



May/June 2011

TWIN CITIES SISTERS IN CRIME

All Points Bulletin

President's Message

Message from the President

Greetings to all sisters and brothers in crime!

Plans are afoot! We're gearing up for a spring membership drive, trying to get all those who have been meaning to join the chapter to do so. We'd love to have more participation from local writers, especially as Sisters in Crime is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. If you know anyone who'd like to join, please bring them along to a first Tuesday meeting. Local membership materials will soon be online, making it easier to join both the national SinC organization and the local chapter all at once.

We're working on setting up some important committee

tasks that could use your creative input:

- Writing and designing new local chapter membership materials
- Getting more fellow readers and writers to join Sisters in Crime
- Writing and designing a new promotional brochure to feature local SinC members
- Compiling a mailing list of Minnesota libraries and regional library systems
- Compiling a mailing list of regional independent bookstores.
- Expanding website to include more information on local SinC members and their work
- Regularly posting news on



Erin Hart is president of the Twin Cities Sisters in Crime chapter and author of the Nora Gavin/Comac Maguire mysteries

the Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Facebook page

- Regularly tweeting news on the Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Twitter page

Do you see anything on this list that matches up with any

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The Write Stuff The Road to Success

By Jessie Chandler



I've always been a voracious reader. More often than not, my nose is stuck between the pages of some adventure or mystery novel, and this fact would often upset my mom when we'd go on trips because I'd be reading instead of looking at the sights. Since she was the "li'bary lady," as the kids at school used to call my librarian mother, I'd always

tell her it was her own fault for introducing me to the seductive world of the written word.

In high school, I pumped out lots of poetry full of adolescent angst, but never pursued the craft any further than writing a required screenplay in Creative Writing class. "The Further Adventures of El Señor Taco Bob" was just awful. I still feel bad for my Spanish teacher.

As time went on, I always thought it'd be cool to write a novel, but never seriously contemplated actually doing it. One day, browsing in a

local bookstore, I stumbled across a copy of *The Intersection of Law and Desire* by JM Redmann. It was one of the first lesbian mysteries I'd ever read, other than Ellen Hart's Jane Lawless series. I absolutely fell in love with the characters and, when I finished it, searched for more JM Redmann titles. After some local library searches and prolonged Internet hunting, I tracked down the other three books in the series. I was in Micky Knight heaven until I read the final word of the fourth and - at that time - last book.

I prowled the internet, and

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Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Newsletter

The mission of Sisters in Crime is to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.

OFFICERS

Erin Hart, President
Jesse Chandler, Vice President
Barbara DaCosta, Secretary
Susan Hastings, Treasurer
Doug Ernst, Membership Coordinator
Charity Tahmaseb, Web Maven
Marilyn Victor, All Points Bulletin Editor

Newsletter Deadline

The next Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Newsletter, **July/August 2011**, will be sent out at the end of June. Please send us news of your latest publications, honors, awards for inclusion in the **July/August newsletter** by **June 1**. All columns, reports and articles are also due by **June 1**. If you have suggestions for articles or improving this newsletter, please contact the editor, Marilyn Victor via e-mail at tcsinnewsleter@gmail.com.

It's Time to Renew Your SinC Membership

Now is the time to renew your Sisters in Crime membership for 2011. Remember, to be a member of the Twin Cities chapter, you need to be a member of the national organization. You can do this online at www.sistersincrime.org. SinC dues are \$40 per year. Local chapter dues are \$10 year. For more information, please e-mail us at tcistersin-crime@yahoo.com



The President's Message (Continued from page 1)

of your skills? We're currently looking for anyone with marketing or graphic design experience who might like to help with writing and design on printed/online membership and promotion pieces. Likewise, if you have worked with mailing lists or databases, and could help SinC set up easy-to-maintain lists of library and bookstore contacts, we'd love to have your help. Social networking is another area where Twin Cities SinC can help writers connect with readers and fellow writers; with volunteers posting news about the Twin Cities crime writing community on our Facebook and Twitter pages, we can raise the profile of all our members. Perhaps we need to a meeting to find out more about how Facebooks and Twitter work, and how we can use them best as communication tools. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we'd like to expand our chapter website to include member profiles and more news about their latest books.

My goal is to get all of these tasks assigned to a specific person or a specific couple of people at the April meeting, with everyone reporting back in May

Plans are afoot! We're gearing up for a spring membership drive, trying to get all those who have been meaning to join the chapter to do so.

about their progress.

What's our timeline for all these great projects? It would be great to have the new membership and promotional brochures by June 1. It's not a terribly daunting task, since we'll use the new brochure from the Northeast SinC chapter as our model. We could concentrate on distributing the new brochures to libraries and bookstores all summer long, drumming up interest in the 2011 KILLER COCKTAILS event at the Midwest Booksellers Association trade show, now tentatively scheduled for September 21. Sisters in Crime is also planning to have a presence at two additional events, the Twin Cities Book Festival, and the Minnesota Library Association annual meeting, both held in October.

Just a reminder: The Sisters in Crime national organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary this fall, and we'd like to put together some traveling author panels that could go to libraries and bookstores, and billing their appearances as SinC 25th Anniversary events.

We've started streamlining planning for our Book of the Month—coordinating

our reading list with the Once Upon A Crime Mystery Book Club. We'd like to have books selected far enough in advance that everyone who wants to has time to read the book and prepare for discussion. There's not much time for book discussion when we have a guest speaker, so we're considering alternating book discussions with guest speakers. Let us know what you think.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining Sisters in Crime, please bring them along to the next meeting! We've got county prosecutor Nancy McLean lined up as a guest speaker for June (thanks to Colin Nelson), and I'm thinking that we may have another exciting organizational meeting in May.

In the meantime, have a great time welcoming the spring — and don't forget to write like you mean it!

Erin Hart
Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Chapter President

P.S. If you'd like to volunteer or have ideas to share, but can't make a meeting, please feel free to contact me directly...

[651-698-2258](tel:651-698-2258) home
[612-532-2532](tel:612-532-2532) cell
[mail@erinhart.com](mailto:erin@erinhart.com)

SinC MEMBERS AT THE BLOOMINGTON WRITERS FESTIVAL



The Road to Success

(Continued from page 1)

in 2004 accidentally stumbled on a website called NaNoWriMo.org -- better known as the online home for the National Novel Writing Month challenge. The goal during NaNo is to shut off your inner critic, drink a lot of caffeine, and attempt to pour out 50,000 words in one month. Slam the pedal to the keyboard, kick some serious writing butt. I thought maybe I could write my own characters and not have to be depressed when the story ended. I knew not one thing about writing aside from the papers I'd slaved over in college, and boy, I hated to write them. Nevertheless, I thought, what the hell, I'll give it a whirl. What could happen in thirty days anyway?

