



the Sisters in Crime Quarterly
Vol. 26, No. 1

Steps Forward, Steps Back

by Barbara Fister

The Monitoring Project, begun in the 1980s, continues to chart women writers' percentage of book reviews. The 2012 project results show, that in some categories, women authors made progress, but in others women saw a decline in their percentage of total reviews.

Among four national newspapers monitored, gains were made, particularly in the *New York Times* (rising from 34% to 41%); however, the overall number of reviews appearing in these newspapers dropped by just more than 10%, a pattern that means in most cases fewer women writers are getting noticed even though they gained in the share of reviews. An exception is the *Washington Post*, which has both increased the number of mysteries reviewed and the percentage of women authors covered.

Among local newspapers, a dozen monitored publications gave 39% of their mystery review space to women writers. This percentage is down slightly from 42% last year, but is higher than in the four previous years.

Prepublication reviews

The news was mixed in pre-publication review sources. All four magazines—*Booklist*, *Kirkus*, *Library Journal*, and *Publishers Weekly*—increased the number of mysteries reviewed, but women's share dropped slightly to 45%. *Booklist* once again lagged with 41% of mystery reviews devoted to books by women authors, and *Library Journal* had the highest percentage, 55%.

Crime fiction magazines were a bit less generous to women authors. *Deadly Pleasures* gave 37% of its reviews to mysteries by

women, *Mystery Scene* had fewer reviews but a higher percentage (41%), with *RT Reviews* as usual giving the lion's share of reviews to books by women authors (75%, up from last year's 69%).

Though the number of print publications monitored has dropped in the past five years, reflecting the dwindling space devoted to book reviews in newspapers, we have begun monitoring more born-digital review sources, hoping to capture a sense of how women writers are faring in these non-traditional but increasingly important information outlets.

Online reviews

We monitored three online review publications—"Book Bitch," "I Love a Mystery Newsletter," and "Reviewing the Evidence." All three publications are edited volunteer operations which together published more than 1,000 reviews. We also aggregated the contents of a half-dozen book blogs maintained by individual readers, with occasional guest reviews. Altogether, these blogs contained around 700 reviews.

Though these online sources may have a smaller readership than many newspapers, they publish far more reviews. Added together, the reader blogs reviewed more books by women than men. The multi-author review sites varied from having less than a third to nearly half of their reviews devoted to books by women.

Gender of published mysteries

To gain a sense of the gender breakdown of published mysteries, we once again used submissions for Edgar awards as a rough estimate. The total number of submissions to the Best Novel, Best First Novel,

Best Paperback Original, and Mary Higgins Clark awards was up slightly from last year, but women's share fell in all but the Mary Higgins Clark category and in total fell from 54% of all submissions in 2011 to 48% (with duplicate submissions subtracted). Once again women had a smaller share of submissions for Best Novel (38%) and Best First (35%), but a majority in the Paperback Original category (66%).

In the final analysis, women writers have made significant progress toward equity in their share of review space over the years. Progress since last year? Not much. We are pleased, though, to make a start on examining non-traditional review outlets that are making up for review space lost in traditional publications, and to see that women authors in the digital environment are being fairly well represented.

Thanks, as always, to the many volunteers who take the time (and sometimes the detective work) required to conduct this annual census.



by Mark Coggins

GET A CLUE



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Deadlines & Submissions

- Deadline for articles for the June issue of inSinC is April 15.
- Include name, e-mail and mailing address, and phone number with submissions.
- Send columns, articles, high-res photos, ideas, praise, and story ideas via e-mail to Molly Weston
mysteryheel@mac.com
919.362.1436

The Docket

- To list your publications and award nominations, login to SistersinCrime.org and look for “The Docket” under “Members Only.” Fill in the information, one entry per publication.
- Information on the SinC website will be updated regularly and will be available to anyone under “Resources.”
- THE DOCKET will continue as an item in inSinC.

INSINC

the Sisters in Crime Quarterly

The mission of Sisters in Crime is to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.

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2005-06 Libby Hellmann	2006-07 Rochelle Krich
2007-08 Roberta Isleib	2008-09 Judy Clemens
2009-10 Marcia Talley	2010-11 Cathy Pickens

LEGEND

In 2008, the board of directors of Sisters in Crime implemented a new strategic plan. Three goals emerged from this plan: inSinC articles will be marked with icons to represent the appropriate goal.



Advocacy, monitoring, and reporting



Professional education and career development



Membership growth, networking, and forums for members

JUST THE FACTS • inSinC is the official publication of Sisters in Crime International and is published four times a year. • One-year dues are \$40 for professional US and Canada writers and \$35 for non-professionals, (add \$5 for other countries). Two-year dues are \$80 and \$70; lifetime, \$400 and \$350. • Address and all other changes can be made by members on www.SistersInCrime.org. If you do not use a computer or need a username please contact Beth Wasson at 785.842.1325 or SistersInCrime@juno.com • Information in inSinC is submitted and reprinted from sources listed in each article. Where required, permission to reprint has been granted and noted. SinC does not investigate each submission independently and articles in no way constitute an endorsement of products or services offered. No material may be reprinted without written permission from Sisters in Crime. Sisters in Crime ©2013.

HELLO FROM HANK

Happy New Year! Can it be 2013? Are we all looking at each other and asking—how can the time go by so quickly? I am. And it's also a good time to contemplate—if “contemplate” is possible in this fast-paced life!—how we got where we are. And how we can make a difference in the time we have.

Quick story for you. And, I promise this has a point.

When I started working as an investigative reporter in Boston, I had an intern named Marianne. A college junior, she arrived in my office with “Hello Kitty” barrettes in her pigtails, ripped jeans, and a tendency to say “like” more than one might hope. She also came with a dream. She said, “All I want to be is your producer.”

Okay, then. Smart girl. I thought, you know, people helped me when I was new. Now, it's my turn—okay, Marianne, you're my girl. And I proceeded to teach her everything I knew.

Soon after, she graduated and came back to Channel 7 as an assistant producer. (In a black suit and pearls.) Hurray! But that's not all. Soon after that, she left and went off to a big fancy producing job in California. Hurray! But that's not all.

A few years later, she came back to Channel 7—as my producer. College-age dream fulfilled. Hurray! But that's not all. A few years later, she decided to write a book. Which she did. And she asked me to read and critique it. Sure, I thought. I like books. Can do.

So I read her book—and loved it. It sold, it was a success, she wrote more. She became very connected in the publishing world, she knew the score and the system and all the people. Hurray! But that's not all.

I thought—huh. I bet I could write a book, too. (How hard can it be, I thought. Ha. But that's another story.)

Anyway, I turned to Marianne for help. By this time I was 54 years old, and Marianne—my new mentor!—was 34! The result, a little more than a year later? My first novel, *Prime Time*. Hurray!

All because of that college girl in pigtails, and my decision—so long ago!—to offer her my experience.

So, sibs, that's my wish for all of us in 2013. To offer a hand, a heart, a helpful word—a shoulder, a martini, a critique, a pointing in-the-right-direction. You know how I always talk about first steps, and my goal as president to help each sister (and brother)

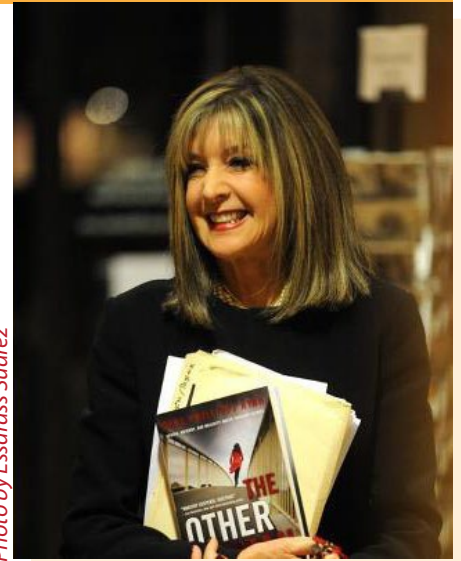


Photo by Esdrass Suarez

on this creative journey. So let's look forward to our first steps this year. Veterans, remember when you were the new kid and how important (and exciting) it was to get guidance from someone more experienced? And new writers, don't hesitate to ask for help and support! That's what we're here for, right? For each other?

Let me know what I can do. And what Sisters in Crime can do. That's what we're here for. Hurray!

With much affection,

—Hank

EDITOR'S NOTES

Does anyone else remember newspaper “fillers”? I used to love reading those little tidbits of information that just didn't come up in school or on quiz shows. I miss them. Hoping that you do, I'm slipping in some that may be useful.

Two spaces after punctuation

Do you know why this rule changed? Computers (unless you use fixed width fonts such as Courier) build in proportional spacing. The rule now is only one space after punctuation. If you're still putting in two spaces, take a look at a full page print-out of your work. See the “tunnels” created at the end of sentences? It will help stop them (or at least make them smaller) if you convert to only one space.

The prefix “re-”

Although my mother was a first-grade teacher, she was a non-reformed Latin scholar. Any time someone on TV used the phrase “report back” or “refer back,” Mother would start her lecture: “*Re* means to go back. You don't need to say *refer back*. That's redundant.” Mother hated redundancy—and it still grates on me.

