

MRA MUSINGS

Year 17

January 2012

Some Topics to Consider....

I'd like to get the schedule picked for the whole year (if possible) so that it can appear on the web.

Thus I need some help in picking topics. I'll ask for other suggestions, but from the list below I hope to get some choices –or maybe even enough—to fill the year.

American Historicals

Famous Faces – mysteries that use a famous person as a major character

Fire Burns – mysteries that involve fire investigations.

Legal Eagles

Murder in the Air - mysteries that involve airplanes

Roman Empire and Egyptian Dynasties

South of the Border (Mexico, Central or South America and the Caribbean

William Kent Krueger

Steve Hamilton

C.J. Box—come to the Yorba Linda appearance during One City, One Book.

Julia Spencer-Fleming

Jackie Winspear

Ed McBain—and watch a 87th precinct movie.

Thomas Perry

Black (in the title) for October

Read your initials (I'm K and L and B) - Authors



Upcoming Topics

February 8

Four Corners again

March 14

Foundation Authors

Kate Carlisle

Carolyn Hart

Betty Hechtman

March 18

Foundation Luncheon

April

Edgar Best Novel Nominees –written in 2011

Meeting Time

6:30 PM at Anaheim
Central Library—upstairs
conference room

Inside this issue:

Reader's Reviews

Jan. list.. To continue in Feb—4 Corners States

Authors for Foundation Luncheon -March list: BOOKS TO DIE FOR

Ruth's checking in

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7-8

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For more information contact Karen at
ktlbevers@roadrunner.com
American Historicals

Legal Eagles

Mystery Readers Assessments

MARCIA F

Beaton, M.C. – DEATH OF A CHIMNEY SWEEP – 3.0
Typical Hamish Macbeth – but always an easy read and an enjoyable cozy.

Coben, Harlan – LIVE WIRE - 4.0

One more Myron Bolitar trying to rescue his client. Finds a brother. I don't remember his holding Win back in earlier books. Win is remembered for always saying "It's sure nice to be rich!"

DeSilva, Bruce – ROGUE ISLAND – 4.0

Providence, RI is being burned down- one house at a time in an area called Mount Hope. The protagonist is a newspaper reporter and he sets out to uncover a plot.

Elkins, Aaron – THE WORST THING – 5.0

Story centers around kidnapping and how to avoid them. Has a surprise ending.

Harris, Rosemary – SLUGFEST – 2.5

No murder until page 117 and the ending was very poor.

Havill, Steven – BEFORE SHE DIES – 4.5

Police procedural...could have done without the officers use of cellphones.

Havill, Steven – CONVENIENT DISPOSAL - 5.0

High school students are carrying sharpened hat pins to school to use in fights. Two girls have been suspended and one of the girls is attacked at home. A neighbor, the county manager disappears and may be a suspect. Estelle Reyes-Guzman investigates.

Havill, Steven – DEAD WEIGHT - 5.0

Yet another in this outstanding series.

Havill, Steven – FINAL PAYMENT – 5.0

A Posadas County mystery with Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman. Great suspense.

Havill, Steven – HEARTSHOT (#1) – 3.0

Undersheriff Bill Gastner is still on the job in Posadas County N.M. Up to his ears with drugs in the high school. Good mystery but ending was too drawn out.

Havill, Steven – OUT OF SEASON - 5.0

The sheriff is killed in a plane crash and undersheriff Bill Gastner takes over. The FBI is involved much to the disgust of the locals.

Hinger, Charlotte – LETHAL LINEAGE (#2) – 5.0

Lottie Albright, an editor for the county historical society in a small town in western Kansas.

Holland, Isabelle - THE LONG SEARCH – 3.0

Rev. Claire Aldington, a psychologist and Episcopal priest at St. Anselm's, in Manhattan, New York: plays a smaller role in this suspenseful mystery with a title that applies also to the ending... long.

Holland, Isabelle – FLIGHT OF THE ARCHANGEL – 3.0

Rev. Claire Aldington, a psychologist and Episcopal

priest at St. Anselm's, in Manhattan, New York: plays a small role in this mystery of murder within a family.

Meier, Leslie – ENGLISH TEA MURDER – 4.0

Better than average cozy. Lucy Stone goes to England and encounters a murder. The tour she is on has interesting travel log. Her short descriptions of the famous places visited was very enjoyable.

Pejer, Bernadette – A SPARK OF DEATH - .2.5

Set in Seattle in 1901 and deals with the advent of electricity at the University of Washington. A despised professor is found dead when President McKinley was in town and may have been the target.

Perry, Louise – A TRICK OF THE LIGHT – 5.0

Back in Three Pines with artist, art dealers and art. This series is a bit difficult to get "hooked" but when one does the books can't be put down.

West, Michael L – GOPNE WITH A HANDSOME MAN 2.5

Title better than the book.

Box, C.J. – COLD WIND – 4.0

Joe Picker, game warden in Wyoming deals with his father in law's murder and whose body is found strapped to a giant wind machine. Prime suspect is Joe's mother in law. Wonderful look at the wilderness of Wyoming.

