



SISTERS in CRIME
CROAK & DAGGER
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



THE NOOSELETTER

Volume VII, Number 1 — January 2011

†Expert Testimony†

This column covers several topics. First, as of Christmas we became a two-Nook family, so now we can use them at the same time. Sales of e-books are building rapidly. A January *USA Today* article said that of their top 50 best sellers, for 19 of them the e-book version outsold the print version. Before that the most had been only 2 of the top 50. People who got E-readers for Christmas probably loaded up, so it will be interesting to see if these numbers hold up for more of the year.

Readers are discovering that it is a lot easier (and tempting) to just order another book when you don't have to go to the bookstore or even log on to Amazon. Plus most of them are a lot cheaper. The question is, will publishers keep paying the authors reasonable royalties?

Second, remember Left Coast Crime 2011 in Santa Fe is in March! Hope a lot of you will be able to come. There should be more than 100 authors and a lot of interesting panels.

Third, we are looking for a membership chair. Jim Tritten had to give up the position, so we are in search mode again. If you are interested, please let one of the Board members know. Having switched to have all the memberships renewed in January makes the job a lot easier than it was.

Fourth, about half of you have sent in your renewals. Thanks. Could the rest of you take a minute and send in your check or bring it to the meeting? The amount this time was specified in your renewal notice. It was \$5, \$10, \$15, or \$20, depending on when you joined. Next year all of

the renewals will occur at the same time and be for \$20. The first year's dues for people who join during the year will be adjusted so they will also be on that cycle.

Fifth, this year we will continue to organize additional events, like last year's plays and the Atomic Museum tour. If there is something you are particularly interested in, please let us know and we may be able to set something up as a group event. Also keep the book reviews and conference reviews coming for the *Nooseletter*.

Finally, for those of you who signed up, remember the Sherlock Holmes play at the Albuquerque Little Theater on January 29. If you are interested in dinner before the play, make sure Rob has you on that list.♦

— Olin Bray, President

Don't Miss It! **Tuesday, January 25, at 7 p.m.**

Our January speaker will be Sarah H. Baker, author of more than a dozen published novels. Her Dassas Cormier mystery series is set in 1920s Louisiana and includes *Murder in Marshall's Bayou* and *Death of a Dancer*.

Sarah grew up in New Orleans. She earned a master's degree in engineering and as a civil engineer for the government, has lived all over the United States, including "Wild West" Alaska, but now seems to have sprouted roots in New Mexico.

Sarah's topic for our January meeting is "Taking the Mystery out of Being an Author."

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.

February's speaker will be a familiar face to members. Joseph Badal has written three suspense novel—*The Pythagorean Solution*, *Terror Cell*, and the soon-to-be-published *The Nostradamus Secret*.

Joe has worked for thirty-eight years in the banking and financial services industries. Prior to that career, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army in critical, highly classified positions in the U.S. and overseas, including tours of duty in Greece and Vietnam. He earned numerous military decorations. He and is multi-lingual.

"Storytelling has been a vital part of my family's culture and child-raising modus operandi," Joe says. "My father passed on stories that his grandfather and father told him, and created epic tales that included his children as characters. We each had a turn at being the hero of his tales. For me, listening to stories and reading as many books as I could carry from the public library were as natural as eating and breathing."

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.



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

AND: Remember that all members are invited to join the Croak & Dagger Yahoo group, an online gathering place for mystery writers. Join in! Log on to C&D's web page (www.croak-and-dagger.com) and click on the link to moderator Nancy Varian for instructions. Exchange news and information about mystery books, movies, and TV shows, as well as online courses.

The Line Up

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Notice someone missing?

Yes, we are in need of a membership chairman! The membership chairman works with the treasurer to maintain a data base of members and distributes the *Nooseletter* and meeting announcements to members. This is a fun position that will give you an opportunity to interact with the entire C&D Community.

Volunteer!

Forensic “Odorprints”

We have all heard about the amazingly sensitive olfactory abilities of dogs to track lost children and locate dead bodies. However, dogs’ exceptional sense of smell is now used in other ways.

