



SISTERS in CRIME
CROAK & DAGGER
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



THE NOOSE LETTER

Volume V, Number 6—November 2009

†Expert Testimony†

From the Program Chair:

Mayhem broke out on September 29 at Monroe's Restaurant on Osuna NE.

Previously, the murder of a Baroness had been committed. Her estate was to be auctioned. Attending the auction was the Baroness's attorney, a banker, a cardinal with a not so innocent past, a South American drug dealer, individuals claiming to be the true heir of the Baroness whom she had refused to acknowledge, a detective, and various other savory and unsavory characters, some of whom claimed to be authors or readers of mystery novels.

The combined efforts of the detective and the desire of other characters who wanted rewards solved the mystery. The murderer was discovered. No arrests were made. Instead, prizes were given to several of the attendees who gathered that evening for felonious fun—and fabulous food. The recipients of prizes were:

Grand Prize (solved the murder): a tie: Nanette Aiken and Katrina Rogers

Accumulated the Most Money (fake, of course): Angela Avila

Best Actor: Tim Howard

Best Costume: Katrina Rogers

Runner up for Best Actor: John Radbill

Runner up for Best Costume: Jan Bray

— Rita Herther

Don't Miss It!

Tuesday, November 24, at 7 p.m.

November's meeting will feature a round table of seven local writers, who will each speak briefly and answer questions about their work. Prepare to be enlightened!

Shirley Raye Redmond writes novels and nonfiction for young readers, from her first, *Grampa and the Ghost*, to her recent historical mystery, *Rosemary's Glove*.

Jim Koehler, after a stint in the Air Force and a long career in engineering, retired with his wife Elaine to Albuquerque in 1997. He is the author of several outdoor articles and technical writing. His first novel is *Answers*.

Margaret Tessler, former C&D president, is the author of a series of suspenseful but also humorous mysteries featuring San Antonio attorney Sharon Morgan. The latest in the series is *Deadly Triangles*.

Roy Zarruchi and **Carolyn Page** were founding members of the C&D Chapter, now living in Maine, where they set the mysteries (*Bones of Contention* and *Bloodsport at Hiram Bog*) they write under the name Page Erwin.

David Corwell's story, "The Legacy of the Quedana," is featured in the anthology *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*. His contribution is based on New Mexico legends.

Lela Belle Wolfert writes poetry (collected in *Wishes in the Wind*) and romance. Her latest release is a romantic suspense novel, *Deception and Desire*.

The Albuquerque Croak & Dagger chapter of Sisters in Crime welcomes mystery fans, readers, and writers who want to enjoy felonious fun, absolutely criminal companionship and sensational speakers.

On January 26, Rob Kresge will show “We Remember Tony,” a one-hour video shot on November 8, 2008, a week after Tony Hillerman’s death, in which more than a dozen writers and friends of the iconic New Mexico author share stories of how his work and friendship affected their writing and their personal lives.

This was filmed by professional videographer Laureen Peppersack of Santa Fe in front of a live audience that included Tony's daughter Anne and other family members. It is hosted by bestselling author Craig Johnson.

Authors recalling Tony and his help to them included Joe Badal, Judith Van Gieson, Steve Havill, Margaret Tessler, and Pari Noskin Taichert. Aspiring writers and other friends also spoke of the inspiration they derived from his many novels and his nonfiction.

Meetings are held in the police briefing room of the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Substation, 12700 Montgomery NE (1 block east of Tramway). Unless otherwise noted, programs are free and open to the public.

All Croak& Dagger members are invited to join our Yahoo discussion group, where we exchange information about mystery books, movies, and TV shows; share news about local and national mystery events; and participate in occasional online classes. Log on to C&D’s web page (www.croak-and-dagger.com) and click on the link to moderator Nancy Varian for further instructions. Join the discussion!

Don't
Forget
To Vote!
(see page 9)



Sisters in Crime †

Sisters in Crime was founded in 1986. *The mission of Sisters in Crime shall be “to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers to achieve equality in the industry.”*

Our vision is: “Raising professionalism and achieving equity among crime writers.”

