

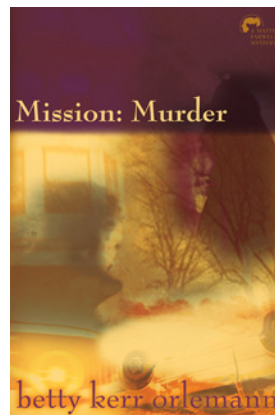
CONTACT:

Mary Shafer, publisher – 610-847-2456 or publisher@wordforgebooks.com

Betty Kerr Orlemann, author – 610-294-9225 or author.bettyo@wordforgebooks.com

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**Octogenarian Author Awarded Silver “IPPY” Medal for
“Mission: Murder,” First Title in New Mystery Series**



Ferndale, Pa. – Word Forge Books is pleased to announce that *Mission: Murder*, first title in the Hattie Farwell Mystery Series from the publisher’s ShadowDance Books imprint, has been awarded the coveted Silver Medal for Best MidAtlantic Regional Fiction in the 2009 annual Independent Publisher Book Awards. Written by Pipersville author Betty Kerr Orlemann, *Mission: Murder* was published last September. The book placed second out of roughly 35 entries in the Fiction category of the Regional contest, which had 710 total entries. Complete competition results are available online at <http://icanhaz.com/ippy>. The “IPPY” Awards is one of the top competitions in American independent publishing.

“We’re tremendously proud of the award, and of Betty,” says Word Forge Books publisher Mary A. Shafer. “This award is one of our industry’s highest honors, and the competition is always fierce. Though books are judged as a whole package—writing, design and editing—it’s a real feather in Betty’s author cap.”

Betty Orlemann has worked as a freelance journalist for years, with regular columns in the now-defunct *Delaware Valley News*, the *Bucks County Herald* and the *Bucks County Courier Times*, for which she covered the criminal courts. Betty first conceived her literary character, Hattie Farwell, while caring for her late husband, Bob during an extended illness. She began work on her mystery novels in 2001. Now, at 81, her books are beginning to achieve recognition at a national level.

Hattie embodies Betty’s belief that, like the author, today’s seniors are vital people with strong beliefs and something of value to say. To date, Betty has completed seven stories in the series. She enjoys time spent with her colleagues from Sisters in Crime, an organization of women mystery writers.

“This is all very exciting,” says Betty of receiving the silver medal. “I love to write and would do it no matter what, but to receive such a prestigious award from a venerated national organization is such a validating experience. It’s so nice to have that nod of recognition from professionals who aren’t easily impressed. It lets me know I’m on the right track!”

Mission: Murder is available from local bookstores, libraries and the publisher's website at wordforgebooks.com. The 360-page, 5.5" x 8.5" softcover book retails for \$12.95. Betty is available for book signings and speaking engagements.

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Full color, high resolution images of the book cover, the author and the award are available for download from the book's online press room at <http://www.bettyorlemann.com/pressroom.html>. The author and publisher are available for interview. Call 610-847-2456 to schedule.