

All Points Bulletin

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

Just in Time for Halloween?



***Our Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 7th, at 7 PM
Once Upon A Crime
604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)***

Guests:

***Minnesota authors David Housewright, Mary Logue and Brian Freeman
Book Discussion:
“Rain Fall” by Barry Eisler***



Minutes of the September Meeting

Future reads:

- October – *Rain Fall* by Barry Eisler
- November – *Beautiful Lies* by Lisa Unger
- December – *Blind Spot* by Terri Persons
- January – *Blue Heaven* by C J Box

The Midwest Independent Book Show table, discussed in June, was dropped due to time constraints. We did, however, ask a committee, chaired by Barbara Fister, to look into the Twin Cities Book Festival on October 11th at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Authors will be able to display promotional material, and sell and sign books. We will need people to man the table. Contact Diane Pearson if you have promotional materials to donate. You are limited to 100 pieces each of two items. Contact Barbara if you are interested in working.

We have a new email address: tcistersincrime@yahoo.com

Yahoo group address: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TwinCitiesSinC/>

Midwest Fiction Writers met September 27

On September 11th the Friends of the St Louis Park library had a workshop on “Blasting the Writers Block.” It is open to the public and free of charge.

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There is a blogging discussion at the Edina library on Tuesday September 9th at 6:30.

Future speaker ideas include a uniform company and publishing or marketing people.

Lori Lake asked if quarterly treasurer's reports were satisfactory and it was agreed.

Marilyn reminded us that nominations open in October with elections in November. The November meeting is moved to the first Wednesday due to elections.

Silent in the Grave by Deanna Raybourn was the book for this month. It is a historical mystery where a woman realizes much later that her husband's death was murder. Only a few had read it which limited discussion.

Our speaker for the evening was fellow member, Colleen Barnett, who has written a three volume encyclopedia on women in mysteries. She compares society and female characters through the decades. She supplied a nice handout and many members took copious notes.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Reis
Secretary

Next Month's Meeting

Due to election day, our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, at Once Upon A Crime, 604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale). .

President's Message

It's good to take a deep breath once in awhile, stop and look at where we've been and where we're going. Over the last year, we've almost doubled our membership. We've had experts speak on forensics, K-9 training, and whistle blowing. We took a field trip to the BCA. We've discussed cozies, thrillers, and hard-boiled detective novels. We've discovered new authors and have made new friends.

This month it's time again to select our nominations for chapter officers; not as exciting as recent political nominations, but still necessary. We are fortunate to have a chapter filled with talented take-charge people, and I hope that some of you will seriously consider filling one of our upcoming vacancies. As I said in a recent e-mail, we can shake this club up in any way we want. If holding office seems too big a bite, take a smaller chunk and talk a fellow member into serving with you. Have some ideas as to the type of programs you'd like to see? Then please consider being part of a programming

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committee. There are many options and many opportunities. It's work, but also a lot of fun.

Marilyn Victor

Twin Cities Book Festival

Barbara Fister has put together the schedule for the Sisters in Crime table at the book festival happening October 11th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Diane Pearson has been collecting promotional materials for anyone who can't be there but would like to have up to 100 pieces of two items (i.e. 100 postcards and 100 bookmarks) available at the table. Her e-mail contact is st10ar@comcast.net - but don't delay, since time's growing short!

We're looking forward to seeing you all there, especially those of you who live too far from the cities to make it to regular meetings.

The draft schedule:

- 10 - 11 Michael Allen Mallory & Marilyn Victor
- 11 - 12 Lois Greiman, Diane Pearson, & Bill Fietzer
- 12 - 1 Erin Hart & Colleen Barnett
- 1 - 2 Christopher Valen & Camille Hyytinen
- 2-3 Linda Morganstein & Jenifer LeClair
- 3 - 4 Lori Lake & Susan Hastings
- 4 -5 Barbara Fister & Pat Frovarp

Barbara Fister

Question of the Month

This month's question involves giving it your best first shot. The question: What do you feel is the most memorable opening line in a book?

- "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again." from *Rebecca* by Daphne duMaurier
Submitted by Julie Kramer
- "My bodyguard was mowing the yard wearing her pink bikini when the man fell from the sky." from *Dead Over Heels* by Charlaine Harris
Submitted by Lori Lake

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- "It was a dark and stormy night." from *Paul Clifford* by Edward Bulwer-Lytton or "What do you mean he's dead?" [No source given]
Submitted by Kathleen Nordstrom
- "It's a new elevator, freshly pressed to the rails, and it's not built to fall this fast."
from *The Intuitionist* by Colston Cooper.
Submitted by Diane Pearson
- "My basic philosophy is simple: People are like ice cream." from *Abby Cooper: Psychic Eye* by Victoria Laurie.
Submitted by Marilyn Victor

Some writers and literature experts claim the best first line in a mystery is this one:

"When I finally caught up with Abraham Trahearne, he was drinking beer with an alcoholic bulldog named Fireball Roberts in a ramshackle joint just outside of Sonoma, California, drinking the heart right out of a fine spring afternoon." from *The Last Good Kiss* (1978) by James Crumley.

By the way, the line immortalized by Snoopy continues as follows:

; the rain fell in torrents, except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the house-tops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness."

My own favorite, among many:

"James Bond, with two double bourbons inside him, sat in the final departure lounge of Miami Airport and thought about life and death.: from *Goldfinger* by Ian Fleming
Submitted by Bill Fietzer

Self-Promotion Gone Mad ***By Anne Frasier***

Self promotion has become expected and required. The more the better. Three years ago my editor presented me with a list of possible self-promotion ideas. Here are some of them in order of what she perceived to be the most important.

