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Members of Left Coast Crime 2008,

Welcome to Denver and Left Coast Crime 2008. We hope you have a great time—we have some outstanding authors lined up, and some programming we hope you'll enjoy.

Now for the thanks: First of all, to our guests of honor: **Stephen White, Michael Masliah, and Joanne Pence**, and to our toastmaster, **Elaine Viets**. All of you were wonderful to work with and we're so happy you accepted our invitation.

Mucho thanks to **Parnell Hall** for composing the Alferd theme song; to **Bill Fitzhugh** for serving as our auctioneer; to **Carl Brookins** for suggesting the Endless Conversation (more about that in a minute), and to **Linda Berry** for organizing and writing up questions for Mystery Trivia. **Diana Rowe** was indispensable as the liaison to the Adams Mark hotel; **Pari Noskin Taichert** and **Lori Lacefield** were unbeatable at getting the word out; and **Sue Trowbridge** is an extraordinary webmaster who was very patient as we changed things frequently.

We have to give a big hand to **Jan Burke, D.P. Lyle, M.D., and Twist Phelan** for putting together the forensic and MWA programming tracks, and to the **Rocky Mountain Sisters in Crime** for organizing the hospitality room. **Mario Acevedo** and **R.T. Lawton** went beyond the call of duty setting up, respectively, the prison bus and the surveillance workshop. **Laura Ware** stepped up to help with the auction.

Now, about the Endless Conversation. This is a new (for us, anyway) take on LCC's typical "15 minutes of fame" salon. In this conversation we combine three or four authors (see page 17 for the schedule, subject to change). The basic idea is to facilitate the kind of freewheeling conversation that goes on outside of the panels—for example, in the bar. Three or four authors will get together, sometimes with an agenda, more often not—and chat, entertain

and/or engage the audience.

Needless to say, we're terrified that we forgot to thank someone, so if your name should be here and it isn't, it wasn't intentional. We're merely brain dead as we head into the last week of pulling the threads together. Everyone, please take a moment to look through the names of the Organizing Committee. These folks did a tremendous amount of work to make this happen. They deserve a round of applause.

So, enjoy your time in Denver and at LCC 2008. Again, thank you for coming.



Christine Goff and Suzanne Proulx
LCC 2008 Co-Chairs

Sponsors:

Murder on the Rocks would like to thank the following contributing sponsors:

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The Auction

BY CHRISTINE GOFF

This year's auction will benefit an organization that I can personally attest to changing lives. I have two daughters who are dyslexic. When my oldest daughter was seven, I learned from a teacher's aide I ran into at the grocery store that Mardee had been put into a remedial reading program at school. When I confronted Mardee's teacher, I was told, "Face it, Chris. Mardee is slow." To make a long story short, the "slow" child turned out to have an IQ higher than most of her peers and is currently on track to graduate in December with highest honors from the University of Colorado having made the Dean's Honor Roll every semester of her college career. She has studied overseas, been named Outstanding Intern of the Year, is an academic scholarship recipient, and is conversationally fluent in Italian. She is still dyslexic. What made the difference? The Rocky Mountain Unit of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.

RFB&D, a nonprofit volunteer organization, is the nation's educational library serving people who cannot effectively read standard print because of visual impairment, dyslexia, or other physical disability. The mission is to create opportunities for individual success by providing and promoting the effective use of education materials. The vision is for ALL people to have equal access to the printed word.

It's estimated that 15% of all people are dyslexic, with over 3 million students in the United States in need of textbooks and learning materials on tape. In Colorado alone there are over 32,000 identified students in over 1700 schools that could use RFB&D's support. At present, RFB&D serves only 2,000 students in 100 schools. Your generosity will help RFB&D reach their goals to reach all students in need. Be generous. Give the gift of reading.

There will be a silent auction and a live auction. Donated items include: DVDs of 4 Nancy Drew movies; A "Georgia's on my Mind" giveaway; A complete set of Russell Quant Mysteries; A complete set of Underwater Investigation series; Signed copy of LOST DOG with LOST DOG tchotchkes; Martini glasses; Character giveaways; a signed copy of REDEMPTION STREET; a signed copy of SOUL PATCH; a Private Eye Class, taught by PIs to teach you how to become a PI; A Pet Character

naming; The first 5 books in John Thinnes/Jack Caleb mystery series; A signed copy of MURDER BY SERPENTS and quilt table runner; A signed copy of THE IRON TONGUE OF MIDNIGHT plus mask and wine; A REAL BASKET CASE gift basket; 10 pieces of original jewelry; PUSHING UP DAISES basket; signed copy of DEAD DAYS OF SUMMER; Audio books; signed first edition of CROSSHAIRS; hand-thrown ceramic stoneware; A signed copy of DEATH AT THE OLD HOTEL; An Art Lover's Mystery Basket; A Miniature Crime Scene; Sunday Breakfast with Twist Phelan for you and a guest; A Nancy Drew Sleuth Kit; A Writing Inspiration Kit; The Tough Chick Survival Kit; A Prairie Basket; A Knitting Mystery Basket; A Mahu Surfer Hawaiian Basket; NOX DORMIENCA Advanced Reading Copy with T-Shirt; a signed copy of CHASING CANS; A signed copy of LIFE BLOOD and THICKER THAN BLOOD; Signed, hardcover editions of THE BLADE ITSELF and AT THE CITY'S EDGE; A short story critique; Signed, first editions of three 2008 Edgar Nominees....

LCC 2008 Organizing Committee

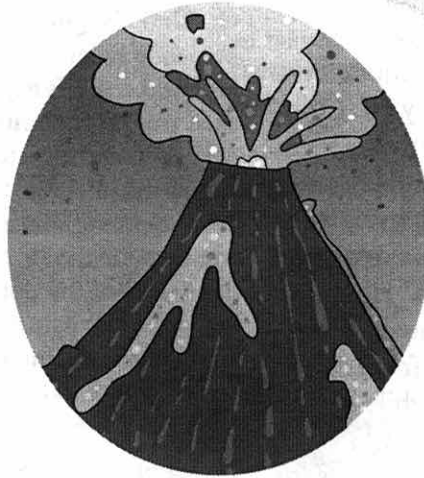
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Say Aloha to Murder



LCC 2009, Hawaii

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Toastmaster: Lee Goldberg

Fan Guests of Honor: Pam Dehnke and Vallery Feldman

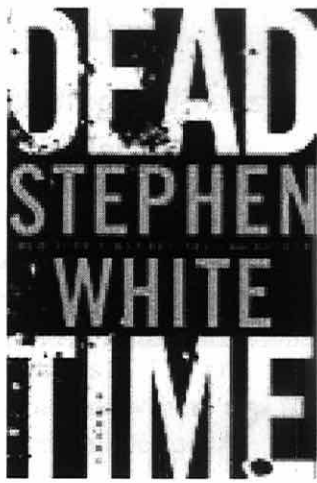
<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2009>

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Guest of Honor

Stephen White

Guest of Honor **STEPHEN WHITE** is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Alan Gregory novels. Stephen grew up in New York, New Jersey, and Southern California and attended the University of California campuses at Irvine (where he lasted three weeks as a creative writing major) and Los Angeles before graduating from Berkeley in 1972. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1979. After receiving his doctorate, White



worked in private practice and at the University of Colorado health Sciences Center, and later as a staff psychologist at Children's Hospital in Denver. He began his first novel, *Privileged Information*, in 1989 while he was still practicing full time. In his books, he draws upon his years of clinical practice

as a psychologist to create intriguing plots and complex, believable characters. Stephen White

Q: Your character, Alan Gregory, is a clinical psychologist like you. Does the similarity end there? How much of Stephen White is reflected in Alan Gregory?

A: The similarities don't exactly end there but there's no need to exaggerate them, either. I lived in Boulder on and off for fifteen years; Alan still lives there. Although neither of us is a model of mental health, his neuroses are different than mine. And he has advantages that I never had as a psychologist. First, he has the benefit of all my years of experience. And second, I get to think about his lines as long as I'd like. Real patients never have that luxury.

Q: In what ways does your writing benefit from your training in psychology?

A: There are two benefits of my previous experience

as a psychologist that I consider invaluable to my life as a writer. The first is that my work gave me a chance to observe and study the infinite varieties of motivation that human beings have for their behavior. The other is that being a psychotherapist exposed me to dialogue in its purest form. For eight to ten hours a day over a period of fifteen years I had the privilege of sitting and listening to a wide variety of people just talk. I can't imagine a better training ground for writing dialogue.

Q: Alan Gregory's wife Lauren is living with Multiple Sclerosis. What feedback have you received from fans, people with MS, and health care workers, about your portrayal?

A: I would estimate that about half my mail involves readers' reaction to Lauren having MS. The overwhelming sentiment I hear is one of gratitude, whether for the fact of the portrayal of the illness, the reality of the portrayal of its effect on Lauren's life, or for the nature of the portrayal – that I present her as a vibrant, interesting, sexual being despite her illness. People who have MS and people who work with MS patients have been especially supportive.

Q: What kind of books do you like to read?

A: My reading is eclectic. I read a relatively equal mix of fiction and non-fiction and find that research reading takes up more and more of my time. The longer I write crime fiction, however, the less of it I tend to read.

Q: What makes Boulder a prime location for your novels?

A: Boulder is as important to me as the fictional village is to Jim Carrey in *The Truman Show*. Boulder is scenic, it's witty, it's intelligent, it's malleable, it's stubborn, it's idealistic, it's naïve. It's a town I could never make up, and if I did, I'm not sure anyone would believe me.

Q: Which of your books is your favorite and why?

A: The simplest answer to this question is that my favorite book is the one that I am currently writing. The reason is simple: I like to think that I'm getting better at this process and that each book reflects my maturation as a writer.

But it is also true to say that each of the earlier

books are dear to me for some specific reason. *Privileged Information* because it was the first, *Higher Authority* because it was such a departure for me at that stage of my career, *Critical Conditions* because of the challenge of writing characters from an adolescent point of view.

Q: In your novels you've taken on issues of managed health care, the Mormon Church, the cult of celebrity. Is it your intention to make a social or political statement in each novel?

A: Writing a book is a laborious, lengthy process. I feel strongly that if I, as the writer, don't stay interested in the work, neither will any reader. So I pick topics that fascinate me or trouble me or captivate me, topics that will stay interesting even as I proceed to examine them from many different directions.

Although I don't intend to make political or social statements with my work, the exploration of controversial topics usually involves the precipitation of polarizing conflicts between characters. From polarization inevitably comes point of view. Thrillers are good stories that take readers for a ride. I like to learn something along the way as I'm writing, and I like to offer readers an opportunity to learn something along the way if they are interested in doing so. I like to think each book is about something.



Books by Stephen White:
Privileged Information (1991),
Private Practices (1992),
Higher Authority (1994),
Harm's Way (1996) (the first of his books to land on the New York Times bestseller list),
Remote Control (1997),
Critical Conditions (1998),
Manner of Death (1999),
Cold Case (2000),
The Program (2001),
Warning Signs (2002),
The Best Revenge (2003),
Blinded (2004),
Missing Persons (2005),
Kill Me (2006),
Dry Ice (2007), and
Dead Time (2008).



Toastmaster

Elaine Viets

LCC Toastmaster Elaine Viets is the bestselling author of two mystery series. Her *Dead-End Job* series is a satiric look at a serious subject—the minimum-wage world—and *Publishers Weekly* called her hardcover debut “wry social commentary.” Her second series features St. Louis mystery shopper, Josie Marcus. Its debut, *Dying in Style*, tied with Stephen King on the *Independent Mystery Booksellers* bestseller list.

Lefty nominee! She is the winner of both the Agatha and Anthony Awards, and, Lori Lacefield, LCC 2008’s newsletter editor, recently caught up with her to ask a few questions.

Q: Elaine, tell us a bit about each of the series you write. When did you begin each and what sparked the initial idea?

A: I write two series: the *Dead-End Job* series and the *Josie Marcus Mystery Shopper* series. My first *Dead-End Job* mystery was published by Signet in 2003. *Shop Till You Drop* is now in its tenth printing. The *Dead-End Job* series is a post-9/11 series. Many of my friends and neighbors were doing well until the stock market crash that followed that horror. Then the Ivy League colleges for the kids, new house, and plans to retire at 45 were gone. So were many good corporate jobs. Instead, they found themselves selling dresses or bagging groceries at the local supermarket. It was a whole different (and unprotected) world. The only power they had was to quit suddenly.

My character, Helen Hawthorne and I work a different low paying job in each book. I’ve worked as a bookseller, telemarketer, shop clerk, survey taker, pet boutique clerk, and more. The first lesson I learned was that clerks

are invisible. They put up with an almighty amount of abuse.

When Penguin asked me to write a mystery shopper series. I was delighted. My mother worked as a mystery shopper in the 1960s. Surprisingly, the job has changed very little in nearly fifty years. Even the questionnaires the mystery shoppers use are the same.

Q: I love your *Dead-End Job* Series. I understand you’ve worked all of them at some point in real life. Has there been a dead-end job that you’ve actually enjoyed working?

A: I loved working in a bookstore, but it’s physically hard labor. My back hurt at the end of the day from carrying those heavy books, which weigh about a pound a piece.

Q: Do people often suggest other jobs to you? Have you used any of them?

A: Yes, and I’m always interested, but many of them are too close to a series Penguin already has. So far, I’ve found all the dead-end jobs of my own.

Q: I think humor is one of the toughest things to write. There seems to be such a fine line between funny and eyerolling. Plus, you have to have just the right amount sprinkled in. How do you maintain that balance in your books?

A: I have a good editor, Kara Cesare, who tells me when she thinks I’ve gone over the top. Also, I wrote a syndicated column for United Media. You quickly get a feel about how far you can go without outraging the public.

Q: I know you live in south Florida now so finding interesting characters must be pretty



easy;) **Which of your characters have you found you found your fans resonate with most?**

A: Margery Flax, the 76-year-old landlady of The Coronado Tropic Apartments, where Helen lives. Many people wish Margery was their mother.

Q: How did Margery Flax end up becoming a character in your books?

A: The real Margery is MWA's office manager. She won an auction at Bouchercon, I think, to be a character in my old series. But that series was discontinued. I offered Margery a chance to be a young bimbo, a homicide detective, or an old woman. She chose to be the old woman, as long as she could smoke and wear purple. I gave her both of those, but refused to let her drive a red Ferrari. Everyone knows if you're over sixty, you have to drive a large white car in Florida. It's the law.



Q: How did you land the gig as Toastmaster for LCC 2008?

A: Christine Goff asked me, and I was thrilled. I think the mountains are beautiful. The only mountain we have in Florida is Mt. Trashmore, and it's made of....well, trash.

Q: Everyone was saddened to hear of your stroke last year but are overjoyed at your speedy recovery. Where you surprised at how the mystery community came together to help promote your book in your absence?

A: I was touched by how many writers helped, but not surprised. The mystery community is very generous.

Q: To date, what are your plans for next year? What books do you have forthcoming and here will you be promoting?

A: My third Josie Marcus mystery shopper series, *Accessory To Murder*, will be published in November. The seventh dead-end job series, *Clubbed To Death*, will be out in May 2008. It's set in a country club. I'm hoping to tour in May.



Books by Elaine Viets

Dead-End Job series with Helen Hawthorne

Murder with Reservations (May 2007)

Murder Unleashed (April 2007)

Just Murdered (May 2005)

Dying to Call You (October 2004)

Murder Between the Covers (December 2003)

Shop Till You Drop (May 2003)

Josie Marcus, Mystery Shopper series

Accessory to Murder (November 2007)

High Heels are Murder (November 2006)

Dying in Style (October 2005)

Francesca Vierling series

Doc in the Box (2000)

The Pink Flamingo Murders (1999)

Rubout (1998)

Backstab (1997)

Fan Guest of Honor

Michael Masliah

Michael, tell us about yourself. How did you come to be such a big fan of crime fiction?

A. I was born in LA at the beginning of the baby boomer generation and was raised and still reside in the San Fernando Valley. I graduated from the LAUSD in 1964 when you still could get a decent education. I entered UCLA in 1964 but dropped out in 1966. I worked in my family's business and as an independent book scout and starting selling used books at local swap meets. I reentered UCLA in 1975, received a BA in 1977 and a MLS in 1979. I spent a year working as a substitute librarian for the Los Angeles Public Library system and starting working for the County of Los Angeles Public Library system in January 1981.

I've worked at several different branches through the years but have been at the Culver City branch for quite a while. I worked in reference/government services for a long time and currently work as a reference/audio-visual librarian. I've developed a special Judaica collection for the County housed here at Culver City. I've created a list (not quite a bibliography) of Jewish mysteries that is still growing. I've also worked with the fiction coordinator for the county (we have over 80 branches) and currently I am the gatekeeper of the monthly Nextreads mystery list.

Q. Are there particular sub-genres that you like more than others? What did you read as a kid?

A. I wasn't a real big reader as a kid. I read boys adventure books, Hardy Boys books and even a few Nancy Drews. When I was in the 10th grade, my school belonged to the Scholastic Book Club. I bought a copy of *Murder She Said*, a Christie movie tie-in, and was hooked. I spent summer vacation reading most of Agatha Christie. I discovered a half price used bookstore nearby (ah, the good old days as new paperbacks were 25-50 cents each).

I prefer mystery and detective series over crime dramas. I still like to figure out "who done it." I like all kinds of mysteries from soft-boiled to hard-boiled. My current favorites are Michael Connelly and Peter Robinson and past favorites include Arthur

W. Upfield and Fredric Brown.

Q. Do you participate in any listserv or reading group discussions?

A. I currently belong to several Sherlock Holmes scion societies of the Baker Street Irregulars.

I have worked on several small conventions, Sherlockon II and Holmes West & Holmes West at Occidental College. It houses the Ned Guyman collection which includes a Beeton's Christmas Annual from 1887, the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes. We had a lot of headaches putting them on, but were happy and relieved when they were over. Putting on a larger convention such as LCC or Bouchercon has many more headaches and problems. I admire people for tackling them.

I moderate a monthly mystery book club at my library for the last 7-8 years. I make a list of about a dozen books with a brief promo and the group picks one. The only requirements are that there is at least 15 copies in our system and that we haven't previously read a book by the same author before.

Q. If you could become any protagonist in any novel, who would it be and why?

A. I've never thought about what character in a novel I would want to be. But I wouldn't mind being "tu7ckerized."

Q. When did you first learn of Left Coast Crime and how many have you attended?

A. I have attended most of the LCCs since the third one in Anaheim. I refused to go to the one in Anchorage in February. I'm from sunny Southern California. I was signed up for the one in Monterey but was too ill to attend. I was a corresponding member in 2006, as I couldn't afford to go to Bristol. Librarians don't make a lot of money. I am looking forward to LCC in Hawaii next year. I don't know which LCC I liked best. I enjoyed the one in Boulder with Kinky Friedman and the talent show. I also liked Portland a lot. I probably enjoy LCCs better than Bouchercons because they are smaller and not as hectic. I attended my first Bouchercon in 1976



MURDER on the EDGE

and I don't think there was more than 400 people attending and just a single track of programming.

Q. As Fan Guest of Honor, what's your role with this year's convention?

A. I decided against being interviewed because it would be very boring. I don't feel that I have enough interesting to say. I okayed being on a panel about collecting and will be on the Mystery List panel.

Obviously the LCC Committee thinks Michael is interesting and has a lot to offer. We think he's the perfect Fan Guest of Honor.



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

OF

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in
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INVITES YOU

TO

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IN THE TOWER EXHIBIT AREA BEHIND REGISTRATION

FRIDAY 8:30-4:00 & SATURDAY 8:30-5:00

Come socialize with local writers and learn about our programs and support groups.

Celebrity Chef

Joanne Pence

San Francisco native JOANNE PENCE grew up amid the rich cultural diversity and culinary excellence of that city. A graduate of U.C. Berkeley with a master's degree in journalism, Joanne has taught school in Japan, written for magazines and worked for the federal government. Fiction writing, however, always has been her first love. Her background is reflected in her critically acclaimed, award-winning mystery series. The series combines mystery with humor, romance and food. It features Angelina Amalfi, an under-employed journalist and gourmet cook, and San Francisco homicide inspector Paavo Smith. Angie wants two things in life—a good job, and Paavo—but culinary crime and murder keep getting in the way.

The series has won an Independent Booksellers' Golden Scroll Award. Under the category of Romantic Suspense, *Too Many Cooks* received a Gold Certificate from RomCon and Reviewer's Choice from *Romantic Times*. *Something's Cooking* was nominated for a RITA by the Romance Writers of America, and *To Catch A Cook* was nominated for a Daphne DuMaurier award in Mystery, a Golden Quill award in Romantic Suspense, and a Reviewer's Choice award for Best Amateur Sleuth. Joanne was nominated for a 2007 *Romantic Times* Career Achievement Award.

Joanne now lives north of Boise, Idaho with her husband, sons, and a plethora of pets. She is *not* a gourmet cook.

Q: Joanne, how long have you been writing the Angie Amalfi series and how did you decide on her as a character?

