



SISTERS in CRIME
CROAK & DAGGER
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



THE NOOSELETTER

Volume IV, Number 1—January 2008

†Expert Testimony†

From the Prez

Whew! I've been elected Croak & Dagger president for 2008. Now all I have to do is live up to the standards of my predecessors—Pari Noskin Taichert, Margaret Tessler, and Lucinda Schroeder. Authors every one, and I'm not (yet).

I am acutely conscious of the honor you've shown me. I found only two other male chapter heads in Sisters in Crime, and there are no men on the SinC national board. Thanks for your votes of confidence. I'll try to live up to them.

There are many subjects I could use for this inaugural column, but as Watson would say: "Needs must and the devil drives."

We are approaching two significant dates before the next *Nooseletter* comes out. From 8:30 to 5:00 on February 16, Croak & Dagger and SouthWest Writers are jointly hosting a one-day conference for mystery readers and writers ("Mystery, Mayhem, and Murder") at the UNM Continuing Education Building, across the street from the United Blood Services donor center. If you ever want to write mysteries or if you just want to learn more about what it takes to write one, you should plan to attend. The cost is very reasonable compared to other conferences, and since it's being held right here in Albuquerque, it's also very accessible. You can learn all about the wonderful lineup of speakers and subjects by going to <http://southwestwriters.com/conferencespeakers2.php>. Register soon (form on page 9).

Following right on the heels of our local conference, the annual Left Coast Crime

This is the closest LCC to ABQ since the 2005 one in El Paso and is an excellent opportunity to listen to and rub shoulders with nationally known, best-selling authors. For more information on LCC, go to www.lcc2008.com.

Many of our chapter members will be going to LCC, so you can carpool with one of us. The Adams Mark Hotel is offering rooms for \$139 for double occupancy. Ask at a general meeting or if you're going, email me at rkresge777@comcast.net and we'll try to find you a roommate to share costs.

I've preached before in the *Nooseletter* about the benefits of attending conferences. This year and perhaps this year only, you have the chance to attend three nearby conferences—right here in February, in Denver in March, and the fifth annual Tony Hillerman Writers Conference in November. Be sure to take advantage of one or more of these opportunities. ♦

—Rob Kresge

Don't Miss It!

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

The speaker at our next meeting will be Joseph Badal, author of ten mystery and suspense novels, including *Ultimate Betrayal*, *The Pythagorean Solution*, and *Retribution*.

Mr. Badal had worked for 35 years in banking and financial services. Prior to his finance career, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. He holds degrees in International Finance and Business Administration and is bilingual.

Are You Missing Out?

Don't miss out on what other Croak & Dagger members have to say. Join the on-line Croak & Dagger discussion group and be part of the "in crowd." E-mail Nancy Varian at nancy.varian@yahoo.com and let her know you want to join.

Don't Be an Author Without Connections

If you are an author of mystery- or crime-related works, we want your website link! E-mail Sarah Schwartz at schwartzse@comcast.net and give her your linking information.

If You Have Something to Say, Why Not Tell Others?

Croak & Dagger has a Speakers Bureau that lists members who have crime-related expertise to impart to others. If you are willing to share your knowledge, please e-mail Sarah Schwartz at schwartzse@comcast.net and give her a short bio and contact information.

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 logo for Sisters in Crime, featuring the words "Sisters in Crime" in a stylized, handwritten font. The word "Sisters" is at the top, "in" is in the middle, and "Crime" is at the bottom, with a small dagger symbol to the right of "Crime".

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."*

ROB'S RANDOM SHOTS

January Case File Number One

The Alibi Club by Francine Mathews, Bantam Books paperback, 2007, 370 pp, \$7.99.

It's no trick to find good things to say about two novels in each *Nooseletter* issue if you read about five mysteries a month, as I do. But this is different. Francine Mathews is a friend of mine, a former CIA analyst, and the prolific author of four modern mysteries, the nine volumes in the Jane Austen as sleuth series, and now four spy novels. Of her 17 books so far, 11, including *The Alibi Club*, are historical novels, a genre I particularly enjoy.

