

February 2010 Continues ...

Volume 18 Number 2

## Dr. Linda Reid

Signing *Dead Air*  
Saturday, February 6, 2:00 PM

Meet Los Angeles physician/writer Dr. Linda Reid on Saturday, February 6, at 2:00 PM, discussing and signing her thriller, *Dead Air*. Ellsford College student Sammy Greene hosts a show on the campus radio station, and takes her budding career in journalism seriously. When Sammy discovers the body of an esteemed professor, and more mysterious deaths follow, she investigates. (See our website for a review.) Dr. Reid will not be accompanied by her writing partner, Dr. Shlian, but she will be in conversation with Barbara Whitesides. Barbara's career as a radio newscaster and talk show host on some of the biggest radio stations spanned 35 years. At present, she is a columnist for *Northwoods* magazine in Northern California.

## Jeffrey Siger

Signing *Assassins of Athens*  
Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 PM

*Publishers Weekly's* review of *Assassins of Athens* begins, "Beware of Greeks bearing grudges, especially when they're as rich, resourceful and ruthless as the killers who dog Athens Chief Insp. Andreas Kaldis in Siger's speedboat-paced second mystery." Jeffrey Siger, who introduced Kaldis in last year's popular *Murder in Mykonos*, which is a best-selling thriller in several countries, including Greece, returns to MG on Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 PM.

## Lisa McMann and Becca Fitzpatrick

Signing *Gone* and *Hush Hush*  
Thursday, February 11, 7:00 PM

Do you dream of death or fallen angels? If so, our Thursday, February 11 event is for you! If not, we suspect after meeting Lisa McMann and Becca Fitzpatrick for their 7:00 PM discussion, your dreams will be affected. *Gone* is the final chapter in the trilogy that includes best-sellers *Wake* and *Fade*. Janie believes that Cabal is too precious to risk, and rather than endanger him through their relationship, thinking she knows what the future holds, she resolves to leave. The idea for a character who dreams other people's dreams came to Lisa when she dreamed that she was watching her husband's dream. Lisa will also offer hints about her forthcoming young adult and middle grade books.

Debut author Becca always knew that she'd have a bad boy love interest in her book – it just took her a while to figure out that Patch's big secret was being a fallen angel. In *Hush Hush*, Nora Grey finds herself reluctantly yielding to her best friend's pressure and considering a romantic life with her mysterious science lab partner, not realizing her choice will place her in the middle of a battle between ultimate good and ultimate evil. *Crescendo* will continue the story this fall.

## Kelli Stanley

Signing *City of Dragons*  
Friday, February 12, 7:00 PM

Bruce Alexander Award Winner Stanley's new novel, *City of Dragons*, earned a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, which described it as a "stunner." Kelli transports readers back 70 years to San Francisco's celebration in February 1940. As Miranda Corbie, private investigator, Spanish Civil War nurse and ex-escort watches the Rice Bowl Party festivities, she witnesses the murder of a young man. When his race and criminal affiliations mean the police are not interested in pursuing the killer, she takes on the cause herself, a trail that will lead through her city and all its contradictions. Meet author, comic book lover and jazz lover Kelli on Friday, February 12, at 7:00 PM.



Mysterious Galaxy is an independently owned and operated bookstore and a part of the IndieBound Community ([indiebound.org](http://indiebound.org))

## Southern California Writers' Conference

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Presidents' Day Weekend, February 12 – 15

Writers in progress should join MG at the **24th Annual Southern California Writers' Conference** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley from Friday, February 12 to Monday, February 15. Instructors at this year's intensive workshop convention include (subject to change): T. Greenwald, Kirsten Imani Kasai, David Mathison, Teresa Burrell, Michele Scott, Ken Kuhlken, Alan Russell, Selden Edwards, and many more familiar names from the literary field. For more information, visit their website: [www.writersconference.com](http://www.writersconference.com).

## Michael Shea and Cody Goodfellow

Signing *The Extra* and *Silent Weapons for Quiet Wars*  
Saturday, February 13, 2:00 PM

MG offers an afternoon of chills and horror and fiction as commentary with a duo of authors on Saturday, February 13, at 2:00 PM. Multiple award-winner Michael Shea has two recent books, Hollywood satire novel, *The Extra*, and Lovecraftian story collection, *Copping Squid and Other Mythos Tales*. *The Extra* is the first in a trilogy, expanded from his short story of the same name. In the near future, Hollywood extras desperate for work will agree to work as "red shirts," to borrow from classic "Star Trek," in live-action reality shows – where the on-screen deaths are real. The incentive? In a world where class warfare has become even more pronounced, these extras have a chance at upward mobility.

