

# inSinC

*The Sisters in Crime Quarterly September 2015*





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# inSinC

The Sisters in Crime Quarterly September 2015

### Mission Statement

Promote the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers.

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## Deadline & Submissions

Deadline for articles for the December issue of *inSinC* is October 15. Include name, email, mailing address, and phone number with submissions. Send columns, articles, high-res photos, ideas, praise, and story ideas via email to

**Molly Weston**

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919.362.1436

## Editor's Note

by Molly Weston



Welcome to fall! Since I graduated from school, I've always looked forward to September's cooler weather, football, and my favorite holidays. As a mystery reader, I also expect renewing friendships with other fans and authors at the fall conferences. It's always great for me to meet Sisters and Brothers.

Whenever I sit at the SinC table at conferences, handing out our cool red pins, I get a kick out of hearing the confession, "I've got one of these at home, but I forgot to bring it." I quit wearing mine when I fly because those TSA agents sometimes look at me a bit hard. (Do you ever watch folks in elevators who look at your name badge and then back up a step?) Anyway, I do hope to meet and greet many of you at Bouchercon.

Although I'm usually the last person to hear news (while it's still *news*), there may be some of you who missed the announcement in *The Guardian* about Amazon payments to self-published authors, but you can read it at their site at [tinyurl.com/o69rh86](http://tinyurl.com/o69rh86).

We're so fortunate to have so many folks who are willing to contribute to *inSinC*. I hope you'll remember their names and, when you see them, let them know you appreciate their efforts. It never fails to amaze me how willing folks are to share their expertise.

We haven't listed the benefits of being a SinC member in a while, so please don't stop reading before you get to the last page. I'll try to be better about prompting you to check out all your options, but don't wait for me. It's still extremely hot in North Carolina at press time!

Happy writing,

— Molly

Dear Siblings,

Is anyone seriously trying to convince me that was a year?

When I wrote my first president's letter, I looked forward to the last one for a moment, imagining how accomplished and knowledgeable I'd feel by this time. I'd have a firm grasp of SinC's methods, history, traditions and by-laws; I wouldn't have emailed Beth in a funk for months; I'd be able to pull chapter names, grant deadlines, anthology publication-dates, or past boards to mind without a flicker of doubt; and my only regret would be that, now I knew everything, I wouldn't have long to be able to revel in my expertise before I downed tools.

Ha. I'm beginning to see it doesn't work that way. I'm beginning to see that the SinC presidency is a bit like a wedding—or a pregnancy. There's a lot of preparation, a lot of excitement and a fair bit of incident. Then, when it's over, the real task begins.

Or should I say the three tasks begin? Next year, like past presidents before me, I'll be heading up the team for the 2016 publishing summit; I'll be putting together SinC into Great Writing pre-Bouchercon; and—I think this is a new tradition, but it's got very firm very fast—I'll be serving on the education committee and helping all kinds of brilliant stuff into being for the national membership.

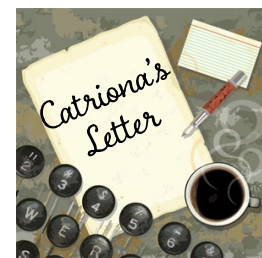
I'm particularly excited about the publishing summit and SinC into Great Writing (SinCGW). In both settings, I'm going to try to explore diversity and full inclusion in writing and publishing.

Looking around our mystery world today, it's impossible for a straight

white not to see that writers of colour and LGBTQ writers are where women writers were when the blessed Sara Paretsky said "enough is enough" almost three decades ago: seen as non-mainstream by a self-selected group who've decided what "mainstream" means; treated as niche by some other random niche that thinks it's not a niche; and subjected to eye-rolling for complaining (by people with a lot less to complain about). I'm proud and delighted to be able to take my privilege, flip it, and pay forward. I will make mistakes. That's inevitable because I'm not only white—I'm Scottish (aka that special bluey-white like from Oxiclean®)—but I'll only make each mistake once and I'll listen.

As well as the real world of publishing, of course, we're all intimately concerned with the fictional worlds we love. And I think there's a conversation to be had about who we are, who we choose to write, and how to do it well. Isn't it fascinating that the world's most beloved black female detective was written by a white man and that somehow Botswana isn't a niche setting? What about the fact that gay male characters – to quote a friend of mine—only get to be fabulous and/or adorable, never blood-chillingly evil? And how do we write realistic stories without ticking diversity boxes or disrespecting other cultures? I for one need a workshop on "writing our differences"; I'm banking on not being the only one who needs it and so I'm planning to make this the subject of SinCGW for New Orleans.

So. So much for downing tools. What about the secure expertise and calm



grasp of everything? I truly don't think that's the best way to describe the experience of the SinC presidency. Perhaps "pitching oneself into the maw of an R-rated slide at an unfamiliar water park and only realizing halfway down that it wasn't wise" is more accurate. As I shoot out the other end into the pool, still breathing and grateful for the presence of lifeguards, my verdict is: it might not be wise but Blimey O'Reilly it's fun!

And as for my stated goals from last autumn—to get here still married, still in contract to my publishers, and with deadlines met – the under gardener and I celebrated thirty years together in June, my agent hasn't sent me any bad news, and I've just hit "send" on a submission today.

It's been a complete honour and joy to have served as your national president this year. As I get ready to hand over to the remarkable Leslie Budewitz, all I can say is thank you for your warmth, your inspiration, and all your help (for which I am not done asking).

Love,

Cx

## SinC New England

www.SinCNE.org

It was quite the spring for SinCNE with a chapter outing to the theater, an interactive workshop, and the opening of registration for the New England Crime Bake, an annual conference cosponsored with the New England chapter of MWA.

We ushered in April with an outing to Boston's Lyric Theater for a matinee performance of the musical comedy *City of Angels*. Set in 1940s Hollywood, the play chronicles the misadventures of a crime novelist attempting to write a screenplay. Adding a little more fun to our members theater experience, a reception followed the play with its director Spiro Veloudos and a few surprise guests.

May brought us "Villains, Heroes, and Sidekicks," a workshop hosted by best-selling author and Gotham Writers Program faculty member Carole Bugge. During this full-day interactive workshop, Carole shared her winning recipe for creating irresistible



villains, worthy heroes, and sidekicks readers adore.

And if that wasn't enough... In June, we were thrilled to announce the New England Crime Bake sold out in a record fifteen days. SinCNE and the New England chapter of MWA co-sponsor Crime Bake, the premier conference for writers and lovers of crime writing in New England. Held every November on the Friday through Sunday of Veterans Day weekend, Crime Bake has sold out annually for almost a decade. The theme of this year's conference is Murder, By George! Our Guest of Honor is the *New York Times*-bestselling author, Elizabeth George.

Here's hoping fall brings SinCNE as much excitement. 🍷



## SinC Hawaii

We enjoyed another successful year at the Hawaii Book and Music Festival. Thirteen authors represented Sisters in Crime during the festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 2–3.

We distributed eighty Hawaiian-style swag bags containing SinC National pamphlets and bookmarks along with local authors' business cards to interested visitors (including Spiderman!) at our booth. The official total count of attendance at the festival as reported by experts was, "there's really no way to measure it, but the consensus is 25–30,000 over the two days."

We have four new members and five other interested people, along with an interested screenwriter, two new book sales venues, and a request for us to give a panel discussion at a conference in July.

The generous grant from SinCnational grant gave us the opportunity to participate in this event. 🍷



## Chicagoland

www.SinCChicago.com

June 6–7, marked Chicagoland Sisters in Crime’s second year exhibiting at the Printers Row Lit Fest, the Midwest’s annual celebration of books, writers and readers. Sponsored by the Chicagoland Chapter, the Speed City Sisters and SinC Iowa, plus a grant from SinC National, the event was an enjoyable opportunity for sisters from several states to get to know each other, talk one-on-one with readers, and sell books.

