



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.mayracalvani.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.freesevers.com	Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children
Joan Neubauer	http://www.wordwright.biz	Novels in various genres, Writing advice
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

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 Editor,

My new book, "**The Rookie's Guide to Bipolar Disorder**," is now available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or on my website, <http://www.aboutbipolarbook.com>.

Also, I worked as a writer and editor for nine years before retiring, and am now ready to take on projects for writers to help them with their writing or their books. My email is: jtokc@yahoo.com

—**Jane Thompson**

Editor's note: How about that, new writers? If you've been looking for editorial assistance, here's your chance to contact **Jane Thompson** and see if you are "meant for one another."

Dear Editor,

My new novel, **Just Loving You**, is now out, and I have received some very good reviews from readers and other authors.

I also want to encourage all who love books to think about this: When we have local authors doing signings, it is good that we support them. Even if a certain book might not be your cup of tea, and you don't buy it, it's nice to show interest and appreciation.

—**Frederick Williams** (San Antonio, Texas)

Have a new publication 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. A short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.

Con Report

(We'd love to hear from any of you who have been to a recent writers' conference.)

Gloria Oliver and **Joan Upton Hall** went to SF/Fantasy convention, ArmadilloCon, August 15-17 at Austin, Texas. As usual they had a good time meeting the "biggies" in the field as well as old friends. Both participated in assorted panels, readings, and signings. **Gloria** was a finalist in this year's **Dream Realm Awards**: for her YA book **WILLING SACRIFICE** (Zumaya, Otherworlds).

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: **Gloria Oliver**

Lives in: North Texas

Writing genres: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Young Adult

I was born in Puerto Rico in 1964. Puerto Rico is a Commonwealth of the United States set in the crisp blue Caribbean Sea. It's a small island, about 50 miles wide and 100 miles long. It's in the tropics, so while I had seen snow on TV, I never actually got to experience any until my family moved to the continental US in my teen years. (First time I experienced true cold for the first time, too. Brrr!) I spent time in Ohio, Texas, New Hampshire, then back to Texas again where I've been ever since.

I started writing in my teens just to get a couple of ideas out of my head where they wouldn't bother me anymore. But I didn't really get into it full time until after I was married and met a wonderful group of people doing an Amateur Press Association on a Japanese cartoon called Gatchaman (Battle of the Planets in the US.) Not only did the people in this APA talk about the show, they also wrote stories about the characters. Once again I was bitten by an idea and attempted to put it to paper. It was pretty

abysmal, but thanks to the enthusiasm and encouragement of one of the members (Yes, Wendy, this is all your fault!) I kept at it. Between the members' comments and Wendy's never ending patience, I slowly honed the craft and learned some things from it as well. (Weirdly enough there are some things about writing you don't notice or can't learn unless you are just doing it!) :-)

Thanks to an idea sparked by my husband, I wrote my second novel. The first, which I'd started back in those teenage years, and which, I'm embarrassed to admit, got sent to a number of major publishers, has been hidden away somewhere where it will not soon see the light of day. Yes, before I got a clue, I was sending out one of those awful manuscripts that gets touched only with tongs and returned from the slush pile even as those sending it back wondered why I ever bothered. Sigh. It really is hard to see one's own problems in the writing especially when first starting out...

After many revisions, some beta testing (thanks again, Wendy!), a short stint with an agent, some close bites, and waiting, waiting and waiting (yes, trying to sell your writing requires a ton of patience!), I finally realized that I was getting nowhere. It was time to get over my shy inhibitions and do some networking!

And it paid off.

I made a couple of peripheral contacts at a convention—meaning I met some people from afar and decided to check out their web sites. (Yes, I am actually quite shy! I hate encroaching on people. But if we ever become close, watch out!) :-) And through a number of coincidences, I ended up finding out about Zumaya Publications. I sent them sample chapters and synopsis of the three manuscripts I had in the queue (No, not that first one! It's still hidden away) and they accepted both *In the Service of Samurai* and *Vassal of El*. Since then I have sold several stories to numerous anthologies, had two more books accepted by Zumaya - *Willing Sacrifice* (2008) and *Price of Mercy* (2010) as well as published *Cross-eyed Dragon Troubles* through Hard Shell Word Factory.