Unnecessary prepositions

Sometimes conversational English makes its way into writing. Right now, I've noticed the word “of” sneaking into 'way to many sentences: “She went outside *of* the house to her car.” Think about it. Would she ever go *of* the house?

THE DOCKET

I was glad to see so many sisters and misters submitting information this quarter. Let me stress a few points:

- Titles and awards cannot be older than six months prior to inSinC's publication date. For the June edition, titles must have been published no earlier than January 2013.
- Enter information **exactly** as it should appear. Book titles have initial caps except for articles and conjunctions, i.e., “The Scary Example of Mother Goose.”
- Awards are for **only** the title you're submitted. We're happy you may have won for other books or stories, but we cannot list them for this entry.

—Molly



Desert Sleuths

www.DesertSleuths.com

Desert Sleuths (Arizona) were thrilled to learn that their latest anthology *SoWest: Desert Justice* has been named one of the Best Anthologies of 2012 by *Suspense Magazine*. This is the second year in a row our anthology has received this accolade from one of the finest mystery magazines. The trade paperback edition is available on Amazon and an e-book is in the works.

More than 50 Desert Sleuths members attended our annual Member Appreciation Party at 5th and Wine in Old Town Scottsdale on December 12. They responded to an invitation saying, "After a year of kidnapping, murdering and terrorizing people, you deserve a little love."

Coming soon is our annual hands-on workshop "NUTS & BOLTS: Fine-tuning Your Mystery for Publication," on February 9. Desert Sleuth authors will give presentations on Plots that Kill, Scene of the Crime, Cop Facts, and other topics at this free, all-day event held at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library.



Guppies

www.Sinc-Guppies.org

By the time this is published, our chapter will be gearing up for nominations for the June election. We'll need a new president and more Members At Large—the number depending on what the membership is at that point.

We also have a new editor for "First Draft," our newsletter. Susan Evans, who has done the job for seven years, goes out on a cloud of glory, having built this publication into something we're all proud of. We had many applications for the position when she announced she was leaving to pursue her own writing after all this time and the choice was hard! We settled on Lourdes Venard, who comes to us with a long list of credentials and experience, and bursting with enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, in January, Linda Lovely taught an online class on dialogue; and, Jacqueline Corcoran gave one on Opening the Mystery. Hank Phillippi Ryan taught us how to do public speaking in February and Pepper O'Neal is giving us Wordpress instruction in March. More incredibly helpful classes are scheduled throughout the year.



Atlanta Chapter

SistersInCrimeAtlantaChapter.com

"History's No Mystery" according to Atlanta SinC member, Dr. Annette Liang, a historian who quit her academic career to write and perform what she calls "non-boring history for kids." She presented an entertaining program providing numerous tips on researching and using history in fiction at the January meeting. Annette is author of "The Snipesville Chronicles," a series of middle-grade mystery novels about three kids from America's most boring town who find themselves reluctant time-travelers in British and American history. She also performs her creative history programs in schools and libraries, and gives teachers' workshops and keynote speeches. Her scholarship includes "Heathens and Infidels?" an article on African Christianity in early America that is recognized as a major work in its field. Read more about Annette at www.AnnetteLiang.com.

In February, Debby Giusti presented her "Pitch Perfect" talk on getting an agent. Her intriguing "elevator speech" taught us how to better summarize our novels. She spends most of her time writing inspirational romantic suspense. (www.debbygiusti.com)

Tina Whittle, a mystery writer living and working in the Georgia Lowcountry and another escapee of academia will spur our imagination in March and demonstrate using the tarot to spur creativity. Read more about her and her hip Southern mystery series set in Atlanta at www.tinawhittle.com.

New officers for 2013 include president, Debbie Rasure; vice president, Louise Richardson; secretary, Nancy Hogue; treasurer, Anne Lovett. Committee chairs are membership, Mary Anne Edwards; publicity, Nancy Hogue; newsletter, Rebecca Butler; website, Debbie Yutko.

Chicagoland Chapter www.SinCChicago.com

Sisters in Crime Chicagoland had a busy fall season. Vice president and program chair Diane Piron-Gelman AKA D.M. Pironne, author of *No Less in Blood*, arranged for a series of well-attended programs. First in September, at Centuries & Sleuths Bookstore in Forest Park, Lori Andrews discussed her latest bestselling book *I Know Who You Are and I Saw What You Did: Social Networks and the Death of Privacy*. In this new book, Lori explores how our digital identities on the Web—e-mail, personal websites, and social media pages—are starting to overshadow our physical identities. And that made for a fascinating discussion of current trends and problems.

In addition to authoring a series of thrillers, Lori is the director of the Institute for Science, Law and Technology at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

In October SinC-C and the Schaumburg Township District Library presented a day long Writers' Workshop Day that was a hit with members. Hands on classes included "Creating Memorable Characters" with Gail Lukasik (author of the Leigh Girard mysteries and *The Lost Artist*); "Crafting Suspense" with Patricia Rosemoor (author of the McKenna Legacy series and *Hot Trick a Detective Shelley Caldwell Novel*); "Point of View" with Michael Allen Dymmoch (author of the Thinnes Caleb series and *M.I.A.*); "Killer Opening Scenes" with Clare

O'Donohue (author of the Kate Conway mysteries and the Someday Quilts mysteries). This workshop was a great success that we hope to repeat in coming years.

In November the group returned to Centuries & Sleuths for a session "How to Polish Your Manuscript!" Emily Victorson, publisher of Allium Press, and Diane Piron-Gelman, editor of Word Nerd, Inc., walked the group through several important steps in refining work before submitting it for publication.

On Saturday, December 8, SinC-C's Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Greek Islands Restaurant featured thriller author Jamie Freveletti (author of the Emma Caldrige mysteries and *The Janus Reprisal*) as special guest speaker. Jamie gave an engaging talk about how she was asked by the estate of Robert Ludlum to write the most recent entry in his Covert One series under his name. From the first approach to her agent through the writing, publication, and marketing, Jamie described her experiences. It was great fun for all of us.

SinCC was well represented at the Love Is Murder conference in Chicago February 1-3. A panel of local published and aspiring authors talked about how Sisters in Crime has helped them, and there was an interview with David Walker, a local member and the conference local guest of honor.

Los Angeles Chapter www.SistersInCrimeLA.com

Holidays are all about tradition, and the Los Angeles chapter continued three of its longest and most cherished customs at our December Holiday Potluck. After humming holiday tunes played by our favorite pianist and watching magic tricks performed by two of our author members, we paused to introduce Tammy Kaehler, Linda O. Johnston, and Darrell James as the editors of our sixth chapter anthology, *Last Exit to Murder*, slated for publication in 2013. The theme is short stories that capture, with crime, the essence of the Los Angeles car culture.

Anthologies are big business. Avid readers love them. A quick look on Amazon reveals nearly 54,000 short story collections in books alone. History shows that inclusion in one of our anthologies adds to a writer's resumé and has even led to an agent or a publishing contract. The 16 contributing authors were selected from more than 60 blind submissions from bestselling authors to first-time writers. The 2013 anthology authors are: Lori Dillman, Donna May, Laura Brennan, Lynn Allyson, Andrew Jetarski, Miko Johnston, Beverly Graf, Sally Carpenter, Laurie Stevens, Stephen Buehler, Nena Kely, Julie Beers, Eric Stone, Avril Adams, Bonnie Cardone, and Paul D. Marks.

In keeping with our mission to promote the professional development and advancement of our members, we have, since the early 1990s, used the holiday party to showcase several emerging writers who have yet to be published in the crime fiction genre. The following members read a short passage from work-in-progress: Diann (D.J.) Adamson, Arlene L. Walker, Craig Faustus Buck, Jill Amadio, Kerri Kahn and Cyndra Gernet.

Finally, each year chapter members donate to charity. This year we collected nearly \$600 for the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy relief.

The chapter took a hiatus in January, but behind the scenes, plans were underway for a "noir" panel at our February meeting; our signing schedule at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books and, the California Crime Writers Conference program.

LA Chapter 2013 Anthology authors



Chapters — continued

Mary Roberts Rinehart Chapter

www.pghsinc.com

Members of the Mary Roberts Rinehart (Pittsburgh) Chapter gathered in the small town of Confluence PA for our annual writers' retreat on the sunny weekend of October 12–14. We took over That Dam Yough House and the neighboring mobile home for three days of writing, eating, workshops, eating, brainstorming, eating, and socializing. And eating.

Friday afternoon, members found their way to the rental house and ordered pizza. Well fed and comfortably attired (in some cases, in pajamas), we gathered in the living room for a critique session led by our guest instructor, Susan Meier. This gave us all a chance to find out what our compatriots were currently working on, as well as to receive some invaluable input into what worked and didn't work with our stories.

Saturday we opened the retreat to “day pass” members—those who weren't able to attend the entire weekend, but wished to participate in Susan's workshops. The morning's session, titled “Know Your Story,” guided us through coming up with our core story, a one-paragraph summary, a back-cover blurb, and the synopsis—in addition to figuring out our plot points. After lunch, Susan continued her presentations with “Execution,” instructing us on journey steps and making each of our scenes work for us. That evening, we took a stroll in the brisk autumn air to the River's Edge Café for dinner.

Sunday wrapped up with a session on “Pulling it all together.”

