



# Tenth Annual FESTIVAL OF MYSTERY May 2 4 to 9 pm

514 Allegheny River Boulevard • Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139 • 412.828.4877

The tenth annual MLB Festival of Mystery will be held on Monday, May 2 at the St. Irenaeus Church Social Hall which is on Maryland Avenue, just around the corner from the store. Admission is \$6. Doors open at 4 pm. Author interviews will begin at 5 pm.

As in past years, we'll feature plenty of opportunity to meet and talk with your favorite writers as well as meeting new ones. Book clubs or libraries may reserve tables for at least eight people. Please call early as tables are limited.

Show up early to receive your Bag o' Books before supplies run out. Light meals will be available so you won't have to miss a single author.

Continuous drawings for an amazing variety of raffle prizes. Get a raffle ticket for every book you buy or for each donation of \$1 to Beginning With Books

**The Author Lineup:** interviews begin at 5 pm and continue in approximately alphabetical order



**Donna Andrews** set the tone for her charming and humorous Meg Langslow series by winning the Agatha, Anthony, the Barry and the Romanic Times awards for the debut, *Murder with Peacocks*. For the Festival, Donna will be coming with the sixth, *Owls Well That Ends Well*.

Pittsburgh author **Kathy Ayres** teaches writing at Chatham College while turning out acclaimed novels of historical and contemporary fiction. For the Festival, however, Kathy will debut a colorful picture book, *Matthew's Truck*. Her most recent young adult novel is *Macaroni Boy* with a setting in the Depression-era Strip District of Pittsburgh.



**Charles Benoit** A former high school social studies teacher, Charles Benoit has spent the past several years living and working overseas. He currently lives in exotic Rochester, New York and works as a copywriter and storyboard artist, creating advertisements that drive consumers into a buying frenzy. His first novel, *Relative Danger*, is published by Poisoned Pen Press and features the around-the-world adventures of an unemployed Pottsville, PA brewery worker.



WDUQ is the media sponsor for this year's Festival which is raising funds for the Beginning With Books. This wonderful organization encourages literacy by pairing volunteers with children to read books together, books the children get to take home.

**D.B. Borton** is the creator of Cincinnati sleuth Cat Caliban who, after 38 years of marriage, becomes a PI. *Seventh Deadly Sin* was published last year. In real life Borton is Lynette Carpenter, a college prof in Ohio.



**Jan Brogan's** many years experience as a journalist made it a natural that her new series, beginning with *A Confidential Source*, would feature Providence, RI reporter Hallie Ahern; a fan of talk radio and witness to a convenience store murder. Jan lives between Boston and Providence with her family.



## Author line-up, continued from page 1



**Maggie Bruce** discovered decorated gourds on a road trip. Before entering the gourd world, she was known as Marilyn Wallace, suspense author and editor. As Maggie, she edited *Murder Most Crafty* an anthology of crafty mysteries she's brining to the Festival and wrote *The Gourdmother*, due in

September, first in the Lili Marino series. As Marilyn, she also teaches writing and is a consulting editor.



**Cara Black**—is the author of five atmospheric, Paris-set mysteries featuring PI Aimee LeDuc each of which provides a view of Paris not often seen by the casual tourist. *Murder in the Marais*, her first novel, inspired by circumstances happening to her friend's mother during the German Occupation of Paris was nominated for an Anthony award. *Murder in Clichy* is her fifth. Cara lives in San Francisco with her husband, son and dog.

**Leslie Caine** last came to a Festival as Leslie O'Kane. Now, as Leslie Caine, she's launched a brand new series with interior decorator Erin Gilbert who appears in *Death by Inferior Design*. A second book in the series is due in June.



**Dana Cameron**, like her protagonist Emma Fielding, is a professional archaeologist. The debut, *Site Unseen*, and each subsequent book have made use of past and future mysteries which interrelate as the series reaches number five, *More Bitter Than Death*. Dana and her husband live in Beverly, Massachusetts.

**David Cole**—has five books featuring half-Hopi computer hacker Laura Winslow, all set in Arizona. The most recent, *Dragonfly Bones*, was recently nominated for the Otter Award at Left Coast Crime; *Shadow Play*, the sixth book, dealing with Navajo skinwalkers and old western movies, arrives next July. A long-time political activist, he lives in Syracuse, New York and Tucson, Arizona.



