



InSinC

The Sisters in Crime Newsletter

Volume XX • Number 2

June 2007

SinC Events: Good for Us and Good for You

By Roberta Isleib
SinC Vice President

In the fall of 2005, SinC executive secretary Beth Wasson suggested that I organize a breakfast for librarians that would coincide with the Public Library Association convention in Boston and help celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Frankly, I thought she was out of her mind.

Sure, I was happy to support SinC activities by sending bookmarks to trade show booths and taking a turn signing books at the New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA).



But I certainly didn't have the experience to plan a meal for 100 librarians, long distance. Beth assured me that dozens of SinC volunteers had taken on jobs like this. So with her gentle nudging and firm support, I found a restaurant, chose a menu, and planned a program. And with the help of our library liaison, Doris Ann Norris, and our (then) PR maven, Kathy Wall, we spread the word. The event was a sell-out — a huge hit that included a panel on the New England crime scene (to go with the Boston setting) and 25 additional SinC authors schmoozing with tables of librarians. Not only did individual authors make connections with librarians, our organization was highlighted as a friendly, supportive, smart group of women (and a few men, too) who happen to write great books. After breakfast, we trooped over to our convention booth and saw more Sisters in action. Our tiny booth was positively humming with authors, all promoting SinC under the eagle eye of Doris Ann Norris.

Across the country, many SinC members have gotten involved with similar projects to publicize our organization and our members. These projects are great for Sisters in Crime, and good for our authors, too.

Pamela Cable, a member of the High Point, NC chapter, organized the SinC booth at the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) convention in 2006. Said Pam: "Events like this one are a HUGE deal for SinC. Sisters in Crime steals the show every year. Booksellers

flock to the table to get the next signed book from one of our authors. The booth this past year absolutely rocked. The decorations were great, but the authors were better — fabulous and upbeat all day. I love the sisterhood of this organization, and I think every SinC member should experience a trade show like SIBA at some point in her career."

Patti Sprinkle, who has also organized the SIBA booth, agrees: "The Sisters in Crime booth built an enormous amount of goodwill for SinC

Jekyll Island, in a big rented house, and had a big party on Saturday night, so we built a lot of camaraderie among the members who participated. And when the event was in Atlanta and the Atlanta SinC chapter helped with the party, our local members got to meet national author members they would not have met otherwise."

Sandy Tooley, who worked on both BookExpo 2004 and the ALA conference in 2005, described big benefits to both the organization and to herself as an author. "Many of the librarians who knew of SinC were eager to see our booth and specifically sought us out. We had an excellent location for each show, handed out a lot of information on joining SinC to those who were unfamiliar with our organization. Literature from authors was also available to those attending. We had drawings at the ALA show and collected more than 600 names for our mailing list.

"For the ALA, I had a new release so I was able to hand out advanced reading copies (ARCs) to librarians interested in mysteries. I was also able to set up library appearances with local libraries. For BookExpo, the traditional signing area allowed me to sign and give away 100 copies of my titles, which brought a lot of new readers to my series."

SinC treasurer Kathy Wall summarized the advantage of participating in an event this way: "I think it's the best thing an author can do to promote her own work — interact directly with the folks who sell her books." Willetta Heising, who has organized the SinC booth at the Great Lakes Booksellers Association, agrees. "The annual trade shows held by regional booksellers associations during September and October offer great promotional opportunities for authors with new fall or winter books. Authors should know which bookseller region they live in <www.bookweb.org/orgs/286.html>. If they're smart, they'll learn which booksellers are the most influential in their region and get to know them. What better way to start than by participating in a Sisters in Crime event?"

In 2006, Sisters in Crime provided funds to 11 events and sent materials to many more. If there is a book fair, bookseller or library trade show, or other book event near you that doesn't have a Sisters in Crime presence, let us help you get one rolling! Contact Beth Wasson at the national office by phone (785/842-1325) or e-mail <sistersincrime@juno.com> to talk it over.

Nuts and Bolts

1. Grants are available for many kinds of events and at varying levels of support. (See page 13.) An application for funds and new guidelines for SinC events are listed at <www.sistersincrime.org/grants.html>.
2. SinC pays for various kinds of expenses such as booth rental fees, badges, and advertising. Funds must be applied for annually.
3. Events must be open to all SinC members, without exception.
4. The national office supports regional events by providing money, materials, advice, SinC banners, and patient guidance from Beth Wasson.
5. SinC members arrange for booth space, organize authors and members to people the booth, collect promotional materials from authors for giveaways, arrange for badges, set up and tear down displays.
6. Current Sisters in Crime-sponsored events can be found in the newsletter and on our website: <www.sistersincrime.org/events>.

in the region. We always had lines of booksellers waiting to get signed copies of our authors' books and seldom had many copies of *BIP* or other promo items left over. We also made it a point to try and stay in the same hotel or, on

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Sisters in Crime Newsletter

Purpose: The purpose of Sisters in Crime shall be to: combat discrimination against women in the mystery field, educate publishers and the general public as to the inequities in the treatment of female authors, raise the level of awareness of their contributions to the field, and promote the professional advancement of women who write mysteries.

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Marcia Talley, Secretary
Kathryn R. Wall, Treasurer
Doris Ann Norris, Library Liaison

Vicki Cameron, Books in Print Editor
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Victoria K. Huston, Publicity
Jim Huang, Bookstore Liaison
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Gavin Faulkner, Newsletter Graphic Designer

DEADLINES AND GUIDELINES

The next InSinC Newsletter will be out in September. The deadline for all submissions is July 15.

Members' publications since the last edition of the newsletter will be listed in The Docket. Please include publication dates when submitting. Docket material will be due July 10 and should be sent to:

Patricia Gulley
1743 N. Jantzen Avenue
Portland, OR 97217-7849
E-mail: <Weycottage@yahoo.com>

Other honors, awards, and events of great "pith and moment" should be written up as short, separate notices. These can be as short as a paragraph. No publicity/promotion of individual members, please.

We particularly welcome reprints from SinC chapter newsletters.

Send columns, articles, ideas and praise via e-

mail.

Please send mailing address, phone number, and e-mail with submissions. If you have an idea for a story, please query the editor:

Bonnie J. Cardone
3116 S. Trisha Court
Santa Maria, CA 93455-7137

Tel. (805) 938-1156
E-mail: <bjcardone@hotmail.com>

Moving?

Change of address (postal & e-mail) notifications should be sent to *both* **Beth Wasson**, SinC Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 442124, Lawrence, KS 66044-8933, *and* to **Rowan Mountain, Inc.**, P.O. Box 10111, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0111.

Don't be left out of the loop. Join SinC's new Listserv:
<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sistersincrime>>

Promotional materials available to SinC members — Have your bookmarks or postcards designed in color or black-and-white. SinC's publicity mailing list of 5,000 bookstores, libraries, reviewers, etc. is available via direct addressing through Rowan Mountain, Inc., P.O. Box 10111, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0111. For more information, write Gavin Faulkner. E-mail: <faulkner@bev.net>. Web: <www.rowanmountain.com>. Phone: 540-449-6178.

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The Object of My Objections

By Rochelle Krich

First, the good news:
Sisters in Crime is doing well.

Our membership is growing. Our finances are sound. Our 20th Anniversary outreach to almost 2,000 libraries was a huge success (see page 5). We're working on several projects that will benefit our entire membership, including Forensic University in November. Thanks to Lorraine Bartlett, who keeps coming up with fabulous ideas — and implementing them — we now have our space on MySpace.



And the bad news?

There isn't any, really. But that doesn't mean Sisters in Crime no longer serves a purpose.

Recently, former SinC president Libby Hellmann brought to my attention Erica Jong's essay in *Publishers Weekly*: "Ghetto (Not) Fabulous. Would the talented new breed of American women writers please stand up?"

"Required SinC Reading," Libby noted.

Libby is right. (So right. In reviewing the entries for this newsletter, I noted that Judy Clemens' report on the monitoring project was inspired by the same PW piece.) In her essay, Jong laments the lack of recognition and validity that women writers continue to face. Says Jong: "The chair for the Serious Novelist is rarely held for new women novelists — unless they are from India, Iran, Iraq, China or other newsworthy countries. American women novelists are more often bracketed as genre writers — in chick lit, romance, mystery or historical fiction — and quickly dismissed."

Sound familiar? The "dismissed" part, I mean. I have no problem being labeled a mystery writer. I'm proud of it. I do have a problem with the perception that women crime fiction writers are inferior to their male counterparts — and with those who perpetuate that perception. I have a problem with those who trivialize women crime fiction writers and their works, who claim that women don't offer a realistic and serious view of murder and of the world. I have a problem when women are "bracketed" and "dismissed" if they choose to write a traditional mystery — or "dare" to write a thriller.

You may be thinking that these perceptions no longer exist in the field of crime fiction, that gender makes no difference. Certainly, women writers have made tremendous strides in the past 20 years, and I believe SinC has played a significant role in changing those perceptions and championing women writers. But a few months ago on a listserv discussion, Malice Domestic was branded, again, as a convention for readers and writers of cozies, a term that is inaccurate and often used in a patronizing way. And around the same time someone criticized Sisters in Crime's monitoring project year-end report and suggested that we're trying to control reviewers.

