

All Points Bulletin

*The Twin Cities Sister In Crime Member Newsletter
Jan 2008*

Some things Olde, Some things Great Housekeeping Issues Begin our 2008

Our December meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The speaker for the evening, paranormal researcher and author, Chad Lewis, will be rescheduled for another meeting later in the year. We will discuss December's book, *Amen Corner*, at our January meeting. Be ready to suggest new titles for our upcoming discussions. We also need to come up with ideas for new speakers and/or areas of sleuthing to investigate. Bring your best ideas (at least an open mind) to our January meeting.

*Tuesday, January 8th, 7 PM Once Upon A Crime
604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)*

Meeting Date Changes for 2008

Our first meeting in January falls on New Years Day in 2008, so we will be moving the meeting to the 2nd Tuesday. Our February meeting will also be moved to the second Tuesday of the month -- Minnesota mystery author Brian Freeman will be speaking on Feb. 5th. And in April, we will be meeting on Wednesday, April 2.

Treasurer's Report for 2007

On January 1, 2008, Lori L. Lake assumed the duties of treasurer. As of December 31, 2007, the coffers for Twin Cities Sisters in Crime contain \$804.00. This does not include the member renewals/new member checks for 2008 which will soon be deposited in our new checking account.

Reminder: If you haven't yet renewed/joined, please fill out the Membership Form and send it over to Lori (cf. following).

Membership Renewal for 2008

Don't forget to renew your membership with the national organization by filling out the organization's application/renewal form on their website at <http://www.sistersincrime.org>. Dues for the national are \$40 (If you would like to be listed in their 2008 directory you must renew by January 31, 2008). Once you have done that, you can pay your local dues of \$10. The local chapter is no longer collecting and paying national dues for members

***Q & A With Lori L. Lake
who also writes as Lori Alcott***



Lori L. Lake is the author of ***Snow Moon Rising***, a novel of survival set during World War II, which received a 2007 Golden Crown Literary Award as well as the 2007 Ann Bannon Popular Choice Winner. She is the creator of the “Gun” series, which is a trilogy consisting of romance/police procedurals ***Gun Shy*** and ***Under The Gun*** and the adventure/thriller ***Have Gun We’ll Travel***. Her first novel, ***Ricochet In Time***, was about a hate crime. She has also written two books of short stories, a standalone romance, and edited two story anthologies.

Lori teaches fiction writing courses at The Loft Literary Center, the largest independent writing community in the nation. She lives in Hastings, Minnesota, with her partner of 26 years and is currently at work on a mystery series and a How-To Book about the craft of writing. For more information, see her website at www.lorillake.com.

Question 1: If you could acquire a talent/skill just by asking, what would you ask for and why?

Answer: I’d like to be able to play any musical instrument I pick up. I’ve always wanted to learn to *read* music, but everything I’ve ever done playing the guitar has had to be by ear. I don’t know what happened to my brain, but despite music lessons, I’ve been unable to learn much past the rudiments of musical notation. I’ve been playing guitar for 36 years entirely by ear. I sure wish I could play piano and drums and French horn and trumpet and harp and on and on and on...

Question 2: If you were taking a long flight—15 hours or more—who would you like to sit next to, picking anyone past or present?

Answer: Someone very skinny. <g> Seriously, I know I should be picking some famous mystery genius like Agatha Christie or John D. MacDonald or Laura Lippman, but to be honest, I’d take 15 hours with my mom. She just died 15 months ago, and as every day goes by, I find that there are more things I’d like to know about her life, my childhood, our family, etc. than I ever expected. I wish I had a good 15 hours of her on videotape talking about her life. I’d pay quite a lot of money to fly 15 hours with her sitting next to me.

Question 3: What author are you reading right now?

Answer: I’ve started Sujata Massey’s *The Salaryman’s Wife*, which is the January book selection at the Roseville Barnes & Noble mystery group I facilitate. I just finished CJ

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

Box's third mystery in his Joe Pickett series, and the day before that, I finished Charlaine Harris's third in her new "Grave" series.

Question 4: If you could be the hero/heroine in any book, which would it be?

Answer: For a hero, I guess I can't resist Lee Child's Jack Reacher, and for heroine it'd be a tie between Marcia Muller's Sharon McCone and Thomas Perry's Jane Whitefield.

Question 5: If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

Answer: I don't mean to be greedy, but how about all of them?

Question 6: Who are three of your favorite mystery writers?

Answer: Oh, this is hard to pick only three! If I stick with writers who are clearly *mystery* writers, I would have to pick Ellen Hart, Marcia Muller, and Bill Pronzini. But how can anyone expect me to leave out William Kent Krueger, Julia Spencer Fleming, Sue Grafton, John Lescroart, Laurie R. King, Jacqueline Winspear, and Nevada Barr? There are so many writers these days who are straddling mystery/thriller (Lee Childs) or mystery/suspense (Thomas Perry) or mystery/adventure (CJ Box), and I could add zillions of others who take a good mystery and do all kinds of cool things with it during every new series installment. I very much admire authors who incorporate new technology and/or topical social issues and marry them to good old-fashioned storytelling.

Question 7: Why do you write or read mysteries?