Little did I know when I began that I would indeed crank out 50,000 words of a thriller I named *Operation Rose Seller*. I used all the goofy little tricks I'd read about on the NaNo website, like NEVER using contractions (it helps pad your word count), and when you can't think of anything else to write, type in some song lyrics or Shakespeare sonnets. With this not-so-sage advice, I actually finished the novel by the summer of 2005. It was a great plot with mostly ghastly execution, and a few flashes of not-quite brilliance. We all have to start somewhere.

I took my first Loft Literary Center class with local mystery author Ellen Hart - an introduction to the mysterious world of mystery writing. Ellen was an awesome teacher, filling in all the gaps that were missing in my knowledge of the mystery genre. She helped me trust that with hard work, dedication, and lots of luck, I could be published. She believed in me, and that went a long, long way.

Full of newfound confidence, I tackled my second NaNoWriMo. By December 1st, I had again written 50,000 words, and managed to finish up the manuscript by spring of 2006. *Operation Stop Hate* was a better effort, but I still wasn't there quite yet.

I took a class called Queer Writing from ex-local author Lori L. Lake. Lori's class really changed my outlook on my writing, and I realized there was SO much I needed to learn. I had no idea what I didn't know. It was one of those "I didn't

know what I didn't know, and when I realized how much I didn't know, I freaked out" deals. I worked through the shock of that, and came out the other side a more confident, better writer. Every day I continue to learn something new about the craft.

November 2006 rolled around. NaNoWriMo - Take Three. The manuscript, *Bingo Nuts*, was born. Time I began to hit my stride.

My mom was a very heavy smoker, and was diagnosed in spring of 2007 with stage-four lung cancer that had metastasized to her brain. Almost everything to do with my writing came to a screeching halt as Betty, my partner, and I shuttled my mom to twenty-four radiation appointments, multiple CAT scans, MRI's, numerous chemo sessions, and doctor's appointments. Even though I wasn't writing, I attended Ellen Hart's class one last time. The class kept me close to the craft, and Ellen was her usual supportive self.

In the winter of '08, I took Lori Lake's Queer Writing class again. I seem to see a theme of sticking around when I find a good thing going! This was a dream class. From the way the students clicked to the 200% effort Lori gave in taking the time to find out and provide exactly what we wanted to learn was awesome. As my mom's illness progressed, I found the class helped me escape for just a little while each week into a place that wasn't so grim. After a terrible battle, Mom passed away in March of 2008. All I can say about hospice workers is that they're all very special angels in uniform, and I hold them in the highest regard.

I finally started work again on revisions and edits of *Bingo Nuts* in the fall of '08. I changed the name of the manuscript to *Bingo! It's Murder*. Revisions continued through much of 2009. In October, I attended my first Bouchercon. A few author friends and I met up with Ellen Hart for lunch one day during the conference. Ellen encouraged me to give the mainstream presses, as opposed to lesbian presses, a shot. This was something I hadn't seriously considered. I always expected I'd go with one of the lesbian publishers, and while the thought of at-

tempting mainstream was daunting since my main character/sleuth is a lesbian, I decided to go for it. GLBT presence in the mainstream is always challenging to find, and if I could fill that role and bring another strong, gay character to a larger audience, I felt I should give it a try. I went home and did some final edits. I figured if nothing else, this would be a great experience in dealing with rejection letters.

I took a deep breath and submitted *Bingo! It's Murder* to Midnight Ink, here in the Twin Cities. Not long after submission, I received an email from the acquisitions editor, Terri Bischoff, and she was interested in meeting to talk about my manuscript. After I regained consciousness and picked myself off the floor, I returned her email and told her I'd be more than delighted to get together.

We met and discussed my manuscript. Terri was interested in pitching the book to the powers that be, and I went into shock. With a just a few changes, she told me she'd bring it to the acquisitions board. I went home, dove into the revisions she suggested, and resubmitted the manuscript within a week. Then the long wait began.

February 9, 2010, Terri emailed me with a three-book contract offer. I was working alone at the time the email came through, and I had not a soul to share this astonishing news with. I finally called Betty at her workplace, and all she could make out from me was, "They...They...They," as my voice was up about ten octaves. Poor thing thought I'd been in an accident, or something had happened at the store that "they" had done. I don't think I stopped smiling the entire day.

So, *Bingo! It's Murder* became *Bingo Barge Murder*, which, as of Saturday April 2nd 2011, is on the shelves of Once Upon a Crime Mystery Bookstore and True Colors Bookstore, and is also available on Amazon.com. The official release date was May 8th, but Midnight Ink had the book printed early so I could be a part of the 9th annual Write of Spring at Once Upon a Crime. I joined dozens of other authors for a fantastic day of sign-

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The Road to Success
(Continued from page 4)

ing books and meeting new folks. It was such an amazing feeling seeing my dream materialize, and my book in the hands of people who were not my family or friends.

I didn't start writing with the goal of being published in mind. I did it because I was having fun with it, and it felt good and right. The fact that I did hit my own literary jackpot is just gravy. I'd still be waiting for November so I could tackle the challenges of NaNo one more time. But, instead of waiting till next fall to feed my inner wordsmith, I just finish the second book in the series. It took me seven months—and only turned it in four days late. I do have to say this effort

wasn't quite as captivating as the previous three books. Deadlines do change the perspective of things! However, in the end, it was just as big a rush to write that last word as it had been for the prior manuscripts, and I was again in turns thrilled that I'd actually done it and terrified it was going to suck rotten eggs. The verdict is yet to be announced, but my fingers are crossed. And number three is swirling in and out of my brain, so I better sit myself in front of my laptop and get busy. The best advice I can give any writer is this: never give up, write what is in your heart, and click the save button often!

Minnesota resident Jessie Chandler is the Vice President of the Twin Cities chapter of Sisters in Crime, and her job is to review a new mystery every month.



After a long stint as a State Patrol 911 dispatcher and a short stint as a police officer, Jessie decided to try her hand at writing about crime. When she isn't toiling away at the keyboard or reading novels of mayhem and suspense, she's a

*bookseller at Borders, and sells unique, artsy T-shirts and other assorted trinkets to unsuspecting festival goers. Jessie lives with Betty, her partner of many years. **Bingo Barge Murder** is her debut novel.*

Minutes from Our Last Meetings

MARCH 2011

Our March meeting, capably led by Vice President Jesse Chandler, featured:

Member News: Rich Thompson's new book *Big Wheat* received a write-up in the *New York Times*! Signed copies are available through **Once Upon a Crime**.