**Reed Farrel Coleman**—Brooklyn born and raised, in his fourth novel, *Walking the Perfect Square* introduced the character of Moe Prager, retired cop and PI, involved in a missing persons case where the trail is years old. *The James Deans* is Coleman's most recent book.



**Laura Durham** is the author of *Better Off Wed*, the first novel in the Annabelle Archer series. Like her protagonist, Laura is a professional wedding planner in Washington, D.C. who has planned some of the city's most extravagant weddings and dealt with some of the world's most neurotic brides.

**Hallie Ephron**, one half of the writing team of G.H. Ephron, is the author of five books in the Peter Zak series. Zak is a forensic psychiatrist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who solves cases by studying psychological clues. Latest is *Guilt*. Ephron lives near Boston.



**Kevin Forsythe**—local writer Kevin divides his time between the law and performing in a band. Somewhere in there he managed to write a trilogy of Pittsburgh-set mysteries: *The Three Rivers Murders*, consisting of *Stardust on the Allegheny*, *Murder on the Mon* and *Twilight on the Ohio*.

**Jim Fusilli**, not satisfied with being the music critic for *The Wall Street Journal*, launched a marvelous mystery series with reluctant PI Terry Orr in *Closing Time*. The fourth in the series, *Hard, Hard City*, just received a Gumshoe Award as Best Mystery of 2004. Jim lives outside of New York City.



Pittsburgh author **Kathleen George** has authored two suspenseful and original mysteries, both with Pittsburgh settings: *Fallen* and *Taken*. When not keeping readers breathless, she's a mainstay of the University of Pittsburgh Drama Department.

**Christine Goff** is a two-time Willa Literary Award Finalist for Best Original Paperback, and Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers 2002 Writer of the Year. Her latest book, *Death Takes a Gander*, the fourth novel in her “Birdwatcher’s Mystery” series, features a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Special Agent, an eclectic group of birdwatchers, a Canada goose die-off, and environmental disaster in the making.



**William Kent Krueger**, a charter member of the Minnesota Crime Wave, is the author of four books featuring Cork O’Connor, the former sheriff of a small Minnesota town who can’t keep his hands off crime solving. The fifth, *Mercy Falls*, is due in August.



**Libby Fischer Hellman** launched her series with documentary filmmaker Ellie Foreman with *An Eye for Murder*. Most recent is *An Image of Death*. Libby is a video producer and former TV news producer and a transplant from Washington DC who’s been living in Chicago for 25 years.

**Anna Maclean**, who loved Louisa May Alcott’s books, thought that Louisa would make a terrific detective, too. Thus was born *Louisa and the Missing Heiress*, a delightful historical whodunnit, followed by *Louisa and Country Bachelor* just in time for the Festival.



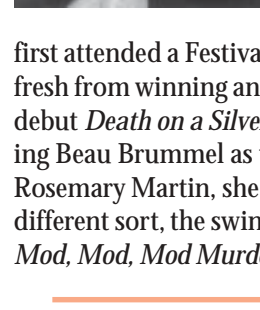
**Roberta Isleib**—has learned a good bit about golf since she inaugurated the Cassandra Burdette series two year with *Six Strokes Under* that introduced the caddy who is turning pro and solving murders along the way. The fourth, *Fairway to Heaven*, will be here just in time for the Festival.



**Nancy Martin**—Pittsburgh writer Nancy Martin has a long and successful career of writing romance titles. Recently she turned her hand to mystery with outstanding results in the first of the Blackbird Sisters series: *How to Murder a Millionaire*. The fourth, *Cross Your Heart and Hope to Die*, has just been published in hardcover. Nancy is president of our local Sisters in Crime chapter.



**Linda O. Johnston** has authored 15 novels, including romantic suspense. In her Kendra Ballantyne, Pet-Sitter mystery series starting with *Sit, Stay, Slay*, protagonist Kendra is a lawyer who lives in the Hollywood Hills with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Lexie; much like her creator who is a Duquesne Law grad.