The Alibi Club embroiders upon a true story. It's May 1940. The Germans have broken the line of the French Army and are descending on Paris. In the city, we are quickly introduced to four people whose fates will become closely intertwined—Sally King, an expatriate American fashion model; Joe Hearst, a diplomat at the U.S. Embassy; Memphis Jones, a black American singer and dancer based upon the real Josephine Baker; and Frederic Joliot-Curie, the son-in-law of Pierre and Marie and the dean of French physicists.

While the novel begins as a classic mystery, with Sally discovering the body of her murdered fiancé, the pace of the German advance and the crumbling of the French Government moves us rapidly into the real plot: Joliot-Curie's desperate attempt to spirit out of Paris the world's largest supplies of heavy water and metallic uranium. We are quickly introduced to a host of other important characters whose relations to the four main actors may not be immediately apparent, but when the links are revealed, we find a motley collection of aristocrats, spies, refugees, and a killer, all of whom are reminiscent of the cast of *Casablanca*.

You can appreciate the similar potential of this novel to be filmed. *The Alibi Club* has it all—appealing protagonists, loathsome villains, victims who tug at our heartstrings, and a star-crossed romance. And for those who enjoy identifying the real persons used in historical novels, you could do as I did and try to separate fiction from fact. I know my World War II history pretty well, but I could only pick out three of the more than 10 real-life individuals involved in this novel. This is an edge of your chair read and I've pleaded with the author to pen a sequel. Time will tell. ♦

—Rob Kresge (rkresge777@comcast.net)

January Case File Number Two

Hard Fall by Ridley Pearson, Hyperion paperback, 1992, 402 pages, \$5.99

I keep having good luck with our chapter book exchange boxes. This is the second Ridley Pearson I've extracted from that trove and the second (after *The Body of David Hayes*) that I've chosen to review. Yes, he writes that well. I've hooked a Santa Fe couple on his novels and will pass this one on to them if they haven't read it.

I was intrigued by his premise—an FBI agent on the trail of a ring of bombers who have been bringing down airliners, including one on which his parents died and his son was one of only four survivors. Since I was the senior analyst responsible for warning in the CIA's Counterterrorist Center on 9/11, I wanted to see how an outsider, a best-selling author, could handle such a plot in fiction.

He handles it well, as it turns out, even though the time frame of the book anticipates the real event by almost a decade. Al-Qaida didn't exist yet, so the bombers in Pearson's book are German nihilists operating mostly overseas. But protagonist Cam Daggett (yes, a difficult name for your hero, but his friends call him "Michigan.") begins the book by trying to arrest a German with a bomb at Washington's National Airport (not yet named for Ronald Reagan). The man blows himself and Daggett's supervisor up rather than be taken or have his device examined.

In short order, we meet the mastermind of the German group, Anthony Kort, as he infiltrates an aircraft simulator building at a loosely disguised Boeing facility in Seattle and kills an official after extracting needed information from the simulator. Shortly thereafter, Kort uses one of his two bombs to cause a cargo aircraft to crash upon takeoff near Los Angeles. Daggett uncovers and proves to his superiors similarities to this group's *modus operandi* and the chase is on.

When Daggett finds Kort has sneaked into Washington, an FBI task force is set up to find him and protect an upcoming conference of chemical warfare bigwigs, one of whom may be Kort's target. Incredible time pressure acts on all the characters from this point onward—hero, villain, supporting players and not least, family. All authors try to present wounded or flawed protagonists and Pearson is a master at this. Daggett falls for an FAA investigator that he is repeatedly thrown together with. But his paralyzed son's caregiver loves



Daggett, too, and knows of his attraction to the other woman.

Everything comes together in a breakneck final hundred pages of betrayals, a kidnapping, and the surprise revelation of Kort's real target. This book came out nearly a decade before 9/11, but it eerily presages some of the tension and events of that horrible day. A highly recommended read. ♦

—Rob Kresge (rkresge777@comcast.net)

The Sorcerer's Circle, by Michael Siverling, St. Martin's Press, 2006, 304 pages, \$24.99 (HC)

I simply can't remember the last time I thought of the male protagonist—in a PI novel, of all things—as cute or sweet, but Jason Wilder strikes me as exactly that. Macho and unsure, clumsy and elegant, clever and obtuse, all on the same pages. I'm certain that's why Michael Siverling's first book in this series, *The Sterling Inheritance*, won St. Martin's Best PI competition a few years ago.

