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THE DRUE HEINZ LECTURES PRESENTS SARA PARETSKY
CREATOR OF V I WARSHAWSHI DETECTIVE NOVELS
WHO REVOLUTIONIZED THE MYSTERY GENRE

Carnegie Music Hall, Monday, February 18, 7:30pm

Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures is pleased to announce that novelist Sara Paretsky, creator of twelve novels featuring the female detective character, V I Warshawski, will appear at The Drue Heinz Lectures, Monday, February 18, 2008, at the Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland. Ms. Paretsky comes to Pittsburgh following the recent release of a new novel and her fifteenth book, *Bleeding Kansas*. Her lecture is sponsored by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Sara Paretsky will speak on the topic, “My Quest For Heroes: Creating A Writer’s Voice.” The heroine of Paretsky’s detective novels, V I Warshawski, is a groundbreaking figure in the mystery genre. Challenging the conventions of mystery writing in which women were most often portrayed as victims or vamps, Paretsky introduced V I Warshawski as a tough-minded and clever female detective in her first crime novel, *Indemnity Only*, released in 1982. The novel was later adapted into the film *V I Warshawski*, starring Kathleen Turner, released in 1991.

In the eleven successive thrillers, Warshawski’s character develops as an engaging sleuth who defies stereotypes. V I Warshawski has been acclaimed by literary critics as “one of today’s best private eyes”. The fact that she resonates with audiences around the world is proven by the fact that virtually all of Paretsky’s detective novels have been on the *NY Times Bestseller List* and have been translated into over twenty languages.

In a departure from her strong identity as a writer of detective novels characterized by themes of social justice, Sara Paretsky released a collection of five personal essays in 2006. *Writing in an Age of Silence* is a memoir which explores Paretsky’s development as a writer. Her new release and fourteenth novel, *Bleeding Kansas*, is not part of the Warshawski series. Set in the Kaw River Valley of rural Kansas, *Bleeding Kansas* is the saga of two families linked by their Midwestern pioneer roots, yet torn apart by family secrets and opposing values. Paretsky, who grew up in the same area of Kansas, acknowledges in the novel’s forward that she is writing about “the landscapes of childhood” and attitudes she confronted there at an early age.

In 1986, Sara Paretsky founded the organization Sisters in Crime to support women readers and writers in the mystery world. She has endowed several scholarships for women in arts, letters and sciences at the University of Kansas. Paretsky has a doctorate in American History as well as an MBA from the University of Chicago and has received numerous literary awards

Tickets are available to The Drue Heinz Lectures by calling Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures, 412.622.8866, or www.pittsburghlectures.org. Tickets may be purchased for the single lecture with Sara Paretsky at the single ticket prices of \$23; group and student discounts are also available.