

HARDBOILED HEROES AND COZY CATS 2006

PRESENTED BY MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA, SOUTHWEST

Friday and Saturday, June 16-17, 2006
Sofitel Houston, 425 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston



CONFERENCE RECEPTION, FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006

7 p.m.-9 p.m.
\$17 in advance

Join the guest authors, agent, and editor for an hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception with cash bar at the Sofitel. To ensure plenty of munchies, send the registration form with your payment no later than Friday, June 9, 2006. No drop-ins, please!



CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006

Registration & Continental Breakfast: 8 a.m.-9 a.m.

Speakers: 9 a.m.-4:40 p.m., luncheon included
Register by 5/15/06 for \$90; 5/16/06 or later, \$100



KEYNOTE SPEAKER BARBARA COLLEY is a native of Louisiana and the award-winning author of the popular *Squeaky Clean Charlotte LaRue* mysteries as well as seven romantic suspense novels that have been published in more than 17 foreign languages. The latest of her 12 novels is *Married to the Mop. Scrub-a-Dub-Dead*, her sixth Charlotte LaRue mystery, will be available in hardcover in early 2007.

Among Barbara's many awards: Distinguished Artist Award (in honor of outstanding contributions to the literary arts in Louisiana); Oklahoma Romance Writers of America National Reader's Choice Award; and one of the metro New Orleans area's Leading Business Women of the Week chosen by the radio station Magic 109.1. Her novels *Maid for Murder* and *Death Tidies Up* are in their second printing. www.barbaracolley.com



TONI PLUMMER is assistant editor at Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press. Toni works closely with the winners of the two contests that St. Martin's conducts for new mysteries: the Malice Domestic and PWA Private Eye Novel Contests. Toni lives in Brooklyn. Born in Los Angeles County, Calif., Toni attended the University of Notre Dame and later earned a Masters in Professional Writing at the University of Southern California. In 2004, she moved to New York and was fortunate to land a job assisting the legendary Ruth Cavin at Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press. She will take one-on-one pitches from conference attendees who have completed mystery manuscripts. www.stmartins.com



MAUREEN WALTERS is one of the rare breed of native New Yorkers and has all but grown up at Curtis Brown, Ltd., one of the most respected and prestigious literary agencies. She began there as assistant to the president, Perry H. Knowlton, and went on some years later to represent the agency's entire list of clients for translation rights. In 1981 she began developing her own list of clients working primarily in women's fiction and mysteries. Fiction has always been her great love but she's also successfully placed several nonfiction projects on subjects as eclectic as parenting and child care, popular psychology, inspirational and motivational volumes as well as a few medical and nutritional books. In addition she represents a handful of children's book writers, one of whom is a two-time Newberry Notable Book Award winner for juvenile fiction. She is now a Senior Vice-President at Curtis Brown, Ltd.

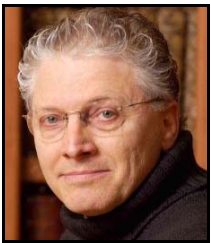
www.curtisbrown.com/



DEBORAH ELLIOTT-UPTON'S publishing credits include *Woman's World*, *Writer's Digest*, *Millennium Science Fiction and Fantasy* magazine, *Working Writer*, *Mystery Readers Journal*, *Beginnings*, trade magazines and newspapers.

Star-Blaze Entertainment has optioned five of her short stories for opening episodes of a proposed television series. She's a former book reviewer for the *Amarillo Globe-News*, a frequent conference speaker, and online instructor for Writing & Marketing the Short Story.

www.deupton.com/



JOHN BIGUENET is an award-winning author, playwright, poet, editor, literary translator, and a distinguished professor at Loyola University in New Orleans. His work has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, the *Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, *Story*, *Zoetrope: All-Story*, *DoubleTake*, *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, and *Ploughshares*, as well as in various anthologies.

A collection of his short stories was published under the title *The Torturer's Apprentice* followed by his first novel, *Oyster*, which was a best-seller in Hebrew translation in Israel and was a selection by four book clubs in the United Kingdom.

www.harpercollins.com/authorintro/index.asp?authorid=19938

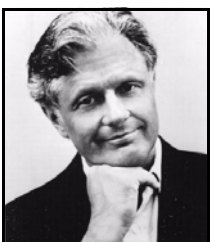


CATHY PICKENS' first mystery novel, *Southern Fried*, won St. Martin's Press Malice Domestic Award for Best New Traditional Mystery. Set in a small Upcountry South Carolina town remarkably similar to where Cathy grew up, it was called an "assured debut, a cozy with some sharp edges" by *Publishers' Weekly* and was named one of the five best new mysteries of 2004 by *Romantic Times BookClub* reviewers.

Her second book, *Done Gone Wrong*, is set in Charleston and features a spree killer on antidepressants and a drug company gone bad.