A: I've written fourteen Angie Amalfi mysteries, one a year beginning in 1993. That seems so long ago! My main idea for Angie was to make her very different from many of the female sleuths popular at the time I first conceived of her (late 80's). Lots of them were loners, they were "curious"—by that I mean they went around asking people about cases, and many had more-or-less dysfunctional relationships. Angie has a large

Italian family with four older sisters, and there's lots of love in the family although they often have their "differences" as families do. She doesn't want to get involved in mysteries or crime because she's too busy with her life—mainly trying to find a career that will make her family (especially her father) proud, and for the first ten books, trying to get her somewhat reluctant boyfriend, Homicide Inspector Paavo Smith, to propose. Paavo is reluctant only because he believes he's wrong for Angie, even though he does love her.

The books are a mixture of a somewhat droll, urbane humor which surrounds Angie and whatever she's up to in the story; a grittier, darker edge in the police procedural side which Paavo Smith is

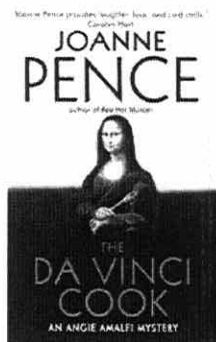
investigating; and then "something" that causes the two elements to intertwine and (hopefully) all work together in the end.

Q: You say on your website that you aren't a gourmet chef. What made you decide to write culinary mysteries then?

A: As I mentioned, the books have a humorous side. In the very first book, Angie, who actually is a gourmet cook, was a food columnist—or, at least, that's how she saw herself. Actually, she wrote a tiny column that was filler in an "advertiser" filled with ads and coupons and delivered free to households twice a week. She printed recipes from readers, and one of her frequent contributors used the recipes as a way to get coded messages out to his conspirators. So it was the newspaper and the fake recipes (some of which were truly awful) that were important. I wrote the book as a "stand-alone", not as a series, and I didn't even know there was such a thing as a "culinary mystery" sub-genre. When my editor contacted me and asked for a second book with the same characters, and added, "And you will be serious about food in the next book, won't you?" no one was more surprised than I. Of course I said, "Yes!" And immediately began to buy cookbooks.

Q: What are your fans most frequent questions for you?

A: The most frequent question, bar none is "When are Angie and Paavo going to get married?" This is usually followed by a discussion of other sleuth couples who married and how it either ruined or





helped the series. My answer, by the way, is that I'm not sure –and I honestly think that with this particular series, for the two of them to marry would hurt the dynamics of the two main characters plus all those who interact with them. So...they aren't going to get married soon.

Q: Are there other conferences that you attend? What do you think makes LCC unique?

A: Although I've attended a number of Bouchercons, several Malice Domestics, Novelists' Inc., RWA, and many number of smaller conferences throughout the country, the ones I most often attend and most enjoy are Left Coast Crime and Murder in the Grove. The latter takes place in Boise, Idaho, where I now live. Since 2005, I've been on the conference committee. It's a great, small conference, and Idaho is a beautiful state. Left Coast Crime is special is that it moves to a new location each year, and no two conferences are alike. It's always fresh, always fun.

Q: What's your role with LCC 2008 and what plans do you have for the event? Are you playing a role in the Alferd E. Packer Banquet?

A: My role is pure fun. I'm the "Celebrity Chef." I tell you, Angie Amalfi would be proud – and probably very jealous. As far as the banquet, have you ever wanted to have a mystery writer for dinner? This will be your chance. Literally. Good old Alferd made Hannibal Lecter look like a piker! I can't reveal much about the plans, but let's say goose flesh should be the order of the day, with a bit of steak tartar, or

juicy liver served very rare...No we'll refrain from that, but whatever the final result is, it'll be fun.

Q: What's next for you?

A: As much as I love Angie and Paavo and have had great fun writing them, the last few books have started out much longer and darker than what eventually went to print. I write one book a year, and since book ten, I've wanted to take the time to write something longer and darker, but with Angie books under contract, I haven't been able to take the time. So after lengthy conversations with my agent, I'm taking a hiatus to do what I've been thinking about for a long time. I have no idea what the result will be, but whatever the result, I'm enjoying the break. At the same time, I wouldn't be surprised if Angie doesn't demand to have another story told. And if she does, I'll be sure to listen to her.



Books by Joanne Pence

The Da Vinci Cook (2007)

Red Hot Murder (2006)

Courting Disaster (2004)

Two Cooks A-Killing (2003)

If Cooks Could Kill (2003)

Bell, Cook, and Candle (2002)

To Catch a Cook (2000)

A Cook in Time (1999)

Cooks Overboard (1998)

Cook's Night Out (1998)

Cooking Most Deadly (1996)

Cooking Up Trouble

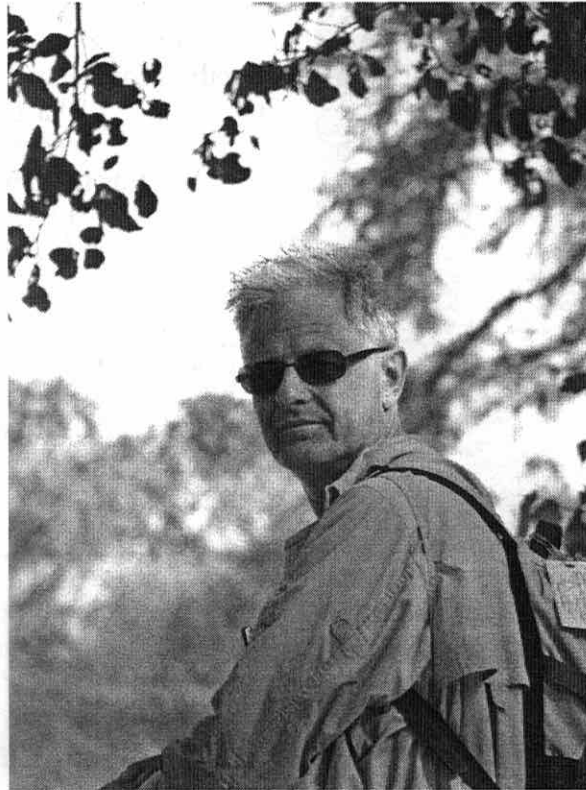
Too Many Cooks

Something's Cooking

Celebrity Singer

Parnell Hall

Parnell Hall is the author of so many books it's a wonder you haven't heard of him. Don't feel bad. No one else has, either. We figured we needed to change that considering how many books he has written. It took some effort, but we finally got him to sit down and answer a few of our questions. Let's meet the man who has been an actor, a singer, and author of multiple series and a screenplay for that weird movie C.H.U.D., now a cult classic.



Q: You are a multi-talented person—writer of the Stanley Hastings PI series and the Puzzle Lady mystery series, actor, singer—tell us, what the latest is in regards to your career?

A: I was thinking of becoming an astronaut.

Q. Though the series are very different, both have elements of humor—something difficult to write well. Does humor just come naturally to you, or do you have some techniques you can share with the reader?

A: Humor? I thought I wrote suspense novels. This is very bad news. I may have to reassess my career.

Q. Tell us a bit about your series, and tell us what's in store for Stanley and/or Cora?

A: Stanley finds a moral justification for working for a contract killer in Hitman. Cora solves a sudoku and gets her hair done in The Sudoku Puzzle Murders.

Q. What kind of books do you like to read?

A: I grew up on Erle Stanley Gardner's Perry Mason novels, moved on the Agatha Christie, and branched out from there. Robert B. Parker's Spenser books were the inspiration for Stanley Hastings. Cora Felton has been called "Miss Marple on steroids," or "Jessica Fletcher meets Groucho Marx." The Steve Winslow courtroom dramas, written by my good

friend J. P. Hailey, are based on the early Perry Mason novels.

Q. What is your involvement with LCC, and what do you have in store for attendees? Do you come with a warning label?

A. I was thinking of giving out cookies (it worked for Diane Mott Davidson), but my baking skills are suspect. I believe I am on two panels, but I am not sure where or when. If you see me wandering around looking lost, please point me in the right direction.

Q: Your reputation for song precedes you. How many ditties have you crafted in all, and is there somewhere

folks can go to hear them?

A: More to the point, is there somewhere people can go to avoid them? I have sung at Left Coast, Bouchercon, Malice Domestic, Magna Cum Murder, MidAtlantic Mystery, the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, and the Edgar Awards. I have sung onstage at a Pete Seeger concert, and to Eddie Fisher in his dressing room at the Latin Casino. At the Bouchercon Banquet in Chicago, Dennis Lehane offered me forty dollars not to sing. I sang anyway, hoping if I held out the price would go up.

I will be accepting bids at the banquet.

Parnell's new Puzzle Lady mystery, The Sudoku Puzzle Murders, features sudoku by Will Shortz, New York Times crossword puzzle editor and star of the movie Wordplay. People have heard of him.



THE FIRST NOVEL IN AN EXHILARATING NEW SERIES!

“With her snappy intelligence and sharp intuition, Mei Wang could give Alexander McCall Smith’s #1 *Ladies’ Detective Agency* a run for its money.”

—*South China Morning Post*

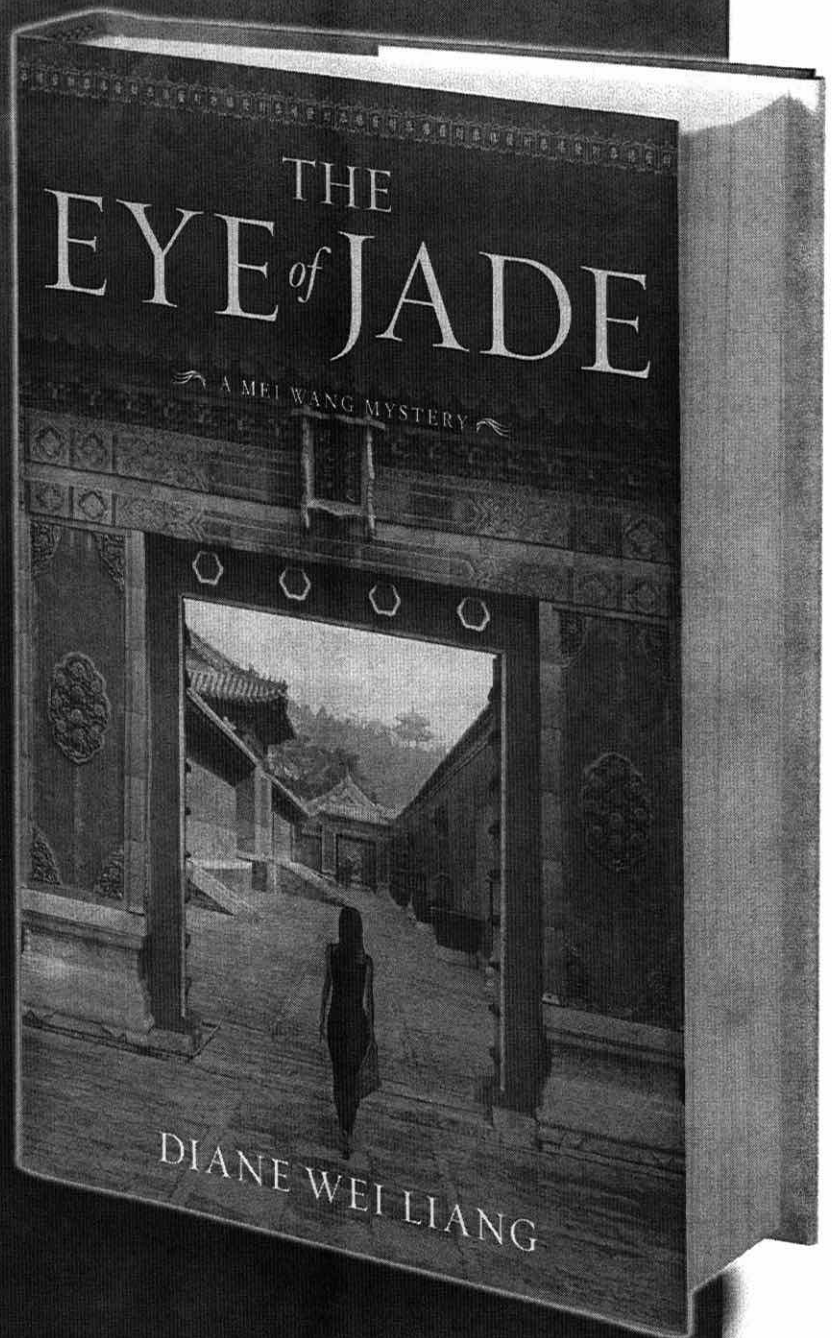
To track down a priceless Han dynasty jade heirloom, Mei Wang, Beijing’s first successful female private investigator, must delve deep into China’s brutal history—and into her own tragic past.

“Liang takes what seems to be a clever gimmick—the first female private investigator in Beijing—and infuses it with a poignant meditation on being an outsider who suddenly wants to find her way back in... **Liang’s clear, inviting prose... portends a strong future.**”

—*The Baltimore Sun*

“On the surface, *The Eye of Jade* is classic detective fiction with lots of underworld contacts and hushed conversations in noodle bars, but underneath Liang is doing something much more: an examination of China old and new.”

—BBC



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SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

THURSDAY, MARCH 6th

REGISTRATION 12 NOON-5:30 PM

BOOKSTORE OPEN: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Time	Vail	Columbine	Terrace
12:30 to 1:15 p.m.	Sidekicks: the good, the bad, the ugly Linda Petrelli Duncan (M), James Calder, Maria Hudgins, Karen Olson, Priscilla Royal	<i>WOW:</i> Exploring the mystery thriller spectrum Leslie O'Kane (M) C.J. Lyons	<i>WOW:</i> Deep editing for psychological power Gwen Shuster-Haynes (M) Margie Lawson
1:30 to 2:15 p.m.	<i>WOW:</i> Don't murder your mysterysm Chris Roerden (M), Jane Cleland, Reed Farrel Coleman, Twist Phelan	Cozymania: Its cause and cure Becky G. Martinez (M), Rita Lakin, Terri Thayer, Deb Baker	<i>WOW:</i> Thriller pacing and killer conflict C.J. Lyons (M), Toni McGee Causey
2:15 to 2:45 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom		
2:45 to 3:30 p.m.	Dying Is Easy, Comedy Is Hard Mario Acevedo (M), John Getz, Marc Louis Lecard, Jess Loury, Joseph Pittman	<i>WOW:</i> How to outline your novel in one hour Chris Jorgensen (M) Michael Black, Julie Hyzy	The panel from hell: Those who sign up late take what they can get David Walker (M), Dana Fredsti, Steve Rasnic Terns, Mike Thompson
3:45 to 4:30 p.m.	Mind games & manhunts: Psychological thrillers Carol Caverly (M), Robert Greer, Christine Jorgensen, Peter May, Laura Benedict	Private Eye in the 21st Century Mark Coggins (M), Mario Acevedo, Colleen Collins, Barbara Fister, Harry Hunsicker, Michael Siverling	<i>WOW:</i> u r hawk: BSP on the WWW Linda Berry (M), Madeira James, Comelia Read, Susan Arnout Smith
4:30 to 5:00 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom		
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	THE MILE HIGH MURDER MACHINE: A Party Bus tour of Denver's most notorious killings. Mario Acevedo emcee, plus booze.		

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th

REGISTRATION 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

BOOKSTORE OPEN 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Time	Vail	Columbine	Terrace	Beverly
7:30 to 8:30 a.m.	COME AND MEET THE NEW AUTHORS! CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST			
8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	So hardboiled you could roll them on the white house lawn C.J. Lyons (M), Reed Farrel Coleman, Jodi Compton, Ed Goldberg, Mark Schweizer	Don't turn out the light: thrillers J.J. Lamb (M), Jeff Buick, Albert Ellis, Bette Golden Lamb, Bonnie Ramthun	How mysteries handle touchy issues Sally Fellows (M), Christine Goff, Ken Isaacson, Joan Johnston, Betty Webb	Over medium: Soft-boiled v. hardboiled Paul Anik (M), Carl Brookins, J.M. Hayes, Roberta Isleib, Richard Thompson
9:15 to 9:45 a.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
9:45 to 10:30 a.m.	Dicks with baggage: The modern PI Anthony Bidulka (M), Lori Armstrong, Parnell Hall, James Mitchell	Killing with kindness: Traditional mysteries Leslie Klinger (M), Ellen Byerron, Barbara Graham, Steve Hockensmith, Craig Johnson	Essential mystery lists Roger Sobin (M), Steve Glassman, Michael Masliah, Linda S. Smith, Jay Waggoner	Mystery Trivia preliminary round 1
10:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
11:00 to 11:45 a.m.	Double-edged sword: Writing the long series John Maddox Roberts (M), Stephanie Barron, Margaret Coel, Stephen White	<i>MWA:</i> Past perfect: Historical mysteries Frederick Ramsay (M), Aileen Baron, Rhys Bowen, Beverle Graves Myers, Kelli Stanley	Sex and violence: Is too much ever enough? Bill Cameron (M), Tasha Alexander, David Corbett, Marcus Sakey, Eric Stone	Mystery Trivia preliminary round 2
11:45 to 12:15 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
12:15 to 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN			

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH cont'd.

Time	Vail	Columbine	Terrace	Beverly
1:15 to 2:00 p.m.	Walking the Mean Streets in High Heels Diana Rowe (M), Lori Armstrong, Toni McGee Causey, Karen Olson, Joanne Pence	What's my niche? Cozies with a theme. Jane Cleland (M), Nancy Atherton, Rosemary Harris, Gabriella Herkert, Cricket McRae	Shaken, stirred and blended: Sleuths that cross genre lines Margaret Lucke (M), Lee Killough, Kat Richardson, Jeanne Stein	Mystery Trivia preliminary round 3
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 1:15-1:45 Mike Hayes, Twist Phelan, Julie Pomeroy, Penny Rudolph 1:45-2:15 Joanna Carl, Dana Fredsti, Maggie Sefton, Kelli Stanley			
2:00 to 2:30 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
2:30 to 3:15 p.m.	<i>Forensic</i> Objection! Law, fiction and the CSI effect Laura Pellerin (M), Twist Phelan, Cathy Pickens, Louise Ure	The Good Old Days: Writing about the Past Lauren Haney (M), Stephanie Barron, Sharon Rowse, Brian Thornton, Jeri Westerson	Surveillance workshop R.T. Lawton	Mystery Trivia preliminary round 4
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 2:15-2:45: Mario Acevedo, Steve Brewer, Mary Jane Maffini, Bill Moody 2:45-3:15: Mike Befeler, Rick Mofina, Eric Stone, Andy Straka 3:15-3:45 Beth Groundwater, Steve Hockensmith, Mike Sherer, Roger Sobin			
3:15 to 3:45 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
3:45 to 4:30 p.m.	<i>Forensic:</i> Working with the Man Chris Grabenstein (M), J.T. Ellison, Julie Hyzy, Neil Plakcy	Hooray for Hollywood Irene Turner (M), John Billheimer, Bruce Cook, Bill Fitzhugh, Susan Amout Smith	Surveillance exercise R.T. Lawton Rabbits & Cougars (on the mall)	<i>ITW:</i> Thrills and Chills. Don't forget to Breathe. Jeff Buick (M) Laura Caldwell, C.J. Lyons, Theresa Schwegel
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 3:45-4:15—"Music and Murder" Claudia Bishop, Rhys Bowen, Don Bruns 4:15-4:45—"Everyone's funny 'cept Barbara" Jeff Cohen, Barbara Fister, Gabriella Herkert, Jack Getze			
4:30 to 5:00 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
5:00 to 7 p.m.	MWA cocktail party and surveillance exercise debriefing			

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

Registration 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Bookstore open 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Time	Vail	Columbine	Terrace	Beverly
7:30 to 8:30 a.m.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST			
8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	<i>MWA:</i> He Writes/She Writes Steven Torres (M), Cara Black, Libby Hellman, Rick Mofina, Neal Plakcy	<i>Forensic:</i> ATF Rick McMahan	<i>SinC:</i> Kick-Ass Sisters on a Mission Denise Dietz (M), Carolyn Hart, Roberta Isleib, Hailey Lind, Nancy Pickard	<i>MWA:</i> What's age got to do with It? Mike Befeler (M), Beth Groundwater, Parnell Hall, Patricia Stoltey, Simon Woods
9:15 to 9:45 a.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
9:45 to 10:30 a.m.	<i>MWA:</i> Where Do These People Come From? Don Bruns (M), Jeff Cohen, J.T. Ellison, Michelle Gagnon, Pari Noskin Taichert	<i>Forensic:</i> The ABCs of forensic science Doug Lyle & Jan Burke	Post-modern detective: an exploration of the crime novel Joel Goldman (M), Bill Moody, Kris Neri, Penny Rudolph, Andy Straka	Mystery Trivia Semifinals
10:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 10:30-11:00—"Baseball, Brooklyn and Crime Fiction" Jason Starr and Reed Farrel Coleman			
11:00 to 11:45 a.m.	What's not to like? Gwen Shuster-Haynes (M), JoAnna Carl, Carolyn Hart, Nancy Pickard, Elaine Viets	<i>Forensic:</i> Use of Force Rick McMahan	Romancing the mystery Tom O'Day, Joan Johnston, Margaret Lucke, Peter May, Kris Neri	Mystery Trivia Semifinals
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 11-11:45—"Murder methods and all things medical" D.P. Lyle, M.D.			
11:45 to 12:15 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom			
12:15 to 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN			