It turns out no two humans smell alike. We each have our own *odorprint*. In one experiment trained dogs were given clothing from a set of young triplets. The dogs could easily distinguish the smell of each child and match him to his clothing, even though the triplets were otherwise identical.

Law enforcement personnel are now using “scent lineups.” Investigators at crime scenes collect scent evidence. Then they swipe a suspect to collect a smell and present it to a dog, along with “decoy scents” to see if the dog can connect the crime scene and suspect smells. Although used successfully, mostly in Europe, courts are now asking for more validation evidence.

According to a recent article in the American Chemical Society’s trade journal *Chemical and Engineering News* (October 12, 2009), current research indicates other forensic uses of human odorprints. Both European and US researchers (including the Monell Chemical Sciences Center in Philadelphia) are involved in this work.

Human scents contains hundreds of volatile chemicals and their associated smells. In an unusual experiment, researchers collected underarm sweat (least likely to be affected by personnel care products and diet) from volunteers over a 10-week period. Using the kind of sophisticated instrumentation seen on *CSI*, they identified 44 chemicals that vary among people and 12 gender-specific ones.

Law enforcement personnel envision building these data into a huge forensic database like the FBI’s fingerprint database for “human ID and surveillance.” Devices to sample each person’s odorprint would be set up at airports and train stations and compared to the database to flag people who are security risks. Something else to look forward to at airport security!

Apparently, smell surveillance has been conducted in the past. The East German Stasi (secret police) used specially designed seat cushions that would store odors of suspect citizens who were then tracked by sniffer dogs.

In addition to odorprint identification work, researchers are studying whether a person’s smell can tell if he or she is lying. When a person is lying, the levels of certain stress hormones in the body will change. An experienced investigator can pick up this smell without a fancy instrument. An acquaintance of mine, who is a polygraph expert from the New Jersey State Police, states that he can pick up this scent when he enters the interrogation room.

With all these potentially great applications, the study of forensic uses of smells is a very active area. The Department of Homeland Security is funding research for both surveillance uses and to identify “the scent of deception” in interrogations.

In the future Big Brother will not only be watching and listening but also smelling us!

Thanks to Gretchen Hall of the Delaware Valley (PA) chapter of SinC for the above!

The FBI’s official website is teeming with info and is surprisingly readable. Log on to www.fbi.gov and click on “Quick Facts” to get an overview of the FBI’s mission and scope, and on “History” to learn that the Bureau grew from 34 investigators on its founding 98 years ago to more than 30,000 employees today and to read up on its most interesting cases.

The FBI is probably most famous for its “Most Wanted” list (www.fbi.gov/wanted/htm). Files on celebrities from Lucille Ball to Albert Einstein can be accessed (though with a lot of blacking out on some of them!) at www.fbi-files.com. Want to report suspicious activity? Log on to <https://tips.fib.gov>.

So, Whatcha Been Reading Lately?

Barnes & Noble says they sold a million e-books on Christmas Day, and in December they had their strongest holiday sales in a decade. But Borders is in big trouble—can't pay their suppliers, and executives are jumping ship. This story has breaking updates every day, so stay tuned.

Meanwhile, USA Today says 19 of their top 50 bestsellers sold more copies in e-book format than print version. Most industry watchers say e-books are the hottest story to track this year. But for mystery writers, Sisters in Crime is creating the big story—with the results of our reader study conducted by the research firm, Bowker. Look for the study on SinC's website (<http://www.sistersincrime.org/>).

The study, titled “The Mystery Book Consumer in the Digital Age, is the first of its kind to provide an overview of the mystery/crime fiction book-buying landscape, with information on who buys mystery books, where they buy them, what they buy and why they make their mystery book purchases. The research is based on publishing industry data gathered and interpreted by the PubTrack book sales analysis division of Bowker, a unit that specializes in business intelligence for publishers, retailers and authors—with input from a SinC survey team.