Between workshops, participants enjoyed free time to write or to walk or bike around the quaint town nestled in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. Other than the take-out pizza and the Saturday night dinner, food was provided by the attendees, which helped keep our costs down.

Everyone who attended came away feeling a fresh bond with our fellow Sisters in Crime, not to mention a renewed enthusiasm for our works in progress.



Mary Roberts Rinehart Chapter members already look forward to their next retreat!

Murder We Write

www.MurderWeWrite.com

Things are popping in the Triad area (Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem) of North Carolina! On February 10, Editor Chris Roerden shared the “Must Know 10 Ps & a Q for Submitting.” For the March 10 program, Teresa Fannin, Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, talked about writing for children and young adults—and knowing the differences. Both programs were held at the High Point Library.

Members look forward to the April 14 meeting at the Pennybyre Conference Room in Jamestown which will be “Meet a Police Dog and Bring Your Book to Life.” Everyone is hoping for good weather for outdoor “play.”

The May 19 meeting will be led by Lynette Hall Hampton whose topic will be “Put Romance in Your Mystery and Mystery in Your Romance.” This meeting will be back at the High Point Library.



Sisters in Crime had an incredible 2012!

SinC was able to complete a web redesign and enhance benefits to its members.

- The first new feature is the streaming book covers at the bottom of the home page. All SinC authors were asked to send their book cover and author web site to me. Your book cover with a link to your author web site will be put in the module and will appear in a rotation throughout the year. We will send you an e-mail when your book cover is featured. We will market this feature to libraries, Bookstores, and others who buy books. You may send your book cover and web site to me at SistersInCrime@juno.com.
- We didn't stop with the covers and were able to have a custom designed interactive map put together by our web maven, Sarah and our data management company, Affiniscap. The goal was to create a map where librarians, book clubs, bookstores and conferences coordinators could experience a convenient way to find SinC authors, contact authors, and link to author web sites. The map is on the home page of www.SistersInCrime.org and may be accessed by anyone. Send the link to your area libraries and book stores, post it to your Facebook or send it out on Twitter.

Malice Domestic

Sisters in Crime will have its annual Malice Domestic Breakfast. Registration for the breakfast is on www.SistersInCrime.org and will be on Saturday, May 4, at 7:30 A.M. The cost is \$20 for a full breakfast. Register on line or by mail. Deadline for reservations is May 1. Send your check for \$20 to

Sisters in Crime
PO Box 442124
Lawrence KS 66044-2124

Your name will be on the reservation list at the door. Hope to see all of you at Malice!

Sisters in Crime will also have a table in the Malice Dealer's Room. Stop by and say hi or bring your questions to the table. Stop by and get your official SinC lapel pin. Free to all members.

Dues renewal

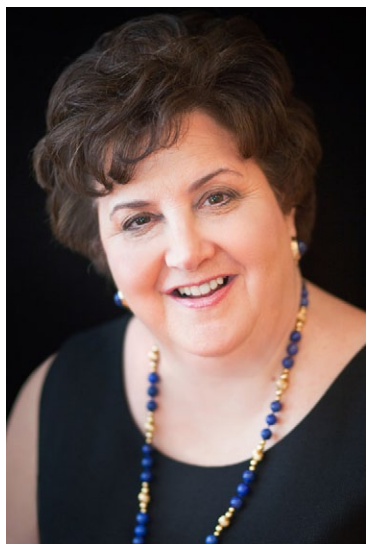
We are in our final days of the official SinC Dues Renewal Period. If you have not renewed for 2013 this will be your final inSinC Quarterly. Don't miss out, jump on www.SistersInCrime.org, log in and pay your \$35/\$40 dues.

Courtesy Lawrence Magazine



We Love Libraries!

Good News! Sisters in Crime will enter its fourth year of We Love Libraries money giveaway. Encourage your local libraries to enter. Hundreds of SinC authors have been featured in the required photo and SinC has given away \$36,000 to libraries around the country. Debra Goldstein, volunteer event coordinator, is working with each library to set up an event for the authors in the area and for the library. Many SinC authors have participated in these events and everyone involved has reported having a great time!



WE LOVE LIBRARIES!

by Debra Goldstein

The reports are consistent! Libraries receiving randomly chosen Sisters in Crime "We Love Libraries" \$1000 awards are uniformly grateful for the opportunity to enhance their collections. Their lists of purchased books and submitted pictures showing interaction between SinC members and library patrons clearly demonstrate the impact "We Love Libraries!" has in communities.

It is most fitting that, as SinC members have been reacting to the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, the "We Love Libraries!" October and November, 2012 lottery winners were schools. As their librarians explained, not only will the children presently attending St. Paul School in Genesee Depot, Wisconsin and South Cobb High School in Austell, Georgia enjoy the books and materials purchased with the "We Love Libraries" award, but future students will also benefit from the generosity of Sisters in Crime.



SINC INTO GREAT WRITING V— CREATE YOUR WRITING CAREER!

by Cathy Pickens & Bob Dugoni

For four years, Sisters in Crime has partnered with Bouchercon to hold a writing workshop at or very near the conference hotel the day before the world mystery conference begins. Every past president charged with planning the conference has targeted a slightly different focus aimed toward offering helpful information to both aspiring and well-published authors. Bouchercon 2013 will be in Albany NY. SinC into Great Writing V will be on September 18, at the Hotel Albany, in the afternoon. All details have not been completed, but we will keep you apprised. Plan now to be part of this dynamic workshop!

The CREATE Process

Creativity is not simply a mysterious muse-bestowed gift that some of us get in more abundance than others, but even the most creative artist is left to discover the creative process on her own.

The creative process is a discipline that can be developed, and we can learn to use that process to tap into our creativity more deeply and to produce creative work more readily.

In the workshop, we will use tools developed from research into brain science and the nature of creativity to help you develop and strength your own creative process.

You will learn to

- Make better use of your writing time,
- Capture and develop ideas,
- Draw on unlikely resources,
- Take risks,
- Deal with success as well as failure,
- Seek and use critique,
- Understand procrastination, and
- Produce more regularly.

Presenter

In addition to being the author of the Southern Fried Mysteries (St. Martin's), Cathy Pickens is also a business professor and consultant who has worked with groups ranging from Fortune 500 companies and not-for-profits to writers' groups and school principals on developing the creative process. Every year, her MBA elective fills as soon as it opens; and, she is a popular lecturer and creativity coach. Cathy is a past-president of Sisters in Crime. She serves on the board for Mystery Writers of America, and as president of the Forensic Medicine Program.



Selling Your Novel

You've written your novel. Now what?

How do you get an agent's attention? How do you convince an agent or an editor to take a chance on you? How do you write a knock-out query that catches an agent's interest and a synopsis that forces her to ask to see your first three chapters?

What can help make the sale and what can kill your chances?

In the workshop, you will learn techniques to correct the most common mistakes so that the query, synopsis, and first chapters become tools, rather than an obstacle, to getting your novel published.

Presenter

Bob Dugoni is a New York Times-bestselling author of legal thrillers. His first book, the nonfiction exposé *The Cyanide Canary*, was named a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year. The accolades for his novels have continued, including being named a finalist for the coveted Harper Lee Award. In addition, he offers a popular series of workshops to lawyers (and others) interested in writing thrillers. Bob is a member of the Sisters in Crime board and lives in Seattle with his family.



Do You WANNA BE IN PICTURES?

Are you a budding Sherlock Holmes looking to put your amateur crime solving skills to the test? Do you always figure out the ending before everybody else? Have you always seen yourself as the main character in mystery novels?

From the creator of "csi," Anthony Zuiker, and 51 Minds comes a brand new mystery reality competition for ABC. Agents are currently scouring the nation for armchair detectives, perceptive problem solvers, or anyone who believes they have the mental acuity to go up against other like-minded sleuths for \$250,000. This show is for everybody from ex-detectives who've solved crimes all their lives, to a mother of three who has to figure out when her children are lying, or where they hid her keys.

If you or anyone you know fits the mold of an aspiring gumshoe then APPLY today. You MUST be at least 21 years old and a legal us resident to be eligible.

For more information and complete eligibility requirements visit ABC.com/Casting or e-mail CastingCatrina@gmail.com. Include name, age, phone number, brief description of yourself, why you think you would be a great crime solver, and two recent photos. Make the subject line your current city and state. All submissions become property of the producer. Good luck.

Please Note

Sisters in Crime in no way endorses your participation in this tv program. We are simply announcing this opportunity.



Now Casting



Whodunnit?



Are YOU or SOMEONE you know:

- a budding Sherlock Holmes ?
- an armchair detective ?
- a problem solver ?



THIS is the show for you !!!

**For a chance to win \$250,000 email:
castingcatrina@gmail.com**





EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Edgar Symposium & Banquet

New York NY • May 1–2

Margaret Maron and Ken Follett will receive Grand Master awards; Oline Cogdill and Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore will receive Raven Awards; and Akashic Books will receive the Ellery Queen Awards. www.MysteryWriters.com

Malice Domestic 25

Bethesda MD • May 3–5

The conference honoring the traditional mystery will feature Laurie R. King, guest of honor; Laura Lippman, toastmaster; Aaron Elkins, lifetime achievement; Carolyn Hart, Amelia Award; Peter Robinson, international guest of honor; Cindy Silberblatt, fan guest of honor; Dick Francis, Malice remember. www.MaliceDomestic.org

Crimefest

Bristol UK • May 30–June 2

The annual convention draws top crime novelists, readers, editors, publishers and reviewers from around the world and gives delegates the opportunity to celebrate the genre in an informal atmosphere. Featured guest authors will be announced soon. www.CrimeFest.com and info@CrimeFest.com

Historical Novel Society Conf.

