



CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

February 2009

To promote mystery writing in Southern Arizona

Happy Valentine's Day



It's time to renew your membership to Arizona Mystery Writers. Please bring a check for \$25 made out to AMW at the next meeting on February 14, 2009. Looking for a great gift for your Valentine? How about an AMW membership?

Arizona Mystery Writers is a non-profit organization. The dues paid for AMW allows participation in book signings, website, community events and activities. Your full support of AMW as a viable and lasting organization is extremely important to us continuing to provide a forum to Southern Arizona Authors.

If you aren't attending the meeting, please mail your check to:

Arizona Mystery Writers
P. O. Box 35591
Tucson, AZ 85740

Starting in March, potential members (those that are on our mailing list but have not paid dues) will only receive the meeting announcements, not the entire Crime Times.

Next AMW Meeting- February 14, 2009, 10:00 am to 2 pm at Home Town Buffet at NW corner of Oracle and River Roads. Cost \$12, or \$5 for one session-no lunch. Make checks to AMW or Please have exact change.

Workshop- Tucson Book Festival and the AMW Website.

Part 1- Tucson Book Festival



Good News-The Festival is going to be HUGE! Over 300 authors are now registered to participate. WOW!

Bad News- Help?!? How do you find anyone or know where to go?

The Tucson Festival of Books on March 14 and 15, 2009 will no doubt be an exciting event. It also generates hundreds of questions about its organization. Do you have a favorite author? Will the person be participating? Where is their booth? Is that author speaking? How do you find an author or a booth at the book festival? Who is speaking or will be available for you to meet?

I went to the Tucson Book Festival website www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org and still didn't find enough information to plan my days. AMW members are lucky to have Carol O'Mahony who has organized our participation and has the latest news of the book festival. Come hear Carol provide valuable information so you can participate at our booth at the Book Festival and enjoy the many events and speakers.

Letter from Carol-

TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS COMING IN MARCH
By Carol Dee O'Mahony

The Tucson Festival of Books, March 14-15, is rapidly approaching. We're all very excited about this unique opportunity to spread the word about AMW and grow our membership. Many thanks to our members who have already signed up to spend some time in the AMW booth. We still need more member participation in this exciting event, so sign up now -- there's no such thing as too many volunteers. There's no AMW meeting that weekend, so come spend an hour or two in our booth before, in between or after experiencing the rest of the Festival. You'll have a ball! Festival hours are 10 to 5 both days. Mary Ann Hutchison is heading up the volunteer squad. Please email her at douglashutchison@comcast.net and let her know your preferred day and time you would love to join us.

There are a few slots left for book signings/sales. If you're interested in selling and signing your works please email me at cdomahony@aol.com. The time slots are currently limited to 1 ½ hours per author. There is a \$5.00 fee to help defray expenses.

The Tucson Festival of Books is a community-wide public celebration of reading and literacy in partnership with the Arizona Daily Star and the University of Arizona. Proceeds from this non-profit event will benefit literacy programs throughout Southern Arizona. The festival will offer lectures, interviews, book signings, poetry readings, panel discussion, writing contests, workshops, children's events, book sales and more. For a current list of authors visit www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org. The Festival expects more than 50,000 attendees.

Reminder- AMW will not meet at Hometown Buffet on March 14, 2009. We will all be at the Tucson Book Festival. Stop by the booth before you attend events. I will have AMW name tags. You can wear your name tag and take a few brochures with you to give anyone who asks about our group.

Part 2 of February Workshop



The second part of our workshop will be presented by Terry Ambrose and Mary Bellin. Terry will show the website with a large screen projector. You will be able to ask all your questions about navigating on the website. It will be a fun, interactive presentation that will go where ever you click. (Ha, Ha, computer humor).

Speaker for February 14, 2009



Detective Crehan, Homicide, of the Pima Co. Sheriff's Dept.

