



Page Turners

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This newsletter will also appear at: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/pageturner.htm> with authors' photos

The authors' cooperative, Page Turners, welcomes you to this free, monthly newsletter. We encourage you to forward it to others you think would enjoy it, print it to share with friends, and invite them to subscribe by emailing us. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Contact: PageTurnerHome@aol.com Editor: Joan Upton Hall

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Need a speaker? Check websites below for a writer near you.

Meet our Staff: Authors whose pages you must turn!

M.D. Benoit	http://www.mdbenoit.com	Science Fiction Mystery, Alternate Reality
Mayra Calvani	http://www.mavracalvani.com	Horror Dark fantasy, Satire, YA, Children
David Ciambrone	http://www.davidciambrone.com	Mystery, Technical management, News column
Diane Fanning	http://www.dianefanning.com	Mystery, True Crime, Suspense
Jackie Griffey	http://www.jackiegriffey.com	Cozies, romantic suspense, horror, historical
J.C. Hall	http://www.jc-hall.com	Fantasy, Nonfiction
Joan Upton Hall	http://www.joanuptonhall.com	Fantasy, Paranormal, Travel/History, Editing advice
L.C. Hayden	http://lchayden.freeservers.com	Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children
Gloria Oliver	http://www.gloriaoliver.com	Spec Fic, Fantasy/SF/Horror, YA
Sylvia Dickey Smith	http://www.sylviadickeysmith.com	Mystery suspense
Cheryl Swanson	http://www.cherylswanson.net	Contemporary thriller, self-help nonfiction
George Wilhite	(website under construction)	Mystery/Detective, Western, Speculative, Noir, Nonfiction

MAIL BAG – READERS WRITE

Have questions you'd like to ask any of these authors? Comments about their books? Their favorite desserts? What pets they have?

Write to Page Turners at the email address shown in the masthead.

Be sure to state which author you are addressing.

Dear PT,

I notice that several of the authors in this co-op are from Texas. Since the upcoming **Texas Book Festival** is such a huge gathering, I wondered if any of you will be there. My writing group might be able to say “Hi” to you if we knew where to look.

— **Delores and friends**

Dear Delores and friends,

Too bad I received this question too late to ask our members, but I do know of three you can find working at the “**Sisters in Crime**” booth during most of the festival: **Dave Ciambrone, Sylvia Dickey Smith**, and me, **Joan Upton Hall**.

Last year we three were joined by **George Wilhite** (also a PT member now). For the rest of that story, please go over to the “**Shenanigans**” section to find out their response, and thanks for reminding me of that funny story on the almost-eve of the Texas Book Festival.

Another PT writer I saw there last year was on the program, **Diane Fanning**.

Hope you’ll look us up. (Capitol grounds in Austin, Texas, Oct. 21-Nov. 1)

— **Joan Hall, ed.**

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.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: Cheryl Swanson

Lives in: a pole house on the shore of Kauai

Writing genres: suspense/thriller, self-help nonfiction

Website: www.cherylswanon.net

Cheryl Swanson was inspired to write ***Busting Loose*** when a confluence of events had her undergoing treatment for breast cancer, adopting a child from Guatemala and writing her first suspense/thriller—all at the same time. Inspired to begin writing while she was a high school teacher, she left teaching in 1980 to form her own company. Twenty-two years of international travel and professional speaking followed, as well as three books on improving patient care in medicine and dentistry. In all, she has published five books, hundreds of articles and founded three companies.

Cancer-free, Cheryl and her husband traded the fog of San Francisco for the palm trees of Hawaii five years ago. She currently lives on the northern tip of the Hawaiian Islands, one of the most secluded and beautiful spots in the United States. She and her seven-year-old daughter surf Hanalei Bay these days, where Puff (the magic dragon) once frolicked in the autumn mist. However, they have yet to see him.