St. Petersburg FL • June 21–23

Authors, agents, and editors will share their experiences and expertise through panels, lectures, and workshops. Steve Berry and Anne Perry, guest of honor. Two pre-conference workshops with Charlotte Cook. hns-conference.org

California Crime Writers

Pasadena CA • June 22–23

LA-SinC and Southern Chapter of Mystery Writers of America co-sponsor this biennial event geared to emerging and established mystery writers. Sue Grafton and Elizabeth George will be keynote speakers. www.CCWConference.org

Thrillerfest VIII

New York NY • July 10–13

Thriller Masters Anne Rice and R. L. Stine, Spotlight Guests Michael Connelly, T. Jefferson Parker, and Michael Palmer, and Silver Bullet Award Recipient Steve Berry will highlight the event. www.ThrillerFest.com

Public Safety Writers Conference

Las Vegas NV • July 11–14

Crime writers—fiction, non-fiction, or technical—will hear experts on topics ranging from book promotion to gender issues to DNA to serial murder, to prostitution, to blog to book to public safety websites. tinyurl.com/ahe4y9k

Theaksons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, (AKA Harrogate)

Harrogate UK • July 18–21

Chair Val McDermid will be joined by Special Guests Kate Atkinson, Charlaine Harris, Susan Hill, and Ruth Rendell interviewed by Jeanette Winterson. HarrogateInternationalFestivals.com [Click on “Crime Writing Festival.”]

Midwest Writers Workshop

Indianapolis IN • July 25–27

mww helps writers become published authors! Faculty includes John Gilstrap, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Matthew Clemens, D.E. Johnson—and more. www.MidwestWriters.org

Deadly Ink

New Brunswick NJ • Aug. 2–4

The conference features Hank Phillippi Ryan as guest of honor, Rosemary Harris as toastmaster, and Bob Daniher as fan guest of honor. info@deadlyink.com

St. Hilda’s Mystery Conference & Yorkshire Tour

Cambridge UK • Aug. 15–27

Attend 20th Mystery & Crime weekend and visit mystery crime sites and hear Yorkshire mystery writers. Full details of tour at www.BritishMysteryTrips.com

Killer Nashville

Nashville TN • Aug. 22–25

Anne Perry will be guest of honor at the “place for thriller, suspense, mystery writers and literary lovers.” www.KillerNashville.com

Writers’ Police Academy

Jamestown NC • Sept. 5–8

A trip to a firing range, suiting up with the dive team, with top experts—and much, much more. SinC will pay more than half the registration. www.WritersPoliceAcademy.com

Creatures, Crimes & Creativity

Baltimore MD • Sept. 13–15

The literary conference to gather readers and writers of mystery, suspense, horror, sci-fi, and steam punk will feature keynote authors Jeffrey Deaver and Christopher Golden and special guest authors John Gilstrap and Trice Hickman. www.CreaturesCrimesAndCreativity.com

Bouchercon

Albany NY • Sept. 19–22

Honorees include Sue Grafton for lifetime achievement, P. C. Doherty as international guest of honor, Tess Gerritsen as American guest of honor, Steve Hamilton as toastmaster, and Chris Aldrich and Lynn Kaczmarek as fan guests of honor. www.Bcon2013.com

Escape to Write

Chester CT • Sept. 27–29

Seaside hands-on weekend workshop for brainstorming, critiquing, and revising with Hallie Ephron, Roberta Isleib AKA Lucy Burdette, and Hank Phillippi Ryan tinyurl.com/afvnpob

Magna cum Murder

Indianapolis IN • Oct. 25–27

The 14th crime writing festival will feature Steve Hamilton as guest of honor and Hank Phillippi Ryan as banquet speaker. tinyurl.com/a66o3vr



SIN C + WRITERS POLICE ACADEMY

Happenings - continued

2014

Love Is Murder

Chicago IL • Feb. 7–9

Featured authors are Jamie Frev-
eletti, Heather Graham, Peter Korn-
bluh, Marcus Sakey, and Shane
Gericke. www.LoveIsMurder.net

Left Coast Crime

Monterey CA • Mar. 20–23

Calamari Crime will feature Marcia
Muller and Bill Pronzini as lifetime
achievement honorees, Cara Black as US
guest of honor, Louise Penny as inter-
national guest of honor, Sue Grafton as
“G” is for Guest, Brad Parks as toastmas-
ter, Sue Trowbridge as guest of honor,
and Collin Wilcox as ghost of honor.
www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2014

Bouchercon

Long Beach CA • Nov. 13–16

Honorees include Jeffrey Deaver for
lifetime achievement, Edward Marston as
international guest of honor, J.A. Jance as
American guest of honor, Simon Wood as
toastmaster, and Al Abramson as fan guest
of honor.
www.Bouchercon2014.com

2015

Bloody Words IV

Halifax NS • June 4–7

Planning is underway for Stormy Weather!
More information will be forthcoming.
www.BloodyWords.com/2015

Bouchercon

Raleigh NC • Oct. 8–11

“Murder Under the Oaks” will feature
Margaret Maron, lifetime achievement;
Kathy Reichs and Tom Franklin, Ameri-
can guests of honor; Zoe Sharp and S.
Allan Guthrie, international guests of
honor; Sean Doolittle and Lori Arm-
strong, toastmasters; and Sarah Shaber
and Ron Rash, local guests of honor.
Bouchercon2015.org and @Bcon2015

Sisters in Crime is delighted to partner once again with Writers Police Academy (WPA) for SinC members. SinC will pay \$100 toward WPA registration. If you’ve got a writing buddy who isn’t yet a member, there’s even a link where one can join SinC!

The 2013 Academy will be held September 5–8 at the Guilford Technical Community College Public Safety Building in Jamestown NC. *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Gardner will be the keynote speaker; *New York Times* bestselling author, forensic anthropologist, and producer of TV’s “Bones” Kathy Reichs will be a special guest speaker; and world-renowned DNA expert Dr. Dan Krane will also be a special guest speaker.

Workshops will be staffed by real police, fire, and EMS personnel at an actual police academy. Drawings will be held for ride-alongs or tours.

Sisters and misters have been enthusiastic in their praise after past WPA experiences. Registration is underway now. www.WritersPoliceAcademy.com



WRITING CONTESTS

Poisoned Pen Press Discover Mystery Award Deadline March 15

First book contest for unpublished writers.
www.PoisonedPenPress.com/contest

Claymore Award June 1

Killer Nashville sponsors this con-
test for any subgenre of mystery or
thriller. www.ClaymoreAward.com

Minotaur Books/ Malice Domestic Competition Check in April

Rules for the 2013 competition will
be posted. tinyurl.com/kkb6gq.

PWA Best First Private Eye Novel Competition July 13

Sponsored by the Private Eye Writers of
America and St. Martin’s Press, the compe-
tition is open to any unpublished author of
a private eye novel. tinyurl.com/dxd3pn4

Minotaur Books/ Mystery Writers of America (MWA) First Crime Novel Check in mid-April

Contest rules and guidelines will
be posted. tinyurl.com/qyvt7e.

Golden Donut August 19

Short story contest sponsored by the Writ-
ers’ Police Academy. tinyurl.com/9wbc2av

The Tony Hillerman Prize June 1

Co-sponsored by the Tony Hiller-
man Writers Conference and Minotaur
Books, the prize is awarded annually
to the best debut mystery set in the
Southwest. tinyurl.com/qyv73

William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grants Program for Unpublished Writers Usually mid-November

Grants to two unpublished writers in the
malic domestic genre.
www.malicedomestic.org/grants.html



LIFE INSURANCE

by Leslie Budewitz

Can a character buy a life insurance policy on someone else, without that person's knowledge?

By federal law, insurance is left to state regulation, and, of course, local laws vary. In most states, the owner of the policy—not the beneficiaries, but the person who buys it and pays the premiums—must have an “insurable interest” in the named insured, unless the named insured or his estate is the beneficiary.

An “insurable interest” typically means either being financially dependent on the named insured, or if owner and insured are closely related by blood or law, “a substantial interest engendered by love and affection.” Other financial relationships may also qualify, such as a debt from named insured to policy owner. The obvious purpose is to eliminate motives for buying insurance and knocking off the named insured to collect the booty.

A corporation can buy life insurance on its officers and directors, called “key man” insurance, and provide life insurance as part of an employee benefit package. Film producers often insure

their stars, because their contractual relationship gives the producers an economic interest in the actors' life and health. In some states, charities may buy policies on named insureds who consent, as a way of providing a benefit to the charity when the insured dies, if the insured pays the premiums. A person always has an insurable interest in him or herself.

