

All Points Bulletin

*The Twin Cities Sister in Crime Member Newsletter
March 2009*

March(ing) to the Beat

WCCO TV crime reporter **Caroline Lowe** will speak at the March 3 Sister's in Crime meeting. She's covered the beat for more than 30 years and is also a licensed Minnesota police officer. She works two weeks a year as a Minnesota State Fair cop.

Caroline has won some of the highest awards in journalism, including the Dupont Columbia baton. She's appeared on Oprah. She's had many law enforcement techniques demonstrated on her, such as tasing and tear gassing. Check out her page at the WCCO Web site: <http://wcco.com:80/bios/caroline.lowe.reporter.9.340625.html>

Our Next Meeting Date

*Tuesday, March 3rd, at 7 PM
Once Upon A Crime
604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)*

Minutes of the February Meeting

The meeting was called to order by club president **Marilyn Victor** who asked members to offer book suggestions for upcoming months.

Other business involved the Twin Cities Sisters in Crime group on Yahoo. Underutilized at the moment, the forum allows members to communicate with each other and post items. Lori Lake said she would send e-mail invitations to members with links to join. One suggestion for the site was to store old newsletters there.

The book for this month was *China Lake*, by **Meg Gardiner**. Because a large number of members had read the selection, a lively discussion resulted around this electrically charged novel about religious cults, terroristic acts and preparation for Armageddon.

Returning as guest speaker was **Jane Gilgun**, a professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities, who has extensively interviewed the perpetrators and survivors of violence. Last month Professor Gilgun discussed violence from the perpetrators point of view. This time she focused on the victims. Violence can be both physical and psychological. A key question was why women in abusive relationships stay in these relationships. The answer was that the person who abuses them is also the most important source of their security.

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

The sordid topic made you want to go home and hug a bunny.

Fifteen people braved the frosty weather to attend the meeting.

Michael Allan Mallory
Secretary

Upcoming April Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, at Once Upon A Crime, 604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale). Our guest will be Sgt. Mark Sletta of the Minneapolis Police Department SWAT Team.

Upcoming Readings

The list of books for discussion at our Tuesday meetings during the next several months includes the following titles:

April 2009

Fleshmarket Alley by **Ian Rankin**- The Edinburgh of Insp. John Rebus has more than its share of violent crimes involving drugs and gangs, but there's always another layer of institutional vice and corruption. In Edgar-winner Rankin's 15th novel to feature the moody, dogged detective, a Kurdish refugee's death in a dreary housing estate leads Rebus into a labyrinthine plot involving a modern-day version of the slave trade. Colleague Siobhan Clarke is investigating the disappearance of the sister of a rape victim. These mysteries begin to intertwine when Rebus and Clarke are called to a pub on Fleshmarket Close where two skeletons have been exhumed.

May 2009

The Nymphs of Rocky Flats by **Mario Acevedo**

PI Felix Gomez, a vampire, uses his supernatural powers to solve mysteries that befuddle mere mortals. When a friend asks him to look into an outbreak of nymphomania among female guards at a plutonium processing plant, things get really weird: hypnotized personnel talk cryptically about Roswell and Project Redlight, trained assassins start decimating the local vampire community and an amorous dryad shows up to assist in the detective work. As though this weren't enough, Felix refuses to drink human blood, an ethical stand that attenuates his uncanny powers and results in intriguing plot complications

June 2009

Fatal Grace (Three Pines Mystery #2) by **Louise Penny**

An almost universally disliked, even hated, woman is murdered. The pool of potential murderers includes the victim's lover and various other residents of the small Canadian

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

community of Three Pines. Quebec Surete Inspector Armand Gamache, a smart and likable investigator systematically makes his way through the suspects, coming upon a few surprises along the way. Penny is a careful writer, taking time to establish character and scene, playing around with a large cast, distracting us so we won't see the final twists coming until they're upon us.

President's Message

I just spent my lunch hour writing a wonderful message to you all, then after much editing and re-editing realized it really didn't have much to do about anything related to Sisters in Crime or mysteries. Other than the mystery as to how my mind works. Totally unsolved. And as I want to get this newsletter out today, it shall remain that way.

See you on Tuesday!