Among the findings of the study:

- The majority of mystery/crime fiction buyers tend to be women over the age of 45. Overall, 68 percent of mysteries are purchased by women; more than half of mystery buyers are more than 45 years of age. Buyers 18 to 44 years of age purchase 31 percent of the mysteries sold.
- Most of the mystery buyers – 48 percent – live in suburban areas, 27 percent reside in rural areas and 25 percent live in urban areas.
- The majority of mysteries – 35 percent – are purchased by individuals who live in the South, 26 percent are purchased by people in the West, 20 percent by those in the Midwest and 19 percent by individuals in the Northeast.
- Mysteries are obtained mostly through purchases from brick-and-mortar stores, followed by library borrowing and online purchasing. A total of 39 percent are obtained through in-store purchases, 19 percent are borrowed from libraries and 17 percent are purchased online. Online purchases in the mystery genre top those for other types of fiction.

The study is also intended to help crime writers plan their self-promotion efforts to most efficiently reach readers. The results are very useful and sure to interest publishers, publicists, agents, booksellers, and librarians as well as authors. Don't spend another dime on promotion until you've read this study and create a plan that works best for you and your books. Look for it



The full survey provides a detailed look at these and other findings, including demographics, purchasing, factors that influence mystery buying, mystery reading behavior, e-books and more.

End of Days for Bookstores? Not if They Can Help It

by Lynn Neary
December 14, 2010

The following is excerpted from an article on the NPR website; for the entire article, go to <http://www.npr.org/2010/12/14/132026420/end-of-days-for-bookstores-not-if-they-can-help-it>

There was a time, not so long ago, when chain bookstores had a pretty bad reputation. Barnes & Noble and Borders were seen as predators eager to destroy local booksellers. Megastores like Costco started selling bestsellers and encroaching on local shops. Then came a little company called Amazon, and the rise of online book buying. The indies were struggling, and many had to close their doors.

Now, the tables have turned. In the era of online buying and the e-book, both currently dominated by Amazon, the big chains are in trouble—and new technologies may provide independent bookstores with a lifeline.

A Local Touch

Defying all the naysayers about the future of bookstores—especially in a tough economy—Rebecca Fitting and Jessica Stockton Bagnulo opened Greenlight Books in Brooklyn a year ago. They knew the neighborhood they moved into desperately wanted a bookstore. And that local support has proven to be invaluable.

The store has lots of regular events, like Saturday morning story time for children and high-profile author readings. And Fitting and Bagnulo know that a delicate combination of factors has to come together to make their particular neighborhood bookstore succeed. But they believe this could be a good time for stores like theirs everywhere. According to Fitting, it's the chain stores, not independent booksellers, which belong to another era.

"I kind of feel like we're coming to end of the age of dinosaurs and there's all these warm-blooded animals running around instead," she says.

E-Books: Threat or Opportunity?

"It's really hard for me to be sympathetic to the chains," says Elaine Petrocelli, co-owner of Book Passage in San Francisco. She's been in the business since the 1970s, and has not forgotten when a chain store moved into her neighborhood and almost put her out of business.

The most recent threat to bookstores like Petrocelli's is the emergence of the e-book and Amazon's dominance of the market with its e-reader, the Kindle. So Petrocelli was heartened by the news that Google will make it possible for independent bookstores to sell e-books from their websites. "I think it gives us a chance," she says. "I don't think it's a panacea, but I think it gives us a chance."

Petrocelli views e-books as a new marketing challenge, especially now that she can sell them herself. "I think that it's possible that the Kindle could turn into the Betamax," she says. "That's my nasty wish, because they won't share with other people. You need to buy your book through Amazon in order to use your Kindle. [On] all of the other readers you can work with the Google editions [of the books], and so I think that's going to be the next thing."

"Heady Times"

In the future, Barnes & Noble chairman Len Riggio hopes to bolster the sale of traditional books by selling e-book devices. "I think the biggest threat to Barnes & Noble is the same threat that exists to independent book sellers and to anyone engaged in the sale of printed books," he argues. "It's all about the Internet itself."

Book sales have declined for everyone, says Riggio, because whole categories like reference books and travel books are no longer needed, now that such information is available for free on the Internet. That's why Riggio, like Petrocelli, is banking his stores' future not on books alone, but on the sale of electronic devices. Prominent among them is Barnes & Noble's own e-reader, the Nook, and its latest iteration, the Nook Color.