And our motto is: “SinC into a good mystery!”

Check Out the Croak & Dagger Website for all your Croak & Dagger information needs.

www.croak-and-dagger.com

- Upcoming Programs
- 2008 Meeting Schedule
- Membership Form
- Speakers Bureau
- Links to Mystery Websites & Websites for Your Favorite Croak & Dagger Authors
- *The Nooseletter* Archive

The Line Up

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Writing Scholarship Available

If you are seeking ways to improve your mystery writing skills by taking a specific workshop, class, or course, by enrolling in a college or university writing program, or by attending a mystery conference, consider applying for the 2010 Helen McCloy/MWA Scholarship to help you afford to further your skills.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded based on writing samples that will be judged by a committee. The sample submitted can be a selection of short stories, an excerpt of a novel, or a play or screenplay, and it must be within the mystery genre.

Application deadline: February 28, 2010, but don't wait too long, because you'll need to do some research into what's available and seek two letters of recommendation. Scholarship checks will be made out jointly to the winners and their chosen educational provider, which means that applications need to identify not merely a specific source of education but also a specific writing program, course, class, seminar, or workshop. Allow sufficient time to look into the program you desire to be sure it's the resource that will help you improve your mystery writing skills. Successful applications include an official course description; applications that fail to indicate the specific course—or that fail to include any other information or material specified on the application form—will be declared ineligible.

The 2010 application form and all the details, including a list of what to submit and where, are now posted on the MWA website at <http://mysterywriters.org/?q=AwardsPrograms-McCloy>. If you have questions not answered on the MWA site or in the application form itself, let me know via email (below). Please put the words “scholarship for mystery writing” in your subject line to help distinguish legitimate inquiries from spam.

Chris Roerden, Chair,
2010 Scholarship Committee
mccloy-mwa@lycos.com

The Writer's Block

A column on writing.



MISPLACED YOUR MODIFIER?

A modifier is a word or phrase used as an adjective or an adverb (that is, it describes something). Adjective modifiers usually give no trouble if they are placed immediately before or after the word(s) they modify in a sentence. (The boy *with the blue eyes* looked the other way. The *green-eyed* monster pounced.)

Adverb modifiers, however, frequently get misplaced. A *squinting* modifier is one, usually a single word, that can “look” either way in a sentence; that is, it might refer to the word it follows or the one it precedes: They stole away *often* to be alone. (Did they steal away many times, or mostly to be alone?)

Place your modifiers wherever in the sentence you have to, to make the meaning clear, rewording or re-punctuating if necessary: Many readers *I know* will be surprised by her new book. (Do you know them personally, or are you just sure they'll be surprised?)

The most common mistake with modifiers is putting one next to a word or phrase that it clearly is not meant to modify; the sentence may sound so absurd that the reader stops to laugh and forgets what the sentence was all about: She went to see Bruce Springsteen *in a taxi*. (The Boss usually plays bigger arenas.)

Sometimes such sentences may be corrected by inserting a comma so that the reader will take a mental breath and thereby keep the modifier and its antecedent (the word it modifies) separated: Many readers, *I know*, will be surprised by her new book. Usually, the sentence is better rewritten: She took a cab to the Springsteen concert.

Misplaced modifying phrases are also called dangling modifiers, especially when they come at the beginning of a sentence. (*After donning her new gown*, the butler announced dinner.) Most often, the word the modifier is meant to refer to is missing (*Abandoning all defenses*, sensation overtook her) and must be supplied (*Abandoning all defenses, she* allowed sensation to overtake her).

Brewing Up a Holiday Mystery by Cleo Coyle, Berkley Prime Crime, 2009, 384 pp (HC)

Who doesn't enjoy a good cup of coffee? Whether your favorite is from Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, or a small town coffee shop, as soon as you smell the coffee brewing, you can't wait for that first sip.