We're not. We couldn't if we wanted to. Yes, we're hoping to level the playing field. Our careers depend on it. Our goal is to make reviewers — and by extension, readers — aware of the rich and varied stories women crime fiction writers offer.

Stories that deal with the human condition, with domestic tragedies and global ones. Stories that deal with good and evil and explore families and relationships.

This seems to be the problem for women writers, Jong says: "When [male] writers like Eugenides write about families and relationships, critics marvel at their capacity for empathy. When a female writer does the same thing, they sigh and roll their eyes. Men aren't penalized for focusing on family and relationship. Rather, we wonder at their empathy because of their gender."

Jong closes by urging us to "celebrate our femaleness rather than fear it," to "mock the old-fashioned critics who dismiss us for thinking love matters. It does."

Let's drink to that.

And to our monitoring project, which has not lost its vitality or significance.

And to the varied ways in which we will continue to make our voices heard.

Rochelle Krich may be contacted at <Rmkrich@aol.com>.

Promote Your Book Using SinC's Book Club Database

By Lorraine Bartlett

Anybody out there doing promo for her/his current book? Did you know SinC has a Book Club Database that currently lists 75 book clubs across the U.S. (and one in Canada) that want to know about your book(s)?

What does it cost? Nothing. Well, you do have to be a member of SinC, which you already are if you are receiving this newsletter.

The Database information comes as either an Excel spreadsheet or a PDF. If you'd like a copy, just let me know and please specify which format you need/prefer.

Here's my e-mail: <BartlettLL@aol.com>.

The list is constantly being updated, so if you won't need it until later this year, keep it in mind!

BREAKFAST AT BOUCHERCON

Join your Sisters for Breakfast at Bouchercon on Sunday, September 30, at 7:30 am. The breakfast venue will be posted at the convention. To reserve your spot, send your check for \$20, made out to SinC, to Beth Wasson, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 442124, Lawrence, KS 66044-8933. The check must arrive by September 14. Include your e-mail address and Beth will let you know when your check is received.

Get Your Newsletter Via E-mail

Tired of waiting for this newsletter to be delivered by the Post Office? Many of your Sisters get the news when it's fresh. They receive their newsletter via e-mail, on the day it's mailed. Another big plus is that the e-mail version comes in wonderful, glorious color.

The e-mail version is a PDF (Portable Document File), which you'll need Acrobat Reader to



view. Most computers come with this software already installed, but free versions are available for nearly every operating system — no matter how old — at <www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. Downloading Acrobat Reader is easy. Just follow the directions at the

link. Since Acrobat Reader is necessary for viewing other documents you'll come across on the internet, it's a useful addition to your software.

When you get the PDF, you'll have several choices: save it on your computer to read or print at your leisure, or read it on the screen. A huge benefit of the latter is that you can zoom in and make the text bigger — and thus easier to read. Once read, store the PDF in a folder on your computer or burn it onto a CD or DVD for future reference.

Saving the PDF to your computer usually takes only seconds. The time it takes to print depends on the speed of your printer.

Of course, there are two big advantages to Sisters in Crime in sending your newsletter via e-mail — neither postage nor paper is needed. That saves a lot of money for other projects.

To sign up for electronic newsletter delivery, e-mail <sistersincrime@juno.com> and <faulkner@bev.net>.

S Is For Series

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Across

1. Roman wrap
5. Prefix meaning "eight"
9. "A Is For ___"
14. Tucked in
15. Fan sound
16. Plains grazer
17. Move like a buffalo
18. Author of series that is this puzzle's theme
20. "P Is For ___"
22. A pre-Columbian
23. Search, as a room
24. Something police sometimes get
26. Category including mystery novels: abbr.
28. Series heroine
36. Jackie's second
37. Gullet

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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57	58	59	60		61		62	63		64		65	66	67
68				69					70		71			
72						73					74			
75						76					77			

38. Indian lutes
40. Scottoline and others
43. 28A and others
45. Plot
46. "Aha!"
48. ___ Spade
50. Some mystery writers
51. 8th book in series
55. Refrain start
56. "Foucault's Pendulum" author
57. Like some murder victims
61. Send, as a body
64. Snuff
68. Where 28A lives
71. Evanovich heroine
72. Wonderland girl
73. When Macbeth is killed
74. Categorize

75. "N Is For ___"
76. Murder motive sometimes
77. Summers on the Seine

Down

1. Canvas cover
2. Woodwind
3. Gun, flashlight, lock picks, etc.
4. Confesses to
5. Ouch cousins
6. Buddy
7. "___ yellow ribbon..."
8. Sock pattern
9. A rhyme scheme
10. English elevator
11. Ratio words
12. Words for a villain
13. Rural hotels

19. Train tracks
21. What the guilty often do
25. English novelist Barbara
27. Not that
28. Goddess of destruction
29. Kind of coffee
30. Japanese-American
31. Route reference
32. "If only!"
33. Baseball's Mel
34. Mama Judd
35. Arrested the wrong person, say
39. Auld lang ___
41. DDE competition
42. ___ through, as ashes or evidence
44. ___ Paulo

47. Sometimes all that's left of a body
49. Medoc Mrs.
52. Enthusiastic
53. Snuff
54. "C Is For ___"
57. Read quickly
58. Angel adjunct
59. Miscellany
60. Nervous twitches
62. Machu Picchu culture
63. Henry ___, 28A's landlord and friend
65. Heaps
66. Absolutely!
67. Some crime scene figs.
69. 28A's client charge
70. Latin greeting

The solution is on page 13

Libraries Celebrate SinC's 20th

Nearly 2,000 librarians requested Sisters in Crime materials to create 20th Anniversary displays in March 2007. The following photos show some of the ways they used crime scene tape, SinC bumper stickers, a poster and a list of their local SinC authors. (More photos can be found on the SinC website at: <www.sistersincrime.org/news/library.html>).

Thanks to all the libraries that participated and the SinC members who took photos and sent them to us!



Clinton, NY



Charleston, SC



Hickory, NC



Toledo, OH



Lawrence, KS



Winthrop, ME



Lewes, DE



Lexington Park, MD



Hillsdale, MI



West Sacramento, CA

Authors of Color Bring a Diversity of Cultures to Mysteries

By Pamela Samuels-Young
President, Authors of Color
Chapter

The diversity reflected throughout our society is finally being reflected on bookstore shelves. This change is particularly noticeable in the mystery genre. The typical protagonist is no longer white and male. He, and more often *she*, may range from a Puerto Rican prosecutor to a Japanese gardener to an African-American schoolteacher.

Those who are at the forefront of this literary cultural shift aim to do more than write an entertaining mystery. Through their ethnically diverse protagonists, they seek to educate readers about a culture they may know little about.

Asian author Naomi Hirahara, who has been writing stories since she was eight, says her early characters “were always white — usually blonde and blue-eyed.” When a fourth grade teacher encouraged her to write about characters more like herself, she initially resisted that advice. Later, in college, after reading about the reparations movement for Japanese-Americans held in detention centers during World War II, her perspective changed.

“Learning about that historic experience and also reading many Japanese and Japanese-American authors opened a door for me. I’ve been writing mostly Japanese-American or Japanese characters ever since. Mas Arai, the main character of my mystery series, was inspired by my father, who, as a gardener, got little respect from strangers. I wanted to rectify that in my series. Mas is now the hero.”

David Walks-As-Bear saw few Indian protagonists in the mysteries he read, so he set out to fill the void. A Kispoko Shawnee Indian, Walks-As-Bear felt he could “add a different flavor to the quasi-Native American character and perhaps show the nuances of the culture in a different light.”

It was a desire to see a totally different kind of sleuth that prompted Angela Henry to pen her first novel. “I wanted to create a character that I’d yet to see in mystery fiction,” says Henry, “a single, educated, young black woman who isn’t a member of law enforcement, or a private eye, and doesn’t live in a big city.”

Former federal prosecutor Michele Martinez turned to writing as an outlet after leaving the U.S. Attorney’s Office, where she spent eight years prosecuting big-time drug dealers and notorious gang bangers. “I was looking to re-experience a career I loved in a different format and my protagonist was my alter ego,” says Martinez. The author and her protagonist, Melanie Vargas, have a lot in common. They are both mothers and lawyers,

they both come from modest backgrounds and have high-powered educations. And both are half Puerto Rican.

Do these authors of color have a particular message they want to communicate to readers? Definitely. But their goal is to educate and entertain, not preach and proselytize.

Hirahara seeks to communicate that, “we are not monolithic. Many Americans mix up Japanese nationals with Japanese-Americans. And within the Japanese-American community, there’s so much diversity — generationally, ethnically, immigration patterns and histories, et cetera. I also try to depict Japanese-Americans as honestly as possible — our strengths but also our weaknesses.”

This attempt at cultural honesty isn’t always well received by the Japanese community. “When I write about gambling addictions and other secrets, some older Japanese-Americans feel that I’m airing our dirty laundry,” Hirahara says. “But I feel we should represent ourselves as whole human beings, not cardboard model minority stereotypes.”