Book of the Month: *Busting Loose* by Cheryl Swanson

Each month in PageTurner's, we seek to do just that—find you books that will keep you turning pages. This month we're going a step beyond, and featuring a book that may save your life. *Busting Loose: A Breast Cancer Survivor Tells You What Your Doctor Won't* will be released this month from **Zumaya Publications**. Since good information can be the key to surviving breast cancer, this book just might keep you or a loved one from becoming a hapless victim of a serious disease.

When Hawaiian novelist and PageTurner's author **Cheryl Swanson** was diagnosed five years ago, she quickly realized there was nothing on the market that empowered women to become equal partners in their breast cancer treatment. She wrote *Busting Loose* to help women evaluate whether they are getting the best care from their health professionals, as well as doing everything they can (individually) to protect themselves. Expect information on how to research your doctors' credentials, evaluate alternative therapies, protect yourself from medical errors, force your insurer to cover all needed treatment, and even how to browbeat your hospital into significantly discounting your bill.

Cheryl also felt there was very little in print about the disease that really “told it like it is.” Breast cancer is an emotional maelstrom,” she said in a recent interview. “Women are swamped with gut-level emotions like extreme anger, anxiety, guilt and fear. At the same time, self-pity is the enemy of survival. You simply can't let a medical diagnosis keep you from quickly getting back to what ignites your passions and brings you balance and peace.”

Busting Loose is broken into 80 short, savvy chapters, each of which begins with a funny or inspirational quotation. You can dip into topics at will, seeking specific information and encouragement. Or you can read straight through, from beginning to end. Either way, by the time you're done you'll have worked your way through the entire breast cancer survival process—from diagnosis to recovery.

The book also focuses heavily on the role friends and family play in helping a breast cancer patient fully recover. According to **Skip Crayton**, author of *The Letter Sweater*: “In *Busting Loose*, I found a survivor willing to open up her life to me so that I could understand the vastness of this illness. Cheryl holds nothing back and answers all the questions and more; from the shock of discovery, to what's next, to available options, to how to deal with life beyond diagnosis and surgery. She answers questions as simple as buying a bathing suit to those as complex and personal as sex after surgery. One touching and funny chapter titled “Kissing Momma's Boo-Boo,” deals with her child's reaction to her reconstruction. Although the book is hugely informative, to me the best part is that it reads like a conversation with an old friend. Breast cancer does not just affect the individual; it affects the entire family. If there is one book that is a must read for those facing breast cancer, *Busting Loose* goes beyond anything else in print.”

Over their lifetimes, almost every woman will have at least one close call with breast cancer. Perhaps it is a false positive on a mammogram, a breast lump, or a surgical biopsy. In addition, over a *quarter million* women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year in the United States. Women have been lacking a no-fear guide, when it comes to breast cancer. But that's about to change. Given the author's personal history, she has the chops to explode the stereotypes.

Busting Loose, A Breast Cancer Survivor Tells You What Your Doctor Won't will be available for purchase online and in bookstores soon. Visit www.zumayapublications.com for more information, or send an email to: cherylaswanson@gmail.com (Cost is \$15.95, with one dollar from every book sold going to breast cancer charities.)

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

Hurrah for Authors !! by Sylvia Dickey Smith

Remember the **Examiner** column I write on how age has made people better writers? It features authors of all genres, including non-fiction as well as fiction, and I've featured a couple of men, so it's no longer just for women.

We just made the **Top Five list for Austin readers!** So come on over and check us out, plus, send me an email if you are interested in being featured. Don't worry about age—anything 40 and over is included!

Check out the link to AUSTIN WRITING EXAMINER at <http://www.examiner.com/x-19445-Austin-Writing-Examiner> . And if you'd like to support other authors, go in and subscribe.

Bulletin from Diane Fanning

I posted a video about my upcoming true crime book, *Mommy's Little Girl*.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTdIMx6kBLU>

If you missed my recent blog about **Casey Anthony** and malignant narcissism, you can find it here: <http://womenincrimeink.blogspot.com/2009/09/is-answer-malignant-narcissism.html>

Mommy's Little Girl, coming November 3, from **St. Martin's Press**

Let me know what you think!

Feel free to forward anywhere.