Years ago I was browsing Borders and spotted a paperback called *On What Grounds* by Cleo Coyle. The story revolves around a woman named Clare Cosi, her ex-husband Mateo (Matt) Allegro, their daughter Joy, and a Manhattan coffeehouse called the Village Blend.

Clare's elderly ex-mother-in-law, Madame, owns the Blend. She has turned over the running of the daily operations to Clare and Matt, who feel the weight of the Blend's century-old legacy on their shoulders because Madame has made it clear that she's leaving it to them when she dies.

Matt is responsible for traveling the world to acquire their various blends, while Clare works as a barista and supervises a colorful cast of employees.

Coyle's characters interact well together, not only in their daily lives and within each well-thought-out plot, but also in their personal growth with each new book.

Recently, I've had the pleasure of reading the eighth book in the Coffeehouse Mystery series. *Holiday Grind* is filled with the wonderful sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Christmas. From the delightfully creative Fa-la-la Lattes featured in the story, to the descriptive passages of decorating, and the yearly repertoire of carols on the radio, to winter in New York's Greenwich Village.

Holiday Grind opens with a slain Santa Claus, who happens to be a friend of Clare's and the father of a former employee. With the sleuthing skills learned in the first seven Coffeehouse Mystery books, Clare has become quite the investigator. After discovering her friend's lifeless body, she surveys the area, noticing on the snow-covered ground a single trail of footprints leading away from the crime scene. Scorch marks on the victim's Santa suit indicate that he's been shot at point-blank range.

The killer had forcefully ripped open the costume as well, causing a button to fly off—but where is the missing button?

Clare wonders what her friend was doing in a dark courtyard alone when the streets were desolate during a snowstorm. She notices that her friend's footprints led to the back wall of the building to a Dumpster and several recycling bins. Scrape marks indicate a wooden crate had been dragged beneath a fire escape. Just what had her friend been looking for when he was attacked?

While all of the Coffeehouse mysteries are filled with plenty of good sleuthing, this hardcover book also contains wonderful recipes like Clare's Old-Fashioned Sugar Cookies, Clare's Mini Red and Green Holiday Biscotti, and Nonna Cosi's Linguine with White Clam Sauce.

I especially enjoyed the glossary of Coffeehouse Terms. Here you'll learn the difference between a latte, an espresso and a cappuccino. Did you know there are two versions of cappuccino—wet and dry? Also included is a Guide to Roasting Terms, Tips For Being Your Own Barista, Coffee Drink Recipes, and Coffee Syrups.

You do not have to have read the prior books in the Coffeehouse Mystery series to enjoy *Holiday Grind*, but it may tempt you to check out the other books in the series. They would make wonderful stocking stuffers for those on your holiday gift list. ♦

—Chelle Martin (*TheHeroine@aol.com*)

Rob's Random Shots

November Case File Number One

Mark of the Lion by Suzanne Arruda, New American Library, 2006 (TP)

This is the first in a series (three so far) featuring a sleuth who is at once familiar and foreign. Jade del Cameron lives in the 1920s (well, the first book is set in 1919) in an exotic land; has short, black hair; is a World War I ambulance driver veteran; and speaks more than one language. Sound like Kerry Greenwood's

Phryne Fisher? Well, Ms Arruda may have been inspired by the Phryne Fisher series, but there are important differences, which make this book worth reviewing and the series worth reading. Jade is a) not independently wealthy, b) not a private detective but an amateur sleuth, and c) did not stay in Paris after the war and has relocated to Kenya, not Melbourne, Australia.

Similarities to another series aside, Arruda has staked out her own exotic patch of turf to throw her intrepid heroine into. This Africa of the 20s is still colonial and thus will remind readers more of Isak Dinesen's *Out of Africa* than Alexander McCall Smith's Precious Ramotswe series. Although class consciousness and discrimination are the order of the day, Jade rubs shoulders with as many Africans—Kikuyu and Masai—as British *bwanas*, and picks up Swahili as a stranger in a strange land.

