



# CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

February, 2010

Promoting Mystery Writing in Southern Arizona  
PO Box 35591, Tucson, AZ 85740



## February 13, 2010 Meeting

**Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Road from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

### **Business Meeting- (10:00 to 10:15 am)**

Mary Ann Hutchison (Presiding Chair) will preside and present news about the latest Board Members' meeting.

### **SPECIAL SEMINAR-**

**WE WILL BE MEETING IN THE OTHER MEETING ROOM AT HOMETOWN BUFFET- The room is slightly bigger and closer to the desserts! Look for our signs.**

### **Speaker-(10:15 to 11:30 am)-**

Arizona Mystery writers will host a seminar presented by Harvey Stanbrough, freelance editor, instructor, author, and poet, featuring an informative discussion on Writing Dialect, Don't Tell, & Passive Voice Explained.

### **Lunch-(11:30 to 12:30)**

### **Workshop-(12:30 to 2:00 pm)-**

Seminar by Harvey Stanbrough. Afternoon Session.

**Seminar cost**, All-Day Seminar Cost (includes lunch): \$22.50 for AMW Members; \$27.50 for non-members. The extra \$10 goes directly to Harvey.

Please RSVP Carol Dee O'Mahony at [cdmahony@aol.com](mailto:cdmahony@aol.com) or call 520-760-3630 to reserve your seat. Cash or checks only. Please visit our web site: Arizona Mystery Writers.com

**2010 AMW Annual Dues are due!** Please make your check for \$25.00 payable to Arizona Mystery Writers. Checks can be mailed to Arizona Mystery Writers, P. O. Box 35591, Tucson, AZ 85740 or brought to the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Hometown Buffet. We'll be glad to provide a receipt upon request.



## **Review of Jan 9- Meeting**

**Speaker-** 'The January meeting saw a full house of members and guests on hand for TPD Det. Ben Jimenez's second appearance before our group. Ben's accounts of local homicide cases he has worked - graphically illustrated with actual crime scene photos - provided plenty of fodder for mystery writers wanting to pen realistic descriptions of murder scenes in their work!

Det. Jimenez has kindly agreed to a future appearance for AMW and I'll be scheduling him again for next winter.'

Graham McLeod, Speaker's chairperson

## **Workshop- Memorable Characters, Compelling Conflict** **Mary Ann Hutchison presents January Workshop**

What is Machiavellian Trait Testing you ask? Mary Ann Hutchison made it look easy at her lively interactive January workshop on Character Development.

We had a brief look at villains and then we jumped head first into Machiavellianism. Twenty questions revealed whether we were charming, confident and glib or arrogant, calculating and cynical, or maybe even submissive and socially inept.

Mary Ann wrapped up the workshop with a 75 words or less writing assignment utilizing what we had learned in the workshop. What a great crop of writing that produced! Some of them are included in this issue.

Mary Ann is the Arizona Mystery Writers Presiding Chairperson, a Society of Southwestern Authors Executive Board Member and 2009 Conference Committee Member. She writes short stories, memoirs, middle-grade and suspense stories. Her latest book, *Moochi's Mariachis*, will be on the shelves in March.

### **Special Section!!!**

**I am so happy to enter some of the short stories that were written at the Workshop. Thank you so much to those of you who contributed. Mary B**

Setup: Tragic-Romantic Villain; Thinker-Observer Victim.

Title: Nobody's Wife

Author: Clark Lohr

I did love him, but he could never make up his mind. And all he did was have sex with me three times a week and go to work.

I know you're thinking: Sex and he's got a job, too—so what's *her* problem? If you really think that you're an idiot.

I needed his attention. I needed to be romanced. One day when he'd been avoiding me about a firm date for our trip to Hawaii—and he'd locked himself away, preparing a legal case, scribbling along in his tiny little handwriting, I suddenly realized that the insurance and his 401K mattered.

He didn't.

I'd been gardening and I had a shovel in my hand. He never gardened and when he did he'd leave the tools out in the rain to rust.

That was years ago. I'm doing great and so is my garden.

By Jackie Edwards-

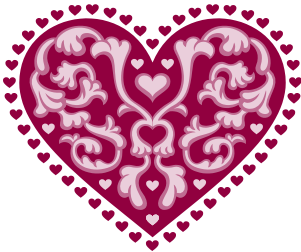
When Alex Houghton, the billionaire spa king, discovered his oldest child, a gifted musician, was not his child after all, his response might have been predicted. This son could have warned his mother to be careful, but he died in a hit-and-run. The boy's real father might have guessed, but when the wife was murdered, all he could think

about was getting the violin. And then he died and the Stradivarius disappeared.