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH cont'd

Time	Vail	Columbine	Terrace
1:15-2:00 p.m.	<i>MWA:</i> Where stories come from Mike Sherer (M), Donna Andrews, Jane Cleland, Alexandra Sokoloff, Penny Warner	<i>Forensic:</i> Historical Views Jan Burke (M), Sam Reaves, Sharan Newman	Cowboys are my weakness Julia Pomeroy (M), Mark Coggins, Craig Johnson, Robert Fate, Ken Kuhlken
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 1:15-1:45—"Best & Worst" Bill Cameron, Jess Lourey, Camille Minichino, Rick Mofina 1:45-2:15—Aileen Baron, Cara Black, Lauren Haney, Beverle Meyer		
2:00 to 2:30 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom		
2:30 to 3:15 p.m.	<i>MWA:</i> Writers in the Hot Seat Twist Phelan (M), Steve Brewer, Chris Grabenstein, D.P. Lyle, Elaine Viets	<i>Forensic:</i> Forensic Anthropology Dianne France	Murder on the Rocks Louise Ure (M), Sandy Ault, Kathy Brandt, Mark Cohen, Vicki Delany
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 2:15-2:45—Michelle Gagnon, Jeanne Stein, Pari Noskin Taichert 2:45-3:15—"The Gay Mystery—Welcome to Our Niche" Anthony Bidulka, Joseph Pittman, Neil Plakcy, Mark Zubro 3:15-3:45—"Opposites attract" Margaret Coel, Craig Johnson		
3:15 to 3:45 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom		
3:45 to 4:30 p.m.	I'm cozy, you got a problem with that? Lori Lacefield (M), Claudia Bishop, Denise Dietz, Dana Fredsti, Maggie Sefton	<i>Forensic:</i> Down These Mean Streets Camille Minichino (M), Michael Black, Rick McMahan, Michael Siverling	Shades of Black: Noir at 50 paces Ken Kuhlken (M), Con Lehane, Cornelia Read, Jason Starr, Kelli Stanley
	Savoy Room: Endless conversation 3:45 to 4:15—Libby Fisher Hellman, Susan Amout Smith, Louise Ure 4:15 to 4:45—Patricia Stoltey, Sam Reaves, David Corbett, Laura Benedict		
4:30 to 5:00 p.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom		
6:00 to 7:00 pm	Cocktails (cash bar) and Hawaiian costume Contest		
7-9	Banquet and live auction (auction items, quilt) Awards presentation		

SUNDAY, MARCH 9th

BOOKSTORE OPEN 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Time	Vail	Columbine	Terrace
8:00 to 9:00 a.m.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST		
8:45-9:30a.m.	How real is real enough? Craig Johnson (M), Bill Cameron, Colin Campbell, Troy Cook, Robert R. Kresge, Barbara Petty	Beyond Agatha Christie: Movements in the Traditional Mystery Beth Groundwater (M), Ellen Crosby, Michael Allen Dymmoch, Margaret Tessler	Books that keep you turning the pages past Midnight: Suspense Fiction Libby Fischer Hellman (M), Fleur Bradley, Lori Lacefield, Sheila Lowe, Steven Sidor
9:45 to 10:30a.m.	Write your letter on a Chicago typewriter: Machine guns (and more!) Greg Satre	Tradition Rules: the Basic Mystery Form Patricia Coleman (M), Lynn Miller, Mark Zubro	Check my Pulse: Adventure Crime Suzanne Proulx (M), Theresa Crater, Sara Almeida Hoyt, Lucinda Schroeder, Sandi Sumner
10:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Author signings Majestic Ballroom		
11:00 to 12:30 p.m.	CLOSING EVENT: Stephen White Interview		

MONDAY, MARCH 10TH

TRIP TO ESTES AND THE STANLEY HOTEL

Why we named the banquet after a Colorado cannibal

by Suzanne Proulx

You have your folk heroes—actual people whose deeds have become legend, like Daniel Boone and Johnny Appleseed. And then you have your folk villains—and in this category, Colorado has the dubious honor of claiming Alferd (or Alfred) Packer, one of the only citizens of the US ever convicted of cannibalism.

The facts: In the fall of 1873, a party of men left Salt Lake City heading for the gold fields in the mountains of Colorado. They started out in high spirits, thinking of the riches to come. But they encountered barren wastes and snowy mountains, and were about to turn back in despair when they came upon an Indian camp. The Indians took them to the chief, and they were fed and sheltered until they had recovered from their adventure thus far.

Advised by Chief Ouray that the winter would be even worse than what they'd previously encountered and they should turn back, ten of the party members took that very excellent advice. The other ten decided

to forge on with their original plan. Chief Ouray gave them provisions and suggested they follow the Gunnison River, which would take them to the Los Pinos Agency. Four of them did, but Packer talked the other six into striking off heading for the headwaters of the Rio Grande, where rich mines were said to have been discovered.

In February of 1874, two of the four men who had followed the Gunnison arrived, on the verge of starvation, at the Los Pinos Agency, the other two having perished of exposure and starvation. The group led by Packer was assumed to have been lost.

Then, in March of 1874, Packer also appeared at the Agency, described as "wild-looking" and bloated of face but otherwise in good condition. He said his five companions had deserted him when he became ill. However, he was well supplied with money, and bought many rounds of drink, during which his story slipped a bit, to the point where those listening to him began to suspect that he had, in fact, killed his companions and taken their cash.

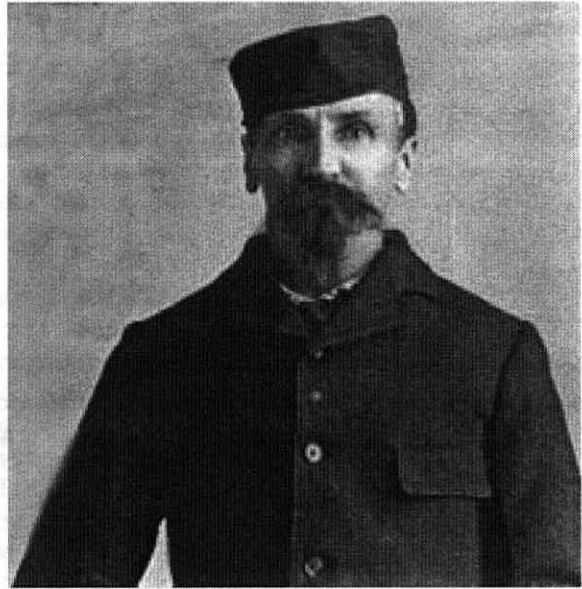
Even worse, the investigation clearly pointed to Packer having murdered and eaten his companions, and he later confessed to it. In fact he confessed to several different versions. In one version one of his companions had shot the others while Packer was gathering firewood, and attempted to kill Packer when he returned to camp—so it was self defense.

No one assumed Packer was innocent, particularly when he tried to assault a member of the party he was leading to find the bodies of the men. In June, when thing had thawed somewhat, an artist discovered the remains of Packer's party, which indicated the truth of Packer's confession—at least the part where he said he'd eaten them. He was charged with five murders, but escaped.

Nine years later, in March of 1883, authorities caught up with him in Laramie County, Wyoming, where he was said to be involved with a gang of outlaws. He was brought back to Colorado, tried, and found guilty, with the death penalty attached. He immediately appealed and was granted a new trial. This time the verdict was guilty but the sentence was eight years for each offense, for a total of 40 years. He was pardoned in January of 1901, and moved to a ranch in Deer Creek, Colorado (where he was said to have become a vegetarian), and died in 1907.

The myth: Convicted of cannibalism

The truth: Convicted of murder, reversed on a technicality; reconvicted of manslaughter.



The myth: During the trial, the judge supposedly said: “Damn you, Alferd Packer! There were seven Demmycrats in Hinsdale County and you et five of ‘em!”

The truth: The actual sentencing statement read: “Close your ears to the blandishments of hope. Listen not to the flattering promises of life, but prepare for the dread certainty of death.” It should be noted that, as all the men came from Salt Lake City, there was no particular reason for the judge even to have known their political affiliation—if any.

For some reason, Packer caught on as a legend in popular culture. His case was written up in *Celebrated Criminal Cases of North America*, by Thomas S. Duke (1910), and inserted as a direct quote from there into Dashiell Hammett’s *The Thin Man* (1929). Phil Ochs wrote a folk song about him, “The Ballad of Alferd Packer” (1964), with the refrain: “They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; It just doesn’t pay to eat anything but Government-inspected beef.” In 1968 students at the University of Colorado named the grill in the student union the Alferd G. Packer Memorial Grill, with the motto “Have a friend for lunch!” The cafeteria in the U.S. Department of Agriculture was also briefly named the Alfred Packer Memorial Grill (the plaque proving it resides at the bar of the National Press Club). Packer has also inspired a 1999 movie, *Ravenous*, and *Cannibal: The Musical* by Trey Parker (of *South Park* fame).

His legend has also been the subject, over the years, of various mock trials, continuing investigations, CSI-style tests, and a pardon (in 1981).

In short, he’s the kind of folk villain mystery fans can really sink their teeth into.



THRILLER

FEST - 2008

j u l y 9 - 1 2 - g r a n d h y a t t - n y c

SANDRA BROWN, 2008 ThrillerMaster

JAMES PATTERSON, 2007 ThrillerMaster

Spotlight authors include

Brad Thor, Kathy Reichs, Eric Van Lustbader

ThrillerFest ~ CraftFest ~ AgentFest (New for 2008)

For details and to register, visit www.thrillerwriters.org

PANELISTS



MARIO ACEVEDO writes vampire detective novels for Eos, HarperCollins. His titles include these future literary classics: *The Nymphs of Rocky Flats*, *X-Rated Bloodsuckers*, and the new poignant tale of alien lust, undead revenge, and Southern hospitality in *The Undead Kama Sutra*. A former Army helicopter pilot, paratrooper, engineer, and art teacher to incarcerated felons, Mario lives and writes in Denver, Colorado.



TASHA ALEXANDER attended the University of Notre Dame, where she signed on as an English major in order to have a legitimate excuse for spending all her time reading. Following graduation, she played nomad for several years, eventually settling with her family in Tennessee. She is the author of three novels of historical suspense, *And Only To Deceive*, *A Poisoned Season*, and *A Fatal Waltz*, as well as *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, the companion novel to the Universal Studios film starring Cate Blanchett.



Lefty nominee

Like Meg Langslow, the ornamental blacksmith heroine of her series from St. Martin's Press, **DONNA ANDREWS** was born and raised in Yorktown, Virginia. These days she spends almost as much time in cyberspace as Turing Hopper, the artificial intelligence who appears in her technocozy series from Berkley Prime Crime. After college she joined the communications staff of a large financial organization, where she developed a profound understanding of the criminal mind through her observation of interdepartmental politics. Her books have won many awards, and *The Penguin Who Knew Too Much* (St. Martins) was #1 on the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association bestseller list for August 2007. www.donnaandrews.com

PAUL ANIK is a business transaction attorney during the day, and a mystery book collector and reviewer (www.iloveamysterynewsletter.com) after sundown. Paul was on the organizing committee for Left Coast Crime 2003 in Pasadena, and is the chairperson for Left Coast Crime 2010 in Los Angeles. He also enjoys being a moderator and seeing his annual friends at each Left Coast Crime event.

LORI ARMSTRONG left the firearms industry in 2000. Her mystery novel, *Blood Ties*, published in 2005, was nominated in 2006 for a Shamus award for best first novel by the Private Eye Writers of America. The second book in the Julie Collins series, *Hal-*

lowed Ground, released in November 2006, was nominated for a 2007 Daphne du Maurier award for best mystery, a Shamus award for best paperback original of 2007, and won the 2007 Willa Cather Literary Award for Best Original Softcover Fiction, by Women Writing the West. *Shallow Grave* was released in November 2007. Lori is a fourth-generation South Dakotan and lives in Rapid City with her family.



NANCY ATHERTON was born in Chicago, Illinois. She worked every low-paying job in America before Aunt Dimity informed her that she was, in fact, supposed to be a writer. Aunt Dimity was right, of course, and Nancy has been writing ever since. Nancy has lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the past five years and hopes fervently that she'll be able to call Colorado home for many years to come. In her spare time, she climbs mountains.



SANDI AULT is the bestselling author of Berkley Prime Crime's WILD Mystery Series, including *Wild Indigo*, *Wild Inferno*, and two more upcoming WILD episodes. This WILD writer lives in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. A former musician, composer, journalist, and newspaper section editor, she now lives among the pines where she creates novels and other works of writing. She and her husband and their wolf Tiwa and wildcat Buckskin travel extensively doing research for Sandi's work. Ms. Ault is a Fire Information Officer responding locally and nationally to wildfires. You can visit the author on her website at www.SandiAult.com. **Favorite murder method:** Buffalo stampede



DEB BAKER writes two mystery series. Her Yooper series is set in the Michigan Upper Peninsula and features Gertie Johnson, mother of the local sheriff. *The Dolls to Die For* series has Phoenix's Camelback Mountain as a backdrop and the protagonist is doll repair artist, Gretchen Birch. Deb lives in the Wisconsin woods.



AILEEN BARON has a Ph.D. in archaeology, with extensive experience in archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East. Her first archaeological mystery, *A Fly Has A Hundred Eyes*, takes place in British mandated Palestine in 1938. *The Torch Of Tangier*, is the



second mystery in the Lily Sampson series. Her latest mystery, *The Gold of Thrace*, a stand-alone, is a tale of danger and deceit in the antiquities trade.



The author of nine critically acclaimed Jane Austen mysteries, **STEPHANIE BARRON** is a graduate of Princeton and Stanford, where she studied history. Her new novel, *A Flaw in the Blood*, takes Barron into the Victorian period—and the mind of Queen Victoria herself. As **Francine Mathews**, Barron is the author of eight novels of espionage and detection; *Publishers Weekly* named the most recent, *The Alibi Club*, one of the fifteen best novels of 2006. A former intelligence analyst for the CIA, Francine has worked in counterterrorism and personality profiling. She lives and works in Denver.



REBECCA WILLIAMSON BATES lives in Boulder, Colorado where she gave up teaching Spanish to write full time. Her suspense novel, *The Drowning of Chittenden*, by Rebecca Williamson, was published by Wildside Press. As Rebecca Bates, she has published several SF and fantasy short stories. Her most recent stories appear in

the anthologies *Ecotastrophe* and *Future Syndicate*.



MIKE BEFELER turned his attention to fiction writing after a career in high technology marketing. His debut novel, *Retirement Homes Are Murder*, appeared January, 2007. This humorous “geezzer-lit” mystery features Paul Jacobson, an octogenarian with short-term memory loss, who finds a dead body in the trash chute of a retirement home, gets accused of the crime and

must escape a killer intent on a repeat performance. Mike holds a Master’s degree from UCLA and a Bachelor’s degree from Stanford. He lives in Boulder, Colorado, with his wife, Wendy.



LAURA BENEDICT’s fiction has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and a number of anthologies. For the past decade she has reviewed books for *The Grand Rapids Press* and other newspapers. *Isabella Moon*, from Ballantine Books, is her first novel. A second thriller is forthcoming in 2008. She’s

also the co-editor of *Surreal South*, a collection of surreal southern short fiction and poetry, with her husband, Pinckney Benedict. She lives with her family in rural southern Illinois, a lonely, enchanted sort of place that offers excellent inspiration for writing thrillers. Visit www.laurabenedict.com to get to know her better.

Although she lives in Colorado, **LINDA BERRY**’s cozy Trudy Roundtree mysteries grow out of her Georgia roots and stories from and about an extended family that includes a long-time policeman, who serves as a model for one of her characters as well as a resource. Linda’s other credits include short fiction for children and adults, poetry, plays, preschool curriculum, craft articles, and a newspaper entertainment column. In addition to writing and reading—two of her favorite things—Linda is a community arts activist and tries to organize everything else in her life around theatre tickets.



ANTHONY BIDULKA, like his protagonist, lives a big life in a small city on the Canadian prairie. He also loves to travel the world—meeting people, sampling food and wine, walking sun-drenched streets, making good use of swim-up bars, and being awed. Please visit www.anthonymbidulka.com.



His Russell Quant series is a multi award nominee, including for the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award and Saskatchewan Book Award. The second in the series, *Flight of Aquavit*, was awarded the Lambda Literary Award for best men’s mystery.

JOHN BILLHEIMER, a native West Virginian, lives in Portola Valley, California. He holds an engineering Ph. D. from Stanford University and is the author of the “funny, sometimes touching,” Owen Allison mystery series set in Appalachia’s coalfields. *The Drood Review* voted his first book, *The Contrary Blues*, one of the ten best mysteries of 1998. Four subsequent novels explore various Mountain State scams and scandals. The most recent is *Stonewall Jackson’s Elbow*, which has been followed by a non-fiction book, *Baseball and the Blame Game*, that deals with scapegoating in the major leagues. More information may be found at www.johnbillheimer.com.



CLAUDIA BISHOP (Mary Stanton) is the author of eighteen mysteries in the Hemlock Falls and Casebooks of Dr. McKenzie series. *The Case of the Ill-Gotten Goat* ships in June. Bishop is the senior editor of three mystery anthologies. She will debut a new series, *The Grouchy Gourmet*, in 2009 and the first of a new supernatural mystery series, *Beaufort&Co*, will appear in the fall of 2008 under the name Mary Stanton



PANELISTS, continued



CARA BLACK lives in San Francisco with her husband, a bookseller, and son. She's a San Francisco Library Laureate, President of the Northern California Mystery Writers of America and member of the Marais historic society in Paris. Her award nominated Aimée Leduc Investigations are set in different districts of Paris. ***Murder in the Rue de Paradis***, the eighth book in her bestselling series, comes out in March 2008 and received a starred review in *Library Journal*. www.carablack.com



MICHAEL A. BLACK'S first novel to feature private investigator Ron Shade, ***A Killing Frost*** (Five Star, 2002), was recently re-released in mass market paperback by Dorchester Publishing/Leisure Books. Dorchester is also planning to introduce Mike's new series, beginning with ***Random Victim***. To date, Mike has written eight novels, including two others in the

Ron Shade series: ***Windy City Knights*** and ***A Final Judgment***, which won the Lovey award for Best PI in 2007, and two suspense/thrillers: ***The Heist*** and ***Freeze Me, Tender***. He's also written a pulp-era adventure: ***Melody of Vengeance***. Mike is currently a sergeant on the Matteson, Illinois Police Department. Please visit: www.michaelablack.com.



RHYS BOWEN is a transplanted Brit who now lives in northern California. Her books have been nominated for every major mystery award and she has won eight of them. She currently writes the Molly Murphy series, set in early 1900s New York and the new, lighter, ***Her Royal Spyness*** featuring a minor member of the British royal family in 1930s England.

This book was an IMBA number one bestseller and named a Killer Book. She has just completed the second in this series, to be called ***A Royal Pain***. Rhys also writes award-winning short stories. She is a past chapter president and board member of MWA. When not writing she likes to travel, sing, play her celtic harp and spoil her grandchildren.



FLEUR BRADLEY is originally from the Netherlands and now lives in Colorado with her husband and two daughters. Dozens of her short stories have appeared online and in print, in places like ***The Thrilling Detective***, ***Shred of Evidence*** and ***Stories for Children***. She's just completed her YA suspense novel, ***Death To Terry Fontaine***. Check out

her website at www.fleurbradley.com.

Colorado author **KATHY BRANDT** writes the Underwater Investigation series (***Under Pressure***, ***Dangerous Depths***, ***Dark Water Dive***, ***Swimming with the Dead***) featuring SCUBA diver and underwater crime scene investigator Hannah Sampson. She taught writing at the University of Colorado for ten years before deciding to write full time. Her articles have appeared in ***Cruising World***, ***Sailing***, ***Yachting***, ***Women's Sports and Fitness***, and many other publications. Visit her website: www.ksbrandt.com



STEVE BREWER is the author of the corporate thriller ***Cuttbroat*** and 15 other books, as well as a humorist whose weekly column appears in newspapers nationwide. The first novel in his comic Bubba Mabry private eye series, ***Lonely Street***, recently was made into a Hollywood film., and the seventh, ***Monkey Man***, was a finalist for the Lefty Award in 2006. Steve is active in Mystery Writers of America, and has served on the MWA national board. He lives in Northern California with his wife, two sons and a dog named Elvis.



Before he became a mystery writer **CARL BROOKINS** was a freelance photographer, a public television program director and producer, and a university counselor and faculty member. He has reviewed mystery fiction for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and for *Mystery Scene Magazine*. Brookins is a recreational sailor. He is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, Private Eye Writers of America and The Minnesota Crime Wave. He writes the sailing adventure series featuring Michael Tanner and Mary Whitney and the Sean Sean PI series. His latest, an academic mystery, is ***Bloody Halls***, due out in January, 2008. His short fiction has appeared in anthologies "Silence of the Loons," and "Resort to Murder." **Favorite villain:** Macbeth.



