

March 2008

# CRIME TIMES

## Arizona Mystery Writers

### YEARLY DUES!!!

Time to pay yearly dues! Send your check for \$25 made out to Arizona Mystery Writers or AMW to Mary Bellin. Get the address and read more about the dues below.



**Meeting- March 8, 2008** Our meeting will be March 8, at HomeTown Buffet at the northwest corner of River and Oracle Roads. Starting time is 10 am for the business meeting. The workshop starts at 10:15; Lunch at 11:30 am. Speaker at 12:30. Cost is \$12 for members. Yes, you read that right. Cost of meetings has decreased \$4! If you are attending either the workshop or speaker, but not eating lunch, the cost is \$5.

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 March meeting.

**March 8, 2008 Workshop**- As writers we have frequently been admonished to "write what we know." For the purpose of vibrant and creative fiction, it might be better to loosely work with what we know and not allow ourselves to become slaves to the facts. The March workshop will concentrate on a series of exercises that will empower the writer and help you better translate emotions and facts from truth to fiction.

Susan L. Miller has a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. in Higher Education. When she isn't writing she is pursuing her day job at the UA in Marketing and Special Events.



**AMW Web site**- Progress is being made by Richard Rohrdanz and your Board of Directors. We have purchased our domain name and are filling the pages. Richard will be our workshop speaker in April and officially launch the site.

## Speaker for March Meeting- **Chris D. Peterson**



Chris has 39 years experience in the investigative and security arena. He is a retired police detective and received the Award of Valor from the Sheriff's Office, Portland, OR. Successful investigation of 100s of cases in a wide variety of arenas including international have been performed. Chris is a former Captain, USAF, Security Specialist in Middle East & US. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Washington State University in Police Science and Administration and has many years experience in narcotics and homicide investigations. In the Fall 2006, his company provided security for 600 college students on an around the world tour aboard the MV Explorer where they visited nine countries in three and one half months.

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)



**Dues-** The yearly dues must be paid by all members who attend the monthly meetings, receive the Crime Times Newsletter, and submit articles to the AMW web site. If you have not paid and will not be at the March meeting, please write checks to Arizona Mystery Writers and mail to:

AMW c/o Mary Bellin  
4612 N Ave Del Cazador

Tucson, AZ 85718

Members that have not paid by March 31 will be considered inactive and will not receive a Crime Times.

## February Meeting Autopsy by Erik Hertwig



The February workshop was "4 Minute Mysteries Revisited" by Erik Hertwig. In an earlier meeting we had created characters for our short 4 Minute Mysteries. We used CSI Technician, Mike Trellis, one of the original characters from the "4 Minute Mystery" book. Det. Hardnose, Edwina St. Clair, and Forensic Pathologist Hayle were the characters we created at the earlier workshop. Our characters had many colorful quirks but were very qualified to do their jobs. Mike is new to the crime solving game but his partners all have several years experience.

We put our characters to work solving the Botched Botox Botulism Brain- Teaser. A hiker found a body lying in a ravine close to her home. The victim had no defensive wounds and no (gasp) wrinkles. Those two facts are mysteries by themselves since the victim appeared to be close to 50 years old. Our writers were put to the test to use the characters we had created, along with their many quirks, to create a short mystery. The detective pieced together evidence of the crime through interviews and crime scene clues. Clues were tossed back & forth by our writers, but Detective Hardnose, good cop that he is, sifted through them and found a serial killer, as it turned out. In her capacity as a nurse for a plastic surgeon, she was able to kill many of the bleached blondes that she so hated, by injecting them with tainted Botox. The story would end after all the evidence was pieced together. Detective Hardnose would then give us the Hardnose File in which he explained how the mystery was solved by the evidence provided. Writers who can master the 4 minute mystery system will have an endless supply of novels waiting to be written after just a short planning session.

