

# All Points Bulletin

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

## *September Speaker Bio*

**Laurie Hertz** is the Senior Editor for Books and Special Projects at the Minneapolis Star Tribune. She is in charge of books coverage, book reviews and the Minnesota Profile. Laurie will explain what it's like being the books editor for a large daily newspaper, trends in publishing and how she manages to sort through the mountain of books she gets each month to choose the ones that get reviewed. And more!

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## *Next Meeting Date*

*Tuesday, September 1st, at 7 PM  
Once Upon A Crime  
604 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)*

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## *Minutes of the June Meeting*

The meeting was called to order by **Marilyn Victor**.

There was no old business.

Members were encouraged to contribute book reviews or articles about writing or the publishing industry for the newsletter.

The book selection was *A Fatal Grace*, by **Louise Penny**. A few members had read the book, whose main setting is a small town in Quebec. Viewpoints were mixed. One reader found the story an interesting French Canadian mystery, while another found the pace slow.

The guest speaker was **Diane Ferreira**, a mental health counselor with over thirty years experience working in law enforcement and the corrections system. The focus of her talk was how to avoid stereotypes when writing about police and criminals.

### ***Bad stereotypes:***

- Every jailer is awful. They're bad SOBs who only want to beat up people. Not so.
- Women of the street all have sordid pasts and drink. Quite the opposite.
- Don't do good cop, bad good in your stories.

***Suggestions for a more well-rounded character:***

- Diane said nobody goes into law enforcement to better the world. What they're looking for is authority over the scary elements of society.
- Law enforcement people are fearful, which is why they sometimes cross the line or drink or do other questionable acts. The most important thing a cop wants to do on his shift is to go home at the end of the day.
- Under the hardness of a cop is often a tenderness that's altruistic. Law enforcement people want to keep all people safe, not just themselves.
- An unwritten code in law enforcement circles is that cops aren't supposed to admit the pressures of the job gets to them. To admit as much will get a cop fired.

Michael Allan Mallory  
Club Secretary

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***Next Meeting (Different Night!)***

Our next meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday in October 6th, at Once Upon A Crime, 604 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale). Our guest will be **Julie McKuras** who will speak about Sherlock Holmes.

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***President's Message***

Welcome back!

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing summer -- Ok. Don't laugh. Relaxing summers are for those lucky kids who get three months off from school. Too bad we didn't appreciate those days as much as we should have at the time. I remember spending my summers riding my bike back and forth to Longfellow Library and the rest of the time sitting under the shade of a tree at Lake Nokomis reading whatever treasures I had found. Sigh.

See you all next week!

Marilyn Victor

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***September Question of the Month***

To help us retain some of the nostalgia for the summer since passed, this month's question was: For all of you lying on a beach or by the lake this summer, what has been the best book you've read during this away time? Listed below are the responses which you may want to consult when looking for a tome to snuggle with this upcoming winter:

### *Twin Cities Sisters In Crime*

- I've read a lot more this summer, partly because I didn't bother to convert my TV. Good ones included: **D.W. Buffa's** *Trial by Fire*, **Hallie Ephron's** *Never Tell a Lie*, **Michael Connelly's** *The Brass Verdict*. All solidly written and captivating.— Barbara DaCosta
- I'll highlight some excellent international crime that I read this summer (Maybe more than you want!):
  - \***Deon Meyer's** *Blood Safari* - a bodyguard tries to protect a woman searching for her long-missing brother in post-Apartheid (but not totally post) South Africa.
  - \***Karin Fossun's** *The Water's Edge* - not an escapist read, but a sensitive and subtle yet very powerful story about a how a community reacts to the murder of a child by a pedophile. And all that in only 240 pages!
  - \***Stieg Larsson's** *The Girl Who Played With Fire* - second in the *Millennium Trilogy* and quite gripping.
  - \*I will also mention **Jarkko Sipila's** *Against The Wall* - the first English translation of a popular Finnish crime writer published by a new small press in Minnesota dedicated to Finnish translations, Ice Cold Crime. A gritty procedural set in Helsinki  
— Barbara Fister
- **Timothy Hallinan**, *Breathing Water*; **Linda Castillo**, *Sworn to Silence*. — Pat Frovarp
- *The Venus Fix* by **M. J. Rose**. *Happy Summer!* Won't be able to say that much longer. :-) — C. Hyytinen
- I'd have to go with *Get Real* by **Donald Westlake**. It's a Dortmunder story - what more needs be said? — Ellen Kuhfeld
- The best book I read over the summer was *Consequences of Sin* by **Clare Langley-Hawthorne**, an Australian writer who just became a U.S. citizen. CoS is set in pre-World War I England and features young heiress Ursula Marlow. Charming characters and a serpentine plot keep things interesting. Impressive period details pepper this Edwardian mystery, which travels from London, to Scotland, to the South American jungles. — Michael A. Mallory
- Most books we read aren't out yet - we get the advance review copy. Possibly the best has been *Tower* by two of our favorite authors in collaboration: **Ken Bruen & Reed Farrel Coleman**. It's a slim volume, at about 150 pages. Fascinating enough that you'll want to read it twice. Due out in September from "Busted Flush Press". — Gary Schulze
- Well, I don't do beach, but I did read an excellent book called *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, by **Matthew B. Crawford**. It's sort of a handbook for curmudgeons like me who would like it if the information age would go wander off a cliff somewhere, twittering all the way down. — Rich Thompson

### *Twin Cities Sisters In Crime*

- I took a break from reading mysteries this summer. Instead I've been reading the excellent Codex Alera series by **Jim Butcher**. I've read *Furies of Calderon*, *Cursor's Fury* and *Captain's Fury*. He writes some of the best action scenes I've ever read and is a master at putting his characters through hell. Can't wait to pick up book four in the series. I'll also admit to having read an historical romance novel this summer, *Outlander* by **Diana Gabaldon**. A time-travel novel set against the Jacobite uprising in Scotland, the obstacles the hero and heroine overcome to be together go way beyond the usual personal misunderstandings that prevail through most romance novels. I'm looking forward to picking up the sequel. — Marilyn Victor
- *Skinny Dip* by **Carl Hiaasen**. — Celia Waldock
- Two books culled from the many fine thrillers and mysteries that came out of Thrillerfest were **James Rollins'** *The Last Oracle* and **William Bernhardt's** *Capitol Conspiracy*. For a change of pace (not too much of one) I'm reading *Angel of Grosny* by **Asne Seierstad**, a non-fiction account of that Norwegian reporter's experiences covering the Chechnyan rebellion. — William Fietzer

You now have plenty to choose from this list for the winter evenings ahead. Happy reading!

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### *Upcoming Elections*

It's been said that if you want to get something done, ask a really busy person. Busy people somehow manage to get things done and get them done quickly and efficiently. With that in mind, we're hoping that some of our very busy members will consider stepping up and consider running for a vacant office. Nominations take place at our October meeting, we vote in November and new officers take over in January 2010.

The position of Chapter President will be open. Marilyn Victor has held the position for four years and feels it's time to step down and give someone else the opportunity to lead the group. If you're interested, please feel free to contact her and she'll be happy to talk with you about the responsibilities of the position.

Lori Lake's departure has left an opening for someone to fill as our membership coordinator/treasurer and/or join our programming committee. You would be responsible for handling our chapter's funds, sending out renewal notices and collecting membership fees, maintaining the membership roster and keeping our newsletter editor updated on membership and the treasurer's report.

As a programming committee member, you would help to secure our monthly guest speakers. If you're interested, please let Marilyn or one of our other officers know. We'd be happy to discuss it with you.

### ***Member News***

Starting on September 14th, Ellen Hart will be teaching a twelve-week class at The Loft Literary Center: *Writing The Modern Mystery*. For more information, you can also check out Ellen's website -- Events and Classes, or contact The Loft directly at [www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org) This will be her thirteenth year teaching the class and is a favorite there.