Walks-As-Bear, too, seeks to shatter the stereotypical image of Native Americans. “The profound changes that have happened within the American Indian culture since say, the movie *Dances with Wolves*, have been monumental, considering that nothing basically had changed prior to this time, since the white take-over of the Americas a half century earlier. So, in addition to the thrills, mystery and storyline, I try to show how a traditional Indian maintains in a modern world. It’s often tough to do when so much of a traditional Indian’s make-up is of things no longer existing.”

Neither Martinez nor Henry set out to create protagonists who are superwomen, but simply to show how these strong women deal with life’s challenges. “I’m trying to show a Latina professional going about her day-to-day life,” Martinez says. “Being Latina is part of who Melanie Vargas is, but it doesn’t define her any more than being a lawyer or being a mother does. Her culture is woven into the story in a seamless way intended to acquaint a wide readership with a smart, tough Latina professional.”

Henry echoes that sentiment. “Though my main character is a black woman, and sometimes deals with race-related issues, she also deals with all the same everyday issues that any other woman deals with. Job issues, relationship issues and family issues.”

Pamela Samuels-Young is the president of the Authors of Color Chapter of Sisters in Crime and the author of the legal thrillers, In Firm Pursuit and Every Reasonable Doubt.

Chapter News

Submit news of your chapter’s activities (photos, too) to <bjcardone@hotmail.com>. The deadline for the next issue (September), is July 15.

Florida Chapter

During our February meeting in Jacksonville, the Florida Chapter Sisters in Crime celebrated



SinC’s 20th Anniversary. We recognized the many milestones SinC has accomplished and saluted it with a poem written and read by Margie Ann Sauls, chapter president.

Mary Roberts Rinehart Chapter (PA)

Last February, members of the Mary Roberts Rinehart Chapter of Sisters in Crime toured the Shaler Police Department in Shaler Town-



So this is what lockup feels like!

ship, PA. The members visited the station’s squad room, holding cells and evidence rooms and learned information about crime scene and police procedure from Detective David F. Benko, who performed a live fingerprint demonstration.

Mavens of Mayhem (Albany, NY)

What do you get when you cross two Sisters in Crime members and an idea? A new chapter!

In August 2006, Ellen Higgins and I set into motion the idea of starting a chapter. With the guidance of Beth Wasson, we contacted local SinC members and in October we held an exploratory meeting at a library. We were pleasantly surprised to have 14 mystery writers and readers attend. Within two hours we all agreed to make the chapter official and elected officers.

After just six months, Mavens of Mayhem were 20 members strong and, in April, hosted its first Sisters in Crime event, “An Afternoon of Murder,” featuring the chapter’s eight published authors with guest speaker Julia Spencer-Fleming.

Mother Nature decided to give us her own version of mayhem by drenching the spring day

in the Capital District with snow, rain and hail, coating the streets with a goopy mess. The mystery of whether people would brave the slushy, slippery roads to attend our event was answered as numbers of them – more than 50! — strolled into the program room, excited about hearing our authors speak.

The Mavens' first event was a big success and we're already planning other chapter activities. Let the mayhem continue! — Audrey Friend, vice president.

Photo/Beth Anderson



From left to right. Front row: Hollis Seamon, Frankie Bailey, M.E. Kemp, Angie Hogencamp (treasurer), Julia Spencer-Fleming (guest). Center row: Audrey Friend, Susanne Alleyn, Luanne Whitbeck, Jeanne Whitbeck, Catherine Crohan, Julia Pomeroy. Back row: Beth Anderson (secretary), Ellen Higgins (president), Jean Brower.

New York/TriState Chapter

Our chapter had an eventful year, with monthly meetings that included networking, a speaker, and an optional after-meeting dinner at a nearby restaurant. At the January meeting, members had the opportunity to read from their works in progress. The program was such a success that we hope to repeat it yearly. In February, author and teacher G. Miki Hayden presented a hands-on writing workshop, and in March, Dr. Peter Pizzola, director of the NYPD Lab, provided a behind-the-scenes glimpse of forensics in investigations.

We're working on *Murder New York Style*, an anthology of short stories by members (we're currently seeking a publisher). Our chapter year ends with a bang in June, when we will be decorating and staffing the Sisters in Crime booth at BookExpo America (BEA) at the Javits Center.

Finally, we celebrated the achievements of individual members, including several first book contracts, one of which is the winner of the St. Martin's/Malice Domestic contest for Best First Mystery (see pages 14–15).

•••••
**Have breakfast with us at
 Bouchercon!**

See page 3 for details.
 •••••

End the Mailbox Vigil: ISBN 13 or Die

By Vicki Cameron

Stop the presses. Don't anybody move. Hold it right there, buster.

Listen up. This means you. We have an important announcement.

This year you will NOT get a letter reminding you to send in your *Books in Print* entry. Instead, we are relying on you to read this column and remember that every summer is *BIP* summer. Go to your computer right now. Log on to our website: <www.sistersincrime.org>. Find and fill in the form. Or e-mail me and go through the usual drill. My e-mail address is at the bottom of this article. You can also write or fax me with a list of your books in print, with their titles, publishers, prices, ISBN 13s, and 20 pithy words describing the plot. Stop standing by the mailbox waiting for our letter. You are on your own recognition.

We are in the middle of collecting *BIP* for 2008. Many of you have already responded. Our website entry form has become the response method of choice.

Our web maven Peggy has created new and better service with a self-serve entry form. With it, you can go into your entry on

the website and change it on the spot. Thus you get instant service, with your new book additions and old book alterations being updated while you type — and all the errors are yours.



We got ourselves some protection here, if you know what I'm saying. First, we have to make sure that you are a current member of SinC, not an interloper or an opportunist. Next, we have to make sure you are fixing your own entry, not messing with anyone else's.

You're gonna need a password.

The password is available in this newsletter. Because only members get the newsletter, only members will see the password.

You will be stopped at the *BIP* data gate. The user name is goddess. The password is goddess. All lowercase. (Goddess is our official term for SinC's Past Presidents.)

Once you get through the gate, you make

up your own password for your own entry, to keep the riffraff out.

There will be outrage when we start this new system. Some of you will have left your newsletter in the rain, or the dog may have eaten my *BIP* column. Some of you will be daunted by the challenge of fixing your own entry, and prefer us to do it while wanting instant service, which just isn't going to happen. Some of you will fall down crying at the mention of the word "website."

We expect some ripples in our service as this new format takes shape. It will all work out in the end if nobody panics.

Moving on.

This year, the Bookland Powers That Be have decreed all countries will now use the ISBN 13, which begins with 978. If you pick up your book and flip it over, you'll see both your old ISBN above and this new number below the bar code. They are almost the same number, except for the front and back ends. If you can't read the tiny blurry numbers under the bar code, take your regular ISBN to a translator website, such as www.isbn.org.

The Editor Without Mercy will not accept any ISBN 10s this year. She is going to hammer on your door until you give her the ISBN 13. Be warned. No book will get into *BIP* 2008 without the new number.

I know, this same threat was made last year, and most of you ignored it. This year, we really mean it, no kidding, no goofing around, no siree. This means you.

To recap, we are going to save our organization a pile of money this year by not sending out the reminder letter and *BIP* form. We usually send out 1,000 envelopes with two sheets of paper each. That's 2,000 sheets of paper. Of these, only 40 are returned. You can see why we feel this is an expense that can be trimmed.

You know we collect *BIP* every year. You know it happens in the summer. You must send in your entry on your own. Put down this newsletter and your cup of coffee. Go directly to your computer. Log on to the website and send in your information. Or boot up your e-mail and contact me with your information. You know the drill. Just do it.

No mail reminder. No short ISBNs.

I hope I have been clear on these points.

Vicki Cameron's e-door is always open for your BIP entry <vcameron@explornet.com>. So is SinC's website <www.sistersincrime.org>.

Edgar Winner/Nominees

Congratulations to SinC member, Naomi Hirahara, who won an Edgar for Best Paper Back Original. The Edgars were presented by Mystery Writers of America at a banquet in New York City on April 26, 2007.

Congratulations to the following SinC mem-

bers, nominated for Edgars: Bill Crider (Best Short Story), Kate Flora (Best Fact Crime), Paul Levine (Best Paper Back Original), Nancy Pickard (Best Novel), S. J. Rozan (Best Short Story) and Nancy Springer (Best Juvenile). And, congratulations to Kathy and Tom Harig, owners of the Mystery Loves Company bookstores, for their Raven Award.

Where is the Outrage? The Review Monitoring Project Update

By Judy Clemens
Project Coordinator

In the April 9, 2007, issue of *Publishers Weekly* Erica Jong despaired about the lack of respect for women authors in our country. The idea that women should be treated and respected as “serious” authors still doesn’t come naturally (or at all!) for many in our business – even in this day and age when people like to think women have “come a long way.” Besides being a sad state of affairs for writing, it is also



a sad commentary on what is going on in our larger world. Why is it that books about war and violence and other “male” topics garner more respect than the themes of emotion and relationship? Why does war

matter while love does not?