The “McGuffin” that sets the ball rolling begins in war-torn France when Jade's dying pilot lover asks her to go to Africa and find out what happened to his murdered father and a brother he has never met. After a short stint in London to meet her man's grieving mother (who says there never was another son), Jade sets out for Nairobi to learn the truth. Shooting parties, nightclub liaisons, and handsome men—married and not—ensue, until a core party of hunters, guides, and newly arrived friends of Jade set out to track lions.

Jade is a crack shot and that turns out to be a good thing, since the unidentified villain who is determined to thwart her is an accomplished witch who is able to take on animal forms and get other animals to do his bidding. That injects a “who-who” factor into the proceedings, as we get several scenes from the witch's perspective without being able to identify him. His identity surprised me and I know it will other readers, too.

I haven't yet read Jade's further adventures, so I can't say whether we will encounter more supernatural elements in the series. But give Jade a read. She has a local connection, having been raised on a ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico. ♦

—Rob Kresge (rkresge777@comcast.net)

Key:

PB = Paperback

TP = Trade paperback

HC = Hardcover

November Case File Number Two

At Ease With the Dead by Walter Satterthwait, University of New Mexico Press, 1990 (TP)

Well-known Santa Fe mystery author Walter Satterthwait has been at his craft for a number of years and a dozen novels. His expertise and feel for the Southwest shines in this case for private detective Joshua Croft. This is not Joshua's first adventure; readers can start the series anywhere. All good series mysteries stand alone; the best ones make us search out the earlier novels. This one is no exception.

Croft works for a small Santa Fe agency run by Mrs. Rita Mondragon, apparently paralyzed in a shooting in an earlier novel. Told from his perspective in first person (as nearly all private eye novels are), we quickly learn that our hero has more than a crush on his boss.

Navajo Daniel Begay asks Joshua if he can trace missing persons.

“Sure,” responds the detective. “How long's he been missing?”

“Since 1925.”

“That's a long time. He could be dead by now.”

“Oh, he is. He was dead then, too.”

And we're off and running. The dead man was Navajo leader Ganado. A geology expedition to Canyon de Chelly accidentally unearthed his body 65 years before this story and took it back to the Anthropology Department of the University of Texas at El Paso. Rita gives Joshua permission to at least attempt to recover the body and the plot assumes cruising speed.

Since private eyes are not usually licensed to operate across state lines, Joshua relies for help from a local operative to learn how Professor Dennis Lessing brought back the bones and meets the man's daughter, Alice

Wright, now in her eighties. It seems the bones went missing after Lessing's murder a month after his return to Texas. Alice drops a bombshell when she tells him she discovered the body and has always been certain her mother killed her philandering father.

The cold trail now appears frozen. But a beating from some Mexican thugs that night at his motel convinces Joshua that there's more current interest in the murdered professor, if not in the bones. The second half of the book reunites Joshua with Daniel as they race against time across New Mexico and the Navajo Reservation to prevent the thugs from murdering Ganado's living descendant and see how the legacy of the past has caught up with the present.

History, romance (chaste), local color, and action. What more could you ask for in a private eye novel? ♦

—Rob Kresge (rkresge777@comcast.net)

Short Takes

Brimstone, by Robert B. Parker, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009, 293 pp (HC)

In the third entry in Parker's western series that started with *Appaloosa*, musketeers Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch finally catch up with Virgil's runaway lover, Allie French, in another struggling-to-be-civilized frontier town. Now that he's found her, Virgil isn't at all sure he wants to keep her, but there's too much going on in *Brimstone* for him to put his mind fully to this question for a while.

There's a bar owner who wants to run all the other bar owners out of town so he can take over. There's a preacher who thinks he's God but consorts with the devil bar owner—until he wants to take over too. Add an Apache with a grudge against the bar owner whom Virgil doesn't find the truth about until too late, and a half-Indian, half-Mexican gun hand that Virgil gets help from just in time. Virgil and Hitch mostly just watch things play out—until they and theirs are threatened.

Like the other books in the series, *Brimstone* is a quick, entertaining read with no wasted words and Parker's own brand of humor integral to the dialogue. Available through the Albuquerque library system.

