



SISTERS in CRIME
CROAK & DAGGER
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



THE NOOSELETTER

Volume III, Number 2—March 2007

†Expert Testimony†

From the Prez

Now that I'm writing again, I've taken another look at what makes a good "story." Whether you're a reader or writer, it's the quality of the story that makes your experience satisfying and rewarding. A good story transcends generations and cultures to bring something of value to the human spirit. Mastering the writing, telling, or appreciation of a good story is an achievement worth striving for, and I believe it is one of the goals of our group.

While most writers focus on mastering craft, it's the principle behind the story that's more important. Principle is the heart of a good story and is the thing that works time and time again. A good story based on a principle speaks eternally and universally about the human spirit and experience. Finding the basic principle in a story is like finding gold.

A good story also requires thoroughness combined with economy to get the point across whether it's in a book, a scene, or a paragraph. Good story is embedded in the art of writing and not in the next whim of the latest literary phase that has the staying power of a hemline.

Every good story always carries an originality that no other story has. For example, the Albuquerque Croak and Dagger Chapter of Sisters in Crime has its own story that's constantly evolving through its members' writing, words, and actions. Invited speakers add to our story by giving us their versions of how principles can be expressed through writing.

How might you add to Croak and Dagger's unique story? The board is currently in need of a treasurer and a hospitality coordinator. These are important positions that help fulfill our group's goals. Please let a board member know if you can fill one of these positions. We need you!

Also, beginning March 1, a free online class entitled "Inside the Criminal Mind" will be offered to all members. Lectures will be posted on the Croak and Dagger Yahoo groups loop every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday throughout the month of March. Questions can be asked anytime.

So, as they say in the movies, "That's my story, and I'm sticking to it!"✓

—Lucinda Schroeder

Croak & Dagger Lineup

Officers

President: Lucinda Schroeder
ventana@aol.com

Vice President: Cheryl Wadleigh
Cheryla1@hotmail.com

Treasurer: *Vacant*

Secretary: Margaret Tessler
tale_spinner@earthlink.net

Committee Chairs

Programs and Publicity: Jennifer Williams
jjkmb5@msn.com

Membership: Sarah Schwartz
schwartzse@comcast.net

Nooseletter Editor: Shirley Coe
shirleycoe@comcast.net

Hospitality: *Vacant*

Web Site Coordinator: Sarah Schwartz
schwartzse@comcast.net

Don't Miss It!

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

Pati Nagle (visit her at pgnagle.com or patinagle.com) is our featured speaker in March. A New Mexico native, she has written many books, ranging from fantasy to historical novels. Please join us to hear some of her stories.

—TRUE CRIMES—

Selected biographies of your Croak & Dagger board members.

Jennifer Williams (Programs and Publicity) grew up in Albuquerque and considers green chile to be one of the major food groups. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Jim, and they have four amazing children. She stays busy raising her kids and delivering babies at a local hospital. She is working toward a black belt in tae kwon do and ran a half marathon last year. In her spare time, she writes.✓



Croak and Dagger An Online Workshop for Members

“Inside the Criminal Mind”

is a four-week interactive online class for Croak and Dagger members. Beginning in March, Lucinda Schroeder, former federal agent, mystery writing consultant, and author of *A Hunt for Justice: The True Story of a Woman Undercover Wildlife Agent*, will present this fascinating program. To participate, **get in the loop** (see below) and sign up with our online group. Email croakdagger@yahoo.com to join the group.✓



IN THE LOOP

If you haven't joined already, all members are invited to join the Croak & Dagger community group, an online gathering place. Exchange information about mystery books, movies, and TV shows; share news about local and national mystery events; and participate in occasional online classes. Join in!

Email croakdagger@yahoo.com for further instructions.

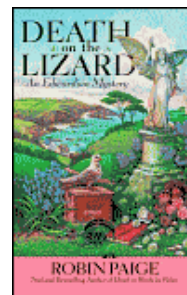
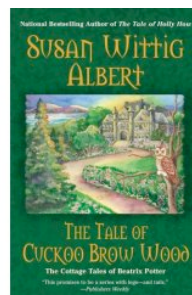
Croak and Dagger Coming Events



On Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., **Susan Wittig Albert** is our very special guest.

Sisters in Crime and SouthWest Writers are cosponsoring this event, which will be held at New Life Presbyterian Church.