By Mary Bellin-

Shaina wasn't supposed to go to Marcus' ex-wife's house, but that woman had gotten in the way for the last time. Shaina and Marcus were leaving for Paris tomorrow and Maddy had stolen Shaina's five karat diamond engagement ring, well not stolen exactly, Maddy found it in Marcus' suit coat two months ago, on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and thought Marcus wanted to reconcile. Shaina rolled her eyes at the thought Maddy could be so stupid. As she pulled into the driveway, Maddy lay on the far side of the driveway, bloody and unconscious. Shaina stared at the woman she hated and smiled at the lifeless Maddy. This was her opportunity to get rid of Maddy for good. She could dump Maddy's lifeless body in the desert and everyone would think Maddy was so distraught at Marcus divorcing her that she ran away and deserted her family. Shaina phoned Marcus, "Honey, I can't meet you for lunch, a client called, I need to go to their house and show them decorating samples. I'll meet you tonight for dinner."

### Meet Members of AMW-



#### Ellie Nelson

I first joined Arizona Mystery Writers in 1995 when the group met at the Sizzler Restaurant at Ina and Shannon. At that time I was just getting back into creative writing after a long hiatus. My writing was rusty, I had no contacts within the writing community and I knew nothing about the world of publishing. A friend told me AMW was a congenial group that offered informative workshops and superb speakers; it might be just what I needed. Obviously I agreed because I'm still a member, still continuing to learn and still making new friends and contacts.

Like so many writers I have had the compulsion to write since I was young. I always intended to pursue a career that involved writing, but after receiving a degree in English literature, I changed course to become a geologist. Along with my geologist husband I enjoyed many years of working in mineral exploration in numerous remote parts of the world, including Chile, Indonesian New Guinea and the Outback of Australia. Some of the Indonesian work, including an interview with my husband and me, may be viewed on the program A Gold Mine in the Clouds. Originally released on the Learning Channel, it now airs occasionally on the Discovery Channel.

While my work and travel experiences provide me with a wealth of material for short memoirs, I balance writing nonfiction with fiction. This includes short stories, novels and mysteries. More than a dozen of my short works and poetry can be read in

literary journals and anthologies such as The Story Teller, the OASIS Journal and the Chicken Soup for the Soul series (Dog Lover's and Loving Our Dogs). Several have won or placed in contests.

I have found it hard to concentrate on any one genre and tend to write whatever calls to me at the moment. I let my memories reawaken (nonfiction), then dig into my journals for additional details; or I follow my characters on their journeys (fiction), curious to learn where they are taking me. My advice to new writers/members is to write what interests you because your words will have more life than those which are laboriously ground out on subjects you care little about. Your readers will sense your enthusiasm or lack of it. Then revise, revise, revise.

My reading preferences tend to be rather eclectic, although historical novels and mainstream fiction would probably top my list. I can't claim to be influenced by any particular author, although lately, I have been trying to emulate the spare style of Anita Shreve (clearly shown in her novel Light on Snow) to help me overcome my tendencies toward wordiness. Enough words said!

### **Mary Ann Hutchison-**



I joined AMW sometime in 2003 (Lord, that seems a long time ago) because I've always wanted to write mysteries. It turns out I'm better at suspense; so be it.

Forty-six years in various areas of law (legal secretary, administrative aide in Internal Affairs at the Pima County Sheriff's Department, courtroom clerk for the Pima County Superior Court) have given me some interesting experiences that I can lean on for character development.

However, children's stories somehow crept in and took over my writing for a bit so much so that I've spent seven years turning a children's picture book story into a middle-grade chapter book. "Moochi's Mariachis" is being published and will be out by mid-February 2010.

When your muse leads you by the nose, just follow, don't ask questions and all will become clear – or not. I've had a very interesting life, so my memoirs keep calling to me and I've begun working on them, but there's also a half-completed suspense novel that screams for attention, along with a finished short story –western suspense that takes place in the mid-1860s – that's looking for a home.

Having confessed all of that, I guess my advice to new writers would be to write that which calls out to you. Many famous writers do write in more than one genre, which supposedly is a no-no. Why I wonder? Just because your favorite flavor of ice cream is vanilla, you can still have butter pecan now and then.

The magazine "Writer's Digest" has suggested that you don't have to follow the

old rules of writing – in this case, staying with one genre – new ones are developing every day. I don't mean to say that you don't have to follow all of the rules, not at all. You still need a beginning to your story, a decent arc, and an ending, with proper punctuation and grammar mixed in.

But, writing is evolving, and so must the writer. Readers, the people we do all of this for, are evolving too, along with the mechanics of delivering the stories to them. Ten years ago, who knew from a Kindle? Now you can read a book on your telephone. Say what?

Who would I like to spend a day with? Well, they'd have to be intelligent, have a sense of humor, and creativity would need to be there, too. So I'm thinking Jackie O, Marilyn Monroe (for different reasons, their choice of one male has nothing to do with it), Charles Dickens, Edgar Allen Poe, Woody Allen (no, too broody, but I like his work), Hitchcock, Queen Elizabeth II, I've already had my time with John Wayne (yes, I have; got the pictures to prove it), and maybe just to find out why bad guys do what they do, Vlad the Impaler (but I wouldn't spend the night).