This author's "voice" is nothing short of endearing—a rare treat in a genre that's getting edgier by the minute. Not that I have anything against edgy. It's just kind of nice to run across a genuinely nice-guy PI series that has the added appeal of wonderfully subtle, sometimes literary, humor.

And there's another hook: Jason works for a wise, tough, sharp PI who also happens to be his mother, Victoria.

Their tools are high tech, their mascot a one-eyed German shepherd named Beowulf, their staff a motley crew of Victoria's now retired colleagues from her life as a police detective. All have taught their prodigy their best tricks of the trade. But Jason doesn't want to be a PI. He wants to be a guitarist. He just can't get enough work, so he has to double as a tough guy.

In *Sorcerer's Circle*, Jason and Victoria investigate the death of self-proclaimed psychic Elijah Messenger, who foresaw his own murder, sought help from Jason, then was killed in what was apparently a cult ritual gone macabre.

The plot is tight, the characters unique, the mystery enough to keep you turning the pages. All this, with a downright sweet and funny guy as protagonist. That's a hard combo to beat. ♦

—Penny Rudolph, penny3938@comcast.net

Voices, by Alnaldur Indridson, Harvill Secker, 2006, 320 pages, \$29.95 (HC)

Another cold dish of pleasurable reading is presented by outstanding Icelandic mystery writer Alnaldur Indridson.

In forbidding, dark, cold Reykjavik, several days before Christmas, a murder in a basement apartment of a large four-star hotel, crammed with foreign tourists sets the scene for depressive Chief Inspector Erlendur as he leads the investigation into the murder of Gudlauger Eglisson, a former child-prodigy choirboy, now doorman and annual Santa Claus to the hotel guest's children.

Rather than retreat to his lonely, dreary apartment minus wife and estranged adult children, he chooses to run the investigation from a cold, drafty room in the hotel. Sinister relatives, rumors of thefts, prostitution and drug dealing in the hotel, and a British "cad" contribute to shifting suspicions.

I recommend this book highly. To be uplifted in this life, sometimes you have to drink from the well of the melancholic and fractured. But this recommendation comes with warning—wear heavy clothing while reading, as the grip of Indridson's work is as icy as it is addictive.♦

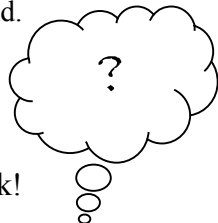
—Bill Hershey hersheyw@comcast.net

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...OR TO CHOKER ON

The Guardian newspaper reported recently on a study that found that 77% of UK readers reread books they like. Compare that to the US where the average reader only reads four books a year, and one of every four Americans admits to not reading anything in the last year.

According to another report from the Jenkins Group, 33 percent of American high school graduates do not read another book once they leave school. The same for 42 percent of college graduates. Fifty-seven percent of books, per the same report, are not read to the end.

However...80 percent of Americans want to *write* a book!



NOOSE NEWS

Pari Noskin Taichert's third book in her Sasha Solomon series, *The Socorro Blast*, has a January 16 publication date, but you can already find it in some Albuquerque stores.

Her launch for *Socorro* will be at the Borders in ABQ Uptown on Saturday, January 26, at 4 pm. Apparently, the store is even creating a drink—"The Blast"—to serve that day (it's going to have lots of whipped cream and chocolate!). Pari's planning on bringing a tub of Atomic Fireballs—those wonderful hot cinnamon candies of our youth—to the event.

She'll also be signing *Socorro* at Bookworks on Thursday, January 31, at 7 pm, and has other events scheduled for the next few months—including a talk at the March 25 Croak & Dagger meeting. You can find all the details on her website at:

<http://www.parinostaintaichert.com>

She'd love to see you all!

