

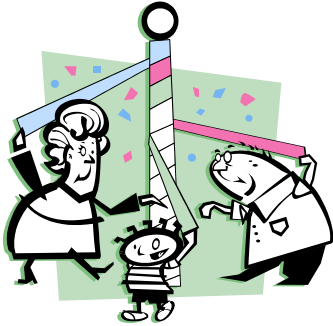


CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

May, 2010

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



May 8, 2010

Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Road from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. RSVP to Molly at amw2010mm@gmail.com or 624-0792. Costs- \$12.50 for members, \$17.50 for nonmembers, Workshop or Speaker, only (no lunch) \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members.

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

Highlights of the past year.

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

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

Lunch-(11:30 to 12:30)

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



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??? We would like to hold the length of text to 1000 words or a total of 5 minutes a person, with comments. If you would like to read, please contact Carol at cdmahony@aol.com.

Review of April 10- Speaker-by Graham McLeod

More than thirty members and guests enjoyed a talk by April's speaker, Tom Sommerville, a Crime Scene Specialist attached to the Marana force. Tom enlightened us on the role of the Specialist, who takes over a crime scene once the 'first responders' have finished their job. His task is to photograph and document the scene by working from the 'perimeter in', ensuring that nothing is missed that a defense lawyer can throw doubt on in the event of a trial.

Particularly interesting was his explanation of fingerprints-methods used to lift them, and the national catalogue system that stores them, known as AFIS, [google it for a detailed description!]. He also touched on DNA collection and usage. Tom brought a few chuckles from us when he compared his work to that performed so quickly by the investigators on the CSI television shows!

Review of April 10- Workshop by Carol O'Mahony

ASHLEEN OGEA STIRS UP A BEWITCHING BREW IN HER APRILWORKSHOP ON WRITING ABOUT PAGAN CHARACTERS AND RITES.

Ashleen delighted us all with a cackling grand entrance in full fairy tale witch regalia including a warty green mask. The masquerade was a comedic segue into the real story of neo-paganism.

Ashleen explained the difference between the organized types of neo-pagan religions: Wicca, Druidry and Asatru. Ashleen, a Wiccan priestess, led us through the many aspects of Paganism including how to interview a Pagan, what Pagans look like (no green warts that we know of), and what Pagans believe. We heard the fascinating story of the Wiccan religion and how it was founded. Everyone was spellbound (literally) during Ashleen's presentation of Wiccan rites, the Wiccan liturgical calendar and celebrations and the use of magic and casting spells.

Ashleen is an ordained Wiccan high priestess, a founding member of the Tucson Area Wiccan-Pagan Network and a senior Corresponding Priestess for Mother Earth Ministries-ATC, a Neo-Pagan prison ministry. She is the author of several books including *Raising Witches*; *Teaching the Wiccan Faith to Children*, *The Portable Spell Book*, and *The Green Boy*.

Board of Director Elections by Carol O'Mahony

Sandra Farris elected Board Member and Workshop Chair

Sandra will be putting her imagination and talent to work to make the upcoming AMW workshop season a memorable one. We're going to need volunteers to facilitate the workshops so be sure and let Sandra know before the fall season begins if you're interested. Sandra will also serve as a Board Member, helping to forge policy and lead AMW into an even more exciting future.

Sandra Farris began writing in junior high school. After raising her three sons, she attended Pima Community College where she continued her education and honed her writing skills. She has four books published and is working on numbers five and six.

THE GAVEL TRAVELS . . . by Mary Ann Hutchison

After two years of acting as the Presiding Chair and in accordance with AMW's policy and procedures, it is time for the gavel to travel.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you all. The members of the Board of Directors — Mary Bellin, Liz Gunn, Vija Lipins, Graham McLeod, Molly McKinney, Carol O'Mahony, Rae Schlesinger — have made being "Presiding" the easiest assignment I've ever undertaken. Their dedication to our organization is not only valuable, but heartwarming. I'll be forever grateful to them for always being there when needed, or called upon for help.

I know that Sandra Farris, your new Workshop Chair (see Carol O'Mahony's writeup,) will be a significant addition to the Board.

Your new leader — KAY LESH — is a professional counselor and teaches Psychology at Pima Community College. She has co-authored books on self-esteem and dealing with the psychological aspects of money.

She told me that her writing is changing as she ages, and she's moving into doing more personally rewarding writing — fiction and essays.

In addition to AMW, Kay is a member of the Society of Southwestern Authors and belongs to two writing group, and credits AMW as being important in her development as a writer.

During her term as Presiding Chair, she "hopes to be able to give back to our group." If I've ever been certain of anything, I'm absolutely positive that Kay will be an outstanding leader and will bring fresh ideas and new energy to our expanding body of writers of mysteries.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, allegiance and commitment to Arizona Mystery Writers, an organization that means the world to me. Mary Ann Hutchison,
Past-Presiding Chair

Treasurer Needed-

AMW is a fun organization and here to make things interesting and better for us writers.

Treasurer-

1. Maintains accurate records of all expenditures and income for AMW.
 - a. Collects and records fees paid and pays Home Town Buffet at each monthly meeting.
 - b. Collects and records dues paid by members.
2. Has online access to all AMW bank accounts, and is a signer on all AMW checking accounts.
3. Reviews and reconciles at least once monthly all banking statements for AMW accounts, and submits a monthly report to the Board.
4. Disburses funds at the direction of the Board. Preserves and protects all financial records and ensures that all such records are accessible and available to the Board.