Burpo, Todd – HEAVEN IS FOR REAL – 4.0

True story of a 4 year old boy's near death experience and his trip to heaven and back to his hospital bed.

Clark, Marcia – GUILT BY ASSOCIATION – 4.0

Los Angeles DA Rachel Knight investigates a murder / suicide involving her friend and fellow DA. Great sense of place with characters that seem very real and true to life.

KAREN C

Kienzle, WM, - THE ROSARY MURDERS – 3.5

Priests and nuns are being murdered and found with a rosary wrapped around their hands. Father Koesler, a Catholic priest and amateur detective, helps solve the crimes. A good fast moving mystery set in Detroit (my hometown so the streets and landmarks were enjoyable)

Mariani, Scott – THE MOZART CONSPIRACY – 4.5

British Special Air Service Officer Ben Hope is called upon to investigate the death of an old friend Oliver Llewellyn. Oliver had been doing research on the death of Mozart and it appears he has discovered a powerful underground organization.

Mosley, Walter – WHITE BUTTERFLY -3.5

Easy Rawlins set in the mid 50's in Watts area of LA. His friend, Mouse, is quite violent and a womanizer but seems to help Easy in solving the death of several prostitutes.

ROSENFELT, David – BURY THE LEAD – 4.0

Andy Carpenter's third appearance in a fast paced series with lots of humor. A defense attorney and dog lover. Lots of

twists, turns and a few red herrings. Great series to follow.

Roy, Lori – BENT ROAD - 3.5

Gothic story of dysfunctional family returning to Kansas. Very dark and disturbing.

Stockett, Kathryn – TH HELP – 4.0

May have been one of the last to read this book about the civil rights movement set in the 1960's Mississippi.

Sturges, P.G. – SHORT CUT MAN – 3.0

Dick Henry can solve problems quickly but not always legally or morally. Lots of dark humor, sex and violence – definitely not for the squeamish.

Tremayne, Peter – A PRAYER FOR THE DAMNED – DNF
Couldn't keep up with the foreign names and places and number of characters.

Colin, Chris – BLINDSIGHT – 3.5

This is a story about a man who had it all and lost it in an instant when his car was hit by a driver who left the scene. He suffered severe brain damage. I was absorbed in his struggle to return to a semblance of normalcy. I don't think it was terribly well written but I was caught up in the hope of his recovery.

DAPHNE

Kellerman, Faye – SANCTUARY - 3.0

I felt the author tried too hard to teach details that were unnecessary to further the story. It made reading not smooth. Also the characters did things that seemed unreal.

Dow, John M. – FROM WITHIN – 3.5

Zombies and ancient battles. Started off really good and very scary. ¾'s through the book it started with the ancient battle thing and wrapped up poorly. Disappointing.

Evanovich, Janet- HOT SIX – 4.5

Had a lot of very silly plotlines and I loved it. Couldn't read too many of them in a row, but laughed out loud a lot. Really liked the characters.

Finkel, Michael HERE BBEW MONSTERS – 50 DAYS AT SEA – 4.0

Having raised 4 boys, I was caught up in this very real narrative of what happened to 3 boys from a remote island when they rebelled and tried to escape the confines of the island and their attitudes about it once their ordeal was over.

Henry, Sara J. – LEARNING TO SWIM – 4.0

Young woman at loose ends sees child fall off rear of ferry, jumps in to save him. When she determines that he was thrown in on purpose she doesn't tell anyone she found him. She tries to hunt down his parents. My favorite part was the ending.

King, Stephen MILE 81 – 5.0

Best Stephen King I've read in a long time. A scary car at exit Mile 81 on the Maine turnpike where an accident and several other Good Samaritans get involved.

Lance, Max – CRAZY GIRLS – 2.0

Unremarkable multiple stories about one guy's bad dates. Had the promise to be very funny and interesting, but wasn't

either.

Pittard, Hannah – THE FATES WILL FIND THEIR WAY – 2.0

I didn't totally hate this story, BUT it couldn't decide where it wanted to be. It was like sliding doors in a small community. Teen age girl goes missing, teen boy narrates. Times jump around and much is not cleared up at the end.

Stockett, Kathryn – THE HELP – 4.0

What was missing from the movie was the pure terror these women felt during the civil rights struggles of the 60's. Wonder who the books if written for? Is there still a people who need to recognize themselves or others in these stories.

MARCIA B

Allen, Irene – QUAKER WITNESS – 4.0

An eminent paleontologist is found murdered in his lab at Harvard and the number one suspect is his graduate student. The professor's only female advisor, Elizabeth Elliot, Quaker Clerk must prove that the girl didn't do it.

Allen, Irene – Quaker Testimony – 4.0

Hope and Sheldon Laughton, a young Quaker couple refuse to pay their war taxes. The IRS will repossess their home and Elizabeth Elliot goes to their home for moral support, where she finds Hope murdered.

