

Librarian's Shelf by Melodee Pedersen

### Interactive Murder Mystery @ Your Library

Less than two weeks remain to get your tickets for what promises to be an unusual evening of entertainment. A Murder Mystery @ the Library, an interactive experience, will be Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

Meander the library, mingle, munch pizza, and try to solve the murder. Beverages, including beer and root beer provided by Duster's, make this an adults-only event, so you must be 21 years old to purchase a ticket, as well as attend that evening.

Tickets are available for \$25 each from the Columbus Art Gallery or from the library's front desk. Space is limited and tickets will NOT be sold at the door, so don't delay! This is a fundraiser for both of the sponsoring groups, the Friends of the Columbus Public Library and the Columbus Arts Council.

To "set the stage", you are in the fictional town of Crooke's Crossing at a gala at the library, and fictional Mayor, Ty D. Proffitz has just been found murdered. Your job is to question the following suspects, played by local community members.

Eve L. Queen, library director, stands out due to her intelligence and driving ambition. Cool and calculating, Eve is conniving to become a member of the City Council. She and Mayor Proffitz are close friends.

Alona N. Bhidder, the reference librarian, is the great-granddaughter of librarian Emma Bhidder, who founded Crooke's Crossing Public Library. Alona distrusts computers and insists on maintaining the library's aging card catalog.

Warman C. Udley, the children's librarian, is a sweet, amiable fellow who delights the youngsters of Crooke's Crossing with his fun-filled weekly story hours. Warman serves yummy snacks baked by his dear, elderly mother.

Alfie Fyle, the library clerk, is Crooke's Crossing's resident computer expert. He is brilliant and ultra-efficient in the office, but shy and awkward when it comes to social situations. Alfie recently helped Mayor Proffitz's wife, Charity, by classifying and organizing her private library.

Charity Proffitz, the wife of Mayor Proffitz, is a tireless philanthropist. A glamorous and vivacious woman, Charity has turned the Mayoral Manor into the high-society hub of Crooke's Crossing. She regularly hosts posh fundraisers to benefit the town's less fortunate citizens.

Petunia Budd, the library's gardener, is a gentle, folksy soul who has faithfully tended her garden for the past twenty years. Her stunning flowerbeds have won high awards from the Petty County Horticultural Society.

Admiral Coyle D. Snaick, a former United States Navy officer, is a local celebrity in Crooke's Crossing due to his series of heroic victories in the Vietnam War. Now retired, Coyle keeps busy by volunteering at the library.

S. Mel Macon, an eccentric bag lady, is the library's most dedicated customer. Mel spends almost every day at the library, looking up weird facts in reference books, reading the latest Harlequin romances, and snoozing in the periodicals reading room.

Lulu Nattik, a local history buff and avid library user, is a truly unique personality. Lulu believes in a "revised" version of the history of Crooke's Crossing in which the town's founder, Lyman "Ly" N. Crooke, is portrayed as a greedy, bloodthirsty monster.

Dusty T. Hoames, an antique book dealer, owns and operates Crooke's Crossing's only used bookstore, Dusty's Musties. Not much is known about Dusty, since he spends most of his time lurking about in dark, creaky archives and sequestered rare book collections.

Don't forget today, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. is the 2012 One Book, One Nebraska program on "I am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice" by Joe Starita in the Art Gallery.