, but avoid being nit-picky
9. Make your critique concise and leave time for others' comments
10. Keep a sense of humor

Rules for being Critiqued:

1. Be open minded
2. Don't argue or defend your work—don't talk except to ask for clarification
3. Be willing to receive feedback
4. Identify what you are looking for in the critique
5. Leave your ego at home
6. Keep a sense of humor
7. Learn to the praise not just the criticism
8. Pay special attention to the comments that you hear frequently and take notes
9. Remind yourself of the purpose of the critique
10. Treat feedback like a gift from your mother-in-law. If you like it, use it with pride, if you don't, quietly toss it aside after she's gone.

Have an article about writing or book groups? If it would interest our readers, we'll be happy to print it. We can't pay at this time, but it will serve as a published clip with your byline. Reprints accepted with notice of first publication. Submission guidelines:

1. Send as an attached Word document.
2. Up to 800 words (If editor condenses it, you will have a chance to approve before printing)
3. A short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.
4. Email to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com or jmuHall@aol.com with subject line: "PT submission"

HEADS UP FOR AUTHOR SIGHTINGS

July through early August, 2010 - If you're in the area, stop and see us!

(For private appearances, such as private book clubs, check with author)

(Listed alphabetically by authors' last names)

Joan Upton Hall

July 10, Sat., 9 AM-1 PM: **Georgetown Library**: Workshop "So You've Finished Your Book; Now What?" team-teaching with **Sylvia Dickey Smith**.

Aug. 27-29, weekend: **ArmadilloCon** (sf/fantasy, urban fantasy convention), Austin, TX (closer to the event for schedule, see <http://www.armadillocon.org/>).

Sylvia Dickey Smith

July 10, Sat., 9 AM-1 PM: **Georgetown Library**: Workshop "So You've Finished Your Book; Now What?" team-teaching with **Joan Upton Hall**.

July 15, 11:00 am, **Georgetown Public Library**: Meet the Authors

August 25, Wed., 4 pm, **Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce**: Mixer at Sundown

August 27, Friday, 3 pm: **Bayou Trading**, Texas Ave. Bridge City, TX, Autograph/Book signing/book launch

August 26, Thursday, 6:30 pm, **E-House Inn, College Street, Orange, Texas**: Reading & Discussion of **A WAR OF HER OWN** (and the war years in Orange), Wine & Cheese Party

August 28, Saturday, 9:00 am: **Farmers Mercantile, Orange, Texas**, Book signing/Autograph party

August 28, Saturday, 1:00pm: **Barnes & Noble, Beaumont, Texas**, Autograph/Book signing

George Wilhite

Aug. 27-29, weekend: **ArmadilloCon**, Austin, TX, speaking on Steampunk.