

All Points Bulletin

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

No Need to Feel Defensive December's Guest Speaker

Lauri Traub is an assistant public defender for Dakota County. She graduated in the top 15% of her class at Hamline University and first worked doing ERISA Retirement law, which she says "was as exciting as watching paint dry. Well, really, paint drying is more exciting."

She ran for the Minnesota House in 2000 (lost) and when her job was eliminated in a merger, she took a job clerking for the Honorable **Edward Lynch** in Dakota County. She passed up lots of job offers with law firms and held out until she was hired by the First Judicial District Public Defenders Office. Her first assignment was as a juvenile PD in Scott County, and at one time had nine certification trials in five months (kept eight from certification and the one really deserved to be certified). Then she switched to adult felony/gross misdemeanor work in Carver County and was transferred to Dakota County in July as part of restructuring after the budget cuts. Best part of the job: *I feel like I make a difference in the world; Worst part of the job: a few clients have been just down right creepy! But that's a story for December 2!*

*Once More before Xmas
Twin Cities Sisters in Crime December Meeting
Tuesday, December 2nd, at 7 PM
Once Upon A Crime
604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale)*

Minutes of the November Meeting

The Twin Cities Book Festival was a success. Thanks to all who participated. We also talked to 10-12 prospective members.

The Mystery Writers of America- Midwest Chapter will be having their meeting at Once Upon a Crime on November 18th from 7:00pm -9:00pm. There will be a \$10 charge for dinner. They usually meet in the Chicago area and this is an attempt to move around their 12 state membership area. **Ann Gross** from the BCA will be speaking.

Elections were held and the proposed slate of officers was approved.

President – **Marilyn Victor**

Vice President – **Jessie Chandler**

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

Secretary – **Michael Mallory**
Treasurer – **Lori Lake**
Editor – **Bill Fietzer**
Webmaster – **Charity Tahmaseb**

Lori Lake is collecting dues for 2009. Remember to renew your national membership online or by mail.

The book for this evening was *Beautiful Lies* by **Lisa Unger**.

Future book discussions are:

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

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

Our speaker for the evening was **Julie Deschler** from Uniforms Unlimited, a store which provides uniforms for local police, firefighters, postal workers, health care providers, and transit drivers. She brought a Kevlar vest and some catalogs to show us and talked about the requirements of different departments and the limitations on what people can buy off the street.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Reis
Secretary

Janaury Meeting

Our Janaury meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6th, at Once Upon A Crime, 604 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis (East of Lyndale). We will be discussing *Blue Heaven* by C. J. Box and our guest will be a local professor who interviews criminals and will tell us exactly what makes them tick.

President's Message

Happy Holidays to everyone. As we gear up for the holiday season and the stress and frenzy that often come with it, it's nice to reflect on all that we have. We have a great group of people in our SinC chapter and I want to thank all of you for your help and support during the past year.

I know we are all thankful for the wonderful mystery authors who write the books that grace our bookshelves. I wish everyone was as avid a reader as our SinC members are. So, when you're making out your gift list, don't forget to share these wonderful tomes with your friends and family. Letting someone on your gift list SinC into a good mystery is the perfect present. And in these tough economic times don't forget that Once Upon A Crime offers a 10% discount to all SinC members!

Marilyn Victor

Mystery Writers of America Meeting

On November 18, the Midwest chapter of Mystery Writers of America held their meeting at Once Upon A Crime Bookstore. While not a member of MWA, the meeting was open to anyone who wanted to attend. There were a lot of familiar faces and some new ones and there was plenty of time to get to know each other before the meeting began. We all had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and I managed to get a couple of plugs in for our Sisters in Crime chapter. Hopefully, we'll be seeing some more new faces at our upcoming meetings.

The guest for the evening was Anne Marie Gross, Technical Leader at the BCA. She gave a very informative presentation on the history of DNA testing, the types of testing and how the tests are used today to solve criminal cases.

A special thanks to Jess Lourey for inviting us all to this great meeting. If you're interested in joining Mystery Writers of America, please check out their website for membership information: <http://www.mysterywriters.org/>

Reported by Marilyn Victor

Question of the Month

This month's question probed the essence of gratefulness, mystery reader/writer style. The responses received ranged from the frivolous to the metaphysical with everything in between. As such, they provide a respectable cross-section of the attitudes this newsletter has come to rely upon from our membership. For those who don't recall, the November question was: What are you going to give thanks for before chomping into that first turkey (or tofu turkey) drumstick in ten days?

I give thanks that Once Upon a Crime will continue to host our monthly gatherings, that we are able to be a part of this interesting and fun organization, and that Ellen Hart's newest Jane Lawless book *Sweet Poison* has been released!!! And may peace finally begin to reign in the US and abroad. — Jessie Chandler

I'm grateful for writer friends who understand the insanity of the literary business. — Lois Greiman

That is very simple: the gift of language, and the ability to use it. — Ellen Kuhfeld

In these economically chaotic times I'm thankful I have a job. I'm also thankful there's hope again in the world. And I'm thankful that some booksellers and readers are willing to take a chance on unknown writers; otherwise, how do we get to be known?—Michael A. Mallory

I am grateful that I will never run out of great books to read. — Robyn Van Horn

I'm thankful I had my gallbladder out! If I hadn't, the complications the doctors found may have been a lot more complicated. I feel as if I've dodged a bullet. —Marilyn Victor

I'm grateful to those members who took the time to respond to this month's question. And I'm thankful, too, that the American public in its wisdom elected a president for whom I voted, something that hasn't happened very often during the past 25 years. — William Fietzer

Member News

Julie Kramer's *Stalking Susan* got journalism raves from **Steve Weinberg** of the *Investigative Reporters and Editors Journal*. "For decades, when asked, I have answered that perhaps, the best journalism novel featuring an investigative reporter is "The Fly on the Wall" by **Tony Hillerman**.. Now, a worthy contemporary successor has arrived - a novel by Julie Kramer...most impressive of all is how real-life journalist Kramer conveys the investigative culture and specific techniques throughout the book. It is bound to educate non-journalist readers about the difficult, vital craft."

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
(Julie Kramer) www.juliekramerbooks.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/>

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

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

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>

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

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.

Twin Cities Sisters In Crime

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

Sat. Jan 3 - 2:00 **Carol O'Connell** *Bone by Bone* (US premier)

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*.

Tue. Jan 27 - 7:00 **KJ Erickson, Ellen Hart** (*Sweet Poison*), and **Mary Logue** (*Point No Point*) for a Panel Discussion and Q&A

Tues. Feb 3 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is TBA.

Wed. Feb 11 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by William Kent Krueger. Book for the night is Daphne DuMaurier's *Rebecca*.

Tues. Mar 3 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sister in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is TBA.

Sat. Mar 7 - 12:00 - 2:00 **Laura Childs** *Oolong Dead* Signing & Refreshments

Wed. Mar 11 - 6:30 **Mystery Reading Group** facilitated by Carl Brookins. Book for the night is Chuck Logan's *Absolute Zero*.

Sat. Mar 28 - 12:00-4:00 **The Seventh Annual Write of Spring** with *LOTS* of local authors, TBA.

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
WebMmaven 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.sistersincrimen.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).