Several SinC members have short stories in the new anthology *Once Upon A Crime*. Check out stories by Richard Thompson, William Kent Krueger, Lori Lake, Sujata Massey, Anne Frasier, Pat Dennis, Maureen Fischer and Marilyn Victor. The book was put together as a tribute to our favorite booksellers at Once Upon A Crime bookstore and proceeds will be given to nonprofit organizations that help leukemia patients, such as a blood bank.

Lori Lake is heading for greener pastures – or at least wetter ones. She has made the very hard decision to leave Minnesota and go back to Oregon where her family lives. As she still has lots of friends here, we're hoping she'll get to come back and visit often. We'll miss you Lori!

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### ***ThrillerFest***

One of the Thrillerfest highlights for me this year was the K-9 demonstration--both tactical dogs and explosives detection--by the fun law enforcement folks at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. A bomb sniffing dog worked the audience to pick out author Rip Gerber (PHARMA) who had been planted with a suspicious bag. Another dog, named Ithaca, followed attack instructions and lunged teeth first at panel master Andrew Peterson (FIRST TO KILL), who luckily was wearing a padded protective sleeve.

"That pooch was strong for his size," Peterson said. "My only real concern? What if Ithaca misses the sleeve?"

The **Clive Cussler** Roast was nearly an hour of laughs as the almost 90 year old author took it from his editor and co-authors on his writing as well as his personal life. But Cussler was a good sport and gave as good as he got.

One of the best parts of ITW is the debut author program it offers its newest authors. Those who attend Thrillerfest are welcomed into the thriller fold to wild applause at a giant conference breakfast. Last year, I was one of the debutantes and this year while I part of the breakfast audience, I kept remembering the warm and fuzzy feelings I had for my debut class. I felt that the cyber friendships I made among other fledgling authors helped me through an unpredictable year and gave me mentor advice from bestselling authors. So when you land your first deal, join this subgroup of ITW.

This year, I spoke on a panel called "Is the Job a Requirement?" and we discussed

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whether real life experience makes for better books. While I know plenty of imaginative writers who can create vivid worlds for their characters, I know reality and news has gotten me where I am today. Because the conference is set in New York, Thrillerfest also gave me an opportunity to meet with my agent and editors this summer.

The ITW Board announced it is continuing the no dues policy for published authors who become members. So if you're not a member, join. It's an exciting group of authors, industry professionals and fans.

Of course now, all I can think about is Bouchercon.

Submitted by  
Julie Kramer

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As you may or may not know, ThrillerFest is comprised of three different parts: Craftfest, Agentfest, and the conference itself, which culminates in the awards banquet on Saturday evening. The intensity of the experience pitching my manuscript to agents at the Agentfest portion of the convention has been documented elsewhere (Check out "Notes from ThrillerFest" at [williamfietzer.com](http://williamfietzer.com)). But the necessary prequel to that experience for an inexperienced writer finding his or her first agent or an experienced writer looking for an agent with more motivation is Craftfest held the day before.

While all of the presenters provided useful information, two sessions proved most useful to me personally. The first was **Robert Dugoni's** "Catching an Agent's Attention: Writing the Knockout Query and Synopsis." Besides his list of Things Not to Do such as bad grammar, typos, overly long, and/or sounding difficult to work with, Mr. Dugoni also discussed the importance of theme (one word), brief description (1-2 sentences that focus on the protagonist), ultimate goal (what your protagonist needs), word count, and credentials. Perhaps most informative was his game theory injunction to cheat in your synopsis. By this he meant simply to whet agents' appetites by not telling everything so they will ask for the first 50 pages.