Linda Triegel has a short story in *Death Knell IV*, the fourth anthology of that name published by the Delaware Valley (Pa) chapter of Sisters in Crime. "Dog Days, Rabbit Nights" springs from a news item Linda read years ago about an incident in Arizona when a car blew into a swimming pool (Linda will be happy to lend you the book so you can see where she went with *that*).

Also represented in *Death Knell IV* are Judy Clemons (author of the Stella Crown mystery series), Caroline Stafford (the Mrs. Dunlop mysteries), Mindy Starns Clark (the "Smart Chick" and "Million Dollar Mysteries" series), Robin Hathaway (*The Doctor Digs a Grave* and other Dr. Fenimore mysteries), Elena Santangelo (*By Blood Possessed* and other historical mysteries), and other members of DVSiNC.

Send news of your book signings, acceptances, contest wins, good reviews, and other blatant self-promotion items for "Noose News" to Ye editor at newsette@earthlink.net

"The central problem of the mystery is not 'who killed X,' but who *covered up* the killing of X, and *how did he succeed in creating the illusion that he did not kill X.*"

—Carolyn Wheat, *How to Write Killer Fiction*

Rob's Top 10 Mystery Lists— Final (?) Version

I know you struggled through my previous highly opinionated “top ten” lists, but a recent re-viewing (after 20 years) of a film just released on DVD that more than confirmed my earlier esteem made me realize that I’d forgotten my lists of my 10 favorite mystery/thriller movies and TV shows and a selection of the best movies about writers, mysteries and otherwise. So here they are.

Like all those previous lists, they’re meant to engender comment, criticism, and rebuttal. What are your favorites? If you have a tough time deciding, I suggest you choose, for TV at least, from the Golden Age of mystery television programming. What decade? Right now. Here’s a list to start you off: There have never been so many mystery and thriller series on TV as the last couple of years, even counting the 50s, when many famous stars ventured into the world of half-hour cop and private eye shows. Don’t believe me? See if I left out any of your favorites.

Ten Favorite Mystery/Thriller TV Shows (of all time)

The Fugitive

Moonlighting

Monk

Burn Notice

McGyver

The Agency

Columbo

Tenspeed and Brownshoe (Ben Vereen and Jeff Goldblum—one season)

Hill Street Blues

NYPD Blue (first season with David Caruso)

My Ten Favorite Mystery/Thriller Movies

The List of Adrian Messenger (not on DVD; George C. Scott, Burt Lancaster, Tony Curtis, Kirk Douglas, Rock Hudson)

A Shot in the Dark (Pink Panther II; Peter Sellers as Clouseau)

To Catch a Thief (Cary Grant and ahhh, Grace Kelly)

Rear Window (James Stewart and ahhh again)

Psycho (the Hitchcock version, not the remake)

Charade (Cary Grant and—heavy sigh—Audrey Hepburn)

Zodiac (2007; a gem on many critics’ top ten lists)

The Usual Suspects (Kevin Spacey never better)

The Third Man (Joseph Cotton, Orson Welles, Trevor Howard, Alida Valli)

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (Alec Guinness in the quintessential John LeCarre spy movie)

Top 10 Films About Writers (Mystery and otherwise)

American Dreamer (write like your favorite author, win a trip to Paris; JoBeth Williams, Tom Conti)

Shakespeare in Love (the bard and Gwyneth Paltrow—one for the ages)

Stranger Than Fiction (Emma Thompson has writer’s block, Will Farrell plays against type)

The Third Man (remember, Joseph Cotton was a writer of Westerns; Orson Welles)

Romancing the Stone (Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner)

The Bad and the Beautiful (Kirk Douglas seduces screenwriter Dick Powell’s wife)

Ace in the Hole (just released on DVD; Kirk Douglas Oscar-worthy as corrupt newsman)

Any Ellery Queen film (the elder Ellery was a cop, but young Ellery was a writer)

His Girl Friday (Cary Grant, Roz Russell as a female Hildy Johnson from the original play, *The Front Page*)

The Secret Window (Johnny Depp as a mystery short story writer)

All the President’s Men (Redford and Hoffman)

(continued next page)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

INDIAN COUNTRY ANTHOLOGY: An anthology of original *noir* short stories set in Indian Country will be released next year. The editors are seeking stories that take place in Indian Country, which includes Canadian reserves, U.S. reservations, Alaska, Hawaii, and Mexican Indian land, and/or stories that revolve around Native characters.