The idea that women need to write books that men will read is sad on so many levels: the assumption that men won’t read books about personal issues; the idea that women readers aren’t as important as men readers; the belief that “female” books won’t become bestsellers. Where is the truth? How do we fight these prejudices? It’s easy to get angry about the unfair categorization of women’s books – in fact, Jong calls for outrage, asking where our anger has gone. Women are capitulating, becoming that brand of brash females that will “sell” – especially young women who feel they have to conform if they are to reach their goal of being published.

Outrage is certainly one road we can take. Another is hard work and determination. Lori Lake responded to Jong’s article on the SinC listserv in this way:

“What I find hopeful and refreshing...is that despite the fact that there isn’t gender parity for reviews, that men get more media attention and feature articles, and that the cards seem stacked against women, women are still making it happen. Sisters are doing it for themselves!

“I think crime fiction is a wonderful realm for women writers. We’re consistently performing well and it’s only getting better. We have a bigger market share of women readers than men — but we also have hordes of men reading us now. One of the reasons I’m so glad to be a member of SinC is that the organization is a living testament to the fact that when women get mad, they don’t get even — they just go after their goals and GET THEM.”

One of the trials we face is the belief by some that disparity no longer exists. On one online discussion list last month there was a thread about the Review Project. A few male authors were outraged that SinC still seems to “think” there is disparity. They tried to

find all the holes in the Review Project: We aren’t monitoring every publication. We aren’t monitoring online review sites. What about people of other minority groups? These critics don’t see that the monitoring project is a scientific study. They even tried to make a case that male authors are fighting discrimination.

We could argue with these people. We could tell them that we have hard-working volunteers (not paid staff!) who give their time to this project, that 60-plus publications give a darn good spread of data, that there are women in every minority group, so it affects them all. But we’ll save our breath and concentrate on things that could actually make a difference. These complainers (who, I must add, are few and far between; we have many brothers in this industry who are supportive and respectful) aren’t worth it. Our Review Project has made a difference for 20 years, and we’re not about to stop now.

The complainers are right about one thing: We haven’t, so far, monitored online reviews. One of the reasons is that volunteers are at a premium. Another is that with so many online review sites, how do we choose which ones to monitor? We hope to add them to our monitoring list at some point, but right now it’s not feasible.

The idea that parity has been achieved would be laughable if it were actually funny. But the fact of disparity is again being borne out this year. Last year’s numbers weren’t awful – 56 percent books by men, 44 percent books by women. Our first quarter 2007 tally, however, shows the numbers have slipped: 60 percent books by men, 40 percent books by women — a difference of 20 percent instead of 12.

We’re trying something new this year. I sent letters to the publications we monitored last year, giving them a rundown of the media we covered and where they each stand in the percentage rankings. I invited them to join in a conversation about how we can remedy the disparity, about how their books are chosen for review, and about what reviews are published. We’re not looking for confrontation. We’re looking for dialogue. We need to work together to bring about change.

I invite you to join in the conversation. If you have ideas about how to improve this Review Project, I’d love to hear them. If you’d like to volunteer, please get in touch. We always need more people in our fight for equality.

And no matter what the naysayers spout, we have not achieved parity. It is still the brass ring for which we reach. But we can be outraged. We can get mad. And as Lori says, we can go after our goals and GET THEM.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Review Monitoring Project, write to Judy at <contact@judyclemens.com>.

Agatha Nominees/ Winners

The Agatha Awards were presented at a banquet during Malice Domestic XIX in Arlington, VA, on May 5, 2007. The winners are in bold, * denotes a SinC member.

Best First Novel

Jane Cleland* *Consigned to Death*
Honora Finkelstein* and Susan Smiley* *The Chef Who Died Sauteing*
Hailey Lind* *Feint of Art*
Karen MacInerney *Murder on the Rocks*
Sandra Parshall* *The Heat of the Moon*

Best Novel

Earlene Fowler* *The Saddlemaker’s Wife*
L.C. Hayden* *Why Casey Had to Die*
Nancy Pickard* *The Virgin of Small Plains*
Julia Spencer-Fleming* *All Mortal Flesh*
Jacqueline Winspear* *Messemger of Truth*

Best Non-fiction

Jim Huang* and Austin Lugar *Mystery Muses*
Chris Roerden* *Don’t Murder Your Mystery*
Daniel Stashower *The Beautiful Cigar Girl*

Best Children’s/Young Adult

Peter Abrahams *Behind the Curtain*
Andrew Clements *Room One: A Mystery or Two*
Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin *Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars – The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas*
Nancy Means Wright* *The Pea Soup Poisonings*

Best Short Story

Robert Barnard “The Old Couple” EQMM
Robert Barnard “Provenance” EQMM
Maurissa Guibord “Yankee Swamp” EQMM
Robert Isleib* “Disturbance in the Field” *Seasmoke*
Toni L.P. Kelner* “Sleeping with the Plush” AHMM

Books in Print Entry Deadline: August 1

Books in Print lists mystery and crime books, which, to the best of their authors’ knowledge, will be in print in the next calendar year.

By website: <www.sistersincrime.org>. Click through and fill out the form.

The form: If you don’t have internet access, send us Author Name, City/State, Title, Publisher, Price, ISBN13, and a 20 pithy words description.

By fax: 613/258-6119

By phone: 613/258-3145 8:00 am to 10:00 pm EST

By mail: Vicki Cameron, 2117 Jochems Road, RR #1 Oxford Station, ON Canada K0G 1T0

Confirmation: All entries including an e-mail address will receive confirmation that they arrived.

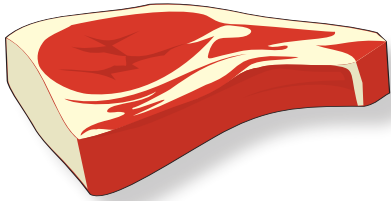
Boost Your Writing Chops with Short Stories

By Peggy Ehrhart

Less is often more. A good short story can distill human experience into a few pages whose message resonates long after the last word has been savored. Readers who read short fiction respect it for this reason.

Writers should respect short fiction too. Even if your primary focus is writing mystery novels, a detour into short fiction can serve you well — both before and after publication of your book.

A few years ago I was between projects, querying agents about *Sweet Man Is Gone*, the latest in the music-themed mystery series I had been trying to publish. *Sweet Man Is Gone* is the sequel to many prequels piled on the shelves in my study, all featuring my sexy blues-singing sleuth Maxx Maxwell, who is struggling to keep her disapproving mother at bay and her musical career moving forward while solving the occasional murder.



I had just about decided that the market wasn't ready for Maxx (and maybe would never be) and had begun to contemplate a more mainstream project. I wanted to give Maxx more of a chance, but I didn't want to stop writing while I waited. And I didn't want to add yet another Maxx Maxwell to the piles of unpublished manuscripts in my study.

Around that time I saw a notice for an anthology that Mystery Writers of America was putting together. In the past one main thing had kept me from writing short stories. As a former English professor, I had encountered mostly literary short stories, highly wrought and obscure, requiring expert analysis to be understood. To me, their lack of obvious resolution was summed up by a question one of my former colleagues usually found it necessary to pose to his students: When the story ends, what has happened? Often the answer was a yawn, a blank look, and a shrug.

I didn't want to write stories that weren't entertaining. And I wanted the answer to that question to be obvious: The sleuth has brought the evil-doer to justice.

With the MWA anthology in mind, I read an issue of *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. I realized that a short story could be a miniature version of a traditional, clue-studded mystery — with multiple suspects, a heroic sleuth (amateur or professional), and a cathartic climax in which the evil-doer is unmasked.

And thus my career as a short-story writer was launched. I began writing "mini-mysteries," and I recommend doing it. It's a great way to perfect crafting a tight plot, developing interesting characters, and experimenting with narrative point of view.

You can also deviate from the "mini-mystery" format. A reader doesn't invest a huge amount of

time in a story and therefore doesn't demand the same psychological payoff. You can write stories in which someone commits the perfect crime and gets away with it. Everyone remembers the classic episode in the old Alfred Hitchcock TV series which functioned like a short-story anthology: A beleaguered housewife bashed her husband with a frozen leg of lamb — then cooked the lamb and served it to the police.

Or you can try other forms, like a story in which a surprise ending gives a character a sudden epiphanic glimpse at the meaning — or meaninglessness — of his own life.

Not only are short stories a laboratory in which to experiment with ideas that enhance your novel-writing skills, they can also be a way to attract agents and — later — readers.

Whether short-fiction credits in a query letter carry any weight with agents is often debated. Some say that if the agent likes the project, it doesn't matter whether the writer has other writing credits or not. Others argue that a resume that includes published stories can make an agent interested enough to request a partial manuscript, or, if a partial is included with the query, to take a serious a look at it. I've also heard of two cases in which an agent read a writer's short fiction and tracked down the writer to request a book proposal.

Finally, publishing short fiction can entice readers to read an author's longer works. Sad but true, aside from anthologies, only a handful of print publications currently publish short mystery fiction. The big four are *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Futures Mystery Anthology Magazine*, and *CrimeSpree*.

