

# *Myster-E Press*

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A Publication of Mystery Writers Ink*

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## *Welcome Back!!!*

Welcome to another exciting year of mystery and mayhem. Your Program Committee has a busy year planned, chock full of crime and writing speakers as well as the ever-popular field trips to the Medical Examiner's Office and to Vertigo Mystery Theatre... and some exciting new possibilities! Check out the updated Links Page on the Ink website for helpful information on writing, research, and the path to publication, and don't forget to leave a comment on Ink's new blog (linked on the website home page). See you at the first meeting!

*September 11, 7 – 9 p.m. at the Old Y*

### **President's Welcome**

**Introductions and Networking/Coffee Time**

**Panel Discussion: Ready, Set, Finish that Novel !!**

Panelists share their methods and offer tips for completing the first draft.

## "Lucky Seven" Membership Reward:

While the standard membership fee remains \$45/year, for this Ink-year alone, in honour of Mystery Writers Ink's steady seven years of operation, the board offers a full year's membership for only \$10 (ten dollars) to anyone who has EVER paid a full Ink membership. This offer expires October 30.

*Don't delay! Get your Lucky Seven today!*

## Fall Public Library Programs Of Interest to Writers:

(unless noted, pre-register at 403-260-2620 or online at [calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://calgarypubliclibrary.com))

### *Mondays at Central Library*

**Creative Writing Club** 6 – 7:30 – Share your work, get advice, brainstorm with other writers. September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17, December 1 & 15

### *Sundays at Crowfoot Library*

**Mystery Book Club** 2 – 3:30 p.m. September 14, October 12, November 9 & December 14.  
Phone for book list

### *Tuesday, September 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Central Library*

Introduction to Calgary History with Harry Sanders.

### *Thursday, October 2, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Central Library*

Alberta Author Reading: *Long After Fathers* by Roberta Rees

## Road Trip

### *Surrey International Writers Conference*

*October 24, 25 and 26, 2008*

70 panels and workshops to choose from, the Griffin Awards announcements, the pre-conference Master Class on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the usual SiWC writing contest make this well worth the day's drive from Calgary, and you may find other Inksters to carpool with. The contest (open to all) closes Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay polishing your short story, non-fiction or poetry.

For complete conference information see <http://www.siwc.ca>

## Opening Chapter Double-Blind Critiques

Because those first few pages are critical in attracting the attention of agents, editors and contest judges, they need to be as perfectly polished as we can make them. But the more elbow grease we apply to the words themselves, the easier we may lose sight of any flaws that remain beneath the gleaming surface.

To help writers on their quest for opening-chapter perfection, Mystery Writers Ink will facilitate a double-blind critique exchange. As at the Banff retreat, you won't know who is critiquing your chapter, and you won't know whose work you are critiquing in exchange.

To participate:

- bring 2 copies of your opening chapter (maximum 30 pages each) to the October meeting, making sure to remove your name and any other identifying marks from those pages.
- Take a number-slip from the stack at Reception. Write that number on each copy of your chapter and put your chapters in the box provided.
- Write your name, chapter title, and contact information (email preferred) on the slip and put it into the envelope provided. This is to ensure that your work and any feedback notes will get back to you in case of accident. Only the critique facilitator will learn whose work is whose.
- At the END of the October meeting, take 2 chapters (not both the same number) from the box and take them home to read over the next month.
- While reading, think about what works and doesn't work, what engages you or turns you off. Make polite notes of explanation or clarification, either on the manuscript or on a separate page marked with that chapter's number. Circle any typos, grammar or punctuation problems you find. Many eyes can miss a misplaced semi-colon until it's in print, but then it GLARES.
- Bring the 2 chapters back to the November meeting and put them back in the box along with any notes you made. If you can't make it to the meeting, make arrangements to drop off or mail the chapter to the facilitator.
- At the END of the November meeting, pull your chapters, and any pages of notes marked with your chapter number or title, from the box. Take them home and digest the comments.
- Polish your chapter again, so that every agent or editor or judge who reads it will not only fall in love with the surface gloss, but will recognize the fine quality beneath. Make them YEARN to request your full manuscript.

