

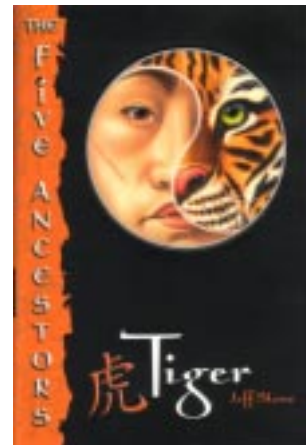


## Pizza party on March 30 celebrates publication of Jeff Stone's first novel

Jeff Stone's story is so interesting and so exciting in so many different ways, it's hard to know where to start.

Jeff Stone's story is of a man who dreams of writing fiction. When this Carmel, Indiana man is laid off from his marketing job, he works in the quiet rooms at the Carmel Clay Public Library to finish up the manuscript and prepare to send it to a literary agent. The agent soon calls back to say that five big New York publishing companies are interested in the proposed series. Random House wins the auction, and *Tiger* (\$15.95), published this week, is the first in Stone's extraordinary seven-book deal. Foreign rights have been sold in Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. It's the kind of

*continued inside* ➔



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1323 S. Rangeline Rd  
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fax: 317-705-1402

staff@themysterycompany.com

www.themysterycompany.com

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## Calendar

### Wednesday, March 30, 6:30 pm

**Jeff Stone**, first novelist and Carmel resident, visits to talk about and sign copies of *Tiger*. The book is aimed at boys 10 and up, but girls will find it of interest as well. Bring your kids; we'll have a pizza party with the author beginning at 6:30 pm. At 7:00 pm, he'll talk about and sign copies of his book.

### Wednesday, April 6, 7 pm

"A Mystery Mt. Rushmore: Which Faces Belong?" Four mystery writers, **Luisa Buehler**, **Alex Matthews**, **S.D. Tooley** and **Mary Welk**, lead a discussion culminating in a vote.

### Wednesday, April 20, 7 pm

**Susan Wittig Albert** visits to talk about and sign copies of her books, including her new China Bayles novel, *Dead Man's Bones*.

### Saturday, April 23, 2 pm

**Kit Ehrman** and **Beverle Graves Myers** visit to talk about "Non-traditional sleuths and settings" and sign copies of their books.

**Wednesday, April 27, 7 pm.** Discussion: *One Virgin Too Many* by Lindsey Davis

**Thursday, April 28, noon.** Discussion: *One Virgin Too Many* by Lindsey Davis

### Tuesday, May 3, noon

Lunch with **Sharan Newman**. See inside for details.

### Thursday, May 12, 7 pm

Edgar Award winner **David Ellis** visits to talk about and sign copies of his books, including *In the Company of Liars*, a thriller told in reverse chronological order.

### Saturday, May 14, 3 pm

Our first **Masters of Mystery** discussion. See inside for details

### Tuesday, May 31, 7 pm

**Patricia Harwin** visits to talk about and sign copies of her books *Arson and Old Lace* and *Slaying Is Such Sweet Sorrow*.

### Thursday, June 16, 7 pm

**Judith Skillings** visits to talk about and sign copies of her books *Dead End* and *Dangerous Curves*, books one and two in a series about a woman who runs a car restoration business.

deal that writers everywhere dream of. Stone is living the dream.

Jeff Stone's story is of a lifelong interest in martial arts. Stone practices kung fu daily, and in June he will travel to the Shaolin Temple in China to test for his black belt. Martial arts play a big part in Stone's Five Ancestors series. Each of the boys in his novels has mastered a different kung fu animal fighting style, a style that reflects that animal's personality and body type.

Jeff Stone's story is of a man who was adopted as an infant. Stone began searching for his birth mother when he was 18, and found her 15 years later. Each of the boys in the Five Ancestors series is himself an orphan, When the temple in which they've been raised and trained is destroyed, each must set out on his own to figure out his past in order to save their future.