But since the advent of the internet, a whole new world has opened up. Sometimes referred to as "the new pulps," ezines do everything a magazine does, including — increasingly — accept advertising and pay authors for their work. But they do it in cyberspace.

Some examples of ezines are Bryon Quertermous' *Demolition* (www.demolitionmag.com) and Sandra Ruttan's *Spinetingler* (www.spinetinglermag.com). The ezines' names offer helpful clues to the subgenres their editors welcome. Tony Burton's *Crime and Suspense* (www.crimandsuspense.com) publishes a wide variety of material, family-friendly at Tony's insistence, and welcomes cozies. And I can't omit the late lamented *Flashing in the Gutters*, edited by Tribe. Tribe was sometimes accused of publishing any and every story that came his way — but it had to be 750 words or under, no mean feat.

Three good guides to the short story market, including ezines, are www.shortmystery.net/markets.html, www.duotrope.com and www.rulan.com. The first is limited exclusively to mystery markets.

To my mind, ezines are even more effective than print publications in attracting readers to an author's longer work. They function in a way like blogs — and they already have a built-in and often considerable reader base. In 2006 Sandra Ruttan's *Spinetingler* tallied 500,000 hits.

The link between web surfers and increased book sales was recognized early by Amazon,

which then instituted the Amazon Shorts program. Short works, including fiction, are available for a small price online, and submissions are limited to writers with at least one book for sale on Amazon.

So, imagine a potential buyer of your book surfing the web. She drops by *Crime and Suspense* and checks out the current issue. (*Crime and Suspense* is published once a month, by the way; some ezines are quarterlies.) She reads your story and likes it. She wonders about you, so she clicks on the "Rogues' Gallery" for your bio and discovers that you have a book out — or coming out. She visits your website, where she can view the cover of your book and read a thumbnail sketch that makes her think she'd like your book even more than she liked your story. You have cleverly set up your website with a link to the page where your book is displayed on Amazon or an independent bookstore. A few minutes later, you've made a sale.

Your excursion into the realm of short fiction will not only boost your writing chops. It will build a following for your longer works that will keep your publisher issuing contracts for a long time to come.

Peggy Ehrhart's blues mystery, *Sweet Man Is Gone*, will be published in 2008. Visit her website at www.PeggyEhrhart.com.

SinC Receives Dove Award

By Roberta Isleib,
SinC Vice President

On April 5, 2007, the Detective and Mystery Caucus of the Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association presented a special Dove Award to Sisters in Crime to honor our organization's extensive activities in support of women crime writers. It was very exciting to be at Kate's Mystery Books in Cambridge, MA, to receive the award for the organization, in the presence of two of our founding mothers — Sara Paretsky and Kate Mattes! I promised them that we intend to see their vision through to the end!

photo/Cathy Cairns



Roberta Isleib (far left) accepted the Dove award. Also present were SinC founders Sara Paretsky and Kate Mattes, along with Margaret Kinsman (editor of Clues).

Coming up: Conferences & Happenings

NO CRIME UNPUBLISHED LOS ANGELES, CA

The Los Angeles chapter of Sisters in Crime will hold its No Crime Unpublished conference for mystery writers on June 10, 2007. SinC President Rochelle Krich will be the morning speaker and Jacqueline Winspear will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon.

This year the conference will be held in a new location: The Embassy Suites Hotel, 211 E. Huntington Drive in Arcadia, CA. The hotel is freeway close and offers free parking, the expanded banquet facilities needed to host a larger number of attendees, and elegant accommodations for out-of-towners.

The conference will offer three breakout rooms and a choice of 12 workshops/panels. New this year will be a vendor room.

The conference cost includes all panels, breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. After June 1 and at the door, registration will be \$150. For more information, visit <www.sistersincrimela.com> and click on No Crime Unpublished Conference tab.

THOMAS B. SAWYER WRITING WORKSHOP SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

Sponsored by the Central Coast Chapter of Sisters in Crime, the Thomas B. Sawyer Writing Workshop will be held at the Main Library, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA, on Saturday, June 23, 2007, from 10:00 am to noon. The conference is free to Sisters in Crime members. Nonmembers pay \$25.

The workshop is entitled "Beginnings, Middles, Endings & Arias: Using Cinematic Language to Write Better Novels (and Screenplays)." Sawyer will show clips from his award-winning TV series, "Murder She Wrote," to illustrate the mystery and enhance an author's own writing.

Sawyer was head writer/producer-showrunner of "Murder, She Wrote" and authored 24 episodes of the show. A popular writing teacher, he has two published novels and a nonfiction book, *Fiction Writing Demystified*, and is co-creator of the Storybase software.

For information and reservations, please call 805/540-0184.

THE MYSTERY WEEKEND DES PLAINES, IL

The Chicagoland chapter of Sisters in Crime is hosting the First Annual Crime Writers' Retreat — The Mystery Weekend — From June 29 to July 1, 2007, at the Cabrini Retreat Center, 9430 Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. The cost is \$225, which includes room, meals and sessions. Participants will attend three

program sessions and have three writing and mentoring sessions. By the end of the weekend, participants may have at least one chapter or short story completed.

The master writers leading the program sessions are Barbara D'Amato, Libby Fischer Hellmann and Gail Lukasik.

Space is limited to the first 20 people who pay in full. Critiquing will be offered by advance arrangement only and for an additional fee. For more information, please contact Silvia Foti at <lotusink@comcast.net>.

MYSTERY TOUR OF SCOTLAND

Join a few fellow Scottish mystery fans from August 30 to September 9, 2007, for the Scottish Highlands and Islands Mystery Caper. Meet Scottish authors, including Denise Mina, Pat McIntosh, Ian Rankin and Ann Cleeves; follow in the steps of Inspector Rebus; sail to the Shetland Islands; investigate the secrets of Skye, Mull and Iona. Within the mysteries of the islands, discover the intrigue of spies, ghostly castles and the history of ghastly murders committed. Don't miss this 11 day/10 night tour. A special bonus is an extensive reading list and exclusive author input. The tour cost is \$3,050 per person, based on double occupancy, land only.

For details, contact Barbara Ford, group leader, at Country Day Travel, Inc., 6022 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX 76109; 817/731-8551; <info@countrydaytravel.com>, or see the website: <www.countrydaytravel.com>.

BOUCHERCON 2007 ANCHORAGE, AK

Bouchercon 2007, "Bearly Alive," will be held September 27 to 30 in Anchorage, AK. The American guest of honor will be Thomas Perry; the special guest of honor, Diana Gabaldon; and the fan guest of honor, Barbara Peters. James Sallis will receive the Lifetime Achievement award.

The host hotel is the Anchorage Hilton, which is offering a conference rate of \$120 per night.

For more information and to register, see the website: <www.bouchercon2007.com>.

NEIBA PROVIDENCE, RI

You are invited to help the New England Chapter promote SinC at the New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA) from September 28 to 29, 2007, at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI. Hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

All sisters are welcome to come and sign books for giveaways and help us promote SinC. Our exhibit space is popular because we have chocolates! Signing slots are first-come, first-served.

For more information, contact Judy Copek at: <jcopek@aol.com>.

NCIBA OAKLAND, CA

Promote your books at the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA) Trade Show at the Oakland Convention Center, Oakland, CA, on October 6 to 7, 2007. Authors who can bring a box of books to sign and give away at the booth are especially welcome. We also need a few dependable volunteers to staff the SinC table. To volunteer, contact Carol Fairweather at <carfair@alamedanet.net> with NCIBA in the subject line.

If you can't attend, you can send promotional handouts (50 to 100 copies) to Carol at 920 Walnut Street, Alameda, CA 94501. All handouts must arrive no later than September 21.

GREAT MANHATTAN MYSTERY CONCLAVE MANHATTAN, KS

The fourth Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave will convene September 28 to 30, 2007, in Manhattan, KS. Although this conflicts with Bouchercon, it was the only weekend we could snag. Diane Mott Davidson will be our keynote speaker. We are also featuring three specialist seminars on the Craft of Writing. Honora Finkelstein and Susan Smily will speak on "Metaphysics, Magic, and Things That Go Bump in Books: Getting Them Right in Your Writing." Pat Carr's topic will be "The Lure — and Advantages — of Setting Stories in the Past," and Chris Roerden will discuss how to avoid the common pitfalls new writers encounter. All of these authors will also appear on panels during regular programming.

Basic registration is \$145, which covers the Friday reception, Saturday continental breakfast and formal luncheon, all panel sessions, tours, the program booklet and newsletters. Each of the specialist seminars costs \$30 extra, but you don't have to be registered for the conclave to attend them. Another feature open to the public is our Saturday evening "Dining With Diane" (a menu drawn from recipes featured in her books), which also costs \$30.

For a newsletter and registration form, which includes contact information for the hotel, see the website, <www.manhattanmysteries.com>, or contact Marolyn Caldwell at <marolync@flinthills.com>. Published writers who wish to be on panels and have their books sold at our bookstore should register early so we can get our programming underway.