A Poisoned Passion, from **St. Martin's Press**, now available everywhere. More at:
www.dianefanning.com

New Book Trailer from Gloria Oliver

I have a new book trailer - finally got one done for *Vassal of El*:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ciE2x>

New Award by Sylvia Dickey Smith

My latest novel, a historical fiction entitled *A War Of Her Own* won the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the **Houston, Texas Writers' Guild** Fall Workshop.

Book Sellin', Searchin' & Signin' Shenanigans

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

Flash Fiction to Share with Peeps

by Gloria Oliver

Yo! Readers!

I did #fridayflash through twitter where authors do a free flash fiction piece to share with peeps. Thought PT readers might like to see it too, so here it is:

Achievement

It was finished.

After years of toil, of making sure every part was perfect and whole—his opus was complete.

A moment of indiscretion had led Taltus to his doom but also to his supreme achievement. Here, in this five by five cell, the greatest written masterpiece of his generation had been born and refined to perfection.

Yet no one would hear or read it. It would die in this dismal place with him.

He stared at the blank walls surrounding him, fighting welling despair. Yet as he stared, their very essence changed in his mind, sparking hope.

The walls would be his parchment. Blood his ink.

His story would be told.

Great idea! Anybody else with a flash fiction piece that involves writing?

Email it to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com
and type "Flash Fiction" in the subject line.

Scary Experience Fosters Question

by L.C. Hayden

I did an Emmaus Walk (talk about a fantastic experience!!!) It began Thurs., Sept. 24 and ended Sunday, Sept. 27. We were high up in the mountains of Sacramento, New Mexico, and therefore we had no phone service. Got home to find out that on Friday my four-year old grandson fell and hit his head which bled a lot. He was rushed to the hospital where they did an MRI. Although my son and his wife haven't received the results, Andy, my grandson, seems to be okay (thank God!!!)

The saddest part was that, after his accident, Andy had called wanting to talk to me, but I was without phone service.

That brings me to my point: We've come to rely on modern technology so much. We've built our lives around electronic gadgets. So do I see a story idea developing? Maybe, maybe not. But it would be interesting to keep as a possibility.

My question to you is how much do you rely on modern technology and what would you do if it vanished?

Impromptu Chorus Line by Joan Upton Hall

Last year at the Texas Book Festival, some of us were working at the “Sisters in Crime” (mystery writers) booth: **Dave Ciambrone, Sylvia Dickey Smith, George Wilhite** and me, **Joan Upton Hall**. Curiosity prompted a couple of visitors to ask how the two guys came to be “sisters.”

Not missing a beat, they formed a chorus line and did a few not-so-high kicks, while singing “Sisters” from the classic movie, *White Christmas*. Picture this: a scientist in a Hawaiian shirt and a college professor dressed like an Old West gambler dancing.

They gathered quite a crowd, but turned down requests to do an encore. Truth be known, I think their reticence came more from shortness of breath than dignity.

Who knows what will happen this year on the grounds of the capitol building in Austin on Oct. 31 – Nov. 1st. Hope to see you there.

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

Care to share a flash fiction piece of your own that involves writing?
Email it to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com with “Flash Fiction” as the subject line.
(See example: “Flash Fiction to Share with Peeps”
by **Gloria Oliver** in *Get ‘em While They’re Hot* section.)

Want to see YOUR name and promotional information here?
(and also longer term on Joan Hall’s website)?
See Contest information at: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/bb.htm#tips>
See earlier winner(s) (on-going) at: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/winners.html>

READERS ASK AUTHORS **Dave Ciambrone on the HOT SEAT** (as last issue’s Featured Author)

Reader asks: Dear Uncle Dave, I heard that you used to write in the role of a woman for a newspaper in California. Can you please clear that up?

(Editor’s note: Dave now writes a question and answer column called “Ask Uncle Dave” for a Texas newspaper)

Dave answers: Yes, that is true. I wrote a newspaper column that was a handy hints column for women. They wrote to **Aunt Kay** and “she” answered them. It covered items like cleaning, spot removal and making flaky pie crust. The only people who knew who Aunt Kay really was is the editor of the paper and my wife. My kitchen was my lab to test my answers before I put them in the paper. I now write a handy hints / science column for a local paper. In my latest book *San Gabriel’s Secret*, the main character **Adam Thomas** writes the Aunt Kay column for a newspaper and the Aunt Kay columns in the book are real. They are copies of some I wrote when I did the column for the newspaper.