- Start a blog
- Make a book trailer
- Have online contests
- Attend more conferences
- Join more organizations and become active in those organizations

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- Get involved in more online groups and online events
- Give talks at libraries, travel to small towns and speaking engagements
- Visit more bookstores and introduce yourself
- Enter books in contests
- Put together a mailing list and monthly newsletter

Whew. And those were just the ones I chose to use. The argument for all of this is that publishers have no idea if any of it helps, but it certainly can't hurt.

Wrong.

The few who agree with me about the futility of self promotion usually say it takes away from a writer's writing time. That's true. I was spending 60% of my writing day on promotion. The 40% allocated for actual writing often ended up as a recharge and recovery period because creativity and energy had been tapped out. But self promotion also took away my free time, leaving me mentally exhausted.

It wouldn't have been so bad if my efforts had mattered, but we are all just kids at our individual Kool-Aid stands, holding up our signs, begging people to stop and buy. And on every corner is another Kool-Aid stand serving up another version of cherry-flavored anxiety.

Friends and neighbors shuffle over. But mainly we just stand around and drink our own stuff and go check out the other stands to see what flavors they're selling that day. And while we're trying to sell outside the broken yet established system, delivery trucks go by taking Kool-Aid to stores all over the country.

New York Magazine recently published an outstanding article on the demise of books: <http://nymag.com/news/media/50279/>

“The book business as we know it will not be living happily ever after. With sales stagnating, CEO heads rolling, big-name authors playing musical chairs, and Amazon looming as the new boogeyman, publishing might have to look for its future outside the corporate world.” New York Magazine

These are desperate times for everybody in the book business, but I think it's unrealistic for editors and publishing houses to look to writers to solve the crisis.

I can't fix the book business. All I can do is stop wasting time and energy on my Kool-Aid stand and get back to writing.



Anne Frasier is a USA Today bestselling author of nineteen novels. Her novels have spanned the genres of mystery, thriller, romantic suspense, paranormal, science fiction, and horror. Publishers Weekly says Frasier "has perfected the art of making a reader's skin crawl." The Minneapolis Star Tribune calls her a "master."

Book Reviews

Dial Me for Murder by Amanda Matetsky
September 2008, Berkley Prime Crime

Dial Me for Murder is the fifth and final book in the Paige Turner mystery series, which is set in New York City in the 1950s, rife with Eisenhower era references and mores. The unfortunately named Paige Turner (she gets teased a lot) is the only female staff member of *Daring Detective* magazine, where she endures the sexism of her male coworkers and a society in which single women cannot enter a night club without a male escort.

When the naked body of a beautiful prostitute is found murdered in Central Park, Paige wants to write about the story for the magazine but is stymied as her over-bearing boss assigns the task to a male staff writer. Fortunately, the nosey amateur sleuth and magazine writer gets a break when the murder victim's madam telephones Paige and anxiously insists that only she can do the dead girl justice by investigating her murder. At the suggestion of her gorgeous, over-sexed bohemian neighbor, Abby Moscovitz, Paige and Abby go undercover as high-priced call girls to interview one of the key suspects at the Copacabana. One way to skirt the male escort rule!

This series is light and zippy, full of frothy energy like a root beer float on a hot summer day, a welcome break after too many forays down fictional mean streets with psychopathic killers. What makes this series fun and engaging is Paige's narrative voice, which is full of sass, angst and quirky charm.

Michael A. Mallory

All Points Bulletins

In November, Ellen Hart's 24th mystery, *Sweet Poison*, will be released from St. Martin's. It's the 16th in the Jane Lawless series. Hardcover.

Also in November, the trade paperback of last years mystery, *The Mortal Groove*, will be available. *The Mortal Groove* is a Lambda Literary Award nominee.

Bella Books has just offered Ellen Hart a contract to reprint all the Jane Lawless books that have been out of print for years. They will be starting with *A Small Sacrifice*, *Faint Praise*, and *Robber's Wine* in 2009, all award-winners. Bella will also be producing e/books and digital downloads of the series.

The *Chicago Tribune* reviewed Julie Kramer's debut: "It's hard to believe that *Stalking Susan* is Kramer's first novel. Her confident, witty writing style is as fluid as it is flawless—from developing the complex back story and the cast of offbeat characters to creating a sense of authenticity relating to life in the world of television news, Kramer's

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narrative sensibilities are spot-on throughout. Readers who enjoy novels by authors like Janet Evanovich will soon be stalking Julie Kramer—on the bookstore shelves, that is."

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/>

Riding with the Top Down (Lois Greiman)
<http://ridingwiththetopdown.blogspot.com/>

Killer Hobbies (Mary Kuhfeld-Monica Ferris)
<http://killerhobbies.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

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. Oct 7 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters in Crime** meeting. Book for the night is Barry Eisler's *Rain Fall*. Special Panel: **Mary Logue, Brian Freeman, & David Housewright** will talk about their work and the publishing world and answer questions regarding promotions.

Wed. Oct 8 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Ellen Hart. Book for the night is Tana French's *In the Woods*.

Thu. Oct 9 - 7:00 **Alex Kava** "Exposed" (Maggie O'Dell series) Reading & Signing.

Thu. Oct 23 - 7:00 **Larry Millett with William Swanson** *Murder Has a Public Face* (foreword by Bill Swanson) Dial M Launch party with refreshments.

Wed. Oct 29 - 6.30 **Vince Flynn** *Extreme Measure*. Signing only.

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*.

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*.

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.

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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*.

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, Bobby 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 & Officialalia 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.