Finally, and most importantly, Jeff Stone's story, *Tiger*, is a fast-paced and fun adventure story. Set in 17th century China, the novel begins with the destruction of the Cangzhen Temple and the looting of secret dragon scrolls. Five boys hide from the invaders, who are led by Ying, a former student of Cangzhen who is obsessed with the past. The five boys flee with instructions from the temple's Grandmaster to look into the past and change Ying's heart. In *Tiger*, we follow Fu, a 12-year-old who struggles to heed Grandmaster's admonition against violence as he sets out on his difficult journey.

The Five Ancestors series is aimed at boys 10 and up, but boys and girls older and younger will be caught-up in the adventure. Booklist's review notes: "The slam-bang, pedal-to-the-metal adventure stands a good chance of luring kids away from video games; they will definitely line up for the forthcoming sequel," while School Library Journal says, "Teens are likely to warm to the implicit theme that each person has a particular destiny, an inborn sense of identity that must be brought to light." My daughter, 10, and I both enjoyed it tremendously, and we certainly agree with Booklist; we're dying to read the sequel, *Monkey*, which will be published in September.

To celebrate the publication of *Tiger*, we'll be hosting a pizza party with Jeff Stone on Wednesday, March 30, beginning at 6:30 pm. At 7:00 pm, Stone will talk briefly about his work, and will answer questions. Following the Q&A, he'll sign books. This event is definitely meant for kids of all ages; everyone is welcome.

The timing — on the eve of spring break — is perfect. We can't think of a better book to send with your family on vacation than *Tiger*. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this major event in kids' book publishing and in discovering an exciting new series.

For more information, you should visit the very cool series website, located at: [www.fiveancestors.com](http://www.fiveancestors.com). You'll find some background on the historical setting, a test to see which animal spirit matches your personality and more.

**Can't make it in to the store? We offer free standard shipping on all orders delivered to US addresses. Call, email or visit our website to shop at home!**

## Wednesday, April 6, 7 pm: A Mystery Mt. Rushmore

On April 6, four writers — Luisa Buehler, Alex Matthews, S.D. Tooley and Mary Welk, who travel together as the Mystery Mavens — will lead a discussion on "A Mystery Mt. Rushmore: Which Faces Belong?"

"Carved into the rocky wall of Mt. Rushmore are the faces of four exalted American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. If there was a Mt. Rushmore featuring the faces of the greatest mystery writers past and present, which four authors would YOU nominate to appear there? Join the Mystery Mavens for an evening of lively discussion, then vote for the candidates who you believe belong on a Mystery Mt. Rushmore."

Luisa Buehler is the author of two novels in a series about Grace Marsden, *The Rosary Bride: A Cloistered Death* (Echelon Press, \$11.99) and *The Lion Tamer: A Caged Death* (Echelon, \$14.99). *Rosary* is set at a Catholic women's college and involves a skeleton in the library walls, a haunting apparition and underground tunnels. Barbara D'Amato writes: "My favorite kind of book — old sins cast long shadows. When a long-dead woman is found behind the fireplace at Regina College, new crimes begin to happen. *The Rosary Bride* is suspenseful and poignant."

Alex Matthews is the author of seven novels featuring psychotherapist Cassidy McCabe. The series began with *Secret's Shadow* (Intrigue Press, \$5.50); the latest is *Wedding's Widow* (Intrigue, \$24.95). In *Shadow*, a client apparently commits suicide and his note blames Cassidy McCabe. Booklist writes: "This series, set in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, uses local color well and profits from an appealing heroine."

Indiana author S.D. Tooley publishes under two names, Tooley and Lee Driver. As Tooley, she writes a series about Detective Sergeant Samantha Casey, who has "an advantage over other cops. The dead speak to her, tell her secrets about their life and death. But sometimes what she learns can get her killed." The latest in this series is *Restless Spirit* (\$22.95). As Lee Driver, she writes series featuring private detective Chase Dagger, "who seems to inherit the most unusual cases." Latest in this series is *The Unseen* (\$21.95), which recently won a Reader's Choice Award in the Best Mystery/Fantasy/Paranormal category.

