

All Points Bulletin

The Twin Cities Sister In Crime Member Newsletter For February 2006

Jill of All Trades—Deadly



**Tuesday, 7 PM March 5, 2006
Once Upon A Crime Bookstore**

Our March speaker will be Catten Ely, who was also our speaker at the May, 2005 meeting. Ms. Ely has an extensive and varied background in writing, communications, and teaching, including an ongoing career as a freelance editor, and she holds a master's degree in Cold Case Investigation. She has taught the class "CSI: The Basics" at Metro State University (among others) and is Peace Officer Standards and Training certified. As of this writing, we do not know what her exact topic will be, but judging by her last appearance with our group, it is sure to be fascinating.

**February 2006 Meeting Report
By Kimberly Reis**

Twin Cities Sisters in Crime
Membership meeting
February 7, 2006
Once Upon a Crime Bookstore

The meeting was called to order by president Marilyn Victor.

Marilyn reminded us of the Sisters in Crime 20th anniversary contest. They are looking for ideas to promote the organization or its members. The winning entry gets the funds to carry out the plan. Entries are due March 31st.

There is a conflict with the April meeting. OUAC has a book signing that night with Randy Wayne White. A motion was made to move the April meeting to the second Tuesday, April

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

11th. Motion carried.

Wendy Nelson reported no change to the treasurer's report. The balance remains \$460.24.

We selected books for upcoming months. It was agreed to try to alternate male and female authors each month.

March – Open and shut by David Rosenfelt

April – Before I wake by Anne Frasier

May – Stolen away by Max Allen Collins

The book for this month was Bangkok 8 by John Burdett. Only a few had read it and their opinions of it varied greatly.

Our guests for the evening were our hosts Pat Frovarp and Gary Schulze from Once upon a Crime interviewed by our own Pat Dennis. We got a chance to question them about what it takes to run an independent mystery bookstore. Topics included how they decide what to stock, how they get authors to appear in the store, how they compete with the big stores, and what a typical day would be like for them. We also got to ask about their favorite books and favorite authors.

Kim Reis
Secretary

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations: To Jess Lourey on her debut mystery novel *May Day*. It's the first in the Murder by Month series (June Bug is scheduled to come out March 2007). Jess's publisher is Midnight Ink, Minnesota's newest publisher of mysteries.

Weds. March 1, 4:30 - 6 pm, Anne Frasier (Before I Wake; Play Dead; Sleep Tight; Hush) and Pat Dennis (Hot Dish to Die For; Stand-Up and Die) signing, chatting, and possibly drinking at The Dock Café's Totally Criminal Cocktail Hour in downtown Stillwater. Sponsored by The Valley Bookseller Bookstore.

Sat. March 4 - 1:00-3:00, Once Upon A Crime Bookstore, Lois Greiman "Unplugged" signing.

Sat. March 11: 1:00-2:00, Jess Lourey, author of *May Day*, Reading/signing at the Duluth Barnes & Noble.

Weds. March 15: 6:00 PM, Jess Lourey, Reading/ signing at the Brookdale Barnes & Noble.

Fri. March 17: Jess Lourey, Guest DJ on Alexandria, Minnesota's Z99 at 9:00 am.

Sat. March 18: 1:00-3:00, Jess Lourey, signing at Book World in Alexandria.

Wed. March 22: & PM Jess Lourey, Fergus Falls Public Library presentation and signing.

Sat. March 25: 1:00 – 3:00, Jess Lourey, book launch party will be Saturday, March 25, at the welcoming Douglas County Public Library in Alexandria, Minnesota. The party is open to the public, and free food, fun, and *May Day*-themed prizes will be available in large quantities. Consider yourself invited.

Sat., April 22: 1:00-3:30, Jess Lourey, Book signing at Once Upon a Crime.

An Interview with William (Bill) Fietzer



Bio: William (Bill) Fietzer is a writer who resides with his wife, two sons, and 15 year-old gray tabby, Dashiell, in south Minneapolis. Son of a prison guard and educated at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bill is a member of the American Library Association and the Mystery Writers of America. He was selected for entry in the 2005 edition of *Who's Who in America* and for the 2006 edition of *Who's Who in American Education*. His first, *Penal Fires*, was published in 2003. His second novel, *Metadata Murders*, was just published in January, 2006.

Metadata Murders is a saga of man's definition of what it means to be human. Beyond his programming skill or knowledge of the Internet, Ben's quest challenges the truth of human commitment. It tests whether man's love for others can triumph over the basest aspects of our existence and bring true knowledge to light.

For more information and how to purchase the books, visit WilliamFietzer.com.

Q&A

Q: If you could acquire a talent/skill just by asking, what would you ask for and why?