At various times and under various aliases, Cathy has been an attorney specializing in complex civil litigation, particularly product liability and medical negligence; a university professor teaching MBA students about the legal and ethical environment of business; a writer of law books and articles on poisons, private detectives, legal damages, and historical crime cases; a church organist and choir director; and a ballroom and clog dance coach.

www.cathypickens.com/



PARNELL HALL is the author of the critically acclaimed *Stanley Hastings* and *Puzzle Lady* mystery novels. He has been nominated for the Edgar, the Shamus, and the Lefty Awards. *Stalking the Puzzle Lady* is the latest installment in the *Puzzle Lady* series. In addition to his humorous cozy mysteries, he has written screenplays, including a horror movie. His website lists nearly 30 published novels, including the *Steve Winslow* series. Parnell lives in New York City.

www.parnellhall.com/

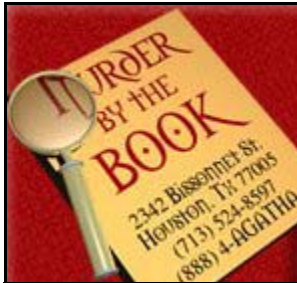


SOFITEL HOUSTON

425 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E., Houston, TX 77060. www.sofitel.com
Minutes from Bush Intercontinental Airport, the Sofitel offers free shuttle service to and from the airport.

Hotel Reservation Deadline: May 16, 2006, to receive the MWA rate of \$85 plus tax. MWA rooms are limited, so don't delay!

Hotel Reservations: 281-445-9000 or toll-free at 1-800-231-4612. Say you are attending the MWA conference.



MURDER BY THE BOOK SHORT STORY CONTEST

Murder by the Book, the Southwest Chapter's long-time partner and conference vendor, sponsors the \$100 prize for the winning story. We'll even throw in a handsome certificate.

Who Can Enter: Anyone. You do not have to attend the conference to enter or to win.

Length: 1,000-5,000 words

Type: A mystery in any subgenre (hardboiled, cozy, historical, and so on)

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by **Saturday, April 22, 2006**. No e-mail entries accepted.

Format: Double-spaced in standard manuscript format. Number the pages; place the title of the story at the top of the first page and in a header at the top of subsequent pages. (Do NOT put your name on the story.)

Cover Sheet: Your entry must include a separate cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, word count, and the title of your story. Write the word "Critique" on the cover if you are paying for the optional critique.

Judges: Derringer Award-winning author and mystery anthology editor Michael Bracken. Michael is the author of *All White Girls*, *Bad Girls*, *Canvas Bleeding*, and more. Plus, he's written more than 1,000 short stories. This year Michael is joined by Deborah Elliott-Upton, a short story veteran and writing instructor. You can read her full bio on page 2.

Critique Service: An optional written critique by one of our judges and master storytellers, Michael Bracken or Deborah Elliott-Upton. Write the word "Critique" on the cover sheet and submit the relevant fees. *Written critiques are available only for contest entries.*

Fees

All Contest Entries: \$15 per story

Optional Written Critique: \$25 per story (in addition to entry fee)

Murder by the Book sponsors the blood money prize of \$100 for the winning story.

The winning story will be announced at the HHCC conference luncheon on June 17, 2006.

Questions? Leave a message on the MWA Southwest reservation hotline at 713-797-8464 or e-mail info@mwasw.org.



NHCC 2006 REGISTRATION FORM

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| City, State, Zip | |
| Phone | |
| E-mail | |

Choose one meal type:

- Regular meal
- Vegetarian meal
- Gluten-free meal

You are limited to one appointment. Appointments are only available to attendees who pay for the full-day conference. Appointments are assigned based on the order registrations are received. Please indicate your first and second choice. I'd like an appointment with:

Circle first choice Editor: Toni Plummer Agent: Maureen Walters

Circle second choice Editor: Toni Plummer Agent: Maureen Walters

Check the box at left if you are a published writer and would like MBTB to bring copies of your books for sale at the conference. (POD and small presses need extra time.)

THE PRICE OF CRIME (WRITING)

| Registration Fees | Enter the relevant fee |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Reception: \$17 | |
| Conference fee before May 15: \$90 | |
| Conference fee May 16 or later: \$100 | |

CONTEST FEES

Entries must be postmarked by Saturday, April 22. No e-mail entries accepted.

| | |
|---|--|
| Contest entries: \$15 each ____ x 15 - place in box at right | |
| Written critique: \$25 each (for submitted entries only) ____ x 25 - place in box at right | |

TOTAL OF ALL FEES

| | |
|---|--|
| Total - add all fees and enter in box at right. | |
|---|--|

* No refunds if you cancel after May 1, 2006.

If you want us to acknowledge receipt of your registration, include an e-mail address or self-addressed stamped envelope. To submit your registration and contest entry separately, photocopy this page and include the relevant information. Make check payable to Southwest Chapter MWA and mail completed form, check, and/or contest entries to:

Treasurer, Southwest Chapter MWA
2309 Gladnell St.
Taylor, TX 76574-1312