Publisher and author Cody Goodfellow will discuss his new collection, *Silent Weapons for Quiet Wars* (not the conspiracy theory document). Cody's literary contemporary horror regularly receives acclaim. This compilation of 15 short stories, mostly set in the familiar environs of Southern CA, includes tales of border crossings, mad scientists, and fame (tying in nicely with *The Extra*). Cody will also offer a sneak peek at his new novel, *Perfect Union*.

## Joan Brady

A Valentine Celebration with *The Ghost of Mt. Soledad*  
Sunday, February 14, 1:00 PM

Love is in the air when best-selling romance author Joan Brady visits for a Valentine's Day book-signing of her mystical new love story, *The Ghost of Mt. Soledad*. Opera Patisserie will be providing some of their delicious French pastries to sweeten the deal, and beverages will be available! Joan's best-selling debut novel, *God on a Harley*, is familiar to many locals.

Brady's new novel tells the story of Margaret Duran, a San Diego journalist who accepts an assignment to write an article about the so-called "Soledad Cross controversy." While researching the piece, Margaret, middle-aged and never-married, visits the mountaintop war memorial where she finds herself confronted by a handsome young man who tells her he is the ghost of an American soldier who died in WWII—and claims to have shared a past life with her. Terrified, Margaret begins to doubt her sanity, but the charismatic ghost takes her on an enchanting odyssey into an eerily familiar past. Before long, Margaret realizes that she will have to choose between the "sane and satisfactory life" she has built for herself and the love of a ghost who just might be her soul mate. Join us on Sunday, February 14, at 1:00 PM.

## Dana Stabenow

Signing *A Night Too Dark*  
Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM

*A Night Too Dark*, the 17<sup>th</sup> Kate Shugak mystery by Dana Stabenow, explores the change that has come to the local residents, human and otherwise, with the establishment of the Suulutaq Mine. Kate must walk a fine line between her job as a licensed P.I., when asked by State Trooper Jim Chopin to investigate the bear-related death of a man from the mine, and her relationship with the mine and its parent company in her role as leader of the local Native Association. (See Maryelizabeth's review on our web site.) Dana will discuss the realities of Alaska's contemporary gold rush and its effect

*Events continue on the back page*

on the state's residents, Robert Frost, and what's going on with the Kate Shugak TV series, when she visits on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 PM. She will also have some giveaways for attendees.

## A Special One Book, One San Diego Event With Warren St. John

At Isabel's Cantina  
Thursday, February 18, 6:30 PM

Warren St. John, the author of *Outcasts United*, will appear at Isabel's Cantina with special guests from the International Rescue Committee, San Diego. MG is presenting this event along with fellow local independent booksellers Warwick's, Book Works, and Yellow Book Road. Your \$25 ticket to the event includes a small donation to the One Book One San Diego Program and a portion of all book sales from the event will also be donated to the program.

KPBS, in partnership with the San Diego Public Library, launched One Book, One San Diego, a campaign designed to educate and enlighten on topics and themes of concern to our community and promote reading as a source of pleasure and enrichment. One Book is designed to meet the shared interests of our listeners, viewers and members in books and storytelling, giving them the opportunity to participate in dialogue addressing important issues.

## Looking Ahead in 2010

It's going to be a great year ...

- ◎ **More in February:** Jim Kakalios – February 19; Melinda Wells – February 20; Kate Carlisle – February 20; Amber Benson – February 23; Joanne Fluke – February 27; ConDor with GOH C.J. Cherryh – February 26 – 28
- ◎ **Check out March so far:** Karl Alexander – March 3; Chris Marie Green – March 4; Linda Thomas-Sundstrom – March 4; Killer Party – March 11; Kenneth Wisnia – March 12; The Tucson Festival of Books – March 13 & 14; Blake Charlton – March 14; Thomas Kaufman – March 15; David Rosenfelt – March 16; Lisa Lutz – March 18; Robert Levinson – March 20; David Corbett – March 22
- ◎ **You will love April:** Jesse Kellerman – April 1; Patricia Briggs – April 7; Jim Butcher – April 9; Christopher Moore – April 10; L.A. Noir and Orange County Noir – April 11; Peter May – April 12; C.J. Box – April 15; Raymond E. Feist – April 16; D.P. Lyle – April 17; Jacqueline Winspear – April 22; The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books – April 24 & 25; Alafair Burke – April 26
- ◎ **And May's planning begins:** MG's 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash with Charlaine Harris – May 8; Robin Hobb – May 14... and more great events and authors as winter ends and spring continues!

