

All Points Bulletin

*The Twin Cities Sister in Crime Member Newsletter
May 2008*

Toxicology and More

Lindsey Garfield, a forensic scientist and crime scene team leader with the Toxicology Section of the BCA, will be our guest speaker on Tuesday evening, May 6th. She also serves as BCA Toxicology Section liaison to MNCASA regarding drug facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) and to Region's Hospital SARS nurses regarding sexual assaults and DFSA. Her training includes almost every aspect of crime scene detection including arson, alternate light sources, shooting reconstructions, clandestine graves, blood collection and bullet trajectory. She has been a crime scene instructor at Metro State University, Hamline University and Bloomington PD and has been instructor to five Minnesota regions of the DFSA.

For the Merry Month of May

Our May meeting returns to its usual first Tuesday slot on May 6th at:

*Once Upon A Crime
604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)*

Minutes of the April Meeting

Old Business:

Marilyn Victor asked for more member input in the newsletter. Feel free to submit book reviews, conference notes, information on upcoming conventions, etc. There will be a question emailed each month. Answer if you can and responses will be in the newsletter.

New Business:

A workshop on editing is tentatively set for June 1. It will probably be held at the Common Root (formerly Soba's on the corner of 26th and Lyndale)

A reminder that anyone interested is welcome to adjourn to the French Meadow after the meeting for continued conversation and possibly dessert.

The discussion book this month was *Stalemate* by Iris Johansen. The protagonist is a forensic sculptor working on skull reconstruction. This entry in the series had many subplots, CIA operatives, and gun runners. Johansen's books work off an ensemble cast with different characters taking the lead. There were mixed reactions to this novel.

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Books for future meetings:

May – *Salaryman's Wife* by Sujata Massey

June – *Last Lessons of Summer* by Margaret Maron

September – *Silent in the Grave* by Deanna Raybourn

(No meetings in July or August)

Our speaker for the evening was Beth Eilers from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). Beth also worked for the Lakeville Police and is a canine handler. Her first dog came from Czechoslovakia and she needed to learn the commands in Czech before she could teach her the English equivalent. Beth told us the difference between drug sniffing dogs and bomb sniffing dogs. She spoke at length about certification procedures for dogs and handlers, training methods, and recognizing puppies with potential. She brought her dog with her and we were able to meet her after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Reis

Same Tune for June

Our June meeting will take place in its usual Tuesday slot before our summer hiatus.

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

President's Feature: Question of the Month

For our follow-up question Marilyn and I decided to tour the dark side of last month's question. The question for May: **What is the scariest or most horrifying or vilest villain you've ever read?** The replies we received appear below:

Actually, the scariest villains I've encountered are in some of Ann Rule's true crime books. I remember especially the father in "If You Really Loved Me". The fact that this guy was a real person really creeped me out.

In fiction, my vote goes for Jay Varney in Thomas Perry's *Pursuit*. This is a guy who, as a contracted hit-man, kills everybody in a restaurant (13 in all), in order to cover up the fact that this was actually a "hit" on only one of the patrons. I guess you'd have to call that overkill — Gary (Once Upon a Crime)

I don't have very many true villains in my memory banks (I *do* read cozies!) and of course, you are thinking of *fiction*, not newspapers. Batman is billed as the "world's greatest detective", and if comics count, the vileness record is pretty well captured by the Joker. For Pete's sake, I'd rather have the Red Skull as a neighbor! — Ellen Kuhfeld

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I vote for Hannibal Lector from *Silence of the Lambs* — Celia Waldock

The "Maddog" killer in John Sandford's first Lucas Davenport novel, *Rules of Prey* scared the crap out of me. He was so devious, so relentless, so devoid of real feeling in his serial killing, and so very sneaky in the ways that he got in women's houses that the minute I was done with the book, I went out to the hardware store and bought locks for our sash windows. I still remember the killer's name, and it's been nearly 20 years since I read that book! (The locks are still working just fine on the windows) :-) — Lori Lake

Since we actually are members I shall let you know that Blake Crouch (St. Martins Press) *Desert Places* had one of the most evil types ever. Andrew Thomas, a novelist, gets caught up in a killing spree which involved his brother. (Sad to say this horrific mystery is now out of print.) I read it in its entirety and was appalled all the way through. — Pat (Once Upon a Crime)

Easy one for me: Mrs Danvers (*Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier) — Julie Fasciana

All of these choices are great and very creepy with some new ones I'm unfamiliar with and will be excited to read. As for my choices, Hannibal Lector creeped me out when I first came across him in *Red Dragon*. And Mrs. Danvers also was hypnotically chilling in protecting her mistress's domain. In classical literature Uriah Heep in Dickens' *David Copperfield* is particularly creepy in his unctuous takeover of Mr. Wickfield's school. The calculated, unflinching revenge of Montresor in Poe's short story, "The Cask of Amontillado," horrified me when I first read it.

The story that scared me most of all, however, was the filmed version of *Forbidden Planet* with its "monsters from the id." I was so frightened when I left the theater that I walked all the way home down the middle of the street to give myself a head start in case the monster should materialize from behind one of the houses. It never occurred to me in my eight-year-old's sense of logic that the only way those monsters became visible was though their being caught in the cross-fire of neutron beam ray guns that hadn't been invented yet.