Stories may be historical, literary and/or crime fiction, as long as they are previously unpublished; stories that take place in the Eastern or Southern United States are particularly needed. Writers of First Nation ancestry are especially invited to submit. Emerging writers, as well as established authors, are encouraged to send their work.

Stories should be 3,000-6,000 words, and the deadline is May 15, 2008. Pay will be approximately \$200, and rights revert back to the author. Direct any questions or send stories via e-mail to

IndianCountryAnthology@gmail.com.

Rob's Top Ten (continued)

Today's Mystery and Thriller Series (in no particular order)

CSI: Las Vegas

CSI: Miami

CSI: New York

Law & Order (original)

Law & Order: Criminal Intent

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

Criminal Minds

Women's Murder Club

The Wire

24

Lost

Murder by the Book (true crime on TRU-TV, formerly Court TV)

R.L. Stine's Goosebumps (on the Cartoon Network)

The Closer

Saving Grace

Cold Case

Without a Trace

NCIS

The Unit

48 Hours Mystery

The First 48

Monk

Burn Notice

Psych

Life

Bones

The Ghost Whisperer

Moonlight

Numb3rs

Murder 101

Jane Doe

Mystery Woman

MacBride

Which are your favorites? Send comments, additions, and you-gotta-be-kidding's to Rob at rkresge777@comcast.net ♦

Wanted: **BOOK BOX MONITOR**

Since the Croak and Dagger chapter was founded, we have encouraged members and visitors to bring to meetings any book they'd like to share and exchange it for a book from our book boxes. If you haven't brought a book, you're encouraged to take one home anyway.

Over three years, the original box has grown to three. At the December meeting, C&D board members culled out enough of those to reduce the books to less than two full boxes. Now we are looking for a volunteer to store those boxes and bring one (or both if you're so inclined) to future meetings.

As a testimonial to the power of process, a former board member says, "The book exchange boxes saved my marriage. I get grumpy when I'm out of good mysteries to read. When I complained, my wife said, 'Go to the garage and get a book out of the boxes.'"

If you'd like to pick up this easy monthly task, and maybe borrow a book or two between meetings, contact Rob Kresge at rkresge777@comcast.net.

In the Loop

If you haven't done so 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. Participate in occasional online classes. Join us! For more information and instructions, e-mail contact@croak-and-dagger@yahoo.com.

Magical Mystery Tour

Mystery readers, and fans of *The Maltese Falcon* in particular, who find themselves in San Francisco shouldn't miss a unique City landmark. Just over the Stockton Street tunnel off Clay Street, on an alley called Burritt Street, a bronze marker is affixed to the side of an otherwise uninteresting building. It reads: "On approximately this spot, Miles Archer, partner of Sam Spade, was done in by Brigid O'Shaughnessy."

Grande Dames and Great Detectives



Most writers grow fond of the characters they create, but there must be a special relationship between writers and series characters who, with skill on the writer's part and staying power on the character's, appear to change and mature through the life of the series. Between female mystery writers and their detectives, there is an even more finely tuned rapport. These ladies must be at least a little in love with their creations.

Was Roderick Alleyn Dame Ngaio Marsh's ideal man? In fiction, reader identification is crucial; the reader, if male, must want to be the hero, the female reader must want to meet him. In order to create so admirable and desirable a character on the printed page, the writer must see him clearly in her mind before ever she sets fingers to keyboard.

Alleyn first appeared in 1934 in *A Man Lay Dead* and last in 1982 in *Light Thickens*, having aged gracefully in the interval by no more than a dozen years. Perhaps his marriage to painter Agatha Troy—they met in *Artists in Crime* and became engaged in *Death in a White Tie*—accounts for his ageless grace.