The Bedside, Bathtub & Armchair Companion to Agatha Christie, ed. by Dick Riley & Pam McAllister, MJF Books, 1986, 362 pp (HC)

Even if you're not a rabid Christie fan, this collection of trivia, reviews, and fascinating information is a pleasure to browse in.

It contains, for example, a list of Christie's favorite murder weapons, plot summaries of all her books, some favorite English dishes featured in her mysteries (with or without poison added), a mystery map of southern England, as well as discussions about such topics as "gossip and intuition as Detective Tools" and the PC-revised title of *Ten Little... Who?*

This is a fun reference for both readers and movie-goers (after all, dozens of films have been made of Christie mysteries).

The Private World of Georgette Heyer by Jane Aiken Hodge, The Bodley Head, 1984, 216 pp (HC).

Georgette Heyer is best known for her series of charming Regency romances, as well as a score of other historical novels, but she was also the author of 9 (or 12, according to who's counting) mystery novels first published in the 1930s, when female mystery writers like Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers were just beginning to become widely read.

As in her historical romances, there is more to Heyer's mysteries than the plot, and more depth than critics of either genre ever gave her credit for.

Heyer was a very private person, at least after the first flush of success when her first novel was published when she was only 19, and Hodge, herself a successful novelist, has relied on her publisher's collection of chatty letters from the author as well as interviews with Heyer's surviving brother and good friends, to compile a fascinating, copiously illustrated literary biography. ♦

—Linda Triegel (ljt23@earthlink.net)

PD James, Queen of Detective Fiction

[The following is excerpted from an interview by Jake Kerridge, published in the London Telegraph on 9/26/09]

“Detective fiction is the literature of escape. It is surprisingly popular with very powerful men in positions of great authority and people whose lives are fairly arduous intellectually. People who are confronted by serious puzzles in their daily lives.”

Baroness James of Holland Park is musing on the sorts of puzzles one would expect to preoccupy a Conservative peer. “Social puzzles that are really beyond anyone’s ability to solve.... So there is a comfort in reading something with a puzzle at its heart which is solved by the end of the book, with order being restored.”

“One wonders,” she says, “if people are getting the same satisfaction they did, because what we often get from crime fiction now is not escapism but violence. I notice that a lot of the old cosies are now being reissued.

“You look at the books that have won any major prize over the last 20 years and ask yourself how many are actually in print, how many are being actively read. Then you go into a bookshop and there’s old Agatha, rows and rows. There really is something strange about that.”

She has a crack at explaining the genre’s appeal in *Talking about Detective Fiction*, an idiosyncratic and entertaining primer written at the suggestion of the Bodleian Library, which is publishing the book and to which James is donating hardback royalties. It is not a comprehensive history – she does not read much contemporary crime fiction apart from books by Ian Rankin and her old friend Ruth Rendell – but an imaginative response to some of her favourite authors.

The 89-year-old Lady James is trying to recall what first drew the teenage Phyllis, along with millions of other readers in the Thirties, to the so-called Golden Age detective stories: “Those books suggested we live in a moral, comprehensible universe, at a time when there was a great deal of disruption and violence at home and abroad, and of course the ever-present risk of war. And we live in times of unrest now, so perhaps we may soon enter another Golden Age.”

It is one thing to read detective fiction voraciously, another to write it for five decades in the spare moments of a busy life spent working first for the NHS and then the police and criminal law departments of the Home Office, while bringing up two daughters and coping with the stresses of being married to somebody who was mentally ill: her late husband, Connor Bantry White, developed a form of schizophrenia after he returned from war service.

She says that writing was a compulsion – and it had to be detective fiction. “I don’t think writers choose the genre, the genre chooses us. I wrote out of the wish to create order out of disorder, the liking of a pattern.”

She [admits] to a long-standing preoccupation with death. “Since childhood I’ve been thoroughly interested in it, the complete finality of it. People would say, ‘what are you doing for your summer holiday?’ and I always thought, we might not be here for the summer holiday. Which is strange really. But,” she adds brightly, “now that I’m nearly 90 it becomes a reasonable concern, frankly!”