"It's pretty heady times," Riggio says, "and we don't know how it's going to turn out. But if you want to count up the people who will have a say in how it will turn out, put us in as one of them."

And what about the independents? Will they just become precious reminders of a time when most people read books made of paper? Not a chance, says Elaine Petrocelli. All bookstore owners know that the digital future is now. It's up to them to work it in a way that keeps their doors open and their shelves filled with actual books.

"I think we're going to be a vital part of the future," she says, "but we're going to have keep growing and changing."

Mark Your Calendars!

Left Coast Crime—The Big Chile is scheduled for March 24-27, 2011, at La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe. Left Coast Crime comes to the City Different with your favorite Southwest writers, including Steve Havill, Margaret Coel, and Steve Brewer. Our own Pari Noskin Taichert is coordinating things (get the latest on her blog, www.murderati.com) and C&D's Rob Kresge is program chairman. Here are some of the activities tentatively planned for the weekend:

Wednesday, March 23: Early bird registration 3-6 p.m. (registration continues daily), day trips, and sign-up sheet so that LCC attendees can find each other, make new friends, and go to dinner that night.

Thursday, March 24: Day trips, panel programming from 1-5 p.m., silent auction, evening programming begins at 7:30. Anne Hillerman will be on hand with her husband, photographer Don Strel, to present a slide show of their book, *Tony Hillerman's Landscape*. The evening will conclude with an informal memorial with members of the LCC writing and fan community sharing their favorite and personal stories about Hillerman.

Friday, March 25: Continental breakfast with new authors, day trips, morning and afternoon panels. Silent auction continues. Welcoming ceremony at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 26: Registration continues, continental breakfast and Author-Go-Round (for established authors), day trips, morning and afternoon panels. Silent auction continues; Awards Banquet & Live Auction (and surprises), 6 p.m.

Sunday, March 27: Panels, 9 a.m. to noon

In addition, a program of *Cuentos* will be ongoing. Authors and other attendees will hold informal chats to describe their projects and share skills and information.

Special event: Michael McGarrity will interview Tonya Harris, widow of Sandoval County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Harris, who was killed in the shoot-out with the so-call "Cookie Bandit" in July 2009.

To register, go to www.leftcoastcrime.org/2011.

For general questions, e-mail lccsantafe@leftcoastcrime.org

Reviews

Die Trying, by Lee Child. Jove Books, 1999, 552 pp. (PB)

I saw Lee Child interviewed on my favorite TV program, *CBS Sunday Morning*, a while back and decided to check out his thrillers (*CSM* makes all the artists they interview sound like really nice people). I wasn't disappointed; *Die Trying* (Child's second book in his Jack Reacher series) is a fast, thrilling ride.

Our hero is an ex-army, highly decorated, trouble magnet. In this story, he literally bumps into adventure when he's out to the cleaners. Well, actually, Holly Johnson is making her weekly trip to the cleaners with an armload of expensive designer suits, when Jack happens down the same street at the same time as Holly—and a gang of kidnapers. Jack is swept up into the van the kidnapers shove Holly into and, being a gentleman as well as an officer, he immediately starts making plans to rescue the fair lady.

The fair lady, however, is no pushover either, and is not who she seems at first glance, a high-paid but probably spoiled and self-centered executive. In fact, it takes a while for Jack to find out exactly who she is and realize how well she can fight for herself.

The two of them are stuck together inside the van for days while Jack tries to figure out where they're going and how to escape. The kidnapers are careful, and even though he succeeds in killing one of them, Jack and Holly eventually end up in a mysterious camp in the far reaches of Montana. That location may give you a clue as to what sort of camp it is, but I'm not giving any more away.

Suffice it to warn you that this is a violent tale. So much so, in fact, that I could have done with 100 fewer pages and a lower body count (frankly, the killings got boring, not good for a thriller).