Book of the month: *Faithless*, by Karin Slaughter, a good read, good writer..

Speaker: A lively, informative talk about law enforcement in the wilds. Our speaker, **Lt. Jason Peterson**, is a Conservation Officer with the Department of Natural Resources.

"COs" used to be called "Game Wardens." The change in name in the 1960s came with changes in the concept of the job, as things like wetland preservation, and monitoring of motorized recreational vehicles came into play.

Peterson grew up in the country, did farm work, hunted, fished, and trapped. He loves working outside, which eventually led him to study botany and such.

When he later entered the law enforcement work world, he first became a highway patrolman, as that's where the jobs were. He later moved to the DNR, where he now supervises a district that encompasses four counties with eight officers.

Peterson explained that COs are licensed to enforce laws all over the state, and are not tied to a particular jurisdiction. They share dispatching with the State Patrol. Their mission is to protect Minnesota's natural resources. They enforce in particular, game and fish licenses and limits, boating while intoxicated, safety issues, and poaching of animals, plants, and trees,

COs usually work solo, and so their training focuses heavily on how to de-escalate situations. They assist other law agencies as needed, especially in counties with few personnel. Local counties sometimes buy equipment for COs as budget is not big enough.

COs don't do diving. Local agencies would have trained dive teams. A body in the water is first treated as crime scene. Then they check for suicides and drownings.

Other outdoors law enforcement in-

cludes US Park Rangers; State Parks are run by managers and staff who have limited law enforcement (firewood, loud campers -usually call for help with the latter).

COs often do undercover work, for example to watch people if they're over-fishing, or hunting, or catching speeding boats.

They take action if a crime is happening, apprehend and call in investigators from local jurisdiction. They help with fleeing people and warrants. Small-staffed counties work together daily. State lines good to other side of river. Lake Superior joint with County, federal, Border Patrol, Coast Guard.

Yes, situations have heightened danger due to presence of guns and knives, so training to de-escalate is important. A Conservation Officer's job is a lot about interaction with people. They often give educational talks, as many people are unaware of the laws, especially people who are new to the area, such as immigrants. They also give firearm safety classes.

Offenders are not always caught first

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Deadly Doses—Book Reviews by Carl Brookins



Blacklight Blue
by Peter May, 2010
ISBN:9781590585528
from Poisoned Pen Press
hard cover, 326 pages

Another in May's series with the crusty Scot Enzo MacLeod, former ace forensic scientist. Living now in France, Enzo struggles with relationships with his two daughters, and abruptly with several coordinated attacks on his relatively well-ordered life.

This novel is the third in May's excellent cold case series. A French writer has done

a book about a series of old unsolved murders and a reward has been offered for anyone who can solve the cases. But unlike earlier efforts, here the target seems to be striking preemptively at Enzo and his family.

A crime novel with more than the usual twists and elements that are not what they appear to be on the surface. Enzo answers a lot of questions in the course of determining who killed a man named Lambert. But there is a lot more of substance in this emotional tale. It will entertain, mystify and perplex, right up to the very end.

Carl Brookins
is the author of three
mystery series:
the Michael
Tanner/Mary Whitney sailing adventure mysteries, the Sean Sean Minneapolis detective series and Jack Marston, a mid-level administrator at an urban college. He has reviewed mystery fiction for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and for Mystery Scene Magazine.



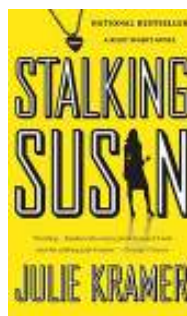
Up For Discussion

Discuss these exciting mysteries at an upcoming Twin Cities Sisters in Crime Chapter Meeting



Vengeance by Jarkko Sipila (May SinC Selection)

Vengeance is the second in the Helsinki Homicide series by Jarkko Sipila. The first, *Against the Wall*, won the 2009 Finnish Crime Novel of the Year Award. In this novel, Tapani Larsson, a Finnish crime boss, walks out of prison with only one thing on his mind: Vengeance. Wanting to reclaim his gang's honor and avenge those who have wronged him, Larsson targets Suhonen, the undercover detective who put him in prison. Meanwhile, Suhonen's best friend, an ex-con himself, wants to wash his hands of crime, but in the process, is driven deeper into it. With the help of Lieutenant Takamäki, and the National Bureau of Investigation, Suhonen hunts for the loose thread that could unravel the entire gang. But with every string he pulls, he flirts with death itself. Reviewed by Peter Ohlsoon of Scandinavianbooks.com: "I loved it. *Vengeance* is suspenseful, exciting, fast paced, and written in a crisp style, full of cynicism and dark humor. It simply doesn't get any better than this. An excellent book, strongly recommended."



Stalking Susan by Julie Kramer (May Selection, OUAC Mystery Book Club, June SinC Selection)

Television reporter Riley Spartz is recovering from a heart-breaking, headline-making catastrophe of her own when a longtime police source drops two old homicide files in her lap in the back of a dark movie theater. Both cold cases involve women named Susan strangled on the same day, one year apart. Last seen alive in one of Minneapolis's poorest neighborhoods, their bodies are each dumped in one of the city's wealthiest areas. Riley senses a pattern between those murders and others pulled from a computer database of old death records. Now the deadly anniversary is approaching.

But not just lives are at stake—so are careers. November is television sweeps month, and every rating point counts. Riley must go up against a news director who cares more about dead dogs than dead women, a politician who fears negative stories about serial killers will hurt the city's convention business, and the very real possibility that her source knows more about the murders than he is letting on. "Kramer's impressive debut, a thriller, introduces Riley Spartz, a Twin Cities investigative TV journalist... Readers will look forward to seeing a lot more of the appealing Riley." —*Publishers Weekly, Starred Review*

Remember — Once Upon A Crime bookstore offers a 10% discount to all Sisters in Crime members.

Minutes fro our Last Meeting (Continued from page 5)

time around, but people are so habitual that he'll make a note to come check on them same time next year. In the metro area, with such a high population, there are tons of infractions he could ticket every day: trespassing, fishing, filling in a wetland, boating.

An interesting twist: Minnesota legislature made a law that ice fishing houses are considered almost like a regular home. So when an officer knocks and identifies him or herself, the people inside have time enough to dispose of evidence-down the hole into the lake. Our society demands a balance between these rights of privacy, and the commission of crimes.

Motivation of offenders: Some people just do whatever they want. Some are opportunists. Some think, I've only got two days of vacation and I don't care that small game season ended last week. If you hit a deer while driving, local law enforcement will write you a permit so you can take it, or you can file accident report.

