

Denver, Colorado March 6-9, 2008

LCC 2008 Quick Updates

- Price increase takes effect 11/16/07 – tell your friends to register now!
- LCC Programs added including a Ski Day, an LCC Party bus, and a tour of The Stanley Hotel and Estes Park!
- LCC2008 Yahoo group added! Contact Pari Noskin Taichert at ptaichert@comcast.net for details.

Registration: \$165 before 11/16/07, then \$185 until 2/1/07. After 2/1/07 - \$205

Hotel: Adam's Mark Denver \$139 single/double \$149 + www.adamsmark.com/denver

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The View from a Mile High

Greetings from Roctober, where our wild Colorado Rockies are preparing to play for their first World Series ever and the aspens are bright yellow. The air is getting cooler here but the mood is hot. Go Rox!

This month we look at some of Denver's more notorious crimes in preparation for the LCC Party bus, which will take participants on a tour of those sites on Thursday evening of the conference. This is sure to be a don't miss event so include it in your LCC plans.

Next, D.A. Davenport gives us the inside scoop on all things BOOKS in Denver. From the landmark Tattered Cover to the quaint Murder by the Book to the hidden gems found in The Denver Book Mall, she covers them all.

On page three, LCC Celebrity Chef Joanne Pence dishes on her delicious mysteries as well as what she's got planned for LCC, including the Alfred E. Packer Memorial Banquet.

Then, to help you understand those native Coloradoans when you arrive, our Top Ten list on page 4 focuses on

some favorite Colorado terms. Do you really know what a Rocky Mountain Oyster is? (Hint: Maybe you're better off not knowing!)

And finally, we offer program and panel updates as well as the latest author watch on page 4. Did you see that C.J. Box is coming?!

Until next month, enjoy the perfect season that is autumn with a good book and a cup of warm cider.

Lori Lacefield

Denver's Most Notorious Crimes

On Thursday night of LCC 2008, we'll be taking a party bus to some of the sites of Denver's most notorious crimes. Here's a preview of what to expect.

Alan Berg Murder

On June 18, 1984, Jewish liberal talk show host Alan Berg was gunned down in the driveway of his home next to his Volkswagen Beetle. While no one was ever convicted, a group called The Order, a white nationalist organization, was suspected. Actor/writer/director Eric Bogosian adapted the story of Berg's death into a play, which was later adapted into the Oliver Stone directed 1988 film Talk Radio.

United Bank Robbery

On June 16, 1991, a man entered the United Bank of Denver and killed four guards before escaping with \$200K in cash. Ex-cop and ex-bank guard James King was arrested and tried for the killings, but local defense avenger Walter Gerash blew holes in the crucial eyewitness identification of King. Called the Father's Day Massacre, the crime remains unsolved.

Adolph Coors Murder

On February 9, 1960, beer magnate Adolph Coors, III leaves his house in Morrison, Co en route to the family's Coors Brewery in Golden. At 8:15 am, a resident living near Turkey Creed Road

spots Coors' truck running on the bridge. The Sheriff's department is called and a cap, hat, and pair of glasses are found at the scene. The next day, a ransom note demanding \$500K arrives addressed to Mrs. Adolph Coors, III. A month later, people are telling the police to look for Joseph Corbett, Jr, a man convicted of murder in California in 1951 and an escapee from the California Institution for Men in 1955. Once the police find the rest of Mr. Coors more than six months later, Joseph Corbett is arrested and convicted.

Want more? Plan to get your favorite beverage and hop aboard the LCC Party Bus!

Things to do in Denver when you're DEAD

(Dehydrated, Emaciated, an in need of Diversion!)

Hello again, from the Mile High City! Let's talk BOOKS! After all, that's what is bringing all of us together for a fine, few days.

Denverites love books...buses, cafes, coffeehouses... everywhere you go here, people have their noses buried in books, and when they can't read, they have CD's playing in the car. The last one I listened to on the way to my daily drudgery - secret, smugly, smiling at the sick

slaughter - was Darkly, Dreaming, Dexter. (Sorry, I felt alliteration was called for there!) We just plain love to read. And our bookstores prove that love of the written word is far from Dead in Denver.