Child's writing is spare but effective; he really can tell a story. I'm looking forward to

more adventures in the series (#1 is called *Killing Floor*, but *Borders* didn't happen to have it in stock when I went in with my latest 40% off coupon.) ♦

—Linda Triegel (ljt23@earthlink.net)

Rob's Random Shots

January Case File Number 1

The Pot Thief Who Studied Einstein by J. Michael Orenduff, Oak Tree Press, 2010, 191 pp (TP)

I know I've been reviewing a lot by this author lately (see the September and November 2010 issues), but he's been prolific, with his publisher bringing out a new Orenduff book every six months.

Mike Orenduff's popular pot dealer (no, not that kind), Hubert Schuze, is back in his third adventure. But this time, instead of trying to pull his own caper/scam, Hubie seems to have been scammed out of \$2,500 himself. Watch out, scammers. His pride has been hurt. Hubie was promised the money for appraising a private collection of Native American pots, but was done out of his fee. Trouble is, he can't find the owner, since he was driven to the collection blindfolded.

That's one of the great things about Mike Orenduff's send-up of Lawrence Block's classic *Burglar* series. Mike takes some of the great clichés of mysteries and thrillers and has them happen to the hapless (but not helpless) Hubie in new and fresh ways.

As always, Hubie enlists the help of drinking buddy Susannah Inchaustigui (it's Basque; don't try to pronounce it) to sort out his options. And in this case, the options keep changing as unknown forces constantly raise the stakes. Hubie becomes in turn a burglar, a car thief, nearly a murder victim, is nearly arrested twice, and falls for two very different women. Double the reader's pleasures in this new adventure.

This third book is as unputdownable as Orenduff's first two. Not because of the blistering pace of a thriller, but because we're privy to Hubie's discussions and his reliably hilarious musings on life, love, classic movies, and the state of modern technology. Readers who know this series will be amply rewarded by *Einstein* and those who are new to it can enter the series with this book as easily as with the others.

And the best reward is to know that Orenduff is a long way from being finished with the Hubie saga. He generously includes a 20-page excerpt from the upcoming fourth volume, *The Pot Thief Who Studied Escoffier*, a culinary mystery set mostly in Santa Fe. I've had a taste of Number Four, but now we'll all have to wait for the main course. ♦

—Rob Kresge (rkresge777@comcast.net)

Key:

PB = Paperback
TP = Trade paperback
HC = Hardcover

January Case File Number 2

False Witness by Aimee and David Thurlo, St. Martin's Minotaur, 2007, 260 pp (HC)

Now my feet of clay are revealed for all to see. Besides my backlog of Sue Grafton novels, I have quite a few unread mysteries that I'm gradually working my way through. No excuses. I just have to buckle down.

False Witness is the fourth in the thoroughly enjoyable Sister Agatha series that the indefatigable Thurlos have written, along with their Navajo vampire novels and their better-known Ella Clah novels. The Sister Agathas represent a lighter, more cozy read and strongly appeal to those of us in New Mexico, since they're set in Bernalillo, not far from where the Thurlos live in Corrales.

This book puts the Our Lady of Hope Monastery (yes, nuns live in monasteries, too), Sister Agatha personally, and her beloved dog Pax into greater danger than ever before, and literally right from the first pages, when a stolen

vehicle crashes into the sisters' front gate. The unidentified driver escapes and we're swept right into several mysteries that fill this novel to the brim.

Besides trying to figure out who stole the car and how the monastery can pay for repairs, Sister Agatha must deal with a malicious hacker who's harming the sisters' fledgling internet business, a land deal that may encroach on monastery property, and a mysterious businessman who hires our protagonist to find his missing niece. Against this backdrop, readers learn that there's a missing fortune, an escaped convicted killer, and a possible real killer still at large. If you think that's a lot to keep track of, Agatha's friend Sister Bernarda faces a ticklish health issue that leaves her awash in regrets at this critical time.

Keeping track of the multiple crimes, possible suspects, and sometimes hostile neighbors is complicated in part by one person, Terri, having another identity as "Angie" and being referred to by both names by the same people, sometimes on the same page.