Allen, Irene – Quaker Indictment – 4.0

Elizabeth Elliot goes to Seattle to visit her ex-roommate but finds she has disappeared.

Charles, Kate – A DEAD MAN OUT OF MIND – 5.0

An English church is robbed and the priest killed. The only thing to appear to be missing is the Church's chalice. A new female curate arrives and Solicitor Dave Middleton Brown is hired to arrange the sale of the church silver.

Box, C.J. – NOWHERE TO RUN – 5.0

Joe Pickett is away from his family on a temporary assignment to Wyoming. Strange things have been happening in those mountains and Joe saddles up to go check them out. This could be his last assignment.

Coban, Harlan – THE FINAL DETAIL – 5.0

Myron Bolitar is in the Caribbean when Win, bad-ass sidekick, informs him that Esperanza, Myron's partner, has been arrested for murder.

Reise, Virginia and Mary C. Ailea, editors, FAMOUS DETECTIVE STORES – 1.0

Only like one of the 16 stories and that was by Rex Stout. As is usual for Nero Wolfe... Archie Goodwin investigates and Wolfe gets all the credit.

Coban, Harlan – PROMISE ME – 5.0

Edna Skylar recognizes a missing girl on the street who pleads with her to tell no one. Myron investigates.

Braun, Lilan Jackson – THE CAT WHO WENT UNDERGROUND AND THE CAT WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE. 5.0

Jim Quilleran in Pickaxe with two Siamese cats solves various mysteries.

KAREN B

Black, Lisa – DEFENSIVE WOUNDS - #4? – 2011 – 3.0
Theresa McQueen, forensic investigator on a case of murder in a hotel with victims being offensive defense attorneys at a convention...where Theresa's daughter works and a friend of a young man acquitted of a crime of murder and rape. Far too much detail of Theresa analyzing. Mostly boring.

Burke, James Lee – THE GLASS RAINBOW - - 5.0
Stunning conclusion? To the Clete and Dave. Ultimate dealing with the Ablelards and the deaths of 7 young girls. See long review articles in Review section.

Child, Lee – THE AFFAIR - # 16 – 2011- - 5.0
Excellent tale of the reason Reacher leaves the MP's.. Rather wish I could remember how many of the characters appeared in earlier books. Massive coverup that is uncovered near base in Mississippi. Thought I knew the perpetrator...was still surprised at the resolution. Trains Rock.

Cline, Ernest – READY PLAYER ONE – 2011 – 4.9
In 2041 geeks seek hidden "easter egg" in game developers ultimate game to win his entire fortune. Developer used many scenes, games and clues from the 1980's. Foreshadowed ending a tiny bit of a letdown. ...marred perfect 5.0

Cobin, Harlan – SHELTER – 2011 – 4.5
YA mystery with Mickey Bolitar. Nephew of Myron and living with him as in last series book Mickey's father was killed in a car accident and his mother overcome with grief became a drug addict. Mickey's only friend Ashley has disappeared and Mickey begins a search for answers with the help of two new friends, an overweight girl and a small make dweeb. Totally enjoyable

Culver, Chris - THE ABBEY - # 1— 2.5
Ashraf Rashid, a detective can't be stopped from investigating the death of his niece...and goes against all police policy only to discover corruption and Russian Mafia and a lot of trouble. Typical plot but Ashraf is a Muslim that stops for prayers frequently and is an alcoholic, (e-book only)

Davidson, Hilary – THE DAMAGE DONE – 2010 – 4.5
Lily Moore returns to NY City when her drug addicted sister is found dead. When Lily's trip to the morgue to identify her sister reveals the body is someone else, her troubles really begin. A cop, an old gay friend, her ex- fiancé and her sister's ex lover add to her problems or her answers. A stolen identity used to cover up the real crime.

Fields, Tricia – The Territory - #1 – 2011 – 3.0
Artimis, West Texas...border town where two drug cartels are hoping to gain control and provide easy US access. Police Chief, Josie Gray has her hands full with a self-centered mayor as well as the cartel war that has crossed the border. Great description of the setting – but lacking something to keep my interest very high.

Freveletti, Jamie – THE NINTH DAY - #3 – 2001 – 4.75
Once again Emma, the Chemist, gets in serious trouble...this time with Mexican Drug lard... with armadillos. Is held (not killed) to solve a medical problem. Eventually Summer, Ban-

ner and even Vanderlock come into play. First chapter of 4th is left as a teaser... I won't read it until the book is available.

Handler, David – THE BLOOD RED INDIAN SUMMER - #8 -2011- 3.75

Rather violent football player (on suspension) moves to Dorset, CT. ;both Berger and Mitry deal with their parents but find time to solve the attempted rape and murder of the ball players sister-in-law.

Harper, Karen – BLACK ORCHID – 1996 – 3.5
Jordan Quinn, home in the Everglades...with an orchid shop...a husband involved in research with panthers resistance to ;LHIV...Previous first love is now the leader of the Seminole community. Local sheriff...looks from get-go to be a villain. A little too predictable.