A creepy example

The insurable interest requirement, however, is sometimes treated as just a box to be checked on a form. In 2008, two elderly Los Angeles women, Olga Rutterschmidt and Helen Golay, were convicted of first degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder for financial gain in the deaths of two homeless men they met at shelters, Kenneth McDavid and Paul Vados, by staging fatal accidents. Suspicion focused on the women when investigators saw similarities between the two hit-and-run deaths, which were six years apart, and discovered that the same women had purchased multiple life insurance policies on the men, collecting \$2.8 million. On the applications, one woman claimed to be the man's cousin and the other his fiancée. The prosecutor described the case as “like Arsenic and Old Lace, except that it doesn't have Cary Grant,” and the media nicknamed the two women “Black Widows.” [An episode of “The Closer” exploited this true story very closely.]



In most states, if a married person wants to buy life insurance on his or her spouse, the spouse must sign the application or be given notice of it. Again, the public policy reason—that is, the legislative goal—is to protect the person insured from being killed for the payout. In real life, many insurance companies require medical exams or other information directly from the person to be insured. But that's the kind of plodding detail that often sinks a plot. Leave it out and let your black widows—or widowers—spin their webs.

(Adapted from *Books, Crooks & Counselors*, by Leslie Budewitz)

Leslie Budewitz is a practicing lawyer and a fiction writer. Her book for writers, Books, Crooks & Counselors: A Fiction Writer's Guide to Getting the Law Right (Quill Driver Books) won the 2011 Agatha for Best Nonfiction, and was nominated for the 2012 Anthony and Macavity awards. Death al Dente, first in “The Food Lovers' Village Mysteries”, will debut from Berkley Prime Crime in 2013. For more help getting the law right in your stories, visit her website, www.LawandFiction.com and blog, www.LawandFiction.com/blog.





RED FLAGS FOR MASS MURDER

by Katherine Ramsland

Since 1982, we've seen more than 60 incidents of mass shootings in the us. Nearly half occurred during the past six years, with three in December 2012. The youngest mass shooter was 11, and four were women. Most had a mental illness but no record of violence. Some never even made threats.

We do not know which specific behaviors clearly predict mass murder, but several show up in these incidents more than others. For crime writers, it's a good idea to know about the development of a rampage murder mentality. What follows is from my book, *Inside the Minds of Mass Murderers*.

Many criminologists and forensic psychologists have theories about which combination of factors is likely to precipitate a mass murder. Essentially, they look at those conditions that form a mind that can ponder—and rehearse—a fatal assault against others. The development of this mind set generally begins with frustrations experienced during childhood and it grows increasingly aggressive in private fantasies.

A look at the backgrounds of rampage killers makes it clear that many behaved in ways that suggested they might eventually explode: an inability to deal with stress, for example, chronic discontent, and angry outbursts or retaliations against others (especially specific targets). The buildup of frustration seems to result from the way they learned (or did not learn) to manage frustration and disappointment. This is rooted in how their observations of role models blended with their response to the teaching strategies of those responsible for their development. The final factor is their individual manner of cognitive processing.

In others words, several children subjected to similar conditions can exhibit quite different responses. The development of violence results from a cumulative exchange between our experiences and our neurochemistry. This information is coded into

the body as an emotional record. The record remains intact, motivating attitudes and behavior, until some mitigating experience influences a change.

Those who resist change will likely continue in the same mindset. In addition, those with greater exposure to violence in the environment show an increased tendency to duplicate it, especially if they suffer from certain forms of mental illness or acquire military experience later in life.

This is not to say that angry children will turn into killers or that passive children will not. However, since behavioral patterns in adapting to stress can point toward the potential for more serious problems down the line, it's helpful to identify those individuals in need of treatment.

Given that many mass shooters had rigid temperaments, it's clear why their fantasies about being picked on, neglected, or thwarted can build pent-up energy and explode. This might be in the form of suicide, it might involve killing a relative, or it could become a public mass murder, especially with suicidal intent. We've seen this in schools, businesses, malls, theaters, and even a military base.

Red flags

Specific traits or behaviors that feed into a constellation of red flags for potential violence (but should not be construed as sufficient in themselves) include:

- Obsession with themes of violence, especially attention to such incidents in the news, movies, or a gaming environment;
- Low frustration tolerance and few or no behaviors that show resilience;
- Significant stressors, such as broken relationships, loss, humiliation, or a number of such incidents in quick succession;
- Collecting perceived injustices, especially as written lists;



- A tendency to blame others for life's unfairness;
- An ability to dehumanize others;
- Withdrawal and alienation;
- Poor coping skills, especially for any type of change;
- Sense of superiority or entitlement;
- Poor or malformed self-esteem;
- Intolerance and rigidity;
- Suspiciousness and paranoia;
- Substance abuse;
- If psychotic, the presence of anosognosia, paranoia, and aggression;
- Avid collection of weapons or expressed fantasies about war or assault.

No single factor is causal, but many rampage shooters have a number of these traits. Thus, finding several together in someone who is having difficulty coping with anger or distress signals the need for intervention. Books that explain why so many violent incidents involve the mentally ill, such as in the Newport and Aurora incidents, are *The Insanity Offense*, by E. Fuller Torrey, and *Crazy*, by Pete Earley.

Katherine Ramsland is a professor of forensic psychology, has published 46 books and more than 1,000 articles, and writes a blog for Psychology Today. Her latest books are Paranormal Forensics and Snap! Seizing Your Aha! Moments.



TEN TIPS FOR BETTER PHOTOS

by Mo Walsh, New England Chapter

Everybody likes to see pictures in magazines—and we love them to feature people we know. Often the photos are what draws readers to an article. Although I'd love to be at every mystery conference and chapter event to make these photos, I can't. So, I depend on SinC members to send visual documentation. Sometimes I simply can't use the pictures I receive: Many are out of focus, lots are too small to print, and often the color or contrast is bad. When I received several e-mails from Mo, all of them with great photos, I asked her to share some tips with inSinC readers. Please read Mo's article, examine her NE Crimebake shots, then go out and practice taking wonderful photos—and share them with inSinC!

You don't have to be a professional (I'm not) to take good pictures at SinC gatherings and events. These tips and your enthusiasm will help, so will taking a lot of pictures—you can toss the ones where someone blinked, the flash failed, or the antlers on the wall are growing out of the speaker's head. Of course, the best photos may break any or all these rules!

1. Know your camera and work within its capabilities.
2. Know basic composition: rule of thirds, leading lines, angles, filling the frame. Check online and printed resources for tips and examples.
3. Know what you want to shoot. Be in position. Make your subject your focal point. Don't try to include too much. Vary your angles and positions to get the best shots.
4. Catch your subject being interesting: a gesture, expression, interaction. Avoid bland head shots.
5. Get close or zoom in. Get faces, and get subjects close to each other without dead space in between.
6. Be bossy. Your subjects want to look good. Tell them what to do. Make it fun!
7. Check for lighting problems: backlighting and glare, reflecting surfaces, low light and shadows. Beware light that makes subjects squint and hat brims that shadow faces.
8. Check foreground and background for distractions (bad) and contrast (good). Think in two dimensions: objects that appear to be poking into or growing out of subjects; hands in front of body parts. Think in gray scale: dark faces or hair disappearing into mahogany woodwork, blondes in beige against white walls.
9. Use software tools to fix red-eye and to crop, adjust exposure, straighten, sharpen shots. [Omit this step if you're sending them to inSinC.]
10. Know the specifications for your intended market in terms of file format, image resolution, dimensions, orientation (if you don't know, make some horizontal *and* vertical. Ask!

Wait for the right "hold it" moment before you snap.

Michele and Steve Dorsey bust up the joint as Boston's notorious couple, Catherine Greig and Whitey Bulger.



Note the contrast in Conga Dames' expressions!

Femme Fatale Leslie Wheeler, left, leads Cruella de Vil (aka Sharon Daynard) in the Costume Conga.

About resolution

Most images posted on social media are fine at low resolution, 72 pixels per inch (PPI). For many print and some online publications [including inSinC], high resolution or "hi-res" ideal is 300 PPI (often mixed up with the printing term dots per inch, DPI). [If you don't want to do the math, look at the size of your file: 1 MB is a good rule of thumb for inSinC—nothing smaller than 500 KB.]

So 2" x 3" = 600 x 900 pixels, 4" x 6" = 1200 x 1800 pixels, etc. Length by width gives the total pixels. A megapixel is 1 million pixels. The number of megapixels your camera has determines the maximum size of the image you can shoot at a given resolution. Got it? Check online for longer, clearer explanations!



NE CRIME BAKE 2012 LIVES ON IN PICTURES!



By waiting for the “aha moment,” Mo was able to capture Sheila’s intensity.

Lucy Burdette (aka Roberta Isleib) and Sheila Connolly discuss why today’s series sleuths are “Not Your Mother’s Miss Marple.”



Grouping subjects in different levels make photos more interesting.

Winners of the Al Blanchard Awards for New England short crime fiction are Honorable Mention Christine Bagley, left, Al Blanchard Award Winner VR Barkowski, committee chair Leslie Wheeler, Honorable Mention Christine Eskilson, and Honorable Mentions Ben and Beth Oak, writing as B.B. Oak. Not Pictured: Frank Cook.



Always be on the lookout for similarities and differences.

Who’s Who? “twins” Marian Lanouette, left, and “Developing Brand You!” speaker Jennifer Fusco.