Noose News

After three years of researching, writing and road trips, *Tony Hillerman's Landscape: On the Road with Chee and Leaphorn* hit the bookstores on October 27. Anne Hillerman (Tony's daughter) and photographer Don Strel have incorporated several benefits into their book launch schedule, helping raise money for the Hillerman-McGarrity Scholarship at the University of New Mexico, the Santa Fe Public Library and for other worthy causes.

For their presentation, Don created a gorgeous slide show with photos from the book and Hillerman family shots. Anne's script talks about the forces that helped shape Tony Hillerman into a best selling author (and a good guy!)

Pending engagements include Silver City, N.M., the Poisoned Pen bookstore in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the Heard Museum in Phoenix. We're offering our presentation as a benefit for the Taos (N.M.) public library at Bataan Hall at the Taos Convention Center. We'll also be in Tucson, Winslow and even Chicago!

Meanwhile, Anne and Jean are regrouping, considering what workshops and conferences may lie ahead for WordHarvest. We promise to keep you posted, and welcome whatever ideas our former students, conference attendees, faculty and friends may suggest. Please feel free to email us your thoughts and suggestions.

The Tony Hillerman Prize for best first mystery, co-sponsored by St. Martin's Press, will not be awarded this year. The judges received some interesting, well-written manuscripts, but none met the guidelines for mystery and/or reflected the high quality they sought to honor Tony Hillerman's name. The contest will continue in 2010 and the new guidelines will be available shortly on the WordHarvest website and from St. Martin's.

Thanks to our judges and all the contestants.



Sisters in Crime

Guppies

SinC guppies come from across the United States and Canada. They have different occupations and avocations, but they share a passion for writing mysteries and a common goal of getting published.

"Few professions offer as many opportunities for rejection as writing does. Only the strong survive the path to publication. The encouragement and support of other writers can be the difference between giving up too soon and getting in print." (SinC Guppies)

Guppies is an online writer's support group, Subgroups represent cozies, noir, psychological and romantic suspense, and thrillers. The Mystery Analysis Group is a book discussion group aimed at discussing the craft, and the AgentQuest group can help with writing queries and synopses.

Interested in joining this online writer's support group? Check them out at www.sinc-guppies.org/.

Raising Goosebumps and Curdling Blood

You've heard the expression "It makes my blood run cold"? Well, if it does, glance at your thighs and forearms. Notice how the skin seems suddenly to have little golf balls stuck underneath. These are goose bumps, which are an attempt by your body to insulate itself against the chill. They are caused by the contraction of the muscles at the base of the hair follicle and act as a barrier between your thinned blood and the terror that struck it. As your emotions heat up, the bumps will recede. Then you'll only have to worry about the hackles on your neck.

It is impossible to curdle someone's blood, at least while it's still in her body. Remove it, sauté it and overcook it—and there's a different story.

(From *Murderess Ink*, perpetrated by Dilys Winn, Workman Publishing, 1979.)

NOVEMBER ELECTION

The Croak & Dagger chapter works because of the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

At the 24 November general meeting, paid-up members of the Croak & Dagger chapter will be able to vote for the top four elective positions of volunteers willing to steer our chapter through the next year. The four primary board members are elected to 1-year terms. The whole board—elected officers and appointed volunteers—takes office in December.

Members who can't attend the November meeting may cast their ballots by emailing the current vice-president, Olin Bray, at ohbray@nmia.com **NO LATER THAN** noon on the day of the meeting, 24 November. Ballots will be distributed and counted at the meeting and the results announced at the end.

Write-in candidates are acceptable, but anyone wishing to contend for a position must inform the Membership Chair, Jonathan Sacks, at jsacks@pobox.com in time for an email reminder of the upcoming vote to be issued the weekend before the meeting. Consider the write-in or contested entry deadline to be midnight, Sunday, 22 November.

