



CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

September 2008

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone had a great summer break and is ready to get back to writing! We have many great programs this fall and our first meeting is September 13, 2008. We're looking forward to seeing all of you then.

Workshop- September 13, 2008



Looking for new directions in your writing? Want to give dead-end ideas new life? Are the usual plot ideas getting stale? Tony Ivins will present "Turning Mainstream Stories into Crime Fiction". AMW members will create story openings from prompts provided at the workshop or may use their own material. Appropriately nasty crimes will be added. Finally, story sketches will be resolved. Find out the eight most popular topics used in general fiction and create your own crime-hybrid tale.

Speaker – September 13, 2008



Bart Gray, Criminalist in the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Central Regional Crime Lab will explain how he analyzes biological samples for illicit and pharmaceutical drugs, and interprets the toxicology results. His stories about his findings and how he's used them in courtroom testimony will fascinate you. What's the difference between him and the television CSIs? Find out on September 13th.

Board of Directors News and Information-



Webmaster Chair-

Richard Rohdanz has resigned from being the Webmaster. He wishes to pursue travel and other activities and can not devote the time needed to construct the website. Thank you Richard for initiating and setting up our website. We will miss you and wish you the best of luck.

Mary Bellin will take over the job of designing and implementing the website for AMW. She will also continue the newsletter.

Membership Chair- Position Vacant

The Board of Directors asks for someone to volunteer to take over Mary Bellin's duties as Membership Chair. The person must have a computer and be able to communicate by email. The membership chair will keep addresses, name tags and biographical information on each member. In addition, a yearly directory will also be provided to the members. (Mary has all this information and data sets; it just needs to be transferred to your computer). Each month, the membership chair will hand out name tags and help the Treasurer check people in to the meeting. Please email Mary Ann or Mary if you are interested in volunteering to fill this position.



Upcoming events:

September 27-28, 2008- Society of Southwestern Authors' 36th Annual Wrangling With Writing Conference.

The Society of Southwestern Authors is offering a discounted Wrangling With Writing Conference registration fee to AMW members who are **not** members of SSA: The regular non-member fee is \$350.00, but as a courtesy and encouragement to AMW members, a special fee of \$325.00 is being

offered.

The registration form is on SSA's website - www.ssa-az.org. AMW members can make their own category in the "Conference Fees" section, I.e., Arizona Mystery Writers - \$325.00

The Conference dates are September 27-28 2008, in Tucson, at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde. There are 40 workshops and you may schedule an appointment with an agent or publisher. All information is on SSA's website. Registrations will be accepted from AMW members up until the first day of the conference. Questions? Contact Penny Porter at wporter202@aol.com or phone 296-5299.

(note- if clicking on a link doesn't work: try holding down the ctrl key when you click on the link)

Saguaro Romance Writers is sponsoring a terrific workshop on **October 4** on writing from a deep point-of-view, and they'd love to see some of their mystery-writing cohorts there. The presenter, Connie Flynn, writes romantic suspense among other sub-genres, and she always does

an amazing job when she teaches. Any questions or to rsvp, click on this link to contact [Marilyn Johnson](#).

AMW Meeting October 11- Afternoon Session



Instead of a speaker, AMW will have a general meeting for all its members. There are many topics we need to cover including:

1. **Endowment Fund-** Our friend and author, Jim Martin died June 8, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer. Sally Martin, Jim's wife, related that rather than having friends and family donate to charitable organizations, it was Jim's wish that contributions be made to Arizona Mystery Writers, an organization that he loved. For that reason, the Board established the Arizona Mystery Writers Endowment Fund, which to date has a total of almost \$700, contributed by AMW members and Jim's friends and family.

It has been suggested that these funds be used to sponsor a writing contest offered to Pima Community College Creative Writing students, and that the first place award for that contest be named the Jim Martin Memorial Award. Come to the October meeting and help decide the future of the Endowment Fund.

If you wish to make a donation to the Fund, write a check to Arizona Mystery Writers' Endowment Fund. You may either bring your check to one of the monthly meetings, or send it to **Arizona Mystery Writers, P.O. Box 35591, Tucson, AZ 85740.**

2. **Tucson Festival of Books.** This event is certain to become one of Tucson's premier events--a region wide celebration of literature and literacy and a fundraiser for local literacy organizations. Sponsored by the *Arizona Daily Star* in association with the University of Arizona, the first annual Tucson Festival of Books is scheduled for March 13-15, 2009 on the UA campus. The coalition of community leaders who have organized this event are thinking big. They're expecting at least 300 authors and 50,000 attendees. The board would like your input on AMW participating in this event.
3. **Bylaws of AMW-** The board of directors has been working on bylaws to provide direction for our non-profit organization.
4. **Reports-** Each member of the board will give a report of their duties.
5. **Elections-** Elections for positions on the Board of Directors will soon be here. Let's talk about them.

AMW is growing. Growth may mean change; good change. The Board wants your input, and October's general meeting is just the place to have your say.



Recommendations by AMW Members-

1. Do you have any books lying around that you'd like to donate to Veterans? The Veteran's Hospital - 3601 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson, AZ, 85723 will gladly accept all you have. Either send via mail, or carry them out to the hospital. Contact Voluntary Services for further information: 520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262.

2. Subscriptions to a good online writing magazine- <http://www.writermag.com/wrt/>

Don't miss our [September](#) issue! Award-winning writer Randy F. Nelson shares his list of the **104 worst clichés** ... Plus, an interview with medical thriller-writer **Tess Gerritsen** ... Learn to **develop fiction characters** from the inside out ... Explore the **forgotten "midlist" market** ... Try a **fiction exercise** from Bret Anthony Johnston's new book ... **TV and film buffs:** Turn your hobby into writing assignments ...

News- AMW now has an official post box.

Arizona Mystery Writers
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Board member information:

Chair-Mary Ann Hutchison, chair@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Workshop-Jan Pope, workshops@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Speaker- Karen MacLeish, speakers@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Newsletter-Mary Bellin, newsletter@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Publicity-Carol O'Mahony, publicity@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Treasurer-Rae Schlesinger, treasurer@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

WebMaster-Mary Bellin, webmaster@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com



MEETING INFO: Second Saturday of the Month- next is September 13, 2008, HomeTown Buffet at the northwest corner of Oracle and River roads.

TIMES: AMW business meeting for all members 10:00 – 10:15 am, workshop 10:15 - 11:45 pm, Lunch 11:45 – 12:30, Speaker 12:30 – 2:00 pm.

Cost: Exact change or check is appreciated, Speaker, Workshop and lunch = \$12.00. Workshop or Speaker Only, no lunch, \$5. Yearly Dues are \$25.

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