And once you publish...that's when the work really begins!

And what do I do in my spare time? (I have some?) I read (very important if you want to write), I write (yeah, this one too), go to the movies, watch Japanese anime, read Japanese manga (comics) and try to destress from work! Heh.

Feel free to check out my works and whatnot at <http://www.gloriaoliver.com>

BOOK OF THE MONTH: **CROSS-EYED DRAGON TROUBLES** by Gloria Oliver

ISBN: 978-0759944664

Sample Chapters available at <http://www.gloriaoliver.com/crossed.html>

"Harry Potter meets Dragon Riders of Pern"

Talia didn't want to be apprenticed, not even to the prestigious Dragon Knight's Guild. She is taken to the school by a cross-eyed dragon and his partner, Kel. A dizzying, madcap ride that leaves her less than eager to be a knight, but soon she finds out the guild has need of many types of people.

Running into the dragon and squire again and again, she comes to realize the unlikely pair are outsiders in their own school—participants of the dragon-human pairing ritual, which in the end didn't work quite as intended. They are stubborn loners who are determined to overcome the obstacles in their path and make a true pair. Or are they?

As Talia's first year at the guild evolves, she must deal with the quirks of the Administrator, her lessons, the odd rules of the school, the students, the mystery of Clarence and Kel, and somewhere in there, possibly decide what it is she wants for her own future.

Teaser:

By the time Talia reached the trees, Kel was removing his helmet and critically studying the dragon's predicament. Clarence's neck was twisted up and over his back; the dragon watched Talia as she came close.

"Are you both all right?" she asked them.

Kel glanced back in surprise, but quickly looked away, his cheeks flushed. "I'm fine. I'm just a little winded."

"I'm in good health as well, except for this bit of trouble of course." Clarence sent an annoyed glance at the trees pinning him where he'd fallen.

"He's stuck?" She was already pretty sure of the answer.

Kel sighed. "Afraid so."

"Do you need any help?" she asked. "Just tell me what you want me to do. If you prefer, I'm sure I can round up at least a few people to come over and give you a hand."

Kel slowly shook his head. "It's all right. Thanks anyway." His voice lowered to where she almost couldn't hear it. "This is all part of my punishment."

She frowned, not understanding what he meant. "Punishment?"

Kel cocked his head in Clarence's direction. In a flash, she understood. None of this was an accident—Clarence had landed there deliberately, hoping to make Kel pay for all he went through in the past month. She shook her head, not wanting to believe this, but what the dragon said next took any doubts right out of her head.

"Yes, thank you for your offer, but Kel will be able to deal with this on his own."

She blinked several times as she mentally stumbled for something to say. "I see."

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

So-o-o Close...& And Keep Your Fingers Crossed by Sylvia Dickey Smith

I received news about the contest results for my second book, **Deadly Sins Deadly Secrets** in the The Daphne du Maurier Award **For Excellence In Mystery/Suspense Published Division** 2008. Although the book did not win first place, it ranked very well. Out of a possible 88, **Deadly Sins Deadly Secrets** scored 83, and against some really tough competition this year, I was told.

Also I have been invited to submit up to two entries for consideration for the upcoming 2009 series of: **Arts & Letters Live** at the **Dallas Museum of Art's, Texas Bound** series.

Founded in 1992, Texas Bound is part of Arts & Letters Live and is a series that features short fiction, novel excerpts or essays by authors with a Texas connection read by actors with a Texas connection. The stories and essays in this series feature a mix of genres and writers representative of the variety in our state.

Keep your fingers crossed for me!

News & More News

by **Joan R. Neubauer**

New Blogs in the Works

I've got a new blog and would love to see you there. Just click on <http://joansbooks.wordpress.com> and let's talk about writing, books, and publishing.

My publishing company, **WordWright.biz**, is also setting up a blogsite so our authors and readers can talk about books, post author pages, etc. We'll let you know when this is ready. This is some exciting stuff! I welcome your comments and would love to hear from you.