Answer: In all good fiction, I like a puzzle, I love a chase, I very much enjoy suspense and danger, and I like to get all of that from the comforts of my easy chair. I've been reading mysteries since third grade, when I discovered Gardner's Perry Mason series, and I still remember the heady experience of gobbling up all of those "The Case of..." books.

I like to write mysteries because they're a huge challenge, they're fun, and I have to learn new things all the time to keep my sleuths on their toes and the plot and subplots interesting. Besides, there is no other genre so well suited to the devious way my mind works as the world of crime fiction.

Question 8: 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?

Answer: After I had an 20x20-foot two-story addition added to the back of my house with a library and my office in the upper level, I would fund two chairs at The Loft Literary Center – one for Crime Fiction and the other for GLBT Fiction. I'd also establish some sort of Mystery Prize system that would provide living expenses for talented crime writers. I think I'd have a good time starting up a high school program as well – one where crime fiction writers go to English classes and speak to and mentor the students.

With all that money, I would love to help found a production company that would film mysteries for TV. To me, the best TV shows have an element of mystery and ethics and danger and all sorts of imaginative stuff going on. I'd like to see more mystery reflected in the programming. I could go on and on - I'm sure I'd think of a lot of other good works to devote time and energy to as well. I bet I'd run out of that \$100 million a lot faster than anyone could imagine!

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

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>

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

Love is Murder

On Dark and Stormy Nights
Feb. 1-3, 2008, Wyndham O'Hare, Chicago
www.loveismurder.net

Sleuthfest

Feb. 28th-March 2nd, Deerfield Beach Hilton, Florida
Lee Child, Guest of Honor
<http://www.mwa-florida.org/sleuthfest.htm>

Left Coast Crime

Murder on the Rocks

Stephen White Guest of Honor
Elaine Viets, Toastmaster
March 6 - 9, 2008, Denver, Co.
<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2008/>

Noir Con

A conference dedicated to the celebration of Noir
April 3 - 6, 2008,
www.noircon.com

Malice Domestic XX

April 25-27, 2008
Arlington Virginia
International Guest of Honor-Lindsey Davis
Guest of Honor- Charlaine Harris
Lifetime Achievement- Peter Lovesey
<http://www.malicedomestic.org>

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/>

Upcoming Events at Once Upon A Crime

Fri. Jan 4 - 7:00 **Sara Paretsky** “Bleeding Kansas.”

Tues. Jan 8 - **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*. **First Tuesday of the month falls on New Years' Day, so we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday this time.**

Wed. Jan 9 - 6:30 **Mystery Book Club** meeting. Kent Krueger facilitates and Margaret Coel's *Eagle Catcher* is the book for the night.

Mon. Jan 14 - 7:00 **C. J. Box** “Blue Heaven.”

Wed. Jan 16 - 7:00 **Richard A. Thompson** “Fiddle Game.”

Thu. Jan 17 - 7:00 **Carl Brookins** “Bloody Halls” and **Ellen Hart** “Mortal Groove.”

Tues. Feb 5 - 7:00 **Brian Freeman** “Stalked.”

Tues. Feb 12 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*. **Temporary change of date to second Tuesday of the month. We'll go back to first Tuesday in March.**

Wed. Feb 13 - 6:30 **Mystery Book Club** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*.

Tues. Feb 19 - 7:00 **Nancy Atherton** “Aunt Dimity Vampire Hunter.”

Tues. Mar 4 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*.

Wed. Feb 13 - 6:30 **Mystery Book Club** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*.

Sat. Mar 22 - **Sixth Annual Write of Spring** -

Sat. Mar 29 - 4:00 **Laura Lippman** “Another Thing to Fall.”

Thu. Mar 27 - 7:00 **Libby Fischer Hellmann** “Easy Innocence.”

Tues. Apr 1 - 7:00 MN/S. African author **Michael Stanley** “A Carrion Death.”

Wed. Apr 2 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters In Crime** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*. **Temporary change of date to Wednesday. We'll go back to first Tuesday in May.**

Wed. Apr 9 - 6:30 **Mystery Book Club** meeting. Book for the night is: *TBA*.

Fri. Apr 18 - 7:00 **Susan Runholt** “The Mystery of the Third Lucretia.”

Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Members

Ginger Anderson, Myles Bakke, Judy Borger, Carl Brookins, Janet Contursi, Pat Dennis, Debra Erager, Heather Farmer, Julie Fasciana, William Fietzer, Diane Finney, Anne Frasier, Lois Greiman, Ginny Harris, Erin Hart, Susan Hastings, Carol Hedberg, Camille Hyytinen, Bobbye Johnson, Ellen Kuhfield, Lori L. Lake, Michael Mallory, Sujata Massey, JoAnn Moser, Wendy Nelson, Lori Ness, Todd New, Kathleen Nordstrom, Judy Overmier, Diane Pearson, Kim Reis, Barbara Schlichting, August Schwerdfeger, Richard Thompson, Robyn Van Horn, Marilyn Victor, Deborah Woodworth

If your name is missing from this 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 Wendy Nelson at (952) 233-0215. To become a member, you must first join the national Sisters in Crime organization. Easy to do at <http://www.sistersincrimel.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).



Dorothy Sayers, 1893-1957