National best-selling author of the popular China Bayles mystery series, Albert is also the author of two historical mystery series: one featuring Beatrix Potter as a sleuth, the other a Victorian/Edwardian series written with her husband under the pen name of Robin Paige.

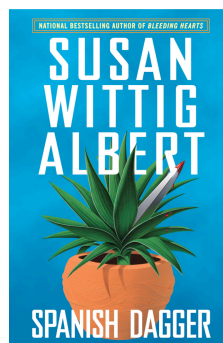


A resident of the Texas hill country, she now lives part-time in New Mexico as well. (Visit her at susanalbert.typepad.com/lifescape or mysterypartners.com.) (Or visit China Bayles at susanalbert.typepad.com/pecanspringsjournal/.)

Albert is the author of over a hundred books for adults and young readers. She is currently working on the 16th mystery in her popular China Bayles

series, praised by *Publishers Weekly* for its humor, originality, and sense of place.

Ms. Albert will speak about her work, answer questions, and sign books, which are available for purchase at the event, courtesy of Bookworks. Her newest book is *Spanish Dagger*, a China Bayles mystery.



Date and Location: This event is on the third Tuesday of the month (not the fourth Tuesday), and it will be held at New Life Presbyterian Church (on Eubank, north of Spain).✓

The Cairn of Albertvs

Copts and Robbers/ Part 2

Research alone doth not a novel make...

OK, you've researched your time period—ancient, in-between, modern—so now you must set your characters and reader into it. You've learned how your characters dress and speak, and about the cultural, religious, and political stew of the era. Your folks, like actors on a stage, stand there waiting for you to give them a goal, a dilemma, a conflict, a disaster, a decision to make, something to which they can react. (Thanks, Mary Lynn!)

It's said that editors will glance at their watch and tell you, "I don't have a lot of time. Tell me in one sentence what your book is about." That's as good a place to start as any. "Two products smuggled into Italy from China in the fifth century could change the course of Western history" is enough to set up a mystery: What are the products? Who smuggled them in? What happened to them?

Authors of any genre work on their stories in many ways. This is one:

1. Imagine the characters who will be involved in the action: basic good guy–bad guy, good woman–bad woman, and supporting cast. New characters will enter as the plot unfolds. Get involved in their lives; ask them, "What happens next?" *Plot grows out of characters!*
2. Find photographs of people who fit the way you visualize your cast. For historical novels, use period sculptures, manuscript illustrations, and wall art that show facial types, hairstyles, clothing, and so on.
3. Write detailed fictional biographies of each character. An editor from St. Martin's Press told a critique group, "I even want to know the name of your main character's kindergarten teacher!"

Writing methodology is another thing. I was first told that a chapter averages five scenes over 20 pages, so I made up a chart of five horizontal sections on a sheet of paper, labeled on top Goal, Conflict, Reaction, Sequel. I soon found that I was writing ahead of the spaces and had to go back and fill them in. Boring. Now I anticipate what might happen in a chapter, writing in single-space, 11-point Times New Roman, trying to end with the proverbial "page turner." The actual ending may differ; fine, more power to the characters, who by now know where the plot will go!

So what is the role of research in all this?

- A** Authenticity. Readers are sure to catch errors and complain in an Amazon review.
- U** Understanding writing. Write disconnected scenes that excite you, and then weave them together.
- T** Teaching. Readers interested in your time period will get the novel, but don't bore them.
- H** Historical market. The genre has a cult audience, so write for them.
- O** *Obduro*. Latin verb: "to persist." Self-explanatory.
- R** Rewriting. You must be willing to do this multiple times, down to the final period before submission.

Our recent trip to Egypt, exploring the Coptic Church's Holy Family Trail and the Sinai, was all we expected. Now for that one-liner.✓

—Albert Noyer, www.albertnoyer.com

Dastardly Duels: High Desert Crimes Book Fair

The Cochise County Chapter of Sisters in Crime will hold their third annual High Desert Crimes Book Fair in Sierra Vista, Arizona, on Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cochise College Library.

There is still room for more mystery authors! For more information on registration, go to the Web site: www.clik.to/sistersincrime.

Classified Information

Would You Like to Be in a Book Reading Club?

On a regular basis that doesn't conflict with monthly Sisters in Crime program meetings? Just announce it at the next program meeting or advertise for like-minded readers in the *Nooseletter* by e-mailing your suggestion to shirleycoe@comcast.net.

DON'T FORGET:

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

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.