Alleyn is Oxford-educated; his father was in the diplomatic service, but Rory unaccountably chose to be a policeman. He is described at 6'2", "his eyes grey with corners that turn down; they look as if they would smile easily, but his mouth doesn't" (*A Man Lay Dead*), as "terribly good-looking and remote" (*Death in a White Tie*), as "monkish-looking with a fastidious mouth and well-shaped head" (*A Wreath for Rivera*), and frequently as looking like a grandee. Troy finds him a perfect subject, and painted him from memory after their first meeting.

Personally, I find Alleyn a little too good to be true, or comfortable to be around. Josephine Tey's Alan Grant, on the other hand, perhaps because he is less graphically defined, seems easier to live with. Grant too doesn't like the conventional idea of a policeman (none of these heroes do; one wonders what the genuine article does look like.) Grant is a bachelor, "six-foot-odd" (in *The Daughter of Time*),

"slight of build" and "chic" of dress (*The Man in the Queue*). He is well-off financially, having inherited money from an aunt in Australia to supplement his salary from the Yard.

He is human enough to have a hobby (fishing, which he describes to his doctor as "somewhere between a sport and a religion"), to be a little on the clumsy side (falling through a trapdoor while chasing a crook land him in the hospital where he discovers the perils of historical research in *The Daughter of Time*), and to suffer from overwork like any other civil servant (the fishing was prescribed for an attack of nerves leading to Scotland and *The Singing Sands*).

P.D. James's ideal man is Adam Dalgliesh, who is also 6'2" and dark (I'd hazard a guess that all these writers are petite blondes). He has a "detached, ironic, and fundamentally restless spirit," which is reflected in the poems he writes to get his mind off his cases. Dalgliesh is a widower, with no family but an elderly Aunt Jane in Sussex. James herself has described him (in an article in *Murder Ink*) as "a very private person, self-sufficient, uninvolved, a professional detective dedicated to his job, totally unused to the claims, emotional and domestic, which a wife and family would make on him." He does have a lady friend to whom he is on the verge of proposing in *Unnatural Death*, but she wises up and dumps him (if any lady may be said to do such a thing to Adam Dalgliesh).

There are other detectives in this mold—Margery Allingham carries on an on-again-off-again romance with one Albert Campion—but not all female writers by any means are devoted to them. Dorothy L. Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey is another kettle of red herring altogether—an amateur not a professional detective, he is small, with straw-colored hair, a long face and pointed chin, grey (sometimes blue) eyes, attractive or not depending on whether you are Harriet Vane observing her sleeping lord in a punt on the Cherwell or a murderer having been caught by Peter's formidable intelligence and skewered by his sharp wit. (Or depending, if you've seen the TV series, whether you prefer Ian Carmichael or Edward Petherbridge as Wimsey; this writer is decidedly in the latter camp.) Readers, like other impressionable adolescents, are subject to crushes on the likes of Peter Wimsey, but they don't last.

Modern writers, from Christie's Miss Marple to Janet Evanovitch's Stephanie Plum, tend to prefer sleuths of their own gender, but this takes us into almost another genre. For a romance-writer-turned-mystery-reader, I retain a lingering yen for a hero. ♦

—Linda Triegel, ljt23@earthlink.com

MYSTERY, MAYHEM, and MURDER



SOUTHWEST WRITERS and CROAK & DAGGER



present **Susan Dunlap,**

founding member and past president of Sisters in Crime—and an Anthony-winning author of numerous books and short stories, including the Jill Smith mysteries, the Kiernan O’Shaughnessy series, and *A Single Eye*, the first book in a new series featuring stuntwoman Darcy Lott—speaking on “Sisters in Crime: Twenty Years of Mystery.”

Saturday, February 16, 2008

WHERE: The MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, NM.

WHEN: February 16, 2008, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1, 2008 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD RATE

By mail: Fill out and mail the REGISTRATION FORM (next page, or on the SouthWest Writers website) with your check or credit card information to SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111 (postmark by 2/1/2008 for early bird rate).

By phone: Call the SWW office at 505-265-9485 between 9:00 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday (credit card only).

Online: Visit the SWW website (www.southwestwriters.org) to register online (credit card only).

Advance reservations for the Banquet are required and must be received no later than February 13.