Awards to Be Given

I will be at the **West Texas Book and Music Festival** on September 27, 2008. Along with Steve, my husband and WordWright co-owner, we will present the 2009 **Abilene Book Award** and will announce the 2010 winner of the award. I will also meet with authors who wish to publish their books with WordWright.biz or Special Delivery Books.

Companion Novel to a Movie

In addition, I have been keeping very busy these days finishing up a companion novel for the soon to be released movie, **Conflict of Interest**, starring **Lee Majors, Joe Estevez, Danny Quinn, Faith Majors,** and **Michael Madsen. Bonnie Orr** and **David Cuddy** wrote a fantastic screenplay, so watch for it in your local theater.

“Straight from Hel” Review

by **Joan Upton Hall**

When I sent a review copy of my novel **Shadow of Excalibur** to blogger and reviewer **Helen Ginger**, she emailed me that the book had arrived, but went on to say, “Now, the problem is wrenching it from my husband who started reading it.” Later she notified me that, although she never read the first in the series (and this is Book 2), she had no trouble getting into this one. She further stated, “I think you have a unique idea, recreating the King Arthur myth in the modern world.”

Besides posting her review on GoodReads, Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com, she put up the review on her blog, **Straight From Hel** August 31. To read it (and other fun things on her blog), go to: http://straightfromhel.blogspot.com/2008_08_01_archive.html .

Large Print to the Rescue

by **L.C. Hayden**

Do you know someone who has given up reading because she/he has trouble reading small or standard size print? If so, give them a copy of the large print edition of **Why Casey Had to Die**. Its release date is September 17, and Wheeler is its publisher. They are the biggest printers of large print editions. And of course, the “normal” book is still available.

Also, please ask your library to order a copy of the large print edition. The ISBN is 9781597228190 and 1597228192.

For the Love of Libraries

If you have a local library project to announce that promotes reading and/or writing, let us know.

It's Here: Georgetown Library Writer's College

The **Georgetown [Texas] Public Library** and The **San Gabriel Writer's League** opens its Fall & Winter classes Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at 7 PM. If you're in the area, come hang out with PT authors **Dr. Dave Ciambone, Sylvia Dickey Smith, and Joan Upton Hall**, as well as other area authors. Classes meet at the Georgetown Public Library at 402 W. 8th Street, Georgetown, TX. For a list of all classes, go to: <http://library.georgetown.org/events.overview.php>, click **Georgetown Library Writer's College Course Schedule**. (Editor's note: also see **Author Sightings at the end of the newsletter for what the three PT authors involved in this project are teaching during the next month and a half.**)

For further information, contact: **Richard Groves, Adult Services Librarian** (512) 931-7620 or rgroves@georgetowntx.org

or

Dr. David Ciambone, President, San Gabriel Writer's League (512) 864-9379

Book Sellin', Searchin' & Signin' Shenanigans

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

Birth of a Writing Career

by L.C. Hayden

One of the questions I get asked the most is "How did you begin writing?"

Funny you asked because I have an answer.

While in college, I had two term papers to do simultaneously. One was for a professor who was known for his strict rules. I spent all my time worrying and working on the paper for him. Four days before it was due, I completed it. I felt as happy as a new puppy in a wide open field.

Then I froze and remembered. I had been so focused on this term paper that I had forgotten about another one due a day after the first one. I grabbed my finished paper, along with its note cards and bibliography cards. I dashed off to the library where I proofread the finished paper.

I found two typing errors. These were the days before computers, sigh. I made a mental note to retype those two pages. I set everything to the side and began the research for the second paper. At 2 AM when the library closed, I grabbed everything and headed home. The next morning I reached for the finished term paper so I could retype those two pages. It was then I remembered setting the paper to the side and leaving it there. I ran to the library, but the paper, the outline, the bibliography cards, and the notecards were gone.

I had no choice but to begin all over again. Somehow in the next three days, I redid the entire paper and finished the other paper.