To get all subject’s eyes open at the same time, ask everyone to close them and open on the count of 3. (Tip from Elizabeth Craig.)

New England chapter board members Barbara Ross, left, Michele Dorsey, Julie Hennrikus, Nancy Gardner, and Sharon Daynard welcomed guests at the SinC reception.



SISTERS IN CRIME BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 6, 2013

President Hank Phillippi Ryan convened the [conference call] meeting at 5:02 PM EST.

Attendees: Hank Phillippi Ryan, Laura DiSilverio, Stefanie Pintoff, Martha Reed, Cari Dubiel, Barbara Fister, Frankie Bailey, Mary Boone (non-voting), Beth Wasson (non-voting), Molly Weston (non-voting), Cathy Pickens, and Bob Dugoni.

Members not present: Sally Brewster, Val McDermid, Kathy Wall (non-voting)

Ad Planning and Budgeting for 2013

- Stefanie reported on the estimated cost of print advertising in the coming year. Because of SinC's advertising emphasis on educational programming and member benefits, most 2013 expenses should be eligible for Author Coalition Funds.
- The Board discussed advertising goals and potential new venues. It was voted unanimously to increase the advertising budget for 2013 to \$20,000.

Summit Report

- Frankie reported on the Summit Team's September trip to New York, which explored the current state of the publishing industry by interviewing agents, editors, reviewers, and other industry insiders.
- The report is expected to release prior to Malice Domestic.
- The Board approved \$8,000 in funding to support a wide distribution of the report to all members and other interested parties.

SinC into Great Writing 2013

Frankie and Cathy reported on plans for this fall's SinC into Great Writing workshop to be held September 18. This year's workshop will be led by Cathy Pickens and Bob Dugoni. The topic will focus on the path to publication—developing the creative process as well as pitching queries to agents.

Strategic Planning Session

Plans for the Board's Strategic Planning Session, to be held in Chicago in advance of ALA on June 27 and 28, are proceeding well. The Board will explore goals for the

future of SinC and ways we can best support our members going forward. Hank, Cathy, and Frankie suggested that we produce a report following the Session; the rest of the Board agreed.

Legal Services for Members

With e-publishing on the rise and many SinC members handling contract negotiations on their own, some members have expressed their desire for legal advice. The Board discussed and determined not to proceed at this time.

Malice Domestic 2013

The Board discussed ideas for recognizing the special service of chapter presidents at the SinC breakfast.

We Love Libraries

The Board voted to continue the We Love Libraries grant program for another year at a cost of \$12,000.

New Guidebook Book for SinC

Hank and Martha received unanimous support to explore the possibility of creating a new guidebook for members on "What I Wish I Knew" about the publishing business. It would be available to all new members.

Evaluation of Social Media

The Board reviewed progress on the blog and Facebook, including ideas for expanding readership in the coming year. The Board also discussed possible public relations goals and agreed to explore these issues further during the Strategy Session.

Panel Proposal for PLA

Mary reported on planning for a panel at the March 2014 Public Library Association meeting in Indianapolis. The Board discussed potential topics that would draw on connections between readers and writers. Mary asked for suggestions to be sent to her before February 28, 2013.

Creating a Go-To Website

Barbara presented ideas to make the SinC website the go-to source for information about mysteries and women mystery writers. The Board unanimously agreed to explore further and place this topic on the agenda for the Strategy Session.

Convention planning

Laura requested and received unanimous approval for \$1,500 funding for the SinC-sponsored reception at Left Coast Crime in March 2013.

Volunteer Day

Hank convened a committee including Barbara and Frankie to coordinate planning for "Sisters Love Mysteries Day" with Jim Huang. The event would center on Valentine's Day 2013 and encourage members to buy or check out mysteries and Facebook/Tweet/otherwise publicize their choices. In addition to promoting our love of mysteries, the goal would be to show appreciation for our favorite booksellers and librarians by patronizing them during Valentine's Day week.

The Docket

Molly requested that an e-blast be sent out requesting all members to send in their latest publication information for The Docket. The e-mail will have a one-click link that members can follow.

Monitoring Project

Barbara reported on the progress of the Monitoring Project Report, which is almost completed for 2012 [see article on p.1]

Membership

Beth reported that new membership substantially increased in 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM EST.

—Stefanie Pintoff
Secretary

RIP Margaret Frazer

Gail Frazer, who wrote as Margaret Frazer, died on February 4, 2013, after fighting long and stubbornly against cancer. She was 66. There was a memorial service at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel in Minneapolis. Donations to her memory may be made to Heifer International.



September 2012

David Ciambrone's *The Trashy Gourmet*, L&L Dreamspell, was nominated for the Love Is Murder's Lovey Award.

Sheila Connolly's *Once She Knew**, Beyond the Page Publishing, was nominated for Barnes & Noble Best Paperback Books of 2012 and Barnes & Noble Best Original Ebooks for 2012.

Elissa D. Grodin, *Physics Can Be Fatal***, Cozy Cat Press, September, 2012

Kathleen Heady, *Lydia's Story***, Sage Words Publishing

Thonie Hevron's *By Force or Fear*, won third place in the Public Safety Writers' Association Writing Contest.

M.E. Kemp, "Who Wears the Pants?," *The Sister Fidelma Mysteries*

Susan Koefod, *Broken Down*, North Star Press

Marian Lanouette, *If I Fail, A Jake Carrington Mystery**, MuseItUp Publishing

Molly MacRae, *Last Wool and Testament*, NAL/Obsidian

Steven P. Marini, *Connections*, Gypsy Shadow Press

Marilyn Rausch & Mary Donlon, *Headaches Can Be Murder***, North Star Press

Patricia Rockwell, *Murder in the Round*, Cozy Cat Press

Toby Speed, *Death Over Easy*, Five Star

October 2012

Pamela Beason's *Bear Bait*, Berkley Prime Crime, won the rwa Daphne Dumarier Award.

E.B. Boatner, *M-o-t-t-e-r Spells Murder*, iUniverse

Miriam Clavir, *Insinuendo: Murder in the Museum*, Bayeux Arts

Janet Costello, ed., *The Whole She-Bang*, Toronto Sisters in Crime

Bridges DelPonte's *Deadly Sacrifices*, won a Royal Palm Literary Award (second place, unpublished mystery) from the Florida Writers Association.

Joanna Dymond, *Crazy as a Loon*, Birchtree Publishing Group

Jen Estes, *Curveball* (A Cat McDaniel Mystery), Camel Press

Nora Gaskin, *Until Proven: A Mystery in 2 Parts**

Kate George, *Crazy Little Thing Called Dead*, KLMG & Broke**, Untreed Reads, Smashwords

Barb Goffman, "Murder a la Mode*", Untreed Reads in *The Killer Wore Cranberry: A Second Helping*

Margaret Grace, "Majesty in Miniature" in *Dolls' House Magazine*, October-December, 2012

Jane Isenberg, *The Bones and the Book*, Oconee Spirit Press

Amnon Kabatchnik, *Blood on the Stage, 1975-2000*, The Scarecrow Press

Kurt Kamm's *Code Blood* was nominated for the USA Best Book Awards—Horror 2012 and the International Book Awards Cross Genre Fiction Awards.

Rob Kresge, "Ground Truth" in *Outlaws and Lawmen*, Mike Harris, ed., La Frontera Press

B.V. Lawson, "Beside Still Waters," in *For When the Veil Drops*

D.J. McIntosh's *The Witch of Babylon*, Forge, October, 2012 was a finalist for the Debut Dagger Award.

G.M. Malliet, *A Fatal Winter*, Minotaur

Jack Martin, *Hail, Columbia*, Fireship Press

Rosemary & Larry Mild's *Death Goes Postal*, Magic Island Literary Works**, won 3rd prize in the Writers' Workshop of Asheville NC's Meet the Author contest.

Sandra Murphy, *The Obituary Rule**, Untreed Reads

P.M. Steffen, *The Profiler's Daughter: A Sky Stone Thriller**, Lion Dog Press

B.K. Stevens, "Fifty Ways to Catch Your Killer" in *The Third Degree*, Mystery Writers of America

Maxine Nunes, *Dazzled*, Five Star

Deborah Reardon, *Blue Suede Shoes***, Greenleaf Book Group

P.M. Steffen, *The Profiler's Daughter: A Sky Stone Thriller**, Lion Dog Press

Cathi Stoler, *Keeping Secrets*, Camel Press

Diane Vallere, *Pillow Stalk*, Polyester Press

R.M. Vassari, *Murder at the Leopard**

Kirsten Weiss, *The Shamanic Detective**, Misterio Press

Kate Wyland, *Wyoming Escape**

November 2012

Claire Applewhite, *Tennessee Plates***, L&L Dreamspell

Kathleen L. Asay, *Flint House*, Bridle Path Press

Peg Brantley, *The Missings***, Bark Publishing

Richard Brawer, *Keiretsu**, L&L Dreamspell

Donis A. Casey, *The Wrong Hill to Die On: An Alafair Tucker Mystery***, Poisoned Pen Press

Sheila Connolly, *The Rising of the Moon**, Beyond the Page Publishing & *Kept in the Dark*, Level Best Books

Maddi Davidson, *Denial of Service*, Createspace

E.B. Davis, "No-Hair Day" in *A Shaker of Margaritas: Bad Hair Day*, Mozark Press

Jill Downie, *A Grave Waiting*, Dundurn Press

Jacqueline Fleming, *FUN Can Be Murder**, fastpencil.com

Richard Godwin, *Apostle Rising**, Black Jackal Books Ltd.