As in 2014, Sisters in Crime hung our banners in the tent of Chicago Books United, a consortium of independent presses organized by local publisher Allium Press of Chicago (“Rescuing Chicago from Capone, one book at a time”). We expanded our space over last year and employed a bookseller to handle sales.

Our location was excellent with respect to foot traffic, especially on Saturday when the weather was at its best. A stormy Sunday morning made the second day a challenge starting out, but our volunteers adapted quickly to keep our books safe from the rain; and, with the clearing weather, more people came to keep things lively.

Many attendees were from the Chicagoland area, but Indianapolis chapter members were on hand as well, selling books and promoting SinC. “This

was my first Printers Row and it was a wonderful experience,” said Cheryl Shore, Speed City president. “First was the chance to meet readers and sell books, both my own and anthologies from the Speed City Chapter. Secondly, we connected with individuals, including a librarian who may host a program featuring our chapter and a publicity agent for an auto racing publication who is interested in reviewing our racing anthologies. We were also able to promote interest in our upcoming anthology, *Decades of Dirt*.”

Chicagoland Chapter VP Michele (M.E.) May took charge of arranging the author signings and volunteers. “The set-up of our tent was great and we had a wonderful time with our sisters and brothers from the Speed City Chapter, and a sister from Ohio who came in for the event.

“Everyone pitched in whenever we did the switches between authors. We had many volunteers—published authors and non-published—who talked to Lit Fest attendees about Sisters in Crime. Several of these attendees were very interested in membership. It was a great time of camaraderie and a wonderful opportunity to let people know what Sisters in Crime is all about.”

In addition to M.E. May, SinC Chicagoland members on hand included Robert Goldsborough, Jamie Freveletti, Lori Rader-

Day, Susanna Calkins, Chapter Secretary Mary V. Welk, Chapter President Diane Piron-Gelman (D. M. Pirrone), Jeanne Meeks, Sue Myers, Patricia Skalka, Charlene Wexler, Helen Osterman, Emily Kaplan, Kate Hannigan, Gaile Sprissler, Mary Heitert, Kym Brunner, and Lydia Ponczak. “I think one of the best ideas was to put a name tag on the authors,” Ponczak said afterward. “Most people talking to us are shocked when we remember to mention we are the ones who wrote the books on the table in front of them. Knowing they’re actually talking to the authors makes a difference in sales.”

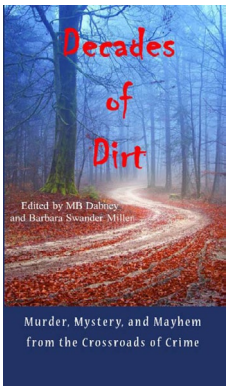
Given the high cost of tent space, procuring a tent entirely devoted to SinC remains a project for the future, should enough chapters find it possible to pool resources. In the meantime, we remain greatly appreciative of the support we have from the Speed City and Iowa chapters and from SinC National. Onward to Printers Row 2016! 🍷



## Speed City Indiana

www.SpeedCitySistersInCrime.org

The Speed City Indiana Chapter has been busy launching our newest anthology, *Decades of Dirt: Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem from the Crossroads of Crime*. The anthology includes fifteen original stories, many based in Indiana, with an introduction by Jeanne Dams. Prelaunch activities took place at the River Crossing Barnes and Noble as part of their annual Day of Mystery event on July 26. Our chapter



sponsored contests, mystery related activities, and readings from *Decades of Dirt*, in addition to member author signings.

The launch was held on August 8 at Bookmamas, Indianapolis' most unique independent bookstore. Bookmamas, a landmark in the historic Irvington neighborhood, has been active in promoting historical and mystery books for many years. Speed City Chapter plans to tie its promotion of *Decades of Dirt* to Indiana's bicentennial year (2016), taking advantage of local events and featuring programs on Indiana history themes at our meetings. 🍷

## Chessie Chapter

www.ChessieChapter.org

It's been a busy summer for the Chesapeake Chapter. On June 27, author Allison Leotta spoke at the King's Park Library in Burke VA. Often referred to as "the female John Grisham," Leotta worked for twelve years as a federal prosecutor in DC specializing in sex crimes, domestic violence, and crimes against children before turning to crime fiction. Her fourth book, *A Good Killing*, was released in May and was loosely based, she told chapter members, on the Jerry Sandusky case. Allison also blogs about what TV crime dramas get right and wrong in her award-winning blog, "The Prime-Time Crime Review."

On August 1, the chapter had the rare opportunity to visit a miniature community of horrors tucked away on the third floor of the Office of the Baltimore Medical Examiner. The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death are a unique display of 18 exquisitely-crafted models of actual crime scenes, complete down to tell-tale cigarette butts scattered on the floor. The models were built in the 1940s by Frances Glessner Lee, a wealthy Chicago woman who had a life-long fascination with sleuthing. The studies were based on actual crime scenes, reconstructed from photographs, sketches and statements by witnesses and police. Then, as now, they are used to train officers in investigative techniques. The dollhouse-like models are designed on a scale of one foot to one inch, perfectly proportioned for an investigator six inches tall. Was it murder, suicide, accidental or natural death? Members got to decide. Read more about the fascinating Nutshell studies here [www.deathindiorama.com](http://www.deathindiorama.com) and here [tinyurl.com/pnu8cvx](http://tinyurl.com/pnu8cvx). 🍷



## Palmetto (South Carolina)

<http://palmettochaptersin.wix.com/palmetto>

**T**he Palmetto Chapter of Sisters in Crime organized in January 2015 with a meeting of seven interested persons at the main library in Columbia SC. We elected as officers president, Paula Gail Benson; vice president, Sasscer Hill; secretary-treasurer, Wanda Craig (Raegan Teller); web maven, Riley Miller; and program chair, Sam Morton. At our July meeting, we added Maxine “Vert” Henry as our membership chair.

Most of our meetings have taken place at the Grecian Gardens Restaurant in West Columbia on the third Saturday of the month. In February, C. Hope Clark described the wonderful online resource she created, **www.FundsForWriters.com**. Hope’s husband, Gary Clark, spoke about his experience as a federal law enforcement officer in March. Hope and Paula jointly presented the April program about writing dialogue. Our June meeting featured Carla Damron, who gave us guidelines for revision.

Since our May meeting coincided with the South Carolina Book Festival, we gathered for lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse, across from the convention center, and were delighted to welcome former national president Cathy Pickens along with the festival’s mystery and thriller panelists, James O. Born, Sandra Brennan, C.J. Lyons, Jamie Mason, Jenny Milchman, Lori Rader-Day, Amanda Kyle Williams, and Reba White Williams. Jenny



provided an ARC of her latest novel for a giveaway, which went to Vert, a writer and librarian, who was celebrating her first submitted short story (recently accepted for publication).

In the future, we anticipate hearing from Sasscer Hill about her writing journey, a forensic psychologist concerning her work, and members who attend Bouchercon reporting on their experiences. Also, we’re planning a holiday party where we can share our writing.

We sincerely appreciate the welcomes and offers of support from national and our fellow chapters. Among our eleven members, we are proud to include writers, readers, librarians, and booksellers. We look forward to growing in numbers and hope to offer our writing community valuable programs and opportunities for networking. 🍷

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE  
SINC BREAKFAST IN THE MARRIOTT’S UNIVERSITY ROOM.**

# CALLING UNPUBLISHED SISTERS AND MISTERS

by Harriette Sackler



I'm putting on my Malice Domestic Grants Chair hat to ask you all a question. If you had the opportunity to receive a grant for \$2,500, a comprehensive registration to a Malice Domestic convention and a complimentary two-night stay at the host hotel, would you take the time to submit the first three chapters of your work-in-progress?