**Rosemary Martin**—first attended a Festival, as Rosemary Stevens, fresh from winning an Agatha award for her debut *Death on a Silver Tray*, a mystery featuring Beau Brummel as the sleuth. Now, as Rosemary Martin, she explores history of a different sort, the swinging ‘60s, in *It’s a Mod, Mod, Mod Murder* a series debut.



**Larry Karp** used his interest in music box collecting as the basis for his mystery series featuring Dr. Thomas Perdue a sleuth who collects music boxes. His latest novel, *First, Do No Harm*, moves in a quite different direction with a suspenseful tale of a young man’s decision to enter medical school.



**Michele Martinez**, after a successful career as a federal prosecutor, turned her hand to the mystery market with her debut legal thriller, *Most Wanted*. Martinez used her own experiences to lend authenticity to this tale of a US attorney who finds herself in the midst of a case of witnesses murdered and possible police complicity.

**Gillian Roberts** is the pen name behind a string of a dozen delightful mysteries featuring prep school English teacher Amanda Pepper, beginning with *Caught Dead in Philadelphia*. She's also the author of a series with would-be PI Billy August and her mentor Emma Howe. Gillian lives in Northern California.



**Elaine Viets** continues working her series of dead-end jobs with the fourth: *Just Murdered*, where Helen finds work at a bridal shop. Elaine, who really does work all these jobs, hastens to add that the bookstore dead-end job is at a chain store where she was the slowest and least accurate cashier they had.



**Lora Roberts** is most recently the author of a thoroughly delightful twist on the Sherlock Holmes theme with *The Affair of the Incognito Tenant*. She lives in Northern California which is also the setting of her earlier *Another Fine Mess*, a mystery with a satirical view of the publishing world.

**Lea Wait** used her considerable experience in the antiques business as the authentic background for her debut mystery *Shadows at the Fair* that introduced Maggie Summers an antique prints dealer; three subsequent books in the series followed. Lea is also the author of several young adult novels, most recently *Wintering Well*.



**Sarah Shaber** is the author of a unique series of contemporary academic mysteries with a historical twist. Starting with *Simon Said*, forensic historian Simon Shaw has unraveled past crimes using his academic know-how.



**Chassie West**—was a major force in introducing African-American characters to romance fiction. In 1994 she turned to mystery with the Edgar-nominated *Sunrise* which introduced African-American cop Leigh Ann Warren who made her fourth appearance in *Killer Chameleon*.



**David Skibbins** has worked many jobs, including psychotherapist, before penning his debut novel *Eight of Swords* featuring itinerant tarot card reader Warren Ritter. Skibbins is the first man to have won the St. Martin's Best Domestic Mystery award.

**Valerie Wolzien**—went to a PTA meeting when her son was in third grade and *Murder at the PTA Luncheon* was born as a mega selling mystery and CBS movie. Now there are sixteen Susan Henshaw books, latest is *Death in Duplicate*, and six books with a female contractor inspired by Valerie's remodeling of her Hudson River Valley Victorian home, the latest *A Fashionable Murder*.



**Judith Skillings** and her husband operate a Rolls Royce restoration shop which is a perfect background for her series featuring Rebecca Moore, a young woman who inherits a restoration business in the debut *Dead End*. The second, *Dangerous Curves*, uses Pittsburgh's own Vintage Grand Prix as background.

**Jessica Speart** came to mystery through investigative articles she did on wildlife topics leading to a series featuring Fish and Wildlife agent Rachel Porter. Her seventh in the series is *Blue Twilight*.



**Nancy Means Wright** is the author of five books featuring Vermont farmer Ruth Willmarth, most recently *Mad Cow Nightmare*. She lives, writes and teaches in Vermont.



**Sally Wright**—was nominated for an Edgar Allen Poe award for the third ex-commando and current archivist Ben Reese mystery set in the 60's, *Pursuit and Persuasion*. Latest in the series is *Out of the Ruins*.



**Marcia Talley**—returns to Pittsburgh to sign copies of her latest Hanna Ives book: *In Death's Shadow*. She is also the editor of two collaborative novels, most recently *I'd Kill For That* a fascinating project involving 13 writers. This award-winning author lives on the Chesapeake Bay.