Unfortunately, as Gary says above, the behavior of true life villains seems to trump the depravity of the best fictional characters. Can any fictional character's actions be more monstrous and despicable than those of Josef Fritzl, the Austrian engineer who raped his daughter and imprisoned her and their incestuous offspring in a dungeon beneath his house for 24 years? —Bill Fietzer

Members Wanted for Writers Group

Looking for a YA and adult genre fiction writers group? Please contact Celia Waldock, at cawaldock@yahoo.com. The group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m in Ham Lake.

Member's Websites

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

Resort to Murder
<http://www.resorttomurder.blogspot.com/>

Sisters In Crime Blog Crimespace
<http://crimespace.ning.com/profile/SistersInCrime>

Probable Cause (Christopher Valen)
www.christophervalen.com/blog

If you have a website or blog you'd like to have listed here, please contact our newsletter editor, Bill Fietzer at wfietzer@comcast.net.

Upcoming Mystery Conventions

Mayhem in the Midlands

9th Annual Conference, May 22 - May 25, 2008

Omaha, Nebraska

Sponsored by the Omaha Public Library

Guest of Honor : Alex Kava

Toastmaster of Honor : Jeff Abbott

<http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/mayhem/>

Crimefest

June 5 -8, 2008

Bristol, United Kingdom

Featured Guest Authors: Lee child, Karin Fossum and Ian Rankin

Toastrix: Natasha Cooper

www.crimefest.com

International Mystery Writers' Festival

June 12 -22, 2008

Owensboro, KY

www.newmysteries.org

877.639.6978

Deadly Ink

June 20 – 22, 2008

Parsippany, NJ

Guest on Honor: Jane K. Cleland

Toastmaster: Troy Cook

www.deadlyink.com

ThrillerFest

July 9 - 12, 2008

New York, NY

James Patterson: ThrillerMaster

Spotlight Authors: Brad Thor, Kathy Reichs, Eric Van Lustbader

<http://www.thrillerwriters.org>

Diversicon 16

August 1-3, 2008

Minneapolis, MN

Guest of Honor: Anne Frasier

Posthumous Guests of Honor: Sir Alfred Hitchcock, Scheherazade and Jack Williamson

www.diversicon.org

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

New England Crime Bake Conference

November 14 – 16, 2008

Dedham, MA

Guest of Honor: Harlan Coben

www.crimebake.org

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

Upcoming Events at Once Upon A Crime

Tues. May 6 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. Book for the night is: *The Salaryman's Wife* by Sujata Massey.

Thurs. May 8 - 7:00 **John Sandford**, *Phantom Prey* - MN author - Reception/Signing.

Sat. May 10 - 12:00-2:00 **Anthony Neil Smith**, *Yellow Medicine* MN author - Reception/Signing.

Mon. May 12 - 7:00 **Robert Alexander**, *The Romanov Bride* - Launch party/Signing.

Wed. May 14 - 6:30 **Mystery Book Club** meeting. Book for the night is: *A Perfect Evil* by Alex Kava.

Thu. May 15 - 7:00 **David Housewright** *Madman on A Drum* - Launch party/refreshments/signing.

Sat. May 17 - 12:00-2:00 **Kathleen Hills** *The Kingdom Where Nobody Dies*.

Tues. May 20 - 7:00 **Terri Persons** *Blind Rage*.

Thu. May 22 - 7:00 **Ellen Hawley** *Open Line* (non-mystery with a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*) from a favorite local author now living in England.

Tues. May 27 - 7:00 **C. J. Box** *Blood Trail*.

Tues. Jun 3 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. (Last meeting until September.) Book for the night is: *The Last Lessons of Summer* by Margaret Maron.

Wed. June 4 - 7:00 **John Connolly** *The Reapers* in the Charlie Parker Series.

Thu. June 5 - 7:00 **Craig Johnson** *Another Man's Moccasins*.

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Sat. June 21 - 12:00-2:00 **Julie Hyzy** *State of the Onion* and **Michael Black** *Random Victim*.

Sat. June 28 - 12:00-2:00 **Jess Lourey** *August Moon*.

Thu. July 10 - 7:00 **Victoria Houston** *Dead Hot Shot*.

Tues. July 15 - 7:00 **Julie Kramer** *Stalking Susan* - MN author debut.

Sat. July 19 - 12:00-2:00 **Brent Ghelfi** *Volk's Shadow* Signing/Refreshments.

Tues. Sep 2 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. Book for the night is: *Silent in the Grave* by Deanna Raybourn.

Wed. Sep 3 - 7:00 **William Kent Krueger** *Red Knife* Publication party.

Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Members

Judy Balthazor, Colleen Barnett, Carl Brookins, Jessie Chandler, Barbara DaCosta, Pat Dennis, Julie Fasciana, William Fietzer, Barbara Fister, Anne Frasier, Ellen Hart, Erin Hart, Susan Hastings, Carol Hedberg, Camille Hyytinen, Bobbye Johnson, Julie Kramer, Wm. Krueger, Ellen Kuhfeld, Lori L. Lake, Jess Lourey, Michael Mallory, Sujata Massey, Lori Ness, Todd New, Once Upon a Crime, Diane Pearson, Kim Reis, August Schwerdfeger, Kathy Spexet, Charity Tahmaseb, Susan Thoburn, Richard Thompson, Christopher Valen, Robyn Van Horn, Marilyn Victor, Celia Waldock, Deborah Woodworth

(This updated list 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 Kathy Spexet
Treasurer Lori Lake
Secretary Kim Reis
Newsletter editor Bill Fietzer
Web maven Charity Tahmaseb.

Interested in the Twin Sisters chapter of Sisters in Crime? Visit www.twincitysinc.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.