I would hope so! You see, the Malice Domestic Board of Directors is very serious about supporting new writers on their journey toward publication. So much so, that we've recently made some important changes to the William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers Program.

- We've significantly increased the cash award to reflect the rising costs associated with conference attendance, travel, and lodging.
- Even better, the submission period has been extended from May 1st to November 1st each year.

- We've also streamlined the submission process. Not only can you now submit your application electronically, but we've eliminated the requirement for several items that we found were not terribly helpful in choosing a Grant recipient.

And, aside from the tangible benefits of the award, what could be better than being told

that your work has merit and that an organization like Malice Domestic will do what it can to support your efforts? Believe me that in itself is one terrific endorsement.

So, if you've never been published in the mystery genre, why not give it a try? You have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

Please visit the Malice Domestic website at [www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org) and click on "Grants" for details. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Harriette Sackler is Grants Chair of the Malice Domestic Board of Directors as well as a short story writer.



# The Fantasy Agent Project

by Paula Gail Benson

Earlier this year, three intrepid members of the SinC Guppy Online Chapter's Steering Committee undertook a monumental task. What if an unpublished writer with a completed manuscript could submit it to a Fantasy Agent, who like a benevolent Fairy Godmother, would read the first 50 pages, carefully evaluate them, and give valuable comments to the writer? The concept became the task which connected more than one hundred Guppy members and was universally praised as a great success.

Behind-the-scenes organizers were Kaye George, E.B. Davis, and Elaine Will Sparber. Kaye had the initial idea. After completing her service on the Guppy Steering Committee having served as treasurer and president, she wanted to leave her mark. Initially, she envisioned a mentoring project, with published authors giving help to unpublished members through critiques. E.B. quickly signed on to help because it offered the opportunity for less experienced writers to receive a professional evaluation of their work. Elaine, felt the potential for career advice would be just as significant as the editing suggestions.

According to E.B., "Getting beginning writers, friends, and family to evaluate your work can give writers a reader's perspective. But those people aren't professionals. Most writers get to a level of proficiency where they recognize that they have to bump their writing skills up a notch. This project enabled our unpublished writers to get the criticism needed to get to that higher, more

professional level in their concepts, plot development, characterization, and use of language."

Elaine agreed. "I thought it was a wonderful idea and a project that was a perfect fit for me."

E.B. suggested the name Fantasy Agent for the project and explained "As a member of our [Guppy] Agent Quest subgroup, I knew our members often submitted to literary agents, got rejections, and hadn't a clue as to what prompted the agents' responses. I thought the concept of a Fantasy Agent, one who did give feedback, could be a way to provide valuable assistance to unpublished writers."

The organization began in mid-January, beginning with identifying traditionally published Guppy members. E.B. and Elaine compiled a list of those folks and prepared a letter to request participation while Kaye developed an evaluation form for the fantasy agents to use in their critiques. After everything was approved by the Steering Committee, the letter was emailed to ask for volunteers. "We were overwhelmed by the response," Kaye said. "We never imagined we would have so many authors volunteer to give their time to this!"

Forty-eight published authors offered to serve as Fantasy Agents to fifty-nine unpublished writers. Several of the published authors provided two or three evaluations. With the large demand, the project was limited to writers who were seeking traditional publication instead



of pursuing a self-publishing route. A time frame for submissions and responses helped ensure an orderly process.

Kaye explained why all participants remained anonymous, “We learned that previous similar projects had encountered difficulty in dealing with people upset by the feedback, so we thought it best to keep it anonymous on both ends. The survey answers after the project was over confirmed this was a good idea.”

Overall, the response to the project was positive. Kaye kept the statistics from the surveys. “100% of the critiquers were glad they did it. More than 78% of the critiquers would do it again, but 20% would only if they had time, and 5% would do it again only with a shorter page limit. Of the submitters, 60% said the results met their expectations and more than 28% said their feedback exceeded expectations.

E.B. wasn’t surprised by the high success rate. “We have a hard-working Guppy membership! The feedback enabled unpublished writers to assess their skills—answering questions of what they have mastered and what they still need to acquire. Writing in a vacuum is frustrating. This project helped mitigate the fear factor writers face.”

Kaye concurred, pointing out with pride the number of completed, viable manuscripts. “I thought most would need some weeks or maybe even months to get them ready, but there they were! One thing almost everyone added to their surveys was a thank you for doing the project. They made sure to tell us what a great idea it was. That made us know that we had done a good thing.” 🍷

[Based on an interview appearing originally in the *Guppy First Draft* July 2015 newsletter.]

A legislative attorney and former law librarian, Paula Gail Benson’s short stories have appeared in online publications and print anthologies including *Fish or Cut Bait: A Guppy Anthology*. She blogs at Little Sources of Joy, the Stiletto Gang, and Writers Who Kill. Her website is [www.PaulaGailBenson.com](http://www.PaulaGailBenson.com)

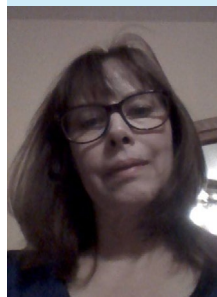
## Behind the Fantasy Agent Project



**Kaye George aka Janet Cantrell** is a past president and treasurer of Guppies. Her work has been nominated for the Agatha and Silver Falchion awards. She writes the Imogene Duckworthy, Cressa Caraway, Neanderthal (People of the Wind), and Fat Cat mystery series.



**Elaine “E.B.” Davis** is the current Guppy online class coordinator and a former member-at-large. Her short stories have been featured in numerous anthologies, including the Anthony-nominated *Carolina Crimes* edited by Karen Pullen.



**Elaine Will Sparber**, Guppy member-at-large, served as project manager and line editor for the Agatha award-winning and Anthony-nominated *Writes of Passage*, edited by Hank Philippi Ryan.

Together these extraordinary women gave an incredibly generous gift to the Guppies.

# WRITING THE PARANORMAL

by M. Angie Harmon (with Chris Roerden)



**A** “blast!” That’s my one-word reaction to “Paranormal Tips and Tricks,” a recent program from Sisters in Crime of the Triad, a twelve-year-old North Carolina chapter that offers ten free programs a year for all writers thanks to co-sponsorship by the High Point Public Library.

I thoroughly enjoyed this lively—or rather “un-deadly”—interactive discussion led by Joyce and Jim Lavene, who have co-authored more than seventy books in multiple genres under several pseudonyms. It’s clear that they and the other professional authors who generously give their time to the writers of the Carolinas sincerely want others to succeed.

Joyce and Jim began by introducing one big tip for all paranormals: If you like it, put it in your book! It’s your world you are creating, so if you love angels, fairies, zombies, werewolves, witches, vampires, or gods and goddesses, it’s okay to include them in your paranormal—as long as you follow the Lavenes’ primary recommendation: **Give your characters a basis in reality.**

## Basis in Reality

**Ground your characters by giving each one human-like qualities your readers**

**can relate to.** That makes any paranormal character more believable.

- Be sure every character has a relationship to other characters and to the story.** I interpret this by ensuring that each of my character’s emotions and reactions play off each other and by integrating each role in the action.
- If it seems fake to you, it will be fake to your readers.**
- Define a distinctive personality for each character.**
- Establish and maintain a solid setting.** For example, the Lavenes help keep details real and consistent by taking photos of people, objects, and places wherever they travel.
- Develop a backstory for all characters and all aspects of your novel.** Use it only for your own knowledge because most backstory will not be included in a book.
- Have your non-paranormal protagonist drive the story.**
- Ask yourself: If the paranormal element were not present, would there be a story?**
- Write what you know.** For instance, create a character based on a good friend’s

amazingly caring personality. Then throw in a dash of another friend's boundless knowledge of herbs, thereby inventing an entirely new character who is a wise and funny teacher in your own fantastical land.