An award winning novelist and musician, **DON BRUNS** is author of ***Jamaica Blue***, ***Barbados Heat***, ***South Beach Shakedown***, which won top honors in the mystery/thriller/suspense category of the "Best Books 2006" Awards sponsored by USA Book News. ***Stuff To Die For*** begins a new series for Bruns and his newest book, ***St. Bart Breakdown***, is the fourth in his Caribbean/South Florida mystery series. **Favorite opening line:** The sun rose slowly, as if it wasn't sure it was worth all the effort. —***The Light Fantastic***, Terry Pratchett **Funniest line:** The same.



Arty nominee

Lefty nominee



JEFF BUICK loves writing. It's his passion. Years ago he wrote a young adult book for one of his sons and discovered a hidden talent. Crafting stories and creating characters was not only fun, but very fulfilling. After two young adult books he shifted to writing thrillers. Seventeen books later, writing has become like breathing for Jeff. His goal—to capture and entertain the reader. Jeff lives in Calgary, Canada, has four adult children, five dogs and a very cute granddaughter. And yes, Buick is his real name. It's Scottish.



National bestseller **JAN BURKE** is the author of eleven novels and a collection of short stories. Her novels include *Kidnapped* and *Bloodlines*. Her novel *Bones* won the Edgar for best novel. Her short stories have won the Agatha, Macavity, and other awards. *Kidnapped* is the ninth book to feature Irene Kelly, a newspaper reporter in Southern California. Burke's novels are published internationally and have been optioned for film. She is the founder of the Crime Lab Project a nonprofit organization which works to educate the public about the need for better support for forensic science. Visit www.janburke.com for more information.

Author of the Lacey Smithsonian Crime of Fashion mysteries, **ELLEN BYERRUM** is delighted to return to Denver, her hometown, for Left Coast Crime, and engage in her traditional crispy chille relleno hunt. Byerrum's novels, which are set in and around Washington, D.C., the city that fashion forgot, include *Grave Apparel*, *Raiders of the Lost Corset*, *Hostile Makeover*, *Designer Knockoff*, and *Killer Hair*. The next mystery in the series, *Armed and Glamorous*, will be out in July 2008. Byerrum lives in Virginia with her husband Bob Williams, where she has a day job as a reporter, holds a private investigator's registration, and sometimes writes plays.



LESLIE CAINE, author of *Fatal Feng Shui*, is the pseudonym for Leslie O'Kane. Her 16th mystery novel will be published next summer. Her books feature accidental sleuths with a strong sense of humor. Her current series, published by Dell, features interior designers Erin Gilbert and Steve Sullivan, whose romance and business partnership perpetually run into snags—and dead bodies. The books are set in the fictitious town of Crestview, Colorado, which is modeled after Leslie's hometown, Boulder, where she and her husband share an empty nest—and encourage their beloved college-enrolled children to keep it that way.

JAMES CALDER has written three novels in the Bill Damen series. The most recent, *In A Family Way*, deals with a fertility doc-

tor who tinkers with the very essence of a child. A native of Denver, Calder now lives in San Francisco. In addition to the novels, he writes neuroscience computer games. His training is in history and history of science and he's especially interested in how science, culture, and religion influence one another. He is on the Board of the MWA-Northern California chapter and I am the editor of its newsletter, *The Lineup*.



Before beginning her writing career, **LAURA CALDWELL** was a trial lawyer, specializing in medical malpractice defense and entertainment law. Laura's first novel, *Burning the Map*, was selected by Barnes & Noble.com as one of "The Best of 2002". Her second novel, *A Clean Slate*, was called "a page-turner" by the *Chicago Tribune* and received a starred review from *Booklist*. Her most recent is *The Good Liar*, an international thriller that tackles the Russian Mafiya and the once-classified CIA operation called The Phoenix Program. Website: www.lauracaldwell.com.



BILL CAMERON lives with his wife and poodle in Portland, Oregon, where he also serves as staff to a charming, yet imperious cat. He is an eager traveler and avid bird-watcher, and likes to write near a window so he can meditate on whatever happens to fly by during intractable passages. Bill's stories have appeared in *Spinetangler*, *The Dunes Review*, *The Alsop Review*, and in *Killer Year: Stories To Die For*, edited by Lee Child. *Lost Dog*, his debut suspense novel, is available from Midnight Ink Books.



Ex-policeman, ex-soldier, international tennis player, and full time crime writer **COLIN CAMPBELL** has written horror fiction, children's books, and crime novels, as well as co-scripting the TV adaptation of "Through the Ruins of Midnight" which is being produced in the UK. Having been signed by New York literary agency, Imprint Agency, it is hoped that he will soon be published in the US. And he is the current tennis Men's Doubles World Champion (over 50s) at the 2007 World Police/Fire Games in Adelaide.



Favorite villain: Goldfinger

Rocky nominee

PANELISTS, continued



JOANNA CARL—who also writes under her real-life name, Eve K. Sandstrom—is the author of the Chocoholic mystery series. The books are set in a resort on the east coast of Lake Michigan and feature a young woman who is business manager for a chocolate company and who solves mysteries when she falls over them.

Carl has served as president of Sisters in Crime. A former newspaper reporter, columnist and editor, she has been nominated for an Agatha and an Anthony and is a winner of the Oklahoma Book Award.



CAROL CAVERLY is the author of the Thea Barlow Wyoming mystery series, *All the Old Lions*, *Frogskin and Muttonfat*, and *Dead in Hog Heaven*. Her books were local best sellers and selections of the Detective Book Club. Her latest short story was included in the anthology *Homicide Host Presents*.

Deadly Appraisal [St. Martin's Minotaur], the second Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery, has been called an Antiques Roadshow for mystery fans, is set on the rugged seacoast of New Hampshire where **JANE CLELAND** owned an antiques business for many years. Consigned to Death, the first in the traditional series, was nominated for an Agatha, a David, and a Macavity award for best first novel.

Jane is the chair of the Wolfe Pack's literary awards, which include the Nero and the new Black Orchid Novella Award (in partnership with Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine) and is President of the MWA/NY Chapter. She and her husband live in New York City. www.janecleland.net

MARGARET COEL is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Wind River mystery novels set among the Arapahos. *The Girl With Braided Hair*, 13th novel in the series, was published in September. Margaret says she likes to "mix-it-up" with plots that weave history into the mystery that her sleuth-duo—Father John O'Malley and Arapaho lawyer Vicky Holden—are caught up in. Margaret is a four-time winner of the Colorado Book Award and has also won the Willa (Cather) Award for Best Novel of the West.

Rocky nominee

MARK COGGINS is the Shamus and Barry award-nominated author of the August Riordan series, featuring jazz bass-playing private eye Riordan. His books have been selected for a number of best of the year lists, including those put together by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Detroit Free Press* and mystery maven Otto Penzler. Of his latest, *Runoff*, James Crumley has said, "Smart, funny, spooky ... often touching, always entertaining romp through ... San Francisco's highways, byways, and alleys of corruption. (Hammett eat your hat and laugh.) It's great fun and a must read." Mark lives in San Francisco with his wife Linda and their cat Taki.



JEFFREY COHEN is the author of the Double Feature Mystery series, which debuted in October 2007 with *Some Like It Hot-Buttered*, the story of Elliot Freed, who buys a movie theatre, shows only comedies, and gets annoyed when someone poisons one of his patrons with popcorn. Jeff is a freelance writer who also writes the Aaron Tucker mystery series, most recently with *As Dog Is My Witness*. **Favorite place to read:** Rome. I never get to do that.



Lefty nominee

MARK COHEN is the author of the Pepper Keane mysteries. The first novel in the series, *The Fractal Murders*, was a Book Sense Top Ten Mystery Selection, and the second book in the series, *Bluetick Revenge*, won high praise as well. In his 25-year legal career, Cohen has served as a judge advocate, a prosecutor, and as Municipal Judge for the City of Boulder. He is a partner in the Boulder law firm of Cohen Horner, LLP. He lives in Nederland with his wife, three children, three dogs, and one hermit crab. He describes himself as a Unitarian redneck. **First mystery book read:** *A Walk Among the Tombstones* by Lawrence Sanders **Favorite place to read:** The upstairs bathroom



REED FARREL COLEMAN is Brooklyn born and raised. He is the former executive vice president of Mystery Writers of America. His sixth novel, *The James Deans*, won the Shamus, Barry, and Anthony Awards and was nominated for the Edgar, Macavity, and Gumshoe. His seventh novel, *Soul Patch*, is nominated for the Edgar for the Best Novel of 2007. He was the editor of the short story anthology *Hardboiled Brooklyn*. His essays and short stories appear in *Brooklyn Noir 3*, *Wall Street Noir*, *These Guns For Hire*, *Expletive Deleted* and several other publications. He is



an adjunct lecturer in Creative Writing at Hofstra University. Reed lives with his wife and teenage children on Long Island.

COLLEEN COLLINS is a PI by day, a multi-published author by night. Her articles on private investigations have appeared on various sites on the Internet as well as in *PI Magazine*, *NINK* (Novelists, Inc.), and other publications. She's written 20 novels for both Harlequin and Dorchester and has spoken at conferences and workshops about writing private eyes in fiction. She and her investigations business partner also teach the popular "Writing PIs in Novels" classes (www.writingprivateinvestigators.com), the spawning ground for their non-fiction proposal *Guns, Gams, and Gumsboes: Writing PIs in Novels*, which is currently being submitted on those publishing mean streets



JODI COMPTON is the author of *37th Hour* and *Sympathy Between Humans*, both police procedurals about Sarah Pribek, a missing-person detective in Minneapolis. Compton is currently at work on a series featuring a new lead, Hailey Czin, a former West Point cadet living in Los Angeles. **Favorite villain:** Dick Dart, *The Hellfire Club* by Peter

Straub. **Favorite sleuth:** Gregory House, of *House, M.D.* **Funniest line:** "I don't understand this constant rejection" Dick Dart, after protagonist Nore stabs him close to the end of *Hellfire Club*.



BRUCE COOK wrote, produced, and/or directed eleven movies. Originally he was a laser physicist on the Apollo Project, before discovering that filmmaking was more fun. He later earned his PhD in Film. He teaches Cinema in Los Angeles. Among his 4,000 former students are 7 Academy Award and 12 Emmy winners. He worked in the Philippines where he

researched the idea for *Philippine Fever*.



TROY COOK worked on more than 80 feature films, writing and directing his first at age 24. Shooting films in exotic locations led to brushes with the Russian Mafia, money launderers, and murderers. After surviving an attempted coup, riots, and violent demonstrations, he's decided it's safer to write novels.

His award-winning debut, *47 Rules of Highly Effective Bank Robbers*, received eight nominations including the Anthony, Book of the Year, the Macavity, and the Lefty award. His second novel, *The One Minute Assassin* (Sept 2007), was immediately picked by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Assn. as a "Killer Book" and was featured in *Publishers Weekly* as a "Fall Indie Surprise." Visit www.troycook.net for more information and sample chapters.

DAVID CORBETT is the author of three critically acclaimed novels: *The Devil's Redhead*, which was nominated for the Anthony and Barry Awards for Best First Novel of 2002; *Done for a Dime*, which was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and was nominated for the Macavity Award for Best Novel of 2003; and *Blood of Paradise*, published in March 2007, which was nominated for the Edgar award for best original paperback novel. He is also a contributor to the serial thriller *The Chopin Manuscript* (along with Jeffrey Deaver, Lee Child, Lisa Scottoline, and others). To learn more, go to www.davidcorbett.com. **Favorite murder method:** Veg-o-Matic



THERESA CRATER is a writer and teacher. *Under the Stone Paw* is her first novel. The sequel, *Beneath the Hallowed Hill*, will be out in about a year. She has published short stories, poetry and many nonfiction articles. She holds a Ph.D. in English and an M.A. in counseling. Currently, she teaches writing and literature at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She traveled to Egypt with her husband, independent Egyptologist Stephen Mehler, and also edited both his books. Theresa lives with Stephen, their two cats, and numerous coyotes, foxes, hawks, and owls near Boulder, Colorado.



ELLEN CROSBY'S wine country mysteries—*The Merlot Murders* and *The Chardonnay Charade*—are set in Virginia's picturesque horse and hunt country. Look for *The Bordeaux Betrayal*, the third in the series, this August. She is a former freelance reporter for *The Washington Post* and the Moscow correspondent for ABC News Radio in the early 1990s. Ellen also wrote *Moscow Nights*, which was published in the UK. Visit her website at www.ellencrosby.com



SARAH D'ALMEIDA is the author of Prime Crime Books' Musketeers' Mysteries. Populated by the larger-than-life characters created by Dumas (pere), the series is a mix of adventure and traditional mystery solving. The first book earned a personal recommendation from Steven Forbes in *Forbes Magazine*, and had a Mystery Book Club Edition. Sarah was born in Portugal and currently lives in Colorado with her husband, two sons, and an ever increasing tribe of felines. As Sarah A. Hoyt, she has published more than a hundred fantasy and science fiction short stories and—at last count—four novels, with several more coming out shortly.



PANELISTS, continued



In November, 2007 Quill and Quire listed **VICKI DELANY** as one of Ten Rising Canadian Mystery Writers to Watch. She is the author of *In the Shadow of the Glacier* (Poisoned Pen, 2007) the first in a traditional village/police procedural series set in a small town in the interior of British Columbia, as well as novels

of psychological suspense: *Scare the Light Away* (2005) and *Burden of Memory* (2006). Vicki took early retirement from her job as a systems analyst and is spending a year traveling throughout North America, visiting mystery conferences, talking about mysteries, and writing.



DENISE [DENI] DIETZ met Australian/Canadian novelist Gordon Aalborg on the Internet. They wed at a writers conference and live on Vancouver Island. Deni's latest mysteries are *Eye of Newt*, starring reluctant witch Sydney St. Charles, and *Chain a Lamb Chop to the Bed*, third in the Ellie Bernstein/Lt. Peter Miller "diet club" series. *Strangle a Loaf*

of Italian Bread, the fourth book in the series, is due out next year. Deni's alter-ego, Mary Ellen Dennis, is the author of the best-selling romantic suspense, *The Landlord's Black-Eyed Daughter*. www.denisedietz.com



WICK DOWNING can't figure out who he is. In the '70s, he wrote three action-suspense novels, and in the '90s—after a stint as District Attorney in rural Colorado—cranked out four courtroom dramas. He's also written two novels for young readers, with a third one coming out in April. Charles Willeford, a legendary critic for the *Miami Herald*, picked two of them as

the year's ten best mysteries. Three out of four of the courtroom dramas won the Colorado Author's League Top Hand Award, and two were nominated for the Colorado Book Award. His new one, called *The Trials of Kate Hope*, is another courtroom drama. But this time, it's for young readers.

LINDA PETRELLI DUNCAN was born on Long Island, New York, and has been moving since. Her favorite statement is, "I never clean out my garage, just move every five years." Right now she's hailing from Lancaster, Kentucky. She works as a trauma nurse in an ER, and has been a commissioned officer, naval rank, as a trauma nurse. She has trained horses on the farm Man O'War was born on, worked as a firefighter, structural and forest fires in New Mexico, trained as a TEMS responder for the SWAT team, and flown DEA flights for the CAP. She has been shooting modern and blackpowder guns since she was seven and can use a bow, throw a knife and hatchet and learned hand to hand combat from some guys in Special Forces. Now she

writes mysteries with some paranormal aspects and reads just about anything.

Author of the Jack Caleb/John Thinner mysteries, **MICHAEL DYMMOCH** is a Chicago resident who served as president and secretary of the Midwest chapter of MWA and newsletter editor for the Chicagoland chapter of Sisters in Crime. *M.I.A.*, Michael's third stand-alone novel is due out in April.



JT ELLISON is a thriller writer based in Nashville, Tennessee. Her short stories have appeared in *Demolition Magazine*, *Flashing in the Gutters*, *Mouth Full of Bullets* and *Spinetangler Magazine*. She is a weekly columnist at Murderati.com and is a founding member of Killer Year. *All the Pretty Girls* is her first novel in the Taylor Jackson series. Visit JTEllison.com for more information.



ROBERT FATE is a Marine Corps veteran who studied at the Sorbonne in France, and has worked as an oilfield roughneck and a TV cameraman in Oklahoma, a fashion model in New York City, and a chef at a chi-chi L.A. eatery—among other jobs. He has been rewarded for his efforts as a Hollywood F/X technician with an Academy Award for Technical Achievement. Baby Shark's *Beaumont Blues*, the second in his crime series, is in bookstores now. The official launch date was May 2007. He is nearing completion of novel number three, Baby Shark's *High Plains Redemption*, to be released May 2008. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Fern, a ceramic artist. Their daughter, Jenny, is off being a freshman at USC. A dog, four cats, and a turtle have helped with the empty nest thing.



SALLY FELLOWS taught high school history for 35 years. Her avocation has always been reading mysteries and she now reviews for *Mystery News* as well as online. When not reading, she enjoys walking with her dog Trixie and sampling good cooking.



GORDON FERRIS: I'm a Scot who flits between a garret in London and a hut in the Swiss Alps where I write about the important things in life: conflicted heroes and headstrong women embroiled in bloody mayhem. I've been a computer specialist in the UK Ministry of Defence and a management consultant for a Big Four accountancy firm. Maybe that's where I got my interest in spies and crooks.



BARBARA FISTER is a reader, writer, and academic librarian who lives in Minnesota. Her first mystery, *On Edge*, was named by the San Jose Mercury News as one of the best mystery/thrillers of the year. Her new book, *In the Wind*, will be published by St. Martin's in 2008. Inspired by the eerie similarity of counterintelligence activities of the pre-Watergate era and current challenges to civil

liberties, *In the Wind* explores the intersection of past and present, the personal and the political. Barbara blogs about books, libraries, civil liberties, and other things at <http://barbarafister.wordpress.com>. **First mystery book read:** Oh dear Freddie the Pig. **Favorite place to read:** The treadmill - I feel so virtuous.



BILL FITZHUGH is the award-winning author of seven satiric crime novels. *The New York Times* called Fitzhugh "a strange and deadly amalgam of screenwriter and comic novelist ... in a league with Carl Hiaasen and Elmore Leonard." The film rights for *Pest Control* and *Cross Dressing* were sold to Warner Brothers and Universal Studios. He also writes, produced, and hosts a weekly show on XM Satellite Radio's Deep

Tracks channel called "Fitzhugh's All Hand Mixed Vinyl." He is one of only three outside hosts on Deep Tracks. The other two: Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. Fitzhugh's next book, *The Adventures of Slim and Howdy*, a fiction project based on the alter egos of country superstars Brooks and Dunn, will be published in May 2008. He is currently working on *The Exterminators*, the sequel to *Pest Control*. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, three dogs, and a cat named Crusty Boogers.



DANA FREDSTI is an ex B-movie actress with a background in theatrical sword-fighting. Her other hobbies include surfing (badly), collecting beach glass (obsessively), and wine tasting (happily). She's written numerous published articles, essays and shorts, including stories in *Cat Fantastic IV*, an anthology series edited by Andre Norton (Daw,

1997), *Danger City* (Contemporary Press, 2005), and *Mondo Zombie* (Cemetery Dance, 2006). Additionally she's written several produced low-budget screenplays. Dana was also co-writer/associate producer on *Urban Rescuers*, a documentary on feral cats and TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return), which won Best Documentary at the 2003 Valley Film Festival in Los Angeles.



MICHELLE GAGNON is a former bartender, dog walker, personal trainer, model, and Russian supper club dancer. Her debut thriller, *The Tunnels*, was published by MIRA books last June. In the book FBI Special Agent Kelly Jones tracks a serial killer through the abandoned tunnels beneath a prestigious university, uncovering links to a dark, ancient ritual. The second Kelly Jones novel, *Boneyard*, will be released in July 2008. Michelle lives in San Francisco with her family.



JACK GETZE spent nine years as a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, a total of twelve years covering national business and economic issues for the *Times*, the *L.A. Herald-Examiner*, and the *London Times*. Getze later sold stocks and bonds for a regional securities firm on the New Jersey Shore. *Big Money* is the second installment in his Austin Carr Mystery Series. **Funniest line:** "Once you give up your integrity, the rest is a piece of cake." JR Ewing on "Dallas" **Interests aside from reading/writing mystery:** Guitar/golf/exploring

STEVE GLASSMAN, along with coeditor Maurice O'Sullivan, was Edgar nominated for his first venture into crime criticism, *Crime Fiction and Film in the Sunshine State*. That venture was followed by critical works on Southwestern crime fiction, an anthology of old Florida crime fiction, and most recently a book of interviews with Florida mystery writers. He has also published a crime novel. He lives in New Smyrna Beach, Florida



CHRISTINE GOFF is the award-winning author of the bestselling "Birdwatcher's Mystery" series. She began her career writing non-fiction for local, regional and national publication, and two of her novels were named finalists for the prestigious Willa Literary Award for Best Original Paperback Fiction. Set on the coast of Georgia, her most recent title, *Death Shoots a Birdie*, exposes the effects of development on a fragile environment while highlighting the antics of a group of eclectic birdwatchers bent on unmasking the killer of the keynote speaker at a birding convention.