NEW ENGLAND CRIME BAKE DEDHAM, MA

Co-sponsored by the New England chapters of Sisters in Crime and MWA, New England Crime Bake will be held from November 9 to 11, 2007, at the Dedham Hilton in MA. The

guest of honor will be Lee Child. Along with forensic experts and dozens of New England writers discussing the "Tools of the Trade" of crime and fiction, there will be master classes, panels, agent pitches, critiques and more.

Pre-registration is required. For all the details see the website: <www.crimebake.org>.

Breakfast in Alaska!
With your Sisters
(and Brothers)!
See page 3
for details.

Consent Searches and Search Warrants

By Lee Lofland

As a police detective, I served numerous search warrants, but my preferred method of searching a suspect and his property was with the suspect's permission — preferably written permission. A consent search saves police officers tons of time and paperwork, and probable cause does not have to be established prior to the search.

There are a few rules officers must follow when conducting a consent search. The person authorizing the search for the specific property must do so voluntarily, without threat or coercion from the officers who are requesting permission. If that same person refuses to allow officers to search, the police cannot use his refusal as probable cause to obtain a search warrant.

Consent to search also must either be in the form of a written statement or as a positive verbal commitment from the suspect. A simple nod of the head, or an "I guess it's okay" from the suspect is not enough to allow a search.

The person who grants the authority to search must also have authority over the property. For example, he can be a landowner or tenant. However, a landlord cannot consent to a search of his tenant's property, and a hotel desk clerk cannot give permission for the police to search a guest's room. Underage children also cannot give permission for police to conduct a search of their homes. Some courts have even ruled that parents cannot authorize a search of their children's rooms if those offspring are over the age of 18.

Property that has been abandoned, such as a car left on the side of the road for several days, can be legally searched without a warrant. Pocketbooks, wallets, trunks, luggage, boxes and bags are all fair game for the police if they've been abandoned in a public area.

Another favorite of mine is the search of household garbage that has been placed on the

Forensic U: 50 Ways to Catch a Killer

The Sisters in Crime sponsored conference, "Forensic University of St. Louis: 50 Ways to Catch a Killer," will be held November 1 to 4, 2007, at the St. Louis Airport Hilton, St. Louis, MO.

Topics for the two-and-a-half days of classes include an overview of forensic science and police procedure; how to make forensic science work in your book; crime scene basics;

overview of crime labs; death investigation basics; autopsies; psychology of crime; poisons and their detection; understanding DNA evidence; fingerprints; firearms evidence; the role of photography and videography in forensic work; interpretation of blood spatter; trace evidence; forgery; the role of jurisdiction in forensic procedures; entomology; science and the courtroom; and using warrants and searches.

Key faculty will include Dr. D.P. Lyle, author of *Murder and Mayhem: A Doctor Answers Medical and Forensic Questions for Mystery Writers*; Jan Burke, author of the Irene Kelly series; Eileen Dreyer, bestselling author of more than eight medico-legal mysteries; Lee Lofland, detective (retired), author of *Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide for Writers*; and Ann Burgess, the first forensic nurse, who collaborated on the seminal work, *Serial Homicide: Patterns and Motives*, which led to the founding of the Behavioral Sciences Unit at the FBI and the practice of profiling.

street for collection by city sanitation workers. In many jurisdictions, it is legal for the police to sift through garbage cans without a warrant to look for evidence of a crime.

Private citizens can conduct searches and relay their discoveries to the police. The police cannot, in any way, direct or encourage a private citizen to conduct a search, but they can use the information received as probable cause to obtain a search warrant.

Police officers are also permitted to conduct surveillance in any place that is considered public or in open view. They are also allowed to conduct aerial surveillance of someone's property without a search warrant. Aerial surveillance

is often used by narcotics officers to detect methamphetamine labs and marijuana-growing operations. This information can be used to direct ground teams to the plants and labs, or, if the area is private property, for probable cause to obtain a search warrant.

So, next time a helicopter flies over your house, think twice before removing the warning tags from your pillows.

Retired detective Lee Lofland is the author of *Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide for Writers*. He is on the faculty for SinC's upcoming Forensic University, to be held November 1 to 4, 2007, in St. Louis.

Keynote speaker Jan Burke is the founder of the Crime Lab Project (CLP). For \$35, conference participants can attend the optional A Muddy Brew-Ha-Ha Party and Auction to raise money for the CLP, a non-profit organization working to increase awareness of problems facing public forensic science agencies.

Michelle A. Becker and Joanna Campbell Slan, president and vice-president respectively of the Greater St. Louis Chapter of SinC, are co-chairs and founders of Forensic University of St. Louis.

Until September 15, conference registration is \$250 for SinC members; \$290 for non-members. The cost includes a welcome reception, all classes, a handbook with resource material, two box lunches and a continental breakfast. After September 15, SinC members will pay \$300 and nonmembers, \$340.

The first 50 registrants are eligible to add a visit to the Bull's Eye LLC Indoor Shooting Range for \$35, which includes transportation, ammunition, targets, safety gear, assistance from a range instructor, and debriefing.

The host hotel, Hilton St. Louis Airport, is offering rooms starting at \$88 a night, not including local taxes or parking.

For more information or to register, go to <www.sistersincrime.org>.

Attendance is limited 200. No one under 18 will be admitted.



Forensic U's faculty includes, from left to right: Dr. Doug Lyle, Eileen Dreyer, Lee Lofland and Jan Burke.

By Patricia Gulley

Announcements for new books (please, no reprints), short stories, articles and plays (all relating to mysteries), also nominations and awards, may be sent to Patricia Gulley via snail mail to: 1743 N. Jantzen Avenue, Portland, OR 97217-7849 or e-mail to: Weyrcottage@yahoo.com. Please be sure to put Sisters in Crime, The Docket or InSinC in the subject line — otherwise your e-mail won't be opened.



The deadline for the next The Docket is July 10, 2007.

Books

- Deb Baker, MURDER GRINS AND BEARS IT, Midnight Ink, April 2007
- Susan P. Baker, THE SWEET SCENT OF MURDER, Five Star, February 2007
- Helen Barer, FITNESS KILLS, Five Star, July 2007
- Nancy Barr, PAGE ONE: VANISHED, Arbutus Press, May 2007
- Prudy Taylor Board, A GRAVE INJUSTICE, Archebooks, September 2007
- Laura Bradford, MARKED BY FATE, Hilliard & Harris, May 2007
- Emily Brightwell, MRS. JEFFRIES AND THE BEST LAID PLANS, Berkley Prime Crime, May 2007
- Julia Buckley, MADELINE MANN, Midnight Ink, August 2007
- Nora Charles (Noreen Wald) DEATH RIDES THE SURF, Berkley Prime Crime, June 2007
- Judy Clemens, THE DAY WILL COME, Poisoned Pen Press, August, 2007
- Kathleen Delaney (Koppang), AND MURDER FOR DESSERT, Poisoned Pen Press, July 2007
- Diana L. Driver, NINTH LORD OF THE NIGHT, L&L Dreamspell, ebook March, April 2007
- Kit Ehrman, TRIPLE CROSS, Poisoned Pen Press, December 2006
- Selma Eichler, MURDER CAN DEPRESS YOUR DACHSHUND, Signet, February 2007
- Kathy Lynn Emerson, NO MORTAL REASON, Pemberley Press, April 2007
- Diane Fanning, BITE THE MOON, Five Star Mysteries, July 2007
- Kate Fellowes, WHEN SHADOWS FALL, Swimming Kangaroo Books, April 2007
- Earlene Fowler, TUMBLING BLOCKS, Berkley Prime Crime, May 2007
- John Foxjohn, JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT, L&L Dreamspell, April 2007
- Sunny Frazier, FOOLS RUSH IN, Wolfmont Publishing, December 2006
- Shelley Freydont, THE SUDOKU MURDER, Carroll & Graf, May 2007
- Michelle Gagnon, THE TUNNELS, MIRA

- Books June 2007
- Renée Gardner, COMPANY BUSINESS, Orchard Press Mysteries, January 2007
- Debby Giusti, NOWHERE TO HIDE, Steeple Hill, April 2007
- Chris Grabenstein, WHACK-A-MOLE, Carroll & Graf, June 2007
- Carolyn Hart, SET SAIL FOR MURDER, Avon, April 2007
- Karen Harper, THE HOODED HAWKE, St. Martin's Press, February 2007
- L.C. Hayden, WHY CASEY HAD TO DIE, Five Star, December 2006
- Morgan Hunt, STICKY FINGERS, Alyson Books, April 2007
- C. Hyttinen, PATTERN OF VENGEANCE, Echelon Press, April 2007
- Sue Ann Jaffarian, THE CURSE OF THE HOLY PAIL, Midnight Ink, January 2007
- Liz Jasper, UNDERDEAD, Cerridwen Press, May 2007
- Rita Lakin, GETTING OLD IS CRIMINAL, Bantam, May 2007

How to Send Us Your Entry
 The format is simple:
 Name of author, TITLE OF BOOK, Name of Publisher, Month to be released.
 Name of Author, TITLE OF STORY, Name of magazine or anthology, Month to be released.
 Awards and nominations should be in sentences.
Always put The Docket in the subject line of your e-mail. Anything else may be deleted.
Don't send ISBNs, character names, series names or places to buy the books.
Don't send newsletters, publicity sheets or website addressess.
Don't send in colors other than black and white.
 In the future, editors of anthologies will not be listed unless they have a story in the anthology.
 If you are using a pen name, we can add your real name after it in parentheses. You must tell me if you **don't** want this done.