## Book Group Discussions

Enhance your reading enjoyment by participating in one of our lively book discussions with Fearless Leader Christine and other genre readers. Participation is open to all readers, whether you've "done the reading assignment" or are curious about whether you should add a particular title to your own To Be Read pile. Check the Events Section of our web site for reminders and date changes. Current titles slated for discussion in the near future are:

*My Soul to Keep* by Tananarive Due on **Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 PM.**

*Time After Time* by Karl Alexander on **Wednesday, March 3, at 7:00 PM.**

*L.A. Outlaws* by T. Jefferson Parker on **Wednesday, March 24, at 7:00 PM.**

*The Accidental Sorcerer* by K.E. Mills on **Wednesday, April 14, at 7:00 PM.**

Sign up for our special Book Group editions of *The Virtual Plot* by modifying your profile.

Remember, MG is happy to arrange for books in quantity with reader's guides and more for book group members. Ask us for more details!

## Rave Reviews

### Galileo's Dream by Kim Stanley Robinson

In Stan Robinson's dream, Galileo was visited by far-future humans, inhabitants of the Jovian moons, who occasionally guided him in his experiments and sometimes brought him forward to their time to visit his discoveries. The question is with all of this meddling: will the time-line be altered? And will Galileo allow himself to be used as a pawn in their future machinations?

In addition to trips forward in time, we are also treated to Galileo's life and times, and his battles against the dogmas of his day. Seek truth and face the consequences ... and the inquisition ... or be safe and accept the status quo?

Stan's writing is such that I often doubted what I remembered from my history of science courses, and I often found myself wanting to consult those texts. What is real and what is Stan? Only an author of Stan's ability can write history and make it his own, and make it this believable. Ballantine Books, \$26.00. Signed copies available, while they last. – PMH

### Gutshot Straight by Lou Berney

Charles "Shake" Bouchon just got out of jail. He vows to go straight. He manages to set a speed record for getting into trouble again. The day starts out relatively simple. Deliver a package, pick up a suitcase. Then, you know, s\*\*\* starts hitting the proverbial fan.

Shake double-crosses former lover and Armenian crime boss Alexandra Ilandryan. Rips off Las Vegas strip club owner Dick "The Whale" Moby. Rescues obligatory gorgeous girl in trunk, Gina Clement. Gets ripped off by gorgeous girl in trunk.

Is this any way to begin a new life? Can romance bloom between an ex-con and a gorgeous stripper when the relationship begins with handcuffs and double-crosses? Will Shake ever be able to realize his dream of starting a restaurant? What about Gina's dream of owning a high-end dry cleaning business? And what does all of this have to do with some very unusual, very valuable religious artifacts they need to unload posthaste?

I highly recommend this crime caper to those of you looking for my kind of humor (dark), action (lots of chasing around), exotic locales (Panama is exotic to me!), devious and creepy henchmen, and entertaining romantic tension where the girl is a smarty pants and her lover knows when he's in over his head but enjoys the benefits. I'm ready for another Shake-Up. Get your signed copy here. Morrow, \$24.99. – LNT

### Black Magic Sanction by Kim Harrison

As a shunned witch, Rachel Mariana Morgan is unable to shop in most stores or purchase supplies for her charms. After an altercation in a grocery store with an unidentified witch, Rachel is really in trouble. The soft-spoken witch was a representative of the coven of moral and ethical standards – the coven who arranged to have Rachel shunned. In response to the coven's threat, Trent has drafted a contract tying Rachel to Kalamack Industries exclusively and forever. Of course, Rachel refuses to sign the document or believe that Trent is trying to help her. Released from FIB headquarters, Rachel is transported by ley line to the west coast and the coven. Without a trial, the witches send her to Alcatraz where she is faced with a chemical lobotomy, a surgical lobotomy, or the removal of her ovaries. How did the coven learn she was both a witch and a demon and that her children would be demons?

Pulled out of isolation for a meeting with coven member Brooke, Rachel is transported home – by Nick. Her ex-boyfriend is helping her? Every time Rachel is summoned her plans are altered. The interruptions cause twists and turns which keep the reader guessing. Algaliarept, Rachel's demon teacher, assigns Gordion Nathaniel Pierce to protect her. A couple of the coven members appear to have their own agenda and it is beginning to look like the coven of moral and ethical standards in neither moral nor ethical. In an attempt to end her shunning and get Trent to leave her alone, Rachel is forced to come up with a questionable and dangerous plan – steal from Trent. With Ivy out of the picture and Nick helping her, Rachel's nerves are on edge. Personalities clash and verbal slings and arrows abound. I wanted the book to last forever, but unable to put it down, stampeded through the story. Rachel's escapades in this book surpass the previous books. I cannot wait to see what happens in the next installment. HarperCollins, \$25.99.

– Guest Reviewer Sandra Hale

Find more reviews on our web site  
[www.mystgalaxy.com](http://www.mystgalaxy.com)