## February Meeting- Post-Mortem by Marci Martin



Our February speaker was Dick Tracy and, as we observed, he doesn't have the chiseled features of the comic strip character. But he does share the same name and occupation, which at times, Dick says with a wry grin, has been a curse but more often a blessing. Once, while working undercover in the Narcotics Section of his department, he returned to his office following an arrest. The desk sergeant saw him dressed in tattered clothing and ordered him out of the office. The sergeant became even more furious when Dick told him his name and showed him his ID. A big joke, the sergeant thought. Several phone calls later the sergeant realized it was not a joke and Dick Tracy was his real name. In Pottstown, PA., Tracy introduced "Crime Check," a crime prevention program resulting in citizen cooperation in reporting crimes and suspicious incidents to police. He instituted a new police emergency number; established an expanded training program; and improved the town's police library. He also established a canine unit, a crime control team, and an auxiliary police squad. He has served as a patrolman, detective, patrol lieutenant, instructor, watch commander captain, and as lieutenant and captain in the Chicago Police Department. An interesting fact about his over 40 years of police work: he never dealt with corruption in any department where he served.

He showed us three outstanding framed pictures: Dick escorting President Kennedy out of a Chicago hotel in 1962, a picture of Dick and two other police chiefs presenting a plaque to J. Edgar Hoover in 1969, and a large framed cartoon of the Dick Tracy character presented to Dick in 1961, signed by Chester Gould, the cartoon creator. To add to his kudos, Dick has appeared on TV shows, "To Tell The Truth" and "What's My Line?" and was an honored guest at "Dick Tracy Days" in Woodstock, Illinois, Chester Gould's hometown.

It was a distinct pleasure and honor to have Dick Tracy as our guest and perhaps he'll return at some future time to share more of his eventful life story with us.



**Mystery Story-** Karen MacLeish submitted the following mystery to the newsletter. The story comes from "The Little Giant Book of Whodunits," by Hy Conrad.

### AGENT BROWN'S SHINING MOMENT

A black Cadillac tore around the busy street corner, barely slowing as it approached the steps of the courthouse. The tinted, passenger-side window rolled down and a semi-automatic handgun poked its barrel out.

Pauly Gillespie, mob informant and federally protected witness, stood frozen in his tracks, his worst fears looking like a definite possibility. Pauly's FBI bodyguards threw themselves on top of him, but not before two shots erupted and Pauly had taken a bullet in the shoulder.

The Cadillac screeched across two lanes of traffic. But it made the mistake of turning left down an alley and getting stuck behind a double-parked delivery van. The two hit men scrambled out and raced away--right into the arms of four off-duty officers. Having heard the shots and the sirens, the officers grabbed the running men and held on until the FBI caught up.

Special Agent Brown was new to this unit and was always given the boring, inconsequential jobs. In this case, he was told to clear the Cadillac out of the alley so that normal traffic could resume. Brown adjusted the rearview mirror, backed the car out, and drove it around to where his colleagues were Mirandizing their suspects.

Brown stood and watched. One of the hand-cuffed men was tall, lean, and sullen. The other was a good five inches shorter, Agent Brown's height. Large but short. He spoke animatedly, gesturing freely with his hands.

Agent Fordney, director of the unit, seemed exasperated. "They ditched the gun back in the alley," Fordney growled. "They ditched their gloves back there, too. All right, boys, I'm going to ask you again. Which one of you was the shooter?"

"Not me," said the large, short man.

"Not me," said the lean, sullen one.

Agent Brown smiled. Here was his chance to impress his boss. "I know who the shooter was," he said softly.

Who was the shooter, and how did Agent Brown know? Solution for Mystery at the end of the newsletter.



### Upcoming events:

AMW will have a book signing at Borders at Oracle and Witmore Roads on Sunday, April 5, 2008. Contact Stella Clancy for more information. Stella Clancy, [sclancy53@comcast.net](mailto:sclancy53@comcast.net)

The SSA Writing Contest is in full swing. The deadline date for submission of entries is May 31, 2008. Entry blanks may be obtained online at: [www.ssa-az.org](http://www.ssa-az.org), or by sending an SASE to SSA Entry Forms Dept. P.O. Box 35484, Tucson, AZ 85740, or by e-mailing Mary Ann Hutchison at [douglashutchison@comcast.net](mailto:douglashutchison@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)