**This event is on the third Tuesday (not the fourth) of the month, and the location is New Life Presbyterian Church (on Eubank, north of Spain).*

ROB'S RANDOM SHOTS

March Case File Number One

The Blindfold Game by Dana Stabenow, St. Martin's Press, New York, 317 pp.

Most of the time, I review books by authors I've met or whose works I've been accidentally introduced to. And this month is no exception. I've vetted entire spy novel manuscripts or the intelligence parts for four or five authors. At Bouchercon in Las Vegas in October 2003 with Croak and Dagger author/member Penny Rudolph, I met a researcher who worked for Dana Stabenow. She offered to give Dana my card, since the author was working on a novel with a CIA component. So Dana and I e-mailed in 2004, and I promptly forgot about her novel after that, since I hadn't reviewed the whole manuscript.

Then last fall, I found a paperback copy of *The Blindfold Game* that had been published in hardback in 2005. I wondered if this could be that book. After I checked the back cover for a précis, it seemed likely, so I turned to the acknowledgments. There I was, thanked for my contribution. I e-mailed Dana and told her she was being too generous, since I'd only answered one question.

"No, Rob, you answered three for me. And the next Coast Guard-CIA novel I write will be set in the Caribbean. I'll have a lot more for you to do on that one."

So I set to and read the novel. To make a comparison most of you will recognize, it was like *The Hunt for Red October*, but with the Coast Guard playing the U.S. Navy's role, and a CIA officer named Hugh Rincon filling in for Jack Ryan. In this book, the quarry is a tramp steamer/container vessel carrying a SCUD missile armed with a chemical warhead. A major complication in this work is s-e-x, something that never appears in a Tom Clancy novel. Turns out Hugh is married, but estranged from his wife, Sara Lange. And she is the executive

officer of the Coast Guard cutter *Sojourner Truth*, the only U.S. military vessel in the treacherous Bering Sea.

In pursuit of realism, Alaska-based Dana spent 16 days on a cutter in the Bering Sea, an ordeal she recounted in the MWA newsletter *The Third Degree* last winter. And so her heavy seas and high winds and the peril of boarding parties in small boats or rappelling from a helicopter have the nail-biting ring of truth you would see in *Men against the Sea* or annals of the Shackleton expedition.

While the CIA headquarters scenes are only as realistic as they need to be, the terrorist villains are North Koreans, a country I used to work against. There are several almost-intercepts of these wily foes and a smashing (literally) conclusion that stands up well to thrillermeister Alistair McLean's classic *HMS Ulysses*.

I haven't yet read any of Dana's Edgar Award-winning Kate Shugak novels, but now I have a reason to. Besides, I'll be meeting Dana herself at Left Coast Crime in Seattle in early February and will tell you all about that at my February 27 talk.

March Case File Number Two

The Sacred Cut by David Hewson, Dell Suspense, New York, 459 pp.

This is another case (there'll be two more in the May issue) where fate pushed me to read an author I wasn't yet familiar with. I learned in December that I'd be on a panel about settings at Left Coast Crime in early February. Pari Noskin Taichert told me I should read some works by my fellow panelists. Not all were easy to find, but David Hewson's works are in most bookstores. I bought two and will be reviewing another in the next issue.

Hewson is a vice president of International Thriller Writers. He writes standalone thrillers and also a well-praised mystery series, of which this is the third of four so far. The closest comparison I can make is that they are Italian police procedurals, sort of 87th Precinct set in Rome, with multiple points of view and some characters more important in some works than others.

His thrillers and his Nic Costa in Rome police series work very well. The first thing the reader sees when he opens *The Sacred Cut* is nine pages of praise from newspapers like the London and New York Times and from writers like Gayle Lynds. I'll review *Lucifer's Shadow* in the next *Nooseletter*, so let me praise *The Sacred Cut* here.

(cont'd. on next page)

(Rob's Random Shots, cont'd.)


Nic Costa is a homicide cop with an interesting past; his father was a noted Italian Communist Party official. He has a thuggish partner, Peroni, demoted from a higher rank in Vice. Their supervisor, Leo Falcone (think Frank Furillo), has faith in them and defends their actions and methods not only to his superiors, but also to SISDE, the Italian spy organization. Teresa Lupo performs all the necessary CSI work for the squad.