**Jon Land** and **Kathleen Antrim** picked up on this gaming thread during their joint presentation "How to Pitch Your Book." For them pitching a manuscript is a "What if?" procedure that involves ten steps:

1. Be passionate
2. Be yourself
3. Engage the audience, i.e. the agent
4. Be prepared to be challenged
5. Be able to compare yourself and your manuscript to others
6. Maintain eye contact
7. Be spontaneous
8. Leave time for discussion
9. Be prepared

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10. Make them love the characters

All of us spent time trying to pare our 300-400 page manuscripts to 17 words, give or take a couple. Most of the agents at Agentfest the next day were not as formidable as the list of injunctions above may make them appear, but readying myself beforehand made the three to four minutes spent with each one much more productive.

Submitted by  
William Fietzer

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*Upcoming Events*

The Midwest Fiction Writers has teamed up this year with the Screenwriters' Workshop to bring **Michael Hauge** in for a workshop. Last year's workshop with **Donald Maas** was excellent, so I highly recommend going if you can. Price includes a continental breakfast and lunch. --

The Midwest Fiction Writers  
Fall Harvest of Writing Essentials  
and the Screenwriters' Workshop  
presents **Story Mastery** featuring **Michael Hauge**

**Saturday, September 26, 2009**  
**in Bloomington, MN**

Before 9/1/2009:

\$99 for MFW and SWW members; \$109 for non-members

After 9/1/2008, add \$10

During this all-day seminar, Hollywood script and story consultant, Michael Hauge, will present his unique approach to creating compelling fiction, and to eliciting emotion in your readers through story concept, plot structure, love stories, character development and theme.

Topics covered will include:

- \*The primary goal of all story
- \*The power of desire, need, longing and destiny
- \*The essential conflict all characters must face
- \*Turning plot structure from a complicated concept into a simple, powerful tool you can easily apply to every story
- \*The single key to creating character arc and theme
- \*Creating unique rules of romantic comedy: fantasy, duality, deceit
- \*Adapting your novel to film

To register, go to [www.midwestfiction.com](http://www.midwestfiction.com)

Email [mfworkshop@midwestfiction.com](mailto:mfworkshop@midwestfiction.com) with questions

Submitted by Marilyn Victor

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***Member's Websites***

(Carl Brookins) [www.minnesotacrimewave.org](http://www.minnesotacrimewave.org)  
(Pat Dennis) [www.penurypress.com](http://www.penurypress.com) or [comedybypatdennis.com](http://comedybypatdennis.com)  
(William Fietzer) [www.williamfietzer.com](http://www.williamfietzer.com)  
(Barbara Fister) [www.barbarafister.com](http://www.barbarafister.com)  
(Anne Fraiser) <http://www.annefrasier.com>  
(Jane Gilgun) [www.janegilgun.com](http://www.janegilgun.com)  
(Lois Greiman) [www.loisgreiman.com](http://www.loisgreiman.com)  
(Ellen Hart) [www.ellenhart.com](http://www.ellenhart.com)  
(Erin Hart) [www.erinhart.com](http://www.erinhart.com)  
(C. Hyytinen) [www.chyytinen.com](http://www.chyytinen.com)  
(Julie Kramer) [www.juliekramerbooks.com](http://www.juliekramerbooks.com)  
(William Kent Krueger) [www.williamkentkrueger.com](http://www.williamkentkrueger.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](http://www.lorillake.com)  
(Michael Allan Mallory and Marilyn Victor) [www.snakesjones.com](http://www.snakesjones.com)  
(Linda Morganstein) [www.lindamorganstein.com](http://www.lindamorganstein.com)  
(August Schwerdfeger) <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~schw0709/>  
(Richard Thompson) [www.fiddlegame.com](http://www.fiddlegame.com)  
(Christopher Valen) [www.christophervalen.com](http://www.christophervalen.com)

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***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](mailto:twinsisnewsletter@yahoo.com).

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***Upcoming Mystery Conventions***

**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

**The Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave**

A Celebration of Small-Town Mysteries

Holiday Inn at the campus, Manhattan, KS

October 30 - November 1, 2009

Guest of Honor: Earlene Fowler

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***Upcoming Events at Once Upon A Crime***

Tues. Sep 1 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is *Heart of the World (A Carlotta Carlyle Mystery)* by Linda Barnes.

