

All Points Bulletin

The Twin Cities Sister in Crime Member Newsletter
November 2008

Post-Election Redux

Wednesday, November 5th, at 7 PM
Once Upon A Crime
604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)

Dudded Out?

Does the uniform make the man/woman? Find out from Julie Deshler, Operations Manager for Uniforms Unlimited gives us a presentation about what a police officer's uniform consists of, who pays for it, how long items last, and the company's history.

The book we'll be discussing is *Beautiful Lies* by **Lisa Unger**

Minutes of the October Meeting

The Twin Cities Book Festival will be held October 11th at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College from 10-5 and it is free of charge. We will have a table where our members can display promotional materials and sell and sign books. Thanks to **Diane Pearson** and **Barbara Fister** for coordinating this event.

The November meeting has been changed to the first Wednesday due to elections on our regular meeting night.

A thank you has been sent to **Joanna Campbell Slan** for her event at the St Louis Park library titled "Blasting the Writers Block" sponsored by the Friends of the Library. There were approximately 10 attendees.

Nominations were opened and the following people were nominated for officer positions:

President – **Marilyn Victor**
Vice President – **Jessie Chandler**
Secretary – **Michael Mallory**
Treasurer – **Lori Lake**
Editor – **Bill Fietzer**
Webmaster – **Charity Tahmaseb**

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Nominations will open again at the November meeting and elections will be held. The new board will take office at the January meeting.

Several members offered to form a programming committee. They are **Barbara DaCosta, Lori Lake, and Jessie Chandler**. If you are also interested, please see one of them for more info.

We would like to have a brainstorming session in November for programming ideas. A few ideas are already in the works including a uniform store and a public defender.

Lori Lake reminded us that dues will be due in December. Watch for an email from her shortly and remember to renew your national membership before renewing your local membership.

The book for this month was *Rain Fall* by **Barry Eisler**.

Future reads:

November – *Beautiful Lies* by **Lisa Unger**

December – *Blind Spot* by **Terri Persons**

January – *Blue Heaven* by **C. J. Box**

Our speakers for the evening were **Brian Freeman, Mary Logue, and David Housewright** with information about getting published and promotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Reis

December Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd, at Once Upon A Crime, 604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale). Our guest will be Lauri Traub, assistant public defender for Dakota County and the book we'll be discussing is *Blind Spot* by Terri Persons.

President's Message

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the Twin Cities Book Festival a huge success. We talked to scores of people about our organization, made new friends and signed up several new members.

After the dubious pleasure of having twin surgeries the Monday after the bookfestival, I was given six weeks off work to recuperate. It seemed like a gift from the Gods – forgetting of course that in order to get those weeks off I am now missing several medically declared useless glands and organs. Preferring to look on the bright side, I made plans for all that extra time. Too many plans. I'm already burned through half of

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that free time and seem to have accomplished very little. Or maybe it's that I've attempted too much. I dreamed of finishing the research on my family tree, forgetting how exhausting reading centuries old Swedish church records can be. I was certain that I would have at least two novels plotted, if not written by the end of my convalesce. Ha! Turns out that rewrites of the current book are more time consuming than I thought. Or maybe it's just that the old adage of "work expands to fill the time allotted" is true. With nothing but self-imposed deadlines, and no time crunches, the day rolls before me in endless hours of opportunity, until I realize its gotten away from me. I have a feeling that the week before returning to my job, I'll be overcome with panic and will accomplish more in that last week than I did in the five before it. Sometimes it's good to be busy.