When I got the papers back, on the paper I had to redo, I got a C and it only had one comment: "And you want to be a writer--ha!" On the other term paper, I got an A+ with the comment that this was publishable if I took off the footnotes and revised it. I went to the professor, and he showed me the ins and outs of magazine writing. That became my first published work—and I got to be a writer—ha!

The Life of a Successful Author

by Jackie Griffey

Editor's note: The public sometimes assumes certain things about how we authors spend our days. This excerpt from **Jackie Griffey's** blog, **Break Time**, shares a different viewpoint.

...The Large print edition of **SPANISH EYES**, a romance-suspense novel from Five Star, will be out Nov. 17, 2008. Have also just signed and returned a contract with Five Star for **DEAD ON ARRIVAL**, a cozy mystery and the beginning of a new series. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to getting a statement from that publisher regarding the advance and some royalties so I can quit squeezing ink cartridges out of the grocery list! I'm writing because I like to write, could you tell? :-)

But there is all that editing, ancillary material and general eye strain.

I like to write (almost) as much as I like to read but haven't had as much time to read as I'd like lately! I'm one of those "successful, published" writers who is still as broke as the Ten Commandments. I'll clue you in more on that later (if anyone wants to hear it—it may broaden your education—ha!) and tell you what to expect [from your writing] and what to look for, depending on what you want for your precious little Word Child.

Homegrown Future Marketing Millionaire Genius by Sylvia Dickey Smith

Talk about a marketing genius. My grandson loves to earn money, so he took it upon himself, knowing a certain Granny is a softie—and wore a tee-shirt with a picture of my first novel on the front. He also taped pieces of paper to the shirt, front and back, with hand-written comments about this book being the best novel ever written and that everyone should buy a copy. He wore it the whole day at a famous tourist spot! Just think about how many people read the sign and smiled.

Next, he plans to go door to door throughout his neighborhood hand delivering postcards advertising my second book.

"He was telling people to buy **Dance on His Grave**. Says he will promote **Deadly Sins Deadly Secrets** when he has a shirt for it. He is a walking advertisement for you," says my daughter.

Now, all I have to do is keep an eye out on my rising book sales. They are bound to go up!

Of course the bottom line will decrease after Granny opens her pocketbook and pays her marketing specialist! And guess what, another tee-shirt is in the mail to him!

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

Readers Ask Authors

Diane Fanning on the HOT SEAT

(as last issue's Featured Authors)

Readers frequently ask this true crime author: When you write about true crime, how do you cope with all the darkness and ugliness of these crimes?

Diane answers: There are three things that keep me going. First of all, the act of writing is very cathartic and helps me exorcise a lot of demons.

Secondly, it's the people I meet—both the dedicated professionals and the family members of victims. Both are sources of inspiration and hope. I probably get too emotionally invested in some of the family members, but the payback comes when one of them sends me a note of appreciation after they read the book.

Thirdly, I know my books have made a difference in the lives of others. I've received email from domestic violence shelters telling me that a book of mine has the ability to transform lives; I've heard from others who felt what they learned from one of my books saved their lives; and, the most significant of all, one of my books played a role in getting a new trial for a wrongfully convicted woman who was then found not guilty of the murder of her son.

For me, the positives far outweigh the negatives and although I'm now developing my book-length fiction, I have no plans to abandon true crime—I want to continue doing both.

Diane's Latest Book Release: Tuesday, September 28, St. Martin's Press releases a new True Crime Classic edition of **INTO THE WATER**.

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.

Gloria Oliver is our Featured Author for this month, so check out one of her books and ask away. **Of all questions received, we'll draw one. Please send your questions between now and Sept. 14th.**

Send your question (**and a sentence or two about yourself if you want to**) to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com or to the author directly through her website shown on Page 1. **If your question is chosen, we'll credit you.**

How to Make a Writer "High" by Joan Upton Hall

A private book club invited me to sit in with them to discuss their current selection, my novel, **Arturo el Rey**, Book 1 of a trilogy. When they first asked me, I only knew a couple of them, so I was a little nervous. I steeled myself for a lukewarm response, or worse, misunderstood meanings. To my great relief, what they talked about showed they "got it," and they liked it so well they chose my sequel, **Shadow of Excalibur** for a future selection. Sweetest of all, one member, whom I'd just met, asked if Book 3 in the trilogy is available. I told her I'm in the process of writing it.