Haynes, Dana – BREAKING POINT - #2 – 2011 – 4.9
The NTSB group is once again investigating a plane crash this time in Montana and with 3 members of the NTSB on board. 8 people survive...but a hired killer has killed 6 more that survived the crash. ALL power was lost.

Horan, Ellen – 31 BOND STREET – 2010 – 3.75
New York 1857, famous murder case of Dr. Harvey Burdell with wife (?) being defended by Henry Clinton and prosecuted by Oakey Hall (later mayor of NY city)
Somewhat fictionalized... but not much

Levine, Paul – LASSITER –#8 - 2011 – 4.0
Defense attorney Jake Lassiter reveals bad behavior some 18 years earlier and in an attempt to redeem himself, takes on a client of a young woman gone missing from a porn kingpins party. Old buddy, now the DA, attempts to convince Jake to bury the case. Jake, a pit bull, won't let the client quit.

Maron, Margaret – THREE DAY TOWN – 2011 - #17 – 4.0
While in New York for their delayed honeymoon, Judge Deborah Knott and Dwight Bryant agree to deliver a package to NYPD lieutenant Sigrid Harald, but when a doorman is murdered and the package.. goes missing, Deborah and Dwight join the investigation.

Parrish, P.J. – THE KILLING SONG – 2011 – 3..5
Not nearly as good as the series. Too many dumb interference by civilian (American in Paris) seeking the killer of his young sister, who was killed while visiting her brother. Lead sends journalist, Matt Owens to Paris where he befriends Eve, a cop seeking a serial killer from an old case. Clues lead them to London and Scotland and the catacombs of Paris. Serial killer plays games with them via musical clues.

Robb, J.D. NEW YORK TO DALLAS. 4.0 –
Eve Dallas takes Roarke on her quest to recapture McQueen (escaped pedophile) in Dallas – where Eve was found as a child, . Flashbacks occur .and she discovers much about herself. Her cat saves the day.

Rozan, S. J. – GHOST HERO - #11 – 2011 – 3.0
Lydia is hired to prove a rumor of a Chinese artists work. Artist was killed at Tiananmen uprising and new paintings are rumored to be available. Ultimately rather boring and at times a bit silly. Bill plays a Russian mob boss art buyer.

Mysteries set in the Four Corners States

New Mexico

Single Titles

Nevada Barr, [Blind descent](#)--set in Carlsbad Caverns and [Ill wind](#)--Mesa Verde

Joseph Kanon, [Los Alamos](#)

Casey Daniels – Wild, Wild Death

Victoria Laurie – Ghoul Interrupted

Series

Rudolfo Anaya

[Sonny Baca](#): part-time rodeo rider private eye in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sandi Ault

[Jamaica Wild](#): resource-protection agent for the Bureau of Land Management, in northern New Mexico

Christine Barber

[Lucy Newroe](#): newspaper editor and volunteer EMT, in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Steve Brewer

[Drew Gavin](#): an Albuquerque Gazette sports columnist in Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Bubba Mabry](#): a private investigator in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Steven F. Havill

[Bill Gastner](#): insomniac undersheriff in Posadas County, New Mexico

[Estelle Reyes-Guzman](#): the new undersheriff in Posadas County, New Mexico

Tony Hillerman

[Jim Chee](#): Navajo tribal police officer in the southwest USA

[Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn](#): Navajo tribal police officer in the southwest USA

Sarah Lovett

[Sylvia Strange](#): a forensic psychologist in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Michael McGarrity

[Kevin Kerney](#): ex-chief of detectives in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Walter Satterthwait

[Joshua Croft](#), wise-cracking PI in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Aileen Schumacher

[Tory Travers](#): a structural engineer in Las Cruces, New Mexico

Connie Shelton

[Charlie \(Charlotte\) Parker](#): a Certified Public Account in Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Samantha Sweet](#): caretaker for the USDA who opens a pastry shop in northern New Mexico

Susan Slater

[Benson \(Ben\) Pecos](#), a 26-year-old Tewa Pueblo and a reservation medical investigator in New Mexico

Richard Martin Stern

[Johnny Ortiz](#): half-Apache, half-Chicano police lieutenant,

around Santa Fe, New Mexico

Pari Noskin Taichert

[Sasha Solomon](#): a public relations director in New Mexico

Aimee and David Thurlo

[Sister Agatha](#): a former investigative journalist, now one of the extern sisters, the convent's link to the outside world at the Our Lady of Hope Monastery in New Mexico

[Ella Clah](#): Navajo FBI agent in Shiprock, New Mexico

[Lee Nez](#): a nightwalker (vampire) police officer in New Mexico

Judith Van Gieson

[Neil Hamel](#): attorney and investigator, in Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Claire Reynier](#): buyer of rare books for the University of New Mexico library in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Stuart Woods