Hey! You finished writing your paranormal novel! Great! But, wait, there's more.

### Revision Time

Read through your first draft taking out what isn't relevant to the story. Then read it aloud to hear if the language and pacing feel right. Joyce shared an example of having really loved a werewolf character, but discovered in rereading the draft that a mini-novella about this werewolf existed within the main story. No matter how much she loved the werewolf, it didn't contribute to either the story or its pacing. It had to go.

But. She didn't trash her beloved creature. She put it aside for later to let her creative juices develop a whole new world for the werewolf.

Next, our discussion entered the real world of publishing. I said to myself, "Boo hooo whaa haaaa!"—but I continued taking notes.

### Traditional Publishing vs. E-Publishing

If you really love your book and want it out immediately, the quickest way to reach readers of paranormal, especially for newbies like me, is to self-publish in e-book format.

The platform we need to market ourselves and our books may be much the same as for traditional publishing—a social media presence, especially a blog and a website—but we face even more work to make self-publishing pay (unless we have



a huge, loyal following that already buys all our books, like Joyce and Jim Lavene). To help you create your "writers platform," Google those words. To build traffic to your website, Google "submitting to search engines" and "SEO" (Search Engine Optimization).

To further help establish a following, update social media at least weekly.

Still, all forms of publishing are continually evolving. The Lavenes say that traditional publishers are now scouring the Internet and Amazon to find the next best thing to mass market.

Jim's favorite ways of marketing include advertising an older book as free for five days with the purchase of the latest book, and using a five-day free promo to get the word out for the release of the next book. In the Lavene's experience, pricing a paranormal below \$4.99 or above \$9.99–\$11.99 dampens purchases, because readers often think that if a book is too cheap or too expensive, it isn't worth reading. Not true, but consumers think like that.

Finally, continue marketing the old-fashioned way wherever you can: in person at shows, expos, bookstores, and especially area mystical shoppes, which might agree to hold a signing and reading of your book. Not a psychic reading—though that is possible, too. 🍷

Angie Harmon lives in High Point NC, and has been telling her stuffies, friends, family, librarians—even the trees and their dancing leaves—stories for ages! Now the world is ready for her quirky, wacky, and fantastical work.

Book editor Chris Roerden is a founding mom of the Triad's Murder We Write chapter and author of the Agatha-winner *Don't Murder Your Mystery*.

# Board & Officer Nominees

**Y**our nominating committee—Laura Disilverio Leslie Budewitz, and I, Catriona McPherson,—has worked long and hard—and we have come up with (if we do say so) a fabulous board slate for next year.

For those who have decided to drop off the board—Frankie Bailey, Laura DeSilverio, Barbara Fister, Clare O'Donohue, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and Martha Reed—we are so incredibly grateful for your service, and never fear, we plan to rope you into helping at every turn. For those who have decided to stay, please be nice to the new kids. And aren't they terrific?



**Leslie Budewitz**, president-elect, is a practicing trial attorney, the first Agatha winner for both fiction and non-fiction, and was a regular *inSinC* columnist for many years. She lives and writes in Montana.



**Diane Vallare**, vice president-elect, is a former retail veteran who traded fashion accessories for accessories to murder. A former Guppy member at large, she is membership director and president of SinC-LA and co-chair of the California Crime Writers Conference.



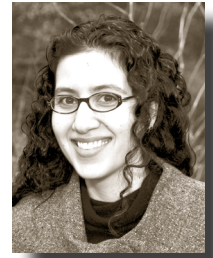
**Susan C. Shea**, secretary, spent more than two decades as a non-profit executive before beginning her best-selling mystery series featuring a professional fund raiser. Susan is currently the president of SinC-Northern California.



**Lori Roy**, treasurer/AC representative, won the Edgar for her first novel, *Bent Road*, and was nominated for *Until She Comes Home*. The former tax accountant is a native of Kansas who now lives in west central Florida with her family.



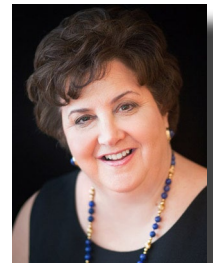
**Karen Pullen**, chapter liaison, began life as an engineer but cubicle life sent her to more fun, mystery writing. She's published one novel with a second coming next year. She edited the Triangle SinC's Anthony-nominated *Carolina Crimes* for SinC of the Triangle.



**Gigi Pandian**, publicity liaison, writes two mystery series and locked-room short stories. A Malice Domestic Grant recipient, she, won the Left Coast Crime Rose Award, and has been short-listed for Agatha and Macavity awards. Gigi lives outside San Francisco.



**Cari Dubiel**, library liaison, is the computer services manager at Twinsburg Public Library in Ohio. She coordinates the SinC presence at both the American Library Association's and the Public Library Association's national meetings. She is also writing a mystery.



**Debra Goldstein**, monitoring project liaison, is the author of *Should Have Played Poker*, IPPY Award winning *Maze in Blue*, and numerous short stories. She is a Guppy member at large, and vice-president of the Alabama Writers Conclave. She's also a former judge.



**Julie Hennrikus**, AC liaison, is president of SinC-NE and serves on its Crime Bake committee. The executive director of StageSource, a service organization for theater artists and companies in the greater Boston area, has published several short mysteries.



**G. M. Malliet**, We Love Bookstores liaison, is the Agatha Award-winning author of the DCI St. Just and Father Max Tudor mysteries. She has been nominated for numerous other awards. *A Fatal Summer* arrives in October. She lives with her husband in the Washington DC area.



**Catriona McPherson**, past president, was born in Scotland, but moved to California in 2010. She is the multi-award-winning author of the Dandy Gilver detective stories and acclaimed standalones.



## Beth's Bits

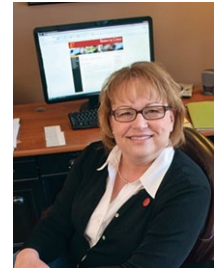
by Beth Wasson

**S**ome of you may have a memory of the last time Sisters in Crime raised their dues ten years ago. I know the Board of Directors took it very seriously as did our current Board of Directors.

Dues increases are a serious matter in Sisters in Crime. There have only been a few in almost thirty years of our organization's being! One-year professional dues will increase to \$50 and one-year active dues to \$40. Two-year memberships will still be available. The Professional Lifetime Membership will be \$500 and the Active Lifetime Membership will be \$400. Lifetime memberships are still a bargain. Sisters in Crime will continue its program of need-based dues waivers. The Board has had this program in place since the early 1990s. If anyone can remember the last time SinC raised its dues e-mail me at [admin@sistersincrime.org](mailto:admin@sistersincrime.org) and I will mention it in my next column.

### Did You know?

Each year Sisters in Crime hosts a buffet breakfast at Malice and Bouchercon. The events are usually sold out and everybody has a fun time Did you know that the cost to each member to attend is only half of the cost of the breakfast? Because hotels are expensive we are unable to control the cost of each full breakfast. The price is in the \$40–\$50 range and members pay only \$20 or \$25. A continental breakfast is less expensive, but most of us want to start the day with protein. Some hotels charge as much as \$4 per person to add fruit. Should SinC increase the price? E-mail me at [admin@sistersincrime.org](mailto:admin@sistersincrime.org) and let me know.



### Have You Voted?

The 2015–2016 Board of Directors slate has been sent to members. Have you voted? Show your support for these dedicated volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors of Sisters in Crime.

### Did You SinC Up?

- Visit [www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org) and log in. Click on Promoting Yourself under the Members Only section. There you will find a place to submit your most recent book cover for the rotating banner on the site.
- Update your membership profile by logging in and checking the information in your profile. Update your most recent title, add your web site and add your Twitter address. All of these link with the interactive map on the site.