In a January 1, 2007 article about Forensic Artist Cherie Ryan titled "Her artistry gives faces to the dead" by Djamila Grossman, Arizona Daily Star, Pima County Medical Examiner Dr. Bruce Parks said there are 98 unidentified bodies at the Office of the Pima County Medical Examiner, 90 of which are suspected illegal entrants. About 18 bodies, or 13 percent, of the Sheriff's Department's cold cases are unidentified, said Detective Robin Crehan of the cold case unit. Some of these cases will end up in forensic art studios in hopes the victims will get back their names.

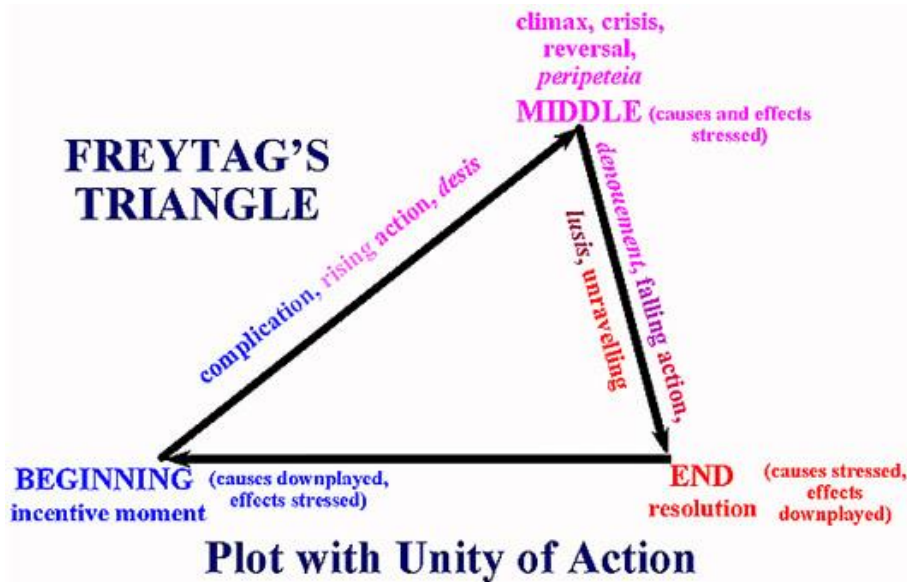
Detective Robin Crehan will be talking to our group at the February 14 meeting. Bring your questions and curiosity about the cold case unit in Pima County.

Reminder- Mary Ann is now in charge of AMW Membership. If you are attending the meeting, please email Mary Ann Hutchison at douglashutchison@comcast.net or call her at 293-6373.

AMW JANUARY 2009 WORKSHOP by Jan Pope



The Freytag triangle, seen below, illustrates how many effective stories are constructed. It shows action rising to a climax at the apex of a triangle then falling to the end. The rising line can be at any angle. Some stories also had a scene of what it was like before the rising action, or described a moment which incites the rising action. Some may also have a resolution after the falling action. Ernest Hemingway's "The Killers" follows the pattern, but plunges right into the action with no pre-rising beginning and ends without a resolution. On the other hand "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry has both the beginning and the resolution.



No writer was obligated to follow a certain pattern, but for the sake of using Freytag's triangle as a learning tool, January's workshop consisted of members writing short stories based on it. The plot could be anything, but the idea was to keep it simple with few character's. The room was divided into several small groups and two "singles". There was much laughter as the group's sense of humor was in full play.

As each group described its story, most of them based on nursery rhymes, they were amusing, even hilarious, and the two members who went it alone were also highly entertaining—but no one left copies with me to publish here. However, a group consisting of Ellie, Mary Ann, Terry, Vija and Molly concocted a story which Molly later turned into a completed story and she has graciously allowed me to reprint it here.

BRUMLEIGH'S REVENGE

One fine day atop Wishing Well Hill, Brumleigh the Brazilian Tarantula was snug in the cozy cage that Miss Muffet had fashioned out of buffel grass. Attracted by her reddish-brown hair, the same color as his own, he had sidled up to her tuffet and agreed to be her pet. Although his venom was potent enough to kill a human with a single bite, he was dangerous only if he was upset, and knowing this, his pretty friend took care to keep him happy.