Dear friends: Please join us at Pages Books on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm as we celebrate our first season in publishing with a very special evening of reading, conversation, and celebration!

canada's newest literary press

**FREEHAND BOOKS**

fall launch

pages books  
on kensington  
1135 Kensington Road NW

friday  
september 12

reading by  
**SALEEMA NAWAZ!**

conversation with  
marina endicott,  
saleema nawaz,  
& freehand editors

libations!!  
prizes!!

A free EVENT  
7pm

[www.freehand-books.com](http://www.freehand-books.com)

A bit more detail:

Saleema Nawaz will be here from Montreal, reading from her debut collection of stories, *Mother Superior*. And we'll hear from Saleema, fellow Freehand author Marina Endicott, and Freehand editorial member (and local author) Barbara Scott on what they strive for in fiction--whether it's in writing it, revising it, editing it, or selecting it. Wine and cheese will be served and, as if that's not enough, there will be prizes. It's free!

About Saleema Nawaz:

Saleema's fiction has appeared in magazines including *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *The New Quarterly* and *PRISM international*. She won the inaugural Robert Kroetsch Award for Best Creative Thesis at The University of Manitoba, and one of the stories in *Mother Superior* will appear in the upcoming McClelland & Stewart *Journey Prize Anthology*. She lives in Montreal, where she is at work on a novel.

About Marina Endicott:

Marina's new novel, *Good to a Fault*, is already receiving raves *Quill and Quire* calls it "utterly engaging...a novel that gets under the skin." Her previous book, *Open Arms*, was a finalist for the Amazon-Books in Canada First Novel Award and was serialized on CBC's *Between the Covers*. Her stories have been featured in *Coming Attractions* and shortlisted for the Journey Prize. She will be reading from *Good to a Fault* at Wordfest: The Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

About Barbara Scott:

Barbara's first collection of short stories, *The Quick*, won the City of Calgary W. O. Mitchell Book Prize and the Writers Guild of Alberta Howard O'Hagan Award for Best Short Fiction. She co-edited *First Writes*, an anthology of essays on the experience of publishing a first book, and was included in *Dropped Threads 3*. She has taught creative writing courses for the University of Calgary, Mount Royal College, and the Banff Centre, and has led workshops for creative writing groups in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. She serves on the editorial board of Freehand Books.

Hope to see you all on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>!

Regards,

Melanie Little, Editor  
Freehand Books  
melanie@broadviewpress.com

## **2008-2009 Executive:**

President – Bernie Visotto  
Vice-President - Anne Jayne  
Treasurer - Jayne Barnard  
Program Chair - Susan Calder Arnold  
Publicity - Pam McDowell  
Reception - Jenny Hoops  
Newsletter - Marg Brick  
Library - Shirlee Smith Matheson

### **Positions Available:**

Secretary  
Membership Chair  
Directors At Large  
Facilities Chair

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (this year only)**

#### **Students and Starving Authors!**

\$10 and 10 volunteer hours

(work it off all at once or over the Ink  
year, as agreed with Treasurer)

### **Fall Meetings**

(At the Old Y unless noted)

#### **September 11**

***Ready, Set,  
Finish that Novel !!***

#### **October 9**

***I Spy... surveillance  
equipment from Spy City***  
+ Opening Chapter Exchange

Late October  
Possible Ghost Tour

#### **November 13**

***Role of the Editor –  
Melanie Little from  
Freehand Books***

#### **December 5**

**! Vertigo Theatre !  
*The Mousetrap*  
By Agatha Christie**

#### **December 11**

**Festive Social Potluck  
(and brief business meeting)**

*Mission Statement: Mystery Writers Ink shall support  
writers of mystery fiction by providing networking  
opportunities and by educating and informing writers about  
writing techniques, publishing, and marketing.*