

For Immediate Release

The Newburyport Literary Festival

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In April, Newburyport is the Scene of the Crime

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Mystery readers love nothing more than a good series. And despite all the challenges that writing a series presents, there are good reasons why mystery authors love them, too. For authors it can provide the opportunity to develop and expand a character over a period of time and to explore deeply all their protagonists' traits, desires, and foibles. At the Newburyport Literary Festival, a trio of authors of much-loved mystery series will talk about how they write their series and how they keep them fresh.

The Mystery of the Serial Sleuths

What it is about a mystery series that makes it work? Is it the main character, the setting, or something else? How do writers develop their central characters over time? Do they plan the whole series at once? What is the biggest challenge in writing a series? Three noted authors of mysteries explore these questions and more in an event sure to enlighten even the most devoted mystery lover.

Linda Barnes has created Carlotta Carlyle, a complex, dynamic former police officer based in the Boston area, where Barnes lives. **Archer Mayor's** Joe Gunther is a Vermont police officer whose skills are informed by the author's own part-time work as a volunteer policeman and firefighter/EMT as well as a death investigator for the Vermont medical examiner. Like author **Dana Cameron**, her sleuth Emma Fielding is a professional archaeologist.

Archer Mayor Reads from *The Second Mouse*

The death of Michelle Fisher strikes Joe Gunther, head of the Vermont Bureau of Investigation, as unusual. But when he calls for her autopsy results, he enters into a political snarl that threatens both his investigation and his relationship with chief medical examiner Beverly Hillstrom. Spinning out parallel storylines, then weaving the strands together with deft precision, Mayor crafts not one but several mysteries in this, his 17th book featuring Joe Gunther.

The *New York Times* calls Archer Mayor “a devil of a plotter.” As death investigator for Vermont's chief medical examiner, a deputy sheriff for the Windham County Police Department, a volunteer firefighter, and the EMT captain of his local rescue squad, Mayor has the experiences to bring depth, detail, and veracity to his characters and their tribulations.

About the festival

The 2007 Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) runs from Friday, April 27, through Sunday, April 29. A three-day celebration of reading, writing, and the love of books, this year's festival features more than 70 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction—including short story writers, children's authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, novelists, and journalists—who will read and discuss their work in venues throughout Newburyport's historic downtown.

The vision of the Newburyport Literary Festival is shared by many individuals and organizations. The NLF is especially grateful for the generous support of our founding sponsors, the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation and the Institution for Savings, who have made it possible for the festival to take root and flourish. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Amesbury Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

All festival events are wheelchair accessible and open to the public. All events are free, except for the opening night gala. For complete information about the festival, including event times and venues, please visit: www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org.