### SinC Into Great Writing VII!

#### Write Your Novel from the Middle and Make It Shine at Both Ends

A few spots are still available to spend the afternoon with James Scott Bell. Visit [www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org), log in and register. Cost to members is only \$50. The workshop is Wednesday, October 7, 2015 from 1:00–5:00 PM in the University Room at the Marriott.

## Breakfast at Bouchercon?

The annual SinC Breakfast and membership meeting will be on Friday, October 9 at 7:30 AM in the Marriott's University Room. Sisters in Crime will hold its Board of Directors election during the meeting. The chapter presidents will meet there immediately following the breakfast.

### Registration Available Now

Be sure that you are logged in or else you won't be able to access the form. You can select pay by credit card or by invoice. The price for a full breakfast is \$25. This is a discounted price for members of Sisters in Crime. You may also send a \$25 check to Sisters in Crime.

Sisters in Crime,  
PO Box 442124  
Lawrence KS 66044

Send your e-mail address for a confirmation!

Deadline for registration is September 15, 2015. 🍷

My mother Anne M. White, mystery author and devoted Sisters in Crime member, died on June 29 at the age of 87. She was the author of *An Affinity for Murder*, *Beneath the Surface*, *Best Laid Plans*, *Secrets Dark and Deep*, and *Cold Winter Nights*. *An Affinity for Murder* won an unpublished writer's grant from Malice Domestic and a nomination as a Malice Domestic Best First Mystery. I absolutely adored my mom, and feel indebted to her in so many ways. When I was 13 she bought me a typewriter because she could see my love of writing, and never stopped championing my efforts. Every author should have a mom like her. She was so proud to be a part of the mystery author community, particularly Sisters in Crime, and it brought great joy to her life. She had a wicked sense of humor and never lost it, even in her final days. One afternoon she looked at one of the nurses and said, "You're not trying to poison me, are you?"

—Kate White

# Dorothy Cannell Guppy Scholarship

Sisters in Crime is administering the Second Annual Dorothy Cannell Guppy Scholarship, offered by agent Meg Ruley to honor her long-time client. The scholarship recognizes one of the most enduring author/agent partnerships in mystery publishing,

The \$1,000 scholarship will be offered each year to an aspiring or published mystery author who is a member of the Guppies (a member of the Sisters in Crime Guppy or "Great Unpublished" chapter), and is designed to subsidize attendance at the Malice Domestic Conference ([www.MaliceDomestic.org](http://www.MaliceDomestic.org)), held annually in Bethesda MD.

Malice Domestic honors the traditional mystery and awards the prestigious "Agatha," named for Agatha Christie. According to Ruley, "Attending Malice was, for Dorothy as for many other crime writers, a wonderful introduction to the community of mystery readers and writers. This scholarship will allow another new writer (published yet or not) the opportunity."

To apply, a Guppy member should send a statement, no more than 200 words, about how attending Malice will support her (or his) writing goals, to Sisters in Crime at [admin@sistersincrime.org](mailto:admin@sistersincrime.org), with "Dorothy Cannell Scholarship" in the subject line. Applicants will receive confirmation of entry via email.

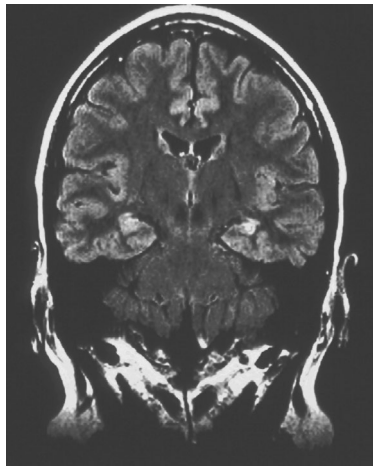
All entries must be received by November 1, 2015. The winner will be selected from the entrants and announced early in 2016. The award will be for attendance at Malice Domestic April 29–May 1, 2016. 🍷



hundreds of scholarly articles, commentaries, and documentaries, along with popular press pieces that get it right. The list is quite long ([www.hare.org/references/main.html](http://www.hare.org/references/main.html)).

For example, a research study published in 2013 tested a group of diagnosed psychopaths vs. non-psychopaths to explore the commonly accepted notion that psychopaths cannot feel empathy (which means they're also not sorry for hurting you). Because empathic responses can be measured with scans of certain brain regions, the researchers had both groups view images of emotional hand gestures. As expected, activity in the empathy-associated brain regions was weak among the psychopaths.

However, when the psychopaths were instructed to try to empathize before their brains were scanned again, the difference between the groups significantly diminished. Similar neural regions were activated in both groups, suggesting that psychopathy does not necessarily involve an incapacity for empathy but rather a lack of motivation for it. That's quite a finding, and it offers an interesting new research direction.



### Peer-Respected/Peer-Reviewed Books

Neuropsychologist Kent Kiehl recently published *The Psychopath Whisperer*. Mentored by Robert Hare, Kiehl describes his career from his initial interest in psychopaths to his work today as the premier expert on scanning psychopathic

brains. Along the way, we learn about his experiences with psychopaths in prisons, his development of a portable MRI machine for scanning inmates, and his involvement in several cases (including juveniles at risk for becoming adult psychopaths). It's quite accessible to lay people, and informative.

In addition, several outstanding anthologies focus on psychopathy, with articles by the prominent researchers in the field. Each provides a terrific overview of the diverse subject areas relevant to psychopathy. I'm reading one now, *Psychopathy: An Introduction to the Biological*

*Findings and Their Implications*, by Andrea Glenn and Adrian Raine.

The authors gather the latest results from brain research on psychopathy, from the initial court cases to what's happening today—including the key ethical issues our courts will soon face.

Psychopaths have many layers. They can be much better characters than the superficial articles that pop up

daily suggest. I hope these sources will assist you to develop more sophisticated and accurate fiction (and fact). Please let other writers know. 🍷

Dr. Katherine Ramsland, a professor of forensic psychology and graduate director for criminal justice, has published 58 books and over 1,000 articles. She writes a blog, "Shadow Boxing," for Psychology Today. Her most recent book, *Shadows of Death for Notorious USA*, collects the crime tales of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.



## Law & Fiction

# Getting the Facts Straight

by Leslie Budewitz



*The Law and Fiction column will take a break while I serve as your president, but I'm always happy to answer members' questions about using the law in their fiction directly.*

*As a wrap-up, I'm sharing my list of common mistakes writers make about the law, and tips on avoiding them. (As in all my columns, I'm talking only about the American legal system.)*

### Using the wrong terms to identify prosecutors and courts

On "Law & Order"—and I love the show—the prosecutor is the D.A. Elsewhere, she may be the County Attorney or Prosecutor, the State's Attorney, even the People's Attorney. A long handle like Commonwealth's Attorney might be shortened to "the prosecutor." Does she try cases in District Court, Circuit Court, or Superior Court? If the terminology baffles you, call the court or prosecutor's office, the state bar, or a law professor. You may even find a source to answer future questions.

### Assuming law enforcement officers need a warrant to make an arrest

Police don't need a warrant to make an arrest in a public place, or in "exigent circumstances," such as when an officer witnesses a crime or pursues a suspect. But police still need probable cause—that is, a reasonable belief, based on facts, that a particular person is responsible for a particular crime. "Mere suspicion" is not enough.

### Confusing direct and circumstantial evidence

Evidence is anything offered at trial to prove a fact necessary to the elements of the case—testimony, documents, or physical evidence like a gun or DNA test results. Direct evidence is evidence of a fact. Circumstantial evidence is evidence of a fact that leads to an inference or presumption.

An illustration: You tell your kids not to eat the brownies until after dinner. You see your son snatch one—direct evidence of disobedience. You don't see your daughter touch the plate, but you spot chocolate smears around her mouth and crumbs on her shirt—circumstantial evidence.

