



NEWS RELEASE

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United Feature Syndicate
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHNS Columnist Sharon Randall to Keynote 15th Annual Magna Cum Murder Crime Writing Festival, October 24-26

NEW YORK, July 22, 2008 – Scripps Howard News Service columnist Sharon Randall will serve as the keynote speaker at this year's Magna Cum Murder Crime Writing Festival, October 24-26, in Muncie, Ind. The annual event is marked by a full weekend of programs, panels, interviews, and presentations, and features more than 40 crime fiction authors. At least 300 murder mystery aficionados are expected to register and attend the festival, which is sponsored by Ball State University. More information can be found at www.magnacummurder.com.

Randall will deliver her speech on Saturday night, Oct. 25, at 7pm, but will be active during all three days of the festival. She will participate in panel discussions on Friday and Saturday and will also be a distinguished guest at a Sunday breakfast. Canadian-born best-selling author Louise Penny will be the Guest of Honor for the weekend.

Sharon Randall is an award-winning lifestyle columnist who speaks frequently at conferences and fundraisers, and receives thousands of letters and e-mails each year from readers who connect with her stories. In 1991, she began writing "Bay Window," a personal column about "everyday people and ordinary things," for *The Monterey County Herald* in California. It became extraordinarily popular with readers and SHNS picked it up for syndication in 1994.

The American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors (AASFE), the Associated Press News Executives Council of California and Nevada and "Best of the West" have all honored Randall with awards for her commentary writing. A collection of her columns, *Birdbaths and Paper Cranes: A Family Tale*, was published by Sleeping Bear Press in 2001 and re-released in paperback by Plume Penguin in 2002.

Scripps Howard News Service (www.shns.com) is a tightly edited news service that



offers 80-100 stories daily to more than 400 newspapers and Web sites worldwide through United Media. Scripps Howard News Service is prepared by a Washington, D.C. staff and the daily file includes the best stories from Scripps Howard Newspapers, McClatchy Newspapers and an award-winning roster of contributing newspapers from around the world.

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