



# Twelfth Annual FESTIVAL OF MYSTERY

May 7  
4 to 9 pm

514 Allegheny River Boulevard • Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139 • 412.828.4877

The twelfth annual MLB Festival of Mystery will be held on Monday, May 7 at the Greek Orthodox Church Social Hall at 12 Washington Avenue, five blocks from the store. Admission is \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. 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

**Make a purchase in the store on the day of the Festival and your Festival ticket will get you a free paperback.**

**The Author Lineup:** interviews begin at 5 pm and continue in reverse alphabetical order, from Z to A

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*, an Agatha nominee.

Pittsburgh author Kathy Ayres teaches writing at Chatham College while turning out acclaimed novels of historical and contemporary fiction. Her most recent young adult novel is *Macaroni Boy* with a setting in the Depression-era Strip District of Pittsburgh. Kathy will arrive at the Festival with a brand-new picture book: *Up, Down and Around*.

Husband and wife writing team Cordelia Biddle and Steve Zettler are the reality behind *Nero Blanc* and the joint authors of eleven delightful and challenging mysteries

featuring crossword puzzle editor Belle Graham and her PI partner Roscoe Polycrates. In addition to mystery, their books feature crossword puzzles integrated into the plot. Their most recent book is *A Crossworder's Delight with Death on the Diagonal* due in July. Meanwhile, under her own name Cordelia Biddle has launched a splendid new historical series set in 1842 Philadelphia with *The Conjuror*.



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.

The British born Rhys Bowen now lives in California where she has written ten wildly successful mysteries featuring the amiable constable Evans Evans, the latest being *Evanly Bodies*. Not resting, she's started a new series with the Agatha-winning *Murphy's Law* featuring turn of the century Irish immigrant Molly Murphy. *In Dublin's Fair City*, the sixth has just been published. In the summer we can look forward to a brand new series featuring impoverished aristocrat Lady Victoria set in '30s London.

Ellen Byerrum launched the Lacey Smithsonian series with *Killer Hair* which introduced the fashion columnist who still had time to track a killer of hair stylists while keeping tabs on the capitals fashion do's and don'ts. Three more books followed, most recently *Raiders of the Lost Corset* that takes Lacey to Paris.

Author Line-up Continues on Page 2

## Author line-up, continued from page 1

Husband and wife **Lori and Toni Karayianni** are the magic behind **Tori Carrington** and the debut mystery *Sofie Metropolis* whose eponymous heroine finds her wedding called off when she discovers the groom and maid of honor in flagrante. Seeking refuge, she finds a new career as a sort of PI. The third in this smart and funny series, *Foul Play*, will be out just in time for the Festival along with the paperback of number two, *Dirty Laundry*.

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We used to know her as **Noreen Wald** but her sprightly new series is written as **Nora Charles** with senior sleuth Kate Kennedy introduced in the first, *Death With an Ocean View*. Her fourth is *Hurricane Homicide* that makes good use of Florida's recent spate of Hurricanes as the background for a mystery where the victim is the local weatherman.

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**Jane K. Cleland** comes to the Festival with the paperback of her Agatha-nominated debut mystery *Consigned to Death*, an Antiques Roadshow for mystery fans, the first in a traditional mystery series featuring antiques appraiser, Josie Prescott. Set on the rugged New Hampshire coast, Josie uses her knowledge of antiques to solve the crimes. *Deadly Appraisal* will be out in May. Formerly the owner of a rare book and antiques store, Jane now lives in New York City with her husband.

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**Kate Collins** is the author of the best-selling Flower Shop Mysteries starting with *Mum's the Word*. She'll be at the Festival with number five, *Acts of Violets* with *A Rose from the Dead* due in December. An Indiana native, Kate was a teacher before motherhood put her on the path to writing. The author lives with her husband in Northwest Indiana and Key West, Florida.

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**C.R. Corwin** writes the Morgue Mama Mysteries featuring cranky, crafty newspaper librarian Dolly Madison Sprows—the Morgue Momma. Her latest appearance is in *Dig*. Corwin, a former newspaper man himself, lives in Akron, Ohio.