Having learned fairytale language from Miss Muffet, Brumleigh waved his forelegs to applaud when she recited poems about her lust for a lad named Jack from the village below, whose visits to fetch pails of water had become more frequent lately, often without his friend Jill. Today, as Miss Muffet smoothed out her best afghan in the shade and covered it with delicacies for two instead of one. Brumleigh could tell it was a special occasion even before she confided that she was thinking of letting Jack seduce her. Heavy breathing announced Jack's arrival in mid-afternoon as he labored up the hill with his pail. Complaining about the heat he removed his shirt and loosened his belt buckle. Miss Muffet fanned her blushing face with a slice of French bread, then placed Brumleigh's cage at the edge of the blanket and passed him tiny tidbits of chicken from the picnic. He pretended to eat while he focused all six of his eyes on Jack, whose two eyes were focused on the bounty peeking from Miss Muffet's low-cut peasant blouse.

Their glasses of wine were barely finished before Miss Muffet and Jack began wrestling around, dangerously close to the tarantula's cage. Their cries of pleasure threatened to frighten away a plump grasshopper that Brumleigh was trying to hypnotize, at which point the sultry air was rent asunder by a discordant shriek. Looming over the tall buffel grass was none other than Jill, her blonde tresses whirling about her head as if she had created her own dust devil.

As the three glared at each other, shocked and speechless, the tension made the hair on Brumleigh's legs tingle. Then Miss Muffet and Jill began yelling at Jack while he cowered between them, prostrate on the afghan, attempting to fasten his clothes with shaking fingers.

Jill's voice was the loudest. "You said you were going to fetch some water for out tea, you two-timing snake!"

"Well I was—I am—I mean, what's wrong with that? You said *go ahead*."

"What's wrong? In case you hadn't noticed, we already had five tubs full. I knew you were up to something so I followed you. Even gave you the benefit of the doubt. And waited for you to come back down the hill. Pfff?" Rolling her eyes she tugged a sparkly ring off her finger and flung it at the groveling young man.

Miss Muffet blinked rapidly at Jack. "So you and Jill are just friends, huh? Funny, I had no idea you were desperate enough to date such an ugly toad!"

Venting their fury, the two women flew at each other, a blur of arms, legs and long hair, brunette tangled with blonde. Jack got his pants together, pried the combatants apart, and after hesitating a moment he turned to placate Jill first.

The time-out gave Miss Muffet the chance to hatch a scheme, and Brumleigh's six eyes were quick to see what it was. She opened the door to his cage and aimed him at Jack, knowing the

stress of the yelling, being bumped around and nearly squashed by the tussling ladies, would have caused the sacs behind the tarantula's eyes to swell with deadly venom.

Before Brumleigh could escape he found himself flying through the air, landing on Jack's bare shoulder. A panic reflex made him bite into the flesh and inject a lethal dose of poison before he jumped to safety. Meanwhile, Jack fell down and broke his crown and rolled all the way down to the valley.

Jill began screeching like a flock of demented crows, which prompted Miss Muffet to cram the pail over her head and send her tumbling after Jack to the bottom of the hill, where both ended up lifeless. As the dust settled, with a satisfied grin Miss Muffet wiped her hands against each other and reached down to return her pet tarantula to his cage.

Brumleigh's defense mechanisms were still in a state of uproar, and his pride was deeply wounded by the way he had been callously used as a deadly weapon. When Miss Muffet tried to pick him up he bit the hand that fed him, and before he could say *grasshopper* his friend had also succumbed to the fangs of death. It made him lose his appetite.

How did it happen that Brumleigh, after all, became a pampered pet in a mansion-cage fit for a tarantula king? The forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy on Jack discovered that tarantula venom possessed unique qualities surpassing those of Viagra.