The case facing them in this book is not only a classic puzzle, but becomes more and more a spy thriller crossed with a serial killer novel as the plot unfolds. Rome is buried under an unusual December snowstorm. An American woman's body is found in the center of the Pantheon, one of ancient Rome's few surviving intact architectural treasures. An odd design has apparently been carved into her back, hence the title.

Complicating the search for the killer is the American FBI from the U.S. Embassy, including a junior agent who may know more about this and other cases outside of Italy than she lets on. There's a runaway witness to find, and another murder follows on the heels of the first. The suspense is palpable, and the Italian police procedures seem spot on. Hewson is a former correspondent for the London *Times* and knows Italy inside and out. He makes Rome come alive, and this plot wouldn't have worked in any other setting or time period.

Sounds like I'm on the right panel with a master of settings. I'm looking forward to meeting David Hewson and discussing his novels. I've been to Rome three times and took four years of Latin. Now I've got to get more Hewsons. Find him yourself; I don't plan to put any of my signed copies in the book exchange boxes.✓

—Rob Kresge



Sisters in Crime was founded in 1986. **The purpose of Sisters in Crime shall be** “to combat discrimination against women in they mystery field, educate publishers and the general public as to the inequities in the treatment of female authors, raise the level of awareness of their contribution to the field, and promote the professional advancement of women who write mysteries.”

Three Bravas for Donna Leon

What? You've never heard of her? You might if you were a British subject, or a fan of mysteries set in Italy. Ms. Leon is the author of over a dozen contemporary crime mysteries, all set in Venice and surrounds. Have you heard of *Commissario* Guido Brunetti? Allow me. He is one of the most fascinating law enforcement officers I have ever met, real or fictional. He's also one of the sexiest, savoring good food and good conversation, and respecting a loving wife, Paola, a college professor, and two intriguing children, Raffi and Chiara.

He's a hero because he is sensitive, brilliant, and kind, even in the midst of being plagued with guilt over his inability to shelter his beloved Venice from the corrupt world of Italian politics, corporate greed, and the metastasis of the Sicilian Mafia. He is, in many ways, *Everyman*, torn between love of his family and loyalty to justice. He brings his worries home to Paola and the children, who capture our fascination as they mature. As we observe Guido, his serious concern for his beloved Venice grows, and our love of Venice grows as well.

Add to that mix his exceedingly clever and gorgeous secretary, the enchanting *Signorina* Elettra, who runs interference from Vice-*Questore* Patta, the handsome boss from hell. Guido would find out little without the expertise of Elettra. Another brilliantly described character is Vianello, Guido's police partner with whom he trusts his life.

To assist the reader, a map of Venice is included in each book and on a Web site. We traveled to that magical city recently and wished we had had the list that Ms. Leon has posted at www.groveatlantic.com/leon/alsoby.htm. It includes dozens of actual locations of the mysteries' actions.

What interested me was the food. We receive a brief review of every restaurant and *trattoria* Guido visits as well as Paola's creative everyday Italian cooking. The author's ability to place you within the setting (she lives in Venice) is profound, and her love of classical music is revealed in the excerpt of Mozart librettos starting every book.

According to Elaine Petrocelli, who recently did an insightful interview with Ms. Leon, her mysteries, written in English, haven't been published in Italy, although they've been translated into many other languages. It might be said that Ms. Leon is slightly eccentric, but her critical observations of Italian corruption make this a wise move. She pulls no punches, although her work is
(cont'd. on next page)

(*Three Bravas for Donna Leon, cont'd.*)

clearly fictional. Ms. Leon garnishes her pages with wry humor, cleverly induced through the voice of the third-person narrator.

Although an American by birth, she's lived and taught all over the world. Still, her favorite location is Venice, and she's able to make that fascinating city come to life, painting a vivid background of a city reminiscent of the past but living under the scourge of the present. Reading her reminds me of sitting in an old church listening to a Vivaldi concert. One doesn't want it to end.

She's won the Macallan Silver Dagger for fiction for *Friends in High Places*, but I would also recommend *Aqua Alta*, *Dressed for Death*, and *Blood from a Stone*. I'd start my Venetian journey with *Death and Judgment*. And don't be surprised if, once you take a trip by book, you yearn to book a trip to Venice. (Tip: Go in early spring or late fall. Avoid the summer—humidity, tourists, and unsavory odors.)✓

—Carolyn Page of "Page Erwin"

Classified Information

Are You Looking for a Critique Group?