Marilyn Victor

Treasurer's Report

Third Quarter 2008:

INCOME	Debit	Credit	Totals
Member Dues		20.00	
Other income: (\$806 2007 Carryover)		.00	
Income Sub-Total For Qtr		20.00	20.00
2008 RUNNING CREDIT TOTAL		440.00	\$1246.00
EXPENDITURES	Debit	Credit	Totals
Office Supplies	23.45		
Other Expense: J. Slan Honorarium	50.00		
Other Expense: TC Book Festival Fee	105.00		
Other Expense: Postage Stamps	42.00		
Other: To OUAC for VP Books	21.57		
Expenditure Sub-Total For Qtr	242.02		\$242.02
2008 RUNNING DEBIT TOTAL	553.86		\$553.86
BALANCE as of September 30, 2008			\$692.14

We're still in the black.

Lori Lake

Twin Cities Book Festival

Representing our local chapter at the Twin Cities Book Festival was fun. Having never been actually on the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) campus, finding the event took a while. It took even longer to find SinC's table amongst all local publishers and individuals filling the Technical Building's central atrium.

Once settled, though, Lois, Diane, and I had a fine time during our hour staffing the booth handing out freebies about the local SinC chapter (nothing more fun than handing out stuff you haven't had to pay for) and talking literature with all the readers who drifted past our booth. When time allowed, I conversed with the folks in the booth next to me or talked shop (gossiped) with my colleagues. Our discussions grew so animated that one browser was prompted to buy copies of Marilyn and Michael's novel and my latest to see what all the discussion was all about.

So, the Festival proved profitable on a number of levels: SinC reached a source of potential new members and its authors gained new audiences. Just proves the old adage: when SinC members talk, people listen.

Reported by Bill Fietzer

Question of the Month

The *Newsletter's* movers and shakers (all two of us) decided to pursue a Halloween theme for the November newsletter. So the question we sent out was: What do you consider the scariest book or story you ever read?

The provocative and chilling (sometimes amusing) responses follow below:

The scariest thing I ever read in recent memory was the news that **George W. Bush** had been reelected. — Submitted by Carl Brookins

I can't read books that are too scary any more. [However,] *The Silence of the Lambs* by **Thomas Harris** was the scariest for me. **Val McDermid's** *The Last Temptation* and **Steve Thayer's** *The Wheat Field* were close seconds. — Submitted by Maureen Fischer

I don't do scary. Scary scares me. I remember shrieking my way through the movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, as a child. :) — Submitted by Lois Greiman

The Shining. **Stephen King** — Submitted by Julie Kramer

I avoid scary with great vigor. That's one of the reasons I like cozies! — Submitted by Ellen Kuhfeld

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One of the most fright-inducing books I've ever read was the first Lucas Davenport book, *Rules of Prey*, by **John Sandford**. That murderer and his methods scared me so badly that after I finished, I got in the car, drove to the hardware store, bought crescent-type sash locks for all the main floor single-hung windows, and installed them that very night. Even though the fictional villain dies at the end of the book, to this day I still remember his amoral and diabolically clever methods to relentlessly capture, assault, and kill women. Scary!! — Submitted by Lori Lake

It was a short story by **Stephen King**, 'I am The Doorway' from his book *Night Shift*

Short description of the story: "Description: Arthur was a deep space astronaut on project Zeus, and was infected by a strange bug during a mission to Venus. On his return to earth, he was seriously injured when the parachutes failed. Arthur lost the use of his legs, while his partner, Cory, was killed. He retired to peaceful Key Caroline. Arthur's fingers began to hurt, and before he realized it, his fingers had eyes - literally. The eyes began to control him, making him kill a young local boy, and cause the death of his good friend Richard. Panicking, he destroys the new eyes by burning his hands off. That was 7 years ago, and now he lives with hooks for hands, but there is a new problem - 12 eyes in a perfect circle on his chest!" — Submitted by Kathleen Nordstrom

Silence of the Lambs. — Submitted by Mary Monica Pulver

No scary tale from me. I don't read the really scary ones. Come to think of it though, the scariest are the regular guy next door stories. Makes you take a second look at your neighbors... — Submitted by Kim Reis

I've mostly found that self-consciously scary stories aren't. **Dean Koontz** has some deliciously creepy scenes in *Dark Rivers of the Heart*, but most of the book works too hard at it. Ironically, the most consistently chilling book I've read in years is **Ken Follett's** *Jackdaws*, which is actually a World War II espionage story. One scene in particular, about breaking an agent out of a Gestapo torture chamber is absolutely riveting.