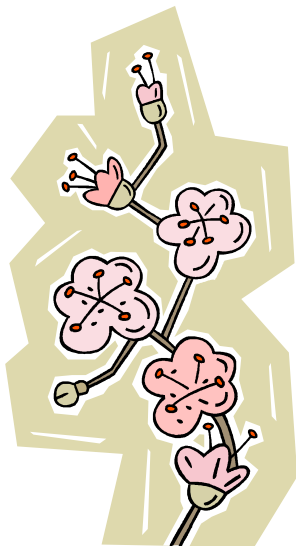
Speaker Coordinator- Karen MacLeish, [macleish38@yahoo.com](mailto:macleish38@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

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



**MEETING INFO:** Second Saturday of the Month- next is March 8, 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 - 11:30 pm, Lunch 11:30 – 12:30, Speaker 12:30 – 2:00 pm.

**COST:** Exact change or check is appreciated, Speaker, Workshop and lunch = \$12.00. Yearly Dues = \$25.

Solution to Agent Brown's Shining Moment: When Agent Brown got into the Cadillac, he had to adjust the rearview mirror. This meant that the previous driver had been significantly different in height. Since the shorter mobster was close to Brown's own height, he knew the taller man had to be the driver. Therefore, the shorter man was the shooter.

### Web Sites Announcing Writing Contests:

**Mystery Writers of America** is announcing contest, winners and dates- <http://www.mysterywriters.org/>

### *St. Martin's Minotaur/MWA First Crime Novel Competition*

Mystery Writers of America is pleased and excited to announce its partnership with St. Martin's Minotaur in sponsoring the St. Martin's Minotaur/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition. This contest provides a previously unpublished writer an opportunity to launch his or her career with a major

mystery imprint, St. Martin's Minotaur. The winner will receive a one-book, \$10,000 contract.

The competition was announced in April during the Edgar Award festivities by Andrew Martin, Vice President and Publisher of St. Martin's Minotaur. The winner will be recognized at the 2008 Edgar Awards banquet.

"We at Mystery Writers of America are excited to partner with St. Martin's Minotaur in offering this opportunity for an unpublished writer to get their career off the ground...way off the ground!" said Daniel J. Hale, MWA's Executive Vice President.

Andrew Martin added, "For 62 years MWA has been recognized as the preeminent organization devoted to the craft of writing mysteries and crime fiction. For more than 50 years, St. Martin's Press and Minotaur have been a publishing well-spring of award-winning crime fiction. Now we come together to discover great new talent. Only one question: What took us so long? I'm thrilled to begin this exciting new program with MWA and can't wait to announce our first winner at next year's Edgar Award ceremony."

The competition is open to any writer who has never been the author of a published novel. Details, rules and specific guidelines on eligibility, as well as entry forms, are available at the [St. Martin's Minotaur website](http://www.stmartinsminotaur.com).

**Reader's Digest-** <http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/>

### **16th Annual *Writer's Digest* International Self-Published Book Awards**

Co-sponsored by Book Marketing Works, LLC

#### **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

MORE THAN \$15,000 IN PRIZES!

**ENTRY DEADLINE: Thursday, May 01, 2008**

**Win \$3,000 in cash! Gain international exposure for your book! Catch the attention of prospective editors and publishers!**

*Writer's Digest* is searching for the best self-published books of the past few years. Whether you're a professional writer, part-time freelancer, or a self-starting student, here's your chance to enter the *only* competition exclusively for self-published books!

### **77th Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition**

For 77 years, the **Annual *Writer's Digest* Competition** has rewarded writers just like you for their finest work. We continue the tradition by giving away more than \$30,000 in cash and prizes!

**Win a trip to New York City !**

**GRAND PRIZE:** \$3,000 cash and a trip to New York City to meet with editors or agents. *Writer's Digest* will fly you and a guest to The Big Apple, where you'll spend three days and two nights in the publishing capital of the world. While you're there, a *Writer's Digest* editor will escort you to meet and share your work with four editors or agents! Plus, you'll receive a free Diamond Publishing Package from [Outskirts Press](http://www.outskirtspress.com).

**Entry Deadline: Thursday, May 15, 2008**



These are just a few of many. Google Writing Contests or Mystery or fiction writing contests and if you find something interesting, let me know, I'll post it on the next newsletter.

Have a productive writing month! See you March 8, 2008.

Mary Bellin and the AMW Board of Directors.