Why not advertise for like-minded writers in the *Nooseletter*? Just email your announcement to shirleycoe@comast.net. Or if you prefer, bring up your suggestion at the next program meeting.

More Dastardly Duels: The Mystery Weekend

The Chicagoland chapter of Sisters in Crime is hosting the First Annual Crime Writers' Retreat—The Mystery Weekend—from Friday, June 29, to Sunday, July 1, in Des Plaines, Illinois. The cost is only \$225 per participant for the all-inclusive weekend, including room, meals, and sessions. Participants will attend three program sessions and have three free writing and mentoring sessions. By the end of the weekend, participants may have at least one chapter or short story completed.

Our master writers leading the program sessions are: Barbara D'Amato, who writes a mystery series starring Chicago freelance investigative reporter Cat Marsala; Libby Fischer Hellmann, who writes the award-winning Ellie Forman mystery series; and Gail Lukasik, who writes a mystery series set in Door County, Wisconsin.

Space is limited to the first 20 Sisters in Crime registrants who pay in full.

Critiquing will be offered by advance arrangement only and for an additional fee. For more information, please contact Silvia Foti at lotusink@comcast.net.

Calendar of Criminally Cool Conferences



The following is a list of conferences of possible interest to readers and writers of mysteries, thrillers, crime, and suspense novels. This list notes Web sites you can check out for more information about each conference. Most are held annually, but dates and sometimes locations change each year. Keep this list for reference in case you find yourself going to any of the host cities near these dates for business or personal travel. Some conferences are free, most charge registration fees (some are noted), and a few have charges that cover rooms and meals and registration. This list begins with conferences that will already have been held by the time you read this. It is intended to cover all the conferences being held this year (and a few in 2008 and 2009 that were planned far ahead).

(*cont'd. on next page*)

You can contact chapter members Rob Kresge for information on any starred (*) conference or David Wiley on the double-starred (**) conference. For the most complete updated information on almost all of these, check www.blackravenpress.com/calendar from time to time.

2007 Events

January

January 19–24

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting
Seattle, WA
E-mail: customerservice@ala.org
Held each January; locations vary.

January 26–28

Midwinter Mystery Weekend
Cannon Beach, OR
E-mail: info@cannonbeachbooks.com

February

February 1–4

*Left Coast Crime (17th annual)**
Seattle, WA
www.LCC2007.com
Held each year in a different Western city.
The Lefty is annually awarded at this conference for the best humorous mystery of the previous year.
Professional guests of honor: Gayle Lynds and Dennis Lynds (in memoriam); fan guests of honor: Diane Kovacs and Kara Robinson; toastmaster: Gary Phillips


February 2–4

Love Is Murder (9th annual)
Rosemont, IL (near O'Hare Airport)
www.loveismurder.net
Featured authors include: Anne Perry, Carolyn Haines, Max Allan Collins, Charlaine Harris, and Nancy Pickard

February 3 (one day)

Mystery Writers of America Skill Build
Winston-Salem, NC
E-mail: CRoerdon@aol.com
Sponsored by the SE Chapter of MWA. Primarily for writers.
Featured authors include: Reed Farrell Coleman and Charles Todd

February 10 (one day)

 *Murder in the Magic City*
Birmingham, AL
www.webpages.charter.net/southernsisters/aboutmmc.html
Sponsored by Southern Chapter of SinC
Guests of honor: Thomas H. Cook and Laura Lippman

February 23–24


Criminal Pursuits: Hot Springs 2007
Hot Springs, AR
E-mail: info@mwasw.org
Annual writing workshop sponsored by the Southwest chapter of MWA (doesn't include what we think of as the Southwest)
Featured authors include: Barbara Colley, Jane Cleland, and P. J. Nunn

March

March 21–25

*Virginia Festival of the Book (13th annual)**
Charlottesville, VA
E-mail: vabook@virginia.edu
All types of literature and nonfiction.
One featured author will be world champion thriller author Lee Child

March 24 (one day)

 *High Crimes Book Fair 2007*
Sierra Vista, AZ (west of Tucson)
E-mail: danovelist@cox.net
Sponsored by the Cochise County Chapter of SinC and Friends of the Library
More than 50 authors of mystery and suspense for adults and children will be present

April

April 4–7

Annual Conference of Popular Culture Assn. and the American Culture Assn.
Boston, MA
E-mail: knepper@morningside.edu
Mystery and detective fiction caucus, special events, presentation of academic papers, sessions with authors.