Mary Welk's latest is *The Scarecrow Murders* (Hilliard & Harris, \$16.95), fourth in her series about nurse Caroline Rhodes. It's a Halloween mystery set on the campus of Bruck University, where Rhodes' son has been blackmailed by the university president into joining the school's new football team. The president invites an all-female rodeo to entertain alums during the Halloween weekend homecoming festivities.

We have a poster up in the store now on which you can enter early nominations for Mystery's Mt. Rushmore.

## Coming in May: Sharan Newman on The Real History Behind The Da Vinci Code

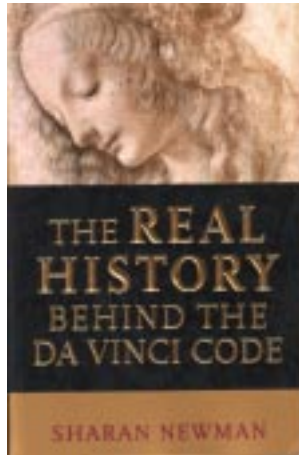
In addition to all the events listed on the front page of this newsletter, we are also looking forward to May 2-3, when medievalist and mystery writer Sharan Newman — one of our favorite writers — will be here in Indianapolis.

In addition to her very fine series of medieval mysteries set in

12th century France featuring Catherine LeVendeur — the latest is *The Witch in the Well* (Forge, \$24.95), for which she's just won the Bruce Alexander Award for best historical mystery of 2004 — Newman is also the author of *The Real History Behind The Da Vinci Code* (Berkley, \$15.00), a nonfiction companion to Dan Brown's bestseller. As both a medievalist and an accomplished novelist, Newman is uniquely able to fill in the background and shed light on some of the mysteries of the Dark Ages.

Newman will be speaking at the Nora Branch of the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library on Monday, May 2 at 4 pm and again at 7 pm. Both appearances are free and open to all. We'll be on hand to sell copies of Newman's books.

We're also making arrangements for a luncheon with Newman here in the store on Tuesday, May 3 at noon. This will be a ticketed event that includes both a boxed lunch and a copy of one of her books — your choice of *The Real History Behind the Da Vinci Code* or one of the first three Catherine LeVendeur mysteries (*Death Comes As Epiphany*, *The Devil's Door* or *The Wandering Arm*). Tickets will be \$26 (\$24 for members of our frequent buyer's discount program), and we are taking reservations now. Seating will be limited.



## Friends & Neighbors

*Company Members can get an early look at forthcoming books through our Friends & Neighbors program. We offer a selection of advance reading copies of new mysteries. You may borrow one ARC at a time without charge. All we ask is that you return the ARC with your comments about the book and that you allow us to use your comments in the store, on the web and in our newsletter.*

*This review is by Larry D. Sweazy*

### Dead is Forever by David Cray

Carroll & Graf, \$25.00

*Dead is Forever* is a departure for David Cray, veteran author of several hardboiled novels under this name and as Stephen Solomita. It introduces PI Phillip Beckett into a milieu that harks back to Rex Stout's sophisticated locked room mysteries.

Beckett, a high society dropout with a trust fund, takes a case from his ice queen sister. Count Sergio D'Allese, a cousin by marriage, has a bad gambling debt that needs taken care of before it embarrasses the family. The debt is easily addressed after Beckett and his girlfriend set up the illegal casino that duped the count. All is well until D'Allese turns up dead, and Beckett himself becomes the lead suspect. Beckett has no choice but to dig deeper into the family business than he wants to. He finds more secrets than he ever dreamed existed.

*Dead is Forever* shows Cray at his best with a strong narrative voice, sardonic humor, and a nice touch of spicy romance added into the mix.

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# MASTERS OF MYSTERY

## Today's Pros on Yesterday's Prose

In May, we are launching a new discussion series. We have invited today's mystery writers to come in and lead discussions on classic mystery novels that are important to them and influenced their work. We're looking forward to this opportunity not only to connect (or reconnect) with genre classics, but also to learn more about today's writers and how they view their influences.