PANELISTS, continued



Radio producer **ED GOLDBERG**'s first novel, *Served Cold*, won the 1995 Shamus award. He does film reviews and author interviews for radio station KBOO-FM. He is currently editing the third Lenny Schneider novel, and starting his first mainstream novel. **Favorite book:** *Farewell, My Lovely*, by Raymond Chandler **Favorite sleuth:** Phillip Marlowe

Favorite villain: George W. Bush **Interests aside from reading/writing mysteries:** Music, movies, food and wine



JOEL GOLDMAN started writing thrillers when one of his law partners complained about another partner. "I told him we should write a murder mystery, kill the son-of-a-bitch off in the first chapter and spend the rest of the book figuring out who did it." *Motion To Kill*, published in 2002, introduced trial lawyer Lou Mason. Lou made his second appearance in 2003's Edgar-nominated *The*

Last Witness. He managed to keep getting in and out of trouble in *Cold Truth* (2004) and *Deadlocked* (2005), which was nominated for a Shamus award and has been optioned for film. The publication of *Shakedown* (2008) marks the beginning of a new series featuring FBI Special Agent Jack Davis.



CHRIS GRABENSTEIN did improvisational comedy (with Bruce Willis) in New York before James Patterson discovered his writing talent and hired him at the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency. His debut *Tilt A Whirl* won the Anthony award for best first mystery. *Kirkus* called *Mad Mouse*, the second book in the John

Ceepak series, one of the ten best mysteries of 2006. *Whack A Mole* came out to rave reviews in 2007 and *Hell Hole* will follow this June. Chris has also written two thrillers: *Slay Ride* and *Hell For The Holidays*. His Middle Grade ghost story *The Crossroads* will be published by Random House in May. His dog Fred has better credits: He once starred on Broadway in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. www.ChrisGrabenstein.com



Although *Murder By Serpents: The Mystery Quilt* is her debut novel, **BARBARA GRAHAM** began making up stories in the third grade and immediately quit learning to multiply and divide. Her motto is "every story needs a dead body and every bed needs a quilt". Most of her early stories involved her saving the world. Fortunately for everyone, she and her heroic

skills have never been put to the test. A prize winning quilter and partner in a pattern company, her quilts have been in calendars, magazines and shows. She lives in Wyoming.

ROBERT GREER is author of the CJ Floyd mystery series, *The Devil's Hatband*, *The Devil's Red Nickel*, *The Devil's Backbone*, *Resurrecting Langston Blue*, *The Fourth Perspective*, *The Mongoose Deception*, and two medical thrillers, *Limited Time* and *Heat Shock*. He has also published a short story collection, *Isolation and Other Stories*. Greer lives in Denver, where he is a practicing surgical pathologist, research scientist, and Professor of Medicine and Pathology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Greer also reviews books for Denver National Public Radio affiliate KUVU. He is currently working on a new CJ Floyd mystery, *Blackbird Farewell*.



BETH GROUNDWATER's debut mystery novel, *A Real Basket Case*, was released in March, 2007 to good reviews from *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and other national publications. She has published seven short stories, including one in *Wild Blue Yonder*, Frontier Airlines' in-flight magazine, and one which was translated into Farsi. She is an active member of MWA, Sisters in Crime, Pikes Peak Writers, Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, and the Short Mystery Fiction Society. She lives in Colorado and enjoys gardening, skiing and traveling with her family. Visit her website at bethgroundwater.com and her blog at bethgroundwater.blogspot.com.



LAUREN HANEY, a former technical editor in the aerospace and international construction industries, is the author of the ancient Egyptian mystery series featuring Lieutenant Bak. Set during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut, the most recent novels are *Flesh of the God* and *A Path Of Shadows*. She lives in Northern California and travels to Egypt at every opportunity.



ROSEMARY HARRIS is a former bookstore manager, video producer, and media executive (WNET, New York's public television station, ABC-TV, Crown Publishers, American Express Publishing.) She and her husband split their time between New York City and Fairfield County, Connecticut, where Rosemary is a certified master gardener. She is a member of CMGA (Connecticut Master Gardeners Association), Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America. Her debut novel, *Pushing Up Daisies* (St. Martins Minotaur, February 2008) is the first in a series of mysteries featuring amateur sleuth/master gardener Paula Holliday.





CAROLYN HART is the author of 39 mystery novels. She has been nominated nine times for the Agatha Award for Best Novel and has won the Agatha three times. She writes the *Death on Demand* and *Henrie O* series. Coming in 2008 are *Death Walked In*, 18th in the *Death on Demand* series, and *Ghost At Work*, first in a new series featuring the late Bailey Ruth Raeburn, an

impetuous redheaded ghost. Hart is a journalism graduate of the University of Oklahoma. She lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Phil.



J.M. HAYES has been an anthropologist, an archaeologist, and a small businessman. He raised commercial flowers, worked theater sound and lights, and supervised camping, sports, and recreation programs. He grew up on the flat earth of central Kansas where *Mad Dog & Englishman*, *Prairie Gothic*, *Plains Crazy*, and *Broken Heartland* take place. After

graduating from Wichita State University (twice), he did post-graduate work at the University of Arizona. He lives in Arizona, where his first novel (*The Grey Pilgrim*) is set, with his wife, several computers, ± 4000 books, and a small herd of German shepherds. **Ideal fantasy panel (topics, participants):** The one at which the Coen Brothers discover me.



LIBBY FISCHER HELLMAN'S first novel, *An Eye for Murder*, introduced her sleuth Ellie Foreman in 2002 and followed it up with *A Picture of Guilt*, *An Image of Death*, and *A Shot to Die For*. Her current project, *Easy Innocence*, is a spinoff, featuring PI Georgia Davis, who was a character in *An Image of Death*. She has also published more than 12 short stories, and

edited the acclaimed crime fiction anthology, *Chicago Blues*, which was released in October 2007 by Bleak House Books. A transplant from Washington, D.C., Libby has lived in the Chicago area thirty years. When not writing fiction, she conducts executive training programs in presentation skills, speech delivery, and media interviews. She also writes video scripts, articles, and speeches. (Photo by Sean Chercover).



GABRIELLA HERKERT is an evil corporate lawyer by day. She has plenty of scope for murder mysteries just by going into the office. At home, she plays beta to Koko, a non-alpha dog who just failed out of puppy school. Gabi writes the Animal Instinct Mystery Series which debuted with *Catnapped!* in Sep-

tember 2007 and will continue with *Dog-gone!* in Sep 2009. She was a finalist for the Debut Dagger, Maui Writers' Conference Rupert Hughes Award and has writ-

ten for the Santa Fe Writers' Project and Writers' Digest. Visit her at www.gabriellaherkert.com.

STEVE HOCKENSMITH is the creator of mystery-solving cowboys Big Red and Old Red Amlingmeyer. The Sherlock Holmes-worshipping drovers first appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and later starred in Hockensmith's debut novel, *Holmes on the Range*, which was nominated for the Edgar, Dilys, Shamus and Anthony Awards. A sequel (*On the Wrong Track*) came out last year, and the third book in the series (*The Black Dove*) has just been released. "Reel Crime," Hockensmith's column about mystery TV shows and movies, appears in every issue of *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. **What are you working on now?** This questionnaire.



MARIA HUDGINS writes mysteries set in far-away places. Her first, *Death of an Obnoxious Tourist*, Five Star 2006, is set in Italy and the second, *Death of a Lovable Geek*, Five Star 2008, in the Scottish Highlands. The next in this series will feature a cruise in the Greek Islands. Maria is currently working on a standalone mystery set in present day Egypt. She is a retired oceanography and earth science teacher and she lives in Hampton, Virginia. **Favorite opening line:** "People bring some strange things into a police station ..." or words to that effect, from "The Vault" by Peter Lovesey.



The fourth generation of his family to call Dallas home, **HARRY HUNSICKER** works as a commercial real estate appraiser and speaks on creative writing when not penning the next Lee Henry Oswald mystery. Hunsicker is an active member of the International Thriller Writers, the Mystery Writers of America, the Private Eye Writers of America and the Writers League of Texas. The Private Eye Writers of America nominated *Still River*, his debut novel (2005), for a Shamus Award. (Photo by Martin Rogers)



JULIE HYZY'S newest series debuted in January. *State of the Onion* features Olivia (Ollie) Paras, a female White House chef who feeds the First Family ... and saves the world in her spare time. Julie's also written two books in her amateur sleuth series featuring Chicago news researcher Alex St. James, *Deadly Blessings* and *Deadly Interest* which won the 2007 Lovey award for best traditional mystery. Julie's short story, "Strictly Business" in the Bleak House anthology



PANELISTS, continued

These Guns For Hire, won a 2007 Derringer Award from the Short Mystery Fiction Society. Please visit: www.juliehyzy.com

Arty nominee



KEN ISAACSON, a practicing attorney for more than twenty-five years, is an actively involved member of the Mystery Writers of America, and was recently reelected to the Board of Directors of MWA's New York chapter. *Silent Counsel*, his first novel, spent the month of January on Amazon's list of bestselling legal thrillers behind only Harper Lee's *To Kill A*

Mockingbird, and John Grisham's *The Appeal*. *Silent Counsel* is a nominee for this year's Arty Award. Ken He lives in New Jersey with his wife, Sylvia, their dog, and their four cats, and is working on his second novel. And he rides a Harley. Find Ken online at www.KenIsaacson.com and at www.MySpace.com/KenIsaacson.



New Jersey-born clinical psychologist **ROBERTA ISLEIB** took up writing mysteries to justify too much bad golf. Her Cassie Burdette series featuring a neurotic golfer and a sports psychologist was nominated for an Agatha and two Anthony awards. Her new mystery series, starring a psychologist/advice columnist, made its debut with *Deadly Advice* in March and *Preaching To The Corpse*

in December 2007. Her short story "Disturbance in the Field" (published in *Seasmoke* by Level Best Books) was nominated for both Agatha and Macavity awards in 2007. Roberta is the president of Sisters in Crime International. Website: <http://www.robertaisleib.com>



MADEIRA JAMES is the owner of xuni.com, which provides design, management and maintenance of websites solely for authors. Her clients include many well-known mystery and thriller writers as well as debut authors.



CRAIG JOHNSON is a recipient of a Wyoming Council for the Arts Award, which places the judgment of the Equality State in grave danger. Johnson's background in education and law enforcement gives a unique perspective to his writing and keeps him off the streets. His first novel, *The Cold Dish*, was a DILYS Award Finalist, and a Booksense pick by the Independent Bookseller's Association and Killer Pick by the Independent Mystery Bookseller's of America.

independent Bookseller's Association and Killer Pick by the Independent Mystery Bookseller's of America.

JOAN JOHNSTON is the *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author of 47 novels with more than 10 million copies of her books in print in 19 languages in 25 countries. Joan has been a director of theater, drama critic, newspaper editor, college professor, and attorney on her way to becoming a full-time writer. She has a B.A. and M.A. in theater and a J.D. with honors. She has raised two fairly normal children and splits her time between homes in Florida and Colorado. You can find out more about Joan at www.joanjohnston.com.



CHRISTINE T. JORGENSEN's latest mystery, *Calling For A Funeral*, Five Star, is set in Denver and features Francie Starzell, daughter of a small-time Chicago crime family, and her sudden son, Mac, who she inherited instead of money when his father died. When she is fired from her job in a small tech company, Francie is forced to take a stop-gap job as a telemarketer and is unfortunately assigned to sell funerals after which trouble follows.



At age eleven **LEE KILLOUGH** discovered and fell in love with SF and mysteries. Afraid of exhausting her favorite genres' supply in her small hometown library, she began writing her own stories...and rather than chose between SF and mystery, she combined them as much as possible. The habit has stuck. Approximately half of her sixteen novels are procedural mysteries with SF or supernatural detectives: including sci-fi cops, a vampire cop, werewolf cops, and a ghost detective in her most recent book *Killer Karma*. She can be found prowling Left Coast Crime with her significant other Denny.



LESLIE S. (LES) KLINGER is the editor of the Edgar-winning *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* and the award-winning nine-volume *Sherlock Holmes Reference Library*, as well as countless articles on Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Victorian age). He also reviews mystery-related books for the *Los Angeles Times*. His current project for W. W. Norton is *The New Annotated Dracula*, due out in October 2008. He is the Chapter President of the So Cal Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America. Les practices tax law in Los Angeles where he lives with his wife and their two dogs and three cats.



ROBERT R. KRESGE (Rob) is an unpublished author of historical novels who moved to Albuquerque in late 2002. He has written three historical mysteries in the Schoolbook and Six-gun series (Wyoming, 1870s) and a Civil War spy novel based on

real events, sort of Cold Mountain meets Eye of the Needle. Rob retired from the CIA in 2002 after working on Southeast Asia, North Korea, Iraq during Desert Storm, gray market arms dealers, and sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. He spent 10 years in the Counterterrorist Center, where he was a founding member in 1986. On September 11, 2001, Rob was the senior analyst responsible for warning of terrorist threats to United States interests. Rob has been a speaker briefer and teacher on terrorism, economic sanctions, and the Intelligence Community.

KEN KUHLEN's stories have appeared in *Esquire* and numerous other magazines, been honorably mentioned in Best American Short Stories, and earned a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. His novels are *Midbeaven* (finalist for the Ernest Hemingway award for best first fiction, 1980) and the Hickey family mysteries *The Loud Adios*, *The Venus Deal*, *The Angel Gang*, and *The Do-Re-Mi*.



LORI LACEFIELD writes mystery, suspense, and general fiction. Her first novel, *The Seventh Survivor*, a standalone suspense about a victim's advocate who seeks her own brand of justice, was a September 2006 release from Capital Crime Press. She's now at work on a thriller series featuring FBI agent Frankie Johnson. Lori is treasurer of Rocky Mountain Mystery

Writers of America, and is a member of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers and Sisters In Crime. A lover of nature, dogs, and sunshine, she lives in Colorado.



RITA LAKIN spent twenty-five years in television as a writer on numerous series, movies, miniseries, created a number of dramatic series, finally becoming producer/show runner on her own shows. Now writing novels, she has just finished the fifth in her IMBA bestselling *Getting Old Is Murder* comedy series, featuring Gladly Gold and her zany geriatric partners in crime-solving.

Her many awards include Writers Guild of America, MWA Edgar, and the prestigious Avery Hopwood award from the University of Michigan. Visit www.ritalakin.com



BETTE GOLDEN LAMB has co-authored two crime novels: *Bone Dry*, a medical thriller, and *Heir Today...*, an adventure thriller, both from Five Star Mysteries. Unmistakably from the Bronx, Bette has had parallel careers as an RN, painter, ceramist, and sculptor. Her artistic works have appeared in juried national and regional exhibitions, and have sold through galleries,

associations, and stores (including Kris & Joe Neri's *The Well Red Coyote* in Sedona). The latest joint Bette and J. J. Lamb


production, *Sisters In Silence*, is with their agent. **Favorite place to read:** Any island.

J. J. LAMB discovered after three years of college mathematics and the sciences that journalists were more interesting and had more fun than engineers. Thus, a writer's life—newspapers, wire service, PR, and freelance, with short stories soon woven into the fabric. Then came the Zach Rolfe III PI series, followed by a medical thriller (*Bone Dry*) and an adventure thriller (*Heir Today...*), both from Five Star and co-written with wife Bette Golden Lamb, with more titles upcoming. Typical of a born and raised Hoosier, he's also a competent jack-of-all-trades, with a specialty in fixin' things. www.jjlamb.com. **Favorite place to read:** Hawaii



MARGIE LAWSON—psychotherapist, international presenter, and writer—developed psychologically anchored editing techniques, and teaches writers how to write page-turners. In 2008, Margie presents 16 full-day master classes across the US and overseas, including Australia and





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PANELISTS, continued

New Zealand. Margie also teaches on-line courses. Empowering Characters' Emotions, March, covers writing nonverbal communication, Powering Up Emotion, and her EDITS System. In May, Margie teaches **Deep Editing: The EDITS System, Rhetorical Devices, and More**. It covers her Five Question Scene Checklist, digs deeper into the EDITS System, and explores 25 rhetorical devices. Please visit her web site for more information: www.MargieLawson.com.



R.T. LAWTON has published more than fifty short stories. Several of these are in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* and the U-Solve-It column of *Woman's World Magazine*, with one story in the *Who Died in Here?* anthology, two in *Easyriders Magazine* and one in *Outlaw Biker*, the latter two under double aliases. R.T. is a retired DEA Special Agent. He's a current Board of Directors member of the Mystery Writers of America, plus a member of the Short Mystery Fiction Society and the Pikes Peak Writers.



MARC LECARD is the real name of the notorious crime writer Marc Lecard, author of such volumes as *Vinnie's Head* and *Tiny Little Troubles*. A professional treehugger by day, by night he writes crime stories, ghost stories, and occasionally even poems. He lives in Oakland, California. Other troubling information about him can be found on the website at <http://www.marclcard.com>

www.marclcard.com

CON LEHANE's first Brian McNulty mystery, *Beware the Solitary Drinker*, was a 2002 *Publisher's Weekly* best mystery novel. The second in the series, *What Goes Around Comes Around*, was likened to Lawrence Sanders' early Matt Scudder mysteries. The third bartender Brian McNulty mystery, *Death at the Old Hotel*, came out in June 2007. Visit Con's website at www.conlehane.com.



HAILEY LIND is a muralist, portrait painter, and faux finisher in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has master's degrees in anthropology and social welfare, has published numerous non-fiction articles on immigrant and refugee families, and has worked in Mexico, Spain, Cuba, Italy, the Philippines, and France. Her *Art Lover's Mystery Series* includes the Agatha-nominated *Feint of Art* and the IMBA best-sellers *Shooting Gallery* and *Brush with Death*. She is president of the Northern California Chapter of Sisters in Crime, and is currently working on a mystery series featuring a failed

anthropologist running her father's exclusive home remodeling business in San Francisco.

JESS LOUREY is the author of the Murder-by-Month series so far featuring *May Day*, *June Bug*, and *Knee High by the Fourth of July*. *August Moon* will be released spring 2008. When not gardening, reading, or raising her wonderful children, you can find Jess in St. Cloud, Minnesota, teaching English and sociology full-time at the local two-year college, squeaking out her fifth novel, and generally wondering what this thing people call a social life is all about. She is a member of MWA, Sisters in Crime, Lake Superior Writers, and The Loft. www.jesslourey.com



Lefty nominee

SHEILA LOWE is a court-qualified forensic handwriting expert with forty years experience. She holds a degree in psychology and provides expert testimony in forensic cases, as well as behavioral profiling through handwriting analysis. Her writing career covers a wide range, from the best-selling non-fiction books, *Handwriting of the Famous & Infamous*, and *Complete Idiot's Guide to Handwriting Analysis*, to articles for legal and other magazines. *Poison Pen*, her first mystery, introduces handwriting expert Claudia Rose. It garnered a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* and won long ago in the Southwest Writers competition. *Written in Blood* will be released in September, 2008.



MARGARET LUCKE is the author of *House of Whispers*, first in a paranormal suspense series. Peggy's earlier novel, *A Relative Stranger*, was an Anthony Award nominee. A former president of the Northern California chapter of MWA, Peggy teaches fiction writing classes and has authored two how-to books, *Schaum's Quick Guide to Writing Great Short Stories* and *Writing Mysteries*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she dabbles in theater and art.



D. P. LYLE, MD is the Macavity Award-winning and Edgar Award-nominated author of the non-fiction books *Murder and Mayhem*, *Forensics For Dummies*, and *Forensics and Fiction* as well as the thrillers *Devil's Playground* and *Double Blind*. His next book is: *Howdunnit: Forensics: A Guide For Writers*, from Writers Digest Books, due May, 2008. He has worked with many novelists and with the writers of popular television shows such as Law



& Order, CSI: Miami, Diagnosis Murder, Monk, Judging Amy, Peacemakers, Cold Case, House, Medium, and 1-800-Missing. Visit The Writers' Medical and Forensics Lab (www.dplylemd.com <<http://www.dplylemd.com>>).



Award winning medical suspense author **C.J. LYONS** is a physician trained in pediatric emergency medicine. She has assisted police and prosecutors with cases involving child abuse, rape, homicide and Munchausen by proxy and has worked in several trauma centers, on the Navajo reservation, as a crisis counselor, victim's advocate, as well as a flight physician for Life Flight. She is a member of MWA, International Thriller Writers, RWA, and Sisters in Crime. Her writing has appeared in Romantic Times BookReviews, CrimeSpree and Spinetingler. Look for her debut novel, *Lifelines*, coming from Berkley in March, 2008. Contact her at <http://www.cjlyons.net>



MARY JANE MAFFINI is a lapsed librarian, a former mystery bookseller, and a past president of Crime Writers of Canada. This year she launched her third series which introduces professional organizer Charlotte Adams in *Organize Your Corpses* (Berkley Prime Crime) and *Too Hot to Handle*, the second Fiona Silk mystery, which demonstrates that

nice girls shouldn't attempt erotic cookbooks. She holds two Arthur Ellis awards for short stories and *The Dead Don't Get Out Much*, her fifth Camilla MacPhee novel, was nominated for a Barry Award in 2006. She lives in Ottawa, Ontario with her long-suffering husband and two miniature dachshunds.