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.

Cheryl Swanson is our Featured Author for this month, so check out her website and books 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.

FOR YOU READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

Classic Mystery Writers: What Made Them So Popular? by Dave Ciambone

This is the first in a series in which **Dr. Ciambone** covers highlights of great fictional detectives from Radio, books, movies and TV.

Nero Wolfe

Nero Wolfe is a fictional detective, created by the mystery writer, **Rex Stout**, who made his debut in 1934. Wolfe's confidential assistant Archie Goodwin recorded the cases of the detective genius in 33 novels and 39 short stories from the 1930s to the 1970s, with most of them set in New York City. The Nero Wolfe corpus was nominated **Best Mystery Series of the Century** at **Bouchercon 2000**, the world's largest mystery convention, and Rex Stout was nominated **Best Mystery Writer of the Century**.

The Nero Wolfe stories take place contemporaneously with their writing and depict a changing landscape and society. The principle characters in the corpus do not age. Although it is not directly stated in the stories, Nero Wolfe's age is 56, according to Rex Stout. Wolfe is frequently described by Archie Goodwin, the narrator of the stories, as weighing "a seventh of a ton" (about 286 pounds). Wolfe tries to adhere to a policy of never leaving his house for business reasons and seldom for any reason at all.

We learn that Nero Wolfe and his boyhood friend Marko hunted dragonflies in the mountains where Wolfe was born, in the vicinity of Lovćen.

Wolfe is reticent about his youth, but apparently he was athletic, fit, and adventurous. Before World War I, he spied for the Austrian government, but had a change of heart when the war began. He then joined the Serbian-Montenegrin army and fought against the Austrians and Germans. After a time in Europe and North Africa, he came to the United States.

Nero Wolfe, who has expensive tastes, lives in a luxurious and comfortable New York City brownstone on West 35th Street. The brownstone has three floors, plus a large basement with living quarters, a rooftop greenhouse also with living quarters, and a small elevator, used almost exclusively by Wolfe. Other unique features include a timer-activated window-opening device that regulates the temperature in Wolfe's bedroom, an alarm system that sounds in Archie's room if someone approaches Wolfe's bedroom door, and climate-controlled plant rooms on the top floor. A well-known amateur orchid grower, Wolfe has 10,000 plants in the brownstone's greenhouse and employs three live-in staff members to see to his needs. Wolfe spends four hours a day with his orchids. Clients must accommodate themselves to this schedule,

Along with reading, enjoyment of good food is the keystone of Wolfe's mostly leisured existence. He is both a gourmand and a gourmet, dining on generous helpings of Fritz's cuisine three times a day. Wolfe displays an oenophile's knowledge of wine and brandy, but it is only implied that he drinks either. Wolfe views much of life through the prism of food and dining. Along with being a gourmand, Wolfe has an unquenchable thirst for beer, usually "quaffing 6 quarts of beer a day".

Wolfe does not allow people to use his first name, and restricts his visible reactions. Although he occasionally ventures by car into the suburbs of New York City, he is loath to travel, and clutches the safety strap continually on the occasions that Archie drives him somewhere. As Archie says in *The Doorbell Rang*, "(Wolfe) distrusted all machines more complicated than a wheelbarrow."

Wolfe displays a pronounced, almost pathological, dislike for the company of women.

Archie Goodwin was born in Ohio. Attended public high school, pretty good at geometry and football, graduated with honor but no honors. Went to college two weeks, decided it was childish, came to New York and got a job guarding a pier, shot and killed two men and was fired, was recommended to Nero Wolfe for a chore he wanted done, did it, was offered a full-time job by Mr. Wolfe, took it, still has it.