Time Commitment- 2 to 3 hours a month plus monthly and board meetings.

Please, consider becoming a Board Member. We need new people to volunteer. The only requirement for Treasurer is that you are a member of AMW. If you first joined this year, you can be on the board. We need your ideas and enthusiasm.

An Article by AMW Members

WHAT IS A NOVELETTE?

By Molly McKinney



While researching the literary form of the *novelette* for my esteemed readers, I Googled "famous novelette authors." Imagine my surprise when I noticed a listing for me and my 2009 novelette. Go figure!

Before floating away with my inflated head I came across an article on the website *Old & Sold at*

<http://www.oldandsold.com/articles18/fiction-10.shtml>, entitled The Novel, The Novelette, and The Short Story. Since I cannot improve upon that definition, here is an excerpt:

"The distinction [*between the novel and the novelette*] is quantitative but not qualitative. The novelette deals with fewer characters and incidents than the novel; it usually limits itself to a stricter economy of time and place; it presents a less extensive view of life, with (most frequently) a more intensive art. But these differences are not definite enough to warrant its being considered a species distinct

from the novel.

Except for the restrictions imposed by brevity of compass, the writer of novelettes employs the same methods as the writer of novels; and, furthermore, he sets forth similar materials. ... For the novelette accomplishes the same purpose as the novel, with necessarily a more intensive emphasis of art, and with a tax considerably less upon the time and attention of the reader."

While a novelette costs less to print and to buy than a novel, its intrinsic value may exceed that of a boring novel five times its length. Many short stories and novelettes have been made into movies because the content justified the conversion. Short stories are not labeled "too short," and by the same token novelettes are not "too short" novels.

The 21st Century has drastically improved the connection between writers and readers through the Internet. Had I measured my writing goals by 20th Century conventions, I'd never have started my own publishing enterprise, produced my first novelette online and become Googleable.

While waiting for an agent you can whip out your choice of short stories, novelettes, novellas or novels. You'll gain considerable satisfaction from showing family and friends that you haven't just been pretending you're a writer, you have an actual book in your hands to prove it. Agencies hoping to make money from your writing judge your success by quantity. Readers judge by its quality.

380 Words

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Book By Liz Gunn

Elizabeth Gunn reports that she is putting the finishing touches on a new Tucson novel, to be titled **KISSING ARIZONA**. The manuscript is due at Severn House at the end of May and the book is due out in October.

Contest by Mary Ann Hutchison

Suspense, Horror and Thriller writers! Check out suspensemagazine.com. It's all there for you: articles by writers of this genre, stories to make you shiver and best of all:

THERE'S A CONTEST! It began March 1, 2010, ending December 31, 2010, open to all writers of suspense/thriller/mystery.

Go ahead – enter. You've got nothing to lose. There's a goodly portion of the year left, and three workshops in which you can write brilliant short stories. Remember those times when you've read your work to our group, and we've said, "that's great, you should do something with it?" Well, this is the something. Work on that **germ** of an idea, remove the "r" and enter that **gem** into a contest.

I wrote a suspense story in one of our workshops entitled "The Seventh Jacket." I'm going to enter that just because you said you liked it. We'll see if you and I have any sense of suspense at all! Mary Ann Hutchison

Being Environmentally Friendly-

Many of us use canvas totes instead of plastic or paper bags. Mary Bellin is embroidering the side of totes with the AMW logo and your initials or name on beige, blue, pink or purple tote bags. If you would like a bag, contact Mary at azmysterywriters@gmail.com and let her know if you'd like her to bring your personalized bag to the next meeting. Cost of the bag is \$20 of which \$8 goes to the AMW Endowment fund.

Desert Stars Writing Workshop & Proofreading Service.

Offers quality feedback on current projects for creative writers who have taken writing classes or published their work. NEW: E-CRITIQUE EXCHANGE (two slots open). For details contact Molly McKinney at 624-0792, mtmwriter@gmail.com, or at an AMW meeting.

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.

Suggested Reading

Mary Ann suggests Gumshoe Review. Check this out people - it's a good site:

Gumshoe April 2010 now Online @ www.gumshoereview.com

Senior Editor: Ernest Lilley

Editor: Gayle Surrette

Editorial License:

Just the Facts - April 2010 by Gayle Surrette

Original Fiction:

Critic's Choice by Rekha Ambardar

Columns:

US Books - Gumshoe Staff

Graphic Novels/Manga - Gumshoe Staff

Media - Gumshoe Staff

Zines & Short Fiction - Gumshoe Staff

News - Gumshoe Staff

Conventions - Gumshoe Staff

US Book Reviews:

Crimes by Moonlight: Mysteries from the Dark Side edited by Charlaine Harris

The Divine Sacrifice by Tony Hays

Down to the Wire by David Rosenfelt

Going, Gone: A Gail McCarthy Mystery by Laura Crum

Gone 'til November by Wallace Stroby

Grey Matters (Dulcie Schwartz) by Clea Simon

The Lock Artist: A Novel by Steve Hamilton

Midnight Fires: A Mystery with Mary Wollstonecraft by Nancy Means Wright

Murder of a Wedding Belle: A Scumble River Mystery by Denise Swanson

Random Violence: A Jade de Jong Investigation by Jassy Mackenzie

Who Killed the Pinup Queen? (A Where Are They Now? Mystery) by Toni L. P. Kelner