In both civil and criminal law, circumstantial evidence may be enough to make the case. If the other side objects, the judge must rule on whether to allow ("admit") it or not. The standard is relevance: Does it make facts that matter to the case more or less probable?

### Giving every suspect a Miranda warning

A warning is required only before custodial interrogation. In other words, only persons in custody need to be warned, and even then, only before questioning. Voluntary statements by persons not in custody or not made in response to questioning are admissible. A suspect who's been warned may waive his rights and agree to talk. Of course, mistakes are fodder for defense lawyers—and writers.

### Failing to distinguish between state and federal crimes

A crime doesn't get to be federal just because it's important. Federal crimes are violations of federal statutes. They include many (but not all) drug and firearms offenses, kidnapping across state lines, and offenses related to securities or banking, immigration, war, terrorism, or interstate communications, or occurring on federal property. Regulatory offenses, such as pollution violations, may be federal

crimes. The federal government prosecutes federal crimes.

If a crime violates state law, the state prosecutes. Some conduct may violate both state and federal laws, triggering a tug-of-war over jurisdiction. State court systems handle the majority of civil and criminal litigation—estimates are as much as 95%.

If your fictional crime is set in Indian Country, do your research. While the FBI investigates crimes on many reservations, as in Tony Hillerman's *Leaphorn and Chee* novels, state authorities exercise full or partial jurisdiction on others.

### **Assuming a felon can't vote or own a gun**

Restoration of civil rights—including voting and gun ownership—after a felony conviction is complex. The Sentencing Project, a national organization promoting sentencing reform, estimates that full or partial state bans—many applicable even after a sentence has been fully served—deny the vote to 5.8 million people, with a disparate racial impact.

While federal felons are barred from gun ownership for life, state law varies widely. Some states prevent or limit gun ownership by persons convicted of violent felonies, but allow it after the sentence is served, including probation. Waiting periods



may apply. Court process may be required. Some states permit ownership of hunting rifles but bar handguns.

Debate rages over the constitutional implications of voting and gun restrictions and their effect on a person's ability to re-enter society. Does your character live in fear of an ex-con ex-husband with a gun—or worry that she can't buy a gun to protect herself because of her own record? Is your fictional legislator's reelection in dispute because a faulty list prevents hundreds of ex-felons from voting?

Change will continue, so check your story state's laws.

### **Referring to guilt in a civil suit for damages**

A criminal defendant will be found guilty or not guilty (not "innocent"). A civil defendant is either liable for the plaintiff's damages or not—the concept of guilt does not apply.

Unlike criminal guilt, civil liability is not all or nothing. In a personal injury claim, the jury may decide that the plaintiff—the party bringing suit—contributed to her injuries by her own negligence. If her negligence reaches a certain level—typically more than 50%—she may be prevented from recovering damages. Multiple defendants may share liability.

Picture a slip-and-fall: A shop owner fails to shovel her sidewalk

and allows ice to form. A woman falls and breaks her arm—but she walked there daily, knew the danger, and was on her phone. A neighboring shop owner had promised to shovel, but forgot. Who's liable, meaning who pays? The jury decides.

### **Sentencing a defendant minutes after a felony conviction**

Sentencing for felony convictions is a separate proceeding, usually held after a pre-sentence investigation by a probation officer or other investigator (terminology varies). Prosecutors and defense counsel need time to review the report and make recommendations. A few weeks is typical. Sooner is possible—Casey Anthony was sentenced a few days after the verdict, but the charges she was convicted of were relatively minor and circumstances may have triggered an expedited proceeding.

If you need sentence imposed quickly to get your character to prison, build in facts that let you do so. Just don't let your fictional judge hear the verdict and impose sentence without taking a breath.

### **Allowing lawyers—or their clients—to argue with the judge, especially after she's ruled**

Don't do it—not if you care about your characters or their case. But if you want to irritate your fictional judge, go ahead. Your chances of success are excellent.

And don't let your characters interrupt in court, unless you want them hauled to the slammer for contempt.

### Introducing new evidence on appeal

Appeals are decided strictly on the record below—meaning the evidence, including testimony, and legal arguments. Parties to an appeal may not present new witnesses or argue legal issues not previously raised. As part of its decision, though, an appellate court might order the trial court to reopen a case to consider evidence or arguments previously excluded.

In a criminal case, new evidence may surface weeks, months, even years after conviction. Other procedures exist to ask a judge to reopen a case after the appeals process has ended.

### “Don't leave town”

Don't let your fictional cops say this. They don't actually have authority to do so—and it could be seen as a *de facto* arrest.

### Reading the will

A staple scene in black-and-white movies, but rarely done in real life. In most states, heirs are typically entitled to copies, and as soon as probate is filed, the will becomes part of the court record.



### Using bail as punishment

The purpose of bail is to assure that the defendant appears for trial and other court proceedings. When a crime is particularly violent or newsworthy, the public may clamor for a high bail and stiff conditions on release, and criticize the judge for failing to set a high bail. Remember that conditions, such as staying away from the alleged victim or witnesses, not drinking alcohol, or

turning over all guns may be set to promote public safety. Other conditions, such as turning over a passport, are aimed at assuring appearance in court.

In some states, capital (death penalty) offenses are not bailable. Other restrictions may also apply so check your story state. (For more on bail, take a look at my guide for writers, *Books, Crooks and Counselors: How to Write Accurately About Criminal Law and Courtroom Procedure* (2011, Quill Driver Books).)

### Saying a victim refused to “press charges”

Decisions whether to charge a person with a crime are up to the prosecutors, either through prosecutorial discretion or the grand jury system. (More on that in *Books, Crooks and Counselors*.) The prosecutor may decide not to file charges because the victim refuses to cooperate—unfortunately, common in domestic

violence cases—but the decision is never up to the victim.

Obviously, mistakes happen in real life, which is why lawyers file motions to suppress evidence or dismiss charges (in criminal cases), motions to exclude evidence or dismiss claims (the civil terminology), and appeals. But mistakes also add to the drama and create great opportunities for tension and conflict.

Is it ever okay to make a mistake on purpose, to fool the reader? Not in my book. Exaggerate a bit for drama, sure, but deliberately building a story on a faulty premise breaks faith with the reader. As prosecutor turned novelist Marcia Clark said in a panel discussion I moderated on forensics in fiction, “The more we tell the truth, the more dramatic it is.” We don't need to lie about the facts to tell a good story—we need to find the story they tell.

Writers who take time to check legal terms and principles will discover terrific opportunities to twist, deepen, complicate, or simplify their stories. Getting the details right can make all the difference.

Leslie Budewitz is the author of the *Food Lovers' Village Mysteries* and the *Spice Shop Mysteries*—and the first author to win Agatha Awards for both fiction and nonfiction. A practicing lawyer, she lives in northwest Montana with her husband, a musician and doctor of natural medicine, and their cat Ruff, a cover model and avid bird-watcher. She is vice president of *Sisters in Crime*.

# We Love Libraries!



by Andrea Smith

Some are in schools. Some serve small communities. Some are staffed by volunteers. They're libraries that promote a love of reading, and Sisters in Crime's We Love Libraries! (WLL) program continues to help them thrive.

In an environment where city and state budgets are squeezed, WLL has been a lifeline to SinC's library partners who help connect readers to our work. The program is on track to have awarded a total of 60 grants of \$1,000 each during its five-year existence. WLL will hit this milestone at the end of this year.

During the second quarter our prolific SinC members took time from writing schedules to help salute WLL lottery winners.

## South Carolina Winner

Upstate South Carolina chapter members Ellis Vidler and Polly Iyer presented the April WLL grant to the Cherokee County Public Library in Gaffney, South Carolina. State Senator Harvey Peeler was on hand for the presentation.

Ellis' latest novel, *Prime Target* features Madeleine Schier who becomes a killer's target after witnessing her husband's murder.