April 19–22

Sleuthfest
Miami Beach, FL
www.sleuthfest2007.com
Annual event always held in the spring somewhere in Florida.
Sponsored by the Florida chapter of MWA.
Featured authors include: Linda Fairstein and Rene Balcer (of *Law and Order*)

April 25–26



*Mystery Writers of America 61st Annual Symposium**
New York, NY
www.mysterywriters.org

Granddaddy of all mystery organizations, conferences, and awards—Edgar Awards. Always held in NYC in late April, usually the same week as Malice Domestic in Washington, D.C. (see May).

This year's grand master: Stephen King

Note: There is a one-day series of panels on the first day; the awards banquet is held the next evening (nothing during the day on the 26th).

April 28–29

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books (12th annual)
Los Angeles, CA
www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks/
Held on the UCLA campus.
Last year, more than 300 authors participated.

May

May 4–6



*Malice Domestic XIX**
Arlington, VA (across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., near Reagan Airport)

www.malicedomestic.org
The Agathas are awarded for best traditional mysteries. Always held in the same place. Usually held at the end of the same week in April that the MWA conference is held in New York (see April).
Guest of honor: Rochelle Krich; lifetime achievement: Carolyn Hart; toastmaster: Elaine Viets; ghost of honor: Georgette Heyer
National Sisters in Crime holds one of two annual meetings at Malice Domestic.

May 24–27



Mayhem in the Midlands (8th annual)
Omaha, NE
E-mail: sallyfellows@cox.net

Always held this weekend in Omaha.
Co-sponsored by Omaha Chapter of SinC.
Guest of honor: Margaret Maron

May 31–June 1

Backspace Writers' Conference
New York, NY
www.bksp.org
Brings together authors, literary agents, and editors for panel discussions and workshops.
Featured authors include David Morrell.

June

June 1–3



Book Expo America
New York, NY (Jacob Javits Convention Center)
www.bookexpoamerica.com
Held in NYC every other year.
Assisted by SinC New York/TriState Chapter.
Deadline for author signup is April 1.

June 8–9



Murder in the Grove
Boise, ID
www.murderinthegrove.com
Sponsored by Boise SinC Chapter, Partners in Crime
Guest of honor: Robert Crais

June 8–10

*Historical Novel Society American Conference**
Albany, NY
www.historicalnovelsociety.org/albany/conference
American venue for UK's HNS
Held in the U.S. every second year
Guests of honor will be Bernard Cornwell and Diana Gabaldon, two big names in historical novels

June 10 (one day)



No Crime Unpunished Conference
Arcadia, CA (within greater Los Angeles)
E-mail: sue@sueannjaffarian.com
Biennial conference always held around LA.
Sponsored by LA Chapter of SinC.
Keynote speaker: Jacqueline Winspear

June 15–16

Hardboiled Heroes and Cozy Cats
Dallas, TX (usually in Houston)
www.mwasw.org/conf
Annual conference (with differing names) sponsored by Southwest Chapter of MWA (only covers states as far west as Texas and Oklahoma)
Featured authors include: David Morrell (reviewed in the *Nooseletter*), Jerrilyn Farmer, and Hallie Ephron (reviewed in the *Nooseletter*)
Guest agent: Jane Dystel of Dystel & Goderich
Guest editor: Denise Dietz


June 21–24

*Book Passage Mystery Writing Conference (14th annual)***
Corte Madera, CA (San Francisco area)
www.bookpassage.com ("Classes & Conferences")
Chaired by Sheldon Siegel and Jacqueline Winspear
This year's faculty includes: Michael Connelly, David Hewson, Rhys Bowen, and Hallie Ephron
Very expensive

June 21–27

American Library Association Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.
E-mail: customerservice@ala.org

June 29–July 1

 *Mystery Weekend: First Annual Writers' Retreat*
Des Plaines, IL

E-mail: lotusink@comcast.net.
Sponsored by SinC Chicago Chapter
Cost of \$225 includes registration, room, and all meals.