Everything except coyotes has a season (rabbits ended Feb. 28). Can confiscate vehicles and equipment. A deer is valued at \$500. Poachers: the evidence is right there, so they say "Ya got me." COs can tell if there's a problem, as the person will be evasive in answering questions. Bears are expanding south. DNR does have to sometimes shoot animals, as they are habituated to humans, and lose some of their wild skills, so cannot just be transplanted. Non-game wildlife, e.g. farm animals, peacocks or other exotics are overseen by Board of Animal Health. Domestic animals would be a local law agency.

All waters in Minnesota are public (unless man-made). However not all are

accessible to public.

TIPS: Don't use deer bait if you're hunting in Minnesota; go to Wisconsin for that. You can have only one fishing line in the water at a time; two in an ice fishing house.

APRIL 2011

Twin Cities SinC Meeting Notes April 5, 2011

Something was different. As SinC members filed into Once Upon a Crime, they couldn't help but notice that President Erin Hart had, in keeping with her ancient cultural studies, arranged the chairs in a circle! Numerous new members were in attendance in addition to regulars. Vice President Jessie Chandler had her new book *Bingo Barge Murders* in hand, and many others announced new and upcoming books.

April's book discussion was Minette Walters' *Ice House*. A number of members felt Walters did a great job with characters, but the changing point-of-view she employed was somewhat difficult to follow. An interesting point that bears further exploration was what differences are there in acceptable writing techniques between British and Americans.

The balance of the meeting was given over to discussing directions in which we'd like to have our SinC chapter go. SinC is a group for both readers and writers of mysteries. For many years, our chapter has perhaps focused more on *reading* mysteries, with speakers and book discussion as our mainstays. Are there ways in which we can expand to provide more for writers in the group? How do we maintain a balance? How do we build membership?

Erin outlined numerous action items (contact her for a copy) and asked for volunteers for projects such as updating our brochure and website, streamlining membership process (including an online

payment option), speakers bureau, mailing promo brochures, compiling lists of local mystery book clubs, working on Killer Cocktails (an ad-hoc mystery event held twice so far in conjunction with the Midwest Booksellers convention), and so on. Other tasks: clarify member benefits, how can we use social media. This fall is the 25th anniversary of the national SinC. What do we want to do to mark it?

Our book-of-the-month feature continues to be discussed. Can we improve on or deepen discussion? Are there additional ways for us to support OUAC in thanks for hosting meetings?

Meetings-do we want to alternate more regularly between speakers on general crime-related topics and topics perhaps more of interest to writers? Or do we want to have writers' events outside of regular meeting? Do we want to collaborate with other local writing groups such as Midwest Fiction Writers (RWA chapter)? Do we want to sponsor member readings of works-in-progress?

Discussion will continue in the future, and we may do a membership survey to help decide on our course of action. Remember, this is a membership-based group! It's up to all of us to help shape our activities.



Barbara DaCosta, Secretary

DID YOU KNOW....According to a recent Sisters in Crime study, despite the threats posed by the ease of internet shopping, brick-and-mortar stores still rank as the most popular place to get mysteries, with 39% of these books bought there versus 17% purchased online. Borrowing from the library is less popular than buying books at a store, but more popular than buying books online.

The View From Our Basement by Pat & Gary

April has been very, very good to us. We kicked it off with the 9th annual Write of Spring, and have since then continued to host a host of great authors. Details for these events, during what has probably been our busiest month ever, were included in our newsletter. If you do not receive our mailings (we do 2-3 a year) please ask us to put you on the mailing list.

April marks a first for us: we're dressing up ("dressed to *kill*") twice in two weeks! Once will be for the Edgar® Awards, and, just before that, for the Minnesota Book Awards, where we were presenters for the Genre Fiction Award. I'm writing this just prior to the book awards, but I feel safe in saying that Pat looked *marvelous*. While we're at the Edgars® picking up our Raven Award, Jeff Hatfield (formerly long-time manager of Uncle Edgar's) will be minding the store that last week in April. Drop in and say "hi", or come in May to see what we've done with the old crow, er, Raven.

So what is genre fiction anyway? ONCE UPON A CRIME is, by its very name and nature, a genre book store. We serve a niche audience; crime pays. But it's really beyond us how to define it. We stock lots of books – murder mysteries, thrillers, cozies, noir, sus-

pense... the labels for sub-genres is endless. We're okay with calling it all "Crime Fiction". We do have separate sections in our shelves showcasing the newest cozies, but otherwise, besides displaying "signed" copies, "local authors", and "British", we'd go nuts trying to fit everything into categories. Occasionally we're asked for "psychological suspense". Don't have a clue what that is (but we usually know it when we read it).

Segregating fiction into "Genre" and "Literary" does a disservice to both. The best fiction defies definition.

Segregating fiction into "Genre" and "Literary" does a disservice to both. The best fiction defies definition. James Dickey – a National Poet Laureate – wrote

"Deliverance", an action/suspense thriller. And then there's that ghost story by Charles Dickens, and some great horror and adventure stories by Robert Louis Stevenson. You could call any number of classics (by, for example, Shakespeare, Dumas, Joseph Conrad, Oscar Wilde, Kurt Vonnegut, Anthony Burgess...) genre fiction. Who decides why these literary giants became, well, literary giants, yet authors such as James Lee Burke and Raymond Chandler get shelved in the "Mystery" section? Not us. If it has a crime, and we like it and think we can sell it, we'll carry it.

One recent book we carry, and recommend to the "not squeamish" among you, is "Dogfight, a Love Story" by



Pat Frovarp and Gary Shulze are the informal, low-tech owners of Once Upon A Crime Mystery Books. They carry thousands of new mysteries, thrillers, and crime fiction and also have a large collection of rare, used, and hard-to-get volumes

newly local author Matt Burgess. This young man has a way with words. It is a debut novel, and also a finalist – deservedly – for this year's Minnesota Book Award as a literary novel. Yet there's loads of crime and mayhem in it. Word is that George Pelecanos – another author whose work resists classification – picked it as one of the best books of 2010.

Lawrence Block, a multiple Edgar® and Shamus Award winner, once wrote in a satirical essay about genre classifications that there should be only two categories of awards: "books with cats", and "books without cats". Ourselves, we'll try to stay with "really good reads" and "not so good reads".

Upcoming SinC Meetings

May 3, 2011

Book Discussion: *Vengeance* by Jarkko Sipila

Guest: TBD

June 7, 2011

Book Discussion: *Stalking Susan* by Julie Kramer

Guest Speaker: TBD

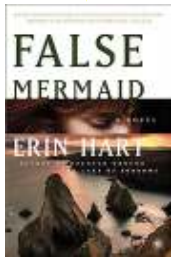


Remember: There are no meetings in July and August.