[Ed Eagle](#): lawyer in Santa Fe, New Mexico - SANTA FE DEAD and SANTA FE EDGE only

Colorado

Michael Allegretto

[Jacob Lomax](#): an ex-cop turned private investigator in Denver, Colorado

Kate Allen

[Alison Kaine](#), a lesbian police officer in Denver, Colorado

Carol Cail

[Maxey Burnell](#): an investigative reporter and newspaper owner in Boulder, Colorado

Sammi Carter real name Sandy Lewis

[Abby Shaw](#): leaving behind a career in corporate law and a cheating husband, returns to her hometown of Paradise, Colorado to take over her aunt's candy shop, Divinity

Margaret Coel

[Catherine McLeod](#): investigative reporter in Denver, Colorado

Mark Cohen

[Pepper Keane](#): a former federal prosecutor, now a private investigator in Colorado

Beth Groundwater

[Mandy Tanner](#): seasonal river ranger on the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado

[Claire Hanover](#): 40-something proprietor of a gift-basket business, in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Diane Mott Davidson

[Goldy Bear](#): single mom and caterer in Aspen Meadow, Colorado

Nageeba Davis

[Maggie Kean](#): an art teacher and sculptor in the high country of Colorado

Denise Dietz

[Ellie Bernstein](#): diet group leader in Colorado Springs, Colorado

[Lt. Peter Miller](#): homicide department in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Laura DiSilverio

More 4 Corner

Charlotte “Charlie” Swift: former Air Force investigator, now working as a private investigator, in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Truly Donovan

Lexy Connor: Connor, a software consultant in Boulder, Colorado

James D. Doss

Charlie Moon: Ute police officer in Grant Creek, Colorado

John Dunning

Cliff Janeway: cop and rare book expert in Denver, Colorado

Christine Goff

The Birdwatcher Mysteries in Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado

Robert Greer

CJ Floyd: black bail bondsman, later Western collectible dealer, in Denver, Colorado

Jim Michael Hansen

Bryson Coventry: a homicide detective in Denver, Colorado

Elise Hyatt (Sarah D’Almeida)

Candyce “Dyce” Dare: single mom and proprietor of Darling Finds, a furniture refinishing store in fictional Goldport, Colorado

Dolores Johnson

Mandy Dyer: owner of Dyer’s Cleaners in Denver, Colorado

Evan McNamara

Bill Tatum: former Army sniper and current Deputy Sheriff of Mineral County in Dumont, Colorado

Leslie O’Kane (Leslie Caine)

Allida Babcock: a dog therapist in Boulder, Colorado

B. J. Oliphant real name Sherri Pepper

Shirley McClintock: 50-something rancher in Colorado

A. J. Orde read name Sherri Pepper

Jason Lynx: antiques dealer and interior decorator in Denver, Colorado

Ann Parker

Inez Stannert: saloon owner, around 1880 in Leadville, Colorado, in the Silver Rush mysteries

Suzzane Proulx

Victoria Lucci: a risk manager at a Denver hospital in Denver, Colorado

Manuel Ramos

Luis Montez: an attorney and former Chicano activist in Denver, Colorado

Maggie Sefton

Kelly Flynn: corporate accountant from Washington DC, who has relocated to Ft. Connor, Colorado and is learning to knit at the House of Lambspin

Marianne Wesson

Lucinda Hayes: an attorney and the director of the Boulder County Rape Crisis Center, in Boulder County, CO

Stephen White

Lauren Crowder: attorney in Boulder, Colorado

Alan Gregory: practicing psychologist in Boulder, CO

Utah Mysteries

Robert Irvine

Moroni Traveler: non-Mormon ex-football player private eye in Salt Lake City, Utah

Michael Norman

Sam Kincaid: chief of the Special Investigations Branch of the Department of Corrections, and Lt. Kate McConnell, a homicide detective, in Salt Lake City, Utah

Natalie M. Roberts (Natalie R. Collins)

Jenny T. Partridge: founder of the premier dance academies in Ogden, Utah, in the Dance mysteries

Arizona Mysteries

Singles

Susan Froderberg - OLD BORDER ROAD (2011)

Series

Garrison Allen

Penelope Warren: ex-Marine mystery bookstore owner in Empty Creek, Arizona

Sarah Atwell (Sheila Connolly)

Emmeline (Em) Dowell: glassblower, in Tucson, Arizona, in the Glassblowing mysteries

Deb Baker

Gretchen Birch, her mother Caroline, and her aunt Nina, **doll collectors** in Phoenix, Arizona, in the Dolls To Die For mysteries

Sinclair Browning

Trade Ellis: rancher and part-time private eye, in Arizona

David Cole

Laura Winslow: a Hopi-born computer programmer and hacker in Arizona

Rebecca Cramer

Linda Bluenight: anthropologist and 4th-grade teacher, in and around Tucson, Arizona

Elizabeth Gunn

Sarah Burke, a recently divorced police detective, in Tucson, Arizona:

J. A. Jance

Joanna Brady: deputy sheriff’s widow turned sheriff in Cochise County, Arizona

Ali (Alison) Reynolds: 40-something newscaster fired for aging by a Los Angeles TV network, who returns to her hometown of Sedona, Arizona, and takes up blogging

Annette Mahon

Maggie Browne: a widow and a member of the St. Rose Quilting Bee in Scottsdale, Arizona

Jenn McKinlay

Melanie Cooper and Angie DeLaura, operators of a cupcake bakery, Fairy Tale Cupcakes, in Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona

Susan Cummins Miller

Frankie MacFarlane: geologist based in Tucson, Arizona

James C. Mitchell

Roscoe Brinker: former INS agent, now a private investigator, in Tucson, Arizona

Twist Phelan

4 Corners –the end

Lawyers in a small town in Arizona are featured in the Pinnacle Peak mysteries

Sara Sage

Ronni Estrella McBride: a part-time nurse in Mesa, Arizona

Jon Talton

David Mapstone: ex-cop, now unemployed college history teacher back in law enforcement, in Phoenix, Arizona

Beth Thornton

Chloe Newcomb: victims advocate in Cochise County, Arizona

Betty Webb

Lena Jones: of Desert Investigations in Scottsdale, Arizona

Foundation Authors

Kate Carlisle

Kathleen Beaver
[1951-]

Brooklyn Wainwright, a rare book expert in San Francisco, California, in the Bibliophile mysteries:

The Books are:
Homicide in Hardcover (2009)

If Books Could Kill (2010)

The Lies That Bind (2010)

Murder Under Cover (2011)

One Book in the Grave (due February 7, 2012)

Peril in Paperback (due August 7, 2012)

Author Website

<http://www.katecarlisle.com/index-mystery.php>

About the author

Golden Heart and Daphne du Maurier Award winning author Kate Carlisle spent over twenty years working in television production as an Associate Director for game and variety shows, including *The Midnight Special*, *Solid Gold* and *The Gong Show*. She traveled the world as a Dating Game chaperone and performed strange acts of silliness on *The Gong*



Show. She also studied acting and singing, toiled in vineyards, collected books, joined a commune, sold fried chicken, modeled spring fashions and worked for a cruise ship line, but it was the year she spent in law school that finally drove her to begin writing fiction. It seemed the safest way to kill off her professors. Those professors are breathing easier now that Kate spends most of her time writing near the beach in Southern California where she lives with her perfect husband.

A lifelong love of old books and an appreciation of the art of bookbinding led Kate to create the Bibliophile Mysteries, featuring rare book expert Brooklyn Wainwright, whose bookbinding and restoration skills invariably uncover old secrets, treachery and murder. Kate is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers and Romance Writers of America. She loves to drink good wine and watch other people cook. Despite the appearance of overnight success, Kate's dream of publication took many, many years to fulfill.

Betty Hechtman

{1947}

Molly Pink, a 40-something widow coordinating events in a bookstore, including the Tarzana Hookers, a crochet group in California, in the Crochet mysteries:

The Books are:
Hooked on Murder
Dead Men Don't Crochet
By Hook or by Crook
A Stitch in Crime
You Better Knot Die
Behind the Seams.



All books are paperback
The author's website is
<http://bettyhechtman.com/index.html>

About the author

Betty grew up in Chicago and moved to L.A. when she married. In L.A. she tried writing screenplays and ran small pieces in the LA Times and other magazines while being a stay at home mom. Her affair with chochet began in Las Vegas when she saw a kids' kit in FAO Schwartz.

Her first granny square was missing a corner but on a second try she found the magic and soon moved beyond squares to flowers, hearts and flowers and then to scarves,=and afghans. Until now when she gets to write about it.

Carolyn Hart

Author Website <http://www.carolynhart.com/>

Annie Laurance, a mystery book store owner, and Max Darling, investigator, in Broward's Rock, South Carolina, in the Death on Demand series:

Death on Demand (1987) [[review](#)]

Design for Murder (1987)

Something Wicked (1988)

1988 Agatha Award for Best Novel

1989 Anthony Award for Best Paperback

Honeymoon with Murder (1988)

1990 Anthony Award for Best Paperback

A Little Class on Murder (1989)

1990 Macavity Award for Best Novel

Deadly Valentine (1990)

The Christie Caper (1991)

Southern Ghost (1992)

The Mint Julep Murder (1995)

Yankee Doodle Dead (1998)

White Elephant Dead (1999)

Sugar Plum Dead (2000)

April Fool Dead (2002)

Engaged To Die (2003)

Murder Walks the Plank (2004)

Death of the Party (2005)

Dead Days of Summer (2006)

Death Walked In (2008)

Dare To Die (2009)

Laughed 'Til He Died (2010)

Dead by Midnight (2011)

Death Comes Silently (due April 3, 2012)

Henrietta O'Dwyer Collins, a 70-something reporter in South Carolina:

Dead Man's Island (1993)