Marilyn Victor

Panel Discussion

Once Upon A Crime in Minneapolis hosted a fabulous panel discussion in January with writers **Mary Logue**, **K J Erickson**, and **Ellen Hart**. Presenting to a packed room, the three well-known authors covered topics from knowing one's characters, to writing a series. Here are some nuggets I jotted down (blending the voices of the three, who are old friends who often finish each other's thoughts):

- On writing: When the writing is flowing, it's like being in a groove, and you know it's working so it feels great; the novel takes on a shape, becoming a living thing, growing organically, or like fractal. For the three, a writing group has been essential for their growth as writers, and as a balm for the solitary task of writing. The great puzzle: If, as according to Malcolm Gladwell, it takes 10,000 hours to master any particular thing, how is it that an author's first book is often their best? Conversely, why does it take so long for some authors to become well known?
- On characters: They take on their own lives. When writing a series, you get to know them over time, and you realize different things about them. Of course, you can always throw a little conflict in their paths to shake things up for them-and for you, as well.
- On agents and editors: They should act as advocates for readers, understand the market, and are ideally there to help the writer do their best work.
- The publishing industry: there are natural cycles to it, small presses will grow as bigger presses struggle, technological changes have to be embraced, that there's still-beyond the blockbusters that every publisher seeks—a need for diverse, interesting writing; the big presses will always need to seek out new, good books.

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

KJ closed the evening with a passionate plea for both readers and writers to understand the important role of independent bookstores, whose staff actually read and recommend books to customers, and sponsor author events.

Reported by
Barbara DaCosta

Question of the Month

This month's question was inspired by reading **John Le Carre's** latest, *A Most Wanted Man*. Though he might be considered the most popular writer of espionage fiction today, some of you have other favorites you'd like to recommend or a particular character from that genre. Here are the responses:

- May I suggest anything by **Edward Sklepowich**? His Urbino Macyntire series takes place in Venice and the plots are challenging — Janet Contursi
- I loved **Sujata Massey's** *The Salary Man's Wife*. Her main character, Rei, is a stylish spy. — Maureen Fischer
- ***Brian Haig, Brad Thor and Vince Flynn** are among my favorites and since we are members I guess we can tell you that. At least I can say Gary does not read them. Call them espionage, political, terrorist, whatever. **Gregg Iles** could be right up there too.* — Pat Frovarp
- Most of my reading in the spy genre revolves around **Ian Fleming** and the James Bond follow-ups, but occasionally, I'll read **Tom Clancy** and **John Gardner**. For vintage "serious" (whatever that is) treatments of the topic, **Joseph Conrad's** *The Secret Agent* and **Graham Greene's** comic *Our Man in Havana* are tough to beat. — Bill Fietzer

Females and Firearms

INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS FOR WOMEN ONLY. Learn about firearms, pistols, revolvers, rifles, and shotguns. All your questions about Firearms will be answered in a safe, casual, non-political, and friendly atmosphere. This three-day workshop is for women only— hands on!!

This is **NOT** a Permit to Carry, Hunters Safety, or self-defense course. No certificates will be earned. The course will be taught by certified instructors at the **Oakdale Gun Club**.

Address:
10386 North 10th Street

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

Lake Elmo, MN

Dates:

Class 1: April 21-23-25 (Tues. & Thurs. 6-9 PM; Sat. 1-4 PM range day)

Class 2: April 27-29-May 2 (Mon. & Wed. 6-9 PM; Sat. 1-4 PM range day)

Because of space, there can be no crossing classes. Please, no repeats. **Advance registration and prepayment required.** Need not be a member of Oakdale Gun Club to attend.

COST: \$30.00 PER PERSON (Includes all materials, firearms use, and ammunition for Saturday's range practice)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 12.

To sign up, or for more information, contact Terrie at introforwomen@oakdalegunclub.org or 651-227-4057 and [leave a message.](#)

THIS CLASS DOES NOT PROMOTE THE SALE OF FIREARMS, NOR WILL ANY FIREARMS BE FOR SALE.

