

DEAD TO WRITES

A MALICE IN MEMPHIS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE

Carolyn will present her program on 'Setting' at the November 14th meeting. Come learn how important the setting can be in your world building, when to dial it down, and how the setting can be a character in itself.

December will be the annual Christmas party at Barbara Christopher's home at 150 Evening Shade Cove in Eads. We will again play Dirty Santa so provide a gift of at least \$10. It can be writing related or something fun, you decide. This will be potluck with Malice supplying the entree, so be thinking about what you want to bring. We will start a sign-up sheet at the November meeting.

Thanks!

Kristi Bradley
VP Malice in Memphis

WRITING TIP:

What does it take to get you in the mood to write? Is it music in the background, total silence, the sound of rain or thunder or pictures that relate to the story you're writing? Use whatever it takes to get your creative juices flowing. Most of all remember that nothing gets written **until you put your butt in the chair and put those words down.**

Happy writing
Barbara Christopher

2016 SCHEDULE FOR THE LIBRARY:

JANUARY 16 ***

FEBRUARY 13

MARCH 12

APRIL 9

MAY 14

JUNE 11

JULY 9

AUGUST 13

SEPTEMBER 10

OCTOBER 8

NOVEMBER 12

DECEMBER 10**

***This is the only change in the normal schedule. The library had an all-day event scheduled on our regular second Saturday so I moved it to the 3rd Saturday since it was available.

** This is our Christmas party and is usually held at Barbara Christopher's house in December.

If you have any questions please contact me at juanitah03@aol.com.

Malice in Memphis Minutes – October 2015

Meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m. by Kristi.

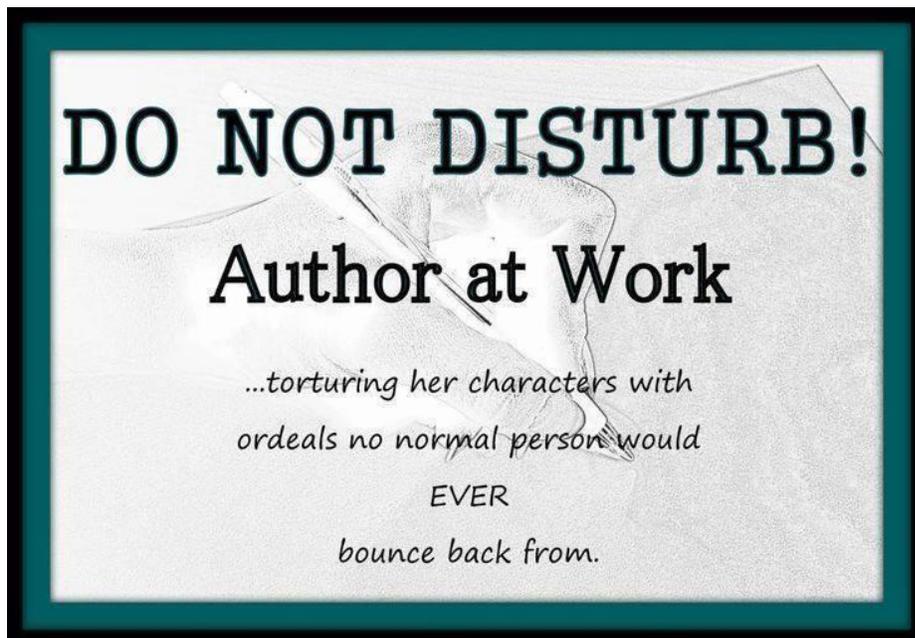
In attendance: Barbara, Kristi, Juanita, Carolyn, Cindy, Elaine, Jim, Geoffry, Seth, Pat, Susan, Missy, Richard, Angelyn.

Guest: Preston Koelling, Professor of Criminal Justice Department, Eastern Arkansas Community College. Our guest was recruited by Susan Wooten.

If you have pictures for the anthology, please email them directly to Ann at annssmith42@hotmail.com. She is waiting for pics from several. I know you were told to put them in the dropbox but for the sake of time please send them directly to Ann. Thanks.

Our guest spoke about his career in law enforcement and about several cases. He was asked to return and he said he would be honored.