1993 Agatha Award for Best Novel

Scandal in Fair Haven (1994)

Death in Lovers' Lane (1996)

Death in Paradise (1999) Death on the River Walk (1999)

Resort to Murder (2001)

Set Sail for Murder (2007)

Bailey Ruth Raeburn, who dies during a storm and then returns as a ghost to help solve crime in her hometown of Adelaide, Oklahoma:

Ghost at Work (2008)

Merry, Merry Ghost (2009)

Ghost in Trouble (2010)

Non-series:

Flee from the Past (1975)

A Settling of Accounts (1976)

The Rich Die

Young (1983)

Death by Surprise (1983)

Castle Rock (1983)

Skulduggery (1984)

Brave Hearts

(1987)

Secrets and Other

Stories of Suspense (2002)

Letter from Home (2003)

2003 Agatha Award for Best Novel



About the author:

Five feet five inches tall, light brown hair streaked with silver, green eyes, fairly athletic, reticent about her weight but decidedly not thin. (Henrie O looked thoughtful. Was that why *she* was thin?)

Some books are written by Carolyn G. Hart, some by Carolyn Hart. Why the missing G? When Hart changed publishers, the new publisher decided the art work would be easier without the G. G stands for Gimpel, Hart's maiden name.

Hart was born in Oklahoma City where the sun almost always shines and the wind almost always blows. Her first fiction about Oklahoma is a non-series short story, "Spooked," which appears in **Murder on Route 66**. "Spooked" tells the story of Gretchen, a 12-year-old girl in a northeastern Oklahoma town during World War II.

Hart met her husband to be, Phil, on a student trip to Europe during her junior year in college. They had a great journey. They are *still* having a great journey.

Hart's first cat was Baby Face, a gray tabby. Her current felines are charming (and huge) Cat-A-Thomas and imperious but beautiful Sophie (who bites).

Women she admires: Amelia Earhart, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Edith Hamilton, and Georgie Anne Geyer.

Favorite vacation spot: Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Favorite baseball player: Sammy Sosa.

Catching up with Ruth

November news letter:

Hi,

I had a good time looking through your list of clerical sleuths, and then I went through my reading log for quite a ways back, and realized that I had not read a clerical mystery in a very long time. The one that I talked about in my last Ravings was almost the one and only, for some reason. I wonder if there are fewer authors writing clerical mysteries nowadays? I think McInerny is still writing Father Dowling novels, and Kate Charles has quite a nice series featuring a young (female) curate, and there's Mark Schweitzer's Hayden Konig series (though he's an organist, not a clergyman, and lots of the clergy people are lampooned). Julia Spencer-Fleming's Claire Ferguson is wonderful, and I did read **One Was a Soldier**, as soon as it came out, and I hate to see that series end.

I do read and enjoy and look forward to Veronica Heley's Ellie Quicke series, which I suppose could be categorized as Christian mysteries, and Ellie, of course, is married to a clergyman, though she herself is definitely the central character. And I particularly like Mary Stanton's "Angels" series, which are very much about this life and the next, and they're set in Savannah, which I like, too.

I did, though, just finish a new mystery with a clerical hero: G.M. Malliet's **Wicked Autumn**, which introduces Max Tudor, former MI5 agent turned Anglican priest. A bossy member of his congregation is murdered, and he joins forces with the policeman from the neighboring town, Detective Cotton, to solve the murder. There are some lovely supporting characters, including quite a dishy New Age lady, and an elderly spinster who might have known Jane Marple along the way, and the obnoxiously bumbling local copper, and a local author who's not nearly as good as he believes himself to be. And then there's Max's housekeeper, who can't cook and doesn't keep house very well, either. All nicely drawn, with a good bit of affection. And Max himself seems to have a little of Father Brown in him, in his concern for his parishioners, though he doesn't have much forgiveness for the murderer. [Oddly enough, I knew who the murder was very early, but that didn't bother me a bit. Usually it annoys me.]

Another "oddly enough:" looking back through your clerical list, I started to say that I miss some of the oldies on there, like Sister M. T., and Lee Harris's Chris Bennett, and Quaker Irene Allen, but I find that I don't. Those series ended when they should have, I think, before the characters got stale.

So--sorry I'm late with this, and I may not have any holiday turkeys to complain about this year--I'm getting better at avoiding them, maybe. Although I just looked at my "statistics," and I had nine Did Not Finishes, so there must have been some turkeys in there. In fact, I'm beginning to remember at least one of them. Good! I'll have something to grouse about.

Ruth

Ruth is now involved in treating her health problems and almost all of our prayers go with her. A few are saved for Keving who is also having some serious health issues. I'm hope the best for both of them and encourage all of our members to do the same.

