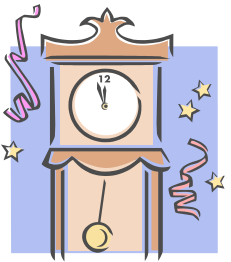


January, 2008

# CRIME TIMES

ARIZONA MYSTERY WRITERS



## Meeting- January 12, 2008

Time to start the New Year! Our meeting will be at HomeTown Buffet at the northwest corner of River and Oracle Roads. Starting time is 10 AM. Cost is \$16. If you are attending the meeting, please call Mary Bellin 520-577-7270 or email her by clicking on the blue address: [azmysterywriters@comcast.net](mailto:azmysterywriters@comcast.net) and type in- I'm coming to the January meeting.

**Workshop-** Richard Rorhdanz planned to speak about the new AMW website at the workshop. Unfortunately, his wife made other plans and they will be in Spain during our meeting. Poor Richard, Spain or AMW, it was a tough choice, but he left a detailed list of things he would like us to discuss. So, Jan Pope will lead the discussion.

Richard suggests that before considering what a web site should look like we should address some basic items. Studies have shown that a web site that doesn't change will not generate much traffic. In order to keep interest high there should be some content that is added fairly often. Keep this in mind as you consider the list and any additions that you want to make.

Here are some of the questions and thoughts Jan will be presenting.

1. Who is our target audience?
  - a. Members of the Arizona Mystery Writers?
  - b. Others? Fiction writers? Non-fiction writers? Poetry writers?
  - c. The public at large (writers or not)?
  
2. What do we hope to accomplish by having a web site?
  - a. Tell people about the next meeting's location, date time, workshop and speaker?
  - b. Be able to read past newsletters (archive)?
  - c. Show the open dates (no assignments) in the upcoming schedule?

- d. Membership dues and meeting costs?
- e. Summer months hiatus?
- f. Introduce new/old members?
- g. List current board members?
- a. Give the history of the group?
- b. Present the mission statement/purpose?
- c. List our members' **new** publishing credits?
- d. Publishing excerpts of works submitted by members? Our previous anthology? Selected writings from our workshops?
- e. External contact info (phone numbers, hyperlinks, etc.)? (To other writing groups, Publishing companies, Writing coaches, Agents, For conferences, Contests, Writing courses)
- f. Miscellaneous?



### **Speaker for January Meeting**

We are honored to have Sgt. Charlotte Bilang return to our meeting to discuss the Tucson Police Department. I asked her what she would be talking about and she replied she would start with an overview of the department and then open the discussion to questions/answers about any related crime topic we are interested in.

Sgt. Charlotte Bilang has lived in Tucson since the mid 1960's and has worked for the Tucson Police Department since 1990. She is currently assigned as a supervisor of School Resource Officers working in south side and west side elementary and middle schools. Her past supervisory assignments include several patrol squads on the south side, the Headquarters Security Unit, the Court Security Unit, and the First Sergeant for the Downtown Division. As an officer, Charlotte worked as a patrol officer on the west side of Tucson, as a background investigator for new hires, and as a School Resource Officer. She worked intermittently with the Vice Unit on "john" stings and bar/dance club compliance. Sgt. Bilang is the coordinator for the Tucson Police Department Teen Academy. She is the Second Vice Chair for the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross and serves on several executive boards within the community.

Just a reminder- If you are attending the meeting, please call Mary Bellin 520-577-7270 or email her: [azmysterywriters@comcast.net](mailto:azmysterywriters@comcast.net)



### **December Meeting Autopsy and Post-Mortem by Erik Hertwig**

The Arizona Mystery Writers faithful gathered to determine who-done-it. Our crew was led by Stella Clancy as she began her term as Chair one month early in the absence of Marci Martin who wasn't feeling well.

Karen MacLeish lead the workshop. She had put together an elaborate session that tested the minds of the most cunning detectives in our group. The suspects were the patrons and staff at a restaurant/bar when the storm hit. Thunder, lightning, wind, rain, power outages, flooded streets, overflowing washes trapped our suspects inside. No one was allowed on the streets but police and firemen, so when Parri's body was found, it must have been one of those stranded inside who had perpetrated the murder. Mary Ann Hutchison pointed out right away that the restaurant had no restroom and that may have contributed to someone's death but the situation was quickly rectified.