Submitted by
Lori Lake

Member News

- St. Martin's Minotaur has accepted **Barbara Fister's** second Anni Koskinen mystery, *Through the Cracks*, for publication in 2010. She also has several articles set to appear in upcoming issues of *Library Journal*, an online piece for the April mystery issue, and a feature article in May (She hasn't even started writing that one yet, but they asked if she would). Barbara also taught a class at Gustavus Adolphus in January, *Books and Culture*, the content of which appears at: <http://booksandculture.wordpress.com>
- **Linda Morganstein's** Hollywood novel, *My Life with Stella Kane*, will be published by Regal Crest Press, with a tentative release date of March, 2009. A novel very dear to Linda's heart, the story is the fictional memoir of a lesbian actress in Hollywood in the fifties, In 1948, Nina Weiss, a snobby college girl from Scarsdale, goes to Hollywood to work at her uncle's movie studio. She is assigned to help publicize a young actress named Stella Kane. Nina is immediately thrown into the maelstrom of the declining studio system and repressive fifties Hollywood. Adding to her difficulties is her growing attraction to Stella. When a gay actor at the studio is threatened by tabloid exposure, Nina invents a romance between Stella and the actor. The trio become hopelessly entangled when the invented romance succeeds beyond anyone's dreams.

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

- **Mary Monica Pulver's** new book, *Thai Die*, came out in December, and she is in the final throes of writing *Blackwork*, which should appear this fall. These are numbers twelve and thirteen in the Betsy Devonshire needlework mystery series. She went to the Nashville Needlework Market as part of her continuing research into the world of needlework -- the Market is for shop owners. She took a class on hiring and firing, which was enlightening, and did a little shopping. In May Mary Monica will attend Malice Domestic. This month (February) she gave a presentation at her church in which she compared the medieval Mystery Plays to modern mysteries, which was well received. She is thinking of turning it into an article she hopes to get published.
- Sisters in Crime is well represented in the 2009 Minnesota Book Awards. The finalists for Best Genre Fiction are *Stalking Susan* by **Julie Kramer**, *Red Knife* by **William Kent Krueger**, *A Carrion Death* by **Michael Stanley**, and *Phantom Prey* by **John Sandford**. Sponsored by The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, the winner will be announced April 25 at the gala festivities at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Paul.
http://www.thefriends.org/award_winners_and_finalists.html#21st_finalists
The winner will be honored at the Edgar Symposium's Agents & Editors Party April 29 in New York;
And,
- Julie Kramer's *Stalking Susan* is a finalist in the Mary Higgins Clark Awards. The Mystery Writers of America gives the award to the book most closely written in the Mary Higgins Clark tradition, according to the following guidelines:
 - The protagonist is a nice young woman whose life is suddenly invaded.
 - She's self-made and independent, with primarily good family relationships.
 - She has an interesting job.
 - She is not looking for trouble; she is doing exactly what she should be doing and something cuts across her bow.
 - She solves her problem by her own courage and intelligence.
 - The story has no on-scene violence
 - The story has no strong four-letter words or explicit sex scenes.— Julie Kramer

Love Is Murder

My Weekend at LOVE IS MURDER

Well, I'm glad I didn't put off LOVE IS MURDER til next year. Cause there ain't going to be a next year. The mystery convention is taking a year hiatus to regroup, but assures all that they'll be back on the Chicago scene in 2011.

The crowd seemed to think that this one, featuring Jeffrey Deaver and Steve Barry as headliners, was the best yet. I certainly took a lot of inspiration away from the two bestsellers. Did you know Deaver writes a 100 page outline, then a 700 page first draft,

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

finally a 400 page manuscript? And that Barry had written seven international thrillers before his first sold? And that came from the success of the Di Vinci Code?

My point is these authors worked for their achievements, and so must we.

As a debut author, LOVE IS MURDER gave me a chance for exposure as well. I was featured with other rookies at a debut breakfast. (There was a crowd, mostly because they served food.) I also spoke on a panel "Avoiding Cliches in Thrillers." (Big crowd, no food, so my panelists and I can take credit.) We talked about how to keep your mysteries mysterious and your thrillers thrilling. Cliches aren't just word choices, but plot, setting, and characters can all be subject to cliches.

Carl Brookins was also at the convention, surrounded by people every time I looked in his direction. He's put in his time at these gatherings and seems to know everyone, from fans to other authors to small press folks. I observed as he moderated a panel on "Location, location, location." He kept the discussion moving between accuracy, liability, and marketability of location.

I met some readers who'd enjoyed STALKING SUSAN and I was able to promote the sequel, MISSING MARK. In all, it was a good time. Because the hotel was too far from the airport for a shuttle, and not on a public transportation line, the convention organizers arranged for one of the locals to drive me to and from the airport, saving taxi money.