I would also give honorable mention to the genuinely frightening scenes set in the deep anthracite coal mines, in **Martin Cruz Smith's** historical mystery, *Rose*. — Submitted by Rich Thompson

Heart-Shaped Box by **Joe Hill**. I was looking for a paranormal mystery and came across this. It seemed simple enough: aging not-so-nice heavy metal rocker buys a ghost on eBay. But it quickly escalated into one of the scariest books I've ever read. It wasn't until later I learned that Joe Hill is **Stephen King's** son. He certainly inherited his father's scary genes. — Submitted by Marilyn Victor

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OK, the old stand-bys are well-represented in the list along with some local writers and a few unfamiliar (to me) titles and stories. Kim Reis and Carl Brookins' responses remind us that real life can be much scarier and more horrifying than the best fiction. What can be scarier than the genocides in Rwanda and Kosovo or the incestuous torture and suffering Elizabeth Fritzl experienced at the hands of her father, Josef?

These real life accounts have prompted an ongoing personal boycott of things scary ever since I first came across Hannibal Lecter playing a minor role in **Thomas Harris' Red Dragon**. Before that I had been traumatized by **Edgar Allan Poe's "A Cask of Amontillado"** and **Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho**. But, the real chiller for me was witnessing the "Monster from the Id" outlined by the neutron beams in *Forbidden Planet*. With an eight-year-old's logic, I afterwards walked all the way home from that movie down the middle of the street to give myself a running start should one of those invisible beasts attack me from behind one of the houses. — Submitted by Bill Fietzer

Musts to Avoid

Avoiding the Booksigning Blues by Lois Greiman

Once upon a time, I was a young, hopeful author who dreamed of selling my first novel. I could imagine it all. I'd be a superstar and host signings with something of a circus atmosphere. Readers would line up around the block tittering with excitement as they waited to buy my latest sparkling prose.

But, when I finally sold my first book back in '92 things were a little different. Booksignings, it seemed, were a bit more like funerals than circuses. Sometimes there were actual tears. (But I was generally able to console the bookseller by assuring her she'd never have to have me back again.)

I'd like to say that things are different now. That after selling nearly 30 titles, my book events are joyous occasions where it's the readers who are in tears, weeping with eager-ness and anticipation for just a smattering of my literary pearls. But well...not so much.

However, after more than 15 years as a published author I've learned a few things. Below, please find my ten most important tidbits of hard-won knowledge. They may help you avoid what I refer to as...the Booksigning Blues.

#10 Bring food to share at your event...something chocolately is always nice--or a full buffet is good too if cash and room allow.



Since selling her first book to Avon in 1992, Lois Greiman has sold 22 Romance novels, 5 mysteries and the first in her Witches of Mayfair series. Her Highland novels have received Affaire de Couer's Critic's Choice Award, Romantic Times K.I.S.S. Award, and been nominated for Romance Writer's of America's prestigious Rita. Her titles have appeared on Barnes and Nobles Best Selling Romance list and won her the Midwest Fiction Writer's Rising Star Award.

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#9 Look happy... granted, this is not always a simple task. Hallucinogenic drugs may be helpful.

#8 When you learn that A. There's not a single copy of your book in a 90 mile radius B. The retailer has never heard of you or C. The store has gone out of business, remain upbeat. In fact, try to cash in on the seller's mistake. Guilt is our friend. i.e. "Okay, you forgot I exist. Perhaps you could order in a couple thousand copies of my next book."

#7 Display a sign that declares you to be a local author. (Local is anywhere in your native country, right?) This helps prevent customers from asking for directions to the nearest bathroom. (No guarantees on this one. People always ask where the bathroom is.)