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at
Once Upon A Crime Mystery Bookstore
604 W. 26th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55405



Member News



Erin Hart will be leading a second tour to Ireland in the fall, Sept 22-Oct 2, 2011. There's a meeting for people who might be interested at 10 am on May 7, at the Lexington Restaurant, Lexington and Grand Avenues in Saint Paul. Mary Pat Flanagan from CIE Tours will be presenting a slide show about what the tour will include. And everyone who signs up for the tour will receive a signed copy of Erin's latest book, **FALSE MERMAID**, and her new CD, **THE SAILOR'S CRAVAT**. Erin also has a couple of May appearances at Dakota County Parks in May; you can check her website for more details: <http://erinhart.com/events.php>.

Carl Brookins has three new e-books available:



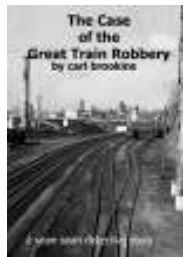
REUNION—A JACK MARSTON ACADEMIC MYSTERY
When ordinary folks gather for a high school class reunion, they don't expect to become murder targets. During the ensuing investigation, Marston and companion Lori

Jacobs begin to discover that the small community is not as placid as it appears.



RED SKY—A TANNER/WHITNEY SAILING ADVENTURE

An idyllic vacation in the British Virgin Islands begins to unravel when Tanner discovers three soggy one-hundred dollar bills floating in the water near their boat. Tanner and Mary soon become entangled in smuggling, murder, kidnapping and corruption.



THE CASE OF THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY—A SEAN SEAN DETECTIVE STORY (E-book and Trade Paperback)

Sean NMI Sean is hired to track down the source of an old pistol, Sean follows a twisting path to evidence of modern corruption and murder. Can he expose the wrong-doers before he is abruptly consigned to a permanent hole in the ground?

Ellen Hart was just offered another two book contract by St. Martin's/Minotaur for two more **Jane Lawless** mysteries. Her newest novel, **THE CRUEL EVER AFTER**, was just nominated for the 2011 Lambda Literary Award. Eight of Ellen's earliest books, four in



the **Jane Lawless** series, and four in the **Sophie Greenway** series, are available for the first time as e-books.

Jess Lourey will be launching **October Fest**, the sixth in her Lefty-nominated **Murder-by-Month** series, at Once Upon a Crime on May 4 at 7:00 pm. Like all good parties, this one will feature free beer (Oktoberfest, of course) and little weenies. All are welcome! Check out her web page at www.jesslourey.com for more book tour stops.



Barbara DaCosta is pleased to announce that after circling the globe a few times, her debut children's picture book, **NIGHTTIME NINJA**, illustrated by Ed Young, has come to roost at LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS. The publication date has not been set yet, but hopefully it will be in 2012.



Jessie Chandler's debut mystery novel, **Bingo Barge Murder**, has just been released by Midnight Ink Press. This is the first in the Shay O'Hanlon caper series.

Born to Lose

A woman was arrested at her step son's Boy Scout meeting. While watching a policeman demonstrate his drug dog's ability, the dog found a bag of grass in her purse.

A man walked into a store with a shotgun and demanded all the cash from the cash register. After the cashier put the cash in a bag, the robber saw a bottle of scotch behind the counter. He told the cashier to

put it in the bag as well, but the cashier refused, saying he didn't believe the robber was over 21. The robber insisted he was and showed the clerk his drivers license to prove it. The clerk looked it over, and agreed that the man was in fact over 21 and he put the scotch in the bag. The robber then ran from the store with his loot. The cashier promptly called the police and gave the name and address of the robber that he got off the license. They

arrested the robber two hours later.

Two teenage boys vandalized a children's campsite building, smashing crockery, setting off fire extinguishers, and drawing graffiti on the walls. The graffiti said "Peter Addison was here." Police found Addison through a computer database. Both teenagers pled guilty and were ordered to pay for the damage.



Off the Griddle by Pat Dennis

ODD JOBS: Two nights ago I roasted a gentleman at his 70th birthday party. Thankfully, I wasn't expected to jump out of a cake, as well. The previous weekend I performed in front of two hundred pajama clad women in Chamberlain, South Dakota. In between my gigs, I work other jobs. I market the books from Penury Press, as well as do all the accounting necessary. I've taught creative writing for The Loft and Community Ed. I scribble out fairly good short stories and not-so-good-novels. I've worked as a waitress, debt collector, fiberglass boat maker, temp worker, film extra, and a scriptwriter for industrial films. Quite a few companies, or individuals, have hired me to punch up their manuscripts or create a comedic presentation. And, if a paid focus research gig comes my way, I eagerly grab it.

Bottom line? When someone asks my husband what his wife does for a living he mumbles, "Odd jobs." I am not alone or ashamed in piecing together a living until I make it BIG (which I assume now will be in my nineties). When I googled the words, "writers, day jobs or odd jobs", I stumbled upon the following:

Harlan Ellison worked as a short order cook, a nitroglycerine truck driver, and a door-to-door brush salesman. Mary Higgins Clark worked as an Airline Stewardess be-

fore we started calling them Flight Attendants. David Sedaris supported himself as a Christmas Elf at Macy's or by cleaning apartments in New York City. Anne Frasier was not only a bartender in Illinois but sold her books at Heritage Trail, an annual countywide craft fair. Dan Brown was an aspiring pop singer and songwriter. And my favorite oxymoron of all: Lawrence Block wrote soft porn.

WHEN I AM OLD I WILL WEAR PRISON STRIPES: Geezer lit is one of the hottest genres in the mystery world. And in case you don't know, it's old folks solving crimes or better yet, old folks doing bad things. I prefer the latter. I revel in tales of fellow senior citizens who refuse to spend their twilight years knitting tea cozies, or worse yet, reading the Large Print Edition (or any edition) of Twilight. As my generation of self-loving, self-aggrandizing boomers edge closer toward the light, I'm convinced there will be more true crime stories like the ones I just discovered.

In West Sussex, U.K., two elderly women on mobility scooters had to be dragged apart as they repeatedly rammed into each other in anger in a vegetable and fruit aisle. In Royal Palm beach Florida, a 70-year-old man attacked an 81-year-old man with a pricing gun inside a Wal-Mart. And my personal favorite, a 92-year old central Florida woman fired a semi-automatic pistol four times at her 53-year-old neighbor's

Pat Dennis is a comedienne and keynote speaker. She is the author of the popular book "Hotdish To Die For."



house after he refused to kiss her.