Receiving the WLL grant was a bittersweet moment for Library Director Lana Gardner. The presentation was made in conjunction with her retirement celebration. "It was a special honor for me to finish my service to the library on such a wonderful note," she said.

## North Carolina Winner

In May, Murder We Write North Carolina Triad chapter members Joyce Lavene and her husband and writing partner, Jim Lavene, presented the WLL grant to the Holly Library at the Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville. The prolific team writes bestselling mystery and urban fantasy fiction. Their latest cozy is *A Watery Death*, the seventh installment in their Missing Pieces mystery series.

## Pennsylvania Winner

Finally, Delaware Valley SinC chapter president Sandra Carey Cody presented the June WLL



grant to the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Sandra is the author of the Jennie Connors mystery series of which the most recent entry is *Lethal Journal*. The stories explore the challenges facing a single mother balancing independence with family.

When notified of the library's good fortune, Library Director Melissa Rowse said, "It was the best welcome back from vacation I've ever received. We're using the grant to purchase new mysteries by Sisters in Crime authors."

SinC members can help libraries in their backyard join the list of WLL grant winners. Entering is easy as going to the SinC website, submitting the electronic form and including a photo of a staff member with three books by SinC authors. 🍷

# California Crime Writers Conference

by Jill Amadio

“A phenomenal success!” That’s the reaction after the wrap-up of the third bi-annual California Crime Writers Conference in June 2015 co-hosted by Sisters in Crime Los Angeles and Southern California Mystery Writers of America. Compliments have come pouring in from authors, panelists, agents, publishers, and speakers who attended the thirty-two tracks covering craft, industry, forensics, and marketing. The conference outperformed its previous attendance figures and attracted registrants from near and far.

For two days writers were immersed in a large variety of sessions—many standing-room-only—that focused on common goals in forums that provided solid information about the business. Program ads sold out quickly, even at higher rates, and the limit of 200 attendees was surpassed with Diane Vallere, president of SinCLA, managing to accommodate eager late-comers and welcome them to the many workshops and panels.

The keynote speakers, Anne Perry and Charlaine Harris, spoke to packed ballrooms, and the book-seller, Mysterious Galaxy, almost sold out, as did those who self-published. No fewer than sixty gift baskets were provided by authors themed to their books and auctioned to assist in swelling the two organizations’ coffers.

Brash Books generously underwrote the hundreds of goody bags that were filled with donated books, bookmarks, postcards, and related gadgets.



A grant from SinC National was generous enough to help offset the costs of transportation for some of the speakers, agents, and editors.

“CCWC is meant to pull us out of our ordinary lives,” said Vallere. It surely did. “Regardless of where we are in our careers, we need our network.” 🍀

Jill Amadio is the public relations director for Sisters in Crime Los Angeles.

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## We Love Bookstores!

Every month through December 2015 Sisters in Crime will award \$250 to a bookstore to use for promotion or marketing or hosting book signing events. Bookstores can simply complete the form found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/owf9aof> and include a photo of staff member(s) holding three books written by Sisters in Crime members. The winning bookstore will be contacted after the random drawing on the first business day of the month. Other entries will be entered automatically for subsequent drawings.

Encourage your favorite bookstores to participate in this drawing. There is no obligation other than allowing us to post winners’ photos on our website and other SinC publications. Only US bookstores may enter the drawing. This funding must be used for promotional expenses that support authors by encouraging the sale of books. It may not be used for salaries or basic operational expenses. 🍀

# AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

by Gay Toltl Kinman

Cathy Ace won the Bony Blithe Light Mystery Award for *The Corpse with the Platinum Hair*.

Maria Alexander's *Mr. Wicker* won the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel.

Traci Andrighettie's *Limoncello Yellow* was nominated for the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Mainstream Mystery/Suspense.

J. Bard-Collins' *Honor Above* is an Indiefab Award Finalist for Mystery.

Kristi Belcamino's *Blessed Are The Dead* is nominated for the Anthony Award for Best First Novel and the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery Novel.

Rhys Bowen's *Queen of Hearts* is a Sue Feder Memorial Award nomination for Best Historical Mystery.

Sandra Brannan's *Solomon's Whisper* is an Indiefab Award Finalist for Mystery.

Craig Faustus Buck's "Honeymoon Sweet" in *Murder at the Beach* is nominated for the Anthony Award for Best Short Story and the Macavity Award for Best Mystery Short Story.

*Murder at the Beach* edited by Dana Cameron is an Anthony Award nominee for Best Anthology or Collection.

Jane K. Cleland's *Blood Rubies* was nominated for the David Award.

Nancy J. Cohen's "Hanging by a Hair" was selected as one of the best cozy mysteries in 2014 by *Suspense Magazine*.

M. P. Cooley's *Ice Shear* is an Anthony Award nominee for Best First Novel.

Annette Dashofy's *Circle of Influence* was nominated for the David Award.

Amanda DeWees' *With This Curse* won the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Historical Romantic Mystery/Suspense.

Dave Edlund's *Crossing Savage* is an Indiefab Award Finalist for Thriller and Suspense.

Kendra Elliot's *Vanished* won the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Romantic Mystery/Suspense and was also the Overall Daphne Winner for the 2015 Published Contest.

Allen Eskens' *The Life We Bury* is nominated for an Anthony Award and was a Thriller Award finalist for Best First Novel.

Susan Fleet is a semi-finalist in the Kindle Book Awards Mystery/Thriller category for *Natalie's Art*.

Kate Clark Flora's *Death Dealer: How Cops and Cadaver Dogs Brought a Killer to Justice* is nominated for an Anthony Award nominee for Best Critical or Non-Fiction Work.

Debby Giusti's *The Agent's Secret Past* won the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Excellence Inspirational Romantic Mystery Suspense

Barb Goffman's "The Shadow Knows" in *Chesapeake Crimes* is nominated for an Anthony and a Macavity for Best Mystery Short Story.

Max Gordon is a semi-finalist in the Kindle Book Awards Mystery/Thriller category for *Live Free or Die*.

Ellen Hart's *The Old Deep and Dark* is a LAMBDA Literary Award nominee for Best Lesbian Mystery.

Libby Fischer Hellmann's *Nobody's Child* is a finalist for a Shamus Award for Best P.I. Indie Novel, for the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Mystery/Suspense, and is a semi-finalist for the Kindle Book Awards Mystery/Thriller.

Sara Sue Hoklotubbe's *Sinking Suspicions* is an Indiefab Award Finalist for Mystery.

Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger's *In the Company of Sherlock Holmes: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon* is nominated for the Anthony Award for Best Anthology or Collection.

Cynthia Kuhn won the William F. Deeck Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers for her academic mystery manuscript, "Lectured to Death."

Sharon Langdale's "Writing the Ghosts Away" was a contest winner in the National League of American Pen Women.

Janice Law's *Moon Over Tangier* is a LAMBDA Literary Award nominee for Best Gay Mystery.

BV Lawson's *Played to Death* is nominated for a Shamus Award for Best P.I. Indie Novel.

Robert K. Lewis's *Critical Damage* is nominated for a Shamus Award for Best Original Paperback P.I. Novel.

Steve Liskow's *The Kids Are All Right* is nominated for a Shamus Award for Best P.I. Indie Novel.

Elizabeth Little's *Dear Daughter* is nominated for a Macavity Award for Best First Mystery Novel.

Dru Ann Love's "Dru's Book Musings" is an Anthony Award nominee for Best Critical or Non-Fiction Work.

C. J. Lyons' *Hard Fall* won the Thriller Award for Best E-Book Original Novel.

Karen McCullough's *The Detective's Dilemma* was nominated for the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Romantic Mystery/Suspense.