TIM MALEENY is the award-winning author of *Stealing the Dragon*, a novel about San Francisco's Chinatown that was nominated for this year's Rocky Award. *Crimespree Magazine* said, "Maleeny gives readers a fresh and fast take that enthralls." His latest thriller, *Beating the Babushka*, satirizes the movie business. *Publishers Weekly* said

it "engages the reader without insisting that it be taken too seriously and will resonate with Elmore Leonard fans." Tim won the Macavity Award for short fiction and was recently named Vice President of the Northern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

Scottish Young Journalist of the Year in 1973, **PETER MAY** became one of Scotland's most successful television dramatists, accumulating more than 1000 writing credits. The first of his six acclaimed China thrillers, *The Firemaker*, was published in 1999 in the UK, and by St. Martin's Press in 2005. The third

book, *The Killing Room*, was published stateside last month. For the series, featuring a Beijing detective and an American pathologist, May gained unprecedented access to the Chinese police. May's new series, The Enzo Files, is published by Poisoned Pen Press. The second title, *The Critic*, appeared last November.



RICK McMAHAN has worked for the federal government as a special agent for more than fifteen years. His first six years were spent as a civilian criminal investigator for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and for the last nine year's he's been with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) investigating federal violations of gun and explosives laws. As an ATF agent, Rick has investigated extremist militias, violent street gangs as well as outlaw motorcycle gangs. In addition, he's a firearms instructor and has served as an on-the-job trainer for new agents. In his free time, Rick enjoys writing, and in the past year he's had short stories appear in anthologies such as *Techno Noire*, *Low Down & Derby* and the Mystery Writers of America's *Death Do Us Part* edited by Harlan Coben.



CRICKET McRAE is the author of the Sophie Mae Reynolds Home Crafting Mysteries. She is a self-described dilettante and dabbles in a variety of home crafts. The first book in her series, *Lye in Wait*, features soap making. The second, *Heaven Preserve Us*, is due out in August of 2008 and involves food preservation. Future books will feature some of Cricket's other home crafting interests such as spinning and fiber art. **Interests aside from reading/writing mysteries:** Gardening, cooking, knitting, spinning, natural history, soapmaking, hiking, biking.



LYNN C. MILLER is author of the novels *The Fool's Journey* (2002) and *Death of a Department Chair* (2006) and co-editor of *Voices Made Flesh: Performing Women's Autobiography* (2003). Over the past two decades, she has served as a guest artist at dozens of universities, art museums, and festivals, touring performance of Edith Wharton, Gertrude Stein, and Katherine Anne Porter, and conducting writing/performance workshops. In fall of 2007 she left the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a professor in women's studies and theatre, to found WriteSpace



Rocky nominee
Arty nominee

PANELISTS, continued

International in Albuquerque, N.M. **Favorite opening line:** "What makes Iago evil some people ask. I never ask."



CAMILLE MINICHINO is the author of short stories, articles, and eight novels in the periodic table mystery series. She also teaches at Golden Gate U. in San Francisco and works as a scientific editor at Lawrence Livermore National Security. Now Camille has used her life-long hobby of dollhouses and miniatures to produce a new series (writing as Margaret Grace), set in the world of miniatures. ***Murder in***

Miniature is scheduled for release in February 2008. Visit her at www.minichino.com and www.dollhousemysteries.com. **Favorite villain:** Patricia Highsmith's Ripley.

JAMES C. MITCHELL's first two novels featuring the Tucson P.I. Brinker, ***Lovers Crossing*** and ***Choke Point***, were nominated for Shamus awards. Jim worked in broadcast journalism, then earned his law degree and taught news media law for ten years at the University of Arizona. He now lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, with his wife, the children's author Marianne Mitchell. Jim recently completed the third entry in the Brinker series, ***Queen of the North***, a tale of illegal immigration and murder.

First mystery book read: "The Underground Man" by Ross Macdonald



RICK MOFINA is a former crime reporter and the author of several reporter thrillers. He was a finalist for a 2006 Thriller Award from the International Thriller Writers, and a two-time winner of the Arthur Ellis Award, Canada's prize for crime fiction. His journalistic work has put him face-to-face with murderers on death row in Montana and Texas. He's flown over

Los Angeles with the LAPD and patrolled with the RCMP. He's reported from the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East. He is at work on ***Six Seconds***, a global stand-alone thriller set for release early in 2009 by MIRA Books. Please visit www.rickmofina.com. **Ideal fantasy panel (topics, participants):** Strangest reactions from readers: "How do you know so much about murder?"



Jazz drummer/author **BILL MOODY** has toured with Maynard Ferguson, Lou Rawls, and Earl Fatha Hines. He lives in northern California where he teaches at Sonoma State University, and hosts a weekly jazz radio show on KSVY-Sonoma. ***Shades of Blue*** is the sixth Evan Horn novel.

BEVERLE GRAVES MYERS enjoys mixing history, intrigue, and opera in the Tito Amato mysteries set in 18th-century Venice. ***The Iron Tongue of Midnight*** is the latest title in the series. Bev also writes short fiction set in a variety of times and places. Her stories have appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *Futures*, *Woman's World*, and numerous anthologies. Bev has been nominated for the Derringer Award for Short Mystery Fiction and the Kentucky Literary Award. A retired psychiatrist, Bev now writes full time from her home in Louisville, Kentucky. Her website: www.beverlegravesmyers.com.



KRIS NERI's latest title is ***The Rose in the Snow***, a short story collection. She has published nearly sixty short stories, and is a two-time Derringer Award winner and a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee for her short mystery fiction. She is also the author of a stand-alone suspense novel, ***Never Say Die***, and the Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity Award-nominated Tracy Eaton mysteries, ***Revenge Of The Gypsy Queen*** and ***Dem Bones' Revenge***. Kris teaches crime writing online for the prestigious Writers' Program of the UCLA Extension School, and with her husband, Joe, owns The Well Red Coyote bookstore in Sedona, Arizona. **Favorite villain:** Voldemort z



SHARAN NEWMAN is the author of the award-winning Catherine Levendeur mystery series, set in medieval France. The latest of these is ***The Witch in the Well*** for which she received the Bruce Alexander award for best historical mystery. As a medieval historian and frequent traveler to France, she has also written the ***Real History Behind the Da Vinci Code***, an illustrated companion book to the best-selling novel and ***The Real History Behind the Templars***. A new mystery, ***The Shanghai Tunnel***, set in 1868 Portland, Oregon, is now out.



KAREN E. OLSON is the author of the Annie Seymour mysteries: the award-winning ***Sacred Cows***, ***Secondhand Smoke***, and ***Dead of the Day***. She spent 20 years as a reporter and editor at newspapers throughout Connecticut and now works part-time editing a medical journal at Yale. She lives in the suburbs of New Haven with her husband and daughter. Visit her website at www.kareneolson.com and blog at www.firstoffenders.typepad.com.





Laura Pellerin: I quit working for the government and moved to Colorado with my husband in 2001. I have been writing ever since, but am still looking for an agent. I have been asked to help a friend rewrite memoirs and am thinking about becoming an agent myself, which may help me sell my own work. **What are you working on now?** police procedure and justice system **What kind of books would you like to see more of?** More realistic cases from police procedure thru indictment to sentencing **Interests aside from reading/writing mysteries:** Gardening, websites

What kind of books would you like to see more of? More realistic cases from police procedure thru indictment to sentencing **Interests aside from reading/writing mysteries:** Gardening, websites

Joseph Pittman is the author of *London Frog*, the first in a new mystery series featuring con man Todd Gleason, and has just completed the second book, *California Scheming*. He has also written the non-mysteries *Tilting At Windmills*, *When the World Was Small*, and *Legend's End*. His books have been featured by The Mystery Guild, Literary Guild, and Doubleday Book Club, and been sold in several foreign countries. As an editor, he has worked with such authors as Lawrence Sanders, Stephen King, Jeff Abbott, Tamar Myers, and many others. Visit www.joseph-pittman.net.



Rocky nominee



Twist Phelan received her undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University. A former trial lawyer, she enjoys world travel and endurance athletics. Twist writes the legal-themed Pinnacle Peak series, featuring different sports, and contributes short stories to mystery/crime magazines and anthologies. Her next book is a stand-alone thriller. **Favorite murder method:**

Stabbing someone in the heart with a frozen

carrot. **Favorite opening line:** "I'd kill to get into Stanford." Diane Mott Davidson/*The Cereal Murders*.

Neil Plakcy is the author of *Mabu, Mabu Surfer*, and *Mabu Fire* (April 2008), mystery novels which take place in Hawaii. With Sharon Sakson, he is co-editor of *Paws & Reflect: Exploring the Bond Between Men and Their Dogs*. A journalist, book reviewer and college professor, he is also a frequent contributor to gay anthologies, and editor of the forthcoming gay construction worker erotica anthology, *Hard Hats*.



Nancy Pickard is the creator of the Jenny Cain and Marie Lightfoot series, and the author of 3 books in the Eugenia Potter series created by Virginia Rich. With psychologist Lynn Lott, she is the co-author of *7 Steps on the Writer's Path*. Her most recent novel, *The Virgin of Small Plains*, won the Agatha for best novel, the Lovey for best suspense

novel, and was an Edgar, Dilys, Anthony, and Macavity nominee. Nancy lives in Merriam, Kansas, where she is working on another standalone novel set in that state.

Julia Pomeroy was born in Okinawa, spent her childhood in Libya and Somalia and her teens in Rome, Italy. She came to the US at nineteen, fell in love with the theatre, and worked as a freelance Italian interpreter in NYC to support her habit. In 1990 Julia and family moved upstate and, soon after, opened the Blue Plate restaurant in Chatham, N.Y. Her first book, *The Dark End of Town*, was published in '06, and *Cold Moon Home*, the next in the Abby Silvernale series, was published in September of this year. Learn more at www.juliapomeroy.com



Cathy Pickens's background as a lawyer and business professor lend both grit and fun to her portrayal of a small-town lawyer. *Southern Fried* (St. Martin's 2003 Malice Domestic Award for best traditional mystery) was called an "assured debut, a cozy with some sharp edges" (*Publishers Weekly*) and named a 2004 best new mystery finalist by RT

BookClub. In *Done Gone Wrong* "the

author's dry sense of humor shades her colorful observations on Charleston and South Carolinians in general" (*The State*). *Hush My Mouth* (2008) a young woman searches for her sister and three Scooby Doo-wannabes come looking for ectoplasm. **What kind of books would you like to see more of?** Nancy Pickard's *Virgin of Small Plains*. Literate, witty, well-crafted puzzles.

Suzanne Proulx has written four mystery novels—*Bad Blood*, *Bad Luck*, *Bad Medicine*, and *Declared Dead*. She's currently working on this program book. As is the case with all books, if you're reading it, the hard part is over (at least, for her). Yes, this is a fairly old photo.



PANELISTS, continued



DR. FREDERICK RAMSAY was born in Baltimore. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and received his doctorate from the University of Illinois. After a stint in the Army, he joined the faculty of the University of Maryland, School of Medicine. During this time he also pursued studies in theology and in 1971 was ordained an Episcopal priest.

He is now retired from full-time ministry and writes fiction. His first novel, *Artscape*, was published by Poisoned Pen Press and launched July, 2004. His second, *Secrets*, (Poisoned Pen Press), was published in August of 2005 and *Impulse*, July 2006, was cited by *Publishers Weekly* as one of the one hundred best books 2006. *Buffalo Mountain* followed in September, 2007, and his latest, *Stranger Room*, will launch in August.



BONNIE RAMITHUN wanted to write exciting novels so she insisted on having an exciting life. She's worked in helicopter crash investigations, robotics, and missile defense war gaming for the Department of Defense. She's now a full time writer and a mom and lives in Erie, Colorado with her husband, Bill, and their four children. Her Eileen Reed mystery

novels include *Ground Zero*, *Earthquake Games* and *The Thirteenth Skull*. Her next novel, *The White Gates*, is a young reader mystery that will be published by Random House in November, 2008.



CORNELIA READ's first novel, *A Field of Darkness*, was nominated for seven awards, including the Edgar. *Kirkus* called her sequel, *The Crazy School*, "Caustic, gripping and distinctive—intelligent entertainment." She is the recipient of a 2008 NEA fellowship for creative writing. Read lives in Northern California with her husband and twin daughters, but maintains a desperate jones for New York City.



SAM REAVES has written seven Chicago-based crime novels, including the Cooper MacLeish series, the Dooley series (including last year's *Homicide 69*) and the forthcoming stand-alone *Mean Town Blues*. As Dominic Martell he has penned a European-based suspense trilogy. Reaves has traveled widely in Europe and the Middle East but has lived in the

Chicago area most of his life. He has worked as a teacher and a translator. **What are you working on now?** I'm working on

a suspense novel set in Algiers in the winter of 1961–62. Think *Casablanca* meets *The Battle of Algiers*.

LINDA L. RICHARDS is the editor and co-founder of *January Magazine* and a regular contributor to *The Rap Sheet*. *Mad Money*, her first work of long fiction, was nominated for the Arthur Ellis Award for best first novel. She lives near Vancouver, Canada. You can visit her on the web at lindaLrichards.com.



What are you working on now? The second book in the Kitty Pangborn series set in Los Angeles in 1931. The first, *Death Was the Other Woman*, will be out in time for LCC: publication date is January 8, 2008.

KAT RICHARDSON is the author of the Greywalker paranormal detective novels. A former magazine editor and technical writer/editor, she now writes fiction full time while lolling about in her slippers and PJs. She's dabbled in many fields and media, including RPGs, film, computer games, and online graphic novels, but claims she likes "regular old books" best. Currently, Kat lives on a sailboat in Seattle with her husband, two ferrets, and a crotchety old cat. She rides a motorcycle, shoots target pistol, and doesn't own a car or a TV. **Favorite villain:** The Rat God (from *Bride of the Rat God*—hurray fiendish retro villain!) **Favorite murder method:** Frozen leg o' lamb.



JOHN MADDOX ROBERTS has been a professional writer for more than 30 years in the mystery, science fiction, and historical genres, with more than 50 books to his credit. His first mystery, *SPQR*, was nominated for the Edgar award and was first in a series that now numbers 13 volumes and has been published in 13 languages. Next to be published in America is *SPQR XI: Under Vesuvius*.



He lives with his wife, Beth, and an ever-varying number of cats in a 100-year-old adobe house in the town of Estancia, New Mexico.

CHRIS ROERDEN, editor 44 years (grandmother 6), is author of the Agatha winner and Anthony, Macavity, and ForeWord finalist *Don't Murder Your Mystery*, and its all-genre edition coming June 2008, *Don't Sabotage Your Submissions: An editor tells writers how to save your manuscripts from turning up D.O.A.* www.bellarosabooks.com. Ask Chris how



she estimates 4 million adult fiction rejections annually. Authors she's edited are published by St. Martin's, Midnight Ink, Berkeley Prime Crime, Intrigue, and many others. With an MA and

BA in English summa cum laude, she also taught writing for SUNY Empire State College, U-Maine-Portland, U-Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



SHARON ROWSE has always been fascinated with the development of the North American West, and particularly with the madness of the Cariboo and Klondike Gold Rushes. Her debut novel, *The Silk Train Murder*, received a starred review from *Booklist*. Sharon is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Crime Writers of Canada and Sisters in Crime. She lives in Vancouver, where she is at work on the second book featuring John Lansdowne Granville and Emily Turner.



PRISCILLA ROYAL is the author of the Prioreess Eleanor/Brother Thomas medieval mystery series set in late 13th century England. She grew up in British Columbia, received her degree in World Literature from San Francisco State University, and spent more than 30 years working for the federal government. In 2000, she left this most educational experience to write about murder. Each series book blends her love of medieval history (from the years in Canada), writing (ever the literature major), and fascination

with the vagaries of human nature (from her years as a minor bureaucrat). The series is published by Poisoned Pen Press.

PENNY RUDOLPH is the author of the contemporary mystery *Thicker Than Blood* and its sequel *Lifeblood*, as well as the historical mystery *Listen to the Mockingbird*. She has worked as a bartender, truck driver, chile picker, musician, science writer, and medical writer. She's taught high school English, as well as journalism at New Mexico State University. A finalist or winner in five national fiction competitions, she has won more than 50 national non-fiction writing/editing awards, including an international Gold Quill. Penny has lived most of her life in New Mexico, with detours to the East and West coasts.



Ten years in advertising and marketing gave MARCUS SAKEY the perfect experience to write about thieves and killers. To research his books, he's shadowed homicide detectives, toured the morgue, interviewed soldiers, ridden with gang cops, and learned to pick a deadbolt in sixty seconds. His first novel, *The Blade Itself*, was featured on CBS Sunday Morning and NPR, and chosen both a *New York Times* Editor's Pick and one of *Esquire* magazine's Top



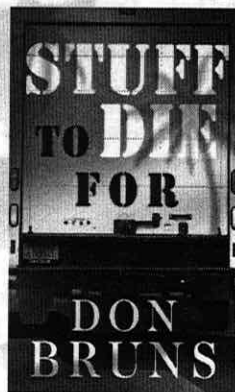
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5 Reads of 2007. It has sold in eight countries, and Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's production company has bought film rights for Miramax. His second novel, *At The City's Edge*, comes out in January.



When **LUCINDA SCHROEDER** graduated from college in 1974, her father told her to "go federal." Prior to 1971, it was illegal for women to carry a firearm in federal service, so there were very few women in federal law enforcement. Even in 1974, managers were reluctant to make those first few female hires, but Lucinda persisted and became the third female special agent hired by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service. The undercover work she did in *A Hunt for Justice* was the result of years of working undercover in various hunting camps and other sting operations cracking wildlife crime. Writing came after retirement in 2004, when Lucinda decided she had a story to tell.



Born and raised in the Chicago area, **THERESA SCHWEGEL** received her bachelor's degree from Loyola University. During her undergraduate studies, she interned for an independent production company which sparked her interest in screenwriting. Soon after, she moved to southern California to pursue her masters in film at Chapman University. In

2002 she rewrote her thesis screenplay *Officer Down* as a novel which went on to win the 2006 Edgar Allan Poe Award. *Probable Cause*, her second book, was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice; *Person of Interest* was selected a Best Book of 2007 by *Publisher's Weekly*. **What are you working on now?** My fourth novel for St. Martin's Minotaur-- bringing back Sloane Pearson (from *Probable Cause*) to solve a serial sex-crime case...



In 1974, **MARK SCHWEIZER**, a brand-new high-school graduate, decided to eschew the family architectural business and become an opera singer. Against all prevailing wisdom and despite jokes from his mother like "What does the music major say after his first job interview?" (answer: You want fries with that?), he enrolled in the Music School at Stetson University.

To his father, the rationale was obvious. No math requirement. Everything happens for a reason, however, and Mark now lives and works as a musician, composer, author and music professor in Kentucky. He drives a Jeep. Not one of those sissy Jeeps either. A Wrangler. He is the author of the St. Germaine mystery series.

MAGGIE SEFTON is author of the Berkley Prime Crime Knitting Mystery Series as well as a real estate agent sleuth mystery, *Dying to Sell*. Agatha award nominee *Knit One, Kill Two* made four national bestseller lists in June 2005. The second, *Needled to Death*, was the Barnes & Noble #1 Bestselling mass market mystery after its December 2005 release. *A Deadly Yarn* was a Berkley Prime Crime Featured Release for August 2006. The fourth, *A Killer Stitch*, was the #10 bestselling hardcover mystery on both the Barnes & Noble and the BookScan bestseller lists after its May 2007 release. Website: www.maggiesefton.com Blog: www.cozychicksblog.com



After stints as a manual laborer, dishwasher, bartender, restaurant manager, commercial photographer, magazine editor and public relations executive, **MICHAEL W. SHERER** decided life should imitate art—he's now a freelance writer. He's published five novels in the Emerson Ward mystery series (*An Option On Death, Little Use For Death, Death Came Dressed In White, A Forever Death, and Death Is No Bargain*). *Island Life*, a stand-alone thriller about an ordinary suburban father's race to find out what happened to his missing wife before he loses his children, his freedom and possibly his life, comes out in March, 2008. Please visit www.michaelwsherer.com and www.islandlife-thenovel.com.



GWEN SHUSTER-HAYNES manages four lively children, adores her husband, and uses her Harvard MBA and marketing skills to **Translate Business Concepts For Writers**. She constructs Faceless Marketing™ campaigns for introverted writers and clients create strong, vibrant business plans that build loyal reader bases, sell additional rights, and replicate successes. In September she'll teach her flagship on-line course: **Introverts & Extroverts: Create A Career Plan Built On Your Strengths** for writers at <http://www.writersonlineclasses.com/>.



STEVEN SIDOR is the author of the acclaimed novels *Bone Factory* and *Skin River*. His latest suspense thriller, *The Mirror's Edge*, involves a double kidnapping and the occult. It arrives April 2008 from St. Martin's Minotaur. Born and raised in Chicago, Steven is a former case manager for the mentally ill. He lives with his family in the Fox River Valley.





MICHAEL SIVERLING is the author of *The Sterling Inheritance*, the St. Martins Press / Private Eye Writers Association best first novel award winner. He was also a veteran criminal investigator in Sacramento, California and has worked assignments ranging from homicide to political corruption to child abduction in cases that have taken him throughout the United States as well as Germany, Mexico and Romania. He has also been qualified as a police instructor in firearms and weaponless defense. His second novel, *The Sorcerer's Circle*, was published by St. Martins in December of 2006. www.midnight-investigations.com.