BUGGING MARILYN VICTOR: Although it may sound like the title of a political thriller, bugging Marilyn Victor is actually my hobby. Sending daily missives to her, are meant not only to entertain her, but to see how long it will take her to learn how to block my emails. But, there is so much on the world-wide-web, how can I not share what I just found while searching "jokes/mystery writers"? Even if my discovery does make her and I, and now you, groan in pain?

How many mystery writers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Two. One to screw it in almost all the way in and the other to give it a surprising twist at the end.

Pat "The No-Time Wonder" Dennis Author, comedian, future bad neighbor.

SinC Members' Websites & Blogs

Carl Brookins

www.minnesotacrimewave.org
<http://www.agora2.blogspot.com/>

Jessie Chandler

<http://jessiechandler.com>

Barbara DaCosta

<http://www.taijiquanjournal.com/barbaradacosta/index.html>
<http://www.barbaradacosta.blogspot.com/>

Pat Dennis

www.penurypress.com
or
www.comedybypatdennis.com

Barbara Fister

<http://barbarafister.com>
<http://barbarafister.wordpress.com>

Anne Fraiser

<http://www.annefrasier.com>
<http://annefrasier.blogspot.com/>

Erin Hart

www.erinhart.com
<http://erinhartbooks.blogspot.com/>

Ellen Hart

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

Christine Husom

www.christinehusom.webs.com

C. Hyytinen

www.chyytinen.com

Julie Kramer

www.juliekramerbooks.com

Jenifer LeClair

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

(Continued on page 11)

Rap Sheet— Getting to Know Charity Tahmaseb



Charity Tahmaseb has slung corn on the cob for Green Giant and jumped out of airplanes (but not at the same time). She doesn't think it's a social stigma to eat alone at a restaurant and read a book. Her favorite city is London, but she loves living in Minnesota.

She spent twelve years as a Girl Scout and six in the Army; that she wore a green uniform for both may not be a coincidence. These days, she writes young adult fiction, works as a technical writer for a software company in St. Paul and is the webmistress for Twin Cities Sisters in Crime. Her first novel, *The Geek Girl's Guide to Cheerleading* (written with friend and co-author Darcy Vance) was published in 2009 by Simon and Schuster.

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

I'd love to be able to sing so people would actually want to listen. My sister ended up with the talented vocal cords in the family.

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?

Since I recently finished a biography of Louisa May Alcott and became fascinated with her life. I'd love to spend several hours talking to her about writing and her time serving as a nurse during the Civil War.

3. What book are you reading right now?

I think I'm incapable of reading just one book at a time. Currently, I'm reading *The Girl Who Played with Fire* by Stieg Larsson, *The Vespertine* by Sandra Mitchell, and *Crafting Stories for Children* by Nancy Lamb.

4. If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?

It's a toss up between invisibility and teleportation. Or maybe both! If I'm discovered skulking about, I'll simply use my teleportation abilities to escape.

5. What authors did you read as a child and did they influence how you write today?

I loved the Secret Seven books by Enid Blyton. I preferred Trixie Belden to Nancy Drew, but I read both. And now my daughter reads Nancy Drew graphic novels, which just proves Nancy never goes out of style.

While I haven't written a children's or YA mystery (yet), there's nothing like a mystery to teach you foreshadowing and misdirection. All my stories have some sort of secret in them and this is no doubt my mystery roots showing.

6. When you're not reading (or writing)

mysteries, how do you spend your free time?

Sometimes I feel like a professional chauffeur ferrying my kids to and fro from their activities. So, I decided when they wanted to join karate, I would to. We're advancing through the ranks together and it's a lot of fun.

7. If you didn't have to work for a living and money was no object, how would you spend your time?

If I had an excess of time, money, and sanity, I think I'd start my own publishing company. Everything about publishing is changing--it's both scary and exciting.

8. Why do you read or write mysteries?

I love the intellectual aspect along with the emotional one of mystery fiction. I like trying to solve the crime along with the characters. I also really enjoy historical fiction in general and mysteries in particular. I love the fact that mystery authors impart so much knowledge to their readers along with entertaining them.

9. What was the last movie you went to see?

I took my kids to see *Tangled*. It's what you do when you have an eight-year-old daughter.

10. If you were a character from 'Lost,' which one would, you be? Why?

Can you believe I've never seen an episode of *Lost*? Ask me about *Downton Abbey*.

More SinC Members' Websites & Blogs

Michael Allan Mallory
and Marilyn Victor

www.snakesjones.com
<http://zoofari.blogspot.com/>

Linda Morganstein

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

Colin Nelson

<http://www.colintnelson.com/>
<http://colintnelson.com/blog/>

Once Upon A Crime Bookstore

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

Susan Runholt

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

Barb Schlichting

www.barbschlichting.com
<http://bschlichting.blogspot.com>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5LMX7nYFWw>

Rich Thompson

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

Stanley Trollip

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

Christopher Valen

www.christophervalen.com
<http://christophervalen.com/blog>

If you'd like to see your website or blog listed here, please e-mail Marilyn Victor at tcincnewsletter@gmail.com.

After Action Report by Todd New

When is the last time you were reading a novel and found yourself saying, “That doesn’t sound right”?

Yeah? Me, too. By vocation, I am a police officer – by personal taste, I’m a reader of mysteries, thrillers, and other fiction. Sometimes, those two don’t mix well – particularly when an author takes certain liberties with crime novels that don’t gel very well with reality.

THAT is the reason for this column – by helping YOU write more knowledgably about crime-related topics, I (hopefully) won’t experience as many moments of cognitive dissonance while I’m reading! (Seems fair to me!)

One of the most fearsome and highest responsibilities for law enforcement officers, and one of the most misunderstood by the general public (including authors) is the application and deployment of deadly force. In practice, however, deadly force is actually just the farthest extreme of a broad spectrum of force options called the Use of Force Continuum. Proper understanding of this philosophy can add a powerful dimension of realism to your story and characters.

The Use of Force Continuum is a principle that is drilled into all officers during their police academy training. The basic premise is that, if there is no resistance, no force will be used. If resistance is encountered, only an amount of force necessary to overcome the resistance will be applied. If, however, an officer’s life (or the life of another) is in peril, then deadly force is justified. All of the decisions involved in an officer’s rationale must be weighed against the “objective reasonableness” standard, i.e., what would a reasonable officer do in the same situation. And, of course, bear in mind that all of these factors and decisions must (most often) be weighed in seconds -- or less.

No resistance, no force. This is one end of the spectrum. At this end are the non-confrontational interactions that an officer may encounter in his/her daily duties: giving directions to a confused tourist, taking a report, interviewing a cooperative

witness or suspect, or even intervening in a disagreement in which the involved parties can be convinced to settle down and reason together. Often, the mere presence of an authority figure can defuse a situation and bring people down from an escalated emotional state. In other cases, it may become necessary to intervene with verbal commands that ultimately have the same effect. All of these are (obviously) places where force is not only unnecessary but unreasonable.