Stacy Green, *Into the Dark**, MuseItUp Publishing

Kathryn Gualtieri, *Murder Takes the Stage: A Carmel-by-the-Sea Mystery*, Tin Lantern Publications

Peg Herring, *Killing Silence*, LL-Publications

Linda Joffe Hull, *The Big Bang*, Tyrus Books

M.E. Kemp, *Death of a Cape Cod Cavalier*, L&L Dreamspell

David E. Knop's *Poisoned by God's Flesh**, Bookbaby.com was nominated for the Military Writers Society's Bronze Medal.

Rob Kresge, *Death's Icy Hand*, ABQ Press

Ellen Larson, *In Retrospect*, Five Star Publishing

Linda Lovely, *Final Accounting***, MuseItUp Publishing

Cricket McRae, *Deadly Row to Hoe*, Midnight Ink

Judith Mehl, *Game, Set, Murder***, Pennystone Books

Elizabeth J. Morris, *Carrigan's Promotion*, Publish America

B.B. Oak, "Death from a Bad Heart" in *Blood Moon*, Level Best Books & *Thoreau at Devil's Perch*, Kensington

Terry Odell, *Deadly Bones*, Create Space

Helen Macie Osterman, *Maker's Mark*, Helen Osterman

Ann Philipp, *Grand Theft Death**, Bookbaby.com

John Russo, *Dianne's Dilemma**, Museitup Publishing

Ilene Schneider, *Unleavened Dead*, Oak Tree Press

Jane Sevier, *A Billy Sunday Kind of Love*, Jane Sevier/Kindle, Nook, Kobo

Linda Howe Steiger, *Fog***, CreateSpace

Susan Sundwall, *The Red Shoelace Killer—A Minnie Markwood Mystery*, Mainly Murder Press

Pamela Turner, *Family Tradition**, MuseItUp Publishing

Elaine Viets, *Murder Is a Piece of Cake: A Josie Marcus Mystery Shopper Mystery***, Obsidian

*e-book

**e-book and print

The Docket - continued

Dick C. Waters, *Branded for Murder**
Sharon Wildwind, *Loved Honor More*, Five Star/
Gale/Cengage
Lois Winston, *Crewel Intentions, an Anastasia
Pollack Crafting Mini-Mystery**
Nancy Means Wright, "Acts of Balance" in *Blood
Moon*, Level Best Books & *Walking into the
Wild*, L.L. Dreamspell

December 2012

Terry Ambrose, *License to Lie*, Oak Tree Press
Mike Befeler, *Cruising in Your Eighties Is
Murder*, Five Star
D.V. Berkom, *Bad Traffick**, Amazon Kindle
Beate Boeker, *Delayed Death**, Smashwords
Irene Bennett Brown, *Where Danger Danced***,
Riveredge Books
Janet L. Buck aka Ally Shields, *Fire Within
(Guardian Witch Book Two*)*, Etopia Press
Gayle Carline, *The Hot Mess*, Dancing Corgi
Press
Bailey Cates, *Bewitched, Bothered and Biscotti*,
NAL/Signet
Erika Chase, *Read and Buried*, Berkley Prime
Crime
Jan Christensen, *Organized to Death**,
CreateSpace
C. Hope Clark, *Lowcountry Bribe*, Bell Bridge
Books, Audible
Sharon Love Cook, *The Legend of Judgment
Rock and other Mystery Stories**, Neptune
Rising Press
Donna Fletcher Crow, *A Tincture of Murder**,
Greenbrier Books
E.B. Davis, "A Task For Christmas Eve" and
"The Christmas Present" in *Kings River Life
Magazine**
Lesley A. Diehl, *Grilled, Chilled and Killed*, Oak
Tree Press
R. Barri Flowers, *The Dynamics of Murder: Kill
or Be Killed*, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis
Bob Doerr, *No One Else to Kill*, TotalRecall
Publications
Kaye George, "The Last Wave*" in *Dark
Valentine/Nightfalls*
June Gillam, *House of Cuts**, Gorilla Girl Ink
Barb Goffman, "Bon Appetit" in *Nightfalls*,
Dark Valentine Press & "Ulterior Motives" in
*Ride 2**, Typeflow, Inc.
Joel Gomez-Dossi, *Pursued*, Bold Strokes Books
Christine Husom, *The Noding Field Mystery*,
Second Wind Publishing
Mercedes King, *O! Jackie*, Amazon, Kindle
Eleanor Cawood Jones, *A Baker's Dozen: 13
Tales of Murder and More**, Bookbaby.com
Deborah J. Ledford & Susan Budavari's, eds.,
SoWest: Desert Justice, DS Publishing, was in
Suspense Magazine's Best of 2012 Anthology
List.

Ada Madison, *A Function of Murder*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Maryann Miller, *Stalking Season*, Five Star/
Cengage Gale
J.J. Murphy, *A Friendly Game of Murder*, NAL-
Obsidian
Sylvia A. Nash, *The Missing Calico***,
CreateSpace, Kindle, Smashwords
Teagan Oliver, *Obsidian**, Kindle
cj petterson, "A Fool's Gold" in *Mod Mobilian
Press Tributaries 2012*
Lisa Regan, *Finding Claire Fletcher*, Sapphire
Star Publishing
Juliet Rosetti, *The Escape Diaries***, Random
House
Priscilla J. Royal, *The Sanctity of Hate*, Poisoned
Pen Press
Hank Phillippi Ryan's *The Other Woman* was
nominated for the Edgar's Mary Higgins Clark
Award.
Clea Simon, *True Grey: A Dulcie Schwartz Feline
Mystery*, Severn House
Nancy Sweetland, *The Virgin Murders**
Shannon Teper, *Through the Door to Danger*,
Royal Fireworks Press
Britt Vasarhelyi's *Message from Panama*,
Hanging Moon Press, was a finalist for the
Daphne du Maurier Award and nominated for
the cwa Dagger Award.
Alana White, *The Sign of the Weeping Virgin*,
Five Star
N.S. Wikarski, *The Dragon's Wing Enigma***
Elizabeth Zelvin, *Death Will Save Your Life**,
BooksBNimble Press

January 2013

Elaine J. Anderson, *Priority #1, Code Name:
Marty***, iUniverse
Mollie Cox Bryan, *Scrapped: Cumberland Creek
Mystery #2*, Kensington Publishing
Nancy Famolari, *The Yellow Diamond Caper*,
Createspace
Bobbie Vetter Fite, *Storm Damage**
R. Barri Flowers, *Seduced to Kill in Kauai** and
*Count Dracula's Teenage Daughter***
Earlene Fowler, *The Road to Cardinal Valley*,
Berkley Prime Crime
Kaye George, "Yellow Roses", Texas Gardiner/
Seeds Kathryn J. Bain, *Knight & Day**, Write
Words, Inc.
Helen Ginger, *Dismembering the Past***, High
Canyon Books
Penny Grubb's *The Doll Makers**, Fantastic
Books Publishing, was nominated for the cwa
Dagger Award.
Parnell Hall, *Stakeout*, Pegasus and *Arsenic and
Old Puzzles*, Minotaur
Rita Lakin, *The Four Coins of the Kaballah**

Marian Lanouette, *As the World Ends*,
Createspace & *Burn in Hell, a Jake Carrington
Mystery*, MuseltUp Publishing
Colby Marshall, *Chain of Command***, Stairway
Press
Sylvia A. Nash, "Ministering to Shut-ins" in
Mature Living
Terri Nolan, *Burden of Truth*, Midnight Ink
Barbara Corrado Pope, *The Missing Italian Girl*,
Pegasus
Karen Pullen, *Cold Feet*, Five Star Cengage
Jonette Stabbert, *The Last Laugh**, Kings River
Life and *Black Stuff**, Sein und Werden,
January (possible delay for Winter issue)
B.K. Stevens, "No Good Deed" in *To Hell in a
Fast Car*, Dark Quest Books
Richard A. Thompson's *Big Wheat*, Poisoned
Pen Press, was nominated for the 2012
Minnesota Book Award.
E.F. Watkins, *Dark Music*, Amber Quill Press,
LLC
Nancy G. West, *Dang Near Dead*, Southwest
Publications
Lois Winston, *Revenge of the Crafty Corpse*,
Midnight Ink