Submitted by
Julie Kramer

They're Coming To Write of Spring!

The following local writers also will be in attendance at Once Upon A Crime's Write of Spring, March 28, 2009:

12:00

Carl Brookins
Gary Bush
Laura Childs
Chris Everheart
Brian Freeman

Ellen Hart
Steve Horwitz
Wm. Kent Krueger
Lori L. Lake
Jess Lourey

Bruce Rubenstein
Julie L. Schaper
Roger Stelljes
Christopher Valen

1:00

Pat Dennis
William Dietrich
Lois Greiman
Bob Gust Camille Hyytinen
E. Kelly Keady

Jenifer LeClair
Chuck Logan
Michael Mallory
Larry Millett
Peter Rennebohm

Rick Shefchik
William Swanson
Richard Thompson
Marilyn Victor

2:00

Robert Alexander

Barbara DaCosta

Sean Doolittle

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

KJ Erickson
William Fietzer
Barbara Fister
Jeff Foster
David Housewright

Victoria Houston
Dean Hovey
Kathryn Koutsky
Linda Koutsky
Linda Morganstein

Susan Runholt
Steve Thayer
R.D. Zimmerman

3:00

Joel Arnold
Judith Borger
C.C. Canby
Philip Donlay
Monica Ferris

Erin Hart
Pete Hautman
Judith Koll Healy
Priscilla Herbison
Kathleen Hills

Julie Kramer
Mary Logue
Sujata Massey
Scott Pearson
Deborah Woodworth

The seventh annual *Write of Spring* celebration will be held on Saturday, March 28th, from noon to four P.M. at the **Once Upon a Crime** bookstore at 604 West 26th Street in Minneapolis. Come early and stay late to celebrate mystery writers, readers, and the books they love.

Deadline Change Repeat

To make the newsletter more current and to distribute information about events a little quicker, the newsletter staff in consultation with the Chapter officers has decided to make the 17th of every month the new deadline for submissions intended for the following month's newsletter. For our April issue that means articles and reports for the newsletter must be received by Tuesday, March 17th.

Member's Websites

(Carl Brookins) www.minnesotacrimewave.org
(Pat Dennis) www.penurypress.com or comedybypatdennis.com
(William Fietzer) www.williamfietzer.com
(Anne Fraiser) <http://www.annefrasier.com>
(Lois Greiman) www.loisgreiman.com
(Erin Hart) www.erinhart.com
(C. Hyytinen) www.chyytinen.com
(Julie Kramer) www.juliekramerbooks.com
Ellen Kuhfeld - Big Washuu's Lab of Arcane Knowledge) <http://washuu.net>
(Mary Kuhfeld - Monica Ferris) at <http://monica-ferris.com>
(Lori L. Lake) www.lorillake.com
(Michael Allan Mallory and Marilyn Victor) www.snakesjones.com
(Sujata Massey) <http://www.interbridge.com/sujata/>
(August Schwerdfeger) <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~schw0709/>
(Richard Thompson) www.fiddlegame.com
(Christopher Valens) www.christophervalen.com
(J. L. Wilson) www.jayellwilson.com

Members Who Blog

Static (Anne Fraiser)

<http://annefrasier.blogspot.com/>

Agora2 (Carl Brookins)

<http://www.agora2.blogspot.com/>

Riding with the Top Down (Lois Greiman)

<http://ridingwiththetopdown.blogspot.com/>

Killer Hobbies (Mary Kuhfeld-Monica Ferris)

<http://killerhobbies.blogspot.com/>

It Makes Us Wild (Marilyn Victor & Michael Allan Mallory)

<http://zoofari.blogspot.com/>

Probable Cause <http://christophervalen.com/blog>

Resort to Murder

<http://www.resorttomurder.blogspot.com/>

Sisters In Crime Blog Crimespace

<http://crimespace.ning.com/profile/SistersInCrime>

If you have a website or blog you'd like to have listed here, please contact our newsletter editor at twinsisnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Mystery Conventions

Left Coast Crime

March 7-12, 2009

The Big Island, Hawaii

Guests of Honor: Rhys Bowen and Barry Eisler

Toastmaster: Lee Goldberg

Fan Guests of Honor: Pam Dehnke and Vallery Feldman

Murder 203

Connecticut's Mystery Festival

April 18-19, 2009

Trumbull, CT

Guest of Honor: Linda Fairstein

Mayhem in the Midlands

May 21-24, 2009

Omaha, NE

Guest of Honour: Dana Stabenow

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

Toastmistress: Jan Burke
International Guest of Honour: Zoe Sharp

ThrillerFest 2009
AgentFest 2009
Grand Hyatt Hotel
New York City
July 8-11, 2009

PulpFest
Columbus, Ohio
July 31-August 2, 2009..