June 29–July 1

Deadly Ink Conference
Parsippany, NJ (outside New York City)
E-mail: deadlyinkinfo@aol.com

July**July 12–15**

*Thrillerfest (2nd annual)**
New York, NY
www.thrillerwriters.org
Sponsored by the International Thriller Writers.
Moves each year; first one held last summer in Phoenix, AZ
Lifetime achievement: James Patterson
Other guests include: Jeffrey Deaver, Vince Flynn, Lisa Gardner, and Heather Graham

September**September 14–15**

Criminal Pursuits
Tulsa, OK
E-mail: info@swasw.org
Third of the annual writing workshops sponsored by the huge SW chapter of MWA.
Guests include: Nancy Martin and P. J. Nunn


September 27–30

*Bouchercon 38**
Anchorage, AK
www.bouchercon2007.com
Largest, second oldest, and second-most influential (some would say first) of mystery conferences.
Moves every year.
The Anthonys are awarded at this conference to the best mystery writings each year.
International guest of honor: Alexander McCall Smith
U.S. guest of honor: Ann Rule
Fan guest: Barbara Peters, editor in chief of *Poisoned Pen Press*
Special additional guest: Jayne Ann Krentz

October**October 28–29**

Magna Cum Murder
Muncie, IN
www.magnacummurder.com
Held in Muncie annually.
No information on guests or program at this time.


November**November 1–4**

 *50 Ways to Catch a Killer*
St Louis, MO
E-mail: joannaslan@aol.com or michelleabecker@yahoo.com
Sponsored by the Forensic University of St. Louis and the local chapter of SinC.
This will offer 200 attendees (writers and members of the public) education in all aspects of forensic science.
Faculty includes: Dr. D. P. Lyle (author of *Forensics for Dummies*) and novelists Jan Burke and Eileen Dreyer

November 1–4

Tony Hillerman Writers Conference: Focus on Mystery
Albuquerque, NM
Hyatt Regency Hotel
www.hillermanconference.com

November 9–11

 *New England Crime Bake*
Lowell, MA
E-mail: crimebake@aol.com
Cosponsored by New England chapters of MWA and SinC.
Geared toward writers, but fun for readers, too.
Guest of honor: Lee Child

November 10 (one day)

Murder and Mayhem in Muskego
Muskego, WI
www.ci.muskego.wi.us/library/murder_and_mayhem.htm (check back for this year's update)
“A special full-day event for fans, readers, and writers of mysteries, held at the Muskego Public Library.”
Attending authors include Robert Crais

2008 Events

January

January 11–16

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting
Philadelphia, PA

E-mail: customerservice@ala.org

Held each January; locations vary.

March

March 6–9

*Left Coast Crime: Murder on the Rocks**
Denver, CO

E-mail: chris@christinegoff.com

Held each year in a different Western city

Guest of honor: Steven White; toastmaster: Elaine Viets

The Lefty is annually awarded at this conference for the best humorous mystery of the previous year.

May

May 30–June 1

Book Expo America

Los Angeles, CA

E-mail: inquiry@bookexpoamerica.com

Location varies; in New York City every other year.

June

June

Bloody Words VIII

Toronto, Ontario

E-mail: info@chroniclesofcrime.com

2007 in Victoria, B.C., was canceled.

June 26–July 2

American Library Association Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA

E-mail: customerservice@ala.org

October

October 9–12

*Bouchercon 39—Charmed to Death**

Baltimore, MD

www.bouchercon2008.com

Location and dates vary every year.

The Anthonys are awarded at this conference to the best mystery writings each year.

U.S. guest of honor: Laura Lippman; international guest of honor: John Harvey; Toastmaster: Mark Billingham; ghosts of honor: Barbara Peters and Rob Rosenwald, Poisoned Pen Press

2009 Events

January 23–28

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting
Denver, CO

E-mail: customerservice@ala.org

May 29–31

Book Expo America

New York, NY

E-mail: inquiry@bookexpoamerica.com

July 9–15

American Library Association Annual Conference
Chicago, IL

E-mail: customerservice@ala.org

September 10–13

Bouchercon 40

Indianapolis, IN

E-mail: mail@themysterycompany.com

Co-chairs: Jim Huang and Mike Bursaw

The Anthonys are awarded at this conference to the best mystery writings each year.



2007 MEETING DATES

Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. (*third Tuesday*)
Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 24, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.
December TBA

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.

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

†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.

Deadlines: Publication is every other month, starting in January. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to publication: February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15, and December 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 email to shirleycoe@comcast.net, with "Nooseletter" in the subject line.

The *Nooseletter* is distributed to all members electronically. ✓

—Shirley Coe

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.



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 Sarah Schwartz, membership chair, at croakdagger@yahoo.com.