Bits and Pieces

Jussi Adler-Olsen's Department Q Mysteries to be Adapted for Film and Television

Adaptations of Danish crime novelist Jussi Adler-Olsen's first four titles in his "Department Q" series are being planned for film and television. First up will be **THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES** which introduces homicide detective and cold case investigator Carl Mørck. Louise Vesth will write the screenplay. Denmark's Zentropa is producing with Danish commercial channel TV2 and German public broadcaster ZDF as partners. Production is expected to begin Fall 2012 with the first film premiering about a year later. Mysterious Reviews called this police procedural a "fine start to this series". The case involves a missing woman, a politician who vanished without a trace five years earlier. The world assumes she's dead. Mørck's colleagues snicker about the time he's wasting. "The pieces of the puzzle are all in the five-year-old file, and it's a pleasure following Mørck along as he puts them together." **THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES** is the only book in this series translated into English to date.

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Lots of internet sites have started compiling their best of 2011.. One acquaintance in Redding, CA posted her favorites with short comments. Since I usually agree with her list I thought I would put hers and mine side by side for your amusement. Besides it might give you some new authors to read.

Karel Wollaston, Redding, CA

Adler-Olsen, Jussi **THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES** 2011 takes place in Denmark and details one of the most horrific crimes in memory, yet keeps the reader turning pages to see what happens.
 Baldacci, David **ZERO DAY** 2011 is a thriller and page-turner. I thought this one was every bit as good as any by Lee Child. I omitted Lee Child's **THE AFFAIR** from my list because of tedious descriptions of sex, meals, and railroad tracks.
 Franklin, Tom **CROOKED LETTER, CROOKED LETTER** 2010 was an outstanding character study.
 Hart, John **IRON HOUSE** 2011 was a dark, well-written and plotted character study of two brothers partly raised in the orphanage called Iron House.
 Johnson, Craig **HELL IS EMPTY** 2011 deserves mention for his literary achievement and writing in this long slog through freezing temperatures.
 Krueger, William Kent **NORTHWEST ANGLE** 2011 was unforgettable due to the dereco (storm) and the baby, as well as an area I knew nothing about: the Northwest Angle.
 Mankell, Henning **THE TROUBLED MAN** 2011 was the last in the Kurt Wallender series and a downer, but so well-written!
 Patterson, Richard North **THE DEVILS LIGHT** 2011 impressed perhaps because of its timely locations: Pakistan and Lebanon.
 Penny, Louise **A TRICK OF THE LIGHT** 2011 overused chiaroscuro but that's minor compared to the delight in returning to Three Pines.
 Spencer-Fleming, Julia—**ONE WAS A SOLDIER** 2011 is the best I've read about PTSD.
 Stabenow, Dana **THOUGH NOT DEAD** 2011 offers an overview of Alaskan history and a good mystery.
 Walker, Martin **BLACK DIAMOND** (2011 in U.S.) managed to enlighten readers about truffles (black diamonds), the French-Algerian war, gangs in the south of France, and Brunos culinary talents.
 Winspear, Jacqueline **A LESSON IN SECRETS** 2011 was not quite as good as others; perhaps it was the academic setting. This is a favorite series, always well-written.
 I hesitate to recommend **THE HYPNOTIST** by Lars Kepler (Alexandra Coelho Ahndoril and Alexander Ahndoril, both well-known Swedish writers.) It was one of the most violent books in memory, yet I lost two nights sleep reading it.

Karen Bevers, Placentia, CA

Adler-Olsen, Jussi	The Keeper of Lost Causes	4.0
Box, C. J.	Cold Wind	4.75
Box, C.J.	Back of Beyond	4.75
Boyd, Noah	The Bricklayer	4.8
Burke, James Lee	The Glass Rainbow	5.0
Child, Lee	The Affair	5.0
Collins, Suzanne	The Hunger Games	4.5
Connelly, Michael	The Drop	4.75
Freveletti, Jamie	The Ninth Day	4.75
Gardiner, Meg	The Nightmare Thief	4.75
Hallinan, Timothy	The Queen of Patpong	4.75
Hamilton, Steve	Misery Bay	5.0
Haynes, Dana	Breaking Point	4.75
Housewright, David	Highway 61	5.0
Johnson, Craig	Hell is Empty	4.95
Krueger, William Kent	Northwest Angle	5.0
Land, Jon	Strong at the Break	5.0
Rotenberg, Robert	Old City Hall	5.0
Sharp, Zoë	Fourth Day	5.0
Silva, Daniel	Portrait of a Spy	5.0
Stevens, Taylor	The Informationist	4.75
Tapply, William	The Nomination	4.9
Watson, S. J.	Before I Go to Sleep	5.0

Others from Karel's list that I've read and enjoyed (just not 4.75 or above).

Tom Franklin's **CROOKED LETTER CROOKED LETTER**

John Hart's **IRON HOUSE** and

Julia Spencer-Fleming's—**ONE WAS A SOLDIER**.

The others I haven't read and will be considering soon if I ever get my library stack down.

Speaking of library. Anaheim has a shiny new web presence. Check out the "What to Read" page and the link to Book News newsletter. Awesome.

I'll be trying to get our Newsletter on the site somewhere.