A: Interviewer or poet.

As to why, a good interviewer enables his or her subjects to open up and reveal truths they never suspected about themselves or others. The skills of a good poet are obvious to any writer. My first writing instructor told me that good fiction has to be at least as good as good poetry. If I were a poet, my writing would be at least that good.

Q: If you were taking a long flight --15 hours or more -- who would you like to sit next to, picking anyone past or present?

A: Assuming I could get anyone to talk to me traveling in coach, much less for 15 hours, I most would like to talk to George Bernard Shaw, in part because he probably could convince the stewardess that we deserved better seats as members of the working class.

Q: What author are you reading right now?

A: If you're a writer, you're usually reading more than one book at a time. My current reads and my purposes for reading them:

- *Assassin*, by Ted Bell—review for <<http://www.newmysteryreader.com/>>
- *Death, Dismemberment, And Memory: Body Politics In Latin America*, edited by Lyman Johnson—research for my next mystery/adventure novel
- *Ultimate Sacrifice: John and Robert Kennedy, the Plan for a Coup in Cuba, and the Murder of JFK*, by Lamar Waldron—same
- *The Brotherhood of the Rose*, by David Morrell—personal pleasure and professional insight
- *Rain Storm*, Barry Eisler—personal pleasure

Q: If you could be the hero/heroine in any book, which would it be?

A: Lawrence Darrell of Somerset Maugham's *The Razor's Edge*

Q: If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

A: The Shadow, because of his ability to cloud men's minds—sounds to me like the effect most fiction has on people's perception of reality.

Q: Who are three of your favorite mystery writers?

A: These three, for different reasons:

Raymond Chandler
Ian Fleming
John Le Carré

Q: Why do you write or read mysteries?

A: The noted pop ethicist (and author), Madonna Ciccone, assured us in the mid-1980s that "Life is a mystery." Everything that's happened since then appears to reconfirm that statement.

All kidding aside, most books, whatever their theme or focus, have some kind of mystery at their core. We have professionals who do this work for us in our society. Whether they're cops, cybersleuths, or theoretical physicists, the stories of their investigations push back the boundaries of darkness in our world a little further each time we read about the exploits of one of them.

Q: You just won \$100 million on the lottery. After you've been nice and bought Mom a new car and given all the SINC members each \$1 million, what would you do?

A: Patronize the arts, particularly the opera, which needs revitalization, by setting up a foundation to underwrite the performance for one Wagnerian opera at the Ordway every year. Setting up a foundation devoted just to supporting aspiring genre fiction writers might be another good idea.

“Lake of Sorrows” by Erin Hart

“Lake of Sorrows” by Erin Hart immerses the reader into the primeval landscape and lore of Ireland’s bogs while slowly drawing you into a mystery of ancient secrets and tangled relationships. She deftly merges the puzzle of two bodies discovered in the Loughnabrone Bog. One is an ancient Celt in an amazing state of preservation. The other is a man who went missing 50 years earlier. Both corpses possess the same ritual stab wounds and a triple knotted cord around their necks. When a young archeologist is murdered in a like manner, American pathologist, Nora Gavin, is lured into a complicated web of secrets, betrayal and greed.

Hart’s characters are so richly drawn, I would have kept turning the pages even if there hadn’t been plenty of unexpected twists and turns to compel me forward. While trying to connect the two murders, Nora is haunted by personal tragedy and struggles with her feelings for Cormac Maguire. When the police’s evidence starts pointing toward Maguire as the murderer, it’s up to Nora to put the pieces together and prove he’s innocent, a feat that takes a great leap of faith.

“Unzipped” by Lois Greiman

No one believes Andy “the Bomber” Bomstad was being treated for impotence. Which makes it all the more difficult for cocktail hostess-turned-psychologist Chrissy McMullen to clear her name after he chases her around the room and has the poor manners to drop dead in her office. The police certainly don’t believe she’s innocent, not with the corpse still in a full state of arousal. The very serious, and very gorgeous, Lt. Jack Rivera is hot to prove she killed him. And maybe hot for Chrissie as well.

It’s no surprise that historical romance writer Lois Greiman has spiced her first mystery novel with sexual tension and romance. It’s also very funny, and had me laughing out loud. Greiman keeps the action moving with an offbeat heroine who doesn’t always work in her best interest and has an array of zany friends and clients to help her along the way.

Marilyn Victor, reviewer

And speaking of book reviews...

We ask that authors do not submit reviews of their own work, either written by themselves or from another source. We are trying to prevent embarrassing situations such as the following review that was submitted and turned down by the committee. (Author’s name and title has been disguised.)

