



CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

January, 2010

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

January 9, 2010 Meeting

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

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

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

Murder, Mayhem and Drugs - Detective Ben Jimenez, who spent 17 years in Homicide and the last 2 ½ years in street Narcotics, will share with AMW members some of his experiences solving cases.

Lunch-(11:30 to 12:30)

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

January brings our Board of Directors Presiding Chair, Mary Ann Hutchison, to the podium to share her experience and knowledge of character development. Mary Ann's workshop will help us find the balance of goodness and badness in our characters to make them believable and unforgettable. Mary Ann is a Society of Southwestern Authors, Executive Board Member and 2009 Conference Committee Member. She writes short stories, memoirs, middle-grade and suspense stories.

Join us Saturday January 9th at the Home Town Buffet 5101 N. Oracle Road, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. \$12.50 for members \$17.50 for non-members. \$5.00 per session no lunch for members, or \$10.00 for non-members per session, no lunch. Please, cash or checks only. RSVP Mary Bellin or e-mail azmysterywriters@gmail.com



2010 Dues- 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 January 9th meeting at the Hometown Buffet. We'll be glad to provide a receipt upon request.

Review of December 2009- Meeting

Speaker- Dan Barajas, written by Graham McLeod

Members attending the December 12 meeting were treated to an excellent presentation by Detective Dan Barajas from the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Dan is on the Auto Theft/Arson squad and gave a most informative overview of the how/why/when of the problem in southern Arizona and those behind it. Before being transferred back to Tucson, Dan had been stationed in Ajo, on the main route for vehicles stolen in the Phoenix area to pick up drugs in Mexico and return with them. Locally, the squad finds the majority of thefts are committed by meth addicts to get from one part of the city to another to make their next buy. One of Dan's main jobs is trying to identify stolen cars that have been torched in the desert, either to destroy evidence of a crime or to commit insurance fraud. Detective Barajas' sense of humor made his presentation easy to follow and he has already agreed to speak again, probably next fall.

Workshop- Karen MacLeish

3rd Annual Christmas Mystery Workshop- A Whale of a Good Time

Ahoy mates! Karen MacLeish and her favorite assistant, Eric Hertwig, presented the 3rd Annual Christmas Murder Mystery Workshop at the December meeting. A fabulous yacht on the high seas was the scene of the crime where a hearty crew of swabs served a boatload of cutthroat guests. Our workshop participants worked in groups and composed several black-hearted murder plots worthy of Blackbeard the Pirate himself. A grand time was had by all from the time we set sail until we docked minus a few dead characters. We can hardly wait to see what Karen comes up with next year.

Meet Members of AMW-

Karen MacLeish-



I can't remember how long I've been a member of AMW. It's been a long time. Erik said he's been here 6 years, and I was a member before he came.....so.....

I keep coming back because meetings are interesting and fun -- even more interesting these days. Also for the friendships formed there. Great people and new ones coming all the time.

I don't write as much as I should. Back when I was depressed, I could write more "noir" stuff. I'm not angry enough these days so I don't have the drive to write. I'm thinking I should follow Janet Evanovich's footsteps and try to write funny mysteries.

I'm inspired to write by strange stuff that happens in real life. Or by someone in my life that I want to "bump off." I've gotten rid of some evil employers already. heh, heh, heh. Lately I've been writing for contests. I started one 3 years ago and then had to go to FL to tend to my wounded son, so I didn't get the story finished in time for the contest. Still haven't finished it. I wrote a Christmas ghost story this year for a contest. Didn't win.

No advice for new members. Just enjoy the reading and the writing.

I can't think of anyone to spend a day with - or perhaps I can't choose one from many. But looking into my life, since I've worked in prisons and then with Intensive Probationers, and attended law school and so have an insight into how the justice systems works from both sides, I tend to write my bad guys as likeable characters. I guess I've seen too many who got run over by the system. My stories in Alfred Hitchcock's magazine had likeable prisoners and some evil guards. And my book, "CRIMINAL Justice" has an inmate protagonist who is a likeable fellow.

Gypsy Lyle-

I'm not sure how long I've been with AMW. I think around 3 or 4 years. I keep coming back as I always learn something; I appreciate the open invitation for all who are writing, want to write and for whatever kind of writing. I particularly come because of the people. What a fun group of interesting folk!! Kay Lesh asked me to speak about the reactions of sexual trauma survivors which is how I first came to a meeting. For some time, "to write" has been on my bucket list so I joined and have never regretted it.

At this point in time the better question may be "why aren't I writing?" and the answer to that is I've allowed a lot of other activities to get in the way. When I do write I tend to lean toward self reflection but keep in the back of my head the desire to create a mystery story.

Advice for new members - keep coming and be open to chatting with others who have been with the group for awhile. Ask for what you need and volunteer when something interests you.

I think I would like to talk with some of the early suffragettes and learn how they managed to persevere against such difficult odds. The movie Iron Jawed Angels which features Hilary Swank as Alice Paul really moved me and made me more appreciative of our right to vote. I greatly admire women who stand up against difficult odds to gain rights and freedoms. The courage to speak out against injustice and for equal rights is a remarkable quality whether in a man or a woman. It is the people that demonstrate that ability that I would most like to talk with.