The candidates for office for 2010 are:

Elective Positions:

President – Olin Bray

C&D's current vice president, Olin worked in information systems, technology planning, and homeland security before retiring from Sandia National Labs. He has written three computer books and over 40 conference papers and tutorials. He is a member of both C&D and Southwest Writers.

Vice President – Open Position – Volunteer!

The Vice President conducts meetings in the President's absence and fills or assists in when needed for any other executive tasks.

Secretary – Fred A. Aiken

Fred teaches sciences at Rio Grande High School. He previously worked as a Professional Engineer for more than 35 years. He has been published in *Guideposts* and *Angels on Earth* and has written three so-far unpublished novels and numerous short stories in the mystery and science fiction/fantasy genres.

Treasurer – Position Open – Volunteer!

The treasurer maintains the chapter's checking account and, with the membership chairman, tracks incoming dues and outgoing expenses, investigating any proposed new equipment buys, etc.

Appointive Positions:

Programs/Publicity Chair - Rita Herther

In the 1980s, Rita published articles and children's stories. She taught creative and journal writing. After a long hiatus, Rita is now writing a YA novel, short stories, and articles.

Nooseletter Editor – Linda Triegel

Current editor of the *Nooseletter*, Linda also edited the newsletter of her previous SinC chapter in Pennsylvania. A former copyeditor and published romance writer, she is now working on a new romance and a historical mystery.

Membership – Open position – Volunteer!

The membership chairman works with the treasurer to maintain a data base of members. In addition, he or she sends out meeting announcements once a month to the C&D mailing list and The Nooseletter bimonthly to members.

Website Technical Support – Susan Zates

Susan and her husband and two Siberian Huskies moved to ABQ in 2004 from California. She works as a software engineer and is an avid mystery reader, not a writer. She especially loves the police procedural, PI, and forensic genres.

Library Liaison – Pari Noskin Taichert

Pari is the author of the Sasha Solomon mystery series set in New Mexico. She was the first president of the Croak & Dagger chapter and is now a columnist for *The 3rd Degree*, the newsletter of Mystery Writers of America.

2009 MEETING DATES

December 2009 – No meeting
Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are free to the public.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation, 12700 Montgomery Blvd. NE, one block east of Tramway.

(If the substation lot is full, there is more parking available just below the substation, accessed via a driveway below the substation on the right.)

Check our Web site, www.croak-and-dagger.com, for schedule changes.

Summary of Findings

The *Nooseletter* is the internal organ of the Croak & Dagger chapter, Albuquerque, of Sisters in Crime (SinC). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and editors. ♦

†Nooseletter Submissions†

Croak & Dagger friends are encouraged to contribute articles, reviews, and essays on aspects of mystery writing *and* reading for publication consideration. Information on relevant conferences or events is also welcome. Especially let us know if you have published a new book or story, or have an upcoming local author event. (Unbridled enthusiasm for your own mystery book is encouraged here.)

Length: Articles should average 500 words, but short items are also welcome.

Deadlines: Publication is every other month, starting in January. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to publication: Feb 15, April 15, June 15, Aug 15, Oct 15, and Dec 15.

The Living and the Dead: As a general policy, articles and information should focus on living authors rather than dead ones, but that's not set in concrete shoes. Articles about specific historical development of the crime-mystery writing genre, for example, would be welcome.

Submissions: Please submit via e-mail to newsette@earthlink.net, with "Nooseletter" in the subject line.

The *Nooseletter* is distributed to all members electronically. ♦ —Linda Triegel

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Still not a member of Sisters in Crime?

\$20/year brings mystery to your life! The Albuquerque *Croak & Dagger* chapter welcomes mystery fans who want to enjoy felonious fun, absolutely criminal companionship, and sensational speakers.

Benefits of membership in the *Croak & Dagger* chapter include a subscription to our *Nooseletter*, close contact with local mystery writers, and fun events with other mystery fans.

You do *not* have to be a member of the national organization to join us. Come hear our next program speaker and meet the gang. We promise to bring mayhem and murder into your life.

Contact our membership chair, at contact@croak-and-dagger.com