#6 Keep a store of book plates (I buy address labels by the gross) so the bookseller can paste autographed stickers into the books they neglected to order in.

#5 Bring handouts. Bring lots of handouts. Distribute to anyone who seems to be breathing.

#4 Bribe your friends into coming. Crowds attract crowds. I admit that I no longer have friends willing to be bribed so I have to hire shills to stand around and make me look important but... c'est la vie.

#3 Be accessible--talk to the people who are A., Writing a book; B, Want to write a book; C, Are considering maybe someday possibly writing a book; or D, (my personal favorite) Believe wholeheartedly that you should write their book.

#2 Get off your butt. There are few things that make an author look more pathetic than sitting behind a table like a lump of lard... believe me. So... stand up, walk around, engage people, hand out your fabulous bookmarks, and smile.

#1 If you can possibly get someone to sit in on your signings and forge your signature for you, by all means, do so. I mean, really, there's no reason to be more masochistic than necessary.

Okay, there they are... my ten best book signing tips. So... go forth my brave authors. Sell books, live long, and... well... prosper if you can.

Lois Greiman

All Points Bulletins

Marilyn Victor and Michael Allan Mallory's mystery, *Death Roll*, has just been released as an audio book from Books in Motion. It is available in CD format or as an MP3 download.

All Aboard?

A recent email from a SinC member:

I just read the Love Is Murder conference for 2009 announcement. Since airfare is so expensive, a few friends and I are taking Amtrak. Anyone else want to join us on the train? Please contact Kathleen Nordstrom at kxnordstrom@comcast.net.

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
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/>

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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

New England Crime Bake Conference

November 14 – 16, 2008

Dedham, MA

Guest of Honor: Harlan Coben

www.crimebake.org

Tony Hillerman Writers Conference: Focus on Mystery

November 5 – 9, 2008

Albuquerque, NM

<http://wordharvest.com/>

Murder and Mayhem in Muskego

November 8, 2008

Muskego, WI

<http://www.murderandmayheminmuskego.com/>

Love is Murder

February 6–8, 2009

Chicago, IL

Guests of Honor: Jeffrey Deaver, Alex Kava, Steve Berry, Sharan Newman

Local Guest of Honor: Raymond Benson

<http://www.loveismurder.net>

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Sleuthfest

February 26 – March 1, 2009

Deefield Beach, FL

Guests of Honor: John Hart and Brad Melzer

<http://www.mwaflorida.org/sleuthfest.htm>

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

Wed. Nov. 5 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters in Crime** meeting. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE BECAUSE OF ELECTION DAY:** Book for the night is: Lisa Unger's *Beautiful Lies*.

Sat. Nov 8 - 12:00-2:00 **Jan Dunlap** *The Boreal Owl Murder*.

Tues. Nov 11 - 7:00 **Sean Chercover** *Trigger City*.

Wed. Nov 12 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Wm. Kent Krueger. Book for the night is **CJ Box's** *Open Season*.

Sat. Nov 22 - 12-2:00 **John Galligan** *Clinch Knot* and **Mary Logue** *Point No Point* for a signing only.

Tues. Dec. 2 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is **Terri Person's** *Blind Spot*.

Thu. Dec 4 - 7:00 **Monica Ferris** *Thai Die*. Reading/Signing/refreshments.

Sat. Dec 6 - 12:00-2:00 **Laura Childs** *Eggs In Purgatory* (New series: "Cackleberry Club" paperback original) Refreshments.

Wed. Dec 10 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Carl Brookins. Book for the night is **Julie Hyzy's** *State of the Onion*.

Tues. Jan 6 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is CJ Box's *Blue Heaven*.

Wed. Jan 14 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Ellen Hart. Book for the night is **Sean Chercover's** *Big City, Bad Blood*.

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, Wm. 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 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.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.