But that's a small quibble. The Thurlos do their usual excellent job of tying all the crimes together in credible fashion, though they do subject Sister Agatha to quite a bit more physical danger than I've seen in this series. Nevertheless, you can be assured of a good read in the hands of these masters, and I'm living proof that you don't have to be Catholic to be beguiled by a story like one.

Sister Agatha, whether driving her vintage motorcycle or the notorious "Antichrysler," is the best thing to come down the road since Brother Cadfael. ♦

—Rob Kresge (www.robertkresge.com)

Second Violin, by John Lawton. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008, 419 pp (HC)

My sister was racing through Lawton's Inspector Troy series and barely had time to e-mail me to recommend them. *Second Violin* is the first, chronologically, of the series, although between the publication dates being out of order and some books having different titles in

England, it took some detective work on our parts just to make a list.

Second Violin is only nominally a police procedural, since our policeman, Frederick Troy, doesn't make an appearance until well into the novel. But the first 100 pages, set in Vienna just after the *Anschluss* and showing in harrowing detail the humiliation, deportation, and indiscriminate killing of the Jewish population, will certainly grab your attention. One of these Jews, a tailor, makes his way by luck and courage to London, where he is taken in as a border by a Jewish family who have become thorough Cockneys; the juxtaposition is occasionally hilarious (Lawton's dialogue is terrific, and there's a lot of humor, considering the subject matter).

This period of peace is short-lived, however, as the tailor and his host are rounded up, along with a number of other aliens, seemingly at random, and sent to a detention camp on the Isle of Man—one of several historical facts I had no idea about that make the story even more interesting. One of the tailor's fellow inmates is none other than Troy's older brother, who for various odd reasons, neglected ever to get naturalized.

He could well have. Troy is the youngest son of an eccentric family of Russian émigrés to England after the first war. Patriarch Alex is the Rupert Murdoch of his day, still writing stinging and often seditious editorials for his string of newspapers, and Rob was a foreign correspondent for one of the family newspapers before he becomes the second violin of the title in the camp orchestra.

The youngest Troy defied family expectations to become a lowly bobby and has risen in rank, stubbornly more through his own efforts than his father's influence (and he rises still further through the series). The mystery he inadvertently uncovers in *Second Violin* is the serial murder of East End rabbis, and if the motives behind and resolution of the crime aren't entirely satisfactory to the reader—are in fact kind of a throw-away—be comforted that the murder investigation in the second book in the series, *Bluffing Mr. Churchill* (*Riptide* in England) is much livelier.

Johanna and I have now unearthed *A Lily of the Field*, which takes place earlier than *Second Violin*, and although it seems to be more of a historical saga than a Troy mystery, I've just got from the library (there was actually a waiting list for the 3 available copies). Hurrah! Another good read to look forward to. Will report on it next time. ♦

—Linda Triegel (ljt23@earthlink.net)

Short Takes

A Fatal Grace by Louise Penny (Three Pines series #2)

This second book of the series disappointed me. I disliked the choppy style at the start of the book, as well as the melodramatic behavior and overdone emotion.

The plot is a clever puzzle that makes the later sections of the book interesting, but the character development is grim and bitter. Apparently, just after the last page, a great betrayal will happen to Gamache - what a loose end.

—Susan Zates (smzates@yahoo.com)

The Cruellest Month by Louise Penny (Three Pines series #3)

The first novel of this series, *A Still Life*, is my favorite hands down. The second (see above) was a big disappointment and unpleasant to read. This third novel is more enjoyable than the second, but does not compare to the first in the series. The rich descriptive story-telling and deep character development is back.

With this inconsistency, I'm not sure I want to read any more in the series. At least the big betrayal that hung over the second book did finally end in the third - whew. That was dragged out too long, in my opinion. The most poignant subplot of this third book is Ruth with Liliun the gosling. I wish the book had not ended before Clara's painting is seen by the art critic; I don't like unfinished business left hanging, a practice in both the 2nd and 3rd books.

—Susan Zates (smzates@yahoo.com)

2011 MEETING DATES

Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 23, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are free to the public.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation, 2700 Montgomery Blvd NE (one block east of Tramway). If the substation lot is full, more parking is 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 and upcoming programs.

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 Triage

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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