- Vicki Lane, OLD WOUNDS, Dell, June 2007
- Joyce and Jim Lavene, SWAPPING PAINT, Midnight Ink; POISONED PETALS, Berkley Prime Crime, both May 2007
- Norma Lehr, DARK MAIDEN, Juno Books, June 2007
- N. J. Lindquist, GLITTER OF DIAMONDS, MurderWillOut Mysteries, May 2007
- John E. Mann, ANGELO'S GUEST, Xlibris, February 2007
- Mary Jane Maffini, ORGANIZE YOUR CORPSES, Berkley Prime Crime, May 2007
- Jennifer McMahon, PROMISE NOT TO TELL, HarperCollins, April 2007

- Rosemary Miner, ONCE UPON A TIME TO DIE FOR, Hilliard and Harris, April 2007
 - Jana G. Oliver, VIRTUAL EVIL, Dragon Moon Press, October 2007
 - Joanne Pence, THE DA VINCI COOK, Avon, March 2007
 - Hank Phillippi Ryan, PRIME TIME, June 2007, FACE TIME, October 2007 both Harlequin/Next
 - Mary Saums, THISTLE & TWIGG, St. Martin's Minotaur, April 2007
 - Maggie Sefton, A KILLER STITCH, Berkley Prime Crime, May 2007
 - Sarah R. Shaber, SHELL GAME, St. Martin's Minotaur, March 2007
 - Sharon Short, MURDER UNFOLDS, Avon, March 2007
 - Clea Simon, CRIES AND WHISKERS, Poisoned Pen Press, December 2007
 - Lee Singer (Shelley Singer), BLACKJACK, Five Star, June 2007
 - Sylvia Dickey Smith, DANCE ON HIS GRAVE, L&L Dreamspell, May 2007
 - Lisa Rene Smith, COLIN'S CONQUEST, October 2006, CHAOS THE VAMPIRE CHILD, May 2007 L&L Dreamspell
 - J.B. Stanley, FIT TO DIE, Midnight Ink, May 2007
 - Marta Stephens, SILENCED CRY, BeWrite Books, April 2007
 - Denise Swanson, MURDER OF A BOTOXED BLONDE, Penguin, April 2007
 - Shirley Tallman, THE CLIFF HOUSE STRANGLER, St. Martin's Minotaur, July 2007
 - William G. Tapply, GRAY GHOST, St. Martin's Press, March 2007
 - Marilyn Victor & Michael Allan Mallory, DEATH ROLL, Five Star, May 2007
 - Elaine Viets, MURDER WITH RESERVATIONS, NAL, May 2007
 - Heather Webber, TROUBLE IN BLOOM, Avon Books, May 2007
 - Eugenia Lovett West, WITHOUT WARNING, St Martin's Press, November 2007
 - Anne White, SECRETS DARK AND DEEP, Hilliard & Harris, May 2007
 - Jaclyn Weldon White, MOCKINGBIRD IN THE MOONLIGHT, Indigo Publishing, March 2007
 - Stefanie Worth, WHERE SOULS COLLIDE, Dorchester, August 2007
 - Charlotte Williamson, SAY ALOHA TO MURDER, PublishAmerica, April 2007
- Short Stories/Anthologies**
- Warren Bull, MURDER AT THE GMMC, Mysterical-E, Spring 2007, RIDING SHOTGUN, DowngoSun, March 2007
 - Vicki Cameron, KEEP THE CHANGE and EIGHT LORDS A LEAPING, Locked Up, Deadlock Press, April 2007
 - Sheri Gaia Chapin, IN THE RAVINE, Orchard Press Mysteries, January 2007
 - Keri Clark, FORGIVENESS, Flashshot, May 2007

Peggy Ehrhart, *BLOODLINES*, Spinetinger, Spring 2007; *STONE COOL*, Demolition, Winter 2007

Sunny Frazier, *THE WINE SNOB*, and as Charla Maine, *PENUMBRA*, Gone Coastal Anthology, Seven Sisters Press, December 2006; *DITCHED*, and as Charla Maine, *LIFE IS A CABERNET*, Never Safe, Seven Sisters Press February 2007

S. M. Harding, *FAMILY TRADITION*, Great Mystery and Suspense Magazine, Spring 2007

Norma Huss, *PROTECTING TINA*, Great Mystery and Suspense Magazine, Summer 2007

K B Inglee, *MURDER IN A POSH HOTEL*, Orchard Press Mysteries, February 2007

Carol Kilgore, *BUNUELOS FOR THE BEACH*, Map Of Murder, Red Coyote Press, February 2007

Rosemary and Larry Mild, *INTIMIDATION*, Free Fall, March-April 2007

Beverle Graves Myers, *BRIMSTONE P.I.*, Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, May 2007

Kris Neri, *CAPITAL JUSTICE*, Never Safe, Seven Sisters Press, April 2007

Twist Phelan, *A TRADER'S LOT*, Wall Street Noir, Akashic Press, June 2007

Young Adult

Vicki Cameron, *SHILLINGS*, Deadlock Press, April 2007

Patricia H. Rushford, *THE TROUBLE WITH MAX*, *DANGER AT LAKESIDE FARM*, *THE SECRETS OF GHOST ISLAND*, Moody Press, June 2007

V. Gilbert Zabel, *THE BASE STEALERS CLUB*, 4RV Publishing, December 2006

Non Fiction/Articles

Diane Fanning, *UNDER THE KNIFE*, St. Martin's Press, April 2007

Awards/Miscellaneous

Gary Braver's (Gary Goshgarian) sixth novel, *FLASHBACK*, is the 2006 recipient of the Massachusetts Honor Book Award for Fiction, a first for a mystery/thriller.

Suzanna Cates Neal won an Editors Choice Award at the 2007 SDSU Writers' Conference for her mystery novel *EYES OF THE NIGHT JAGUAR*.

Kit Ehrman's *TRIPLE CROSS* was named BookSense Notable Book in February 2007.

Donna Ross, writing as Fedora Amis, won the 2006 Mayhaven Prize for Fiction for her historical whodunit, *JACK THE RIPPER IN ST. LOUIS*.

Jinx Schwartz's *JUST ADD WATER*, Trebleheart Books, won the 2007 EPPIE Award for Best Mystery.

Susanne Severeid's *THE DEATH OF MILLY MAHONEY* was chosen as Book of the Month for February by The Literary Sleuth mystery book club.

Sandra Tooley's young adult mystery, *THE SKULL*, is a finalist for ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Award.

Idaho Sisters Manuscript Critiquing Service

The Boise chapter of Sisters in Crime offers a manuscript critiquing service called "Criminal Pursuits." This is an opportunity to get an honest assessment of the beginning of your manuscript from mystery and suspense readers and fellow writers.

The chapter has provided this service for more than five years as a fund-raiser. For only \$25 you will receive four separate critiques of the first 25 pages of your manuscript and the complete synopsis. All the information about this program can be found at <www.partnersincrimeboise.com/criminalpursuits.html>.

If you include an envelope large enough to hold all four copies of your manuscript, those doing the critiques will write their comments directly on the manuscript pages and will provide more formal write-up that can often be especially useful. Many people, published and unpublished, have taken advantage of this service and have found the four fresh reads very helpful.

Letter to the Editor

TJ Perkin's article in the March InSinC, "The Perils of Self-Publishing" was quite informative, but unfortunately included a broad generalization that continues to pervade the publishing industry.

POD (Print-On-Demand) is a technology that has crossed into the lexicon to mean publishers who use short-run printing to supply their books. This usage implies that a publisher who employs this technology will not allow returns. This is an incorrect assumption.

Many traditional presses use POD technology, often as a step before they go to offset. It allows a publisher to print books in smaller quantities and readily permits changes within those books (adding new reviews, etc.). Depending on the publisher, those POD books may be stocked at chain bookstores and be fully returnable.

Before you sign any contract, an author needs to determine if the publisher has a strong distribution network and how its business model works. Whether the book is created by Print-On-Demand technology is not as important. POD is a means to an end. It's how the publisher handles the books after they're printed that is important.

Jana Oliver
Atlanta, GA

Chapter Event Grants

The goal of every SinC-funded event is to promote Sisters in Crime as an organization and its individual author-members to the widest possible audience. The Board of Directors of Sisters

in Crime has allocated a pool of funds to be used for chapter event grants on an annual basis as part of the budget process. This total may vary from year to year depending upon other budget requirements. When this pool is exhausted in any one calendar year, the board will be unable to fund additional requests.

Grant request forms must be received in the national office at least three months prior to the event. Without exception, the event must be open to all SinC authors. An announcement suitable for posting on the website, inclusion in our periodic e-mail blasts, and/or publication in an edition of our newsletter, InSinC, must accompany the grant request form. This announcement must include a contact person to whom SinC members may direct any requests to participate or for additional information.