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**Ellen Crosby** launched her mystery writing career after work as a journalist with the Washington Post. She's taken her knowledge of the Virginia wine-making business and put it to excellent use in her series debut, *The Merlot Murders*. In August we can look forward to the second in the series, *The Chardonmay Charade*.

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**Shirley Damsgaard** will arrive at the Festival with the second in her Ophelia Jensen series, *Charmed to Death*, a sequel to her Agatha Nominated debut *Witch Way to Murder*. This series with a paranormal twist pairs librarian Ophelia with her Aunt Abby with entertaining results.

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**Casey Daniels** once applied for a job as a tour guide at a historic cemetery. She didn't get the job, but she did get the idea for the Pepper Martin Mystery series beginning with *Don of the Dead*, an IMBA bestseller. The second in the series, *The Chick and the Dead*, was published in March and the third book, *Tombs of Endearment*, due in October. Casey lives in northeast Ohio.

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Local author **C. William Davis III** achieved his life-long dream of novel writing with publication last year of *The Forever Man*, set in a small Western Pennsylvania town and featuring Sheriff Clive Aliston. Bill is at work on a second book in the series.

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**Vicki Delany's** novels of psychological suspense, *Scare the Light Away* and *Burden of Memory* are little gems of crime fiction. She has taken early retirement from her job as a systems analyst, and the Festival is her first stop on a year-long drive across North America.

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**Michael Dittman's** debut noir, *Small Brutal Incidents*, chronicles a WW II vet's hard luck when he finds himself neck deep in corruption in a post-war Pittsburgh. In addition to reams of journalism, he's written two books on the Beat Generation. Dittman writes, lives, and teaches in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

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**Rebecca Drake**, known to family and friends as **Rebecca Mertz** is a Pittsburgh author and member of our Sister's in Crime chapter who debut book, *Don't Be Afraid*, was published last year.

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**Mary Anna Evans** has degrees in physics and engineering, but her heart is in the past. Her series character, Faye Longchamp, lives the exciting life of an archaeologist, and Mary Anna envies her a little. Her current novel, *Effigies*, was a Book Sense Notable Book. Mary Anna has a husband, 3 children, about 20 musical instruments, and a cat.

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**Kate Flora** hails from Maine but now lives in Concord where she shares local author billing with Thoreau and Emerson. At last year's Festival Kate came with *Finding Amy: A True Story of Murder in Maine* which was subsequently nominated for an Edgar Award. This year she'll join us with a brand-new mystery, *Playing God* as well as the seventh in her Thea Kozak series, *Stalking Death*.

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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. Kathleen will have a new novel out in the fall.

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Jack Getze covered financial issues for several newspapers before switching professions and becoming a stock and bond salesman on the New Jersey Shore. He is the author of the Austin Carr Mystery Series, debuting this year with *Big Numbers*.

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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 Shoots a Birdie*, the fifth novel in her “Birdwatcher’s Mystery” series, features the death of a renowned birder—with his protege the chief suspect.

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When it comes to community theatre, Susan Goodwill has done everything from sell popcorn to wield power tools. Susan joins the Festival with *BrigaDOOM*, the first in this sexy, sassy series featuring amateur sleuth Kate London and a supporting cast of quirky community players. Born and raised in western Pennsylvania, Susan now lives in Michigan.

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Chris Grabenstein’s debut novel *Tilt-a-Whirl* was hailed as “One Of 2005’s Best Mysteries” by *The Christian Science Monitor* and several syndicated mystery columnists. Set in a seedy seaside resort down the Jersey shore, it teams a young summer cop with a by-the-book soldier just back from Iraq. *Whack-a-Mole*, the third in the series, will come out this June.