I'm a transplanted Wisconsinite, but since I've lived in Tucson for far longer than I lived in Wisconsin, I call myself an Arizonian. I share my home with a husband named Doug, two very spoiled felines – Bud and Matilda – my son lives in Mesa, my daughter and her family live in Woodstock, Georgia, and my four stepchildren and 16 step-grandchildren and five great-grandchildren are spread between Arizona and California.

I love writing, I love writers (especially the Arizona Mystery Writers).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **2010 Dues is due.**

Please make checks to Arizona Mystery Writers for \$25. Checks can be brought to the meeting or mailed to Arizona Mystery Writers PO Box 35591, Tucson, AZ 85740.

### **New Membership Board Member -**

Molly McKinney has agreed to serve on the AMW Board of Directors and will be in charge of membership. As our Membership Director, Molly has hit the keyboard typing. She has made up to date lists, organized the name tags and even measured the meeting rooms at HomeTown Buffet and come up with a more comfortable arrangement for all of us. You can contact Molly at [amw2010mm@gmail.com](mailto:amw2010mm@gmail.com).

### **Tucson Festival of Books- March 13 - 14, 2010**

Carol O'Mahony is the chair for the Tucson Festival of Books. She reserved a

booth for AMW. As part of our booth fee TFB will publish the list of our AMW authors' book signings. However, we are only allowed to publicize ten authors even though we will have more than ten (we hope) book signings over the two days of the festival. We are signing up published AMW authors now for the festival. The first ten authors to sign up and pay the \$5 administration fee (to AMW) will be the ten authors that get listed in the paper and the TFB website by TFB. We will also get information about our booth, membership and authors out to the public through our own publicity efforts. If you are interested in having a book signing you can email me but we need the fee paid to get on the TFB list (and you need to be one of the first ten of course). Slots are still open.

### **Desert Stars Writing Workshop & Proofreading Service.**

QUALITY FEEDBACK FOR CREATIVE WRITERS. This workshop service is for writers who have taken creative writing classes or published books. For more information on this service please contact Molly McKinney, 624-0792, [mtmwriter@gmail.com](mailto:mtmwriter@gmail.com)

### **Saguaro Romance Writers**

Meet on the third Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at El Parador Tropical Restaurant, 2744 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson. To reserve a spot, send an email to [membership@tucsonrwa.org](mailto:membership@tucsonrwa.org) no later than 10:00 AM Wednesday before the meeting. Cost of \$20 for SRW members, \$25 for non-members, includes lunch. Credit cards accepted, in advance, through our web site: <http://www.tucsonrwa.org/payments.html>.

### **Society of Southwestern Authors-**

Society of Southwestern Authors meets on the third Sunday of every month at the Four Points Sheraton, 1900 E. Speedway (at Campbell) between 11:30 a.m and 2:00 p.m. For reservations call 546-9382. Cost is \$25.00 at the door, cash or checks, no credit cards.

### **News that Might interest AMW Members-**

Do you write Romantic Suspense? Check the February issue of Suspense Magazine at <http://www.suspensemagazine.com/February2010Edition.HTML> to find out.

Goodreads monthly newsletter-  
<http://www.goodreads.com/newsletter/show/january2010>

**AMW WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2010 SEASON**

MONTH	SUBJECT	FACILITATOR
February	<p>Seminar by Harvey Stanbrough. Morning and Afternoon Sessions. Harvey Stanbrough, freelance editor, instructor, author, and poet will present both "Writing Dialect" and "'Show, Don't Tell' &amp; 'Passive Voice' Explained." <b>Cost is \$22.50 for members \$27.50 for non-members and includes lunch.</b> Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:cdmahony@aol.com">Carol Dee O'Mahony</a> at cdomahony@aol.com.</p>	Harvey Stanbrough
March	Tucson Festival of Books, March 13 & 14 – no meeting	
April	<p>Writing Witches- An Introduction to Neo-Paganism.</p> <p>Fantasy and magic is a popular genre in today's market. Making up stories about magic and witchcraft is fun, but what about the real world? Ashleen O'Gaea, Third Degree Wiccan Priestess, presents a fascinating program for authors writing about pagan characters and rites. Ashleen is a Board member of Society of Southwestern Authors. She lives in Tucson with her husband, Canyondancer.</p>	Ashleen O'Gaea
May	<p>Presentation of member projects- Carol Dee O'Mahony, Workshop Chair, will emcee this presentation by AMW members who used the knowledge gained from the season's workshop presentations to enhance or complete a writing project. Can you just hardly wait???</p>	Carol Dee O'Mahony

**SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR 2010-**

MONTH	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
February	All day workshop	Harvey Stanbrough
March	Tucson Festival of Books, March 13 & 14 – no meeting	
April	Tom Somerville, CSI Marana. He is a 30 yr veteran of the Detroit PD before moving out here in 2003 to join the local force.	Tom Somerville
May	Donna Copen Mckinnis, a SSA member, will speak on all aspects of self-publishing. She is an author and publisher. Her website, <a href="http://www.aroundtheglobepress.com">www.aroundtheglobepress.com</a>	Donna Copen Mckinnis