A new grant request must be submitted each year, even if this event has been funded in the past.

Here are the steps to follow:

1. Download the Grant Request Form from the website.
2. Complete all areas of the form or address all items on a separate sheet.
3. List or attach those items that require explanation, including the list of specific expenses for which you are requesting the grant.
4. Attach the announcement you wish to have placed in the various venues if your grant request is approved.
5. Submit this request to Beth Wasson at <sistersincrime@juno.com> at least three months prior to the proposed event date. She will notify you within 30 days whether or not your request has been approved.

6. Within one month after the event is held, submit a request for reimbursement which must include documentation of your expenditures and all of the following information to the best of your ability:

- a. Number of SinC authors who attended
- b. Total number of event attendees
- c. Publicity garnered by the event
- d. Number of new members recruited at the event

Please allow four weeks to receive your reimbursement check.

Crossword Puzzle Solution

T	O	G	A		O	C	T	A		A	L	I	B	I			
A	B	E	D		W	H	I	R		B	I	S	O	N			
R	O	A	M		S	U	E	G	R	A	F	T	O	N			
P	E	R	I	L		M	A	Y	A		T	O	S	S			
				T	I	P				L	I	T					
K	I	N	S	E	Y	M	I	L	L	H	O	N	E				
A	R	I			M	A	W			S	I	T	A	R	S		
L	I	S	A	S		P	I	S		S	T	O	R	Y			
I	S	E	E	I	T		S	A	M		M	E	N				
				H	I	S	F	O	R	H	O	M	I	C	I	D	E
						T	R	A		E	C	O					
S	H	O	T			S	H	I	P		E	R	A	S	E		
C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A		P	L	U	M			
A	L	I	C	E		A	C	T	V		S	O	R	T			
N	O	O	S	E		H	A	T	E		E	T	E	S			

Verna Suit ©2007

Malice Domestic XIX

May 3 to 5, 2007

Arlington, VA

Text and Photography by Bonnie J. Cardone

Oh, what a presence! SinC was everywhere at Malice this year. The program book carried the smiling countenance of our president and Guest of Honor, Rochelle Krich, and the red and black Malice book bag had her name and our logo printed on it. The Lifetime Achievement Recipient was our 5th president, Carolyn Hart. The Special Toastmaster was our 17th president, Kate Grilley, who took on the task when SinC member Elaine Viets had a stroke. (Elaine is on the road to a complete recovery.) Last but not least, the Fan Guest of Honor was SinC member Lee Mewshaw.

Alas, the Ghost of Honor, Georgette Heyer, died 13 years before SinC was founded — otherwise, we might have claimed her as a member.

The convention began with a SinC board meeting at noon on Friday, followed by a chapter president's meeting chaired by chapter liaison, Donna Andrews.

At the live charity auction Friday afternoon, one of the items sold was the shirt Barb D'Amato (our eighth president) was wearing four years ago when she was Guest of Honor and received a pie in the face, courtesy of SinC member Parnell Hall (it was Barb's idea). That auction and the silent auction raised \$12,700 for the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents.

That evening, the always-entertaining Malice Theater of the Air put on a clever play filled with alliteration and starring several SinC members, including Hal Glatzer, Kate Grilley, L.C. Hayden, Carole Nelson Douglas and Alexandra Sokoloff.

Saturday morning was the Meet the New Authors Breakfast, which not only offers free food but an introduction to the bestselling authors of tomorrow. A Saturday highlight was the interview of Carolyn Hart by Nancy Pickard (SinC's second president).

The Agatha Banquet is always a Saturday night jewel. It was there that MWA's administrative manager, Margery Flax, made a surprise phone call to Elaine Viets in her hospital room. When Elaine answered, all 500 banquet attendees roared, "Hello!" Later, SinC member Nancy Martin read an essay Elaine wrote when she was wrestling with whether to go on tour for a new book or stay home with her sick husband. He insisted she go and allow him some control over his life. It was a funny, emotional essay, and an ironic reminder of how quickly circumstances can change.

One of the highlights of the banquet was the thoughtful, poignant

and humorous speech presented by our president, who was elegant in a shimmering taupe suit. Rochelle's elocution would turn The Queen green with envy!

Then it was time for the Agathas. When the smoke cleared, all the recipients turned out to be SinC members, as was Meredith Cole, winner of the St. Martin's Press/Malice Domestic Contest for the best first traditional mystery. (Three of the winners are Guppies, and one of the two winners of the Malice Domestic Grants for Unpublished Writers has just joined that group.)

The SinC breakfast on Sunday morning was sold out, and no amount of

cajoling could get those who hadn't paid ahead of time past executive secretary, Beth Wasson. The 120 attendees included 10 Goddesses, who sat for a group portrait with Rochelle and Beth. (Rounding up Goddesses and getting them to sit still for five minutes isn't easy, but I'm getting better at corraling them.) The highlight of the breakfast was "Parnell & the Goddesses" — Parnell



SinC past presidents (aka, Goddesses) from left to right, back row: Nancy Pickard, Kate Flora, Eve Sandstrom, Rochelle Krich (current president), Beth Wasson (executive secretary), Patti Sprinkle, Sue Henry. Front row, left to right: Kate Grilley, Margaret Maron, Barbara D'Amato, Sue Dunlap, Carolyn Hart.

Hall singing the song he wrote for our 20th Anniversary, with Rochelle and vice-president Roberta Isleib leading the audience for the chorus.

At the breakfast, which was also a business meeting, those present approved the amended bylaws, and a straw vote was taken on whether members would prefer receiving the membership directory electronically or as a paper copy (they liked the idea of getting it online). S.J. Rozan discussed Forensic University (November 1 to 4 in St. Louis) and announced that the Extra Early registration deadline had been extended to June 15. Sue Henry took the podium, urging people to sign up for Bouchercon (September 27 to 30 in Alaska), and treasurer Kathy Wall informed us that SinC's finances are sound.

Roberta Isleib handed the Dove award (see page 9) to Beth for safe-keeping, and Verna Suit talked about the Clipping Service and how to sign up for it.

Sunday afternoon, Carolyn Hart interviewed Guest of Honor Rochelle Krich. Then it was time for the Agatha Tea, Hat Contest (SinC members L.C. Hayden won for Most Creative with Honora Finkelstein as runner-up; Monica Ferris won Most Beautiful, with Susan Smily as runner-up) and Closing Ceremonies.

It was truly a Malice to remember. Who knows when so many SinC members will again win so many teapots? Congratulations to you all!



Nancy Pickard
Best Novel



Kate Grilley
Special Toastmaster



Rochelle Krich
Guest of Honor



Carolyn Hart,
Lifetime Achievement



Lee Mewshaw
Fan Guest of Honor

Let's Have Tea!



Nancy Means
Wright, Best
Children's/YA



Chris Roerden
Best Non-fiction



Sandra Parshall
Best First Novel



Toni L.P. Kelner,
Best Short Story



Terry Hoover,
Guppies president



Monica Ferris
(aka Mary Pulver)
wore a different
Agatha-era costume
each day and won the
hat contest.



Nancy Martin
read an essay
written by absent
Toastmaster,
Elaine Viets, at the
banquet.



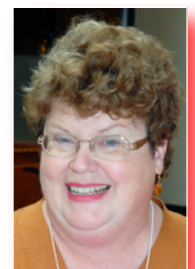
Guppy member,
Meredith Cole,
won the St. Martin's/
Malice Domestic
contest for best
traditional first
mystery.



Sue Ann Jaffarian, LA
Chapter president



Parnell & the Goddesses: Parnell Hall sings the song he wrote for SinC's 20th Anniversary, with "Dancing Goddesses" Roberta Isleib and Rochelle Krich leading the chorus.



Charlaine Harris will
be the Malice 2008
Guest of Honor



DEADLINES

- ✓ JUNE 15, 2007 — Deadline for EXTRA EARLY registration for Forensics University Saint Louis. Save money, register now. See the website <www.sistersincrime.org> for details and register online.
- ✓ JULY 10, 2007 — Deadline for submission of items for September Docket. Send to Patricia Gulley, 1743 N. Jantzen Avenue, Portland, OR 97217-7849 or e-mail <weyrcottage@yahoo.com>.
- ✓ JULY 15, 2007 — Deadline for September InSinC newsletter. Contact Bonnie J. Cardone, 3116 Trisha Court, Santa Maria, CA 93455-7137; phone: (805) 938-1156; or e-mail: <bjcardone@hotmail.com>. Other newsletter deadlines are October 15, January 15, and April 15.
- ✓ AUGUST 1, 2007 — Deadline for Books in Print entries. See page 7 for more information.
- ✓ SEPTEMBER 14, 2007 — Deadline for receipt of checks for SinC's Bouchercon breakfast, to be held Sunday, September 30 at 7:30 am. Send your check for \$20, made out to Sisters in Crime to: Sisters in Crime, P.O. Box 442124, Lawrence, KS 66044-8933.



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