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Beth Groundwater comes to the Festival with her debut mystery, *A Real Basket Case*. She also has published seven short stories, including one in *Wild Blue Yonder*, *Frontier Airlines’s* in-flight magazine, and one which was translated into Farsi. Between writing spurts, she defends her meager garden from marauding mule deer and wild rabbits and tries to avoid getting black-and-blue on the black and blue ski slopes of Colorado.

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Pittsburgh playwright and actor Kathryn Miller Haines is coming to the festival with her debut mystery, *The War Against Miss Winter*. The World War II set series featuring actress/amateur sleuth Rosie Winter is due out in June 2007.

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Robin Hathaway writes the Dr. Fenimore series. *The Doctor Digs a Grave* won the St. Martin’s/Malice Domestic contest in 1997 and an Agatha Award in 1998. Since then she has produced three more Doctor books. The newest Fenimore book is *The Doctor Rocks the Boat*.

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L.C. Hayden’s fifth mystery, *Why Casey Had to Die*, is the Agatha Nominee for Best Novel and her previous release, *What Others Know*, was nominated for Left Coast Crime’s best mystery award. Hayden hosts *Murder Must Air*, the live talk show sponsored by Mystery Writers of America. In addition to her seven novels, Hayden has published over 400 pieces in various magazines.

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Mary Ellen Hughes hails from Maryland where she has also set her newest mystery, *Wreath of Deception*. This first installment in her new Craft Corner series deals with murder in an arts and crafts shop, and her protagonist gives workshops while tracking down killers. She even shares step-by-step directions for a project at the end. Mary Ellen has two previous mysteries featuring a vacationing math teacher.

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Sue Ann Jaffarian is the author of the Odelia Grey mystery series which features a plus-sized, middle-aged paralegal as a humorous amateur sleuth. In addition to writing, she is a paralegal like her character. The first book in the Odelia Grey mystery series, *Too Big To Miss*, has been optioned for TV and the second book, *The Curse of the Holy Pail*, was recently released. Sue Ann lives in Los Angeles

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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.

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John J. Lamb is the author of the IMBA bestseller, *The Mournful Teddy* (a 2006 Dilys Award finalist), *The False-Hearted Teddy*, the second will be out in June. He is a retired Southern California cop, with eighteen years of experience as a homicide detective, CSI, and hostage negotiator. John now lives in the Shenandoah Valley with his wife Joyce, a retired fingerprint expert and crime analyst.

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Mary Jane Maffini comes to the Festival with a brand-new series beginning with *Organize Your Corpses* featuring professional organizer Charlotte Adams. She is also the author of five books in the popular Ottawa-based Camilla MacPhee series. Mary Jane has twice won the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis award for best crime short story. She is a lapsed librarian and a former co-owner of a mystery book store.

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Pittsburgh writer Nancy Martin had a long and successful career writing romance titles before she turned her hand to mystery with outstanding results in the first of the Blackbird Sisters series: *How to Murder a Millionaire*. The sixth, *A Crazy Little Thing Called Death*, has just been published in hardcover.

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Karen E. Olson returns to the festival this year with *Second Hand Smoke*, the second in her Annie Seymour mystery series set in New Haven, Connecticut. Her first book, *Sacred Cows*, which won the Sara Ann Freed Award for debut mystery, was recently released in paperback.

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**Sandra Parshall** is the author of *The Heat of the Moon*, nominated for the Agatha Award for Best First Novel, and the recently released *Disturbing the Dead*, both featuring veterinarian Rachel Goddard. Sandra lives in the Washington, DC, area with her writer husband and two spoiled cats.

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**Cynthia Riggs**, a thirteenth generation Islander, lives on Martha's Vineyard in her family homestead, which she runs as a bed-and-breakfast catering to poets and writers. *Shooting Star* is her seventh published mystery featuring amateur sleuth Victoria Trumbull.

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Local writer **Mary Jo Rulnick** will take the mystery out of keeping your kitchen organized and your family well fed with her Frantic Woman's Guide to Feeding Family and Friends, a practical book that blends menu planning with healthy recipes that are simple.