A Conference for Mystery Writers and Mystery Fans Saturday, February 16, 2008

WHERE: The UNM Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd. NE (just north of Indian School Road), Albuquerque, NM.

WHEN: February 16, 2008. Conference check-in (at the UNM Continuing Education Building) will be from 8:00-8:30 a.m. followed by the conference from 8:30-5:00.

WHAT: Conference Registration includes conference presentations and materials, lunch with featured speaker Larry Barker, refreshments, and the possibility of a 10-minute pitch session with either an agent or an editor. **The number of pitch sessions is limited, and the sessions will be assigned on a first-come basis.** Banquet Registration includes dinner at the MCM Elegante with keynote speaker Susan Dunlap.

WHO: **Speakers for the daytime Conference include:**

- Toni Plummer, editor, Thomas Dunne Books - “What Every Aspiring Mystery Writer Should Know”
- Jess Benson, Poison & Drug Information Center - “A Writer’s Guide to Creating a Perfect Poisoning”
- Zoe Fishman, literary agent, Lowenstein-Yost Associates – “The Perfect Pitch”
- Dr. Michelle Barry, Office of the Medical Investigator - “Gunshot Wounds: Murder by the Bullet”
- Larry Barker, investigative reporter, KRQE News 13 - “New Mexico’s Greatest Murder Mystery”
- Dianne O’Connell, book doctor - “The Key to Writing Success: Mastering Point of View”
- Lucinda Schroeder, former special agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - “The Language of Liars”
- Shirley Raye Redmond, award-winning author - “How to Hatch a Mystery Plot and Make it Chirp”
- Phil Young, former special agent, National Park Service - “A Grand Canyon Divorce”

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1, 2008, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD RATE
BANQUET DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 13, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
Are you a current member of SouthWest Writers? _____ YES _____ NO
Are you a current member of Croak & Dagger? _____ YES _____ NO
How did you learn about this conference? _____
I am most interested in (please rank): The craft of writing mysteries _____ Forensic information _____

THE CONFERENCE AND THE BANQUET ARE SEPARATE.
YOU MAY REGISTER FOR ONE OR FOR BOTH.

Conference (non-member registration includes a one-year membership in both SWW and Croak & Dagger):

_____ @ \$99.00 member cost, if a member of **either** SWW or C&D (early bird rate) \$ _____
_____ @ \$109.00 member cost, if a member of **either** SWW or C&D (registered after 2/1/08) \$ _____
_____ @ \$159.00 non-member cost - includes one-year memberships (early bird rate) \$ _____
_____ @ \$169.00 non-member cost - includes one-year memberships (registered after 2/1/08) \$ _____

Banquet (Advance Reservation Required – Banquet registration must be received NO LATER THAN 2/13):

_____ @ \$35.00 (early bird rate) \$ _____
_____ @ \$38.00 (registered after 2/1/08) \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

Indicate method of payment:

_____ Check or money order (made out to SouthWest Writers)
_____ MasterCard _____ Visa (The only credit cards we accept are MasterCard and Visa)

If paying by credit card: Cardholder Name: _____
Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ (last 3 digits of the number near your signature)
Billing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

LUNCH PREFERENCE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE DAYTIME CONFERENCE:

_____ Chicken wrap
_____ Vegetarian wrap

Please tell us if you have special diet requirements or allergies: _____

BANQUET PREFERENCE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE EVENING BANQUET:

_____ Mediterranean Stuffed Chicken Breast
_____ Vegetarian Lasagna

Please tell us if you have special diet requirements or allergies: _____

IF YOU ARE A MYSTERY WRITER AND WOULD LIKE A 10-MINUTE PITCH SESSION, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR FIRST AND SECOND PREFERENCE:

_____ Toni Plummer, associate editor, Thomas Dunne Books, a division of St. Martin's Press, New York
_____ Zoe Fishman, literary agent, Lowenstein-Yost Associates, New York

NOTE: The number of pitch sessions is limited. We will try to accommodate everyone, but pitch sessions will be assigned on a first-come basis and we cannot guarantee that everyone will get a session. Early registration will increase your chance of getting the pitch session of your choice.

2008 MEETING DATES

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

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

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

—Linda Triegel



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.