Wed. Sep 2 - 7:00 **William Kent Krueger** *Heaven's Keep* - Publication Party with refreshments.

Tues. Sep 8 - 7:00 **David Ellis** *The Hidden Man* - Reading and signing.

Wed. Sep 9 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Marilyn Victor, Michael Mallory, Camille Hyytinen, and Lois Greiman. Book for the night is *14* by **J.T. Ellison**.

Thurs. Sep 10 - 7:00 **Jan Dunlap** *Murder on Warbler Weekend* - Launch party with refreshments.

Sat. Sep 12 - 12:00-2:00 **Christopher Valen** *The Black Minute*- Signing with refreshments to honor this new Minnesota Author and his second novel in the series set in our local setting.

Sat. Sep 19 - 12:00-2:00 **Michael A. Black** *Hostile Takeovers* PBO Signing.

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Sat. Sep 26 - 12:00-2:00 **Pete Hautman** *How to Steal a Car* - Young Adult book - Signing with refreshments.

Wed. Sep 30 - 7:00 **John Sandford** *Rough Country* (Virgil Flowers).

Tues. Oct 6 - 7:00 **Reed Farrel Coleman** "Tower" (co-written with **Ken Bruen**).

Thurs. Oct 8 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting \*\*\*Please Note Day/Date Change - next month it'll be back to the regular first Tuesday of the month.\*\*\***  
Book for the night is *Pegasus Descending (A Dave Robicheaux Novel)* by James Lee Burke.

Sat. Oct 10 - Noon-2:00 **Laura Childs** *Tragic Magic*.

Wed. Oct 14 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Marilyn Victor, Michael Mallory, Camille Hyytinen, and Lois Greiman. Book for the night is *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* by Steig Larsson.

Thurs. Oct 15 - 7:00 **Vince Flynn** *Pursuit of Honor* - Signing only.

Sun. Oct 25 - 2:00 - **Michael Connelly** *Nine Dragons* (Harry Bosch).

Sat. Dec 6 - 12:00-2:00 **Laura Childs** *Eggs Benedict Arnold* - Signing with refreshments.

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*Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Members*

Myles Bakke, Colleen Barnett, Carl Brookins, Marlene Chabot, Jessie Chandler, Barbara DaCosta, Pat Dennis, Julie Fasciana, William Fietzer, Maureen Fischer, Barbara Fister, Anne Frasier, Jane Gilgun, Lois Greiman, Ellen Hart, Erin Hart, Susan Hastings, Carol Hedberg, Camille Hyytinen, Theresa Jarvela, Bobbye Johnson, Julie Kramer, William Kent Krueger, Nicholas Johon Kroska, Ellen Kuhfeld, Lori L. Lake, Brian Landon, Jenifer LeClair, Jess Lourey, Caroline Lowe, Michael Allan Mallory, Linda Morganstein, Lori Ness, Todd New, Kathleen Nordstrom, Once Upon a Crime, Diane Pearson, Mary Monica Pulver, Kim Reis, Barbara Schlichting, August Schwerdfeger, Louise M. Signorelli, Sharon Smith, Chynne Strommen, Joan Sween, Charity Tahmaseb, 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 2009. If your name is missing from this updated list, please let one of the officers know. Thank you.)

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*Officers & Officianalia of Twin Sisters In Crime*

President Marilyn Victor  
Vice President Jesse Chandler

*Twin Cities Sisters In Crime*

Treasurer Lori Lake  
Secretary Michael Mallory  
Newsletter editor Bill Fietzer  
Web maven Charity Tahmaseb.

Interested in the Twin Sisters chapter of Sisters in Crime? Visit [www.twincitysinc.org](http://www.twincitysinc.org). Or e-mail us at [tcistersincrime@yahoo.com](mailto:tcistersincrime@yahoo.com). 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. 26<sup>th</sup>, Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405 (This is half a block east of the intersection of Lyndale and 26<sup>th</sup> in south Minneapolis).