“Every word of Dat Pennis’ *Hotdish To Be Sick Of, But Probably Not Die From* is astounding. It is well on its way to becoming the next DaVinci Code – ah, minus the Catholic Church, Italy, and any sort of historical reference or research. Oh, and there’s no pasta either.”

We do ask you, however, to write reviews. The less space the newsletter coordinator has to fill, the better.

A Note From Your President

For those of you who couldn't make our February meeting, I want to remind you that our meeting date for April has been changed to Tuesday, April 11. On Tuesday, April 4, Randy Wayne White, author of the Doc Ford novels, will be appearing at Once Upon A Crime.

And don't forget Once Upon A Crime's "Write of Spring" on March 25 from 12-4. Pat and Gary have a wonderful line-up of over 30 writers scheduled. It's a not-to-be-missed event.

Catten Ely is returning as our guest on March 7. We're still looking for speakers for April, June and beyond. If you know of anyone who would be interested in speaking at our Sisters in Crime meetings, please bring your suggestions to the next meeting.

Marilyn Victor

It's Colonel Mustard in the library for \$5,000 please!

Even if you don't aspire to write mysteries you may want to check out the writing mystery contest sponsored by the world famous Mustard Museum of Mount Horeb.

(<http://www.mustardweb.com/mystery/rules1.htm>)

Chapter One of Murder at the Mustard Museum is complete and appears in the 2005-06 catalog of the Mount Horeb Mustard Museum and on their web site. Contestants will write their best Chapter 2 and a summary of how the story turns out for the opportunity to win the Grand Prize of \$5,000. Entries should be postmarked no later than May 15, 2006.

Upcoming Events at Once Upon A Crime

Sat. Mar. 4 - 1:00-3:00 Lois Greiman "Unplugged" signing
Sat. Mar. 11 - 1:00-3:00 Victoria Houston "Dead Boogie"
Tues. Mar. 14 - 7:00 William Swanson "Dial M" publication party
Sat. Mar. 25 - 12:00-4:00 Write of Spring IV - 36 of your favorite local authors!
Sat. Apr. 1 - 1:00-3:00 Shirley Damsgaard "Charmed to Death"
Mon. Apr. 3 - 7:00 Pete Hautman "The Prop" publication party
Wed. April 5 - 7:00 Randy Wayne White "Dark Light"
Sat. Apr. 8 - 1:00-3:00 Laura Childs "Blood Orange Brewing" signing
Sat. Apr. 22 - 1-3:00 Jess Lourey "May Day" (Debut MN author)
Thurs. May 11 - 7:00 Jane K. Cleland "Consigned to Death"
Tues. May 16 - 7:00 C. J. Box "In Plain Sight"
Wed. May 17 - 7:00 Mary Higgins Clark "Two Little Girls in Blue"
Thurs. May 18 - 7:00 David Housewright "Pretty Girl Gone" publication party

Upcoming Mystery Conventions

Malice Domestic

Arlington, VA April 21-23, 2006

Established in 1989 Malice Domestic® is an annual convention in metropolitan Washington, D.C. saluting the traditional mystery—books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie.
www.malicedomestic.org

Mayhem in the Midlands

Omaha, NE, May 25 -May 28, 2006

7th Annual Mystery Convention featuring Guest of Honor Laura Lippman and toastmaster Denise Hamilton. Sponsored by the Omaha Public Library.
<http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/mayhem/index.html>

ThrillerFest

Thursday, June 29 - Sunday, July 2, 2006

International Thriller Writers (ITW) celebrates its one-year anniversary with the announcement of ThrillerFest, the biggest thriller conference ever, featuring top thriller authors from around the world including Sandra Brown, John Lescroart, and R.L. Stein.
www.thrillerfest.com

Bouchercon 2006: A Prairie Plot

The World's Largest Mystery Convention

Madison, WI, Sept. 28th-Oct. 1st.

More than a thousand mystery readers, fans, authors, reviewers, publishers and agents attend will attend this 37th convention to enjoy 4 days of panels, awards, book signings and parties, Many parties. This year's awards banquet features Robert Parker, Lifetime Achievement Award, M.C. Beaton, British Guest of Honor, Nevada Barr, American Achievement Award, and our own William Kent Krueger as Toastmaster.

www.bouchercon.com

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Interested in the Twin Sisters chapter of Sisters in Crime? Visit www.twincitysinc.org. Or call Wendy Nelson at (952) 233-0215. Or mail \$50 to Sisters In Crime, 721 Brook Lane, Shakopee, MN 55379. Of this, \$10 goes to the local chapter and the balance to the national organization. (Meetings are held at 7 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month (except for July and August at Once Upon A Crime Mystery Book Store, 604 W. 26th, Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405 (This is half a block east of the intersection of Lyndale and 26th In South Minneapolis.)