



CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

April 2009

Promoting Mystery Writing in Southern Arizona

Next AMW Meeting- April 11, 2009, 10:00 am to 2 pm at Home Town Buffet at Oracle and River Roads.

Business Meeting- (10:00 to 10:15)

Time to fill in the ballot for AMW Board of Directors positions. Nominations for the May election are due by close of the April General Meeting. Paper ballots will be available at that meeting, or you may "e-vote" by replying to Jan Pope at JglPope@gmail.com. More on this below.

Workshop and Speaker-DYNAMIC DUO: HOMICIDE AND SELF-PUBLISHING By Carol Dee O'Mahony

Elizabeth Gunn, local mystery novelist and Mike and Tama White of Ghost River Images to speak at Arizona Mystery Writers Forum on April 11th.

The Homicides, the Hooks and the Helpers

Elizabeth Gunn, renowned police procedural novelist will conduct an interactive workshop at Arizona Mystery Writers' on April 11th at 10:00 am. Ms. Gunn will show writers how to pick the type of crime for a story, how to "hook" the reader into the crime scene and how to use police procedure to best advantage. She will also give tips on how to research and target information for a crime scene and give examples of how mystery writers use humor and romance to mask grim details.

Ms. Gunn is the author of the popular Jake Hines mystery series set in Minnesota. Her two new novels set here in Tucson, *Cool in Tucson* and *Cool River Blues*, features police

detective, Sarah Burke. You can find out more about Elizabeth and her work at www.elizabethgunn.com.

Self-publishing with Ghost River Images

Mike and Tama White have been helping authors and artists self-publish their works in print and e-book form. Since 1992 they have helped over 200 authors publish nearly 300 books including a number of mysteries. The Whites will speak to AMW about the newest and most effective methods of self-publishing including editing, cover design and marketing.

To learn more about Ghost River Images and the services they offer, visit their website at www.ghostriverimages.com.

RSVP next AMW Meeting- Reply to this email, or call Mary Ann Hutchison at 520-293-6373.

AMW ELECTIONS By AMW Board of Directors

The first annual elections will be held in May, with nominations due in April.

What has the AMW Board done for its Members?

The current board was formed in November, 2007. Since then, they have worked to make AMW a recognized professional group for the promotion of mystery writing in southern Arizona. Some of its accomplishments include: setting up a variety of speakers and workshops; establishing Crime Times as an e-communication; provided an interactive website (www.ArizonaMysteryWriters.com); coordinating a book signing at Borders for all of our authors; participated in the Tucson Festival of Books (Booth 39); provided detailed accounting records; decreased the cost of the monthly meetings; written ByLaws to guide the present and future of AMW, and established a \$25.00 annual dues in order to provide all of the above. An Endowment Fund will provide the funds for a writing contest to be coordinated next year.

A Secretary/Membership Chair on the Board of Directors is needed.

Our ballot is shaping up, but has one huge gap. The position of membership/secretary.

To redefine the position, The Secretary maintains membership directory; prepares and maintains name tags, takes phone reservations for monthly meetings and takes Board meeting minutes. Sends thank you notes.

To clarify, you don't have to have great computer skills. The communication's chair (Mary Bellin) has all the lists, letterhead and name tag forms on the computer. She will help you add names to the membership directory. The big part of the job will be handing out name tags at meetings, taking Board meeting minutes and taking the two or three phone reservations each month (most members

RSVP by email).

The Election Ballot

Two members have volunteered to Chair the following positions: Vija Lipins as Publicity, Graham McLeod as Speaker Chair, and Carol O'Mahony as Workshop Chair. As already stated, the position of Membership/Secretary is OPEN.

The nominations for each position are listed below. You will receive an email ballot, or you may pickup a paper ballot at the April meeting. Send your completed email ballot to JanGLPope@gmail.com. The ballot contains the names of the incumbents - or those who have volunteered for the position - there is space for a write-in candidate.

PRESIDING CHAIR:

- [Mary Ann Hutchison](#)
- Write in name

MEMBERSHIP/SECRETARY:

- Write in name
- Write in name

PUBLICITY:

- [Vija Lipins](#)
- Write in name

SPEAKER COORDINATOR:

- [Graham McLeod](#)
- Write in Name

TREASURER:

- [Rae Schlesinger](#)
- Write in Name

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR:

- [Carol O'Mahony](#)
- Write in Name

COMMUNICATIONS:

- [Mary Bellin](#)
- Write in Name

If you have any questions, email or phone Mary Ann Hutchison 520-293-6373. The

future success of AMW depends on your support and willingness to help.

Review of Tucson Festival of Books By Mary Ann Hutchison

"We didn't know you were here!" That phrase was heard over and over by Festival-of-Books' attendees over the March 14-15 weekend.

Thanks to the Festival, Arizona Mystery Writers has emerged from the shadows, after almost 20 years of apparently hiding in plain sight. Yes, we've been around that long, and although we've been featured in Community Events, it took that marvelous event to give us a platform from which to let our light shine forth.

Almost eighty people signed their names to our contact sheet.

If you didn't get a chance to stop by our booth and talk to us, a photo is included herein. It was a glorious weekend in all respects! The next Festival is set for March 12-14, 2010, and AMW has already let the organizers know that we're more than interested!



RESOUNDING APPLAUSE PLEASE!

By Mary Ann Hutchison

The next time you see Carol O'Mahony, Karen MacLeish, Erik Hertwig, Mary Bellin, Liz Gunn, Jan Pope, Ellie Nelson, Kathleen Torzala, Mike Alvarez, Rae Schlesinger, Graham McLeod, Terry Ambrose, please, thank each and every one of them for the work they did at the Festival of Books.

From setup to take down on Festival weekend, they worked hard to promote us and were successful at it! Everything seemed to smile down on the Festival and it was one of the happiest writing events I've ever had the privilege to take part in.

Carol O' led the Festival committee brilliantly, and each member pitched in to make Booth 39 one of the most outstanding on the UA Mall.

Because of their work, I just know that AMW is going to grow.

Thanks all, for your enthusiasm and time. We are lucky to have you.

Next AMW Meeting- May 9, 2009 10:00 am to 2 pm at Home Town Buffet at Oracle and River Roads.

Workshop- First Annual Meeting (like no other) includes election and announcement of new Board, discussion of new organization for Workshops and the future writing contest. This meeting is very important. So much can be accomplish if all members give their input and support.

Speaker-Detective Jimenez of the Tucson Police Department



Romance Writers of Tucson Meeting

Plot is the glue that holds every novel together. It's the vehicle that carries readers from page one to "The End." In April, Saguaro Romance Writers, the Tucson chapter of Romance Writers of America welcomes Karen Docter in a special, all-day workshop, as she shares the "W" plotting technique she's used successfully for 12 years. Bring whatever materials you need to work on your own novel and two or more 3x3-inch Post-It note pads in different colors. Viewing the film Romancing the Stone beforehand is recommended but not required. Join us on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at El Parador Tropical Restaurant in Tucson, 2744 E Broadway Blvd. For reservations, email Crystal Marshall at crystal@crystalcaterra.com no later than 8 p.m. the Wednesday before the meeting. The cost is \$20 for SRW members, \$25 for guests and includes lunch.