Rae Schlesinger also wrote a story and shared it with us.

Out of the Frying Pan by Rae Schlesinger

Jack wants to meet and get the right girl in order to convince his controlling widowed mother to accept him as mature and promote him in the family business over his younger brother who seems to be the favorite, especially since he has already presented Mother with a granddaughter. Since Mother always wanted a grandson, younger brother and wife are trying to have another child to fulfill Mother's dreams.

So far all the young women Jack has brought home in the past have been denigrated by Mother under the guise of "just trying to get to know" the young women, and they have all dumped Jack. But he recently met this latest young woman, Marilyn, at the gym and was impressed by her sweet nature, but worried she would fail the test. On their second date he learns she was married once before (no children) and divorced a year after her mother-in-law died and her husband couldn't deal with his loss.

Marilyn tells Jack she thinks mothers-in-law are wonderful and much maligned and she, for one, would defer to a mother-in-law because, after all, that was the woman who raised the man she loved. Jack invites her to the weekly family dinner. Mother grills Marilyn, who merely simpers and defers to her until Mother stops pushing. Within six months Jack and Marilyn are married. Things are better in the family business and at the family dinners. Marilyn gets pregnant and delivers a son, so now Mother has a grandson.

Soon after, Marilyn starts asking Jack when he will get the promotion he's been promised. Jack says Mother had promised it to him for the grandson's first birthday, which will be in two weeks. Marilyn says it had better come through or she will take the grandson and leave.

During that two weeks, Mother starts dropping hints about changing her will, but won't say any more. At the child's birthday party, Mother announces the company will be put in a trust for the two grandchildren. Marilyn is quite angry, but after the party she tells Jack she will handle

the matter. She fixates on the fact that if Mother dies soon, both brothers would be trustees for their children and essentially have control of the assets.

One evening Jack is by himself, watching a TV crime reality show whose plot centers around a man whose ex-wife may now be a suspect in the death of his mother. It was first considered an accidental death, but new evidence has surfaced, suggesting it was a "planned" accident and the ex-daughter-in-law's name has come up. Lo and behold! Marilyn is named. Jack has taped the show and the next day casually mentions it to Marilyn, who later watches it and doesn't seem shocked.

All she says is "Well, Jack, now you know how serious I am about handling this latest decision of your mother's. That police investigation won't go anywhere. I was an excellent planner then and I'm an excellent planner now. Just do what I tell you from now on. First, it'll be the darling granddaughter. Then your brother and my sister-in-law to boot to take any future extra grandchild out of the picture. Then dear Mom will be focusing on our sweet little Samuel Jr., named after your father. You'll be the dutiful son and I'll be the devoted daughter-in-law who gave dear Mother her surviving adored grandchild."

The End

January Meeting Speaker- Jude Johnson by Karen MacLeish



SELF-PUBLISHING.....A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Jude Johnson spoke about the state of publishing today. Jude agreed with what we've been hearing – that traditional publishing these days is only for “Big Names.” For a first book, expect to wait a lifetime to get attention. And while you're waiting, finish the series and a few more because those publishers want many more as follow-ups if your book sells.

There are several ways to self-publish. On-line publisher, such as Publish America and Publish-on-Demand publishers have contracts. If you go that way, be sure you know what rights they want.

Jude introduced the idea of genuinely Self-publishing--where YOU are the decider.

The components are:

Editing (vital) Hire a good editor. A good editor can strengthen your story.

You get what you pay for. Suggestion: Harvey Stanbrough

Consider his/her experience in you genre.

Consider paying by page count or by hourly wage.

Consider Book Media – Electronic or paper or both

Cover Design and Artwork - The cover grabs the potential reader.

Do your own photography or art

Purchase the design from Big Stock Photo, Getty Images, etc.

Purchase Photoshop Software at about \$600 or Artsoft at about \$50.

Book Layout and Design

Local Pros are Ghost River Images and Wheatmark.

Make sure you understand what you are paying for.