At the other end of the spectrum is Deadly Force. Understandably, the definitions and constraints at this level are much more strictly defined, although they still are ultimately weighed against the ‘reasonableness’ standard. Minnesota law states: “the use of deadly force by a peace officer in the line of duty is justified only when necessary: (1) to protect the peace officer or another from apparent death or great bodily harm; (2) to effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the peace officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of deadly force; or (3) to effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or great bodily harm if the person’s apprehension is delayed.

Keep in mind that a situation may accelerate from no resistance to a deadly force decision in a fraction of a second. Consider the following situations:

An officer casually calls to a person walking away, “Hey, could you come back here for a minute and tell me what happened?” As the person turns back to face the officer, he is seen pulling a gun or a knife from his waistband.

An officer responding to a fist-fight call comes around a corner to find an aggressor straddling an individual on the ground, striking that person repeatedly on the head



Officer Todd New is a Criminal Intelligence Analyst working with the City of Minneapolis Intelligence Sharing and Analysis Center

with a claw hammer.

While handcuffing a suspect on a minor warrant, the suspect begins to resist violently, ultimately grasping at the officer’s holstered handgun. The officer’s partner sees his comrade being overpowered.

These are all situations where an immediate application of deadly force would likely be required. (An officer is NOT required to wait for a suspect to get off the first shot!) But why doesn’t he just shoot the gun, knife, or hammer out of the attacker’s hand, you may ask. Though there are many factors in making the decision to use deadly force (proximity to a potential victim being just one), once the decision is made, officers are trained to go for ‘center mass’ in the body. During such high stress encounters, one of the first things to diminish is fine motor control. The ‘center mass’, i.e., the chest/torso area, is a larger target and therefore more likely to produce the desired result: stop the aggression. Obviously, aiming at a smaller target with diminished motor control (and, therefore, aim!) is much riskier and less desirable.

I should note here that knives are an interesting topic in themselves. If a person is ten feet away from you, holding a knife, can you shoot him? How about fifteen? Or fifty? Generally speaking, research has shown that within a radius of about twenty-one feet, a person can attack with a knife and stab his/her victim in less than the time it takes to un-holster a handgun

(Continued on page 13)

After Action Report (Continued from page 12)

and fire (and that is for TRAINED officers!). Obviously, writers need to pay attention to many details when constructing a scene such as this! (Deadly force doesn't seem quite so cut and dried anymore, does it?)

Between these two extremes are a much broader range of force options, which may range from low force, open-hand tech-

niques or tools (such as a chemical irritant or a Taser®) to more extreme measures involving hand or foot strikes or even impact weapons (like expandable batons). Again, there is a 'reasonableness' factor in deciding how to overcome an opponent's force (what if a suspect is pregnant...or elderly?), but it shouldn't be construed to imply that an officer is obligated to meet any force with only an equal amount of force in return. (There are no 'fair' fights required!) Conversely, an officer isn't

authorized to use a severe level of force when countering a minimal level of resistance.

Being aware of the nuances of a suspect's resistance vs. a responding officer's choices to overcome that resistance can lend realism to your writing that will keep even jaded cops interested and engaged in the story. Don't drive them (us?) away by an obvious lack of research into your work!

Bookstore Events



Sat. Apr 23 - 4:00-6:00 **Lisa Scottoline** "Save Me" - Come and meet the author for this special signing!

Thurs. April 28 - **Edgar Awards Banquet in New York City** - Pat and Gary receive the MWA's 2011 Raven Award!

Tues. May 3 - 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is Jarkko Sipila's "Vengeance."

Wed. May 4 - 7:00 **Jess Lourey** "October Fest" - Launch Party and signing with refreshments and Nut Goodies too!

Sat. May 7 - 1:00-3:00 **Victoria Houston** "Dead Deceiver" - Meet & Greet and Signing.

Wed. May 11 - 6:30 **Mystery Book Club** - Facilitated by Michael Allan Mallory and the book is "Stalking Susan" by Julie Kramer.

Thurs. May 19 - 7:00 **Jessie Chandler** "Bingo Barge Murder" - Launch party with refreshments. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about this Minnesota author's comic caper debut.

Sat. May 21 - 2:00-4:00 **Lance Zarimba** "Vacation Therapy" - Minneapolis debut mystery author & young adult book writer as well with "Oh No, Our Best Friend is a Zombie" and "Oh No, Our Best Friend is a Vampire." [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about this Minnesota debut author's first comic mystery.

Tues. June 7- 7:00 **Twin Cities Sisters in Crime meeting**. Book for the night is "TBA."

Thurs. Jun 9 - 7:00 **David Housewright** "Highway 61" - Reception, Signing, and Refreshments.

Wed. Jun 15 - 7:00 - **Craig Johnson** "Hell is Empty" - Sheriff Longmire rides again - Signing Discussion Q & A.

Wed. Jun 29 - 7:00 **Peter Lovesey** "Stagestruck."

Fri. Jul 8 - 7:00 **Michael Wiley** "A Bad Night's Sleep" - Reading and Signing.

Sat. Jul 23 12:00-2:00 **Jenifer LeClair** "Danger Sector" - Publication party and refreshments for this Minnesota author's latest in the Windjammer Mystery Series.

Tues. Jul 26 - 7:00 **Julie Kramer** "Killing Kate" - Launch party.

Tues. Aug 30 - 7:00 **William Kent Krueger** "Northwest Angle" - Reception, Signing, and Refreshments.

Wed. Sep 7 - 7:00 **Michael Stanley** "Death of the Mantis" - Reception, Signing, and a bit of a talk.

Sat. Sep 10 - 12:00-2:00 **Christopher Valen** "Bad Weeds Never Die" - Publication party. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about this Minnesota author's latest book.

For more information on upcoming events at Once Upon A Crime Mystery Bookstore, please visit their website at:

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



The Big Con—Bloody Words Conference

“The first Bloody Words, in Toronto in 1999, was also the first mystery conference of any kind that I ever attended. I picked it because attendance was limited to 150, plus staff and presenters, and I thought that would make it friendlier and less intimidating than Bouchercon’s mass of people. I couldn’t have been more right. The Canadians are a friendly bunch, and the tone of the conference was welcoming and positive. Two years later, the conference moved out of its limited space in the historic Arts and Letters Society building, and attendance was no longer limited. But even though it has now grown well beyond its beginnings, the tone is the same. This is a warm and energetic gathering. And it is always held in cities that are worth the visit in their own right—Toronto, Ottawa, and this year, Victoria, B.C., all places that abound in historic architecture, museums, inviting shops, and fine restaurants.