Bouchercon 2009: Elementary, My Dear Indy
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 15 - 18, 2009
Guest of Honour: Michael Connelly
Toastmistress: S.J. Rozan
Lifetime Achievement: Allen J. Hubin
Fan Guest of Honour: Kathryn Kennison

Upcoming Events at Once Upon A Crime

Tues. Mar 3 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is *Iron Lake* by **William Kent Krueger**.

Sat. Mar 7 - 12:00 - 2:00 **Laura Childs' Oolong Dead**— Signing & Refreshments.

Wed. Mar 11 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by **Carl Brookins**. Book for the night is **Chuck Logan's Absolute Zero**.

Mon. Mar 23 - 7:00 **Randy Wayne White's Dead Silence**.

Tues. Mar 24 - 7:00 **Barry Eisler's Fault Line** (new stand alone).

Sat. Mar 28 - 12:00-4:00 **The Seventh Annual Write of Spring** with *over sixty!* local and guest authors.

Tues. Mar 31 - 7:00 **Brian Freeman's In the Dark & The Agency**.

Sat. Apr 4 - 12:00-2:00 **Lois Greiman's One Hot Mess** —signing with refreshments.

Tues. Apr 7 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is TBA.

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

Wed. Apr 8 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by **William Kent Krueger**. Book for the night is TBA.

Tues. May 5 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is TBA.

Tues. May 12 - 7:00 **Jane Cleland's *Killer Keepsakes*** and **Rosemary Harris' *The Big Dirt Nap***.

Wed. May 13 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by **Ellen Hart**. Book for the night is TBA.

Sat. May 16 - 12:00-2:00 **Anthony Neil Smith's *Hogdoggin'***— signing with refreshments.

Tues. May 26 - 7:00 **David Housewright's *Jelly's Gold***—reception and signing with refreshments.

Tues. Jun 2 - 7:00 **Michael Stanley's *The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu***.

Sat. Jun 6 - 12:00-2:00 **Lois Greiman, Michele Hauf and Leandra Logan**, contributors to *Faeries Gone Wild*.

Tues. June 9 - 7:00 **NEW DATE! Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is TBA.

Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Members

Judy Balthazor, Colleen Barnett, Carl Brookins, Jessie Chandler, Barbara DaCosta, Pat Dennis, Julie Fasciana, William Fietzer, Anne Frasier, Erin Hart, Susan Hastings, Carol Hedberg, Camille Hyytinen, Bobbye Johnson, Julie Kramer, William Kent Krueger, Ellen Kuhfeld, Lori L. Lake, Jenifer LeClair, Jess Lourey, Michael Mallory, Sujata Massey, Lori Ness, Todd New, Kathleen Nordstrom, Once Upon a Crime, Diane Pearson, Kim Reis, Barbara Schlichting, August Schwerdfeger, Kathy Spexet, Charity Tahmaseb, Susan Thoburn, Richard Thompson, Christopher Valen, Robyn Van Horn, Marilyn Victor, Celia Waldock, Deborah Woodworth
(This listing contains the names of those members who have their dues for 2008. If your name is missing from this updated list, please let one of the officers know. Thank you.)

Officers & Officianalia of Twin Sisters In Crime

President Marilyn Victor
Vice President Jesse Chandler
Treasurer Lori Lake
Secretary Michael Allan Mallory
Newsletter editor Bill Fietzer

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

Web maven Charity Tahmaseb.

Interested in the Twin Sisters chapter of Sisters in Crime? Visit www.twincitysync.org. Or call Lori Lake at LLLake-Author@comcast.net. To become a member, you must first join the national Sisters in Crime organization at <http://www.sistersincrime.org/>. Our local chapter dues are \$10 a year. Local meetings are held at 7 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month (except 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).