Software: Pagemaker, etc. Set dimensions, size of book, font, paper stock weight, position of page numbers

Proof read – before edit, after edit, after layout, with galley. Proof again and again. Have friends help. More eyes catch more errors. Then proof again.

ISBN Number – 10 to 13 digits – provided by Bowker.

\$250.00 for 10 ISBN number.

UPC Bar Code graphic required for store sales.

Layout Artist puts ISBN and Bar Code on back cover.

Pricing:

Research what similar books are selling for.

Don't charge the amount each book cost you.

Be aware of taxes – how to avoid paying sales taxes.

Sell on the Internet, in bookstores, non-profit organizations, fairs. Individual sales in person require you to collect and pay sales taxes.

You will not make money on your first printing, but you will make contacts, gain readers, make friends.

Printing: Use a reputable printer. Lightning Source is one.

Shipping: Use local printers to save on shipping costs.

Consider paper weight and binding. Cover stock weight / laminate finish.

Marketing: Beware of publishing snobs who try to make you feel inferior.

Large distributors: Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.

Personal Marketing: NETWORKING!

Signings – Personal touches: giveaways, decorating space, don't just sit & sell. Get to know the store – steer customers to other areas of the store. (owners will love you) Buy something.

Talk it up. You never know who may be listening. Don't be a grump. Casual mentions of your book never hurt. Be open to unusual markets.

Cost to be the DECIDER: \$3000 to \$5000. Good marketing is essential. With each re-printing, the profit will begin to show.

Attend an SSA conference. Pick up their resource list.

HOMETOWN BUFFET By Mary Ann Hutchison



It finally happened. We knew it would, and it did. But, we weren't hit as hard as some. What am I talking about? The increase in price at Home Town Buffet (HTB), that's what. It's

gone up by \$.50 a plate, which isn't that bad, considering. But, your Board came up with a plan to cover the increase: from now through May, we're going to maintain the cost at \$12.00/month and then, beginning in September, the monthly fee will become \$12.50. We've watched HTB trying hard not to increase the cost, but the economy just wouldn't allow it.

Now, that may lead some of you to ask why we haven't considered moving our meeting place to somewhere else. Well, the truth of the matter is we've heard you, and have considered the following:

Location: a more central location (?); parking (somewhere close enough to walk easily to the front door if there aren't many handicap spaces available); separate meeting room — some restaurants charge a fee for a dedicated room, and there aren't many who have separate rooms – there is no additional charge for this at HTB; food service: (buffet vs. sit-down): historically our format has followed the morning workshop, lunch break, and afternoon speaker. If we chose sit-down we'd be ordering off a menu which leads to a variety of prices plus individual tip (difficult to maintain a set fee per minute), plus the time it would take to order food and then wait for it to be served, which could make our meetings longer. A buffet seems to be the best bet for us?

We could find somewhere that only charges a modest fee for a room, but has no food or beverage service, and brown bag it. Other ideas?

Those things are only the tip of the iceberg. However, we may be faced with having to make choices if HTB were to close due to economic constraints. If any of you have any suggestions, please let us know.

AMW CHAIR POSITIONS DEFINED By Mary Ann

Hutchison



The first annual elections will be held in May, with nominations due in April. Although you'll read more about the Elections in coming issues of the Crime Times, a brief (very brief), description of the positions follows. The descriptions do not cover all the details that each position involves. There are incumbents in each position with the exception of SPEAKER, PUBLICITY, and MEMBERSHIP.

COMMUNICATIONS: Creates and maintains website and monthly newsletter (Crime Times).

PRESIDING CHAIR: Coordinates Board Meetings (includes setting dates and finding places to hold Board Meetings); prepares, disseminates and maintains Board minutes; presides over monthly meetings; assists Chairs as necessary.

MEMBERSHIP: Maintains and disseminates membership directory; prepares and maintains name tags, takes phone reservations for monthly meetings.