Karen came prepared with handouts that included the floor plan of the site, photos and names of patrons and employees, as well as their location at the site. To muddle things more, an alley cat had sneaked into the kitchen to escape the weather. Karen gave a thumbnail background sketch of all suspects. The AMW

detectives were charged with choosing the victim and the sleuths, fleshing out the players, determining the cause of death, the location of body, and nabbing the culprit. Each AMW detective received a little detective's notebook to aid in solving the crime. Inside each notebook was a secret number, which was used as identification at a drawing at the end of the event. Our waitress at HomeTown Buffet did the honor and pulled the winning number which belonged to Kevin Josker. He won a "Writer's Muse" ornament.

The group voted and determined that Parri, the waitress, would be the lucky (?) person to die. The detectives then broke off into teams and each came up with a Who, How, and Why scenario for how the poor waitress met her doom. One person from each group presented their scenario.

After lunch we got together to work on final solutions. It was suggested that those who want to do a short story on the theme, might put them all in a book. Since publishing books is fairly expensive, another suggestion was to put the stories in one file or folder on our new upcoming website.

The scenario Karen created was from a *Sisters in Crime* event she read about in their newsletter. Barbara Miller and Mary Ann Mogus hold a Mystery Saturday twice a year. Their free writer's seminar is held at the library in Greensburg-Hempfield, PA. The scenario the team setup for their group was at a fictional ski lodge where the guests are trapped during a blizzard. One of the guests is killed and the writers were challenged to name the victim, choose the sleuths and find out who-done-it, just as our group was. Karen would like to give credit to the *Sisters in Crime* for the idea for her December workshop.

## Upcoming events-



D.C. Winston will be teaching a course called Intro to Death Investigation at the Pima Community College East location. Course # AJ5170. It is a 3 credit course costing about \$138.00 plus book. The class starts January 22 and runs through May. He told Erik Hertwig that many writers have signed up for this class in the past and a Mystery Writers Group would find this very interesting and helpful.

**February Newsletter** will have information on AMW annual dues and meeting costs. The new board members are discussing increasing the dues to cover the cost of the new website, but will decrease the cost of meetings. Thus the total yearly cost for meetings and dues should be about the same as it is now. This information will also be available at the January meeting.



## December's Mystery Guest

Who wore a disguise and hiked the railroad tracks to meet John Wayne and her favorite weapon was a .38 S&W? It was no other than Mary Ann Hutchison.

## January's Mystery Guest

This month's mystery member attended a one-room school for her first eight grades and never left Olmsted County, Minnesota until she was eighteen. Since then, however, she has visited all the states of the Union, as well as much of Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe, by car, boat, plane, train, bus, RV, snowmobile and gondola. Her travels have yielded many characters and ideas for her seven published mysteries, but they've

all been set in Minnesota. Her first novel set in Tucson will be published this year.

Do you recognize this mystery person? Send your guess and/or if you want to be the next mystery person, send your description (150 words) to [azmysterywriters@comcast.net](mailto:azmysterywriters@comcast.net).

### **Board member information:**

Chair-Stella Clancy, [sclancy53@comcast.net](mailto:sclancy53@comcast.net)

Workshop Coordinator-Jan Pope, [jglpope@yahoo.com](mailto:jglpope@yahoo.com)

Speaker Coordinator- Karen MacLeish, [macleish38@yahoo.com](mailto:macleish38@yahoo.com)

Newsletter-Mary Bellin, [Azmysterywriters@comcast.net](mailto:Azmysterywriters@comcast.net)

Membership-Mary Ann Hutchison, [douglashutchison@comcast.net](mailto:douglashutchison@comcast.net)

Treasurer-Rae Schlesinger, [Schles2us@msn.com](mailto:Schles2us@msn.com)

Website Coordinator-Richard Rohrdanz, [rrohrdanz@gmail.com](mailto:rrohrdanz@gmail.com)

MEETING INFO: Second Saturday of the Month- next is January 12, 2007, HomeTown Buffet At the northwest corner of Oracle and River roads.

TIMES: AMW business meeting for all members 10:00 – 10:30 am, workshop 10:30 - 12:00 pm, Lunch 12:00 – 1:00, Speaker 1:00 – 2:00 pm

COST: Exact change or check is appreciated, Speaker, Workshop and lunch is \$16.00