For the first seven sessions of this series, we've invited seven distinguished Hoosier writers to choose their classics and lead the discussions. Discussions will take place in the store on the second Saturday of each month at 3 pm. Refreshments will be served.

We'll have copies of all the discussion books available for purchase in the store shortly. We'll also have copies of books by our discussion leaders, and you'll have an opportunity to get books signed at the end of each session.

Reservations are not required, and there's no commitment to attend every month. Come join us when you can, and come prepared to participate in what we expect will be lively and enlightening conversations about mystery classics and why they remain important, influential and entertaining today.

The lineup, with details about the first two discussions. (We'll fill in the rest in subsequent newsletters.)

### May 14 - Jeanne M. Dams on

*Gaudy Night* by Dorothy Sayers, the enormously influential 1935 novel in the Peter Wimsey/Harriett Vane series about life choices that are still at issue today. Jeanne M. Dams is the author of two

beloved series, the Dorothy Martin series set in England and the Hilda Johanssen series set in turn of the century South Bend.

### June 11 - Terence Faherty on

*The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler, the 1939 first novel that stands as a cornerstone of hardboiled private eye fiction and the basis for the Humphrey Bogart/Lauren Bacall film. Indianapolis writer Terence Faherty has won two Shamus Awards for his Scott Elliott series, and has earned two nominations for Edgar Awards (including one this year) for his Owen Keane series.

### July 9 - Monette Michaels on

*The Moonspinners* by Mary Stewart

### August 13 - Roberta Gellis on

*Some Buried Caesar* by Rex Stout

### September 10 - Tony Perona on

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

### October 8 - Michael Koryta on

*The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler

### November 12 - Sara Hoskinson Frommer on

*The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy Sayers

### December 10 - Phil Dunlap on

*The Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman



317-705-9711  
 toll-free: 800-643-6737  
 www.themysterycompany.com

**THE MYSTERY COMPANY**  
 1323 S. Rangeline Rd  
 Carmel, IN 46032

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Carmel writer  
 Jeff Stone visits  
 on Wednesday,  
 March 30!**

## Notes & comments

We celebrated our second anniversary earlier this month. It's hard to believe that another year has flown by. We've really enjoyed the opportunity to host an amazing lineup of author events, receptions and discussion groups, and to talk books with you every day.

When we look back on what we've accomplished over the past year — 27 in-store events with 67 writers (including five who are nominated for Edgar Awards this year and one who has won a Spur Award), plus 24 discussion groups and a bunch of off-site events — we're exhausted just thinking about



it. But we feel exhilarated too, with what we've been able to accomplish and with our plans for the coming year. We have a nice schedule of author events already booked for the spring, beginning with Jeff Stone next week. And we're especially looking forward to our new Masters of Mystery discussion series. (See inside this newsletter for details.)

This is a challenging business and retail climate. Folks ask all the time how we're doing. It's not easy to figure out the answer. We are under where we expected to be in sales, and under where we need to be to be sure of survival. On the other hand, our business is growing every month. As long as it keeps growing, and more and more people are finding us, we know we'll be ok in the long run. It's making it to the long run that's the challenge.

Two and a half years ago, when we were making plans and looking for a storefront, I was talking with a publisher's sales rep about how few good choices there are around here and how hard it was to pick. She said that as soon as we were in a location, we'd know what we did wrong. At the time, I thought that was great advice. Since landing here on Rangeline Road, however, we still haven't figured out what we did wrong. Now, in the last nine months our lease, the question is taking on some urgency. We're determined to make this work; whether it's in this location or another is still not clear. Let us know what you think!



*Indiana writers Phil Dunlap and Tony Perona joined us for our second anniversary celebration on March 5. Left to right (standing): Jaci, Phil, Edna, Tony, Rebecca and Sherry; (seated): Jennie & Jim*

— Jim