Of course, we know you'll want to buy many books from the bookstores selling at LCC, but in case you're searching for more, bracketing the 16th Street Mall is The Tattered Cover on Blake St., and Barnes

and Noble one block north from the Adam's Mark Hotel. For a quick jaunt, they are perfect, with huge selections.

But, as most of us know, the fun is in the search for the perfect addition to our collections, and that is where Denver's RTD buses come in handy, especially the 0 bus. Hop on the 0 at the station one block south of the hotel and get off at 1st St. There, between 1st and Ellsworth St. are two wonderful bookstores



RTD URL for those interested in specific schedules and routes:
www.rtd-denver.com

- The Fahrenheit and The Denver Book Mall. Both offer used books, run by fabulous booklovers with a passion for literature and bringing it to the public. And for those that collect Pulp Fiction in all its forms, Fahrenheit's the place for you. They have a whole 10 foot section dedicated to Pulp. The rarer books are wrapped in plastic for protection and waiting for a loving home. Terrific stores with great proprietors. Sadly, rising

rents may force some of them to move by then, but I will keep you posted on new addresses.

Further down Broadway, still using the 0 bus to the 1400 block, are three delicious bookstores. Gallagher Books also has Pulp novels on the shelves when they are available, and a nice selection of rare books, Americana, and maps. Also along that stretch of Broadway is The Book Keep and Books Unlimited. They both have a great general

selection of books and Books Unlimited has been a Denver MUST for 20 years. Perfect for collectors of all kinds.

Still going along the 0 bus and connecting with the 12 bus to Pearl and Iowa, you will find that sweet little crime book store, Murder by the Book at 1574 S. Pearl St. This is a regular signing stop for authors on tour and Pearl St. offers additional great shopping and cafes.

If you want a short walk

FAB site listing all the used bookstores of note:
www.rmaba.org

ending in a terrific 3000 square foot store, go south a block or two to Colfax Avenue, then walk east to 300 East Colfax, where you will find Capitol Hill Books. Fun people and a huge selection, and not too far too haul all those purchases back to the Adam's Mark. Of course, any of these stores are just a quick taxi

ride away too! That's just the tip of the iceberg, and the closest ones to get to. Enjoy!

Bring that spare suitcase with you. It won't leave empty.

Next time...restaurants, pubs, and clubs!!

Best, D.A. Davenport



Q&A With Celebrity Chef Joanne Pence

This month we talk to LCC Celebrity Chef Joanne Pence.

Q: Joanne, how long have you been writing the Angie Amalfi series and how did you decide on her as a character?

A: I've written fourteen Angie Amalfi mysteries, one a year beginning in 1993. That seems so long ago! My main idea for Angie was to make her very different from many of the female sleuths popular at the time I first conceived of her (late 80's). Lots of them were loners, they were "curious"—by that I mean they went around asking people about cases, and many had more-or-less dysfunctional relationships. Angie has a large Italian family with four older sisters, and there's lots of love in the family although they often have their "differences" as families do. She doesn't want to get involved in mysteries or crime because she's too busy with her life—mainly trying to find a career that will make her family (especially her father) proud, and for the first ten books, trying to get her somewhat reluctant boyfriend, Homicide Inspector Paavo Smith, to propose. Paavo is reluctant only because he believes he's wrong for Angie, even though he does love her.



The books are a mixture of a somewhat droll, urbane humor which surrounds Angie and whatever she's up to in the story; a grittier, darker edge in the police procedural side which Paavo Smith is investigating; and then "something" that causes the two elements to intertwine and (hopefully) all work together in the end.

Q: You say on your website that you aren't a gourmet chef. What made you decide to write culinary mysteries then?

A: As I mentioned, the books have a humorous side. In the very first book, Angie, who actually is a gourmet cook, was a food columnist—or, at least, that's how she saw herself. Actually, she wrote a tiny column that was filler in an "advertiser" filled with ads and coupons and delivered free to households twice a week. She printed recipes from readers, and one of her frequent contributors used the recipes as a way to get coded messages out to his conspirators. So it was the newspaper and the fake

recipes (some of which were truly awful) that were important. I wrote the book as a "stand alone", not as a series, and I didn't even know there was such a thing as a "culinary mystery" sub-genre. When my editor contacted me and asked for a second book with the same characters, and added, "And you will be serious about food in the next book, won't you?" no one was more surprised than I. Of course I said, "Yes!" And immediately began to buy cookbooks.