PUBLICITY: As the name implies, ensures notices of meetings are placed in local newspapers, and with other writing groups, in a timely manner; coordinates with Workshop and Speaker Chairs so that publicity may be generated

SPEAKER COORDINATOR: Finds speakers (suggested by others or independently); obtains bios and forwards them to Communications Chair and Publicity for inclusion on website and in Crime Times; ensures speaker's needs are met (easel, need for projector screen, etc.); introduces speaker to the group; takes notes during speech for write-up in Crime Times, sends thank-you letter by regular mail; .maintains Speakers Log.

TREASURER: Maintains all financial records, including but not limited to the checking accounts held in the name of AMW at Wells Fargo; all receipts for goods and services rendered to AMW, whether paid for by AMW or donated to AMW as an in-kind contribution; all contracts, Memoranda of Understanding, and similar documents wherein AMW is one of the parties of record. Organizes bills/receipts; pays all bills and other requests for payment in a timely manner; collects payment at monthly AMW meetings; maintains an AMW account journal; maintains all financial documentation.

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR: Finds someone to conduct a workshop (topics may be suggested or found independently); obtains a summary of workshop and submits to Communications' Chair for inclusion in Crime Times and on website and Publicity Chair. Follows through with workshop leader from beginning to end (leader's needs, etc.); introduce workshop leader to the group.

If you have any questions, email or phone Mary Ann Hutchison. The future success of AMW is up to you.

SSA February Meeting SSA's next meeting is February 15, 2009. I don't have any information about the meeting.



Romance Writers of Tucson Meeting



Research for Writers

Creative writers often find themselves stumbling around looking for accuracy in the details of their plots and their characters' professions and surroundings. Stumble no more. Novelist and researcher Susan Lanier-Graham will offer tips on how to track down any kind of information both on and offline at the February 21 meeting of Saguaro Romance Writers, the Tucson chapter of Romance Writers of America.

Susan will talk to us about search engines and types of websites, offer critical search tips, discuss how to develop a search strategy, and suggest ways to evaluate the information we find online. She'll also spend a little bit of time on non-electronic means of researching a novel. Be sure to come with a few research questions of your own and we'll do some brainstorming.

Susan Lanier-Graham has been writing and researching for as long as she can remember. Susan has a Master's degree in Social Science Research and is the author of more than 100 articles, 75 textbooks and manuals, and 2 nonfiction books. Susan writes romantic suspense and is just starting her sixth novel. She is a member of RWA, From The Heart Romance Writers (where she serves as newsletter editor and is past website administrator and vice president), Kiss of Death, and Desert Dreams (where she coordinated two Desert Dreams conferences, served as newsletter editor and website coordinator).

We meet on Saturday, February 21st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at El Parador Tropical Restaurant at 2744 E Broadway Blvd in Tucson. To reserve a spot, email Crystal Marshall at crystal@crystalcaterra.com. The cost of \$20 for SRW members, \$25 for non-members includes lunch.

Community Events-

The Pima County Sheriff's Department is once again offering document shredding services, free of charge to private citizens at the following locations and times:

March 14 at the Foothills Mall - 7401 N. LaCholla - east parking lot - 8am - 12 noon

April 11th at Kinney/Western Way - 3025 S. Kinney Road - Behind Circle K - 8am to 12 noon

May 9th at Tanque Verde/Catalina Hwy - Bear Canyon Plaza behind Sheriff's substation - 8am to 12 noon

June 13th at LaCanada/Continental - 1141 S. LaCanada (Prof. Plaza) Green Valley.

If you have any questions - call PCSD Community Resources Unit - 351-6904

Reminders-

Meeting- Next meeting is February 14, 2009. At the Home Town Buffet, NW corner of Oracle and River Rds. 10am to 2 pm. \$12 for all day, \$5 for one session and no lunch. Make checks to AMW. Please have exact change.

Reservations- Mary Ann is now in charge of AMW Membership. If you are attending the meeting, please email Mary Ann Hutchison at douglashutchison@comcast.net or call her at 293-6373.

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