Catriona McPherson's *The Day She Died* is an Anthony Award nominee for Best Paperback Original; a Macavity Award nominee for Best Mystery Novel; and an Indiefab Award Finalist for Mystery. Her *A Deadly Measure of Brimstone* is a Sue Feder Memorial Award nomination for Best Historical Mystery.

Paul Marks' "Howling at the Moon" in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* is nominated for an Anthony Award and a Macavity Award for Best Short Story.

Dale Mayer is a semi-finalist in the Kindle Book Awards Suspense/Horror category for *Eyes To The Soul*.

TJ O'Connor's *Dying to Know* is an Indiefab Award Finalist for Mystery.

Sandra Parshall's *Poisoned Ground* won the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Mystery/Suspense.

Louise Penny's *The Long Way Home* is nominated for an Anthony Award and a Macavity Award for Best Novel.

Dani Pettrey's *Silenced* was nominated for the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Inspirational Romantic Mystery Suspense.

Adam Plantinga's *400 Things Cops Know: Street Smart Lessons from a Veteran Patrolman* is a Macavity nominee for Best Mystery-Related Nonfiction.

Keenan Powell's manuscript "Deadly Solution" won the William F. Deeck Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers.

*Carolina Crimes: 19 Tales of Love, Lust, and Longing* edited by Karen Pullen is an Anthony Award nominee for Best Anthology or Collection.

Lori Rader-Day's *The Black Hour* is nominated for an Anthony Award and a Macavity Award for Best Novel, the Barry Award for Best Paperback Original, and won the Illinois Woman's Press Association Mate E. Palmer Award in Communications for Fiction.

Travis Richardson's "The Proxy" in *Thuglit* is a Macavity nominee for Best Mystery Short Story.

Hank Phillippi Ryan's *Truth Be Told* is an Anthony Award nominee for Best Novel. She edited *Writes of Passage: Adventures on the Writer's Journey* which is nominated for an Anthony Award for Best Critical or Non-Fiction Work and for a Macavity Award for Best Mystery-Related Nonfiction.

Tamsen Schultz's *What Echoes Render* was nominated for the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Single Title Romantic Mystery/Suspense.

Terry Shames' *The Last Death of Jack Harbin* is a Macavity Award nominee for Best Mystery Novel.

Susan Sussman's *Miami Iced* was named a finalist in the National Indie Excellence Book Awards.

Art Taylor's "The Odds Are Against Us" in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* is a Macavity and an Anthony Award nominee for Best Mystery Short Story.

Gigi Vernon's "Show Stopper" in MWA's *Ice Cold* was a Thriller finalist for Best Short Story.

Lynn Chandler Willis' *Wink of an Eye* is a finalist for Shamus Award for Best First Novel.

James W. Ziskin's *No Stone Unturned* is an Anthony Award nominee for Best Paperback Original.

## Nominated or Won?

**Although Gay receives notices about Edgar, Agatha, and Macavity Awards, she doesn't necessarily get news of others. Please let her know if you are honored with another. Please send your information directly to her gaykinman@gaykinman.com.**



## EVENTS HAPPENINGS

### 2015

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#### Ladies of Intrigue

Huntington Beach CA  
Oct. 3

[GayleCarline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:GayleCarline@sbcglobal.net)

#### Bouchercon

Raleigh NC • Oct. 8–11  
“Murder Under the Oaks” will feature Margaret Maron, Kathy Reichs, Tom Franklin, Zoe Sharp, S. Allan Guthrie, Sean Doolittle, Lori Armstrong, Sarah Shaber  
[www. Bouchercon2015.org](http://www.Bouchercon2015.org)

#### Texas Book Festival

Austin TX • Oct. 17–18  
[www.TexasBookFestival.org](http://www.TexasBookFestival.org)

#### Killer Nashville

Nashville TN  
Oct. 29–Nov. 1  
[www.KillerNashville.com](http://www.KillerNashville.com)

#### Magna cum Murder

Indianapolis IN  
Oct. 30–Nov. 1  
GoH William Kent Krueger, Intl  
GoH Simon Brett.  
[www. MagnaCumMurder.com](http://www.MagnaCumMurder.com)

#### Shetland Noir

Mareel UK • Nov. 13–15  
The islands’ first crime writing festival in association with Iceland Noir. Workshops, readings, Q&A sessions, tours, and more. Arne Dahl, Håkan Nesser, Yrsa Sigurðardóttir, Stuart Macbride, Denise Mina, Alex Gray, Ann Cleeves.

### 2016

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#### Left Coast Crime

Phoenix AZ • Feb. 25–28  
“The Great Cactus Caper” will feature Gregg Hurwitz as American GoH, Ann Cleeves (Int’l GoH), and Catriona McPherson as toastmaster.  
[www.LeftCoastCrime2016.com](http://www.LeftCoastCrime2016.com)

#### Bouchercon

New Orleans LA  
Sep. 15–18  
“Blood on the Bayou—Down in New Orleans” will feature Harlan Coben as GoH, Mo Hayder as intl. GoH, Julie Smith as local legend, Jon and Ruth Jordan as fan GoH, Harley Jane Kozak as toastmaster. David Morrell will be the lifetime achievement award recipient.  
[www. Bouchercon2016.com](http://www. Bouchercon2016.com)

### 2017

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#### Left Coast Crime

Honolulu HI • Mar. 16–19  
“Honolulu Havoc” will feature Faye and Jonathan Kellerman for lifetime achievement, Dana Stabenow as GoH, and Laurie R. King as toastmaster.  
[www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2017](http://www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2017)

#### Bouchercon

Toronto ON • Oct. 12–15  
“Passport to Murder” will feature Louise Penny, Canadian GoH; Megan Abbott, American GoH; Christopher Brookmyre, intl. GoH; Chris Grabenstein B’Con 4Kids GoH, Margaret Cannon fan GoH; Twist Phelan & Gary Phillips, as toastmasters.  
[www.Bouchercon2017.com](http://www.Bouchercon2017.com)

### 2018

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#### Bouchercon

St. Petersburg FL  
Sep. 13–16  
The conference will feature Karin Slaughter, Sean Chercover, Sara Blaedel, Mark Billingham, Lisa Unger, Tim Dorsey, Ian Rankin, Judy Bobalik, Ayo Onatade, and as Ghost of Honor John D. MacDonald.  
[www.Bouchercon2018.com](http://www.Bouchercon2018.com)



# Membership Values

**I**n these days of increasing prices everywhere (excepting, of course, author royalties!), folks have been incredibly supportive about the modest increase in Sisters in Crime membership dues. It's obvious that the benefits of our organization far outweigh its costs (see Beth's Bits, page 16). Even with belt-tightening, SinC continues to offer incredible resources to chapters and individuals.

It's been said that people typically use less than 10% of a computer program's capabilities. Does that generalization carry over to your SinC membership?

- Do you read the daily listserv menu to see if a question (or answer) applies to you?
- Have you read this year's *Summit Report* featuring independent booksellers?
- Have you told your local library about our "We Love Libraries" or your favorite independent bookstore about our newly launched "We Love Bookstores" programs?
- Did you register for one of the pre-Bouchercon SinC into Great Writing programs?
- Do you check out the industry happenings in "SinCLinks"?
- Did you take advantage of the Gotham Writing Workshop discount?
- Is your SinC personal profile updated with links to your social networking sites?
- Do you read *inSinC*?
- Are you eligible for one of our grants?
  - The Eleanor Taylor Bland scholarships for emerging writers of color
  - An academic grant to fund study of the mystery genre
  - The Dorothy Cannell Grant for unpublished writers to attend Malice Domestic
- Are you a chapter member, taking advantage of in-person and online opportunities for craft and promotional advice?

If you've done many of these things, you'll probably agree that you're getting your money's worth. If not, get crackin'! ❖

P.S. Stay tuned for information about the upcoming Hollywood Conference, April 1-3, 2016!