Q: Are there other conferences that you attend? What do you think makes LCC unique?

A: Although I've attended a number of Bouchercons, several Malice Domestics, Novelists' Inc., RWA, and many number of smaller conferences throughout the country, the ones I most often attend and most enjoy are Left Coast Crime and Murder in the Grove. The latter takes place in Boise, Idaho, where I now live. Since 2005, I've been on the conference committee. It's a great, small conference, and Idaho is a beautiful state.

I believe one of the reasons Left Coast Crime is special is that it moves to a new location each year, and no two conferences are alike. It's always fresh, always fun.

Q: What's your role with LCC 2008 and what plans do you have for the event? Are you playing a role in the Alferd E. Packer Banquet?

A: My role is pure fun. I'm the "Celebrity Chef." I tell you, Angie Amalfi would be proud—and probably very jealous. As far as the banquet, have you ever wanted to have a mystery writer for dinner? This will be your chance. Literally. Good old Alferd made Hannibal Lecter look like a piker! I can't reveal much about the plans, but let's say goose flesh should be the order of the day, with a bit of steak tartar, or juicy liver served very rare... No we'll refrain from that, but whatever the final result is, it'll be fun.

Q: What are your fans most frequent questions for you?

A: The most frequent question, bar none is "When are Angie and Paavo going to get married?" This is usually

followed by a discussion of other sleuth couples who married and how it either ruined or helped the series. My answer, by the way, is that I'm not sure—and I honestly think that with this particular series, for the two of them to marry would hurt the dynamics of the two main characters plus all those who interact with them. So...they aren't going to get married soon.

Q: What's next for you?

A: As much as I love Angie and Paavo and have had great fun writing them, the last few books have started out much longer and darker than what eventually went to print. I write one book a year, and since book ten, I've wanted to take the time to write something longer and darker, but with Angie books under contract, I haven't been able to take the time. So after lengthy conversations with my agent, I'm taking a hiatus to do what I've been thinking about for a long time. I have no idea what the result will be, but whatever the result, I'm enjoying the break. At the same time, I wouldn't be surprised if Angie doesn't demand to have another story told. And if she does, I'll be sure to listen to her.

Top Ten Colorado Terminology



LODO – Short for Lower Downtown, this district near Coor’s Field is home to Denver’s most trendy bars, restaurants, lofts, and arrests.

THE KEG – The nickname for Coor’s Field, the home of the Colorado Rockies and baseball with altitude.

THE CAN – The nickname for The Pepsi Center, because we’re apparently all about drinking beverages here.

FOURTEENER – No, that’s not a reference to an under age call girl or the score of a Rockies baseball game. It refers to any mountain greater than 14,000 feet.

SAUDI AURORA – A nickname for the suburban city to Denver’s east which seems as far away and flat as the Middle Eastern country.

THE FOOTHILLS – Refers to the neighborhoods on the west side nestled in the 6,000-8,000 feet range. That’s right. Those are Hills.

NOGUTS – What we call the Denver Nuggets when they lose.

THE DONKEYS – What we call the Denver Broncos when they lose.

TENT CITY – A nickname for the airport, named for its tent-like roof.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER – Er, they’re kind of like real oysters. I dare you to eat one.



Programs, Panels, and Author Watch

Programs:

Wednesday, March 5, Ski Day, Breckinridge, Co. Cost TBA.

Thursday, March 6, LCC Party Bus – Tour Denver’s famous crime sites. \$20ish

Friday, March 7, Surveillance Exercise, 16th St. Mall. Free.

Saturday, March 8, Forensics Track. Free.

Saturday, March 8, Alfred E. Packer Banquet, Auction, and Hawaiian Fashion Contest. Free.

Monday, March 10, the Shining Trip to Estes Park. Cost TBA.

Panels:

Panels to include those hosted by Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, and Sisters in Crime. More specifics will be forthcoming.

Author Watch:

Authors on board for LCC 2008 include Donna Andrews, Rhys Bowen, CJ Box, Steve Brewer, Jan Burke, Colin Campbell, J.T. Ellison, Chris Grabenstein, D.P. Lyle, Rick Mofina, Twist Phelan, Maggie Sefton, and a whole lot more! Check out the participant site on leftcoatsrime.org for the entire list!

Left Coast Crime 2008

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