February 2013

Avery Aames, *To Brie or Not to Brie*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Frances Brody, *Dying in the Wool*, St. Martin's
Minotaur Books, Thorndike Press large print
Sheila Connolly, *Buried in a Bog*, Berkley Prime
Crime
Amanda Flower, *A Plain Scandal*, B&H
Publishing
Susan Furlong-Bolliger, "Murder's Brewing"
Woman's World Magazine
Leighton Gage, *Perfect Hatred*, Soho Crime
Lynda Hilburn, *Blood Therapy*, Silver Oak,
Sterling Publishing
Linda O. Johnston, *Oodles of Poodles*, Berkley
Prime Crime
April Kelly and Marsha Lyons, *Murder: Take
Three**, Flight Risk Books
Sofie Kelly, *Cat Trick*, Penguin
Susan Koefod, "Boys will be Boys" in *Ellery
Queen Mystery Magazine*
Deborah J. Ledford, *Crescendo***, Second Wind
Publishing
Alice Loweecey, *Veiled Threat*, Midnight Ink
Staci McLaughlin, *All Natural Murder*,
Kensington
M.E. May's *Perfidy*, True Grit Publishing, won
the Lovey Award for Best First Novel.
Carolyn Mulford, *Show Me the Murder*, Five
Star/Gale, Cengage
C.J. Petterson, *Deadly Star**, Crimson Romance
Julia Pomeroy, *No Safe Ground*, Five Star

The Docket - continued

Mar Preston, *Payback*, Pertinacity Press/
Createspace
L.J. Sellers, *Rules of Crime*, Thomas & Mercer
Connie Shelton, *Sweets Galore: The Sixth
Samantha Sweet Mystery*, Secret Staircase
Books
Mari Sloan, *Road Trip*, It's ME! Ink Press
Triss Stein, *Brooklyn Bones*, Poisoned Pen Press
Cathi Stoler, *The Hard Way*, Camel Press
Wendy Webb, *The Fate of Mercy Alban*,
Hyperion
Kenneth Wishnia, *Soft Money*, PM Press

March 2013

Victoria Abbott, *The Christie Curse: A Book
Collector Mystery*, Berkley Prime Crime
Cathy Ace, *The Corpse with the Golden Nose*,
TouchWood Editions
Ellery Adams, *Peach Pies and Alibis*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Shannon Baker, *Tainted Mountain*, Midnight
Ink
Colleen Collins, *The Next Right Thing*,
Harlequin
Susan Cory, *Conundrum***, Createspace
Hilary Davidson, *Evil in All Its Disguises*, Forge
Lee Driver, *The Vaporizer*, Full Moon Publishing
Hallie Ephron, "Growing Up Ephron," *O, The
Oprah Magazine*
Sara Hoskinson Frommer, *Her Brother's Keeper*,
Perseverance Press
W.S. Gager, *A Case of Volatile Deeds*, Oak Tree
Press
Rebecca Grace, *Shadows from the Past*, The
Wild Rose Press
Naomi Hirahara, *Strawberry Yellow*, Prospect
Park Books
James M. Jackson, *Bad Policy*, Barking Rain
Press
K.A. Laity, *Lush Situation: Chastity Flame 2**,
Tirgearr Publishing
B.V. Lawson, "Double Your Pleasure" in *Beat to
a Pulp: Hardboiled 2*
Elizabeth J. Morris, *Carrigan's Responsibility*,
Publish America
Sheila Simonson, *Beyond Confusion*,
Perseverance Press
Joanna Campbell Slan, *Wave Good-bye*, Berkley
L.A. Starks, *Strike Price***, L&L Dreamspell,
OmniLit
Orest Stelmach, *The Boy From Reactor 4**,
Thomas & Mercer
Kay Stewart, *Unholy Rites*, TouchWood Editions
James Thompson, *Helsinki Blood*, Putnan
Kari Lee Townsend, *Trouble in the Tarot*,
Berkley Prime Crime
Nancy G. West, *Fit to Be Dead***, Southwest
Publications

Tina Whittle, *Blood, Ash, and Bone*, Poisoned
Pen Press
Adele Woodyard, *Final Payment*, Palm Print
Press

April 2013

Suzanne Adair, *A Hostage to Heritage: A Michael
Stoddard American Revolution Thriller*** e-pub
Connie Archer, *A Broth of Betrayal*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Ella Barrick, *The Homicide Hustle*, Obsidian
Pamela Beason, *Undercurrents*, Berkley Prime
Crime
Janice Cantore, *Avenged*, Tyndale House
Publishers
Erika Chase, *A Killer Read*, Berkley Prime
Crime
C. Hope Clark's *Tidewater Murder*, Bell Bridge
Books, was nominated for an Eppie Award.
Judith Cobb Dailey's *Animal, Vegetable, Murder*,
Five Star, was nominated for a Claymore
Dagger.
Waverly Curtis, *Chihuahua Confidential*,
Kensington
Catherine Dilts, "The Jolly Fat Man" in *Alfred
Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*
Laura DiSilverio, *Malled To Death*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Marie-Jo Fortis, *Chainsaw Jane*, Liburu Press
Kaye George, *Eine Kleine Murder*, Barking Rain
Press
Diana Gould, *Coldwater*, Gibraltar Road
Jean Harrington, *Killer Kitchens*, Carina Press
Dorothy H. Hayes, *Murder at the P & Z***,
Mainly Murder Press Marie Moore, *Game
Drive*, Camel Press
Tammy Kaehler, *Braking Points, A Kate Reilly
Racing Mystery*, Poisoned Pen Press
Kay Kendall, *Desolation Row—An Austin Starr
Mystery***, Stairway Press
Robert Lewis, *Untold Damage*, Midnight Ink
Gary D. Phillips, "The Occult Science" in *Black
Pulp***, Gary Phillips (co-ed.), Pro Se Press/POD
G.B. Pool, *The Johnny Casino Casebook 2—
Looking for Johnny Nobody*, and *Hedge Bet*,
SYGAME Press
Connie Shelton, *Buried Secrets Can Be Murder:
Charlie Parker Mystery #14***, Secret Staircase
Books
Clea Simon, *Parrots Prove Deadly: A Pru
Marlowe Pet Noir*, Poisoned Pen Press
Joanna Campbell Slan, *Death of a Dowager*,
Berkley & Picture, *Perfect, Corpse*, Midnight
Ink
Lea Wait, *Shadows on a Cape Cod Wedding: An
Antique Print Mystery*, Perseverance Press
Lauren Willig, *The Ashford Affair*, St. Martin's
Press

May 2013

Lou Allin, *Twilight Is Not Good for Maidens*,
Dundurn
Gretchen Archer, *Double Whammy*, Henery
Press
Maegan Beaumont, *Carved in Darkness*,
Midnight Ink
Duffy Brown, *Killer in Crinolines*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Ann Cleeves, *Silent Voices*, Minotaur
Charlaine Harris, *Dead Ever After*, Ace
Carolyn Hart, *Dead, White and Blue*, Berkley
Prime Crime
R. Franklin James, *The Fallen Angels Book Club*,
Camel Press
Liz Mugavero, *Kneading to Die*, Kensington
Books
Katherine Hall Page, *The Body in the Piazza*,
Wm Morrow
Bernadette Pajer, *Capacity for Murder*, Poisoned
Pen Press
Robin Spano, *Death's Last Run*, ECW Press,
Rochelle Staab, *Hex on the Ex*, Berkley Prime
Crime
B.K. Stevens, "All That Glisters" in *Alfred
Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*
Elaine Viets, *Board Stiff: A Dead-End Job
Mystery***, Obsidian

June 2013

Mike Befeler, *Care Homes Are Murder*, Five Star
Dee Brice's *It Takes a Thief*** won Ellora's Cave
Sleeping with the Enemy Award.
Krista Davis, *The Diva Frosts a Cupcake*, Berkley
Prime Crime
Donna Del Oro, *Lies in Wait**, Musa Publishing
Beth Groundwater, *Fatal Descent*, Midnight Ink
Danelle Helget, *Destroyed and Detained*, North
Star Press
Karen Keskinen, *Blood Orange*, Thomas Dunne/
Minotaur Press
Eleanor Kuhns, *Death of a Dyer*, Minotaur Press
Jeanne Matthews, *Her Boyfriend's Bones*,
Poisoned Pen Press
Darden North, *Wiggle Room***, Satoris Literary
Group
Morgan St. James & Meredith Holland's *Who's
Got the Money?* won USA Best Books Award in
the Chick Lit category.
Mickie Turk's *The Delilah Case* was a 2012
Amazon/Penguin Contest Finalist.
Terry Shames, *A Killing at Cotton Hill*, Seventh
Street Books/Prometheus
Reba White Williams, *Restrike*, Delos



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ALA Annual Conference—Call for Participants

There are two ways Sisters in Crime members can participate in this summer's American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago: as a volunteer worker in SinC's booth in the exhibit hall, or by donating a signed book which will be given away during daily raffles.

Author members who live in the area or who are planning to be in Chicago during ALA are invited to spend an hour (or two) in SinC's booth talking about the organization, and, if they wish, giving away and signing books. The Conference Exhibits, at Chicago's McCormick Place, will be open from late Friday afternoon, June 28 through early afternoon, Monday, July 1. For helping in the booth, SinC will register authors—which will include passes valid for the exhibit hall all four days.

Whether you volunteer to work in the booth or donate a book for our raffle, this is an unsurpassed opportunity to connect with librarians (17,000–20,000 librarians attend ALA Annual) who recommend your books to readers every day. .

This year's ALA conference marks the first event organized by SinC's new Library Liaison, Cari Baker Dubiel. Helping Cari will be Doris Ann Norris, library liaison emeritus and Mary Boone, immediate past library liaison. If you are interested in working ALA or donating a book for the raffles, contact Cari at **Carolyn.Dubiel@gmail.com**.

Hope to see you in Chicago!