Archie Goodwin is the narrator of all the Nero Wolfe stories and a central character in them. He is occasionally referred to by the New York newspapers as "Nero Wolfe's legman." Archie likes the ladies.

Archie is a licensed private detective and handles all investigation that takes place outside the brownstone. He also takes care of routine tasks such as sorting the mail, taking dictation and answering the phone. Like Wolfe, he has developed an extraordinary memory and can recite verbatim conversations that go on for hours. But perhaps his most useful attribute is his ability to bring reluctant people to Wolfe for interrogation.

Archie has his own bedroom one floor above Wolfe's and lives at the brownstone rent-free. On several occasions he makes it a point to note that he owns his bedroom furniture. Except for breakfast (which chef Fritz Brenner generally serves him in the kitchen) Archie takes his meals at Wolfe's table, and has learned much about haute cuisine by listening to Wolfe and Fritz discuss food. While Archie has a cocktail on occasion, his beverage of choice is milk. It is interesting that a painting of Sherlock Holmes does hang over Archie Goodwin's desk in Nero Wolfe's office.

How-to Advice a Couple of Clicks Away **ONGOING COLUMNS for WRITERS:**

Ask the Book Doctor: Freelance editor, **Joan Upton Hall**, answers writers' questions. Past issues, first published in various newsletters, also appear on her own: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/bb.htm> (scroll down and click the link for "Ask Doc" Q&A's).

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

October through early November- If you're in the area, stop and see us!

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

David Ciambrone

Sept. 26, 2009 radio interview in Dallas, Texas
 Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Nov. 6th Teaching Mystery writing classes at the Georgetown Public Library, Georgetown, TX
 Oct. 28th, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Dec. 2 Teaching writing at The University of Texas-Austin, Texas Book Festival Oct. 31, Nov. 1 Sisters in Crime booth
 Feb. 10, 2010 Speaking at the Austin, TX chapter of ASQC on the Effective Transition from Design to Production. Marie Callenders (US183 near the Arboretum) at 5:30 PM
 Feb. 14, 2010—Mystery panel, Sisters in Crime, Austin, TX chapter at the Barnes and Noble at Bee Caves Road.
 June 13, 2010 Talk on Sherlock Holmes—the man. Sisters in Crime, Austin, TX chapter at the Barnes and Noble at Bee Caves.

L. C. Hayden

Oct. 3: speaking on Writing a Dynamic Dialog: Las Cruces, NM
 Oct. 10: speaking on The 8 Deadly Sins Writers Make: El Paso, TX
 Oct. 13, 15: workshop presentation on Creating Characters with Character: University of TX at El Paso
 Oct. 25 - Nov. 8: "working" Panama Canal Cruise with Celebrity Cruise Lines as Author-in-Residence

Gloria Oliver

Oct. 3, Sat.: The Colony's Annual Craft Fair (in North Texas).

Diane Fanning

Oct. 3, Sat.: Evening with the Authors in Lockhart, a benefit event for the Friends of Dr. Eugene Clark Library

Sylvia Dickey Smith

Oct. 17, 10:00-6:00: Leading a discussion group at 2009 East Texas Book Fest, Tyler, Texas. Ornelas Activity Center –Writers Club of Pasadena, Pasadena, Texas, San Jacinto College. Central Campus (All day meeting, speaking at 1:00 p.m.)
 Oct. 22-24 Golden Triangle Writers Conference, Beaumont, Texas
 Oct. 31- Nov. 1 Texas Book Festival, Austin, Texas signing books at the Sisters in Crime booth
 Oct. 28th, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Dec. 2 Teaching writing at The University of Texas-
 Oct. 31-Nov. 1: Annual Texas Book Festival, at Austin, Sisters in Crime booth

Joan Upton Hall

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 7-9 PM: Class, “Basic Writing II” for Georgetown Library Writers’ College, at Georgetown, TX
 Oct. 22-24: “Write after the Storm” Conference, Speaker for Golden Triangle Writers Guild, Beaumont, TX
 Oct. 31- Nov. 1 Texas Book Festival, Austin, Texas signing books at the Sisters in Crime booth