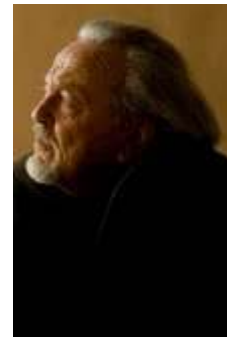
There are a lot of writerly reasons for going to Bloody Words, as well. Other conferences, including Bouchercon, have evolved into nothing more or less than a showcase for authors and their books. I personally think this is too bad. But Bloody Words has always had and continues to have writing workshops, manuscript evaluations, speed-dating sessions with agents, a respected short story contest (the Boney Pete Award) with winners published in the conference book, and professional speakers on topics such as forensics, criminal psychology, police procedures, martial arts, etc. The RCMP

is the world leader in an investigative technique called “geographic profiling,” and only at Bloody Words can you attend a lecture on the subject.

For mystery fans, BW is an opportunity to discover a lot of fine new (to us non-Canadians, anyway) authors. A few Canadian authors, including Mary Jane Maffini, Peter Sellers, and the late Lyn Hamilton, have managed to get their books to cross the border into the US, but they are very much the exception. For reasons nobody seems to understand, there are many excellent Canadian authors whose work is sold in the UK, Australia, Spain, and even France, but not here. At Bloody Words you can meet the writers and buy their work. (One negative side to this: you cannot have your new books shipped back home. Due to the complexity of import regulations, BW has never had a UPS or similar presence at the conference. There has been talk of persuading the book vendors at the conference to take orders to be shipped abroad, but so far, nothing has come of it. So if you are flying to the conference, you may want to limit yourself to one piece of carryon luggage, so you can add a second one of just a book bag.)

And for writers and nonwriters, of course, there are the familiar features of an awards banquet, auction, and opening night reception, usually featuring a “death by chocolate” buffet. There are also a number of interesting side trips. The walking tour of “Haunted Ottawa” was especially memorable.

This year’s conference is June 3-5 at the historic and elegant Hotel Grand Pacific, on the waterfront in Victoria, British Columbia. Cost is \$190 Canadian, and the hotel conference rate is \$179 Canadian per night, single or double. Those rates are good until April 1. Airfare is currently going for about \$900 US. Victoria is home to, among other things, the world-famous Butchart formal gardens and arguably one of the best maritime museums on the North American continent, either of which is worth extending your stay for an extra day. The conference website is simply www.bloodywords2011.com. It is a rather pricey outing, but I promise you, it will be memorable.



Richard Thompson is a retired civil engineer who traded his hardhat for a laptop and now writes full time. His first novel, Fiddle Game, about the misadventures of a former bookie from Detroit

now turned bail bondsman, was short-listed for a Debut Dagger. The sequel to it, Frag Box, was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Awards. His first stand-alone historical mystery, Big Wheat, was published in January of this year. Richard lives in St. Paul with his wife of 48 years, Caroline, and two cats, Rags and Tank.

Mysterious Websites

The Cozy Mystery List—A guide to cozy mystery (and other favorite) Books and DVDs

<http://www.cozy-mystery.com/>

The Top Mystery—the website about the top mystery books, movies and authors

<http://www.topmystery.com/home>

The Hidden Staircase Mystery Books—A website committed to providing readers with the best and most current information about their favorite authors, books, and series

<http://hsmb.omnimystery.com/hsmb.html>

The Mystery Reader—Book reviews, features, author interviews and more

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

The Bloodstained Bookshelf—monthly list of recent and forthcoming print mysteries published in the US

<http://www.mirlacca.com/Bookshelf.html>

The Thrilling Detective—what’s new in the P. I. World

<http://www.thrillingdetective.com/whatsnew.html>

Upcoming Conventions & Conferences

BLOODY WORDS, THE CANADIAN MYSTERY CONFERENCE

June 3-5, 2011

Victoria, BC

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

Guest of Honor: Michael Slade

International Guest of Honor: Tess Gerritsen

Master of Ceremonies: Denise Dietz

CALIFORNIA CRIME WRITERS CONFERENCE

June 11-12, 2011

Pasadena, CA

<http://www.ccwconference.org/>

Special Guests: SJ Rozan, T. Jefferson Parker

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA UNIVERSITY

June 17, 2011

Waukesha, Wisconsin

<http://www.mysterywriters.org/mwaevents/details/10638>

Teachers: Jess Lourey, Hallie Ephron, John Galligan, Megan

Abbott, Reed Farrel Coleman, Hank Phillippi Ryan

THRILLERFEST VI

July 6-9, 2011

New York City, NY

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

Thrillmaster: R. L. Stine

Spotlight Guests: Robert Crais, Diana Gabaldon, John Les-
croart

CALIFORNIA CRIME WRITERS CONFERENCE

July 11-12, 2011

Pasadena, CA

<http://www.ccwconference.org/>

Keynote speakers: T. Jefferson Parker and SJ Rozan

Co-sponsored by SinC Los Angeles and SoCal MWA

PUBLIC SAFETY WRITERS CONFERENCE

July 14-17, 2011

Las Vegas, NV

<http://www.policewriter.com/Conference/conference2011.htm>

The conference is open to anyone writing crime and mystery fiction or non-fiction, technical writing for public safety magazines in print or online, or anyone interested in writing.

BOOK PASSAGE MYSTERY WRITERS CONFERENCE

July 21-24, 2011

Corte Madera, CA

<http://www.bookpassage.com/mystery-writers-conference>

THEAKSTONS OLD PECULIER CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL

July 21-24, 2010

Harrogate, UK

<http://www.harrogate-festival.org.uk/crime/>

DEADLY INK

Parsippany, NJ

<http://www.deadlyink.com/conference.html>

August 5-7, 2011

Guest of Honor: Hank Phillippi Ryan

Toast Master: Jeff Markowitz

KILLER NASHVILLE

August 26-28, 2011

Nashville, TN

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

Mystery Guest of Honor: Donald Bain

MYSTERY FLORIDA—A Conference to Die For

August 26-27, 2011

Sarasota, FL

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

Featured Authors: Gayle Lynds & Don Bruns

BOUCHERCON 2011

Sept. 15– 18, 2011

St. Louis, MO

<http://www.bouchercon2011.com/>

Guests of Honor: Robert Crais, Charlene Harris,

Colin Cotterill, Val McDermid

If you have a conference you'd like to see listed here, please send information to tcincnewsletter@gmail.com