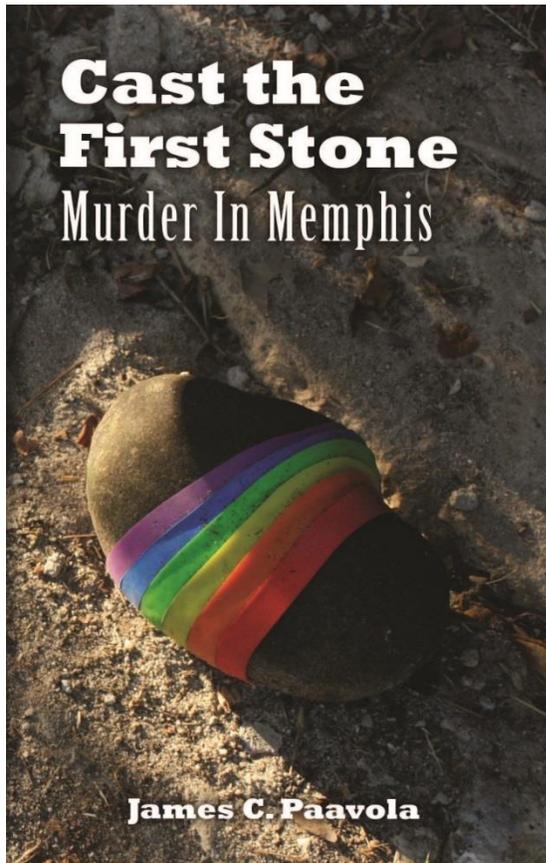
Meeting was called at 12:00 and everybody that could joined us at Brad's BBQ for lunch.



NEWS: BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cast the First Stone: Murder In Memphis

This book is already available on Amazon in paperback, and, by the end of the week, I expect the eBook to be loaded in Kindle as well. Printed copies will be available in December at the Booksellers at Laurelwood and the Trolley Stop Market (and, of course, available from my closet). **The Booksellers at Laurelwood have agreed to hold a book signing: 2:00 pm Saturday, December 12, 2015.**



Okay Ladies and Gentlemen, we are now in National Novel Writing Month and while some of you may or may not be participating, I thought some of the tips that I get each day may help you when you are working on your books or short stories. We all can use some helpful tips. Hope you enjoy. I

#NaNoWriMo Day 2

You will NOT edit your NaNoWriMo project while you write. Repeat after me: I WILL WRITE THE WORDS. Editing comes later. Much later. After it's shoved away in a drawer and congealed. ONLY once you get to that point do you get to edit.

And for now, I present to you Chuck Wendig and editing. (But remember, do NOT edit it NOW. WRITE it NOW.)

#NaNoWriMo Day 3

Thou Shalt Not Compare Thyself to Other Writers and Their Progress

Every writer writes at their own speed and in their own way.

That being said, if you have a DVR, hit PAUSE right now and write three sentences. That's it. Three. If you have to, type it into an e-mail on your phone and e-mail it to yourself. There, see? You DID write something today. Good job, you!

#NaNoWriMo Day 4

If you get stuck writing your story, imagine THE worst thing that could happen to the character, no matter how fantastical or incongruous it might be to the plot. Then multiply it by a thousand, and do THAT to your character. Be sadistic and twisted. You might not keep it later, but it could also give you a totally different direction for your story that you never considered. If nothing else, you might find out something about your character that you didn't know before.

#NaNoWriMo Day 5

Remember that even the most evil of "bad guys" in a story is the hero in his own narrative. Cardboard characters are as flat as the cliches you base them on. Likewise, "perfect" protagonists are harder for the reader to love. Give them flaws, but don't make them assholes.

#NaNoWriMo Day 6

Have you backed up your work lately? Not just to a cloud service, but to redundant external sources, like thumb drives or hard drives? Also, find out if your writing software has a CTRL+S or similar keyboard shortcut and use it. A LOT.

#NaNoWriMo Day 7

You don't need to write your book "in order." There is no law saying you can't write the scenes you see the most clearly in your mind before you write the rest of the book. Sometimes, the easiest way to write a story is to write the strongest scenes and then fill in the middles.

#NaNoWriMo Day 8

If you're stuck on a scene between characters. write NOTHING but dialogue. No stage direction, no action tags, no exposition or narrative, just dialogue. Follow the characters and write down whatever they say. Sometimes, the characters will go in directions you didn't expect and tell you stuff.

#NaNoWriMo Day 9

Your characters are not you. They might not make the same choices you'd make, or even ones you like/want them to make. You need to follow your characters and stay true to them, not shove them into plot constraints just to fit your plot.

#NaNoWriMo Day 11

There is no such thing as writer's block. Pick a different scene and start writing. Write your ending. Write a love letter from your main character to his or her main squeeze. Forget the bullshit about "being blocked." You can write SOMETHING. Even if you end up not keeping it later, just KEEP WRITING.

***I get these daily during the month of November so if you would like more of these I can put them on our Facebook page if you are interested. Just let me know.