England has Sherlock Holmes, America has Nero Wolfe, and Canada has Chief Inspector Gamache, whose adventures are set in Quebec. For that, we have author Louise Penny to thank.

Louise was born in Toronto, and grew up reading all the classic mystery authors. After graduating from university she worked as a radio host and journalist with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Most of that time, she worked in Winnipeg, producing documentaries and hosting an afternoon radio show.

Louise lost her husband last year to dementia, and those who know her saw her handle this tragedy with grace and thankfulness for the time they had together.

The members of Online Beta had this to say of Louise:

“It’s not just her wonderful writing that makes her a great candidate for International Honorary Member. It is her grace as a person. She is known and honored internationally. She is also kind and friendly and down-to-earth – just like us.”

If you are interested in learning more about this fascinating woman, or want to check out a Chief Inspector Gamache mystery, visit her web site at www.louisepenny.com.
Kim Rhode is just your average girl next door – except that she’s the most decorated female shooter in Olympic history, having won three gold medals, a silver and a bronze at consecutive Olympic games.

And she’s not done yet. Kim is the youngest person to ever represent the United States on the Olympic Shooting Team, and she is the youngest woman from any country in the world to join an Olympic shooting team. She has quite a career left before her!

In fact, she won one of those gold medals while pregnant!

Kim came to the attention of Beta Sigma Phi when she spoke at a local high school. Member Katie Gundersen-Watson’s husband arranged the speech, and “she had those kids wrapped around her little finger.”

But Kim is not just an athlete. When she is able to visit her hometown, she shows interest in local politics, environmental challenges, and conservation and preservation efforts. She’s also now a mom of a little boy, Carter, who she takes on shooting drills when her husband Mike is off with his own activities. Kim is a teacher, wife, mom, role model, competitor, daughter and friend.

Kim is a collector of classic cars, which she works on herself. She also collects guns, including the pistol used to start the race in which Jessie Owens broke the “color barrier” in American sport. She also loves antique dolls, which are scattered throughout her home. On top of all that, she’s a collector of recipes, and is known as a “killer cook.”

She was nominated by California Preceptor Beta Kappa, who made her an honorary chapter member in 2013. They got to know her better when she hosted another chapter and invited Kim to speak and share her medals and her story.

The chapter members were impressed that, while Kim rubs shoulders regularly with well-known professional sports personalities, she was genuinely surprised, pleased, and even a bit humbled to be named an International Honorary Member of Beta Sigma Phi.

Kim hopes to attend the 2018 California State Convention to give a forum, but she won’t know her competition schedule until later this year. One thing is certain – she’ll compete at the summer Olympics in 2018, so sisters everywhere might want to keep their fingers crossed. Not that Kim needs it.