SUSAN ARNOUT SMITH has been an essayist for National Public Radio and has written four TV movies that have aired in the US, one of which was a finalist for a PEN WEST award and starred Lynn Redgrave. Her newly released suspense novel *The Timer Game* will be available in twelve countries and five languages. She has written a series of webisodes, seen on www.thetimergame.com, prequels that introduce the main characters five years before the book opens. The webisodes are currently seen all over the world.



ROGER M. SOBIN is the compiler and editor of the new resource book *The Essential Mystery Lists: for Readers, Collectors, and Librarians* published by Poisoned Pen Press. He is a mystery fan, reader, collector and has completed several short stories and working on a novel. He has a column in *Mystery News* called "Real To Reel" discussing a title from a (real) book to a (reel) film. Roger is a former Air Force chaplain (twenty years) and Presbyterian minister and has nine articles published in religious education journals. Rev. Dr. Sobin is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, and the International Bonhoeffer Society. One of his passions is the study of the "Dead Sea Scrolls." He lives in Helotes, Texas (San Antonio area).



ALEXANDRA SOKOLOFF has sold suspense scripts and adapted novels for numerous Hollywood studios, including Sabine Deitmer's thriller *Cold Kisses*, which was filmed in Germany. She is the author of two supernatural thrillers, *The Harrowing* and *The Price*. She is a former director of the WGA/w, is the founder of writeraction.com, an online community of professional screenwriters; blogs at murderati.com; and sings as a Killerette in the ITW's Killer Thriller Band. www.alexandrasokoloff.com. (Photo by Lawrence Smith)



ROBERT SPILLER lives in the beautiful city of Colorado Springs, Colorado with his wife Barbara. His three daughters and three grandchildren all live within shouting distance. A mathematician by trade he weaves his profession into his mysteries. He has taught all levels of mathematics from elementary through university. *A Calculated Demise*, his second published novel, features his math teacher/sleuth Bonnie Pinkwater. As in *The Witch of Agnesi*, the first installment in the series, Bonnie uses mathematics and her knowledge of historic female mathematicians to solve murders in the small Colorado town of East Plains. *Irrational Numbers*, the third mystery in the series, is scheduled for release by Medallion Press in September 2008.



KELLI STANLEY lives in San Francisco, but spent her third grade year near Boulder, Colorado. She fondly remembers making snow ice cream. Her first novel, *Nox Dormienda* (A Long Night for Sleeping) will be available in hardcover July, 2008. *Nox* is the first of a new series in a new genre: Roman Noir. Set in first century AD Britain and featuring Arcturus, a hard-boiled protagonist in the best Marlowe tradition, *Nox* is a new kind of historical mystery, a suspense thriller that combines a classic noir style with the rich texture of the ancient past. Kelli's short story prequel to *Nox Dormienda*, "Convivium," was shortlisted for a Spinetangler Award. She's currently hard at work on a novel set in 1940 San Francisco. You can reach her through her website at www.kellistanley.com.



JASON STARR is the Barry and Anthony Award-winning author of eight crime novels which are published in ten languages. He has also co-authored two novels for Hard Case Crime, co-edited an anthology of horse racing fiction for Vintage Books, and has written an original graphic novel which is forthcoming from DC Comics. His latest thriller now available from St. Martin's Press is *The Follower*.



JEANNE STEIN's first novel, *The Becoming*, was a Barnes & Noble national best seller for December 2006 as well as a local bestseller in San Diego and Denver. She has lived in Colorado for ten years, but was raised and educated in San Diego, which is the setting for her contemporary vampire fantasy. *Blood Drive*, the second in the Anna Strong series, released by Berkley in June 2007 and *Watcher*, the third, December 2007. She also has a story in an anthology entitled *Many Bloody Re-*

PANELISTS, continued

turns, edited by Charlaine Harris and Toni L.P. Kelner, which debuted at #30 on the NYT bestseller list in September 2007. She is currently at work on books 4 and 5 of the Anna Strong Chronicles.



PATRICIA STOLTEY grew up in Illinois and has also lived in Indiana, Oklahoma, the south of France, and Florida. Now retired from their corporate lives, she and her husband Bill live in northern Colorado where they enjoy change of seasons and no hurricanes. Patricia is the author of *The Prairie Grass Murders*, which is set in central Illinois and south Florida and stars middle-agers Sylvia

Thorn, circuit court judge of Palm Beach County, Florida, and her older brother Willie Grisseljon, a Vietnam veteran and retired accountant. Read more about Patricia and *The Prairie Grass Murders* at her website: www.patriciastoltey.com.

ERIC STONE'S books include *Wrong Side of the Wall*—a true crime/sports biography; *The Living Room of the Dead*—a detective thriller set in Asia, based on a true story of the Russian trade in prostitutes; and *Grave Imports*, based on the facts of the trade in looted Cambodian antiquities. Eric worked for many years as a journalist in the U.S. and Asia, covering everything from economics to crime, politics to sex. He currently lives in Los Angeles.



Shamus Award winner **ANDY STRAKA'S** new book is a thriller called *Record of Wrongs*. Acclaimed as offering "a breath of fresh air in the field of private eye fiction," Andy's first three novels were also nominated for the Anthony and Agatha awards. A native of upstate New York and a graduate of Williams College, he works in

the medical field, lives in Virginia, and is a licensed falconer, not to mention an identical twin. His website can be found at www.andystraka.com.



SANDI SUMNER lives in Colorado now, but spent 12 years in Alaska where she authored the first-ever history of women pilots. This experience led her to write mysteries too, because she believes life is a puzzle and that's fascinating. You'll find her in her Writing Womb 24/7 where she escapes, creates, and meets interesting

characters. "Writing is my passion! These people I create, tug on my heart, mess with my mind, and do their best to lead me astray—at least on paper. How lucky can I be?"

PARI NOSKIN TAICHERT celebrates New Mexico's quiriness through Sasha Solomon, a reality-challenged PR consultant who helps small towns with tourism projects. Lauded as a "first-class writer" by Tony Hillerman, Noskin Taichert is a two-time Agatha Award finalist. Ken Bruen has this to say about her third book, *The Socorro Blast*, which will debut at this convention: "The novel has



one of the best, most moving and heart warming payoffs I've ever read." Though fun on the surface, all of Noskin Taichert's works delve into deeper issues, if the reader cares to find them. Blog (Monday posts): www.murderati.com Website: www.parinoskintaichert.com **First mystery book read:** Does Dick and Jane count? I always wondered why they had to run, run, run? Who was chasing them? Did Scout know?

Author of more than 300 published short stories and 4 novels, **STEVE RASNIC TEM'S** latest novel, written in collaboration with wife Melanie Tem and out this week, is *The Man on the Ceiling*, an expansion and reimagining of the novella of the same name (winner of the Bram Stoker, IHG, and World Fantasy Awards—the only work ever to win all three). *Publisher's Weekly* has praised the new novel for its "delicate, exquisitely detailed and almost hypnotic language." His dark crime tales have appeared in *Crime Wave* (UK), *New Mystery*, *Mike Shayne*, and *The Saint* magazines, among others.



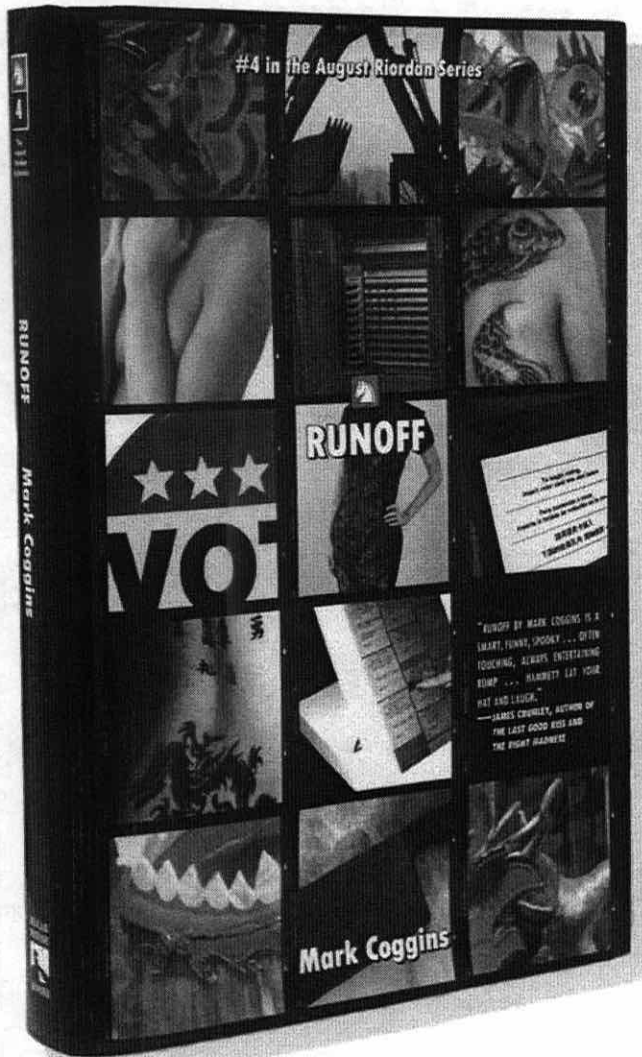
Originally from Houston, **MARGARET TESSLER** now lives in Albuquerque with her husband, Howard, and their cat (occasionally known as Poco Loco). They have a blended family of eight children and several grandchildren. Although she's won awards for her short stories, she discovered her real niche is in full-length mysteries. *Tangled Webs* and *Class Disunion*, the first two in the series, take place in Texas. The third, *Black Widow White Lies*, is set in Chama, New Mexico. She's a member of Sisters in Crime, Trois Rivieres Fiction Writers, and SouthWest Writers. www.ABQ-TaleSpinner.com.



TERRI THAYER has taught quilting, worked in a retail shop and at conventions like the one featured in *Wild Goose Chase*. Working with fabric led to rubber stamps and a fascination with art quilts, and using words in quilts. She is a transplanted East Coaster. Originally from Niagara Falls, she's lived on Long Island and in Northeast Pennsylvania. For the past ten years, happy to leave the snow and ice to hardier stock, she's made Northern California home.

ELECTION YEAR INTRIGUE...

RUNOFF FROM MARK COGGINS, THE AUTHOR OF *THE IMMORTAL GAME*



"Hammett eat your hat and laugh. It's great fun and a must read."

—James Crumley

"What's happening with the private eye novel? is a perpetually popular question among the crime-fiction cognoscenti. *Runoff* is the answer."

—January Magazine

A *January Magazine* best of year pick

"A noir gem."

—Mystery Scene Magazine

"Harrowing ... exposes the dark underbelly of American politics."

—Publishers Weekly

"Read this book ... Mark Coggins has taken us back into the world of strong PI fiction."

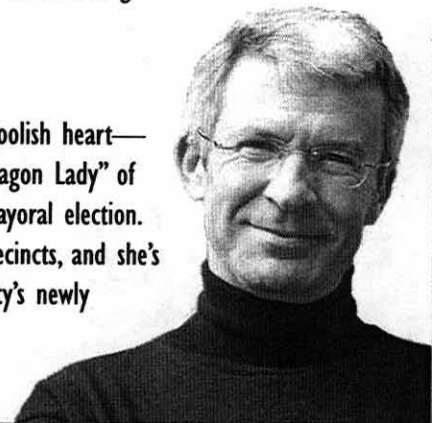
—Front Street Reviews

"The book is gripping and laugh-out-loud funny ... another example of the fact that election integrity is no longer conspiracy theory from 'tin-foil hats.'"

—VotersUnite.Org

"How much does it cost to fix an election?"

August Riordan—private investigator, jazz bass player, smart ass with a foolish heart—is going to find out. He's been hired by Leonora Lee, the all-powerful "Dragon Lady" of San Francisco's Chinatown, to investigate the results of the city's recent mayoral election. It seems the Dragon Lady's candidate failed to even carry the Chinese precincts, and she's convinced that someone must have rigged the outcome by hacking the city's newly installed touch-screen voting machines.



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PANELISTS, continued

MIKE THOMPSON is an award-winning photographer and writer.



He retired from the government where he tested explosives and was curator of an Army museum. He is a Vietnam veteran medic (1966-67) with a military career that spanned 36 years, including Air Force, Army, Army National Guard and Reserves. He has owned several businesses, worked as an actor, carpenter, bartender, oil landman, cowboy and many other things while

trying to decide what he would do if he ever grew up. Mike and his wife, Ruthie, live on the Laughing Horse Ranch, Land and Cattle Company, San Angelo, Texas.

RICH THOMPSON's professional education is as a civil engineer, and he has recently retired from a 45-year career in construction, including 12 years as the Senior Building Inspector for the City of St. Paul.



He is a certified Minnesota Building Official and a registered professional engineer. Oddly enough, his earliest ambition was to be a comic book artist, later a sculptor. At various times he has been a short-order cook, a folksinger and part-time maker of stringed instruments, a member of the

U.S. Coast Guard, a general contractor, and a boat-builder. He has been seriously pursuing his writing career since 1995.

BRIAN THORNTON's first paying gig in "the business" was writing opinion columns for beer money back in college at Gonzaga University. His short fiction has appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *Shred of Evidence*, and *Bullet UK*. He is also the author of several full-length works of non-fiction, including *101 Things You Didn't Know About Lincoln* (Adams Media 2005). His historical articles and book reviews have appeared in *Columbia: the Magazine of Northwest History*, and *The Pacific Northwest Forum*. Mr. Thornton makes his home in the Seattle area, and is Northwest Regional Chapter President for the Mystery Writers of America. **Favorite villain:** Satan from John Milton's *Paradise Lost*



STEVEN TORRES was born and raised in the Bronx, New York City. He writes the Precinct Puerto Rico series for St. Martin's Press and, more recently, *The Concrete Maze* for Dorchester. For more information, visit steventorres.com. **First mystery book read:** *G is for Gumsboe*. **Most recent book read:** *The Limehouse Text* by Will Thomas. **What are you working on now?** A NYC-set hardboiled novel.

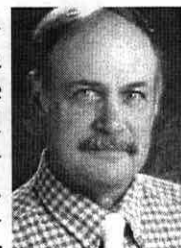
IRENE TURNER is the co-screenwriter of *American Crime*, starring Catherine Keener and Ellen Page, which appeared at the Sundance Film Festival and which will hit Showtime in May. Upcoming projects: a thriller for Anonymous Content and *A Little War* – her novel of obsession, secrecy, love and death in Paraguay. Previously, she produced the Sundance hit *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* and directed the feature film *The Girls' Room*, called "a terrific discovery" by the L.A. Times. It played 34 festivals worldwide, winning 8 prizes before premiering on Showtime. She's a member of MWA and WGA, west.



LOUISE URE spent a quarter of a century in advertising and marketing in the United States, Singapore and Australia before finding her true love: writing crime fiction. Her debut mystery, *Forcing Amaryllis*, won the Shamus Award for best first novel. *Booklist's* starred review said, "Ure's debut so compellingly evokes the hot, dry Southwest, readers may want to have an ice-cold glass of water nearby while reading it." The latest book, *The Fault Tree*, is the harrowing tale of a blind woman's race against a killer. Please visit www.louiseure.com or www.murderati.com.



JAY WAGGONER is a retired (and currently rehired) math teacher who has always been a big reader. "If you look at my accumulative averages for high school and college, you'll see proof positive; given the choice of studying and reading, studying, for the most part, lost. I've been submitting reviews and articles to George Easter and *Deadly Pleasures* for about 10 years. Only recently have I had the urge to get anything published." A supplementary math book is currently in the hands of an illustrator, another has been submitted, and a third—combination English supplement/mystery/thriller aficionado read—is searching for a publisher.



PENNY WARNER has published more than 50 books, including seven mysteries in the award-winning Connor Westphal series. *Dead Body Language* was nominated for an Agatha award and won a Macavity award for best first mystery. Book seven, *Dead Man's Hand*, was published in April 2007. Her latest book, *The Official Nancy Drew Handbook*, was published in November 2007, and features Drew's clues and tips for sleuthing. She also wrote a middle-grade mystery featuring a Girl Scout troop. *Mystery of the Haunted Caves* won an Agatha award and an Anthony award for best juvenile mystery. Her books have been published internationally, in over a dozen languages.



Experts



Mystery novelist **BETTY WEBB** has been a journalist and book reviewer for the past 15 years, and has published more than three thousand syndicated feature and news articles. Her own prize-winning Lena Jones detective series—*Desert Run*, *Desert Shadows*, *Desert Wives*, and *Desert Noir*—has garnered rave reviews from the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and other prestigious national publications. *Desert Wives*, a mystery set in one of Arizona's notorious polygamy compounds, is in development to become a Lifetime-TV movie and series. Her new Lena Jones novel, *Desert Cut*, will appear in February 2008. Webb's work has also been collected in several anthologies and magazines.



L.A. native **JERI WESTERSON** has been a would-be actress, a luggage salesman, a travel insurance agent, and a tasting host and tour guide for a winery. In short, she can't hold down a job. She has also been a freelance newspaper reporter, wrote articles for quirky magazines, and published award-winning short stories. Her first novel *Veil Of Lies*, a Crispin Guest Medieval Noir, will be released by St. Martin's Minotaur in Fall, 2008. She also writes a popular blog called "Getting Medieval" www.jeriwesteron.typepad.com.



SIMON WOOD is a California transplant from England. He was a competitive racecar driver and he's a licensed pilot. He shares his world with his American wife, Julie, a longhaired dachshund and four cats. He's had over 140 stories and articles published. His stories have been included in "Best of" anthologies and he's written for *Writer's Digest* and he's an Anthony award nominee. He's the author of *Working Stiffs* and *Accidents Waiting to Happen*. His current thriller is *Paying the Piper* and his next, *We All Fall Down*, hits bookshelves in July. Curious people can find him at www.simonwood.net.



MARK ZUBRO is the author of twenty mysteries. Eleven in the Tom Mason series feature a high school English teacher and his lover, a professional baseball player, as the detectives. The most recent book in this series is *Everyone's Dead But Us*. The nine books in his other series, a police procedural series, have a Chicago police detective, Paul Turner, as the main character. The newest title in this series is *Hook, Line, and Homicide*. Mark recently retired from thirty-four years of teaching. When not writing or reading he is napping and eating chocolate.

Greg Satre is the owner of Denver Bullets, which specializes in ammunition manufacturing and the repair and sales of machine guns and silencers. Satre served in the US Army as a machine gun instructor. He tours the country giving demonstrations and instruction.

The nominees:

Left Coast Crime Awards

The **LEFTY** (Most humorous mystery published in 2007). Read a brief excerpt from each of the Lefty nominees beginning on page 48. Don't forget to vote! Ballot box in the Registration area.

Donna Andrews, THE PENGUIN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
Don Bruns, STUFF TO DIE FOR
Jeff Cohen, SOME LIKE IT HOT BUTTERED
Jess Lourey, KNEE HIGH BY THE FOURTH OF JULY
Elaine Viets, MURDER WITH RESERVATIONS

The **ROCKY** (Best mystery set in the Left Coast Crime geographical region in 2007). Read more about the Rocky nominees beginning on page 50. Voted on by LCC membership; don't forget to vote!

C.J. Box, FREE FIRE
Bill Cameron, LOST DOG
Margaret Coel, THE GIRL WITH BRAIDED HAIR
Tim Maleeny, STEALING THE DRAGON
Twist Phelan, FALSE FORTUNE

The **ARTY** (Best cover art for a mystery published in 2007). View the covers!

Megan Abbott, QUEENPIN
Laura Benedict, ISABELLA MOON
Rhys Bowen, HER ROYAL SPYNESS
Ken Isaacson, SILENT COUNSEL
Tim Maleeny, STEALING THE DRAGON

The **DILYS**: An award given by members of the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association (IMBA), recognizing the book they most enjoyed selling over the past year.

Rhys Bowen, HER ROYAL SPYNESS (Berkley)
William Kent Krueger, THUNDER BAY (Atria)
Lisa Lutz, THE SPELLMAN FILES (Simon & Schuster)
Deanna Raynourn, SILENT IN THE GRAVE (Mira)
Marcus Sakey, THE BLADE ITSELF (St. Martin's Minotaur)

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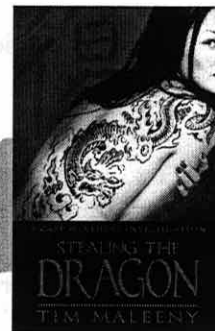
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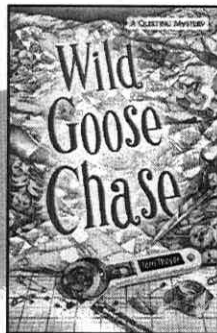


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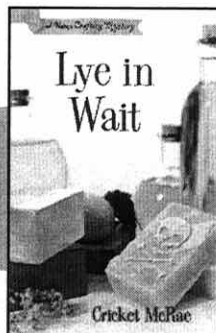
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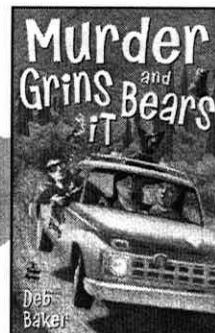
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From the Lefty Nominees

The Penguin Who Knew Too Much

by Donna Andrews

Chapter 1

"Meg! Guess what I found in your basement?"