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 needed-

Because of work, Kevin Josker is no longer able to serve on the AMW Board of Directors. Until we fill his position, Mary Bellin will be doing membership. Membership Director attends Board meetings, takes reservations for the meetings and keeps a current list of all members. At the meetings, the Membership Director welcomes members and hands out name tags. Please, if you are interested in being on the Board as the Membership Director, let Mary Ann or Mary B know. Your help will be greatly appreciated by me (Mary B).

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 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

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 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-

This came from Sam Turner via Romance Writers -

Cynthia D'Alba
PRO Liaison

The Board of Mystery Writers of America voted unanimously on Wednesday to remove Harlequin and all of its imprints from our list of Approved Publishers, effective immediately. We did not take this action lightly. We did it because Harlequin remains in violation of our rules regarding the relationship between a traditional publisher and its various for-pay services.

What does this mean for current and future MWA members?

Any author who signs with Harlequin or any of its imprints from this date onward may not use their Harlequin books as the basis for active status membership nor will such books be eligible for Edgar® Award consideration. However books published by Harlequin under contracts signed before December 2, 2009 may still be the basis for Active Status membership and will still be eligible for Edgar® Award consideration (you may find the full text of the decision at the end of this bulletin).

Although Harlequin no longer offers its eHarlequin Critique Service and has changed the name of its pay-to-publish service, Harlequin still remains in violation of MWA rules regarding the relationship between a traditional publisher and its various for-pay services.

MWA does not object to Harlequin operating a pay-to-publish program or other for-pay services.

The problem is HOW those pay-to-publish programs and other for-pay services are integrated into Harlequin's traditional publishing business. MWA's rules for publishers state:

"The publisher, within the past five years, may not have charged a fee to consider, read, submit, or comment on manuscripts; nor may the publisher, or any of the executives or editors under its employ, have offered authors self-publishing services, literary representation, paid editorial services, or paid promotional services.

If the publisher is affiliated with an entity that provides self-publishing, for-pay editorial services, or for-pay promotional services, the entities must be wholly separate and isolated from the publishing entity. They must not share employees, manuscripts, or authors or interact in any way. For example, the publishing entity must not refer authors to any of the for-pay entities nor give preferential treatment to manuscripts submitted that were edited, published, or promoted by the for-pay entity.

To avoid misleading authors, mentions and/or advertisements for the for-pay entities shall not be included with information on manuscript submission to the publishing company. Advertising by the publisher's for-pay editorial, self-publishing or promotional services, whether affiliated with the publisher or not, must include a disclaimer that it is advertising and that use of those services offered by an affiliate of the publisher will not affect consideration of manuscripts submitted for publication.

Harlequin's Publisher and CEO Donna Hayes responded to our November 9 letter, and a follow up that we sent on November 30. In her response, which we have posted on the MWA website, Ms. Hayes states that Harlequin intends as standard practice to steer the authors that it rejects from its traditional publishing imprints to DellArte and its other affiliated, for-pay services. In addition, Harlequin mentions on the DellArte site that editors from its traditional publishing imprints will be monitoring DellArte titles for possible acquisition. It is this sort of integration that violates MWA rules.

MWA has a long-standing regard for the Harlequin publishing house and hopes that our continuing conversations will result in a change in their policies and the reinstatement of the Harlequin imprints to our approved list of publishers.

Frankie Y. Bailey,
Executive Vice President, MWA

GET CRACKIN' MYSTERY WRITERS! WE NEED TO FILL THE SPACE THAT'S NOW BEING FILLED IN BY THE BRITS!

BOOKS | December 08, 2009

Booksellers Feed Imports to Mystery's Hungry Fans

By MOTOKO RICH

Booksellers are now importing British editions of "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest," the third volume in the best-selling series six months before its publication here.

AMW WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2010 SEASON

MONTH	SUBJECT	FACILITATOR
January	<p>Character development</p> <p>January brings our Board of Directors Presiding Chair, Mary Ann Hutchison, to the podium to share her experience and knowledge of character development. Mary Ann's workshop will help us find the balance of goodness and badness in our characters to make them believable and unforgettable. Mary Ann is a Society of Southwestern Authors, Executive Board Member and 2009 Conference Committee Member. She writes short stories, memoirs, middle-grade and suspense stories.</p>	Mary Ann Hutchison
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' & 'Passive Voice' Explained." Cost is \$22.50 for members \$27.50 for non-members and includes lunch. Please RSVP to Carol Dee O'Mahony at cdmahony@aol.com.</p>	Harvey Stanbrough
March	<p>Tucson Festival of Books, March 13 & 14 – no meeting</p>	
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
January	Murder, Mayhem and Drugs - Detective Ben Jimenez, who spent 17 years in Homicide and the last 2 ½ years in street Narcotics, will share some of his experiences solving cases with AMW members.	Det. Ben Jimenez
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, www.aroundtheglobepress.com	Donna Copen Mckinnis