"You mean we'll have to wait for it?" she said, looking disappointed.

My feet didn't touch the ground the rest of the evening. I may have to adopt that young woman!

Free Offer for Book Discussion Clubs **On-going from: Joan Upton Hall**

I love it when a book discussion group picks one of my books. By listening to the study groups, I have developed various materials for each of my books. If you have a group that wants to find out what freebies I offer, I would be delighted to "show & tell" you if you ask, stating which title you are interested in. Check out my book list at <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/books.htm>, and send me an email: jmuhall@aol.com.

FOR YOU READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

Author Platform? What's That? by David Ciambrone (PT staff columnist)

The term author platform is popping up all over the place, but what exactly is an author platform? Essentially, your platform is based on your expertise—a specific nonfiction topic about which you write, or your genre and unique voice/style as a fiction author. Having a strong author platform is becoming increasingly important in marketing your books or even landing a deal with a major publisher.

Here are my fifteen favorite ways to develop your author platform:

- Get credentials related to your specialty or genre
- Join and participate in professional (writing) associations
- Create a website that demonstrates your expertise
- Publish a blog
- Publish a podcast
- Write and publish articles (online or in print publications)
- Publish an ezine or be in an ezine.
- Volunteer for or perform *pro bono* work
- Serve on committees and panels
- Teach—online and off
- Get quoted in magazines and newspapers
- Participate in social networks
- Give speeches
- Get on radio and TV
- Create a PR campaign—both online and off—to further expand your platform
- Write what your platform supports. (You can have multiple platforms).

Editor's Note: When a publisher offers you a contract these days, don't be surprised if that contract includes a requirement for your marketing plan and/or platform.

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. About 500-1,500 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"

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

Neubauer's Nuggets: a regular column of writing advice by author/publisher, **Joan Neuabauer**, in **Inkwell Newswatch** (<http://www.fwointl.com>).

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).

HEADS UP FOR AUTHOR SIGHTINGS

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

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

L.C. Hayden

Sept. 23 & Sept. 30 (two-day presentation), 6 - 8 pm: September marks the **beginning of a series of workshops** I'll be presenting through the **University of Texas at El Paso**. The first workshop is "How to Write the Novel in Sixty Days."

Cheryl Swanson

September 6, 3:00- 4:40 pm: Booklines, Kapaa, Kauai, signing her novel **Death Game**
September 12, 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Talk Story Bookstore, Friday Art Night, Hanapepe, Kauai (Includes Hawaiian live music)

Diane Fanning

September 4, Thurs., 7 pm: Oak Hill Library in Austin, Texas: **I'll be teaching a writing class: Writing a Book Proposal that Sells**. You don't need to write your non-fiction book before you get a contract. Here's how to pull together a book proposal that will make agents and publishers smile and put money in your pocket. After class copies of my books will be available.
September 11, Thurs., 6:30 pm: Join me at Tye Preston Memorial Library for Coffee with the Author where I'll discuss my newest novel, **The Trophy Exchange**. Books will be available for purchase and I'll be delighted to autograph every one. The Tye Preston Memorial Library is in the Canyon Lake area at 1321 Highway, 2673 in Sattler, Texas.

See article in this issue for details regarding next three:

Dave Ciambrone, Sylvia Dickey Smith, & Joan Upton Hall

Sept. 8, Monday, 7-9 PM: introductory class for Georgetown Library Writer's College (Texas).
Everything the Unpublished Novelist Needs to Know but is Afraid to Ask.

Dave Ciambrone & Sylvia Dickey Smith

Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, Tuesdays, 7-9 PM: Georgetown Public Library. Mystery Writing

Joan Upton Hall

Sept. 15, 22, 29, Mondays, 7-9 PM: Georgetown Public Library. SciFi/Fantasy writing class: Inventing Your Own World.
Oct. 2, 9, 16 & 23, Thursdays, 7-9 PM: Georgetown Public Library. Writing the Short Story & Flash Fiction