I looked up from the box I was unpacking to see Dad standing in the basement doorway, his round face shining with excitement.

"A body?" An unlikely guess, but Dad was a big mystery buff--perhaps if I amused him, he'd stop playing guessing games on moving day.

"Oh, rats--you already knew? Well, how soon will the police get here? I need to move the penguins--we don't want them any more upset than they already are."

He disappeared down the basement stairs without waiting for an answer. I abandoned my unpacking to call after him.

"Dad? I was joking. Did you really find a body? And why are there penguins in our basement? Dad!"

Stuff To Die For

by Don Bruns

Synopsis

Chasing the American Dream could leave you running for your life. Best friends James Lessor and Skip Moore are hardly on the fast track. While James works as a line cook at Cap'n Crab, Skip spends his days selling--rather attempting to sell--security systems to people who have no money and have nothing they care to protect.

James and Skip aren't upwardly mobile, but they're about to get literally mobile when James spends a surprise inheritance on a white box truck. An investment in the future, he surmises, as these two are starting a business. Moore and Lessor, or Lessor and Moore. Have Truck Will Haul.

But the fledgling business takes a shocking turn when James and Skip unload the contents of their first moving job and find some unexpected cargo—a bloody human finger.

As James and Skip scramble to stay one step ahead of the perpetrators of a gruesome crime, they'll learn that there is some stuff you should never touch—and some stuff to die for in this witty, gritty mystery about big dreams, big ideas—and big trouble.

Some Like it Hot Buttered

by Jeff Cohen

Chapter 1

"Dying is easy. Comedy is hard."

—attributed to every dying English actor since Richard Burbage (1567-1619)

Tuesday Young *Frankenstein* (1974) and Count Bubba, *Down Home Vampire* (last Friday)

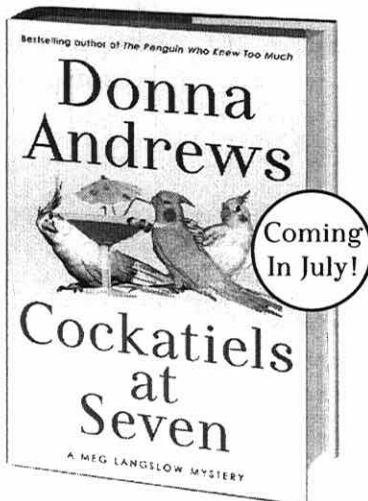
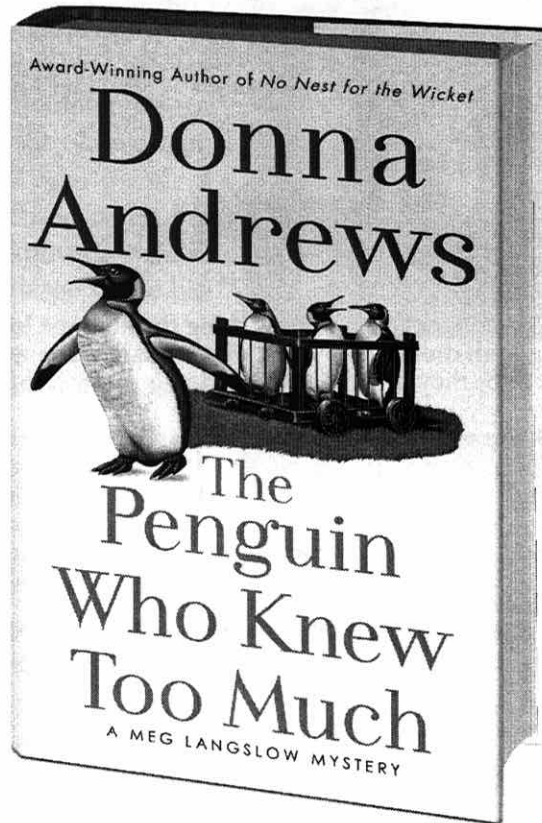
The guy in Row S, seat 18 was dead, all right. There was no mistaking it. For one thing, he hadn't laughed once during the Blind Man scene in *Young Frankenstein*, which is indication enough that all brain function has ceased. For another, there was the whole staring-straight-ahead-and-not-breathing scenario, and the lack of a pulse, which was good enough to convince me.

"Were you the one who found him?" I asked Anthony (not Tony, mind you), the ticket taker/usher/projectionist. Anthony, a Cinema Studies major at Rutgers University, is nineteen years old, and a film geek from head to toe (sorry, Anthony, but it's true). He was wearing black jeans, a T-shirt with a picture of Martin Scorsese on it, and a puzzled expression that indicated he was wondering how to work this event into his next screenplay. Anthony shook his head.

"Sophie found him," he said, indicating our snack stand attendant/ticket seller/clean up girl, who was standing to one side, biting both her lips and ignoring her cell phone, which was playing a Killers song by way of ringing. Sophie was, in her own high-school junior way, freaked out. I considered gesturing her over, then realized she wanted to stay as far away from our non-respiring patron as possible, so

Continued on page 50

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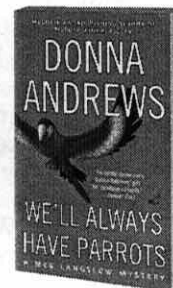
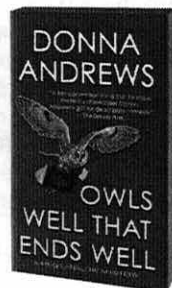
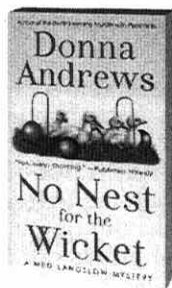


photo credit: Mary A. Dusing

THOMAS DUNNE BOOKS



Continued from page 48

I walked to her side instead.

"It's okay, Sophie," I told her. "Just tell me what happened."

Knee High by the Fourth of July

by Jess Lourey

Excerpt

It was the first Thursday in July, the hottest month in Minnesota. The thermometer was busting my hump at a moist 86 degrees, and it wasn't even 8 AM. The Channel 7 news, the only station that came in clearly at my double-wide in the woods, was predicting the hottest July in history. The humid, sticky weather made the whole state feel like a greenhouse, or the inside of someone's mouth. As a direct result, people who had to work were cranky, people on vacation were ecstatic, and crops were growing like a house on fire. Locals said that if the corn was knee high by the Fourth of July, it would be a bumper crop. We were two days shy of that date and the corn was already shoulder high on a grown man. That strangeness should have been a warning to us all.

Murder with Reservations

by Elaine Viets

Chapter 1

The young couple looked like inept burglars sneaking through the lobby of Sybil's Full Moon Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. They were both dressed in black, which made them stand out against the white marble. At their wedding two days ago, they'd been slim, golden and graceful, trailing ribbons and rose petals through the hotel.

Now they moved with the awkward stiffness of amateur actors trying to look natural. The bride's black crop top exposed a midsection sliding from sexy to sloppy fat. The groom's black T-shirt and Bermudas failed the test for cool. They were boxy rather than baggy. He looked like a Grand Rapids priest on vacation.

The honeymooners avoided the brown plastic grocery bag swinging between them, carefully ignoring it as it bumped and scraped their legs. That screamed, "Look at me." They stashed the bag behind a potted palm while they waited for the elevator.

"Red alert," Sondra at the front desk said into her walkie-talkie. She was calling Denise, the head housekeeper. "The honeymoon couple just passed with a suspicious grocery bag. They're getting out on the third floor."

From the Rocky Nominees

Free Fire

by C.J. Box

Synopsis

Joe Pickett, recently fired from his job as a Wyoming game warden, is working on his father-in-law's ranch when he receives a visit from the governor. Governor Rulon—a devious but down-home politico—has a special request, one Joe knows he can't refuse. For weeks, the headlines have been abuzz with the story of Clay McCann, a lawyer who slaughtered four campers in a far-off corner of Yellowstone.

After the murders, McCann immediately turned himself in at the nearest ranger station. Seemed like a slam-dunk case for law enforcement—except that the crimes were committed in a thin sliver of land with zero residents and overlapping jurisdiction, the so-called free-fire zone. McCann has taken advantage of an obscure loophole in the law: neither the state nor the federal government can try him for his crime. The worst mass murderer in Wyoming history walks out of jail a free man.

Governor Rulon, sensitive to the rising tide of public outrage, wants his own investigation into the murders and will reinstate Joe as a game warden if he'll go to Yellowstone "without portfolio" to investigate. Joe, happy to get his badge back, even under these circumstances, agrees.

Continued on page 52

MURDER
on the books

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The Rocky nominees

Continued from page 50

It quickly becomes clear to Joe that McCann is deeply involved with some illegal activity taking place in the park—something tremendously lucrative and unusually dangerous. As Joe and his partner Nate Romanowski search for the key to the murders, they discover that it may be hidden in the rugged terrain of the park itself.

Lost Dog

by Bill Cameron

Prologue

Swirling snow bit his cheeks, snapped at his blinking eyes. It was starting to stick to the ground. No good. Snow meant footprints, and cops got all over footprints. Just the other night, Jake watched a show where they busted some guy from his frigging sneaker. Nailed the sucker to the wall. The ground was mostly bark chips, which wouldn't take a print for shit so long as he beat the snow. Just had to hurry.

The wind felt like a jagged blade at his back. Jake bent down and grasped the woman under her bony shoulders, pulled her toward the low concrete wall behind him. It was late, dark, colder than nobody's business. Still, no telling who might show up outta nowhere at just the wrong moment. Some loon who wanted to play on the swings in the middle of the night, something like that. Had to get her out of sight. They'd find her anyway, but no reason to make it easy. If he was lucky, the snow might fall thick enough to help him out a little. Didn't need much. Just time to get away and clean up. Maybe throw away his shoes. Then they could find her.

The Girl with Braided Hair

by Margaret Coel

Excerpt

The air tasted of summer—of dust and dried sage and brittle grass. Cottonwoods straddled a dry creek bed, branches splayed against the blue sky, and the lumps of sagebrush scattered about shimmered like water in the sun. There was a reddish tint to the bluffs that rose out of the earth. A hot wind knocked against the Toyota pickup and whistled through the cab, nearly drowning out The Magic Flute that blared from the tape player on the front seat. It was the last Monday in July, the moon when the chokecherries begin to ripen, in the Arapaho Way of marking the passing time. Father John Aloysius O'Malley shifted into low gear and pointed the pickup down a slight decline. He could feel the rear tires slipping. Pebbles and dust spewed from beneath the wheels and laid a thin golden film over the rearview window. The slope flattened into the gully that trailed the base of a bluff. He followed the tire tracks that ran across the brown earth.

"Might wanna head out to the Gas Hills," Thomas Whiteman had told him. The elder's voice had cracked on the telephone, and for a moment, Father John thought the call was breaking up.

"Somebody buried in a gully out in no man's land. Wild animal got to the bones." The old man sounded like himself again, the voice strong with indignation. "Ain't right, Father. Buried alone, nobody knows where you are, nobody prays for you, blesses your body."

Stealing the Dragon

by Tim Maleeny

Chapter 1

Cape Weathers just wanted to know what time it was before he died.

It wasn't much of a prayer, but it was all he could manage on short notice.

Cape was on his back, looking up at the clock tower as the Russian tried to strangle him. He could feel his larynx start to collapse as the gangster shifted his weight and tightened his grip, all three hundred pounds of him crushing the air from Cape's lungs.

Broken ribs stabbed as he tried to breathe. His vision started to fade and Cape knew he'd black out any minute. Then he'd be dead. But he could still see the clock tower jutting upwards into the fog, and he couldn't help himself. He wanted to hear the bells ring one last time.

Continued on page 53

The Rocky nominees

Continued from page 53

He also wanted to kill the son of a bitch that was strangling him, but Cape had learned to set realistic goals.

False Fortune

by Twist Phelan

Chapter 1

Monday, November 2

"I think we're being followed."

Hannah Dain adjusted her rearview mirror, trying to get a better view of the driver in the white SUV. Looking for a license plate would be pointless—Arizona didn't require them in the front.

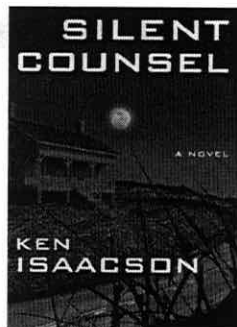
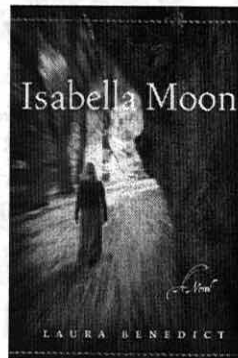
"Of course we are," Shelby said. "This is the only road around the lake."

"I mean the car behind us. I saw it when we stopped for gas."

Her sister glanced over her shoulder, then rolled her eyes. "At the one station this side of town. Do you know how many SUVs there are in this state, especially white ones? Stop being paranoid." Shelby consulted the map print-out on her lap. "Anyway, we're almost at the fry bread stand."



The Arty Nominees



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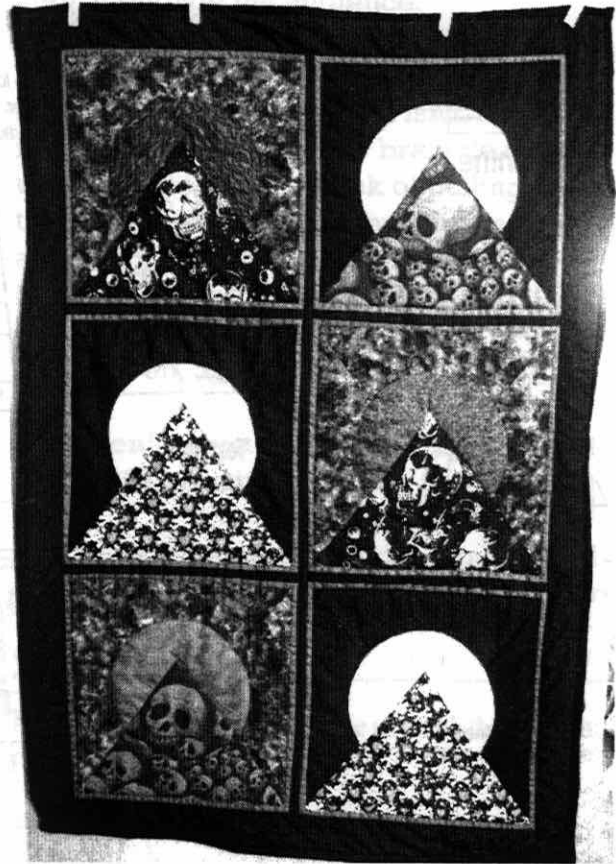
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One lucky person will win this quilt in a drawing at the Saturday night banquet. But—in order to win, you have to play! Look for tickets at registration, and they'll also be available from the makers of the quilt, who will be wandering around the program area.



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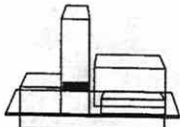
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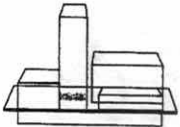
Tower Building

The Terrace and Majestic levels are located in the Tower Building and are accessible via escalator and elevator. The Terrace level is located one floor below the street level and the Majestic level is located one floor below the Terrace level.



Mezzanine Level

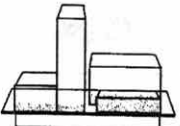
1. Colorado
2. Silver
3. Gold
4. Century
5. Spruce
6. Denver
7. Aspen



Second Level

Grand Ballroom
Tower Court A-D
Windows

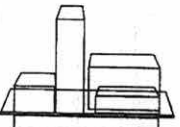
Buildings connect on Second Level (2)



Street Level

Directors Row E-J
Plaza Building

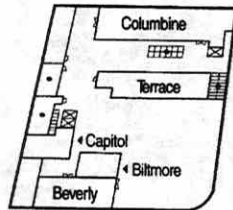
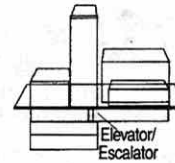
Escalator to Terrace and Majestic Levels
Tower Building



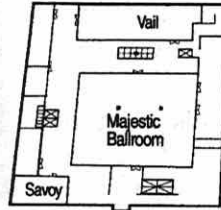
Concourse Level

Plaza Ballroom
Governor's Square 9-17
Plaza Court 1-8

Buildings connect underground on Concourse Level (C)



Terrace



Majestic

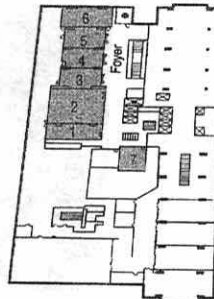
Terrace Level

Beverly
Biltmore
Capitol
Columbine
Terrace

Majestic Level

Majestic Ballroom
Savoy
Vail

Tower Building



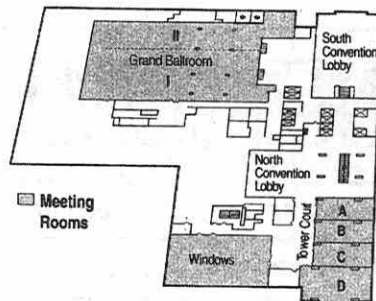
Meeting Rooms

Mezzanine Level

1. Colorado
2. Silver
3. Gold
4. Century
5. Spruce
6. Denver
7. Aspen

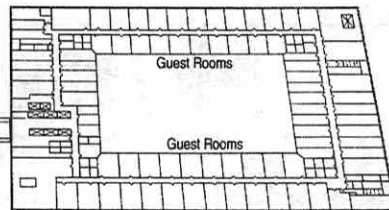
- Elevators
- Freight Elevators
- Handicapped Elevators
- Restrooms
- Stairwell
- Escalators

Plaza Building

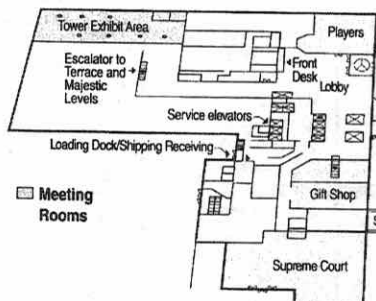


Meeting Rooms

COURT PLACE

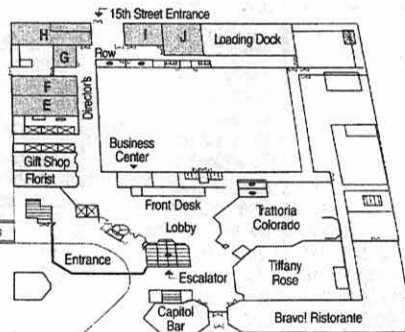


The Plaza and Tower buildings have (3) common floors. You can access both buildings from the second floor, street level and concourse level.

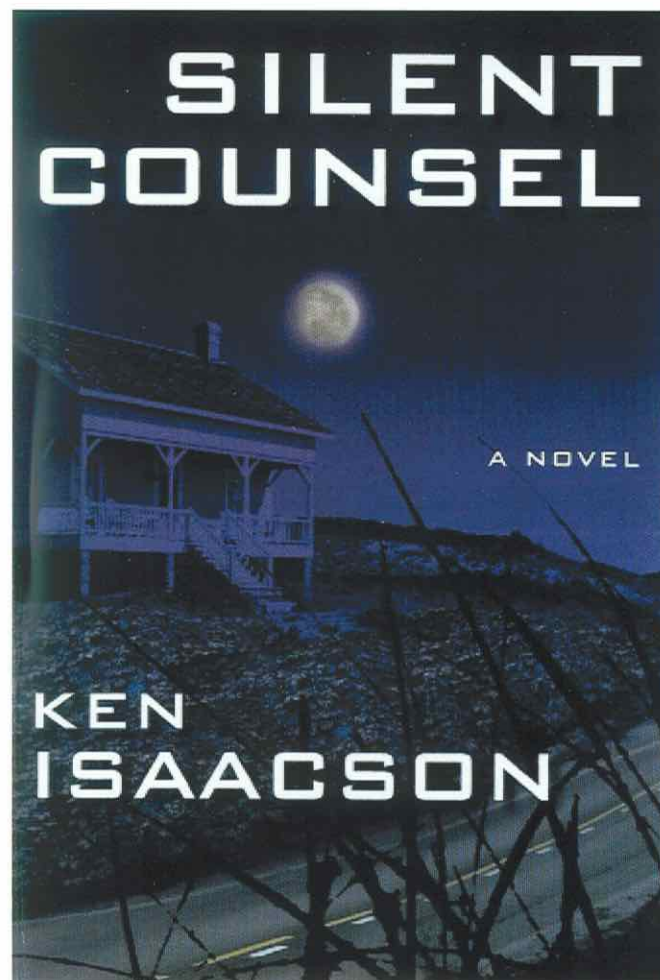


Meeting Rooms

COURT PLACE



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www.mwasw.org
MWASW's annual mystery writing conference.

Killer Nashville
August 15-17, Nashville, Tennessee
www.killernashville.com
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Once upon a midnight dreary,
I felt alone and weak and weary.
My book was stalled, my career a bore,
Then came a tapping at my door.
The raven said, "Come roost with us, we'll help
you cope, we'll share our friends, advice and hope."
"Who are you?" I asked the ebony bird.
"I'm MWA...Haven't you heard?"
So I joined this high-flying flock and swore,
I'll be a member...*evermore*.