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**Maggie Sefton** writes the Knitting Mysteries beginning with *Knit One, Kill Two*, which introduced aspiring knitter Kelly Flynn and her group at the House of Lambspin. That debut was an Agatha Award nominee. The fourth in the series, *A Killer Stitch*, will be released in hardcover in May 2007 just in time for the Festival.

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**Sharon Short** is the author of the humorous Stain-Busting Mystery Series featuring Josie Toadfern, stain expert and laundromat owner. *Murder Unfolds* is the fifth and most recent novel in her series. Short also writes a humor column for the Dayton Daily News.

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**Clea Simon** is the author of the Theda Krakow mysteries, *Mew is for Murder* and *Cattery Row* and the upcoming *Cries and Whiskers*, as well as several nonfiction books. A resident, like Theda, of Cambridge, Mass., she lives with her husband, Jon, a jazz critic, and their cat Musetta, a jellicle.

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Actress and author **Gammy L. Singer** resides in New York City. Combining humor with grit, her Landlord Tales series set in Harlem has been optioned for film and television by Laurence Fishburne. Her second book, *Down and Dirty, Another Landlord's Tale* was released this year.

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**Patricia Smiley's** debut novel *False Profits*, which introduced financial consultant Tucker Sinclari, received a starred review from Booklist and was a Book Sense recommendation. Her follow-up novel *Cover Your Assets* was a RomanticTimes Top Pick. Both novels were Los Angeles Times Bestsellers. *Short Change*, the third in the series, is set for release in July.

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**Mary-Ann Tirone Smith** has lived all her life in Connecticut except for the two years she served as a Peace Corps volunteer. She is married, has two children and is a third generation Red Sox fan. She has published eight novels including the Poppy Rice mysteries. Her memoir, *Girls of Tender Age*, offers a window into the crime that influenced her decision to tackle a mystery series.

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Award-winning author **Wendy Corsi Staub** has written more than sixty novels. Writing as Wendy Markham, she is a bestselling author of more than a dozen chick lit and romantic comedies. She will release six new novels in various genres in 2007, culminating in the launch of her paranormal young adult series, Lily Dale, just optioned for television.

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**Denise Swanson** realized that working as a small town school psychologist gives one many of the clues to mysteries large and small—thus was Skye Denison debuted in *Murder of a Small Town Honey*. Denise brings the ninth book in the series, *Murder of a Botoxed Blonde* to this year's Festival.

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**Marcia Talley**—returns to Pittsburgh to sign copies of her latest Hanna Ives book: *Through the Darkness*. 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.

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**Sarah Stewart Taylor** is the author of the Agatha-nominated *O' Artful Death*, the launch for the Sweeney St. George series, featuring an art historian who specializes in gravestones and funerary art. Three books have followed in this unique series, most recently *Still as Death*, Sarah lives in Vermont.

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Pittsburgh attorney turned novelist **Heather Terrell** will be at the Festival promoting her forthcoming debut novel *The Chrysalis*, an engaging thriller about artworks looted by the Nazis. Moving back and forth in time she combines art and history into a compelling tale. *The Chrysalis* will be on sale May 15.

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**Elaine Viets** continues working her series of dead-end jobs with the sixth: *Murder with Reservations*, where Helen finds work as a hotel maid. Elaine has also begun a second series featuring mystery shopper Josie Marcus. Latest is *High Heels Are Murder*. Elaine lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

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**Heather Webber** has the prefect mystery series if your interest is in gardening starting with *Hoe Lot of Trouble* that introduced Nina Quinn, the owner of a garden makeover company. *Diggin' Up Trouble* was an Agatha nominee last year. She'll be coming to the Festival with the fourth: *Trouble in Bloom*.

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**Mark Richard Zubro** has published nineteen books in two different series. The Tom and Scott series, the most recent of which, *Everyone's Dead But Us*, is just out this year. In the Paul Turner, the most recent is *Nerds Who Kill*. Mark recently retired after thirty-four years of teaching and lives in suburban Chicago.

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